

2.06 Educational participation and attainment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults

Educational participation (persons undertaking formal education or training) and educational attainment (persons who have completed a particular level of school education or non-school qualification)

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), the National Centre for Vocational Education Research and the Department of Education, Science and Training Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Data presented have not been age standardised as education has not been found to be strongly associated with age in analysis of surveys such as the NATSIHS.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected information from 10,439 Indigenous Australians of all ages. This sample was considerably larger than the supplementary Indigenous samples in the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys. The survey was conducted in remote and non-remote areas of Australia and collected a range of information from Indigenous Australians about health-related issues including health-related actions, health risk factors, health status, socioeconomic circumstances and women's health. It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at six-yearly intervals, with the next NATSIHS to be conducted in 2010–11. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The 2002 NATSISS collected information from 9,400 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia. The sample covered persons aged 15 years or over who were usual residents of private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, as well as law and justice. The 2002 NATSISS is the second national social survey of Indigenous Australians conducted by the ABS. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2002 General Social Survey (GSS). The ABS plans to conduct the NATSISS every 6 years. The next survey is planned for 2008.

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research is Australia's principal provider of vocational education and training (VET) sector research and statistics. VET is a national system designed to skill workers to work in particular occupations and industries. The VET sector includes providers in receipt of public VET funding such as technical and further education organisations, higher education institutions, other government providers (for example, agricultural colleges), community education providers, government-funded private

registered training organisations, schools funded through government allocations for VET, and all other Commonwealth and state recurrent and specific-purpose funded VET, regardless of the location of the training organisation.

DEST Higher Education Statistics Collection

The Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) holds the Higher Education Statistics Collection, which includes information from higher education institutions such as universities and colleges of advanced education. Private institutions are not required to report statistical data to DEST and are therefore outside the scope of the collection (ABS 2003).

While universities design and produce their own enrolment forms, DEST has provided institutions with suggested wording for questions relating to Indigenous status (ABS 2003).

Higher education data could not be provided by remoteness area because DEST does not collect information on where a student comes from. Postcode of home location is often used as a proxy, but it is a poor measure because many students report the campus postcode as their postcode of home location. Using this variable results in participation rates incorrectly biased towards major cities at the expense of regional and remote areas because most campuses are in major cities.

Data analyses

Self-reported survey data

The 2004–05 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey collected information on the educational institution currently attended, the highest level of non-school qualification and the highest level of school completed by Indigenous people aged 15 years and over. These data are presented in the tables below.

Educational institution currently attended

- In 2004–05, approximately 19% of Indigenous people and 15% of non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over were currently studying. Indigenous Australians were twice as likely to be studying at secondary school (8%) or TAFE (7%) as non-Indigenous Australians (4% and 4% respectively), however, non-Indigenous Australians were twice as likely to be studying at university or in higher education as Indigenous Australians (6% compared to 3%) (Table 2.06.1).

Educational institution currently attended by age and sex

- A similar proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years were currently attending secondary school (26%) and TAFE (9% and 11% respectively). Only 4% of Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years were currently attending university or higher education compared to 18% of non-Indigenous Australians of the same age.
- In 2004–05, a higher proportion of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over were currently studying (21%) than Indigenous males (17%). Approximately 15% of non-Indigenous males and 14% of non-Indigenous females of the same age were currently studying (Table 2.06.2).

- Approximately 2% of Indigenous males and 4% of Indigenous females were currently studying at university or other higher education compared to 5% and 6% of non-Indigenous males and females respectively.

