

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER QUEENSLANDERS

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This bulletin presents information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Queensland. Topics include population and demographic characteristics, fertility, need for assistance, mortality, culture, education, labour force, employment, income and unpaid work. The data have been extracted from population censuses and experimental Indigenous population estimates published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Fertility and mortality data have been sourced from birth and death registrations provided to the ABS by the Queensland Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Key points

- At the time of the 2006 Census, 127,600 people or 3.3% of the total Queensland population identified as being of Indigenous origin.
- The majority of Indigenous Queenslanders were Aboriginal (77.4%), 14.4% were Torres Strait Islander and 8.2% were of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.
- The Indigenous population increased by 13.3% between the 2001 and 2006 censuses.
- More than a fifth (22.2%) of the Indigenous population lived in remote and very remote areas of Queensland.
- The median age of Indigenous males in 2006 was 19 years and for females was 21 years.
- The total fertility rate for Indigenous women decreased from 2.217 babies per woman in 2001 to 2.044 in 2006.
- The median age at death for Indigenous males was 55.6 years and for females was 57.0 years.
- An Australian Indigenous Language was spoken at home by 8.8% of Indigenous persons.
- There were 2,300 Indigenous persons attending TAFE and 2,000 attending a university or other tertiary education institution in 2006.
- Over one-third (35.2%) of Indigenous persons held a non-school qualification in 2006, an increase from 27.4% in 2001.
- The unemployment rate for Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years was 13.2% in 2006, a decrease from 20.1% in 2001.
- The largest employer of Indigenous persons was the public administration and safety industry, employing around one-fifth of both Indigenous males and females.
- The median weekly income for Indigenous persons in 2006 was \$318 and for Indigenous households was \$899.
- A quarter (25.2%) of Indigenous males and 41.5% of Indigenous females provided some kind of child care to their own or other people's children in the two weeks prior to the 2006 Census.
- In the 12 months prior to the 2006 Census, 16.3% of Indigenous females and 12.4% of Indigenous males reported they had done voluntary work.

Population

According to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, 127,600 people or 3.3% of the total usual resident population of Queensland identified as being of Indigenous origin (that is, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin).

Census counts and estimated resident population

While the Census is an important source of information about the characteristics of Indigenous people, a more accurate estimate of the Indigenous population at the state and territory level is provided by the estimated resident population (ERP), based on the Census but adjusting for net undercount and unknown Indigenous status.¹

Taking these adjustments to the census data into account, the preliminary estimated resident Indigenous population in Queensland as at 30 June 2006 was 146,400. This was 14.8% more than the 2006 Census usual resident count (Table 1).

Table 1: Comparison of usual resident census counts and ERP by Indigenous status, Queensland, 2006

Indigenous status	Usual resident census count	Preliminary ERP as at 30 June	Difference between ERP and census count	Percentage increase from census count
	— persons ('000) —			%
Indigenous	127.6	146.4	18.8	14.8
Non-Indigenous	3,552.0	3,945.1	393.1	11.1
Indigenous status not stated	224.9
Total Qld population	3,904.5	4,091.5	187.0	4.8

.. not applicable

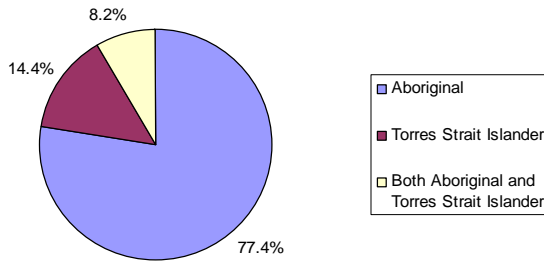
Source: ABS, Population Distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, cat. no. 4705.0

The remainder of this bulletin is based on census usual resident counts. In the 2006 Census, 5.8% (224,900 persons) did not answer the question regarding their Indigenous status. The proportion of Indigenous persons who did not answer this question cannot be determined. Therefore, analysis by Indigenous status excludes persons for whom Indigenous status is unknown, unless otherwise stated.

Indigenous origin

According to the 2006 Census, the majority of Indigenous Queenslanders identified as being of Aboriginal origin (98,700 or 77.4%). A further 18,400 (14.4%) identified as Torres Strait Islander and 10,500 (8.2%) were of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Proportion of Indigenous usual resident population by origin, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Changes over time

Between the 2001 and 2006 censuses, the number of people counted as being Indigenous increased by 15,000 or 13.3%. This is a larger increase than the 8.4% growth of the non-Indigenous population (Table 2). The growth in the Indigenous population over time reflects not only natural population increase, but also other factors including improvement in data collection methods and people newly identifying their Indigenous origin in the Census.²

Table 2: Census usual resident counts by Indigenous status(a), Queensland, 1986-2006

Year	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	Number	% of population	Increase (b)	Number	% of population	Increase (b)
1986	61.3	2.4	..	2,440.9	96.1	..
1991	70.1	2.4	14.3	2,723.7	94.3	11.6
1996	95.4	2.9	36.1	3,050.6	93.9	12.0
2001	112.6	3.2	18.0	3,278.0	93.1	7.5
2006	127.6	3.3	13.3	3,552.0	91.0	8.4

.. not applicable

(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

(b) Percentage increase over previous census year.

