

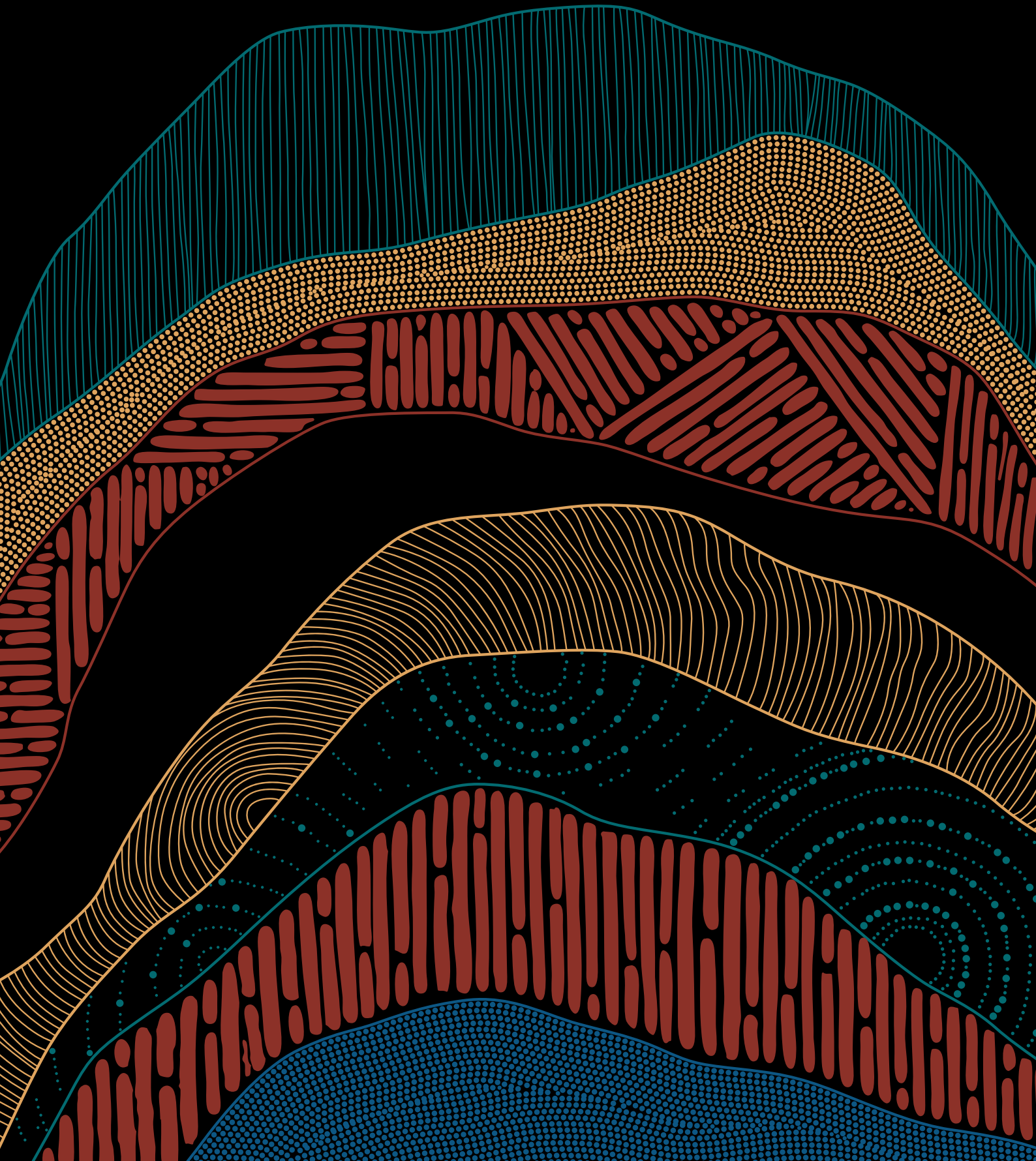


Australian Government
Productivity Commission

Closing the Gap

Annual Data Compilation Report

July 2023



The Productivity Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to their Cultures, Country and Elders past and present.

The Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed most simply, is to help governments make better policies, in the long term interest of the Australian community.

The Commission's independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Its processes and outputs are open to public scrutiny and are driven by concern for the wellbeing of the community as a whole.

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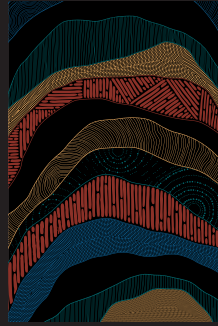
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© Elizabeth Yanyi Close 2021



About the Artist

Elizabeth Yanyi Close

Elizabeth Yanyi Close is a Panaka Skin Anangu woman from the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Language Groups, whose family links are to the communities of Pukatja and Amata in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY).

In 2007, Elizabeth began to paint professionally and exhibit her work throughout Adelaide and her practice organically grew as she balanced a career in nursing, art and motherhood. By 2014 she had built up a full-time arts practice, and after the birth of their second child, Elizabeth and her husband decided to move home to the APY so that they could immerse their children in their culture and language.

Elizabeth reconnected with much of her Grandmother's family and learned much more about her family, her Tjukurpa and her Country from her Tjamu. This growth as an Aboriginal woman was profoundly reflected in the evolution of her artwork.

TUNUPA (Sand Hills)

Elizabeth's motifs and iconography speak to a concept that is central to her practice – Connection to Country. The relationships with the landscape that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have is difficult to measure or quantify. Anangu have a word they use to describe this relationship – Tjukurpa.

Tjukurpa is difficult to translate because all the words in the English Language are inadequate. It speaks of Stories, Dreaming, Songlines, Lore – but really, Tjukurpa is a way of being and experiencing the world around you. Anangu relationships with Country is far more than what we see with our eyes; but rather, what we feel with our spirit. Anangu have a relationship with every plant, animal, bird, rock, and grain of sand. And likewise, Tjukurpa is something that exists in all facets of the landscape.

This work reflects the way in which songlines and creation stories can be seen and felt through this connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with their Country. There is no delineation between people, earth, sea and sky; animal, bird and plant. They are all inherently as much a part of us as we are of them.

This work is profoundly informed by this relationship and interconnectedness of the different facets of the landscape. This translates and reflects the core values of the Productivity Commission and the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap – particularly the focus on partnerships, relationships and shared decision-making to achieve meaningful outcomes.

Foreword

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the Agreement) developed in partnership between Australian governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations, commits governments to greater efforts to overcome the entrenched inequality faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, than its predecessor.

The Agreement names reforms that government must prioritise in a more explicit drive towards self-determination, including that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now share in the decisions made to close the gap, and that all Australian governments transform their mainstream organisations to improve accountability and respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Agreement also focuses on the outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to see if the gap is closing.

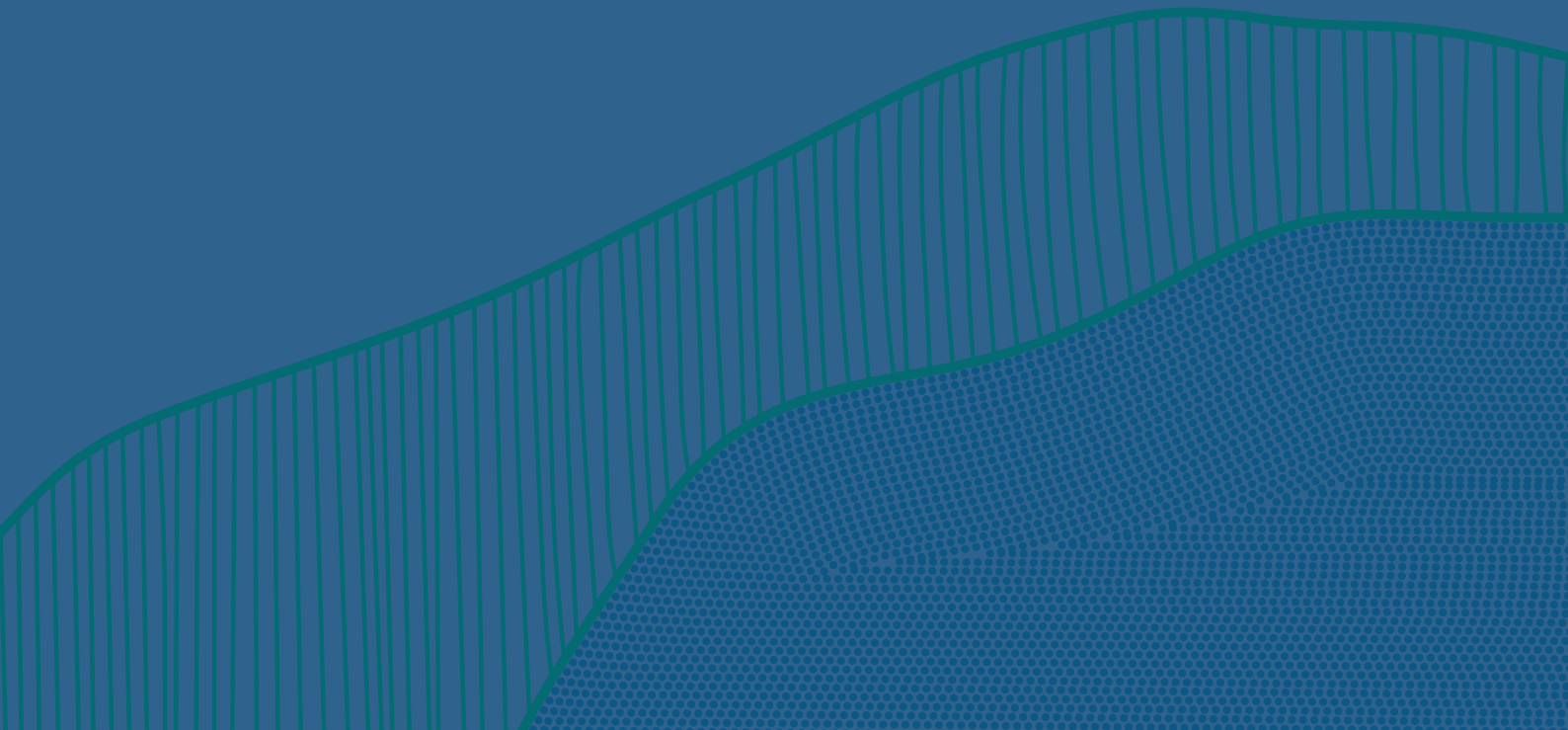
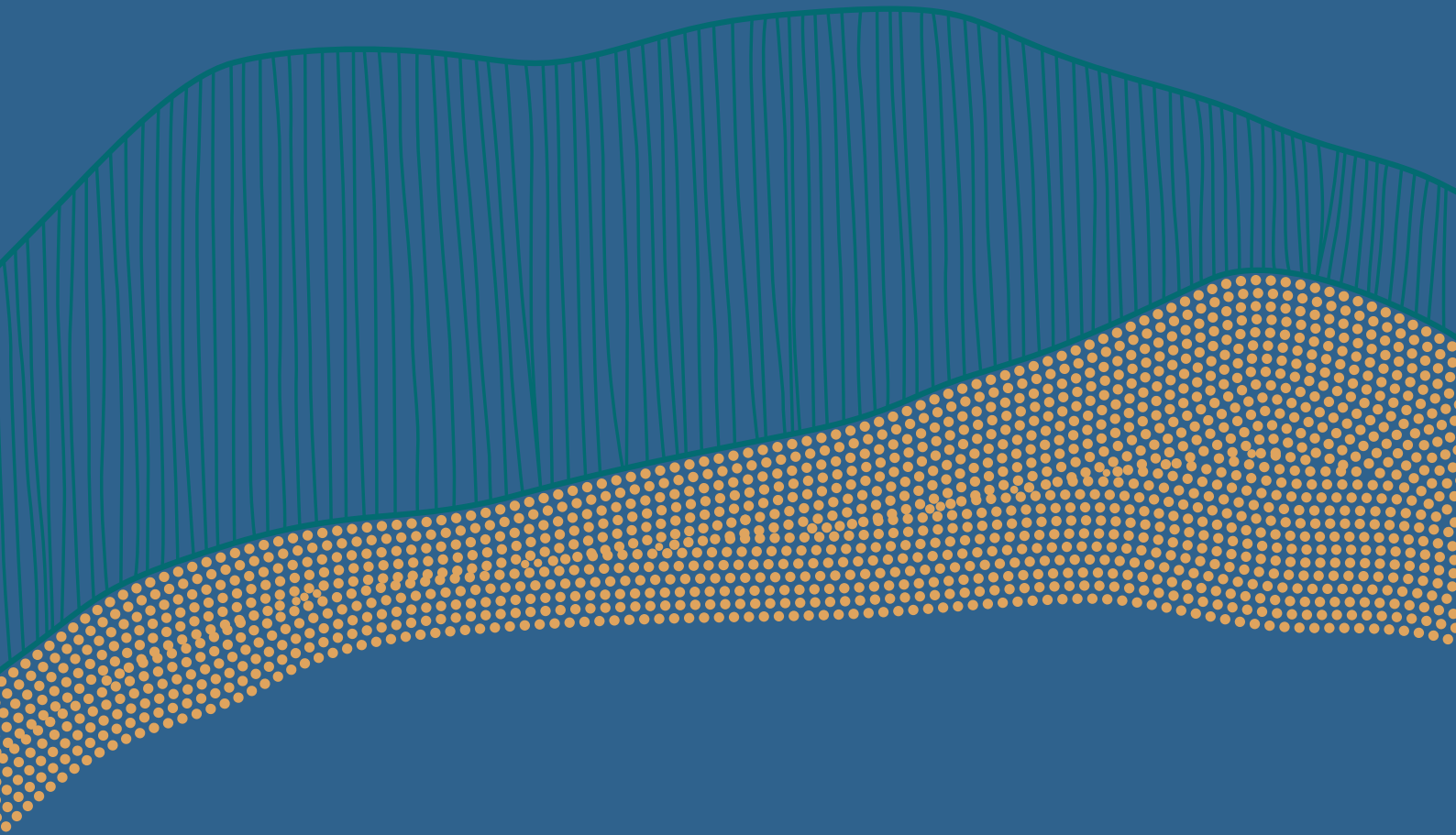
The Productivity Commission (the Commission) is pleased to play a role in supporting public accountability under the Agreement, and to provide this third Annual Data Compilation Report to monitor progress. This report monitors progress using data on the agreed target outcomes and supporting indicators, and is distinct from the Commission's three-yearly reviews of progress that will also consider the specific actions proposed to improve these outcomes, and whether these actions are adequate.

The Commission would like to acknowledge the ongoing valuable contribution to our work for this report by the Partnership Working Group that supports the Joint Council on Closing the Gap. As we continue this journey we intend to build on our existing relationships and engagement processes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and governments.

Michael Brennan
Chair

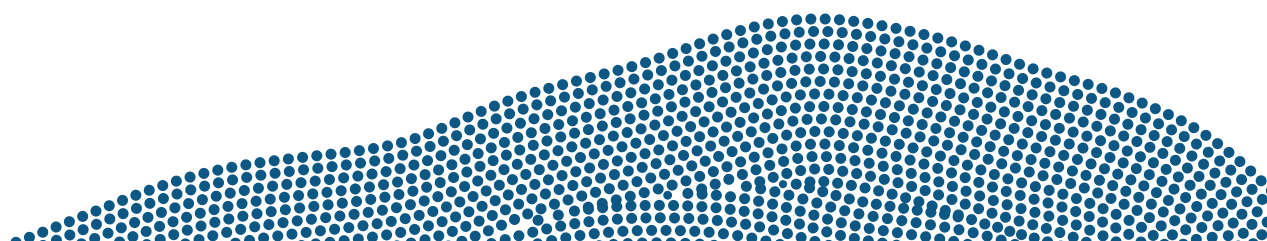
Romlie Mokak
Commissioner

Natalie Siegel-Brown
Commissioner



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Summary

This is the third Annual Data Compilation Report monitoring progress under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the Agreement).

How progress is monitored

The Agreement is structured around a central objective:

'... to overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians' (clause 15).

To achieve this objective, the Agreement aims to implement four Priority Reforms to change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is expected that this will accelerate improvements in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Following this logic, this report monitors the implementation of the Priority Reforms to see if governments have fulfilled their commitments, and monitors the socio-economic outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to see if they are improving as a result.

Gaps in the data

Even though the Priority Reforms are the foundation of the Agreement, there is no data to monitor whether they are being implemented. Work to develop this data is still in its early phases. Since the last report, the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Coalition of Peaks have engaged an organisation to do this measurement work, which at the time of preparing this report was anticipated to commence in June 2023.

Data gaps also prevent progress for four of the 19 socio-economic targets being assessed: 'community infrastructure', where no data have been collected, and 'family violence', 'strength of languages' and 'access to information' where no updates are available since the start of the Agreement.

Latest results

The socio-economic outcomes reported for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to be understood in context. Colonisation and subsequent discriminatory government policies have had a significant impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities, and cultures. This has negatively affected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health and wellbeing as reflected in the data results presented in this report.


Progress towards the 15 targets that can be assessed has been limited, with only four on track to be met. Despite this, outcomes are improving for most targets. Of the four targets that are on track, three have had annual improvements close to double what is needed. Moreover, seven of targets that are not on track are nevertheless improving.

However, outcomes are getting worse for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in four target areas. Rates of adult imprisonment, children in out-of-home care and suicide have all increased, and children's early development outcomes at the start of school have declined.

The progress of states and territories

Overall, it appears that some jurisdictions are contributing more towards progress to the national target outcomes than others. However, these assessments of progress need to be qualified, as there are no formal 'targets' to assess state and territory progress against. For example, while Western Australia has improved across most targets and often at an above average rate, with no jurisdictional targets it is not possible to assess if this contribution was adequate.

Worsening outcomes in some jurisdictions are cause for concern. The Northern Territory's outcomes worsened across eight target areas in which it was already performing relatively poorly at the starting point. For Victoria and



South Australia, outcomes for 'children in out-of-home care' were below the national average performance when this target was established and have worsened substantially since. For South Australia, outcomes for adult imprisonment have been similarly poor.

Outcomes can vary across population groups

Outcomes can also vary for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across population groups. Often people in groups with worse outcomes experience additional barriers; for example, mobility limitations for people with disability or not having access to key services or infrastructure if living in very remote areas. While living in more disadvantaged areas or experiencing disability does appear to lead to worse outcomes overall, most outcomes have improved over time. However, for people living in more remote areas where barriers can be significant, outcomes are worse overall and typically do not improve over time alongside the national improvements.

Supporting indicators

Reporting on the socio-economic outcome targets is supplemented by a range of supporting indicators, which provide information on the factors driving the target outcomes and other important context. These indicators can be especially useful in areas without recent assessments of progress or for areas that are moving backwards. For example, for life expectancy the most recent target data is old, but is more recent for the supporting indicators. The more recent data provide a concerning indication that the life expectancy gap may widen in future.

However, some supporting indicators lack a clear purpose and this can make them difficult to interpret. Furthermore, several supporting indicators lack data either partly or entirely. This is a particular concern for reporting on socio-economic outcome area 13 'family safety', with no assessment of progress for the target or data for the supporting indicators. This means at the national level there is no way of knowing through the available data if Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have been getting safer over the past five years.

Priority Reform targets

Current progress of the development of measurement

Phases for developing measurement	Partnership arrangements in place between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments enshrining joint decision-making	Increase the amount of government funding going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations	Decrease the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who experience racism	Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions
Phase One: Develop and agree on an approach for developing measurement	✓ COMPLETE	✓ COMPLETE	✓ COMPLETE	✓ COMPLETE
Phase Two: Develop and agree on the measurement concepts and computation	... IN PROGRESS	... IN PROGRESS	... IN PROGRESS	... IN PROGRESS
Phase Three: Develop data for reporting on the measures	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED
Phase Four: Collect the data for reporting	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED
Phase Five: Report data and build the time series	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED

Socio-economic targets^

Data availability and latest assessments of progress, at June 2023



71.6 years

is the life expectancy of males born in 2015–2017



75.6 years

is the life expectancy of females born in 2015–2017



89.0%*

of babies were born with a healthy birthweight in 2020



99.2%*

of children were enrolled in preschool in 2022



34.3%

of children commencing school were developmentally on track in 2021



68.1%*

of people aged 20–24 years had attained Year 12 or equivalent in 2021



47.0%*

of people aged 25–34 years had completed a tertiary qualification in 2021



58.0%*

of people aged 15–24 years were fully engaged in employment, education or training in 2021



55.7%*

of people aged 25–64 years were employed in 2021



81.4%*

of people were living in appropriately sized housing in 2021



No data on households receiving essential services is available



2,151.1 per 100,000*

adults in prison in 2022



28.3 per 10,000*

young people were in detention in 2021-22



56.8 per 1,000*

children were in out-of-home care in 2022



8.4%

of females experienced physical or threatened physical harm in 2018-19



27.1 per 100,000*

people took their own life in 2021



4,138,356 km² of land*

were subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests in 2022



91,111 km² of sea country*



123

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages were spoken in 2018-19



73.5%

of people accessed the internet in their home in 2014-15

Legend



Good improvement and on track



Improvement but not on track



Worsening, not on track



No assessment available but baseline data available



No assessment or baseline data available



* New update available

^ Results relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Assessments measure progress towards each target since the baseline year, based on the latest available data.

1. How progress is monitored under the Agreement

The Agreement is structured around a central objective:

'... to overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians' (clause 15).

Under the Agreement, all the parties have committed to 'mobilising all avenues and opportunities available to them' (clause 16) to achieve this objective. Because this objective is broad and complex, the parties have also committed to specific outcomes against which progress can be measured (clause 17).

- *Priority Reform outcomes* – four outcomes related to reforming the way that government works to 'accelerate improvements in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' (clause 25).
- *Socio-economic outcomes* – outcomes important to the rights, wellbeing and quality of life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Currently there are 17 socio-economic outcomes identified across a range of life areas including health, education, employment, housing, safety, and strength in culture and language.

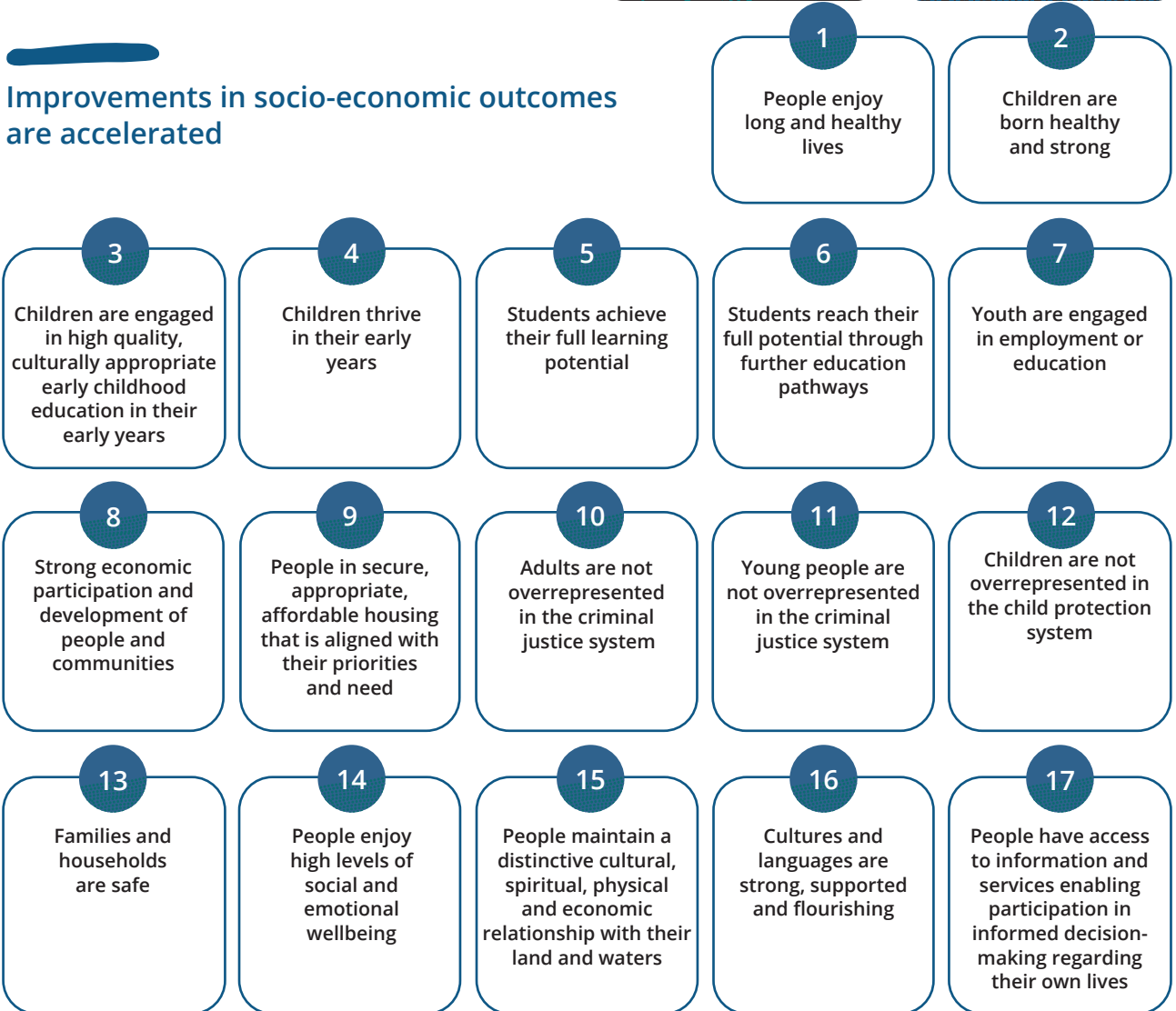
The aim of the Agreement is to fully implement the Priority Reforms, which will support an accelerated improvement in the socio-economic outcomes (clause 25), so that the objective can be achieved (figure 1.1). Monitoring the implementation of the Priority Reforms will indicate if the parties have done what they committed to, and monitoring the socio-economic outcomes will indicate if life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are improving as a result.