Table 2.06.1: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 15 years and over, 2004–05

Educational participation	15–24 years			25–34 years			35–44 years			45 years and over			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Secondary school	26	26	1.0	— ^(a)	—	—	n.p.	— ^(a)	—	— ^(a)	— ^(a)	—	8	4	1.8
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	9	11	0.9	7	5	1.4	7	4	1.5*	2	1	2.0*	7	4	1.7*
University/other higher education	4	18	0.2*	4	7	0.6*	3	7	0.6*	1 ^(b)	1	1.0	3	6	0.5*
Total currently studying^(c)	40	57	0.7*	12	12	1.0	12	13	0.9*	4	3	1.5	19	15	1.3*
Not studying	60	43	1.4*	88	87	1.0	88	91	1.0	96	97	1.0	81	85	1.0*
Total^(d)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number	92,067	2,636,199	..	69,772	2,761,354	..	59,057	2,899,566	..	72,745	7,235,258	..	293,641	15,532,377	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

(b) Estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

(c) Includes other educational institution.

(d) Includes 'not stated' educational institution currently attended.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Table 2.06.2: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 15 years and over, 2004–05

Educational participation	Males			Females		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%	
Secondary school	8	5	1.8*	8	6	1.8*
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	6	4	1.3*	7	3	2.2*
University/other higher education	2	5	0.4	4	6	0.7*
Total currently studying ^(a)	17	15	1.1	21	14	1.4*
Not studying	83	85	1.0*	79	85	0.9*
Not stated	—	—	—	— ^(a)	—	—
Total^(b)	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number	139,595	7,666,352	..	154,046	7,866,025	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

(a) Includes other educational institution and not asked (currently still at school).

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Educational institution currently attended by state/territory and remoteness

- The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over currently studying (33%) while the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion (14%) (Table 2.06.3).
- In all states and territories except the Northern Territory, there was a higher proportion of Indigenous persons currently studying than non-Indigenous persons.
- The proportion of Indigenous people currently studying who were attending secondary school ranged from 8% in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory to 13% in Tasmania. The proportion of Indigenous people currently studying who were attending TAFE colleges ranged from 2% in the Northern Territory to 11% in the Australian Capital Territory.
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas were currently studying at secondary school (9%), TAFE colleges or equivalent (7%) and university or higher education (4%) than in remote areas (6%, 4% and 2% respectively) (Table 2.06.4).

Table 2.06.3: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 15 years and over, 2004–05

	Educational participation		Secondary school	TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	University /other higher education	Total currently studying ^(a)	Not studying	Total ^(a)	Total number
NSW	Indigenous	%	8	7	3	19	81	100	85,426
	Non-Indigenous	%	4	4	5	14	86	100	5,222,355
	Rate ratio		1.7*	1.9*	0.7*	1.4*	0.9*	..	..
Vic	Indigenous	%	9	7	3 ^(b)	19	81	100	18,492
	Non-Indigenous	%	5	3	6	14	84	100	3,944,895
	Rate ratio		1.8*	2.0*	0.4*	1.2*	1.0	..	..
Qld	Indigenous	%	8	7	3	18	82	100	79,351
	Non-Indigenous	%	4	4	6	15	85	100	2,949,876
	Rate ratio		1.7*	1.8*	0.4*	1.2*	1.0	..	..
WA	Indigenous	%	8	9	3	21	79	100	42,043
	Non-Indigenous	%	4	4	5	14	85	100	1,498,665
	Rate ratio		1.9*	2.2*	0.6*	1.5*	0.9	..	..
SA	Indigenous	%	11	7	2 ^(b)	22	78	100	16,677
	Non-Indigenous	%	5	4	5	14	85	100	1,200,435
	Rate ratio		2.4*	1.5*	0.5*	1.5*	0.9*	..	..
Tas	Indigenous	%	13	5	5 ^(c)	24	76	100	11,256
	Non-Indigenous	%	5	4	5	15	85	100	366,280
	Rate ratio		2.6*	1.1	1.1	1.6*	0.9*	..	..
ACT	Indigenous	%	10 ^(b)	11	9 ^(b)	33	67	100	2,596
	Non-Indigenous	%	5	5	11	22	78	100	252,744
	Rate ratio		2	2.2*	0.8	1.5*	0.9*	..	..
NT	Indigenous	%	8	2 ^(b)	3 ^(b)	14	86	100	37,800
	Non-Indigenous	%	8 ^(b)	1 ^(c)	7	17 ^(b)	83	100	97,127
	Rate ratio		1.0	1.4	0.5*	0.8*	1.0	..	..
Aust.	Indigenous	%	8	7	3	19	81	100	293,641
	Non-Indigenous	%	4	4	6	15	85	100	15,532,377
	Rate ratio		1.8*	1.7*	0.6*	1.3*	1.0*	..	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Includes other educational institution, not asked (currently still at school) and not stated.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(c) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Table 2.06.4: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 15 years and over, 2004–05