Source: ABS, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Regional distribution

In 2006, Queensland had the second largest Indigenous population after New South Wales. In terms of proportions of the total state or territory population, Queensland (3.3%) ranked third highest, after the Northern Territory (27.8%) and Tasmania (3.5%) (Table 3). More than half (61.0%) of Australia's Torres Strait Islander population and a quarter (25.7%) of the Aboriginal population lived in Queensland.

Table 3: Indigenous persons by origin, states and territories, 2006

State/territory	Aboriginal	Torres Strait Islander	Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	Total Indigenous	
				— persons ('000) —	%(a)
NSW	130.8	4.8	3.0	138.5	2.1
Vic.	27.1	2.2	0.9	30.1	0.6
Qld	98.7	18.4	10.5	127.6	3.3
SA	24.1	1.0	0.4	25.6	1.7
WA	56.7	1.1	1.0	58.7	3.0
Tas.	14.9	1.3	0.6	16.8	3.5
NT	51.7	0.6	1.3	53.7	27.8
ACT	3.6	0.2	0.1	3.9	1.2
Australia	407.7	29.5	17.8	455.0	2.3

(a) Of the total population in each state or territory.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Many of Queensland's Indigenous people live in the more highly populated areas of the state. According to the 2006 Census, about one-third (32.4%) of the Indigenous population lived in the Brisbane Indigenous Region, while a further 41.1% lived in the three Indigenous regions of Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns (Table 4).

Table 4: Census usual resident counts by Indigenous status(a) and Indigenous regions, Queensland, 2006

Indigenous region	Aboriginal	Torres Strait Islander	Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	Total Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Brisbane	36.3	18.3	20.4	32.4	67.7
Cairns	12.3	20.7	22.0	14.3	4.7
Cape York	5.3	2.3	12.0	5.4	0.1
Mount Isa	6.8	0.5	2.1	5.5	0.5
Rockhampton	13.2	5.7	9.5	11.8	10.3
Roma	11.6	2.2	3.4	9.6	7.9
Torres Strait	0.1	32.1	10.0	5.6	0.0
Townsville	13.8	17.9	20.2	14.9	8.5
Total(b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

— persons ('000) —

Total(b)	98.7	18.4	10.5	127.6	3,552.0
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(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

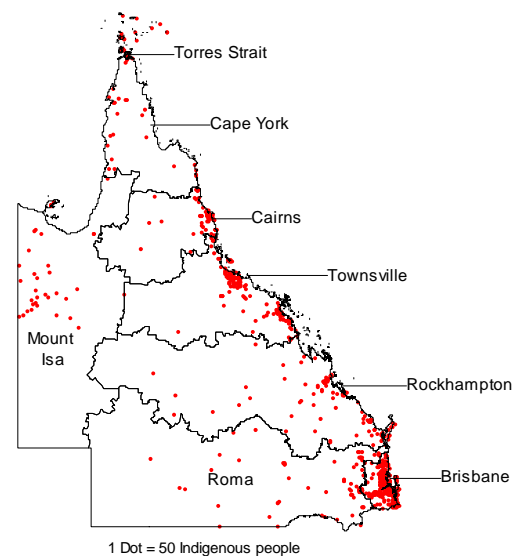
(b) Includes Indigenous region not stated and 'No usual address'.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

The regions further north and west contained fewer people but had higher proportions of Indigenous persons. In the Torres Strait Indigenous Region, 82.9% of all residents were of Indigenous origin, as were 54.7% in the Cape York and 24.2% in the Mount Isa Indigenous Regions.

The Indigenous population is less centralised than the non-Indigenous population. Areas of Queensland classified as remote or very remote contained 22.2% of the state's Indigenous population but just 2.5% of its non-Indigenous population. Throughout the state, 78.9% of Indigenous persons lived in urban centres of 1,000 people or more, compared with 85.4% of non-Indigenous persons (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Population distribution of Indigenous persons by Indigenous regions(a), Queensland, 2006



(a) Indigenous Regions, defined for the 2006 Census, are similar to the ATSI Regions used in previous censuses. There are eight Indigenous Regions covering Queensland. Their boundaries generally align with local government boundaries.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