Figure 1.1 – Logic of the framework for measuring progress

Priority Reforms are fully implemented



Improvements in socio-economic outcomes are accelerated



Objective is achieved

To overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians

Monitoring progress toward achieving the outcomes

An agreed set of targets and indicators are used to monitor progress toward achieving the outcomes (figure 1.2). The targets are the key accountability measures for monitoring progress under the Agreement (clauses 81 and 82), but the Agreement also identifies supporting indicators. Under the socio-economic outcomes, these indicators provide information on the drivers of the outcomes and further context (for example, rates of access and use of health services as a supporting indicator for the 'life expectancy' target).

To monitor how well the objective and outcomes are being achieved for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the Agreement identifies different population groups, including cohorts experiencing vulnerability, for whom data is disaggregated (for example, people with disability).

In some cases, important information to understand progress is not currently available, so the Agreement includes data development items (which relate to both additional indicators and disaggregations). Work to develop these items is currently underway.¹

Figure 1.2 – Monitoring progress toward achieving the outcomes



The public implementation and accountability processes

The public implementation and accountability processes of the Agreement (sections 8 and 9) aim to make the parties accountable for progress and implementing the agreed upon actions.²

The Closing the Gap Dashboard (the dashboard) and this Annual Data Compilation Report (this report) are elements of this public accountability framework and focus on:

- data that provide a numeric result for the targets and indicators; for example, numbers, rates and proportions

- information that assists with understanding and interpreting this data; for example, technical specifications that show how the targets and indicators were estimated and quality issues.

While the dashboard and this report use this data and information to monitor progress to improve outcomes from a numeric perspective, they do not assess the specific actions proposed by the parties to improve these outcomes, or whether these actions are adequate. This is the role of the other accountability tools, including:

¹ A Data Development Plan was approved by the Joint Council on Closing the Gap in August 2022. The Plan can be found at www.closingthegap.gov.au/resources.

² The parties responsible for the Agreement are the Australian Government, the state and territory governments, the Australian Local Government Association and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks).

- the annual reports prepared by each of the parties setting out their progress under the Agreement and their implementation plans (clause 118)
- two independent but complementary three-yearly reviews, one by the Productivity Commission (the Commission) and the other led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (clauses 121–128).

However, the data and information on the dashboard and in this report can inform these other accountability tools and shape the implementation of the Agreement. If progress toward an agreed outcome is not meeting expectations – that is, a numeric result for a target in this report indicates it is not on track, actions to address this lack of progress are to be included in jurisdictional implementation plans (clause 91).³

Information currently available for monitoring progress

Information for the dashboard and this report is being developed in stages. This is the third report monitoring progress under the Agreement. Since the last report (July 2022), two dashboard updates have been released (March and June 2023). This report provides a snapshot of the results available as at 30 June 2023 (**attachments B and C**).

Work has begun to develop reporting for the Priority Reform outcome areas, but data is not yet available (**section 2** and **attachment B**).

The data or information released since the last report for the socio-economic outcome areas comprises:

- an additional year of data and new assessments of progress for 13 targets – 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15A and 15B
- new state and territory data for target 16
- new disaggregations of data for five targets – 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9A
- data for 21 supporting indicators – across outcome areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17. Development work has been undertaken for two additional indicators in outcome area 13.

³ Jurisdiction in this context refers to the Australian, state and territory governments.

2. Monitoring the implementation of the Priority Reforms

The Priority Reforms are the foundation of the Agreement, with the parties agreeing they are the key vehicle for improving the socio-economic outcomes and achieving the objective. In this way, the Agreement differs from the previous agreement (the National Indigenous Reform Agreement), which focussed on and solely monitored socio-economic outcomes.

The Priority Reforms commit the parties to actions that change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and communities (clause 25). These actions also prioritise and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures (clauses 21 and 22). The Agreement includes jurisdictional and partnership actions (covering all parties to the Agreement), and jurisdictions (the Australian, state and territory governments) have committed to include 'actions to achieve the Priority Reforms' (clause 108(d)) in their implementation plans.

The importance of monitoring the Priority Reforms

Although monitoring the socio-economic outcomes is important and will continue, direct monitoring of the Priority Reforms is a key part of the new approach in the Agreement.

Directly monitoring the implementation of the Priority Reforms will help to hold governments accountable for their actions under the Agreement. For each Priority Reform outcome area, progress is monitored through:

- targets that 'focus on measuring the change governments are making in the way they work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' (clause 79 and table 2.1)
- supporting indicators that provide 'greater understanding of, and insight into, how all governments are tracking against the outcomes and targets' (clause 81(b)(iii)).

Because the Priority Reforms are relatively new, developing ways to measure their progress is still ongoing. Measures and data for the targets and indicators are yet to be developed (**attachment B**).

Table 2.1 – Outcome and target for each of the Priority Reform areas^a

Priority Reform areas	Outcome	Target
<p>Priority Reform 1 Formal partnerships and shared decision making</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are empowered to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements [clause 17(a)].</p>	<p>There will be formal partnership arrangements to support Closing the Gap in place between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments in place in each state and territory enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have chosen their own representatives [clause 81(a)(i)].</p>
<p>Priority Reform 2 Building the community-controlled sector</p>	<p>There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country [clause 17(b)].</p>	<p>Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations [clause 81(a)(ii)].</p>
<p>Priority Reform 3 Transforming government organisations</p>	<p>Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund [clause 17(c)].</p>	<p>Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experiences of racism [clause 81(a)(iii)].</p>
<p>Priority Reform 4 Shared access to data and information at a regional level</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development [clause 17(d)].</p>	<p>Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development [clause 81(a)(iv)].</p>

^a This table includes a subset of information on the Priority Reforms that is in the Agreement. Section 6 of the Agreement outlines the actions that have been committed to under the Agreement (for example, under Priority Reform 4 government parties committed to ‘share available, disaggregated regional data and information with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities on Closing the Gap, subject to meeting privacy requirements’ (clause 72(a)). While table A includes indicators relevant to each Priority Reform (for example, an indicator for Priority Reform 4 is ‘Number of formal data sharing partnerships established between government agencies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/organisations’).

Getting measurement of the Priority Reforms right

Given the importance of implementing the Priority Reforms, developing measurement to monitor this is a priority. As this measurement is new and being done from scratch, to ensure it is finalised as quickly as possible and reflects the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people it needs adequate resourcing and collaborative effort between the parties.

Work on developing this measurement is underway. In the early phases, the measurement needs to be developed in a consistent and coherent way across the Priority Reforms. It also requires building a

common understanding across the parties about how each target and indicator should be measured.

The parties agreed an approach to this work in 2021-22. Developing this approach was phase one. Three subsequent phases are to be completed before the final phase, which is the reporting of data on the Priority Reform targets and supporting indicators (box 2.1). This report will continue to monitor the progress of the parties across these phases and include data on the targets and indicators as it becomes available.

Box 2.1 – Five phases for developing measurement of the Priority Reforms

The approach that the parties are taking to develop measurement of the Priority Reform targets and indicators has five broad phases.

Phase One

Parties develop and agree an approach for developing measurement of the Priority Reform targets and supporting indicators.

Phase Two

Parties develop and agree on the measurement concepts and calculations: identify and define key concepts and describe how the measures will be calculated, that is how will they be put together (for example, numerator and denominator, and calculations).

Phase Three

Parties develop data for reporting on the measures: develop and agree counting rules that align with the agreed definitions for the concepts, and identify potential data sources either from an existing source or the mechanism to collect them.

Phase Four

Data custodians collect the data for reporting: collate and validate the data and document any concerns with the measurement of indicators (for example, is it a proxy for the indicator) or data quality issues.

Phase Five

Productivity Commission reports the data and builds a time series for reporting.

Work also began in 2021-22 to develop 'measurement concepts and calculations' across the Priority Reforms (phase two). This work was undertaken through the Partnership Working Group, which includes all Australian governments and the Coalition of Peaks. The Partnership Working Group determined that this initial work was useful, but that further expertise was required in the form of specific technical skills and cultural expertise.

In early June 2023, the Partnership Working Group provided its latest update to the Productivity Commission on the status of this measurement development. This follows the commencement in late 2022 of a request for quarterly updates by the Productivity Commission.

The update stated that the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Coalition of Peaks were working in partnership to engage the required expertise to progress development of the measures for all Priority Reforms. This work is to include developing measurement concepts, describing how measures will be calculated, and identifying potential data sources from existing sources or detailing the mechanism to collect new data where required. An organisation has been engaged to do this measurement work, which at the time of preparing this report was due to commence in June 2023.

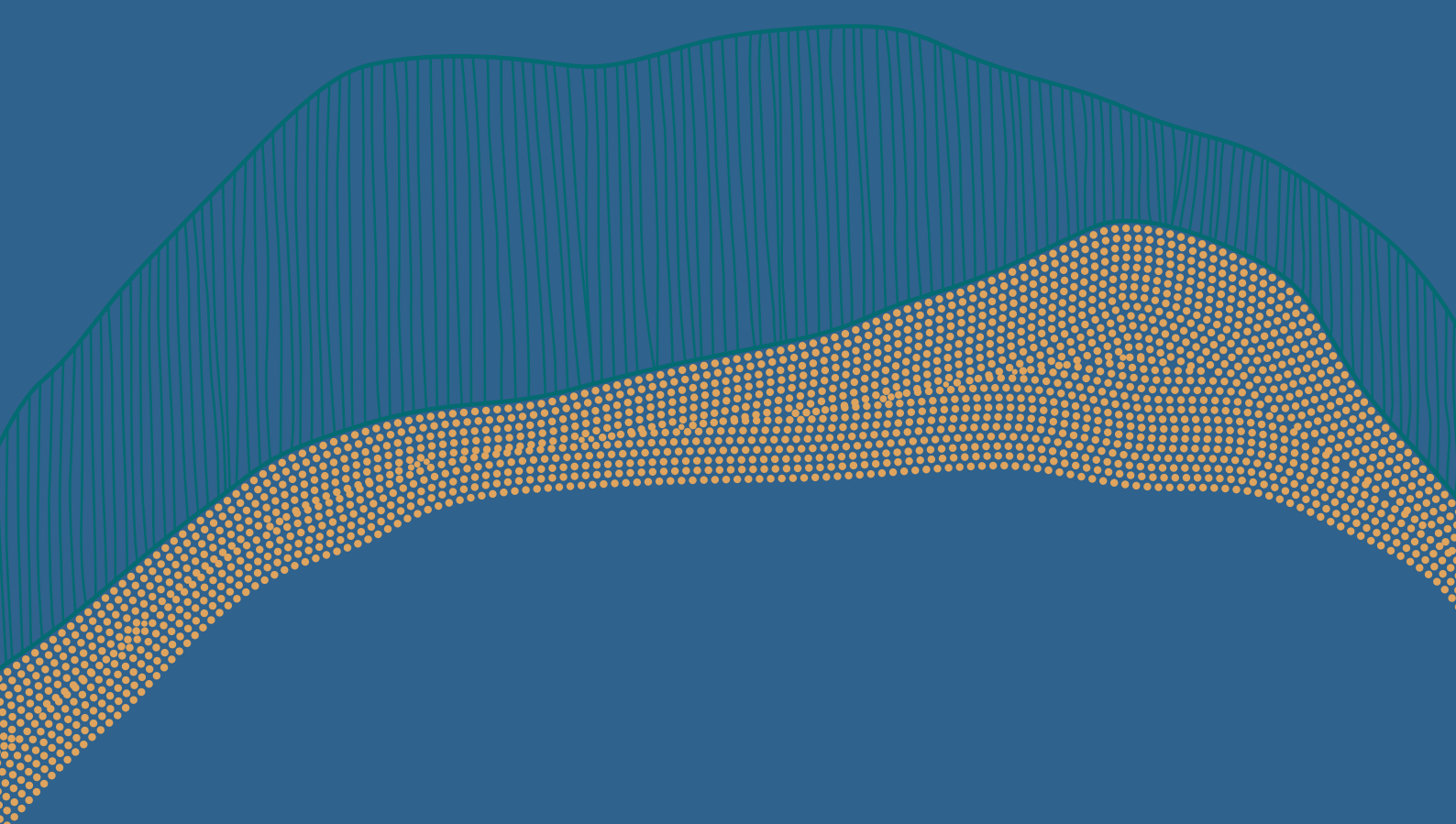


3. Monitoring progress toward achieving the socio-economic outcomes

The socio-economic outcomes focus on the experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in key life areas that are important for wellbeing. These life areas cover those that support cultural wellbeing; that is, strength of cultures and languages, access to land and waters, and culturally relevant communications (clause 23), and other areas such as education, employment, health, and experiences with the criminal justice system.

Assessing progress toward these socio-economic outcomes will indicate if the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are improving under the Agreement, and whether this improvement is accelerating.

The national targets are the key measures for assessing progress for the socio-economic outcomes. This report provides an update on progress since the baseline year towards these targets, using the latest available data on the dashboard (at June 2023). A target is a 'specific, measurable goal' for an outcome (clause 82(b)), that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will benefit from in future (at a year specified in the Agreement). The targets are to be met at the national level, and are highly aggregated to this level. Even if they are met, outcomes are likely to vary across states and territories, and population groups (results for these disaggregations follow reporting on the national target results).



Understanding the socio-economic outcomes in context

The socio-economic target outcomes reported for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to be understood in context. Colonisation and subsequent discriminatory government policies have had a devastating effect on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities, and cultures. This history and the ongoing impacts of 'entrenched disadvantage, political exclusion, intergenerational trauma and ongoing institutional racism' (clause 2) has affected the social determinants of health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and consequently the socio-economic outcomes presented in this report. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can experience poorer outcomes due to:

- a higher prevalence of personal risk factors associated with poorer outcomes. These risk factors have been transmitted across generations through the trauma and exclusion caused by colonisation and subsequent government policies and programs, which have caused hardship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the loss of lands, waters and cultures
- being affected by structural or systemic barriers, because of the disadvantage now experienced
- the ongoing experience of discrimination and racism, which creates barriers to better outcomes and diminishes physical and mental wellbeing.⁴

Under the National Agreement, governments have committed to fully implement the four Priority Reforms to address structural or systemic barriers, and positively impact the Closing the Gap target outcomes.

Progress towards achieving the national targets

Progress across the national targets has been limited. Of the 19 national targets (across the 17 socio-economic outcome areas), 15 had an assessment of progress, and of these only four were on track to be met (targets 3, 8,

11 and 15A), with the remaining 11 'not on track' (targets 1, 2, 4, 5–7, 9A, 10, 12, and 14 and 15B).

Despite this, good progress has been made towards achieving some targets. Of the four targets that were on track, three had annual improvements that were close to double what is needed to meet the target in future (targets 3, 11 and 15A). For target 15A 'land mass subject to legal rights and interests', if the recorded annual improvement continues, the target will be exceeded by 2026 (five years ahead of schedule). For target 3 'preschool enrolment', reported rates rose every year since the baseline and the final target value, to be met in 2025, has already been exceeded (although the estimated annual change may be overstated for quality reasons which are covered in **attachment A**). With these improvements, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are now more likely to be enrolled in preschool than non-Indigenous children. While the annual improvement was more modest for adult employment (target 8), the gap to non-Indigenous people has also narrowed. This narrowing implies that improvements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult employment rates are due to more than improvements in overall economic conditions conducive to higher employment levels.

Moreover, most of the targets that were assessed as 'not on track' were progressing in the right direction. Of the 11 targets 'not on track', seven showed improvement and while these improvements need to accelerate for the target to be met, there are positive signs.

- For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, qualification levels increased (target 5 'year 12 or equivalent' and target 6 'Certificate level III or above'), as did engagement in employment, education or training (target 7 'youth engaged in employment or education'). These improvements were enough to narrow the gap to non-Indigenous young people across all three targets.
- More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are now living in appropriately sized housing (target 9A), and the estimated annual change to date (0.51 percentage points) is close to what is needed for the target to be met (0.61 percentage points), with the gap to non-Indigenous people narrowing.

⁴ SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2020, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2020*, Productivity Commission, Canberra.

While most of the targets have moved in the right direction, four targets showed areas that were getting worse for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

- Rates of adult imprisonment (target 10), children in out-of-home care (target 12), and suicide (target 14) all increased since the baseline, along with overrepresentation relative to non-Indigenous people.
- Children's early development outcomes at the time of starting school also declined (target 4), and the gap to non-Indigenous children widened.

For four targets, the data needed for assessing progress is not collected. For target 9B 'community infrastructure', the data has not been collected for the starting point (baseline) or to provide updates on progress. For the other three targets (13 'family violence', 16 'strength of languages' and 17 'access to information'), while data for the baseline is available, more recent data is not.

A summary of the latest results for the national targets follows below. All but one of the assessments of progress below should be considered with caution. They are based on a very limited number of data points (all have less than five years of data, except target 3 'preschool enrolment'). These results should also be considered alongside the key data availability and measurement issues outlined in **attachment A**. Information on how jurisdictions are progressing for each target is in **attachment C**.

Summary of the National Assessments

TARGET 1

Life expectancy is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are enjoying long and healthy lives. It is reported as the expected years of life at birth.

Nationally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males born in 2015–2017 are expected to live to 71.6 years and females to 75.6 years. Since the 2005–2007 baseline year, the gap in life expectancy compared to non-Indigenous people narrowed for males (from 11.4 years to 8.6 years) and for females (from 9.6 years to 7.8 years). Despite this improvement, the national target of 'no gap in life expectancy' is not on track to be met for males or females.

TARGET 2

Healthy birthweight is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are born healthy and strong. It is reported as the proportion of babies born with a healthy birthweight.

Nationally in 2020, 89.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies born were of a healthy birthweight, which is an increase from 88.8% in 2017 (the baseline year). While this is an improvement, it is not enough for the national target of 91% to be met.

TARGET 4

Childhood development is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are thriving in their early years. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).

Nationally in 2021, 34.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children commencing school were assessed as being developmentally on track in all five AEDC domains, which is a decrease from 35.2% in 2018 (the baseline year). This is a worsening in the result, with the national target of 55% not on track to be met.

TARGET 3

Early childhood education enrolment rates is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Year Before Full-time Schooling (YBFS) age cohort who were enrolled in a preschool program.

Nationally in 2022, 99.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the YBFS age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program, which is an increase from 76.7% in 2016 (the baseline year). This is a good improvement with the national target of 95% on track to be met.

TARGET 5

High school completion is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve their full learning potential. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (aged 20–24 years) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification.

Nationally in 2021, 68.1% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 20–24 years had attained year 12 or equivalent, which is an increase from 63.2% in 2016 (the baseline year). While this is an improvement, it is not enough for the national target of 96% to be met.

TARGET 7

Participation in the workforce and/or studies is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged in employment or education. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (aged 15–24 years) who are fully engaged in employment, education or training.

Nationally in 2021, 58.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15–24 years were fully engaged in employment, education or training, an increase from 57.2% in 2016 (the baseline year). While this is an improvement, it is not enough for the national target of 67% to be met.

TARGET 6

Completion of a tertiary qualification is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students reach their full potential through further education pathways. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate level III and above).

Nationally in 2021, 47.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–34 years had completed non-school qualifications of Certificate level III or above, an increase from 42.3% in 2016 (the baseline year). While this is an improvement, it is not enough for the national target of 70% to be met.



TARGET 8

Employment is a measure of strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–64 years who are employed.

Nationally in 2021, 55.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–64 years were employed, an increase from 51.0% in 2016 (the baseline year). This is a good improvement with the national target of 62% on track to be met.

TARGET 9A

Housing suitability is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing.

Nationally in 2021, 81.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were living in appropriately sized housing, an increase from 78.9% in 2016 (the baseline year). While this is an improvement, it is not enough for the national target of 88% to be met.

TARGET 9B

Access to power, water, wastewater and solid waste management is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households that receive essential services that meet or exceed relevant standards.⁵

This target is currently not able to be reported against as there is no data source currently available which includes all required data elements. Therefore no assessment can be made for the national target that 'households receive essential services that meet or exceed the relevant standards'.

TARGET 11

Rates of youth detention is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. It is reported as the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years in detention.

Nationally in 2021-22, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day was 28.3 per 10,000 young people in the population, which is a decrease from 32.0 per 10,000 young people in 2018-19 (the baseline year). This is a good improvement with the national target of a 'decrease of at least 30% in the detention rate' on track to be met.

TARGET 10

Rates of incarceration is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. It is reported as the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners per 100,000 adult population.

Nationally at 30 June 2022, the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 2,151.7 per 100,000 adult population, which is an increase from 2,142.9 per 100,000 adult population in 2019 (the baseline year). This is a worsening, with the national target of a 'reduction of at least 15% in the incarceration rate' not on track to be met.

⁵ Households are those within discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities or that are in or near to a town.



TARGET 12

Rates of children in out-of-home care is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are overrepresented in the child protection system. It is reported as the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care.

Nationally in 2022, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care was 56.8 per 1,000 children in the population, which is an increase from 54.2 per 1,000 children in 2019 (the baseline year). This is a worsening in the result, with the national target of a 'reduction in the rate of out-of-home care by 45%' not on track to be met.

TARGET 13

Rates of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe. It is reported as the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females aged 15 years or over who reported experiencing domestic physical or threatened physical harm.

Nationally in 2018-19, 8.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females aged 15 years or over experienced physical or threatened physical harm. There is no new data since the baseline meaning no assessment of progress is possible for the national target of 'reducing all forms of family violence by at least 50%'.



TARGET 14

Rates of suicide is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have high levels of social and emotional wellbeing. It is reported as the age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people per 100,000 people.

In 2021, the suicide rate (for NSW, Qld, WA, SA and the NT combined) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 27.1 per 100,000 people, which is an increase from 25.0 per 100,000 people in 2018 (the baseline year). This is a worsening, with the national target of a 'significant and sustained reduction in suicide towards zero' not on track to be met.⁶

TARGET 15A

Land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land. It is reported as square kilometres of the land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests.

Nationally as at 30 June 2022, 4,138,356 square kilometres of the land mass of Australia was subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests, which is an increase from 3,908,387 square kilometres in 2020 (the baseline year). This is a good improvement with the national target of a '15%' increase in land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests on track to be met.

⁶ This target has four possible trajectories based on a 20%, 25%, 50% and 75% reduction in the suicide rate.

TARGET 15B

Sea country covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their waters. It is reported as square kilometres of sea country subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests.

Nationally as at 30 June 2022, 91,111 square kilometres of the sea country of Australia was subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests, which is an increase from 90,252 square kilometres of the sea country in 2020 (the baseline year). While this is an improvement, it is not enough for the national target of a '15%' increase in sea country subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests to be met.

TARGET 17

Digital inclusion is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over accessed the internet in their home.

Nationally in 2014-15, 73.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years or over had access to the internet in their home. There is no new data since the baseline and no comparable data for non-Indigenous people meaning no assessment of progress is possible for the national target of 'equal levels of digital inclusion'.

TARGET 16

The use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing. It is reported as the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.

Nationally in 2018-19, there were 123 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages spoken, with 14 considered strong. There is no new data since the baseline meaning no assessment of progress is possible for the national target of a 'sustained increase in the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken'.

States and territories contribution to improving socio-economic outcomes

As noted above, the national targets are the key measures for assessing progress. The Agreement notes that targets are to be met at the national level, in recognition that the 'starting points, past trends and local circumstances differ' (clause 83) across states and territories. However, the Agreement also recognises that each 'jurisdiction's progress and contribution towards achievement of targets' should be able to be monitored using the data on the dashboard (clause 89).

At this stage, the assessments of progress for states and territories (jurisdictions) cannot show if they have adequately contributed to meeting the national targets. While the assessments show if outcomes are worsening, have not changed, or are improving for a jurisdiction, there are currently no 'targets' for each state and territory.

Overall, some jurisdictions appear to be contributing more to improving outcomes than others (table 3.1). The jurisdiction that improved across the most targets was Western Australia, followed by Victoria and Queensland. And the jurisdiction whose outcomes worsened or remained the same across the most targets was the Northern Territory, followed by the Australian Capital Territory.