	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Subtotal non-remote	Remote	Very remote	Subtotal remote	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Indigenous								
Secondary school	8	8	10	9	8	5	6	8
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	8	7	6	7	7 ^(a)	3	4	7
University/other higher education	5	2 ^(a)	3	4	3 ^(a)	1 ^(a)	2	3
Total currently studying^(b)	22	18	21	21	18	11	13	19
Not studying ^(c)	8	82	79	79	82	89	87	81
Total ^(b)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total number	89,350	58,372	65,700	213,422	24,456	55,763	80,219	293,641
Non-Indigenous								
Secondary school	4	5	4	5	3 ^(a)	n.a.	n.a.	4
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	4	4	4	4	3 ^(a)	n.a.	n.a.	4
University/other higher education	7	3	3	6	1 ^(d)	n.a.	n.a.	6
Total currently studying^(b)	16	14	12	15	7^(a)	n.a.	n.a.	15
Not studying ^(c)	84	86	88	85	93	n.a.	n.a.	85
Total ^(b)	100	100	100	100	100	n.a.	n.a.	100
Total number	10,615,977	3,090,996	1,637,784	15,344,756	187,620	n.a.	n.a.	15,532,377
Rate ratio								
Secondary school	1.9*	1.5*	2.4*	2.0*	2.5*	n.a.	n.a.	1.8*
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	2.3*	1.7*	1.5	1.9*	2.4	n.a.	n.a.	1.7*
University/other higher education	0.8	0.6*	1.0	0.7*	5.5*	n.a.	n.a.	0.6*
Total currently studying^(b)	1.4*	1.3*	1.7*	1.4*	2.6*	n.a.	n.a.	1.3*
Not studying ^(c)	0.9*	0.9*	0.9*	0.9*	0.9*	n.a.	n.a.	1.0*

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(b) Includes other educational institution.

(c) Includes not stated whether currently studying.

(d) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Highest level of school completed

- In 2004–05, Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over were almost twice as likely to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below as non-Indigenous adults (35% compared to 19%). Year 10 or 11 was the highest level of schooling completed by 42% of Indigenous adults and 35% of non-Indigenous adults, and Year 12 was the highest level of school completed by 23% of Indigenous adults compared to 47% of non-Indigenous adults.

Highest level of school completed by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 45 years and over were much more likely to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below (62%) compared with Indigenous Australians or younger ages (Table 2.06.5).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18–24, 25–34 and 35–44 years were between four and five times as likely to report Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling as non-Indigenous adults.
- In 2004–05, males and females in both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations reported similar levels of school completed (Table 2.06.6).

Table 2.06.5: Highest level of school completed, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

Highest level of school completed	18–24			25–34			35–44			45 years and over			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Completed Year 12 ^(a)	36	75	0.5*	30	69	0.4*	17	49	0.3*	10	30	0.3	23	47	0.5*
Completed Year 10 or 11	43	20	2.1*	47	27	1.8*	55	43	1.3*	28	38	0.7	42	35	1.2*
Completed Year 9 or below ^(c)	20	5	4.4*	23	4	5.4*	29	8	3.7*	62	32	1.9	35	19	1.9*
Total^{(c)(d)}	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons	55,850	1,803,237	..	69,772	2,761,354	..	59,057	2,899,566	..	72,745	7,235,258	..	257,424	14,699,415	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