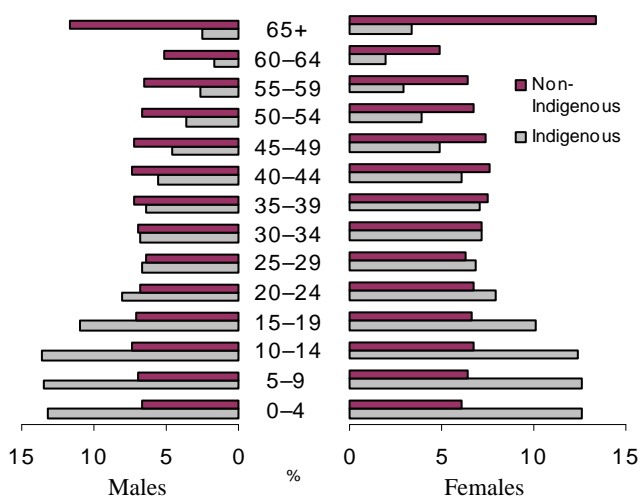
A total of 28,900 people throughout Queensland indicated they were of Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin in the 2006 Census. About a quarter (24.1%) of this Indigenous population lived in the Torres Strait Indigenous Region, constituting 81.2% of the total population of the region.

Age and sex

The Queensland Indigenous population has a very young age structure, reflecting their higher birth rates and shorter life expectancy. In 2006, the median age of Indigenous persons was 20 years, considerably lower than the median age of 36 years for Queensland's non-Indigenous population.

According to census counts in 2006, 38.9% of Indigenous persons were aged less than 15 years, compared with 20.0% of the non-Indigenous population. Only 3.0% of the Indigenous population was aged 65 years and over, compared with 12.5% of the non-Indigenous population (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Age structure by Indigenous status(a) by sex, Queensland, 2006



(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated. Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Of the 127,600 persons in Queensland who identified as being of Indigenous origin in the 2006 Census, 64,900 (50.9%) were females. Similar to the non-Indigenous population, the median age of females (21 years) was higher than for males (19 years).

Marital status

More than one-fifth (22.2%) of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over were in a registered marriage in 2006 and a further 19.2% were in a de facto relationship. In comparison, non-Indigenous persons were more likely to be in a registered marriage (50.7%) and less likely to be in a de facto relationship (10.2%).

Fertility

In 2006, there were 3,463 Indigenous births registered in Queensland, a 3.7% increase from 2001 when 3,337 Indigenous births were registered. Based on experimental Indigenous population estimates and projections, 98.3% of Indigenous births for the period 2002-2006 were registered.³

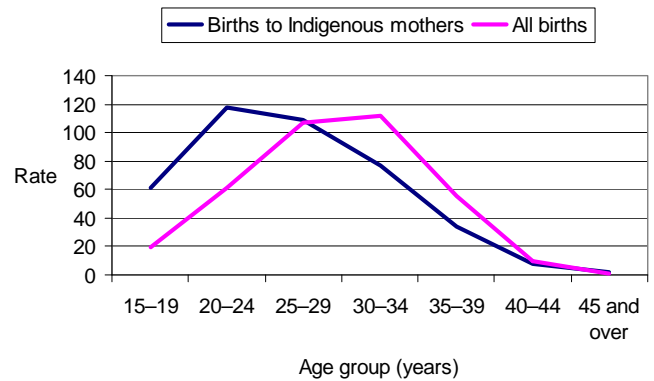
The total fertility rate for Indigenous women in Queensland in 2006 was 2.044 babies per woman, slightly higher than the total fertility rate for all Queensland women (1.831). Both rates were lower than the replacement level of 2.1, which is the

fertility rate required for the population to replace itself, taking into account female mortality.

The total fertility rate for Indigenous women decreased between 2001 and 2006, from 2.217 babies per woman in 2001 to 2.044 in 2006. In contrast, the rate for all Queensland women showed an increase from 1.795 in 2001 to 1.831 in 2006.

Indigenous mothers tended to be younger than the Queensland average. For the group aged 15-24 years, the age specific fertility rates for Indigenous women were up to three times higher than the rates for all women in that age group; for women aged 25-29 years and 40 years and over, the fertility rates were similar; and for those in the 30-39 years age group, the fertility rates for Indigenous women were lower compared with all women (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Age specific fertility rates(a) by Indigenous status, Queensland, 2006

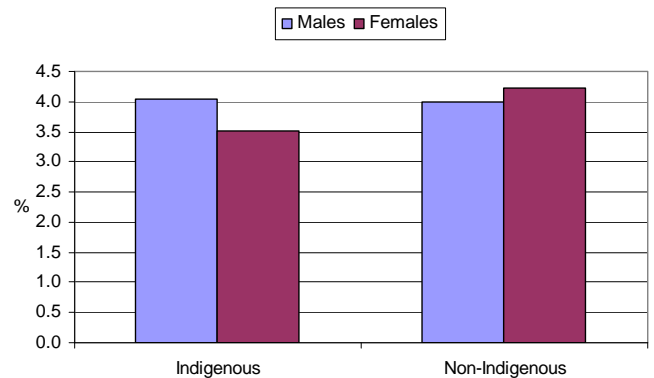


(a) Births per 1,000 women. Source: Births, Australia, 2006, cat. no. 3301.0

Need for assistance

The proportion of the population needing assistance with one or more of the three core activities of self-care, mobility and communication was similar across the total Queensland population. Indigenous males (4.0%) were slightly more likely to need assistance than females (3.5%) while for the non-Indigenous population, males (4.0%) were slightly less likely to need assistance than females (4.2%) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Proportion of population needing assistance with core activities(a) by Indigenous status(b) and sex, Queensland, 2006