However, these contributions to improve outcomes need to be qualified. Different starting points (that is, baseline levels) and circumstances across jurisdictions are likely to influence the progress made. For example, a jurisdiction starting from a relatively poor baseline position (for example, higher rates of imprisonment or lower rates of employment relative to other jurisdictions) and faced with more difficult circumstances (such as dispersed population centres with long distances between them) can see improvements, but may still be well behind the national average for the latest year's results. Even if a jurisdiction remains below the national average, if they are improving, their contribution is still helping toward meeting the national target. However, in the absence of jurisdictional targets or a method to assess

their contribution, it is not possible to confirm if it is sufficient to enable the national target to be met.

Western Australia is a good example of this. While the state was well below the national average results for most targets at baseline and remain so, they improved across all but one target, and often had one of the highest estimated annual changes. Despite this, even though Western Australia may be making an appropriate contribution to meeting the national targets, it is not possible to confirm if they are.

Furthermore, while it appears that the majority of jurisdictions need to improve for the national target to be met, even if all jurisdictions improve, it is not necessarily sufficient. For the four targets that are on track to be met (targets 3, 8, 11, 15A), all but one jurisdiction either improved or did not change from their baseline position. For two other targets (targets 5 and 6), all jurisdictions improved but the targets are still not on track to be met as the combined level of improvement was not enough.

If a jurisdiction has shown no progress or worsened for a target then it is evidently not contributing sufficiently to national progress.

One jurisdiction where the worsening outcomes are particularly concerning is the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory's outcomes worsened across eight target indicators and in most of these they were already performing relatively poorly at baseline compared to other jurisdictions. For example, the adult imprisonment rate in the Northern Territory increased at the highest rate despite already being above the national average at baseline.

Worsening outcomes in Victoria and South Australia are also concerning in some areas. The outcomes for target 12 'children in out-of-home care' have worsened substantially for both of these jurisdictions despite starting from baseline rates that were already well above the national average. Adult imprisonment showed a similar pattern in South Australia.

Further information on how jurisdictions are progressing for each target is included in **attachment C**.

Table 3.1 – Assessment of progress for states and territories across the national targets^a

Target	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Target 1 – Males	→	..	→	→	..	..	..	→	•
Target 1 – Females	→	..	→	→	..	..	..	←	•
Target 2	←	→	→	→	→	→	←	←	•
Target 3	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	←	✓
Target 4	←	→	→	←	→	→	→	←	←
Target 5	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	•
Target 6	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	•
Target 7	→	→	→	→	←	→	→	←	•
Target 8	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	←	✓
Target 9A	→	→	→	→	→	←	←	→	•
Target 9B	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Target 10	←	→	←	→	←	→	→	←	←
Target 11	→	→	■	→	→	→	■	←	✓
Target 12	→	←	←	→	←	←	■	→	←
Target 13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Target 14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	←
Target 15A	→	→	→	→	→	■	■	→	✓
Target 15B ^b	■	→	→	→	→	■	..	→	•
Target 16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Target 17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Number of targets with assessments of progress	14	13	14	14	13	13	12	14	15
Proportion of assessments where outcomes improved	73%	92%	80%	93%	77%	69%	58%	47%	75%

Legend	✓	•	→	■	←	..
	Good improvement and on track	Improvement but not on track (national)	Improvement	No change (state and territory level)	Worsening	No assessment

^a Assessments measure progress towards each target since the baseline year, based on the latest available data.

^b The Australian Government also contributes to meeting target 15B and have shown improvement since the baseline.

Differences between population groups

The assessments of progress are highly aggregated, and may not reflect the outcomes for different groups of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Outcomes may vary across groups based on the additional barriers experienced by some, such as related to location (remoteness and socio-economic status of the locality) or disability. Some personal characteristics do not necessarily create barriers, such as age and gender, but can affect outcomes (as shown through the target results outlined below).

To provide further insights, once an assessment of progress is available the targets are often disaggregated for these different population groups. Disaggregating the targets for these groups is usually fairly straightforward and consistent across targets, such as for age, gender, remoteness and socio-economic status of the locality.

However, disaggregating the targets for disability is not straightforward. Disability is often defined differently across data sets and this can make deriving the target data difficult. For data on preschool enrolments and out-of-home care, disability is not well defined or consistently collected across states and territories. Consequently, it is not possible to derive the population of people with disability needed to report the rates that would match the target. For targets based on Census data, this is not an issue and disaggregations of the target are available. However, disability is defined narrowly in terms of people who needed assistance with core activities, that is, had 'severe or profound core activity limitations', and so those with less severe physical disability, or psychosocial disability that does not impact core activity, are excluded.

Latest results across population groups

People living in more remote areas

People living in a more remote area may experience additional barriers to better outcomes; for example, not having access to key government services or infrastructure at the same level as people living in other areas. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people typically experienced poorer target outcomes

as remoteness increased, which was mostly not the case for non-Indigenous people.⁷ This indicates that these barriers may be more of an issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in these areas than for non-Indigenous people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in more remote areas also saw less progress toward target outcomes. Target outcomes typically only improved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in major cities and regional areas where there may be fewer barriers, including better access to key infrastructure. There was little or no improvement in remote and very remote areas. The exception was for target 9A 'appropriately sized housing' where outcomes improved the most in very remote areas, though they remain well below the outcomes in less remote areas.

But when outcomes worsened over time, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in more remote areas were usually affected. For the two targets with worsening outcomes where data on remoteness is available, target 4 'children developmentally on track at school commencement' outcomes worsened in regional and remote areas, but increased marginally in very remote areas and target 14 'suicide rates' worsened across all areas.

People living in more disadvantaged socio-economic areas

Living in a more disadvantaged socio-economic area also negatively affects outcomes, which is likely in part due to the index measuring disadvantage being constructed using some of the target outcomes (for example, employment rates, qualifications and overcrowding). While this is true for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people, it affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more, with a wider gap in outcomes between people living in the most and least disadvantaged areas.

However, unlike living in more remote areas, living in more disadvantaged areas does not appear to hinder improvements in the target outcomes over time. All socio-economic outcomes improved for people living in more disadvantaged areas except for target 2 'healthy birthweight' and target 7 'youth engaged in employment or education', where movements were mixed but similar in magnitude across all socio-economic areas.

⁷ The exception to this is suicide rates, which were higher for non-Indigenous people in remote areas compared to non-remote areas.

Similarly, for the one target that worsened and had data on socio-economic status of areas (target 4 'children developmentally on track at school commencement'), outcomes worsened across all socio-economic areas.

People with disability

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with profound or severe core activity limitations had poorer outcomes than people without these limitations across most targets.⁸ However, the gap in outcomes between those with and without these limitations was wider for non-Indigenous people, as non-Indigenous people without these limitations had considerably better outcomes.

But the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with these limitations improved across most target outcomes over time (figure 3.1). The one exception is for target 7 'youth engaged in employment or education' where outcomes worsened for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with these limitations.

Improvements were usually larger for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with severe and profound core activity limitations than for any other population, although this is from a lower starting point.⁹ The exception was target 9A 'appropriately sized housing', where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people without these limitations saw the largest proportional increase over time.

Outcomes for females and males

Outcomes reported for the targets were often better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males, a pattern also seen among non-Indigenous people. Females were more likely to be developmentally on track at the start of school (target 4) and to have attained Year 12 or equivalent (target 5) and qualifications at Certificate level III or above (target 6). They were also less likely to have been in youth detention (target 11), adult prison (target 10) or died by suicide (target 14).

Most outcomes are also improving more, or worsening less, over time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males. Outcomes for:

- education and training (targets 5 and 6) and youth detention (target 11) (other than the most recent year) improved

more for females than males

- adult imprisonment (target 10) and suicide rates (target 14) worsened less for females than males.

But there are also exceptions to these trends. Outcomes worsened more for girls than for boys for target 4 'children developmentally on track at school commencement'. This is also the case for non-Indigenous females, albeit off a higher base.

However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males are doing better or as well as females for some targets. Employment rates (target 8) and youth engagement in employment, education and training (target 7) were higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males than for females, although these gaps have narrowed over time. There was also little difference in outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females in the proportion in appropriately sized housing (target 9A) or rate in out-of-home care (target 12).

Outcomes for younger and older people

While outcomes are often worse for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (aged between 20 and 40 years) than for older people (aged between 40 and 50 years), they are improving more for young people in some areas.

- Employment rates (target 8) increased across all reported age groups for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with the largest increase for those aged 25–39 years (albeit from a lower base than older age groups).
- Imprisonment rates (target 10) were highest for those aged 30–39 years, however, for the most recent reporting period the rates for 25–34 year olds decreased and were below the baseline level.

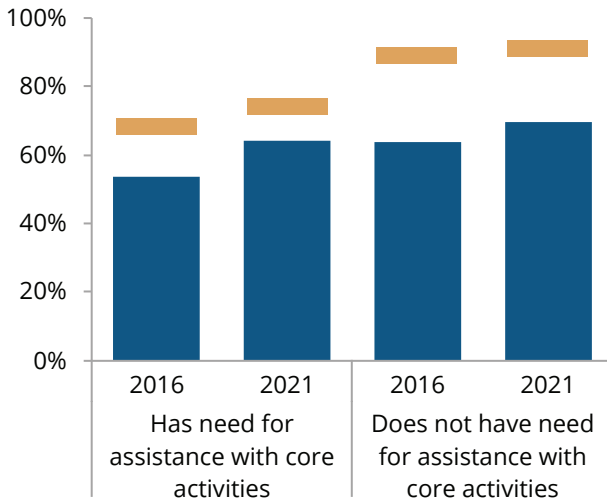
Even though older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults often have better outcomes than younger adults, outcomes are worsening more for older adults in some areas. For imprisonment (target 10) and suicide (target 14), while starting from a lower base than younger age groups, rates increased at a faster pace for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 40 years or over. From 2021, the imprisonment rate for people aged 45–59 years overtook that for

⁸ This is disability measured as a need for assistance with core activities, with data available for five targets.

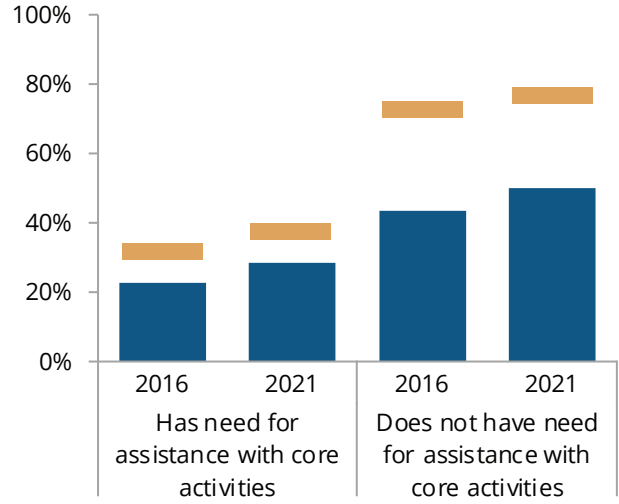
⁹ The other populations are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people without severe and profound core activity limitations, and non-Indigenous people with and without these limitations

Figure 3.1 – Outcomes for people with and without core activity limitations

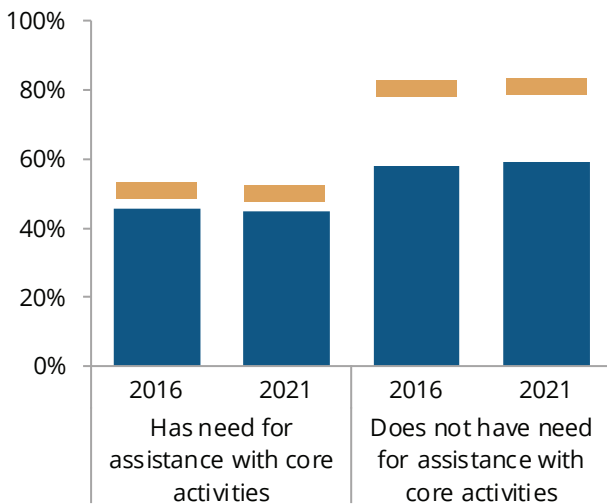
Target 5: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent; or a non-school qualification at Certificate level III or above, aged 20–24 years



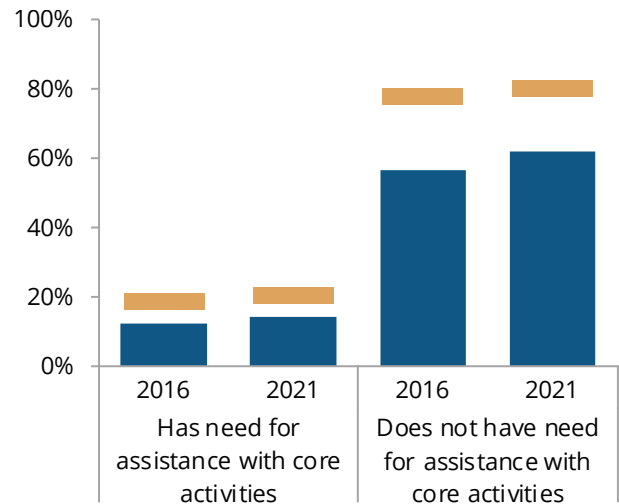
Target 6: Completed non-school qualifications of Certificate level III or above, aged 25–34 years



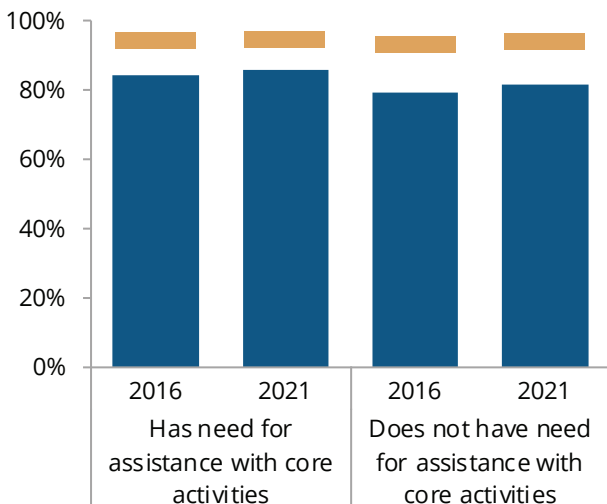
Target 7: Fully engaged in employment; education or training, aged 15–24 years



Target 8: Employed, aged 25–64 years



Target 9A: People living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) dwellings



Source: tables CtG5A.5; CtG6A.5; CtG7A.6; CtG8A.6 and CtG9A.6, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

people aged 18–24 years. And while suicide rates were highest for those aged 18–24 years, the largest increases were for people aged 35–44 years and 45 years or over. These worsening outcomes were not seen for older non-Indigenous people.

Considering the intersection of different characteristics

Where location and personal characteristics are associated with improving or worsening outcomes, the intersection of these characteristics may create additional advantages/barriers. For example, a young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male experiencing disability and living in a very remote area, is likely to have greater barriers to improved outcomes compared to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Some target outcomes are reported on the dashboard for people where personal characteristics intersect, although this is limited. One example is target 14 'suicide rates', where outcomes are reported for males and females by age groups.

- When age and sex are reported separately, suicide rates were lower for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females than males, but worsened at a faster rate for males. Further, rates were relatively low for people aged 5–17 years and had decreased, whereas rates for older age groups were relatively high and had increased.
- When age and sex are combined, the suicide rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females aged 5–17 years were higher than for males in this age group, where the rates for males had decreased but had increased for females.

Supporting indicators

Supporting indicators are also reported on the dashboard across the socio-economic outcomes. The Agreement describes these supporting indicators as drivers or contextual information. Drivers are intended to measure factors that significantly affect progress towards a target, with contextual information intended to provide insight into the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relation to the socio-economic outcome. Along with the target disaggregations, the supporting indicators can provide a more complete story on progress toward the socio-economic outcomes.

There are currently 146 supporting indicators for the socio-economic outcomes in the Agreement and these indicators are being developed in stages. Work has begun on 23 of these indicators, with around 85% (over 120) still to be included on the dashboard. In line with the Agreement (clause 117), the selection of initial indicators was done in conjunction with the Partnership Working Group.

This report focuses on 14 supporting indicators that best supplement the other reporting here (see **attachment C**). These indicators are in areas where there is no assessment of progress for the associated target (at all, or since the signing of the current Agreement) or the target is worsening.

- For targets that have no assessments, or the assessments are relatively old (that is, there has been no new data for several years for an assessment, including no new data since the Agreement was signed), supporting indicators may assist in understanding what progress might have been made more recently or what progress we might expect to see in future for a socio-economic outcome area (box 3.1).
- For targets that are worsening, supporting indicators may assist in understanding factors that need to be addressed to see an improvement in the target. Although, the targets and each of the supporting indicators only provide a partial picture by themselves. So the target along with multiple indicators are required to provide a fuller picture (box 3.1).

Issues with supporting indicators

The purpose of some supporting indicators is not clear and this can make them difficult to interpret. While the Agreement specifies each supporting indicator as either a driver or contextual information, it is not always clear why some are considered drivers and others just provide context. For example, the supporting indicator 'rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child protection substantiations related to family violence' is listed as a driver of reducing the rates of all forms of family violence (target 13). Based on the definition above of a driver indicator, it is not clear how reporting rates of 'child protection substantiations related to family violence' will impact on the levels of family violence. While it may indicate if the levels of family violence are changing (much like the target itself), it is not measuring a factor that could drive those changes, such as access to family counselling services or access to women's refuges.

Box 3.1– Informing progress using supporting indicators – examples from socio-economic outcome areas 1 and 10

SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 1

Supporting indicators provide more recent information on progress

Socio-economic outcome area 1 is 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives.' The target for this area is to close the gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people by 2031.

The most recent data on life expectancy is relatively old as it covers the period 2015–2017, which is before the Agreement was signed. More recent estimates are anticipated to be available in late 2023.

The two supporting indicators currently reported for this outcome area have more recent data which could inform progress. Data on leading causes of death by age group is available for the period 2017–2021 and for access/use of health services for 2021-22.

Available data for these two supporting indicators provide some concerning indications for future life expectancy estimates.

- From 2014–2018 to 2017–2021, death rates have increased across most age groups for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with gaps widening to the rates for non-Indigenous people. Hypothetically, if death rates are widening across age groups we could expect to see a widening of the gap in life expectancy estimates.
- Following a peak in 2018-19, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people getting Indigenous-specific health checks has decreased and in 2021-22 was below the 2016-17 baseline. Access to quality health care is one factor that can drive improvements in life expectancy (noting that available data for this indicator is for Indigenous-specific health checks, and therefore does not include all health services provided).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 10

Supporting indicators provide more understanding on factors that affect progress, but can also raise questions

Socio-economic outcome area 10 is 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system'. Indicator 10a 'adults charged by police' is listed as a driver of progress for target 10 'adult imprisonment'. While the increase in the proportion of people being charged might be expected to drive an increase in the imprisonment rate, this is not necessarily the case, with results mixed across the three jurisdictions with available data. This indicates that imprisonment rates are not only being driven by police charging rates, but also bail and sentencing practices; that is, a person is:

- charged but is bailed rather than imprisoned on remand
- charged and sentenced, but receives a community-based order rather than prison sentence.

Therefore, future reporting on the legal status of prisoners and the proportion of people sentenced by sentence type (both supporting indicators in the Agreement) may assist in providing a more complete picture of the justice system and what is driving the increasing imprisonment rates.

Furthermore, several supporting indicators lack data either partly or entirely. For example, data is only available for three jurisdictions for the supporting indicator on adults charged by police for target 10 'adult imprisonment'.

This is a particular issue for socio-economic outcome area 13 on safe families and households, where data is not available for the two supporting indicators included on the dashboard. Because no data is available for the target since the 2018-19 baseline, this means there is no way of assessing progress over the past five years.

For some supporting indicators, the data is old or even older than the data for the target, making it difficult to assess recent progress. For example, data for the supporting indicator on internet use to access government services for target 17 'digital inclusion' is sourced from the same data collection as the target, from 2014-15.

Interrelationships of targets and indicators across the socio-economic outcome areas

Interrelationships and overlaps in measurement do exist across the socio-economic outcome areas. That is, there are targets or indicators (and data development items) that measure factors that are drivers or provide context for outcomes in more than one area.

The related or overlapping indicators are usually not identical, but cover similar concepts. For example, smoking rates are identified as a driver for life expectancy (target 1) and healthy birthweight (target 2), while mental health issues are identified as a driver for adult imprisonment (target 10) and are important to understanding young people's overrepresentation in the criminal justice system (target 11). Similarly, educational attainment, measured in targets 5 and 6, is identified as a driver for employment (target 8).

However, given the volume of indicators (146) and data development items (over 120), the level of overlap is limited. This could imply that outcomes across the socio-economic areas are seen as independent of one another, which may reinforce any existing 'siloes' approaches to improve them.

While there is limited overlap, where there is the results may be counterintuitive. This is

the case in the one instance where a target (target 3 'preschool enrolment') is identified as a driver for another target (target 4 'children developmentally on track at school commencement'). Despite good improvement in preschool enrolment rates (target 3), early childhood development outcomes (target 4) are declining. While it is not clear why this is the case, it might be that children are enrolled in preschool but the quality of the preschool services they attend is low or they are not attending (or actively engaged) due to a range of reasons (such as, the proximity or cultural safety of preschool providers).

Improving measurement of the socio-economic targets and supporting indicators

As with the Priority Reforms, it is important to get the measurement right for the targets and supporting indicators for the socio-economic outcome areas. The key accountability mechanism to assess progress is the targets, and so getting the measurement of progress for the targets right is important. Furthermore, some of the quality issues outlined in **attachment A** can potentially be addressed by using data from collections that incorporate the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and are perceived positively; that is are seen to be collected for the communities benefit.

With this in mind, there are two areas that are the focus for getting measurement right for the socio-economic outcome areas:

- ensuring the assessments of progress for the targets are available, accurate and comprehensive – that is, the data needed to assess progress are available and that the assessments use robust and fit-for-purpose statistical methods and can assess if the contribution of each state and territory toward achieving the national target is enough. The Commission is engaging an organisation to undertake a review of the current method to consider these points.
- sourcing data that better reflect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspectives and priorities – that is, continue to investigate what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community data is available that could replace, supplement and/or enhance existing data that are predominately government controlled.

Measurement and data quality issues to be considered when interpreting results for the targets

To assess progress effectively requires quality data and the right measurement approach. Any issues with data quality and/or measurement need to be considered when interpreting the results.

An overview of the significant data and measurement issues is provided below (some are also relevant for the supporting indicators). The dashboard 'how to interpret' data page and the technical specifications for the targets and supporting indicators provide further information on these issues and on those specific to each target and indicator.

Gaps in the data

Multiple socio-economic targets cannot be assessed due to a lack of available data. Sometimes data is not available because it is not collected, in other cases it is collected but is of very low quality due to a range of issues (see box A.1), and so is not reported.

As noted in **section 3**, the data needed for assessing progress is not collected for four targets. For the target 9B 'community infrastructure', no data has been collected for the starting point (baseline) or to provide updates on progress. For the other three targets (13 'family violence', 16 'strength of languages' and 17 'access to information') while data for the baseline is available, updates since then are not.¹⁰

For a further two targets, data is collected but quality issues limit the scope of the assessments of progress. For target 1 'life expectancy' the national target includes data for only four jurisdictions. For target 14 'suicide rates' the national target includes data for only five jurisdictions, and assessments of progress are not currently available by state and territory.

And for all these six targets and multiple others, data is not available for reporting on some of the required disaggregations of the national target indicator, in particular, disability. For example, no disability data is reported for target 10 'adult imprisonment' and target 11 'youth detention', and while some disability data is reported for target 12 'children in out-of-home care' and target 3 'preschool enrolment' they are not a disaggregation of the target indicator itself.

Data and measurement issues affecting assessments of progress

Where assessments of progress are available, data and measurement issues can affect their accuracy and reliability (box A.1). The accuracy of these assessments and/or how progress is interpreted over time is affected by:

- the quality of the data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with quality reduced by under counting, under identification or missing information
- changes in how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people identify over time, with identification levels increasing in recent years
- the use of population projections based on the 2016 Census, which rely on assumptions regarding how the population will change from 2016 (box A.1).

¹⁰ For target 16 a new survey is due to be undertaken in 2024, for the other two targets no proposed developments are listed on the dashboard.

Box A.1 – Issues that can affect the accuracy of the assessments of progress for the targets

For many of the national targets, there are three issues that affect the accuracy of the assessments related to the quality of data at a point in time, and/or other data issues that are important when considering changes over time.

First, the quality of data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at a point in time can be reduced for various reasons, including where:

- Indigenous status is 'not stated'/collected, leading to under identification/counting
- there are difficulties collecting data from people in remote and very remote areas (where many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live), leading to under counting
- data collections are not designed well for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, or there is a negative perception about how data might be used, leading to missing personal information.

Second, changes in identification can affect how progress is interpreted over time. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person may choose to identify differently over time for a variety of reasons, including how they perceive the information will be used, and for cultural or historical reasons. The latest Census results show that increasing identification rates, along with changes in the Census coverage and response rates, accounted for 56.5% of the increase in the Census count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people between 2016 and 2021.

Third, the use of population projections data as the denominator to calculate rates can affect the accuracy of the target data at a point in time and how progress is interpreted over time. While the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections are the best available and most up to date, they are based on the 2016 Census and are less accurate for years that are further away from 2016. The accuracy declines because the populations are projected from the Census year using assumptions – for example, on life expectancy, fertility, and migration. Unlike total population estimates they are not updated between the Census years using current 'actual' information and this is due to a lack of high quality data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on births, deaths and migration. Furthermore, these projections assume that the level of identification does not change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over time.