- (a) For Year 12, completion only requires attendance for the full year. For years up to and including Year 11, completion means to attend for the full school year such that progression to the following year of school is enabled.
- (b) Includes persons who never attended school.
- (c) May include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.
- (d) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Table 2.06.6: Highest year of school completed, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

Highest level of school completed	Male			Female			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Completed Year 12 ^(a)	22	47	0.5*	23	47	0.5*	23	47	0.5*
Completed Year 10 or 11	42	35	1.2*	44	34	1.3*	43	35	1.2*
Completed Year 9 or below ^(b)	36	18	2.0*	33	19	1.7*	35	19	1.9*
Total^{(c)(d)}	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons	120,095	7,232,422	..	137,330	7,466,993	..	257,424	14,699,415	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) For Year 12 completion only requires attendance for the full year. For years up to and including Year 11, completion means to attend for the full school year such that progression to the following year of school is enabled.

(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

(c) May include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.

(d) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Highest level of school completed by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous adults reporting Year 12 as their highest level of school completed ranged from 12% in Western Australia to 46% in the Australian Capital Territory. The proportion of Indigenous students reporting Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling ranged from 20% in the Australian Capital Territory to 48% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.06.7).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in non-remote areas reported Year 12 as their highest level of school completed than Indigenous Australians in remote areas of Australia (26% compared to 14%) (Table 2.06.8).
- In major cities, inner regional, outer regional and remote areas of Australia, Indigenous Australians were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to report their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below.

Table 2.06.7: Highest level of school completed, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

State/territory			Completed Year 12 ^(a)	Completed Year 10 or below	Completed Year 9 or below ^(b)	Total ^{(c)(d)}	Total no. of persons
NSW	Indigenous	%	24	40	36	100	74,692
	Non-Indigenous	%	48	33	20	100	4,947,090
	Rate ratio		1.2*	1.8*	1.2*	..	..
Vic	Indigenous	%	28	42	30	100	16,444
	Non-Indigenous	%	49	31	20	100	3,737,882
	Rate ratio		1.4*	1.4*	1.4*	..	..
Qld	Indigenous	%	29	42	29	100	70,590
	Non-Indigenous	%	45	38	17	100	2,787,025
	Rate ratio		1.1	1.7*	1.1	..	..
WA	Indigenous	%	12	52	35	100	36,503
	Non-Indigenous	%	46	40	14	100	1,417,909
	Rate ratio		1.3*	2.5*	1.3*	..	..
SA	Indigenous	%	18	44	38	100	14,324
	Non-Indigenous	%	40	42	18	100	1,135,705
	Rate ratio		1.1	2.1*	1.1	..	..
Tas	Indigenous	%	23	52	25	100	9,430
	Non-Indigenous	%	33	43	24	100	345,136
	Rate ratio		1.2	1.1	1.2	..	..
ACT	Indigenous	%	46	34	20	100	2,300
	Non-Indigenous	%	71	20	9	100	238,831
	Rate ratio		1.7*	2.3*	1.7*	..	..
NT	Indigenous	%	15	36	48	100	33,141
	Non-Indigenous	%	41	42	16 ^(e)	100	89,837
	Rate ratio		0.9	3.0*	0.9	..	..
Aust.	Indigenous	%	23	43	35	100	257,424
	Non-Indigenous	%	47	35	19	100	14,699,415
	Rate ratio		0.5*	1.2*	1.9*	..	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

- (a) For Year 12 completion only requires attendance for the full year. For years up to and including Year 11, completion means to attend for the full school year such that progression to the following year of school is enabled.
- (b) Includes persons who never attended school.
- (c) May include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.
- (d) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.
- (e) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Table 2.06.8: Highest level of school completed, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

Highest level of school completed ^(b)	Major cities			Inner regional			Outer regional			Subtotal non-remote			Remote			Very remote ^(a)			Subtotal remote ^(a)
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(c)	Indig.
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%
Completed Year 12 ^(b)	29	52	0.6*	21	36	0.6*	26	34	0.8*	26	47	0.6*	14	34	0.4*	14	..	..	14
Completed Year 10 or 11	42	31	1.3*	45	42	1.1	40	41	1.0	42	35	1.2*	53	47	1.1	39	..	..	43
Completed Year 9 or below ^(d)	28	17	1.7*	34	22	1.6*	34	25	1.3*	32	19	1.7*	33	19	1.7*	46	..	..	42
Total^{(e)(f)}	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	..	..	100

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Non-Indigenous data not available for very remote Australia.