(a) Persons needing assistance with one or more of the three core activities (self-care, mobility and communication) because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability or old age. (b) Excludes Indigenous status not stated. Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Mortality

In 2006, there were 584 Indigenous deaths (332 males and 252 females) registered in Queensland. While it is considered likely that most deaths of Indigenous persons are registered, some of these deaths are not identified as Indigenous when they are registered. In 2006, it was estimated that Indigenous deaths were undercounted by 49%.⁴

The median age at death for Indigenous Queenslanders is substantially younger than for the non-Indigenous population. The median age at death for Indigenous males was 55.6 years in 2006, 21.1 years lower than for non-Indigenous males, while the median age at death for Indigenous females (57.0 years) was 26.1 years lower than for non-Indigenous females (Table 5).

Within the Indigenous population, more than one in five deaths occurred before the age of 35 years, compared with one in 25 of the non-Indigenous population in 2006. Around one-third (34.1%) of Indigenous deaths occurred at the age of 65 years or older, compared with more than three-quarters (78.9%) of non-Indigenous deaths.

Table 5: Age at death by Indigenous status(a), Queensland, 2006

Age at death (years)	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	— % —	
0	6.3	1.0
1-14	2.7	0.4
15-24	6.0	1.1
25-34	6.7	1.4
35-44	10.8	2.3
45-54	15.2	5.1
55-64	18.2	9.9
65 and over	34.1	78.9
Total	100.0	100.0
	— years —	
Median age at death		
Males	55.6	76.7
Females	57.0	83.1

(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

Source: ABS, Deaths, Australia, 2006, cat. no. 3302.0

For the period 2004-2006, the infant mortality rate for the Indigenous population was 11.1 deaths per 1,000 live births. This was more than double the rate of 5.2 deaths per 1,000 live births for the total population of Queensland (including those for whom Indigenous status was unknown).

Indigenous Queenslanders are over-represented in certain cause of death categories. While accounting for 3.3% of the total Queensland population in 2006, they accounted for 9.2% of deaths from diabetes, 7.8% from intentional self-harm, 7.1% from land transport accidents and 7.0% from diseases of the liver.

The number of deaths of Indigenous persons due to diabetes increased 46.3% between 2001 and 2006, while deaths due to self-harm decreased 38.1% over this time (Table 6).

Table 6: Indigenous deaths(a) by selected causes of death, Queensland, 2001 and 2006

Selected causes of death	2001	2006	Change
	— number —		%
Ischaemic heart diseases	103	93	-9.7
Diabetes	41	60	46.3
Intentional self-harm	42	26	-38.1
Strokes	20	24	20.0
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	35	24	-31.4
Total all deaths	565	584	3.4

(a) Given the volatility in measures of Indigenous mortality, caution should be exercised when assessing trends in Indigenous mortality over time.

Source: ABS, Causes of Death, Australia, 2001 and 2006, cat. no. 3303.0

Culture

Language

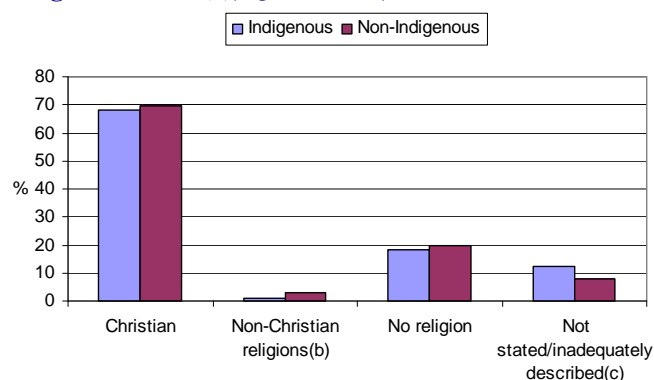
In 2006, of the 127,600 Indigenous persons who were usually resident in Queensland, 84.5% or 107,700 persons spoke only English at home, while 8.8% (11,200 persons) spoke an Australian Indigenous Language. Furthermore, 700 non-Indigenous persons also spoke an Australian Indigenous Language at home.

Religion

Most Indigenous Queenslanders (68.2%) reported their religion as Christian in the 2006 Census, similar to the proportion of non-Indigenous Queenslanders (69.5%). Within the Christian denominations, Indigenous persons were more likely to be Anglican or Pentecostal than non-Indigenous persons, and less likely to be affiliated with the Catholic, Presbyterian, Reformed or Uniting churches. Indigenous religious affiliation may have been influenced by past missionary activity.⁵

Indigenous Queenslanders were less likely to affiliate with a non-Christian religion, with 1.1% affiliating with a non-Christian religion compared with 2.8% of non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Indigenous persons were also less likely to report that they did not affiliate with any religion (18.3% of Indigenous compared with 19.6% of non-Indigenous), but were more likely not to state or adequately describe their religious affiliation (12.4% compared with 8.1%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Proportion of persons by religious affiliation and Indigenous status(a), Queensland, 2006



(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

(b) Includes Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and other religions.