The extent to which these issues affect the accuracy of reporting on progress is difficult to quantify and is specific to each target (table A.1 shows which of the targets are affected by each issue). Two examples of how these issues interact and/or affect reporting on progress are provided below.

- For targets that use population projections, rates for recent years may be higher than the 'real' rates as the numerators (number of people experiencing an outcome) are inflated relative to the denominators (the number of people in the population). This occurs where the numerators reflect the current higher levels of identification, whereas the population data are projections based on the lower levels of identification in 2016 (box A.1). For example, for target 3 'preschool enrolment', this issue is likely to be contributing to the majority of states and territories (five of eight) currently reporting that the proportion of children enrolled in preschool is greater than 100%.
- For other targets where the numerator and denominator are sourced from the same data set (such as the Census), changing levels of identification over time can affect how progress is interpreted. If the characteristics of those identifying in recent years differs to those who identified in earlier years (for example, they are more likely to be in major cities and employed), any progress/regress might be because of changes in the mix of people identifying, not because outcomes are actually getting better/worse.

Table A.1 – Data availability and quality issues across the socio-economic targets

What is the issue	What does it affect
Data are not available	
No data are collected	Target 9B – all reporting Targets 10, 11 – remoteness Targets 10, 11 – socio-economic status of the locality Targets 1, 2, 10, 11, 14 – disability
No data have been collected since the baseline	Targets 13, 16 and 17
Data are collected but data quality or collation issues mean that data are not available to report on some disaggregations for the target indicator	Targets 1, 14 – some or all states/territories Target 3 – remoteness areas Targets 3, 14 – socio-economic status of the locality Targets 3, 4, 12 – disability
Data and measurement issues	
Quality of data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in data sets	All targets with reported data (other than targets 15A, 15B and 16)
Changes in identification by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over time	All targets with reported data (other than targets 15A, 15B and 16)
Accuracy of population projection data	Targets 3, 10–12 and 14

Furthermore, in addition to the issues with the underlying data, the reliability of the assessments of progress themselves varies across the targets (box A.2). The assessments are based on an estimated 'trend', which is

more reliable where the volatility of the data is low, and becomes more reliable as the number of data points on which it is based increases.

Box A.2 – Issues that can affect the reliability of the assessments of progress for the targets

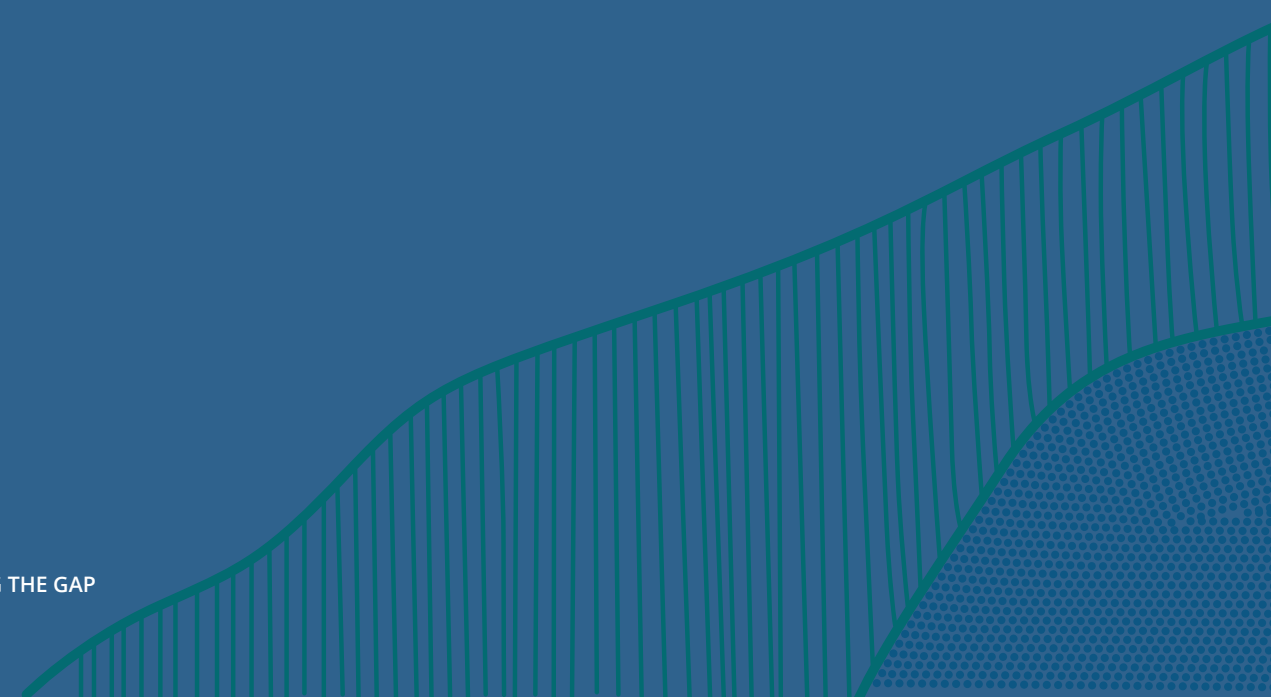
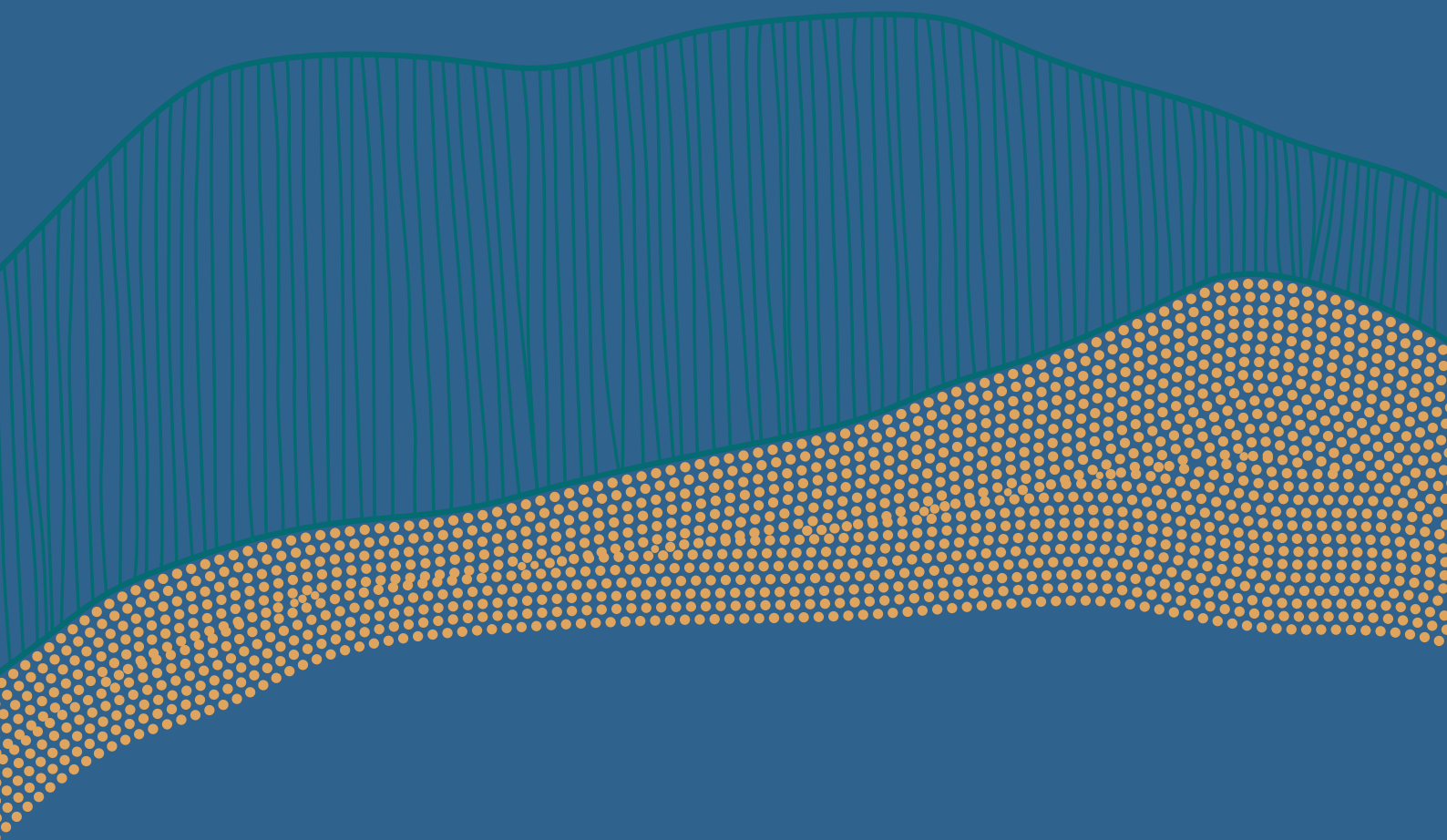
The method for assessing progress is the same across the national targets.

Progress is assessed using data on the trend in the outcomes, from the baseline year (which is the starting point) to the latest year. This trend is used because this helps address issues with natural volatility in the data, which means that it more reliably reflects the underlying progress of an outcome. For some targets, data can vary significantly year-on-year as based on small populations (with a small change in the number of people experiencing an outcome producing a large change in the rate).

However, the reliability of these assessments may vary, because the estimated 'trend' for each target is derived using a different number of data points to other targets. As the number of data points increases, the estimated trend will become more reliable, especially where the data volatility is low. For the latest dashboard, the trend for six targets is based on two data points only and for three on three points, five on four points and one on seven points.

When the assessment is based on five or more points (currently one target only), statistical techniques are used to assign a level of confidence; that is, assessments are provided with a high or low level of confidence (with this confidence level taking into account the number of data points and the volatility of the data).

The number of data points that will be available by the final target year will be fewer for some targets than others. This applies to targets based on infrequent data collections (for example, five-yearly Census). For these targets, only a small number of data points will be available up to and including the final target year (for example, four data points for those based on Census data).



Summary of progress across Priority Reform areas

Priority Reform areas

Development of measurement of targets and indicators under Priority Reforms is occurring across phases (section 2).



Priority Reform 1
Formal partnerships and shared decision-making
Measures and data for the target and indicators are yet to be developed



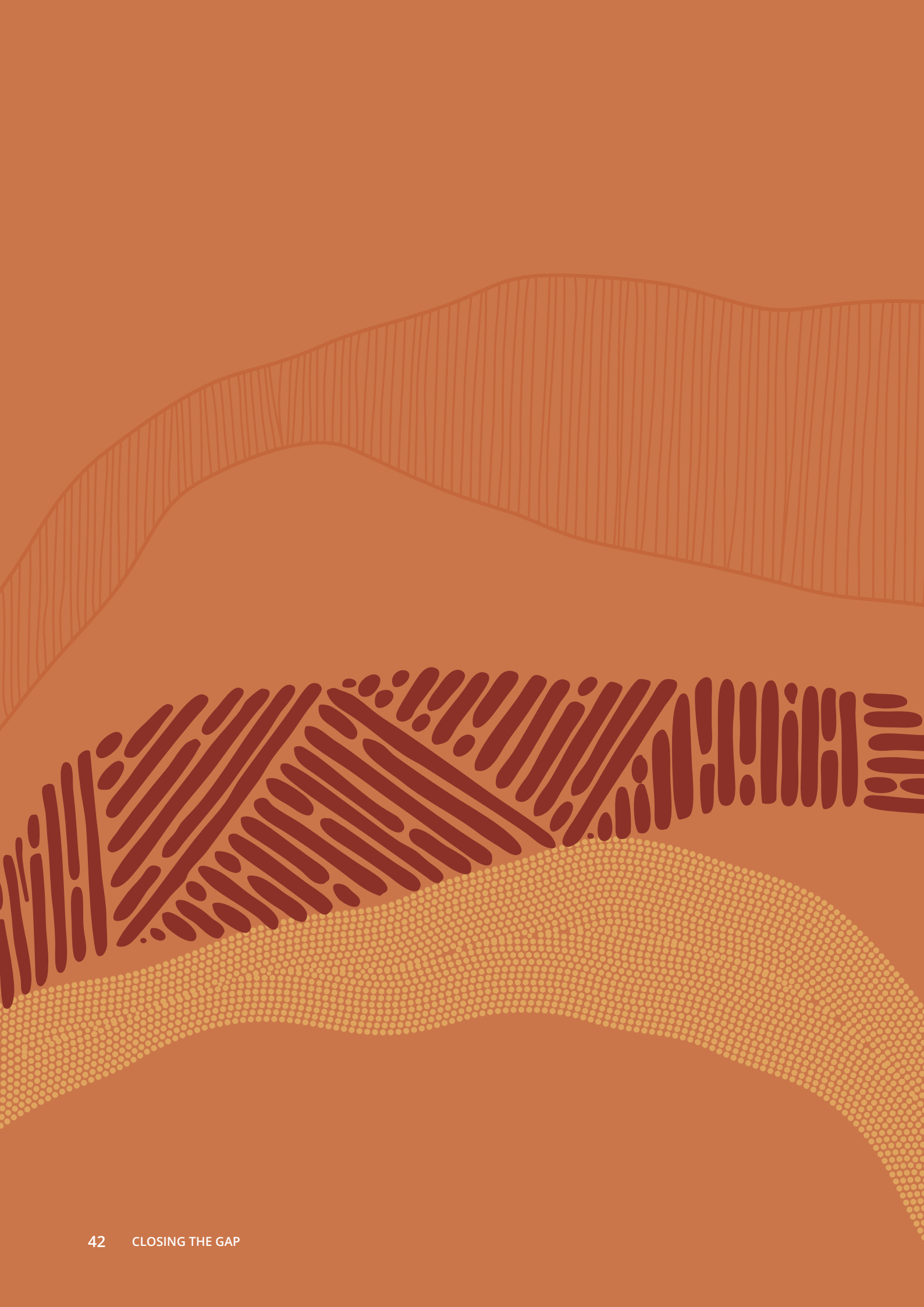
Priority Reform 2
Building the community-controlled sector
Measures and data for the target and indicators are yet to be developed



Priority Reform 3
Transforming government organisations
Measures and data for the target and indicators are yet to be developed



Priority Reform 4
Shared access to data and information at a regional level
Measures and data for the target and indicators are yet to be developed



Summary of progress across socio-economic outcome areas

Socio-economic outcome areas

Summary snapshots for the 17 socio-economic outcome areas are included below. Information relating to data and measurement issues can be found in **section 3** and **attachment A**.

Legend							
✓	•	→	■	←	..	na	-
Good improvement and on track	Improvement but not on track (national)	Improvement	No change (state and territory level)	Worsening	No assessment or Not applicable	Not available	Nil or rounded to zero

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives

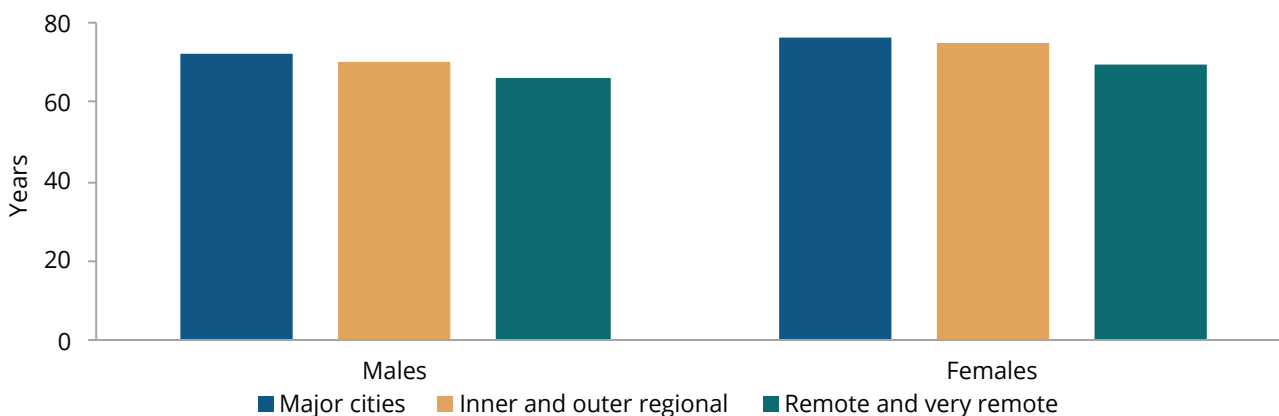
Nationally (based on the four jurisdictions with available data), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males born in 2015–2017 are expected to live to 71.6 years, with females around 4 years longer. The gap in life expectancy compared to non-Indigenous people has narrowed for males and females since 2005–2007 (the baseline).

While this is an improvement, the national target is not on track to be met for males or females (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual changes to date are 0.28 years per year for males and 0.18 for females, just over or around half of what is required (0.46 and 0.38 respectively) to meet the target.

Target 1	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Males											
Progress	Level	→	..	→	→	..	..	..	→	•
Baseline	Yrs	10.5	na	11.8	14.7	na	na	na	14.0	11.4	0
Current year	Yrs	9.3	na	7.8	13.4	na	na	na	11.5	8.6	0
Annual change	Yrs/yr	-0.12	..	-0.40	-0.13	..	..	..	-0.25	-0.28	-0.46
Females											
Progress	Level	→	..	→	→	..	..	..	←	•
Baseline	Yrs	8.6	na	10.0	12.9	na	na	na	11.6	9.6	0
Current year	Yrs	7.6	na	6.8	12.0	na	na	na	12.8	7.8	0
Annual change	Yrs/yr	-0.10	..	-0.32	-0.09	..	..	..	0.12	-0.18	-0.38

Nationally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females born in major cities and regional areas had higher life expectancy, than those born in more remote areas, and higher life expectancy in the least disadvantaged socio-economic areas compared to the most disadvantaged areas.

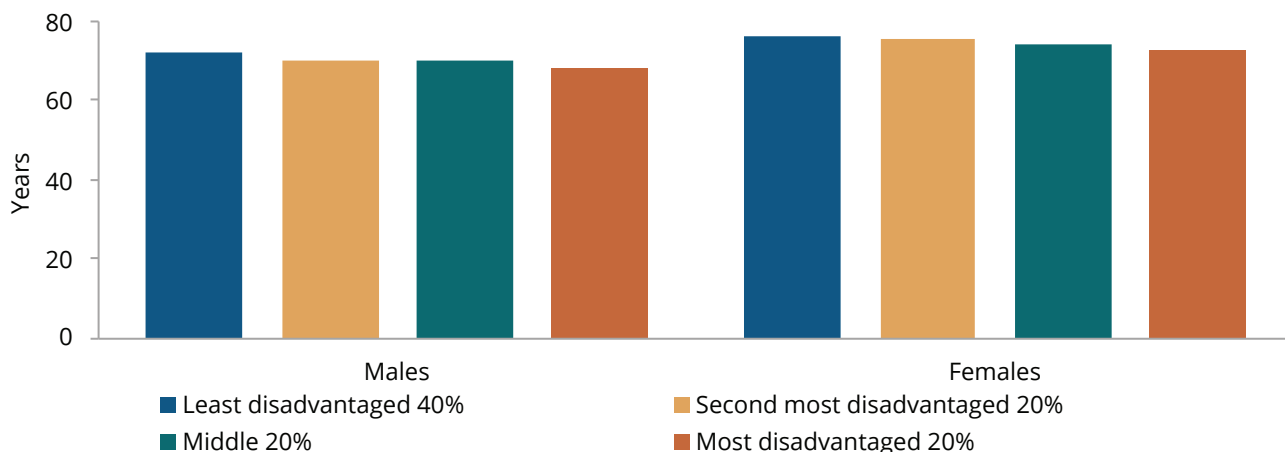
Figure C.1 – Estimated life expectancy at birth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 2015–2017
by sex, by remoteness area



Source: table CtG1A.2, ABS Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Figure C.2 – Estimated life expectancy at birth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 2015–2017

by sex, by Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile



Source: CtG1A.3, ABS Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

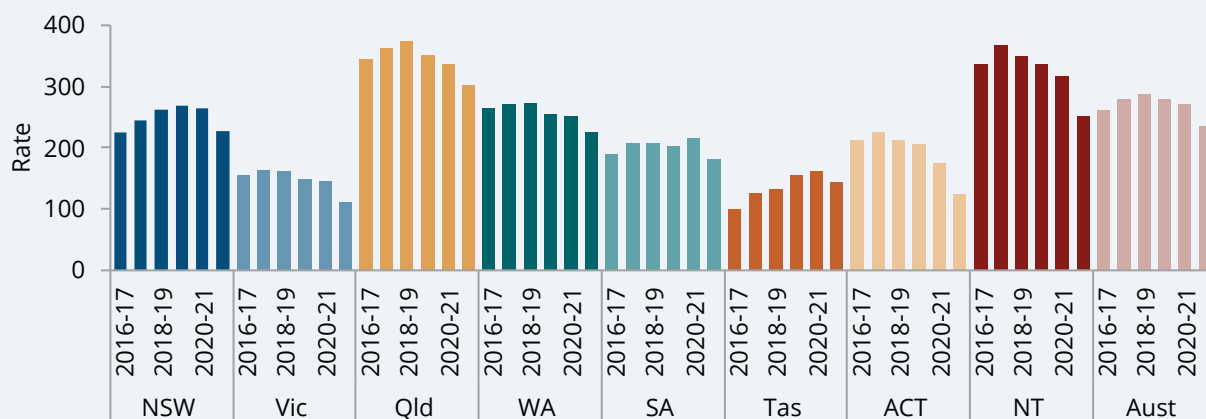
SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTCOME (SEO) 1

The supporting indicators currently reported for this outcome area are leading causes of death by age group and access/use of health services.

From 2014–2018 to 2017–2021, death rates have increased across most age groups for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with gaps widening to the rates for non-Indigenous people. Of note across the leading causes of death, there have been decreases in the rates of death from heart disease for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in some age groups (though greater decreases for non-Indigenous people) and increases in rates of death from self-harm for those aged 35–49 years (with decreases for non-Indigenous people).

In recent years, attendance for Indigenous-specific health checks has decreased. Following a peak in 2018-19, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing Indigenous-specific health checks has decreased and in 2021-22 was below the 2016-17 baseline.

Figure C.3 – Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific health checks or assessments, per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table SE1e.1, Derived from Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (unpublished) Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) statistics; ABS Estimates and Projections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are born healthy and strong

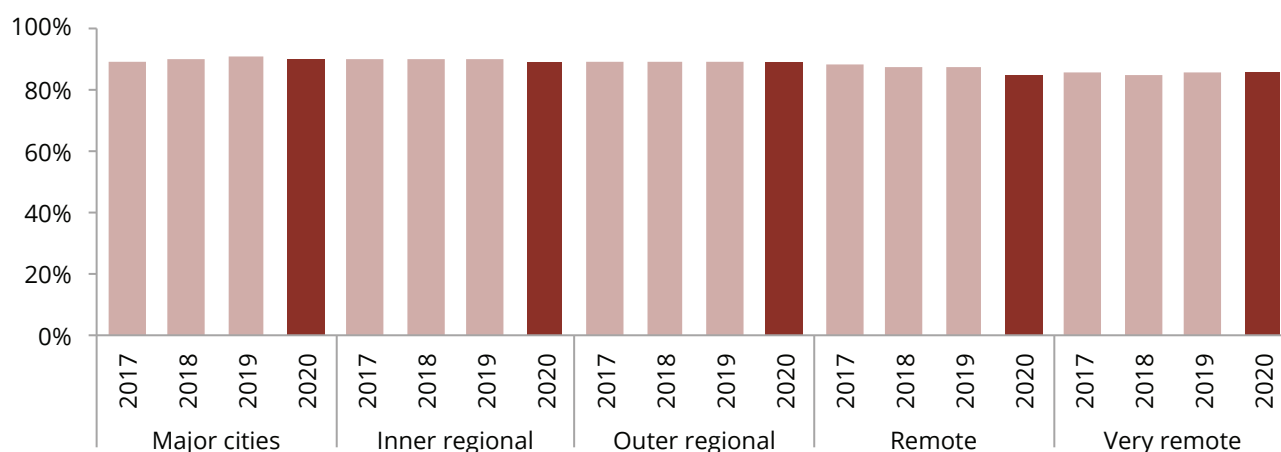
Nationally in 2020, 89.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies born were of a healthy birthweight. This is an increase from 88.8% in 2017 (the baseline year).

While this is an improvement, the national target is not on track to be met (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change since the baseline is 0.12 percentage points (pp), which is around three quarters of what is required (0.16 pp) to meet the target.