(b) For Year 12 completion, only requires attendance for the full year. For years up to and including Year 11, completion means to attend for the full school year such that progression to the following year of school is enabled.

(c) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

(d) Includes persons who never attended school.

(e) Includes those for whom highest level of school completed was 'not stated'.

(f) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Highest year of school completed by whether woman has had children

- In 2004–05, Indigenous females aged 18 years and over who had not had children were twice as likely to report Year 12 as their highest level of school completed (40%) as Indigenous females who had children (20%). A much higher proportion of Indigenous females who had children reported Year 9 or below as their highest level of school completed (34%) than Indigenous females who had not had children (17%) (Table 2.06.9).

Table 2.06.9: Indigenous females aged 18 years and over, by highest year of school completed and whether the woman has ever had children, 2004–05

Highest level of school completed	Had children	Has not had children	Not stated/form not answered	Total
	%	%	%	%
Completed Year 12	20	40	24	24
Completed Year 10 or 11	47	43	42	45
Completed Year 9 or below ^(a)	34	17	35	30
Total ^{(b)(c)}	100	100	100	100
Total number	88,745	26,007	15,761	130,513

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

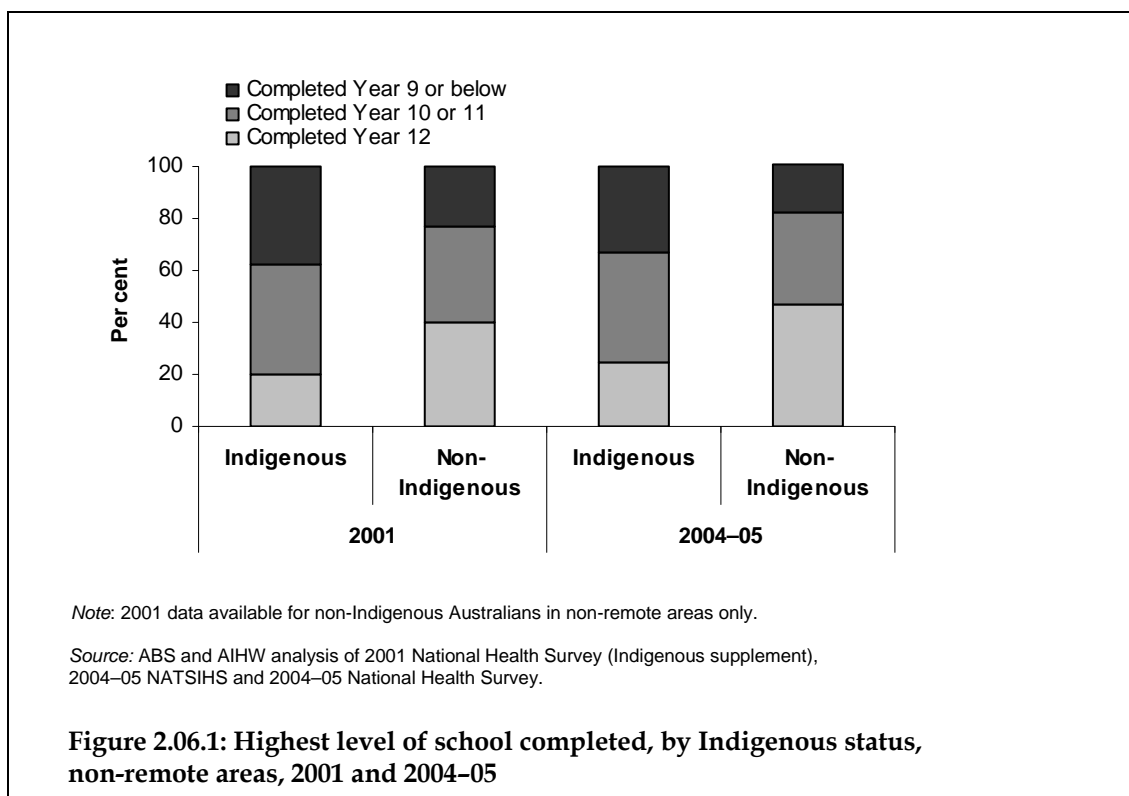
(b) Total may include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.