(c) Includes 'Religious belief, nfd [not further defined]', 'Not defined', 'New Age, so described' and Theism.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

There were 430 Indigenous persons usually resident in Queensland in 2006 who reported they practised an Australian Aboriginal traditional religion. It is possible that Indigenous people with traditional beliefs reported no religion or did not adequately answer the question, rather than report their affiliation with a traditional religion.⁵ Non-Indigenous persons accounted for 8.3% of the total number of Queenslanders practising an Australian Aboriginal traditional religion.

Internet connection

According to the 2006 Census, of the 45,900 households in occupied private dwellings that contained at least one Indigenous person, 19,100 households or 41.6% had access to the internet. In comparison, 62.8% of all households in Queensland (including those for which Indigenous status was unknown) had access to the internet.

Of those Indigenous households with internet connection, 62.2% had broadband connection, 35.4% used dial-up connection and 2.5% had another type of connection. These proportions were consistent with those for all households in Queensland.

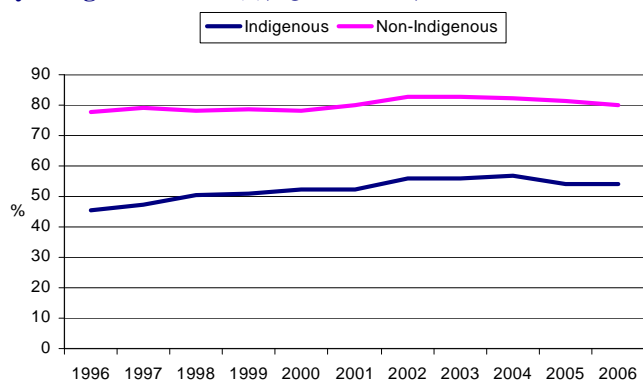
Education

Retention rates

The apparent retention rate from year 8 to year 12 for Indigenous school students in Queensland was 54.3% in 2006, substantially lower than the rate for non-Indigenous students (80.2%) (Figure 7).

While the rate for Indigenous students has shown an overall increase over time, it has decreased after reaching a high of 56.7% in 2004. Non-Indigenous retention rates have followed a similar trend, peaking at 82.8% in 2003.

Figure 7: Apparent retention rates from year 8 to year 12 by Indigenous status(a), Queensland, 1996-2006



(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

Source: ABS, Schools, Australia, cat. no. 4221.0

The rate for Indigenous students in Queensland schools in 2006 was much higher than the national rate (40.1%) and second only to the Australian Capital Territory (59.1%).

Attendance at a tertiary education institution

As at the 2006 Census, there were 2,300 Indigenous people attending TAFE and 2,000 attending a university or other tertiary education institution. Compared with the 2001 Census, the numbers attending TAFE decreased by 9.3% while the numbers attending university increased slightly (2.0%) over this time (Table 7).

There were more Indigenous females than males attending tertiary education institutions in 2006. The number of

Indigenous females attending university (1,300) was nearly double the number of males (700), while the number of females attending TAFE (1,500) was 70% greater than the number of males (900).

Table 7: Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over attending an education institution by type of institution and sex by full-time/part-time status, Queensland, 2006

Type of institution/ sex	Full-time	Part-time	Total(a)	Change 2001-2006 %
— persons —				
TAFE or similar				
Males	300	500	900	-26.3
Females	500	900	1,500	4.9
Persons	800	1,500	2,300	-9.3
University(b)				
Males	400	200	700	-1.8
Females	900	500	1,300	4.0
Persons	1,300	700	2,000	2.0

(a) Includes full-time/part-time status not stated.

(b) Includes other tertiary education institutions.

Source: ABS, 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Compared with non-Indigenous persons, Indigenous persons were more likely to attend TAFE and less likely to attend university. Among people aged 15 years and over, 3.0% of Indigenous persons compared with 2.3% of non-Indigenous persons were attending TAFE as at the 2006 Census. In comparison, 2.5% of Indigenous and 4.8% of non-Indigenous persons were attending a university or other tertiary education institution at this time.

Non-school qualifications

At the time of the 2006 Census, over one-third (35.2%) of Indigenous Queenslanders aged 15 years and over held a non-school qualification. Of those who stated their level of qualification, most (11,000) held a certificate level qualification while a further 2,800 held a bachelor degree or higher. In comparison, almost half (48.2%) of non-Indigenous Queenslanders held a non-school qualification in 2006, and were more likely to hold qualifications across all levels than Indigenous Queenslanders (Table 8).