Target 2	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	←	→	→	→	→	→	←	←	•	
Baseline	%	90.4	88.8	89.1	86.9	88.4	88.5	88.6	85.6	88.8	91.0
Current year	%	89.9	89.5	89.4	88.0	89.8	90.1	87.7	83.8	89.0	91.0
Annual change	pp	-0.09	0.31	0.11	0.38	0.74	0.45	-0.47	-0.52	0.12	0.16

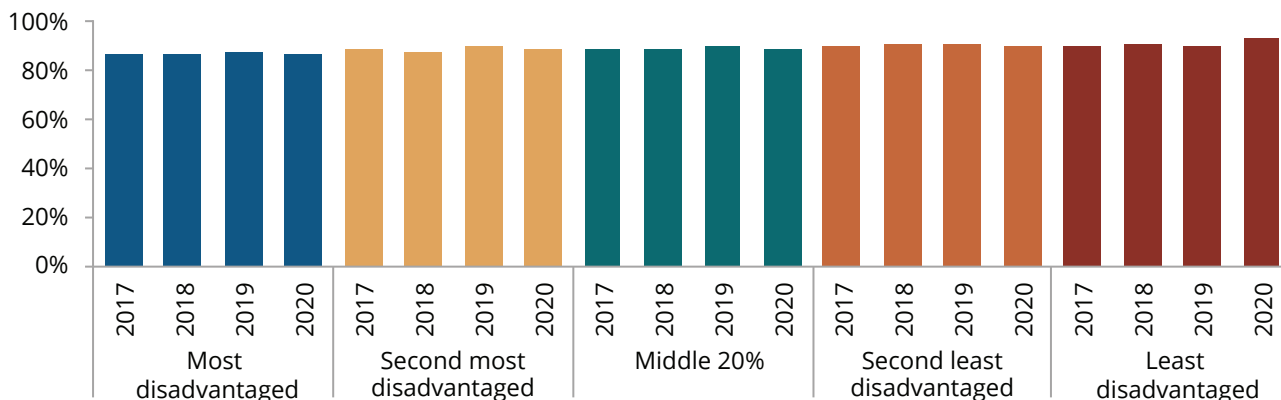
The proportions of babies born of a healthy birthweight were higher in major cities and regional areas compared to more remote areas, and higher for babies born in the least disadvantaged areas of Australia compared to the most disadvantaged areas. The proportions for boys and girls have remained relatively unchanged since the baseline year.

Figure C.4 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander live-born singleton babies of healthy birthweight (2,500–4,499g) by remoteness area, by year



Source: table CtG2A.3, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.

Figure C.5 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander live-born singleton babies of healthy birthweight (2,500–4,499g) by Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile, by year



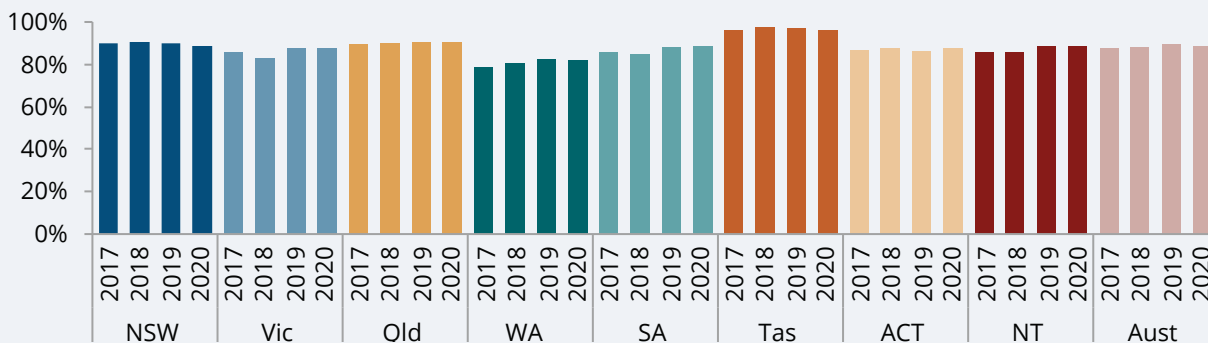
Source: table CtG2A.4, AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 2

The supporting indicator currently reported for this outcome area is use of antenatal care.

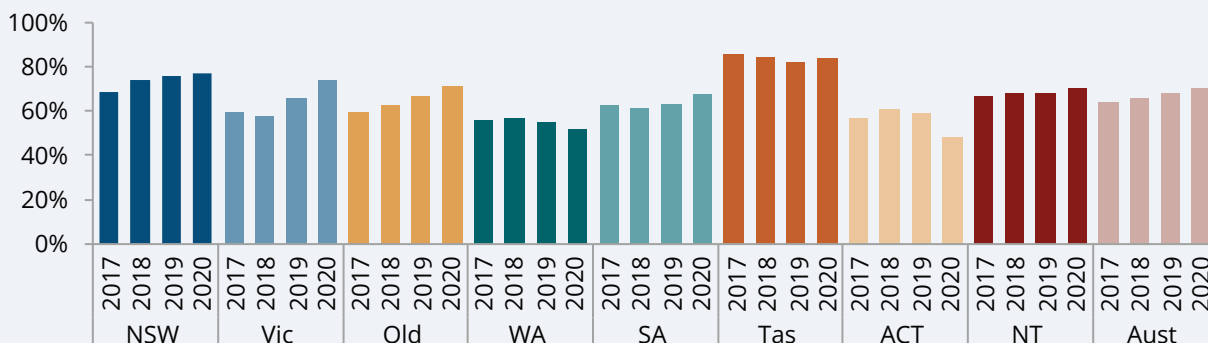
Nationally from 2017 to 2020, the proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who had five or more antenatal visits during their pregnancy (of at least 32 weeks) and/or at least one antenatal visit in their first trimester have both increased (though less so but off a higher base for the former).

Figure C.6 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who gave birth at 32 weeks or more gestation and attended five or more antenatal visits by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table SE2d.1, AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection

Figure C.7 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who gave birth and attended at least one antenatal visit in the first trimester by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table SE2d.2, AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years

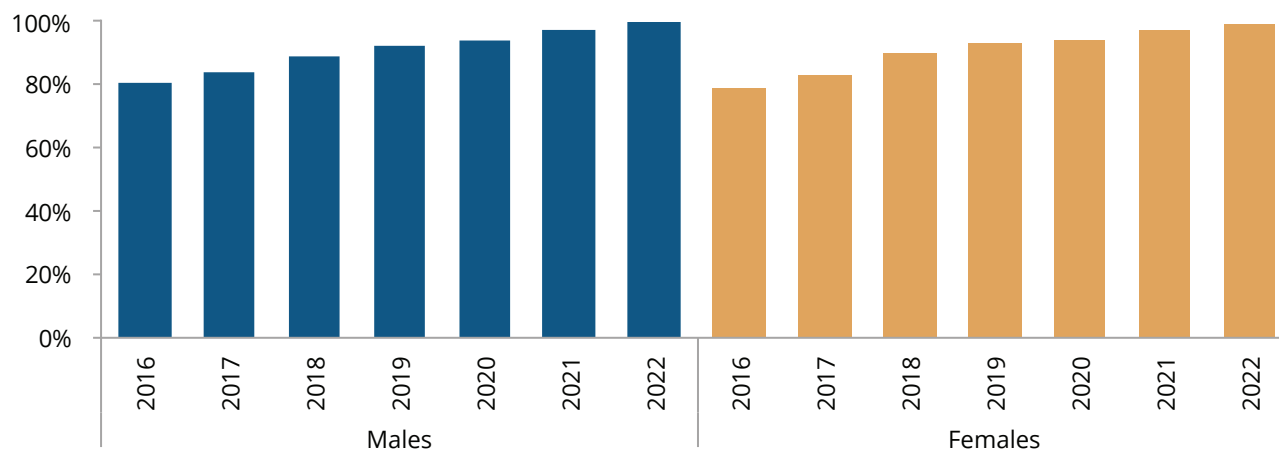
Nationally in 2022, 99.2% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the YBFS age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program. This is an increase from 76.7% in 2016 (the baseline year).

Nationally, the target shows good improvement and is on track to be met (noting this assessment is made with a high level of confidence). The average annual change is 3.72 percentage points (pp), which is almost twice what is required (2.03 pp) to meet the target.

Target 3	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	←	✓	
Baseline	%	60.1	88.1	82.2	94.8	96.3	90.9	85.4	79.5	76.7	95.0
Current year	%	95.8	125.8	95.2	109.2	115.5	112.7	113.7	68.7	99.2	95.0
Annual change	pp	5.58	6.26	2.47	2.61	2.27	3.63	6.41	-1.12	3.72	2.03

In 2022, similar proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys and girls were enrolled in a YBFS preschool program.

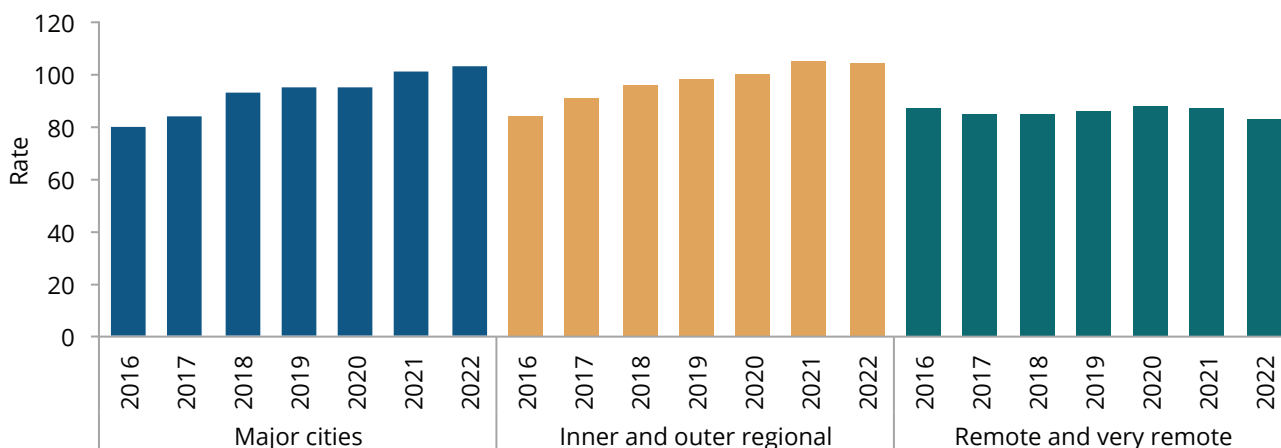
Figure C.8 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the state-specific YBFS age cohort who are enrolled in a preschool program by sex, by year



Source: table CtG3A.3, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Preschool Education Australia; ABS (unpublished) Estimates and Projections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. YBFS = Year before full-time schooling.

Preschool enrolments in both major cities and regional areas have increased, while enrolments in remote and very remote areas have decreased. The data by the socio-economic status of the locality is currently only available for 2016, and shows that the enrolment rate was highest in the least disadvantaged areas. In 2022, the rates of disability were higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in a state and territory government-funded preschool program in the YBFS, than for non-Indigenous children. Disability is defined differently across jurisdictions and the data is sourced from different data sources to the other data for this target.

Figure C.9 – Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the state-specific YBFS age cohort who are enrolled in a preschool program, per 100 children aged 4 years in the community by remoteness area, by year



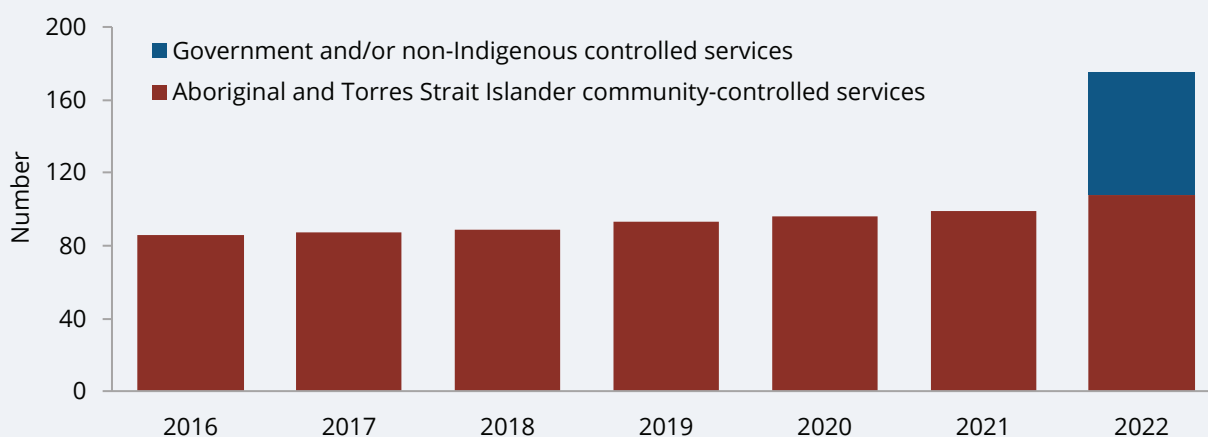
Source: table CtG3A.5, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Preschool Education Australia; ABS (unpublished) Estimates and Projections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. YBFS = Year before full-time schooling.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 3

The supporting indicator currently reported for this outcome area is the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused integrated early years services.

In 2022, there were 108 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled early years services; this number has increased annually since 2016. There were 67 government and/or non-Indigenous controlled services reported in 2022, the first year of available data.

Figure C.10 – Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused integrated early years services by year, by governance structure^a



Source: table SE3b.1, SNAICC (unpublished) Register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused integrated early years services.

^aData for government and/or non-Indigenous controlled services are not available prior to 2022.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children thrive in their early years

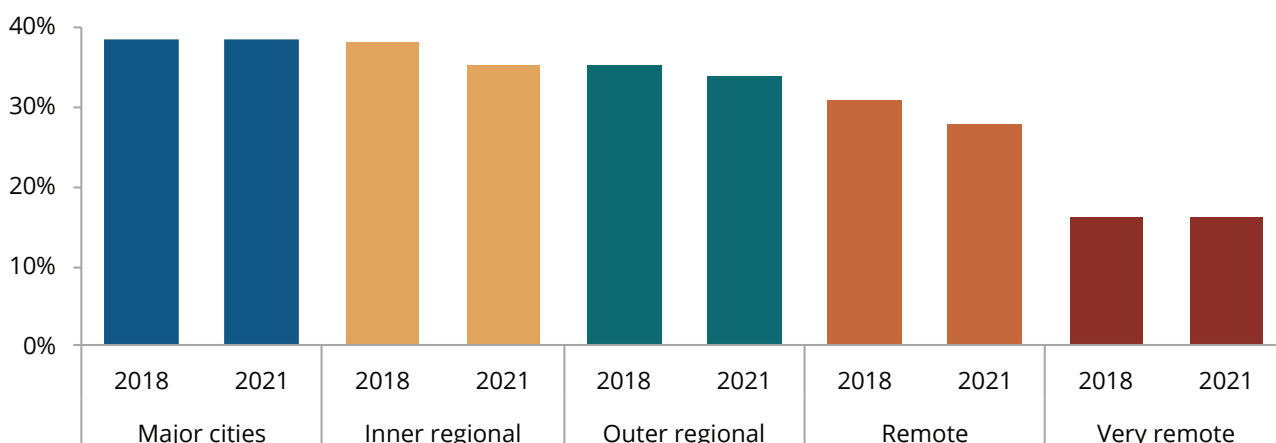
Nationally in 2021, 34.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children commencing school were assessed as being developmentally on track in all five Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) domains. This is a decrease from 35.2% in 2018 (the baseline year).

Nationally, the target is worsening (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change is a decrease of 0.29 percentage points (pp), with an average annual increase of 1.52 pp required to meet the target.

Target 4	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	←	→	→	←	→	→	→	←	←	
Baseline	%	42.2	35.1	33.5	31.4	29.0	37.5	26.4	18.2	35.2	55.0
Current year	%	38.8	35.6	33.8	31.3	31.3	38.3	27.3	16.4	34.3	55.0
Annual change	pp	-1.14	0.17	0.11	-0.04	0.75	0.26	0.30	-0.60	-0.29	1.52

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as being developmentally on track when commencing school in 2021 was higher for girls (41.6%) than boys (27.1%). The proportion declined across areas as remoteness increased, with the largest decrease from remote to very remote areas. The proportion also declined for children living in more disadvantaged areas. Nationally in 2021, the proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children commencing school with a medically diagnosed special need or who had been identified by teachers as requiring further assessment to determine if they have a developmental difficulty that affects their ability to do schoolwork in a regular classroom, had increased from 2018.

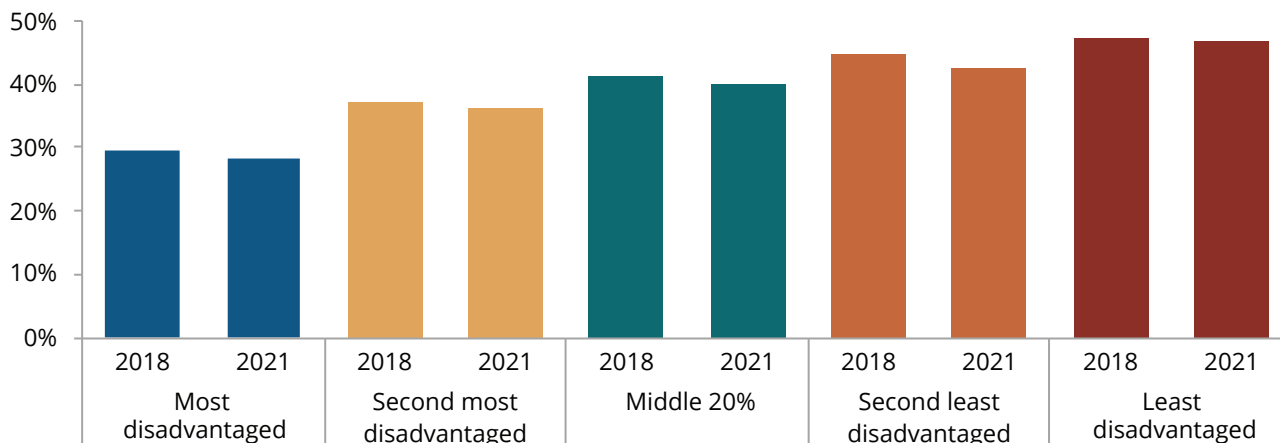
Figure C.11 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the AEDC by remoteness area, by year



Source: table CtG4A.3, Australian Government Department of Education Skills and Employment Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).

Figure C.12 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the AEDC

by Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile, by year



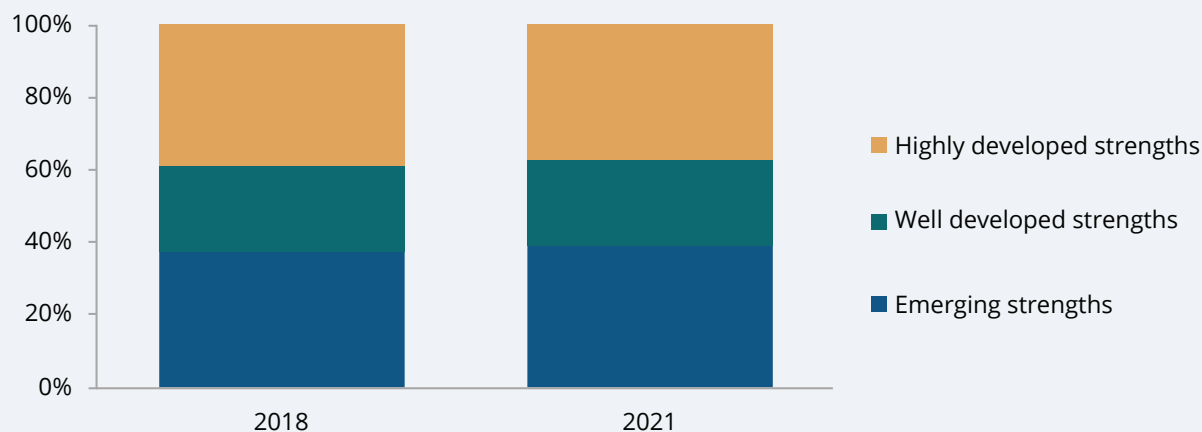
Source: table CtG4A.4 Australian Government Department of Education Skills and Employment (unpublished) Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 4

The supporting indicator currently reported for this outcome area is the AEDC Multiple Strengths Indicator which measures strengths in children irrespective of whether they are or are not developmentally on track in all five AEDC domains.

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children commencing school assessed as having highly developed strengths decreased slightly from 2018 to 2021 (1.3 percentage points), with corresponding increases in the proportion assessed as having emerging strengths and well developed strengths.

Figure C.13 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the first year of full-time schooling assessed in the AEDC as having highly developed, well developed and emerging strengths
by year



Source: table SE4d.1, Australian Government Department of Education Skills and Employment (unpublished) Australian Early Development Census (AEDC).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve their full learning potential

Nationally in 2021, 68.1% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 20–24 years had attained a Year 12 or equivalent or above qualification (referred to here as Year 12 attainment). This is an increase from 63.2% in 2016 (the baseline year).

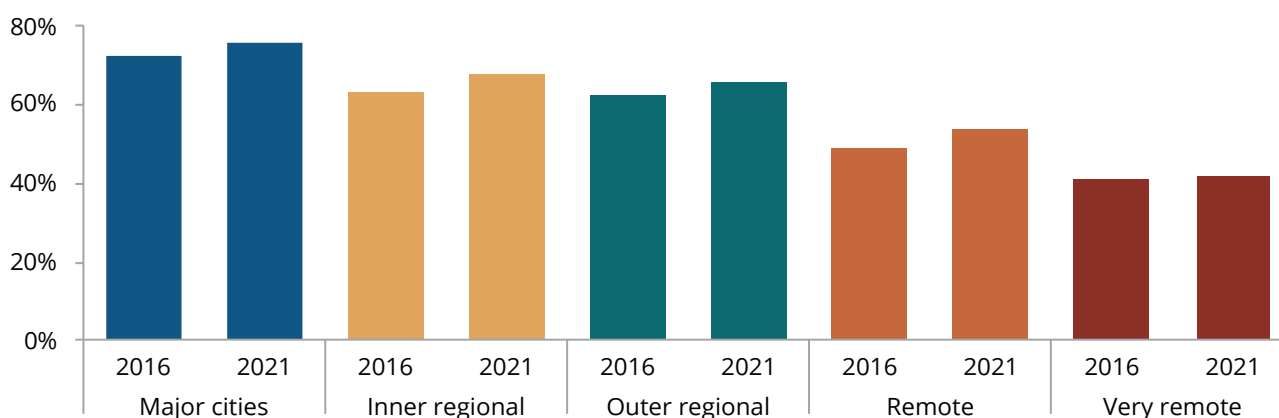
While there has been improvement, the national target is not on track to be met (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change is 0.98 percentage points (pp) which is less than half of what is required (2.19 pp) to meet the target.

Target 5	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	•	
Baseline	%	64.3	69.6	69.5	57.4	61.4	62.7	77.4	37.5	63.2	96.0
Current year	%	69.3	72.6	75.0	61.1	64.6	68.1	82.1	40.2	68.1	96.0
Annual change	pp	1.01	0.60	1.09	0.73	0.63	1.07	0.94	0.53	0.98	2.19

Nationally in 2021, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had higher Year 12 attainment rates than males, with the female rate higher in 2016 and increasing more than for males. Since the baseline year, rates have increased in all socio-economic and remoteness areas, though by less than one percentage point in very remote areas. Attainment was highest in major cities and the least disadvantaged socio-economic areas of Australia, and declined as remoteness and location disadvantage increased. A lower proportion of people with a need for assistance with core activities had attained Year 12 compared with people who did not require assistance (64.3% and 69.6% respectively). Attainment was mainly driven by completion of schooling at Year 12 or equivalent (59.5%), compared to people who had not completed school but had obtained a non-school qualification at Certificate level III or above (8.6%).