Table 8: Level of non-school qualification by Indigenous status(a), persons 15 years and over, Queensland, 2006

Level of non-school qualification	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Number '000	% of population	Number '000	% of population
Bachelor degree or higher	2.8	3.6	401.2	14.1
Advanced diploma and diploma	2.6	3.3	200.2	7.0
Certificate	11.0	14.1	538.7	19.0
Level not stated/inadequately described	11.2	14.3	230.5	8.1
<i>Total with non-school qualification</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>1,370.6</i>	<i>48.2</i>
No non-school qualification	50.5	64.8	1,470.5	51.8
Total persons aged 15 years and over	78.0	100.0	2,841.1	100.0

(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

While there were more Indigenous males than females with a non-school qualification (13,800 males compared with 13,600 females), there were more females with a higher level qualification. Some 1,900 Indigenous females held a bachelor degree or higher in 2006 compared with 900 Indigenous males (Table 9).

Between the 2001 and 2006 censuses, the number of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over with a non-school qualification increased by 9,000 persons or 15.4%. Excluding

the 'not stated' category, more than half of this increase occurred at the certificate level for both males and females.

Table 9: Level of non-school qualification by sex, Indigenous persons 15 years and over, Queensland, 2006

Level of non-school qualification	Males	Females	Persons	Change
				2001-2006
	— persons ('000) —			%
Bachelor degree or higher	0.9	1.9	2.8	51.7
Advanced diploma and diploma	0.9	1.7	2.6	45.2
Certificate	6.0	5.0	11.0	75.0
Level not stated/inadequately described	6.0	5.2	11.2	29.4
<i>Total with non-school qualification</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>48.6</i>
No non-school qualification	23.6	26.9	50.5	2.9
Total persons aged 15 years and over	37.4	40.5	78.0	15.4

Source: ABS, 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Field of study

The 2006 Census revealed the three most popular fields of study for Indigenous females with a non-school qualification in Queensland were management and commerce (2,500), society and culture (1,900) and education (1,300). In comparison, the most popular fields of study for Indigenous males were engineering and related technologies (2,400), architecture and building (1,400) and society and culture (800).

Labour force

Table 10 shows the labour force status of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons as at the 2001 and 2006 censuses. As the Indigenous population has a younger age profile than the non-Indigenous population, and the Indigenous population has a significantly lower proportion aged 65 years and over, analysis of labour force participation and unemployment has been restricted to the traditional working age population, i.e. persons aged 15-64 years.

Participation

At the time of the 2006 Census, 43,500 Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years usually resident in Queensland were participating in the labour force, comprising 37,800 employed and 5,700 unemployed persons. This gave a participation rate of 61.7%. In comparison, the participation rate for non-Indigenous persons in 2006 was 76.8%. The rate for Indigenous persons increased by 3.6 percentage points between 2001 and 2006, while the rate for non-Indigenous persons rose 3.2 percentage points over the same period (Table 10).

Table 10: Labour force status by Indigenous status(a), persons aged 15-64 years, Queensland, 2001 and 2006

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	2001	2006	2001	2006
	— persons ('000) —			
Employed	29.0	37.8	1,487.5	1,734.1
Unemployed	7.3	5.7	130.7	83.6
<i>Total in labour force</i>	<i>36.3</i>	<i>43.5</i>	<i>1,618.1</i>	<i>1,817.7</i>
Not in labour force	26.2	27.0	580.2	550.5
Total population aged 15-64 years(b)	64.4	74.1	2,211.5	2,395.8
	— % —			
Participation rate				
Males	66.9	68.9	81.1	83.2
Females	49.8	55.0	66.2	70.5
Persons	58.1	61.7	73.6	76.8
Unemployment rate				
Males	21.6	12.7	8.7	4.3
Females	18.2	13.8	7.4	5.0
Persons	20.1	13.2	8.1	4.6

(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

(b) Includes labour force status not stated.

Source: ABS, 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Like the non-Indigenous population, Indigenous males (68.9%) were more likely to participate in the labour force than females (55.0%). The gap in the rate between males and females narrowed, from 17.1 percentage points in 2001 to 13.9 percentage points in 2006.

Unemployment

The Indigenous unemployment rate for persons aged 15-64 years was 13.2% in 2006, almost three times the rate for the non-Indigenous population (4.6%). The Indigenous unemployment rate decreased substantially since the 2001 Census when the rate was 20.1%, a decrease of 6.9 percentage points over the five-year period.