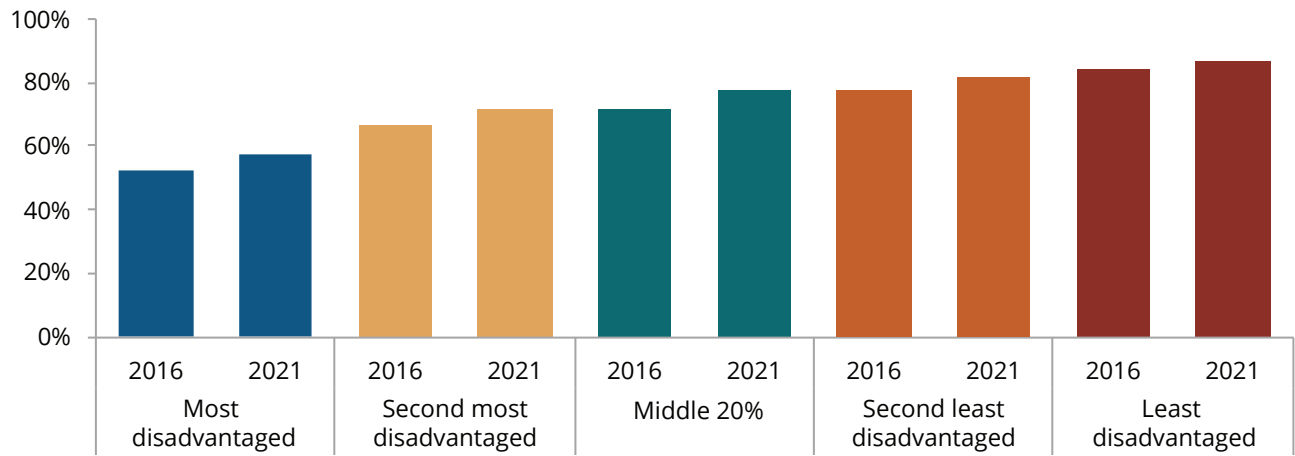
Figure C.14 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 20–24 years, who have attained Year 12 or equivalent or above

by remoteness area, by year



Source: table CtG5A.3, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

Figure C.15 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 20–24 years, who have attained Year 12 or equivalent or above
by Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile, by year



Source: table CtG5A.4, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 5

There are currently no supporting indicators for target 5 reported on the dashboard.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students reach their full potential through further education pathways

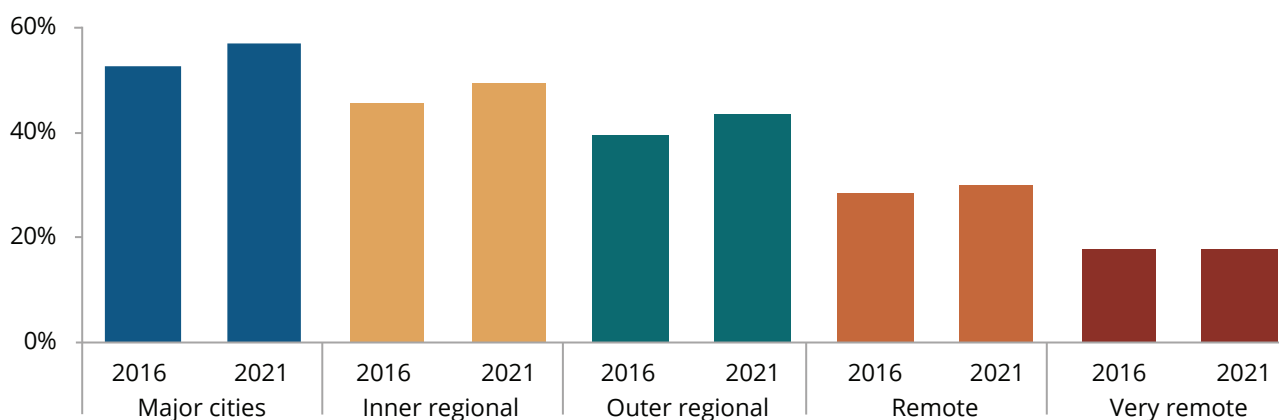
Nationally in 2021, 47.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–34 years had completed non-school qualifications at Certificate level III or above. This is an increase from 42.3% in 2016 (the baseline year).

While there has been improvement, the national target is not on track to be met (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change of 0.95 percentage points (pp) is around half of what is required (1.85 pp) to meet the target.

Target 6	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	•	
Baseline	%	48.3	56.5	42.4	33.8	39.8	47.0	62.1	18.1	42.3	70.0
Current year	%	54.1	58.5	47.2	37.1	42.2	51.2	64.7	19.0	47.0	70.0
Annual change	pp	1.15	0.40	0.97	0.67	0.48	0.85	0.52	0.18	0.95	1.85

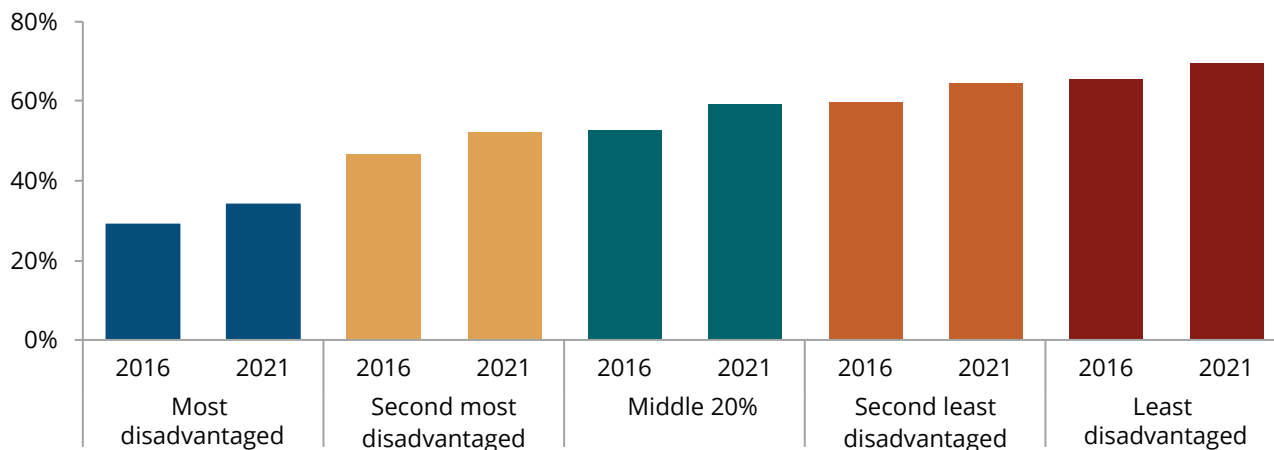
Nationally in 2021, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females had higher proportions who had completed non-school qualifications at Certificate level III or above than males, with the female rate of completion higher in 2016 and increasing more than for males. Rates were higher in major cities and the least socio-economically disadvantaged areas and declined as remoteness and location disadvantage increased. Since 2016, rates have increased across all areas, except very remote areas. People with a need for assistance with core activities had lower rates for completion of Certificate level III or above (28.5%) compared with people who did not require assistance (49.8%). Of people aged 25–34 who completed a Certificate level III or above, the most common qualification completed was Certificate level III or IV (around 3 in 5 of the completed qualifications).

Figure C.16 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 25–34 years, who have completed a non-school qualification of Certificate level III or above by remoteness area, by year



Source: table CtG6A.3, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

Figure C.17 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 25–34 years, who have completed a non-school qualification of Certificate level III or above
by Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile, by year



Source: table CtG6A.4, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 6

The supporting indicators currently reported for this outcome area are rates of university and Vocational Education and Training commencement, attrition, and completion.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people commencing a domestic bachelor's degree at an Australian university has increased, while the number commencing a VET qualification at Certificate level III or above has decreased over time. Nationally in 2021, 5,460 Aboriginal and Torres Strait people commenced a domestic bachelor's degree, up from 4,862 in 2016, while the number commencing a Certificate level III or above qualification was 36,950, a decrease from 39,750 in 2016.

The proportion of students staying on past their first year of their bachelor's degree is increasing (the first year attrition rate decreased to 22.5% in 2021), with projected completion rates for Certificate level III or above at similar levels in recent years (35.7% projected for 2022 and 2023, for students who commenced in 2018 and 2019 respectively).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged in employment or education

Nationally in 2021, 58.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15–24 years were fully engaged in employment, education or training. This is an increase from 57.2% in 2016 (the baseline year).

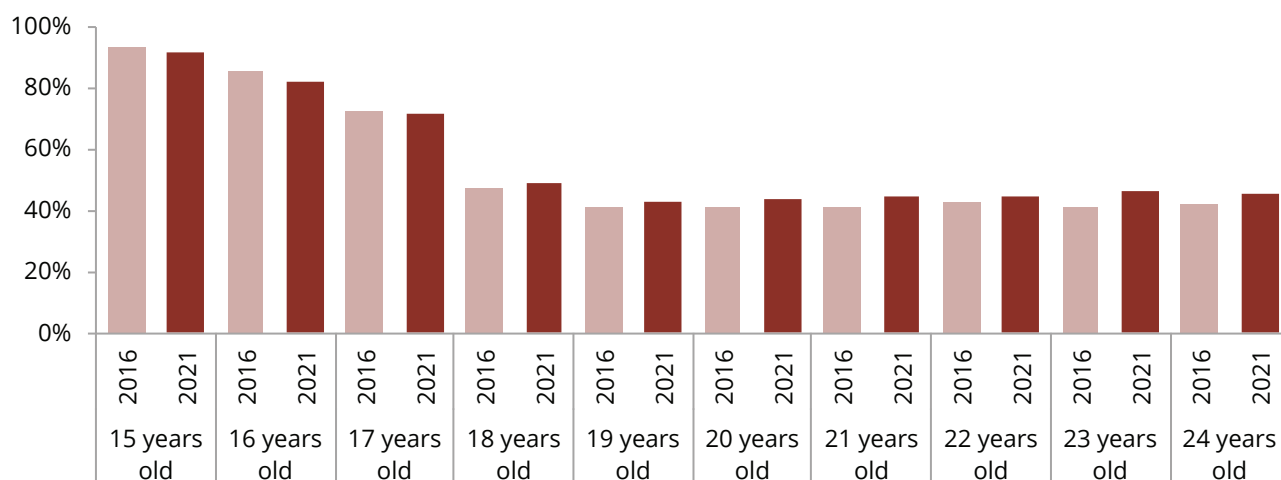
While there has been improvement, the national target is not on track to be met (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change of 0.17 percentage points (pp) is around one-quarter of what is required (0.65 pp) to meet the target.

Target 7	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	→	→	→	→	←	→	→	←	•	
Baseline	%	61.7	65.4	55.4	51.5	57.6	62.4	73.7	40.0	57.2	67.0
Current year	%	62.0	65.5	58.1	53.1	55.5	63.3	74.4	34.8	58.0	67.0
Annual change	pp	0.06	0.02	0.53	0.31	-0.42	0.18	0.14	-1.03	0.17	0.65

Nationally in 2021, a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males were fully engaged in employment, education or training (59.2%) than females (56.9%). The proportion was highest for people aged 15 years (91.5%) and declined with each year of age to 19 years (42.9%), before remaining within a couple of percentage points to 24 years. Engagement decreased for people in areas with increasing remoteness and increasing socio-economic disadvantage. A lower proportion (44.8%) of people with a need for assistance with core activities were fully engaged compared with people who did not require assistance (59.0%). Most people fully engaged were engaged in full-time study.

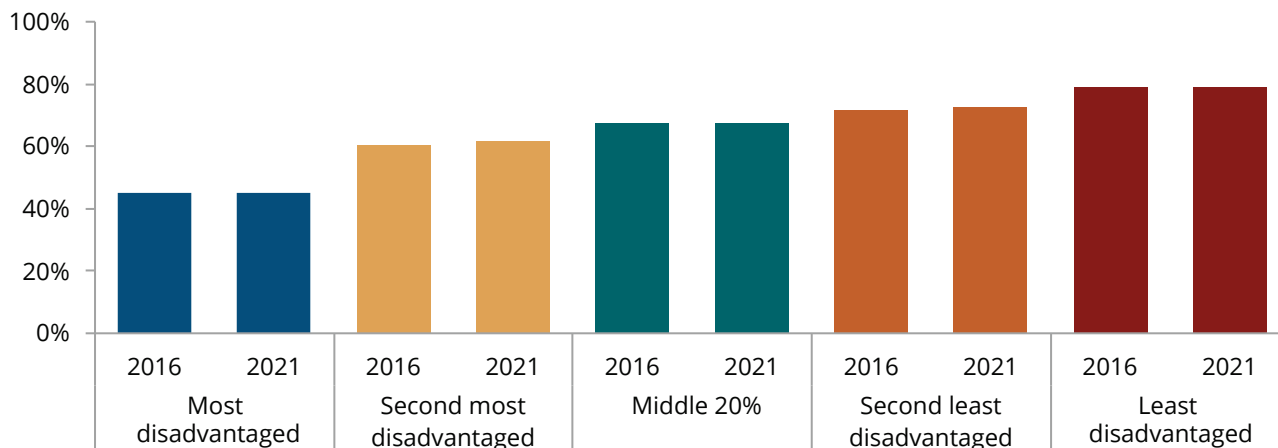
Figure C.18 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 15–24 years, who are fully engaged in employment, education or training

by age, by year



Source: table CtG7A.3, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

Figure C.19 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 15–24 years, who are fully engaged in employment, education or training
by Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile, by year



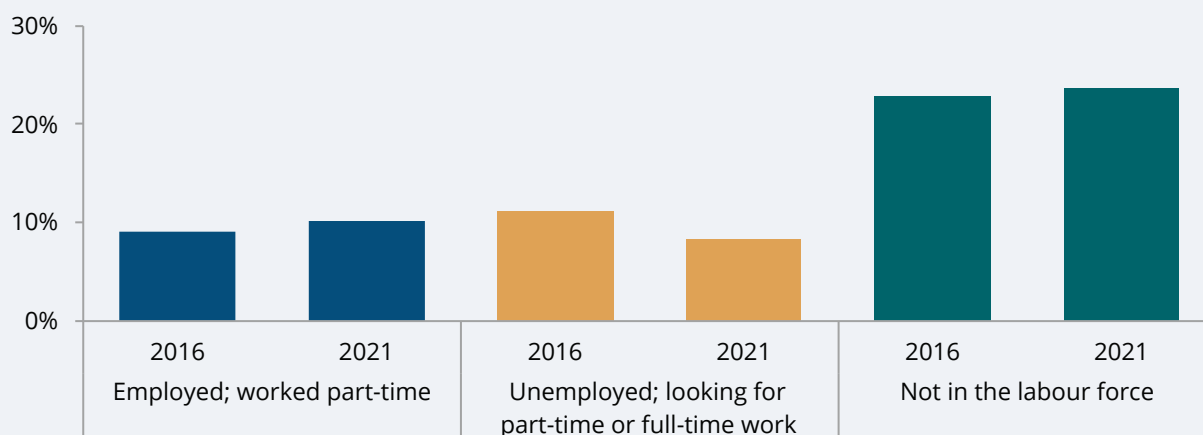
Source: table CtG7A.5, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 7

The supporting indicator currently reported for this outcome area is the proportion of youth not engaged in employment, education or training, by disability, long term health condition, caring responsibility and looking for work.

Nationally in 2021, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15–24 years, almost one-third of the young people not fully engaged were providing unpaid care and assistance, which was a larger proportion than those who had a need for assistance with core activities or who had a long-term health condition (both of which were less than 10%). For those not fully engaged, just over half were not in the labour force, with the other half partially engaged with part-time work or unemployed and looking for work.

Figure C.20 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 15–24 years, who are not fully engaged in employment; education or training
by labour force status, by year



Source: table SE7a.4, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities

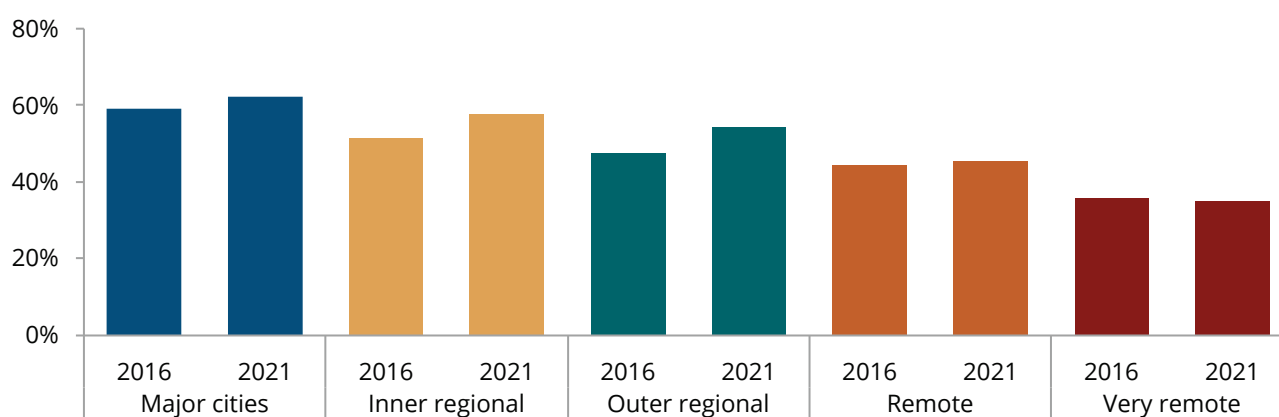
Nationally in 2021, 55.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–64 years were employed. This is an increase from 51.0% in 2016 (the baseline year).

The national target shows improvement and is on track to be met (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change of 0.94 percentage points (pp) is above what is required (0.73 pp) to meet the target.

Target 8	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	←	✓	
Baseline	%	54.6	57.3	52.1	44.7	46.4	59.0	70.1	35.4	51.0	62.0
Current year	%	59.6	62.0	57.2	49.8	50.1	62.4	73.0	34.3	55.7	62.0
Annual change	pp	1.00	0.94	1.04	1.01	0.74	0.69	0.58	-0.21	0.94	0.73

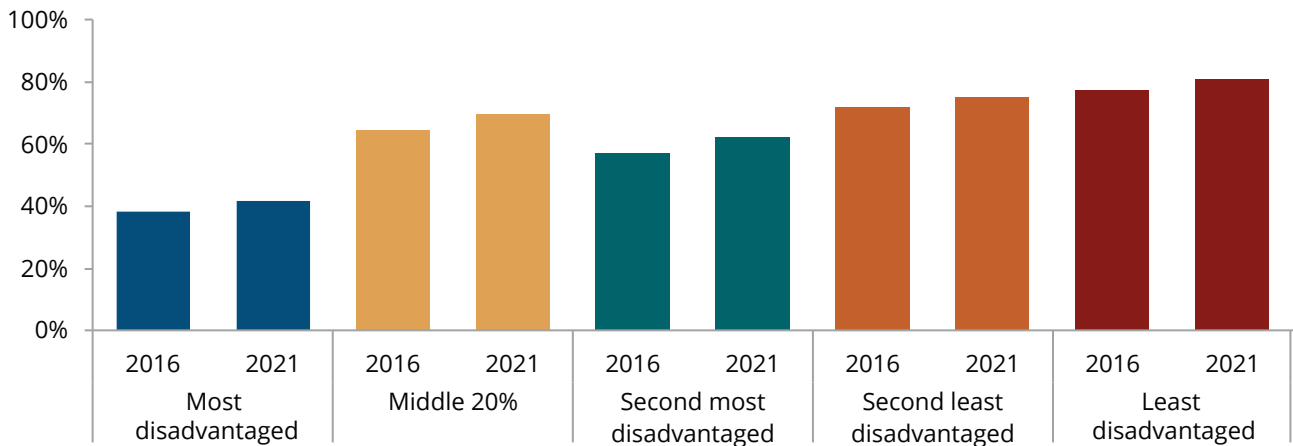
Nationally in 2021, the employment rate was higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (57.7%) than females (53.8%), though this gap has narrowed since 2016. For people aged 25–64 years, rates were similar across the 5-year age groups up to 49 years, but declined for each 5-year age group thereafter. The rate was highest in major cities and the least disadvantaged socio-economic areas and declined as remoteness and location disadvantage increased. Since the baseline year, rates have increased in all areas, except for very remote areas with a decrease of less than one percentage point. The employment rate for people without a need for assistance with core activities (61.7%) was more than four times the rate for people with a need for assistance (14.2%).

Figure C.21 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 25–64 years, who are employed by remoteness area, by year



Source: table CtG8A.4, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

Figure C.22 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 25–64 years, who are employed by Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile, by year



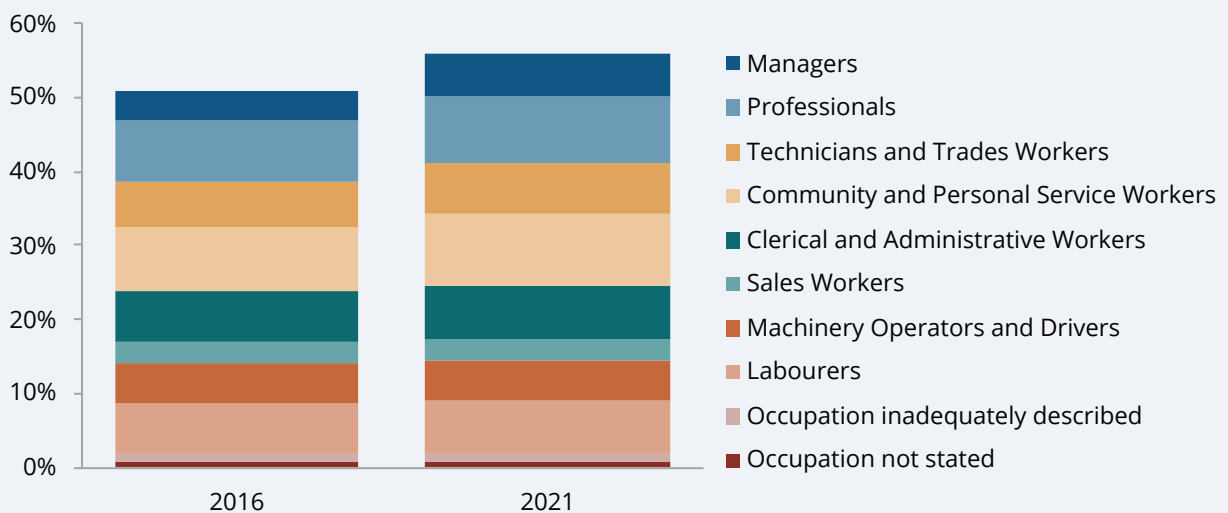
Source: table CtG8A.5, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 8

The supporting indicator currently reported for this outcome area is employment by occupation.

Nationally in 2021, the occupation contributing most to the employment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was community or personal service worker, followed by professional. Since 2016, the employment rate has increased for all occupations groups, with the largest increase for managers (1.3 percentage points).

Figure C.23 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 25–64 years, who are employed by occupation, by year



Source: table SE8d.1, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need

Nationally in 2021, 81.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing. This is an increase from 78.9% in 2016 (the baseline year).

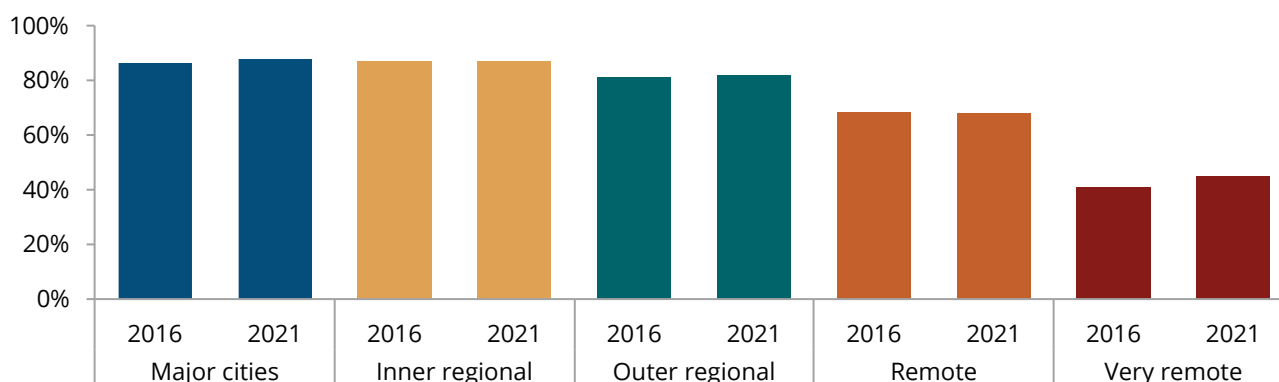
While there has been improvement, the national target is not on track to be met (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change is 0.51 percentage points (pp) which is below what is required (0.61 pp) to meet the target.

Target 9B is not able to be reported against as there is no data source currently available which includes all required data elements.

Target 9	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Target 9A											
Progress	Level	→	→	→	→	→	←	←	→	•	
Baseline	%	85.9	87.6	79.4	75.2	82.5	89.9	91.6	38.4	78.9	88.0
Current year	%	87.5	88.8	81.2	78.8	82.8	88.8	90.7	43.4	81.4	88.0
Annual change	pp	0.32	0.23	0.36	0.72	0.05	-0.22	-0.17	1.00	0.51	0.61
Target 9B											
Progress	-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

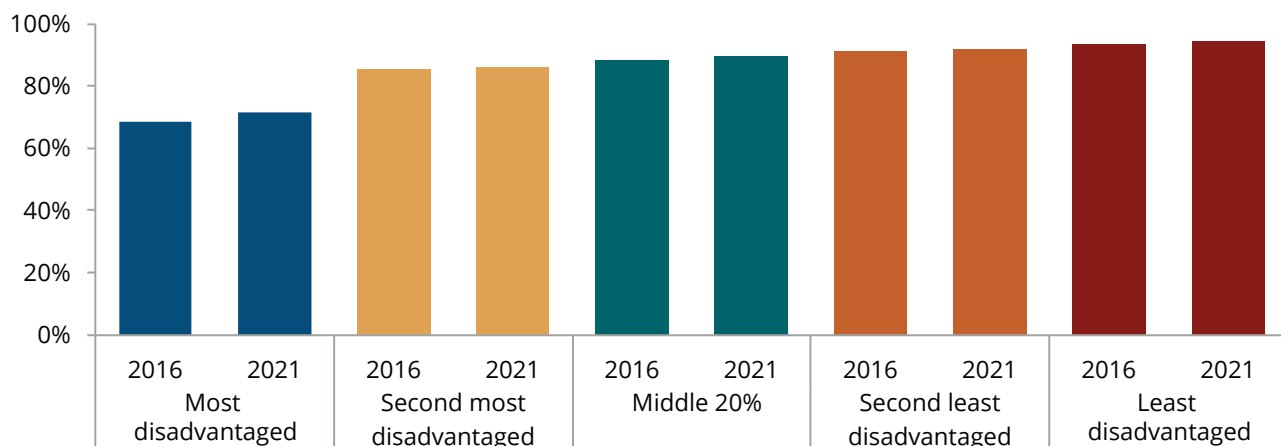
Nationally in 2021, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females living in appropriately sized housing was between 81–82%, having increased at similar rates from 2016. Rates were just under 80% for all age groups under 25 years, with rates increasing for older age groups peaking at 91.8% for those aged 65 years or over. The rate was highest in major cities and the least socio-economically disadvantaged areas, and declined as remoteness and location disadvantage increased, with the largest declines from remote to very remote areas and from the second most to the most disadvantaged areas. A higher proportion (85.5%) of people with a need for assistance with core activities lived in appropriately sized housing compared with people who did not require assistance (81.4%). More than half of people living in overcrowded dwellings required one extra bedroom.