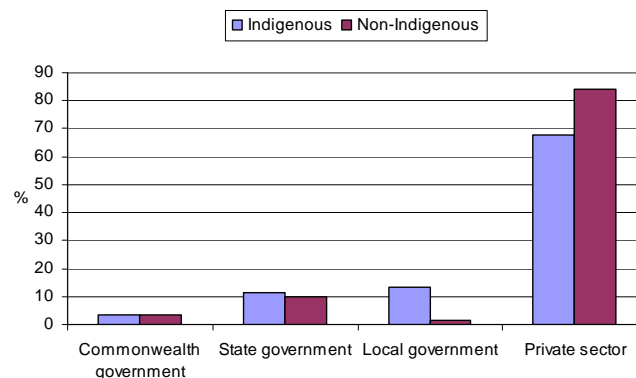
Indigenous females were more likely to be looking for work than were males in 2006, with 13.8% of females aged 15-64 years in the labour force looking for work, compared with 12.7% of males. In contrast, in 2001 males (21.6%) were more likely to be looking than females (18.2%).

Employment

Employment sector

In 2006, there were 38,100 Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over in employment. Of these, most (67.9%) were employed in the private sector, 13.4% were employed in local government, 11.4% in state government and 3.3% in the Commonwealth government. Compared with non-Indigenous employment, the Indigenous were less likely to work in the private sector and more likely to work in local government (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Proportion of employed persons aged 15 years and over by employment sector and Indigenous status(a), Queensland, 2006



(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Community Development and Employment Projects

In recognition of the particular difficulties faced by Indigenous people, the Community Development and Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme was established as an alternative to paying unemployment allowance. The CDEP scheme provides community organisations with funds to pay participants working on community projects.⁶ As at the 2006 Census, 12.0% of Indigenous people were employed through the CDEP scheme in Queensland.

Industry and occupation

The industry employing the largest proportion of Indigenous males aged 15 years and over in Queensland in 2006 was public administration and safety (21.1%), followed by the construction (12.7%) and manufacturing (12.0%) industries (Table 11). For Indigenous females, similar proportions were employed in the health care and social assistance (19.4%) and public administration and safety (19.2%) industries, followed by the education and training industry (12.4%).

Table 11: Proportion of employed persons aged 15 years and over by industry, Indigenous status(a) and sex, Queensland, 2006

Industry(b)	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
	— % —			
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4.2	1.6	4.2	2.4
Mining	3.7	0.8	2.7	0.5
Manufacturing	12.0	3.2	13.9	5.2
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1.1	0.3	1.5	0.5
Construction	12.7	1.7	14.4	2.8
Wholesale trade	2.9	1.7	4.9	2.9
Retail trade	5.1	9.7	9.1	14.8
Accommodation and food services	4.0	9.5	5.3	9.0
Transport, postal and warehousing	6.0	1.7	7.2	2.7
Information media and telecommunications	0.8	0.8	1.5	1.4
Financial and insurance services	0.7	1.3	2.2	3.7
Rental, hiring and real estate services	0.9	1.1	1.9	2.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	1.4	2.6	5.5	5.9
Administrative and support services	3.2	3.9	2.7	3.5
Public administration and safety	21.1	19.2	6.9	5.9
Education and training	3.1	12.4	4.1	11.8
Health care and social assistance	6.7	19.4	4.0	17.4
Arts and recreation services	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.5
Other services	2.3	2.6	3.9	3.7
Total employed persons aged 15 years and over(c)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	— persons ('000) —			
Total employed persons aged 15 years and over(c)	20.6	17.5	956.3	817.4

(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

(b) Industry of employment was coded to the 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).

(c) Includes not stated and inadequately described.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

In comparison, only 6.9% of non-Indigenous males and 5.9% of non-Indigenous females worked in the public administration and safety industry. Non-Indigenous persons were more likely to work in the retail trade and professional, scientific and technical service industries than Indigenous persons for both males and females.

As at the 2006 Census, more than two-thirds (67.8%) of Indigenous males aged 15 years and over were employed as tradespersons, labourers and related workers, comprising labourers (33.4%), technicians and trades workers (19.3%) and machinery operators and drivers (15.0%). In comparison, one-quarter (24.4%) of Indigenous females were employed in these occupations. Indigenous females were more likely to be employed as community and personal service workers (22.1%) and clerical and administrative workers (21.8%).

While the majority (50.2%) of non-Indigenous males were also employed as tradespersons, labourers and related workers in 2006, they were more likely to be employed as managers and professionals (29.9%) than Indigenous males (11.7%). Indigenous females were about twice as likely to work as labourers than non-Indigenous females (18.6% compared with 9.2%) and also more likely to work as community and personal service workers (22.1% compared with 13.7%). Indigenous

females were less likely to work as managers and professionals than their non-Indigenous counterparts (17.4% compared with 29.9%) (Table 12).

Table 12: Proportion of employed persons aged 15 years and over by occupation, Indigenous status(a) and sex, Queensland, 2006

Occupation(b)	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
	— % —			
Managers	4.7	4.7	15.0	9.7
Professionals	7.0	12.7	14.9	20.2
Technicians and trades workers	19.3	4.0	24.6	4.7
Community and personal service workers	7.8	22.1	5.0	13.7
Clerical and administrative workers	4.5	21.8	5.8	25.4
Sales workers	3.4	10.0	7.3	14.1
Machinery operators and drivers	15.0	1.8	12.1	1.5
Labourers	33.4	18.6	13.6	9.2
Total employed persons aged 15 years and over(c)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	— persons ('000) —			
Total employed persons aged 15 years and over(c)	20.6	17.5	956.3	817.4

(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

(b) Occupation of employment was coded to the 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

(c) Includes not stated and inadequately described.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Income

The median individual income for Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over living in Queensland was \$318 per week at the time of the 2006 Census. This income was \$165 a week less than the \$483 a week received by non-Indigenous persons.