Figure C.24 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) dwellings
by remoteness area, by year



Source: table CtG9A.4, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

Figure C.25 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) dwellings
by Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) quintile, by year



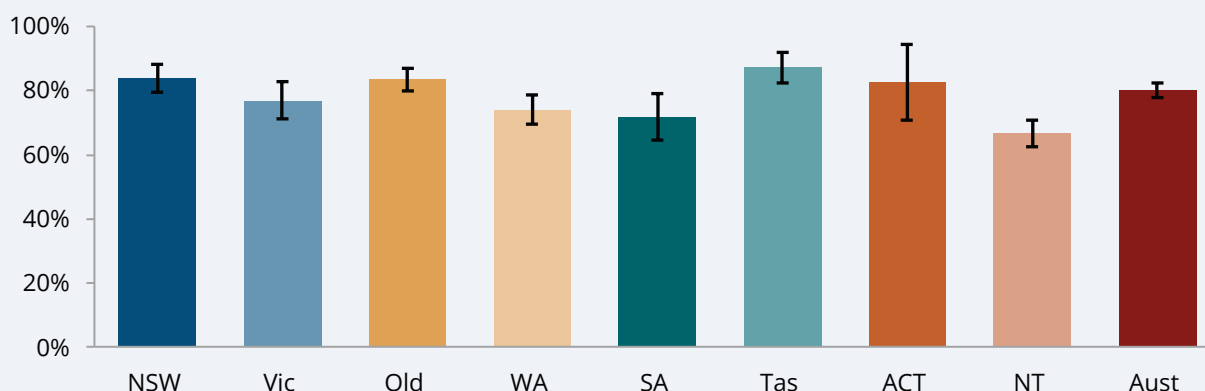
Source: table CtG9A.5, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 9

The supporting indicator currently reported for this outcome area is the proportion of households living in housing of an acceptable standard.

Nationally in 2018-19, four in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households reported living in houses classified as being of an acceptable standard. Houses of an acceptable standard have four working facilities (for washing people, clothes or bedding, for storing/preparing food, and a working sewerage system) and no more than two major structural problems. Two-thirds of households reported living in dwellings with no major structural problems and more than 95% of households reported living in dwellings with working facilities for washing people, clothes or bedding, and a working sewerage system. For storing and preparing food, the proportion was lower at 90.9%.

Figure C.26 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households living in houses of an acceptable standard, 2018-19
by jurisdiction



Source: table SE9e.1, ABS (unpublished) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey Australia. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

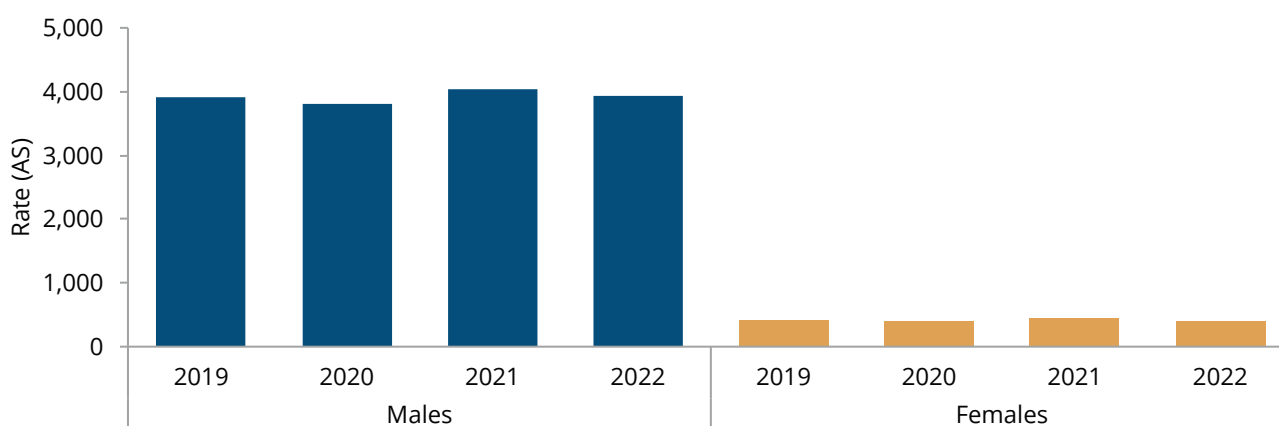
Nationally, at 30 June 2022, the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 2,151.1 per 100,000 adult population (or two in 100). This is an increase from 2,142.9 per 100,000 in 2019 (the baseline year).

Nationally, the target is worsening (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change is an increase of 16.03 per 100,000 people, with a decrease of 26.78 per 100,000 required to meet the target.

Target 10	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	←	→	←	→	←	→	→	←	←	
Baseline	Rate	1,868.9	2,114.3	1,814.5	3,581.8	2,395.5	729.7	1,703.9	2,450.8	2,142.9	1,821.5
Current year	Rate	1,878.3	1,605.1	2,046.9	3,213.6	2,451.0	682.1	1,543.8	2,771.7	2,151.1	1,821.5
Annual change	Rate	15.34	-146.25	95.08	-115.12	25.59	-9.98	-73.15	122.06	16.03	-26.78

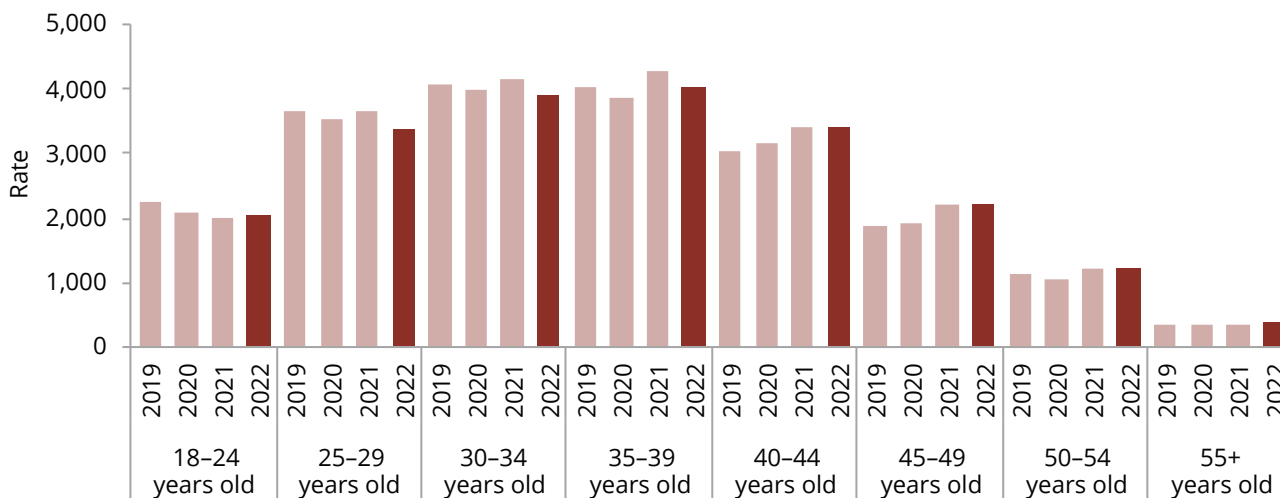
Nationally the imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males is around ten times the rate for females, with the rate for males equivalent to around four in 100 and for females four in 1,000. Rates are highest for those aged 30–39 years, but rates for 25–39 year olds decreased from 2021 to 2022 and for 25–29 year olds are the lowest in four years and now below the rate for 40–44 year olds.

Figure C.27 – Age-standardised imprisonment rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, per 100,000 people in the community
by sex, by year as at June 30



Source: table CtG10A.3, ABS Prisoners in Australia.
AS = Age Standardised

Figure C.28 – Imprisonment rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, per 100,000 people in the community
by age group, by year as at June 30



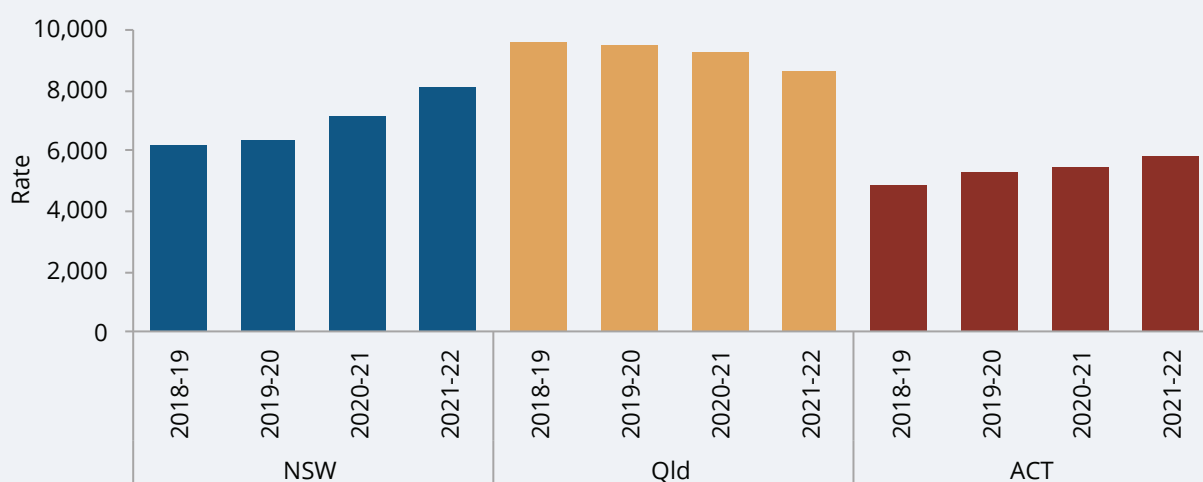
Source: table CtG10A.4, ABS (unpublished) Prisoners in Australia.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 10

The supporting indicator currently reported for this outcome area is the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people charged by police.

In 2021-22, across the three jurisdictions with available data, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults charged by police at least once in the previous 12 months ranged between 6 and 9 per 100 people. Since 2018-19, rates have increased for New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory and decreased for Queensland. For adults proceeded against by police, the proportion proceeded against with court actions ranged from 95.1 to 99.0% (with 1.0 to 4.2% proceeded against with non-court actions).

Figure C.29 – Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults charged by police at least once in the previous 12 months, per 100,000 people in the community
by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table SE10a.1, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Recorded Crime – Offenders; ABS (unpublished) National state and territory population – December; ABS Estimates and Projections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

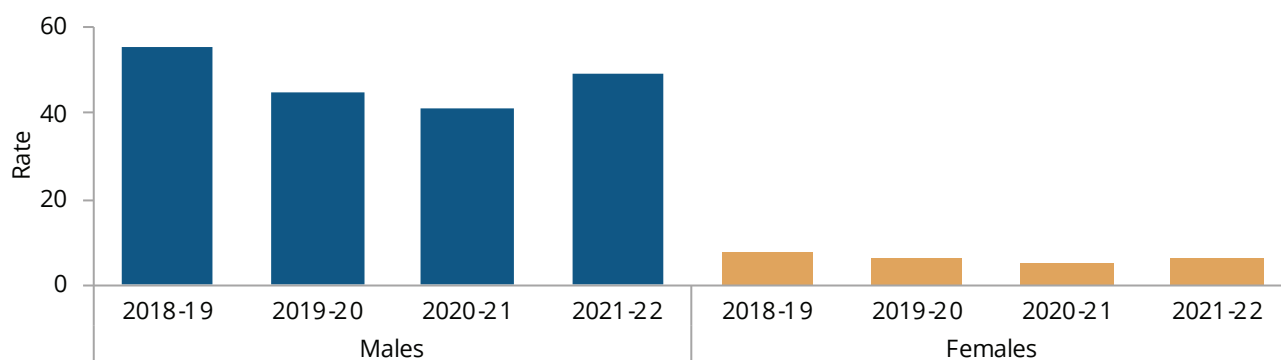
Nationally in 2021-22, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day was 28.3 per 10,000 young people. This is a decrease from 32.0 per 10,000 young people in 2018-19 (the baseline year).

Nationally, the target shows good improvement and is on track to be met (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change is a decrease of 1.36 per 10,000 young people which is more than one and a half times what is required (a decrease of 0.81 per 10,000 young people) to meet the target.

Target 11	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	→	→	■	→	→	→	■	←	✓	
Baseline	Rate	22.3	18.5	41.2	55.1	27.4	8.5	15.3	30.9	32.0	22.3
Current year	Rate	15.7	9.5	40.9	44.6	18.1	6.7	23.0	44.1	28.3	22.3
Annual change	Rate	-2.59	-3.34	-	-3.32	-3.21	-0.83	-	4.62	-1.36	-0.81

Figure C.30 – Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention on an average day, per 10,000 young people in the community

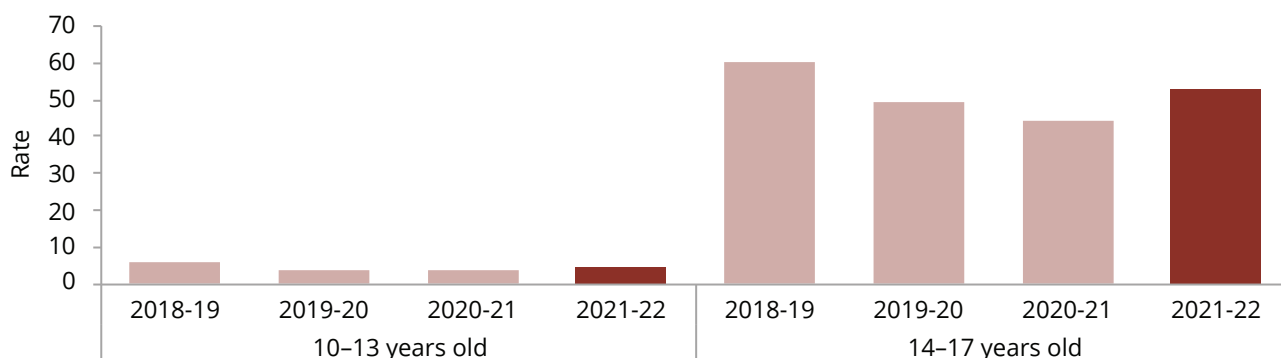
by sex, by year



Source: table CtG11A.2, Derived from AIHW Youth justice in Australia, ABS Estimates and Projections.

Figure C.31 – Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention on an average day, per 10,000 young people in the community

by age group, by year



Source: table CtG11A.3, Derived from AIHW Youth justice in Australia, ABS (unpublished) Estimates and Projections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

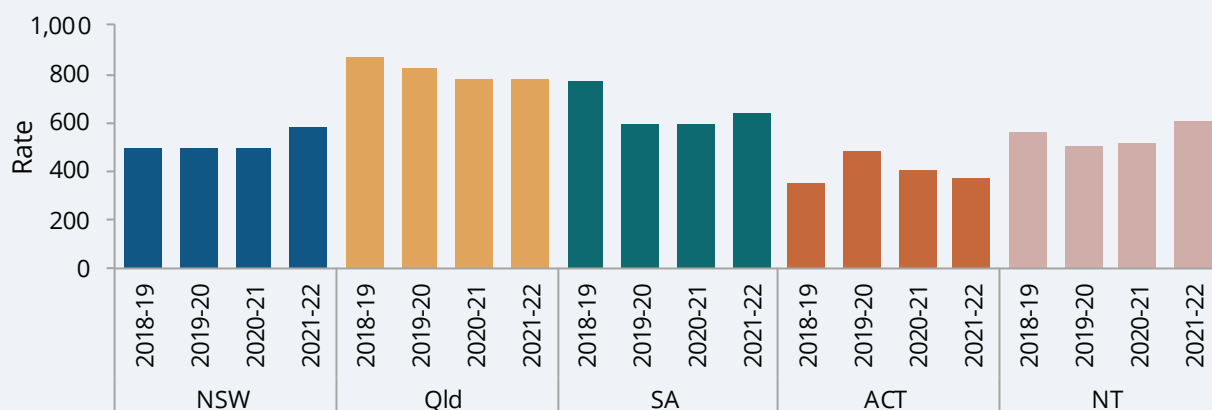
Rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth in detention is higher for males than females (a ratio of around 8:1), and higher for 14–17 year olds than 10–13 year olds (a ratio of around 12:1). Rates by age and sex have moved in similar patterns over the four years of available data.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 11

The supporting indicator currently reported for this outcome area is the proportion of young alleged offenders involved in police proceedings.

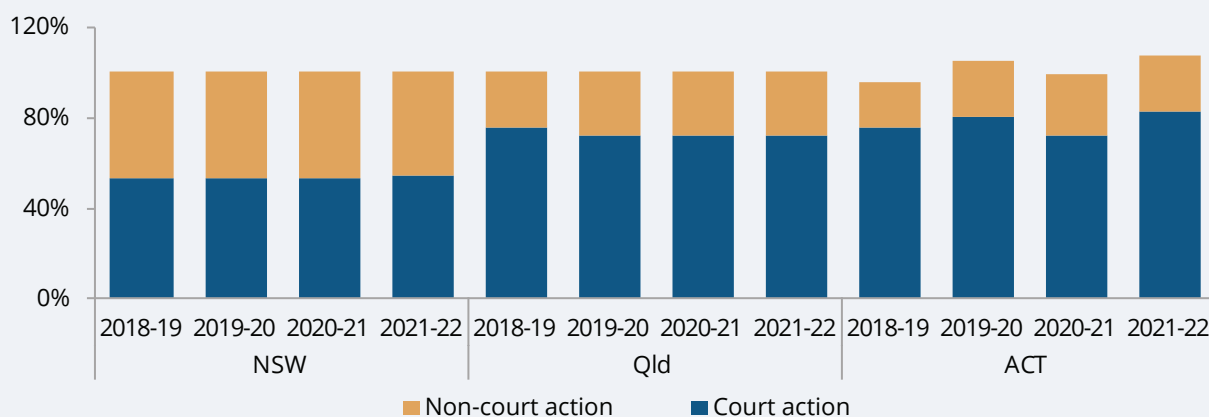
In 2021-22, across the five jurisdictions with available data, the rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people proceeded against by police ranged from 374.4 to 779.6 per 10,000. Since 2018-19, the direction of change for these rates has differed across jurisdictions. For young people proceeded against by police in these five jurisdictions there has been an increase for all in the proportion proceeded against three or more times. The data on the method of proceeding is only available for three jurisdictions, with the data showing the proportion proceeding to court ranging from around 50% (in New South Wales) to 70–80% (in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory).

Figure C.32 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people proceeded against by police, rate per 10,000 young people (10–17 years) by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table SE11c.1, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Recorded Crime – Offenders; ABS Estimates and Projections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Figure C.33 – Proceedings by police against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, aged 10–17 years by jurisdiction, by year, by method of proceedings



Source: table SE11c.4, ABS (unpublished) Recorded Crime – Offenders.

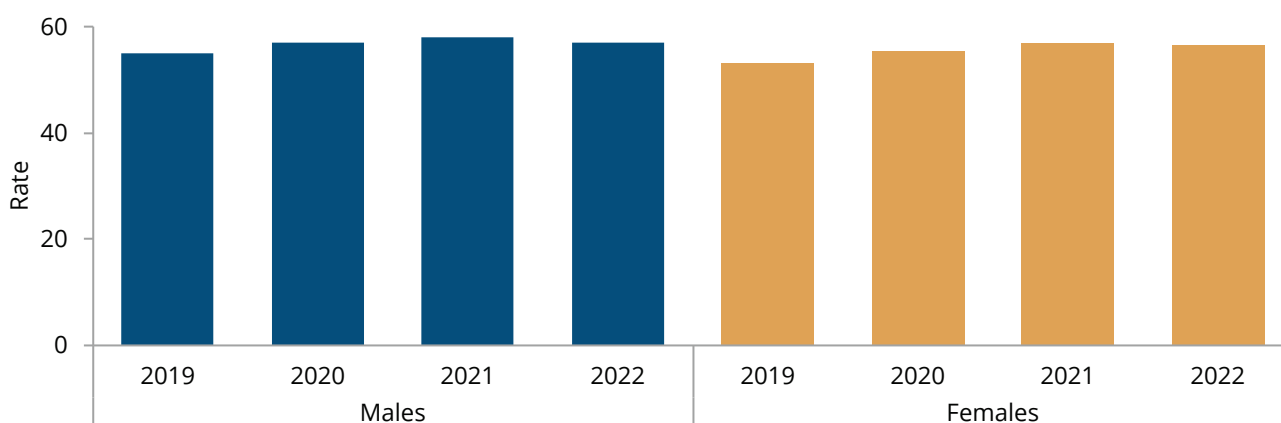
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system

Nationally, at 30 June 2022, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care was 56.8 per 1,000 children in the population. This is an increase from 54.2 per 1,000 children in 2019 (the baseline year). Nationally, the target is worsening (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change was an increase of 0.91 per 1,000 children, with an average annual decrease of 2.03 per 1,000 children required to meet the target.

Target 12	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	→	←	←	→	←	←	■	→	←	
Baseline	Rate	60.2	89.9	37.0	64.2	75.3	32.7	68.5	36.6	54.2	29.8
Current year	Rate	57.3	102.2	45.0	61.6	92.7	33.2	70.8	31.1	56.8	29.8
Annual change	Rate	-0.81	4.02	2.70	-1.01	5.74	0.27	-	-1.78	0.91	-2.03

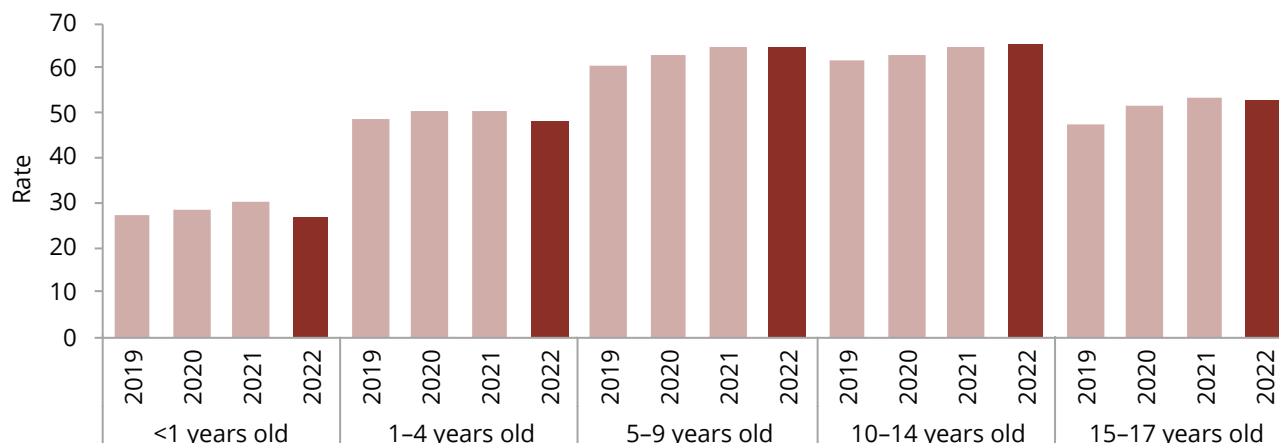
Nationally, at 30 June 2022, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care was similar for males and females. Rates were higher for children aged 5–14 years, and in the most recent reporting period had continued to increase for those aged 10–14 years (decreases were reported for children in other age groups). Around one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care had a reported disability. However, this proportion needs to be considered with caution as an even higher proportion of children had an unknown disability status reported.

Figure C.34 – Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, aged 0–17 years, in out-of-home care, per 1,000 children in the community
by sex, by year as at 30 June



Source: table CtG12A.2, Derived from AIHW (unpublished) Child protection Australia; ABS (unpublished) Estimates and Projections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia.