More than half (53.2%) of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over received less than \$400 a week in 2006, compared with 41.3% of non-Indigenous Queenslanders (Table 13). At the other end of the income scale, while 7.0% of Indigenous persons earned \$1,000 or more a week, more than two and a half times this proportion of non-Indigenous persons (18.0%) earned this amount.

Table 13: Proportion of persons aged 15 years and over by Indigenous status(a) and weekly individual income, Queensland, 2006

Weekly individual income	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
	— % —	
Negative/Nil	8.4	6.6
\$1-\$149	7.6	7.0
\$150-\$249	21.5	13.8
\$250-\$399	15.6	13.9
\$400-\$599	15.4	15.7
\$600-\$799	8.8	12.1
\$800-\$999	5.0	8.6
\$1,000 or more	7.0	18.0
Total aged 15 years and over(b)	100.0	100.0
	— persons ('000) —	
Total aged 15 years and over(b)	78.0	2,841.1

(a) Excludes Indigenous status not stated.

(b) Includes weekly individual income not stated.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

The median household income for occupied private dwellings that contained at least one Indigenous person was \$899 a week in 2006. The median weekly household income for all households was \$1,033.

Unpaid work

The 2006 Census was the first census to include questions on unpaid work. They were applicable to people aged 15 years and over, and covered the following topics:

- caring for a child/children (including own child/children or other child/children) aged less than 15 years;
- providing assistance to a person with a disability, long-term illness or problems related to old age;
- domestic work; and
- voluntary work through or for an organisation or group.

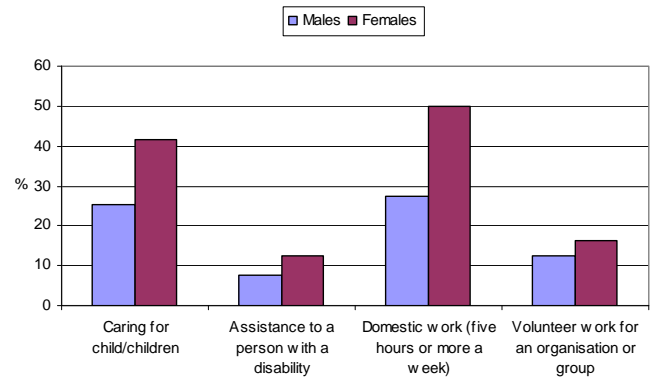
In the two weeks prior to the 2006 Census, 25.2% of Indigenous males and 41.5% of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over provided some kind of child care to their own or other people's children (Figure 9). Indigenous females were more likely to care for other people's children (14.4%) than non-Indigenous females (10.9%).

Also in these two weeks, 7.6% of Indigenous males and 12.5% of Indigenous females provided assistance to a person with a disability. These proportions were similar when compared with non-Indigenous persons.

More than half (58.7%) of Indigenous males aged 15 years and over reported doing less than five hours or no unpaid domestic work in the week prior to the 2006 Census, while this was true of 40.4% of Indigenous females. In contrast, 27.7% of Indigenous females reported doing 15 hours or more of unpaid domestic work in that week, compared with 9.5% of males.

Indigenous females were more likely than Indigenous males to volunteer for an organisation or group. In the 12 months prior to the 2006 Census, 16.3% of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over reported they had done voluntary work over this time, compared with 12.4% of Indigenous males. For the non-Indigenous population, 22.2% of females and 16.6% of males did voluntary work during the same period.

Figure 9: Proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over engaged in unpaid work by sex, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Endnotes

1 For further information, see *Population Distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006*, cat. no. 4705.0. Final estimated resident population data by Indigenous status will be available in the data cube spreadsheet *Experimental Estimates of Indigenous Australians, Electronic Delivery, June 2006*, cat. no. 3238.0.55.001, due for release in August 2008.

2 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2007, 'Census shows increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population', *2006 Census of Population and Housing: Media Releases and Fact Sheets*, cat. no. 2914.0.55.002, ABS, Canberra.

3 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2007, *Births, Australia, 2006*, cat. no. 3301.0, ABS, Canberra.

4 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2007, *Deaths, Australia, 2006*, cat. no. 3302.0, ABS, Canberra.

5 Australian Bureau of Statistics 1994, *Australian Social Trends 1994*, cat. no. 4102.0, ABS, Canberra.

6 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2005, 'National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2002 – Labour force participation', *Queensland in Review, 2003*, cat. no. 1387.3, ABS, Canberra.

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