Figure C.35 – Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, aged 0–17 years, in out-of-home care, per 1,000 children in the community
by age group, by year as at 30 June



Source: table CtG12A.3, Derived from AIHW (unpublished) Child protection Australia; ABS (unpublished) Estimates and Projections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

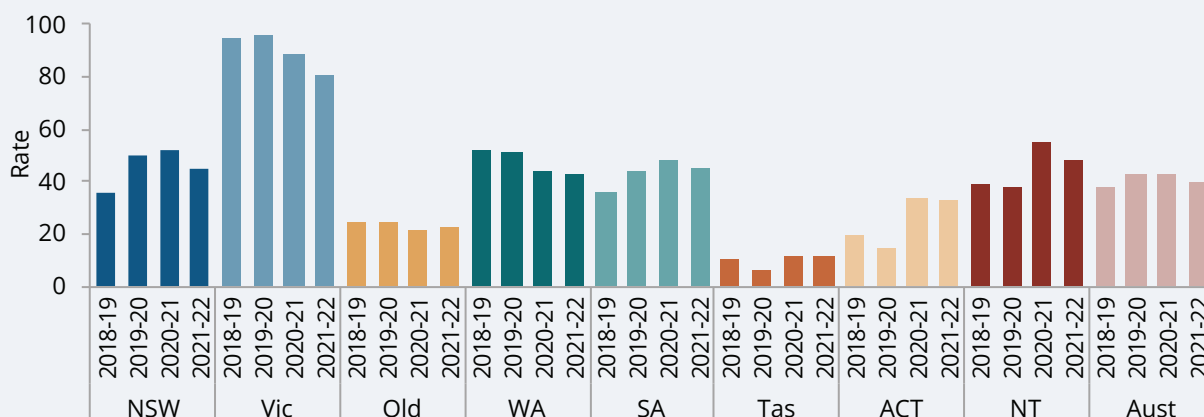
SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 12

The supporting indicators currently reported for this outcome area are the proportion of children in out-of-home care who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and the proportion of children who were the subject of substantiated abuse by type of abuse.

Nationally at 30 June 2022, 42.8% of children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. In comparison, the proportion of children aged 0–17 years in the general population who were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander was 6.0%.

Nationally in 2021-22, 39.8 per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years were the subject of substantiated abuse. Emotional abuse was the most common type of abuse substantiated, and the only type to increase from 2018-19. All other types (physical and sexual abuse and neglect) recorded decreases.

Figure C.36 – Rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children that were the subject of substantiated child protection notifications, per 1,000 children in the community
by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table SE12m.1, Derived from state and territory governments (unpublished); AIHW (unpublished) Child Protection National Minimum Data Set; ABS Estimates and Projections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe

Nationally in 2018-19, 8.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females aged 15 years or over experienced domestic physical or threatened physical harm. There is no new data available since 2018-19 (the baseline year), and therefore an assessment of progress is not available.

Target 13	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	
Baseline	%	10.0	7.5	6.4	9.0	7.2	8.3	7.4	7.5	8.4	4.2

There are currently no disaggregations reported for this target.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 13

The supporting indicators currently reported for this outcome area are the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women reporting family violence is common in their communities, and the rates of family violence before entry to out-of-home care. But, there is no nationally representative data available for reporting on either of these indicators.

There is contextual data provided for the first of these indicators, which was sourced from the *2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence Against Women Survey*. However, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who were surveyed was too small to draw conclusions at the national level from responses. Of the 48 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who were asked whether they thought violence against women is 'common in our community', 45 reported it is common.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing

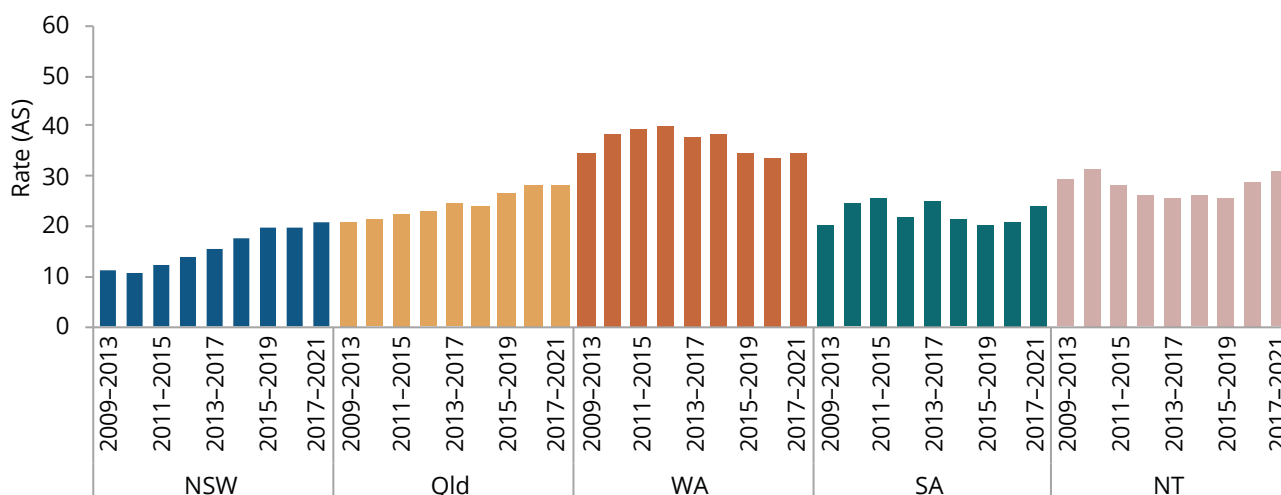
In 2021, the age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 27.1 per 100,000 people (for NSW, Qld, WA, SA and the NT combined). This is an increase from 25.1 per 100,000 people in 2018 (the baseline year). There is no specified trajectory or expected timeline for achieving zero suicide. A target of a 75% reduction in the suicide rate is presented here.

Nationally, the age-standardised suicide rate is worsening (noting this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points). There is no assessment of progress at the state and territory level as these rates are reported in five-year aggregates.

Target 14	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	Level	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	←
Baseline	Rate (AS)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25.1	6.3 (-75% shown)
Current year	Rate (AS)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.1	6.3 (-75% shown)
Annual change	Rate (AS)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.64	-1.45

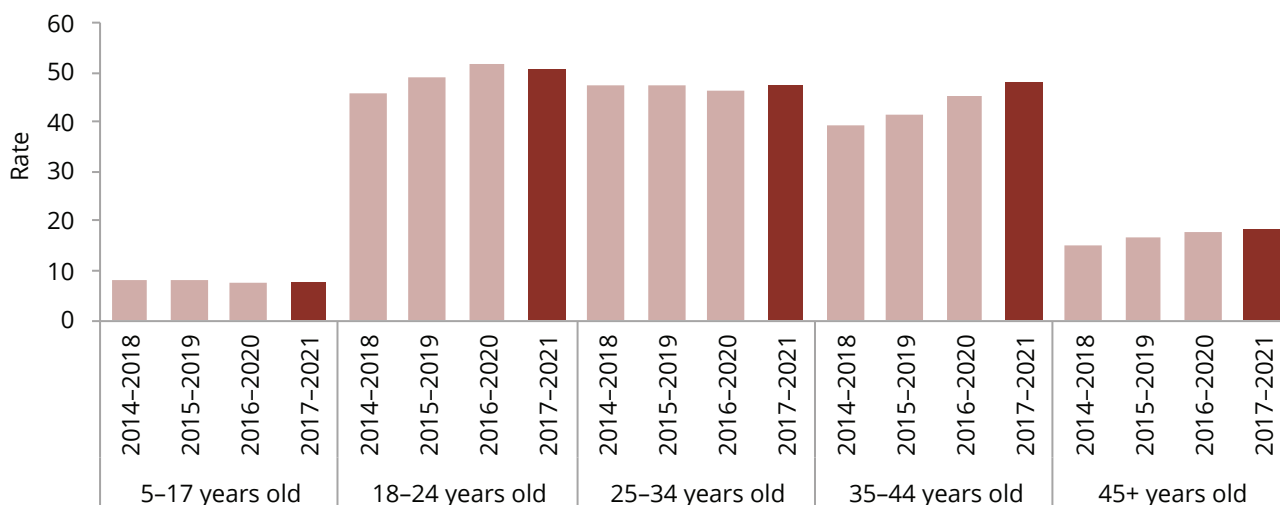
Across states and territories, the rates have increased over time for two jurisdictions, with the rates fluctuating for three jurisdictions. The rates were highest for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 18–44 years and those living in remote and very remote areas. Over time, the rate for males has remained more than double the rate for females.

Figure C.37 – Age-standardised mortality rates due to suicide, per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
by jurisdiction, by year



Source: table CtG14A.2, ABS Causes of Death Australia.
AS = Age Standardised

Figure C.38 – Mortality rates due to suicide, per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, total (NSW, Qld, WA, SA and the NT combined) by age group, by year



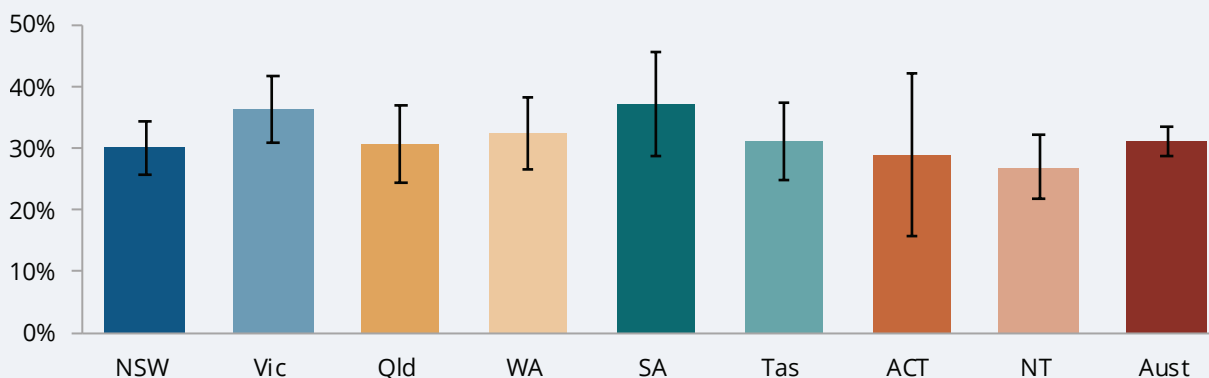
Source: table CtG14A.3, ABS Causes of Death Australia.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 14

The supporting indicators currently reported for this outcome area are the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who reported experiencing psychological distress and the proportion who reported experiencing one or more barriers accessing health services.

Nationally in 2018-19, almost one-third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 18 years or over reported having high/very high levels of psychological distress. During the same period, one in eight Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (12.5%) reported not seeing a GP or clinic doctor on at least one occasion when needed in the previous 12 months. One of the most common reasons for not seeing a GP was being too busy, followed by time and physical accessibility.

Figure C.39 – Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 18 years or over, with high/very high levels of psychological distress, 2018-19 by jurisdiction



Source: table SE14d.1, ABS (unpublished) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey Australia. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters

As at 30 June 2022, 4,138,356 km² of the land mass of Australia and 91,111 km² of the sea country of Australia were subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests.

Nationally, the land mass target shows good improvement since 2020 (the baseline year) and is on track to be met, while the sea country target shows improvement since 2020 but is not on track to be met (noting these assessments should be used with caution as they are based on a limited number of data points). The average annual change in land mass is 114,984.5 km², which is almost twice what is required to meet the target (59,004). The average annual change for sea country is 429.5 km², which is around one-third of what is required to meet the target (1,354).

Target 15	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Target 15A											
Progress	Level	→	→	→	→	→	■	■	→	✓	
Baseline	sq km	6,382	14,934	530,144	1,659,351	752,905	631	-	943,999	3,908,387	4,498,431
Current year	sq km	6,443	14,942	570,423	1,800,999	753,612	631	-	991,306	4,138,356	4,498,431
Annual change	sq km	30.50	4.00	20,139.50	70,824.00	353.50	-	-	23,653.50	114,984.50	59,004.00
Target 15B											
Progress	Level	■	→	→	→	→	■	..	→	•	
Baseline	sq km	20	265	24,108	40,076	373	-	..	3,249	90,252	103,790
Current year	sq km	20	267	24,829	40,147	437	-	..	3,250	91,111	103,790
Annual change	sq km	-	1.00	360.50	35.50	32.00	-	..	0.50	429.50	1,354.00

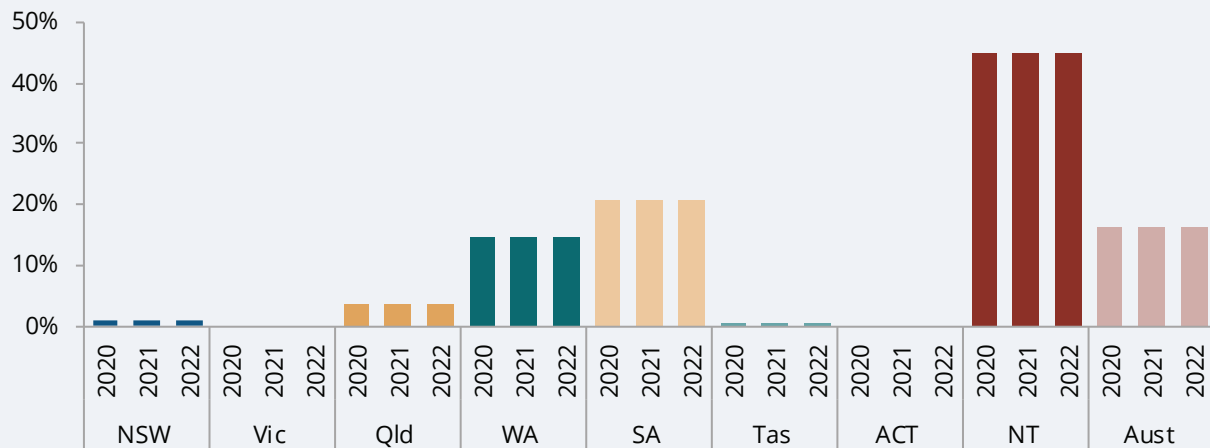
Disaggregations are not specified in the Agreement for this target other than by state and territory.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 15

The supporting indicator currently reported for this outcome area is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's owned land and water titles.

Nationally as at June 2022, 16.1% of Australia's land area was owned or controlled by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which is unchanged from the previous two years. Reporting for the proportion of water owned or controlled by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is currently under development.

Figure C.40 – Proportion of land subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights and interests by jurisdiction, by year as at 30 June



Source: table SE15a.1, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (unpublished).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 16

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing

Nationally in 2018-19, there were 123 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken with 14 considered strong. There is no new data since 2018-19 (the baseline year), and therefore an assessment of progress is not available.

Target 16	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Baseline	No.	13	4	26	31	16	4	1	35	123	A sustained increase

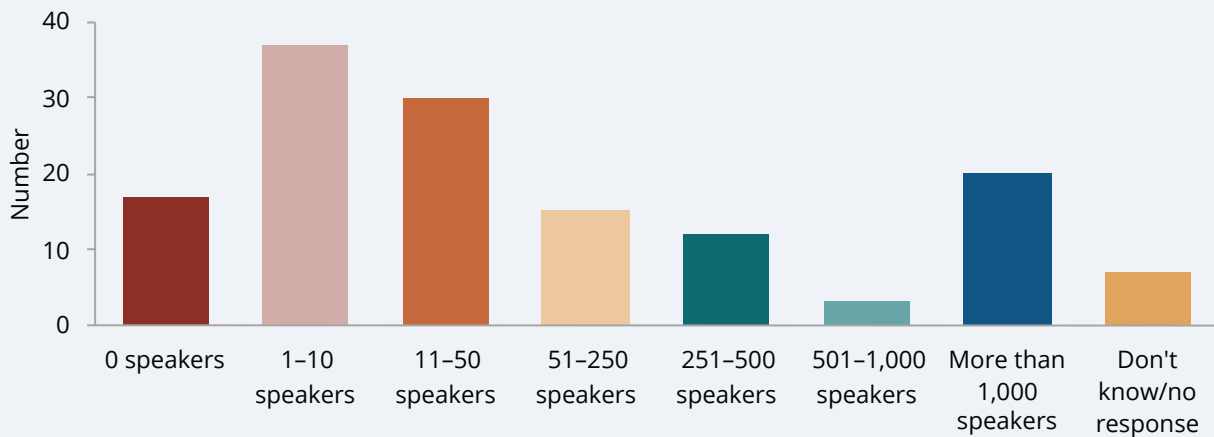
There are currently no disaggregations reported for this target.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 16

The supporting indicators currently reported for this outcome area are the number and age profile of the speakers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing Commonwealth-funded Indigenous Language Centres to maintain and preserve languages.

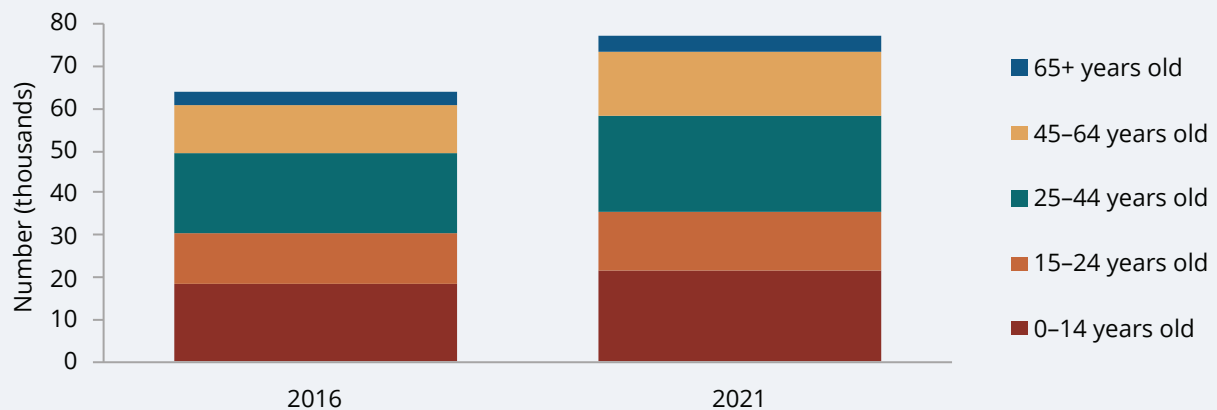
Nationally in 2018-19, of the 141 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages for which there was data available, 60 languages reported having no speakers aged 0–19 years. For people aged 60 years and over, 18 languages reported as having no speakers. From 2016 to 2021, the number of people who spoke an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language at home increased by 20.7%, with increases across all age groups.

Figure C.41 – Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken, 2018-19 by estimated number of speakers



Source: table SE16c.1, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies National Indigenous Languages Survey.

Figure C.42 – Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who used an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language at home by year, by age group



Source: table SE16c.2–SE16c.3, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing.

Nationally, as at 30 June 2022, there were 23 Commonwealth-funded Indigenous Language Centres, of which 22 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled. In 2021-22, 28,663 activities were accessed at these Centres.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives

Nationally in 2014-15, 73.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years or over accessed the internet in their homes. There is no comparable data for non-Indigenous people. This means that estimating a trajectory to achieve parity is not currently possible. Also, there is no new data since 2014-15 (the baseline year). As a result, an assessment of progress is not available.

Target 17	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust	National Target
Progress	
Baseline	%	79.9	89.5	76.1	66.0	73.4	85.0	91.1	40.9	73.5	Equal levels

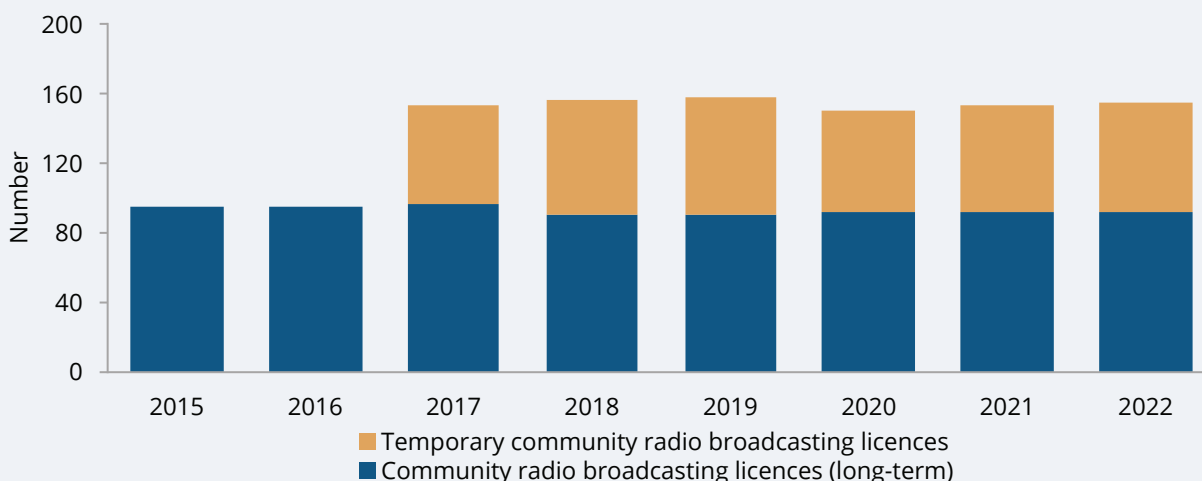
There are currently no disaggregations reported for this target.

SUPPORTING INDICATORS FOR SEO 17

The supporting indicators currently reported for this outcome area are the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people using the internet to access government services for private purposes, and the number and location of community broadcast licenses with an Indigenous interest.

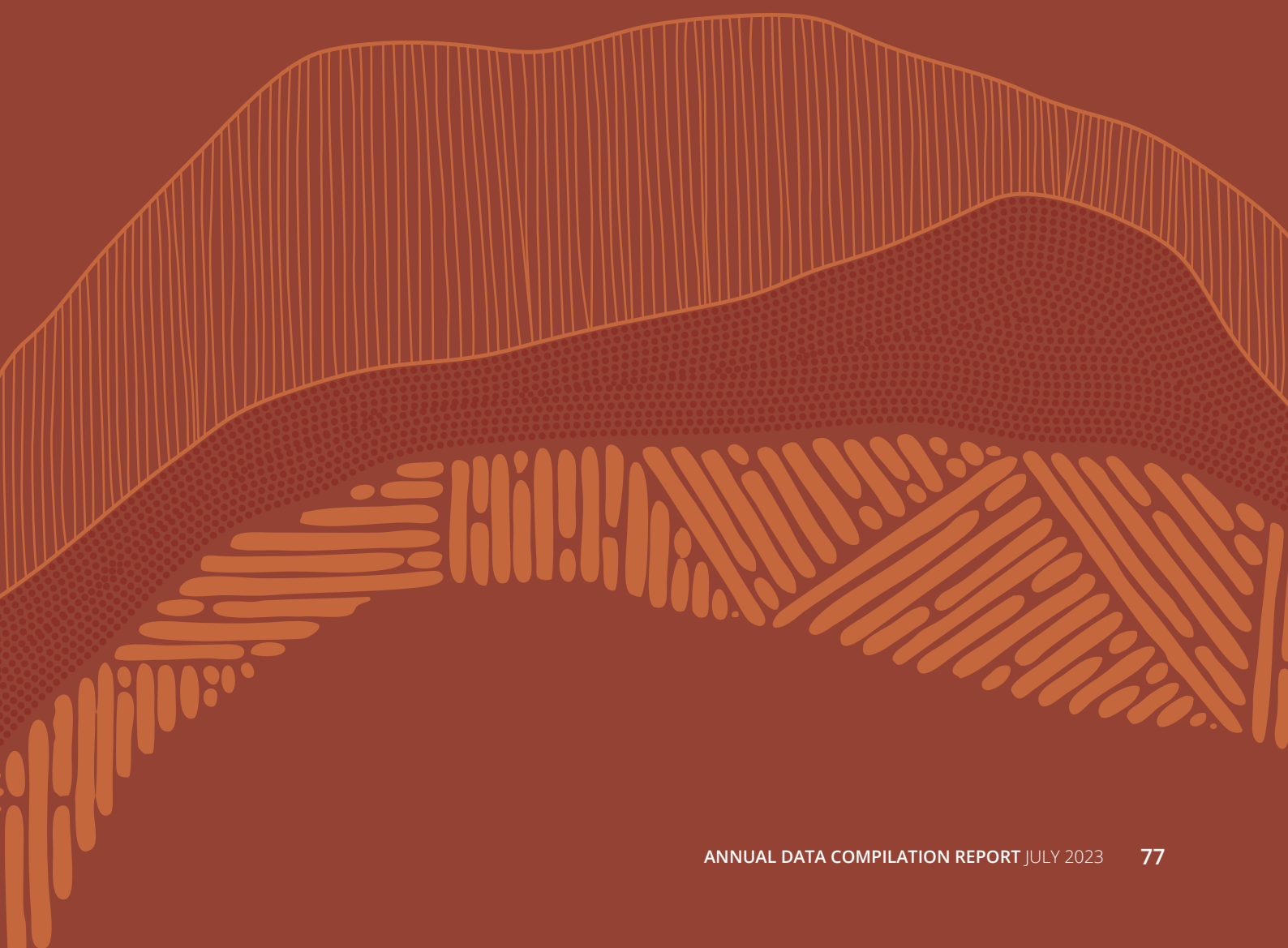
Nationally in 2014-15, almost half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years or older used the internet to access government information or services for private purposes (48.8%).

Figure C.43 – Number of community radio broadcasting licences with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interest
by temporary and long-term licence, by year as at June 30



Source: table SE17g.1, Australian Communications and Media Authority (unpublished).

Nationally at 30 June 2022, there were 155 community broadcasting licences with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interest, of which 92 were long-term community radio broadcasting licences, and 63 were temporary community radio broadcasting licences.



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