(c) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school and includes not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Time series analysis

- A slightly higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over reported that the highest year of school completed was Year 12 in 2004–05 (22%) than in 2001 (18%). A higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over in 2004–05 also reported that Year 12 was their highest year of school completed (47%) than in 2001 (40%) (Figure 2.06.1).



Highest year of school completed by summary health and population characteristics

- Indigenous Australians who reported Year 9 or below as their highest year of school completed were more likely to report fair/poor health than Indigenous Australians who reported Year 12 as their highest year of school completed (35% compared to 25%) (Table 2.06.10).
- Around half of all Indigenous Australians who spoke a language other than English as their main language at home reported their highest level of school completed was Year 9 or below, compared to a third of Indigenous Australians who spoke English as their main language (Table 2.06.11).
- Indigenous Australians in the highest quintile of household income and index of disparity and who were employed were much more likely to have completed Year 12 than Indigenous Australians in the lowest quintiles of income and disparity and those who were unemployed or not in the labour force.

Table 2.06.10: Highest year of school completed, by summary health characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 25-64 years, 2004-05

Highest year of school completed	Self-assessed health status						Number of long-term conditions														
	Excellent/very good			Fair/poor			0			1			2			3			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Completed Year 12	75	89	1.2*	25	11	0.5*	12	13	1.0	15	21	1.4*	17	20	1.1	55	46	0.8*	100	100	..
Completed Year 10 or 11	74	84	1.1*	26	16	0.6*	14	14	1.0	16	19	1.2	16	18	1.1	55	50	0.9*	100	100	..
Completed Year 9 or below ^(b)	65	71	1.1*	35	29	0.8*	16	13	0.8	14	17	1.3	17	14	0.8*	54	56	1.0	100	100	..
Total^{(c)(d)}	70	84	1.2*	30	16	0.5*	14	13	0.9	15	19	1.3*	17	18	1.1	54	48	0.9*	100	100	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Ratio: Indigenous proportion divided by non-Indigenous proportion.

(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

(c) Includes not stated.

(d) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.

Note: Data are age standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004-05 NATSIHS and 2004-05 National Health Survey.

Table 2.06.11: Highest year of school completed, by selected population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 25-64 years, 2004-05

	Completed Year 12		Completed Yr 10 or 11		Completed Yr 9 or below ^(a)		Total ^{(b)(c)}	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Main language spoken at home								
English	24*	46*	44*	37*	32*	17*	100	100
Language other than English ^(d)	15*	58*	35*	12*	50*	30*	100	100
Location								
Remote ^(e)	14*	34*	43	47	42*	19*	100	100
Non-remote	26*	47*	42*	35*	32*	19*	100	100
Household income								
1st quintile	11*	25*	41*	32*	48	42	100	100
5th quintile	46*	68*	38*	26*	16* ^(f)	5*	100	100
Index of disparity								
1st quintile	16*	36*	44*	36*	40*	28*	100	100
5th quintile	60 ^(f)	65	29 ^(f)	26	11 ^(f)	9	100	100
Employment								
Employed CDEP	19	..	46	..	35	..	100	..
Employed non-CDEP	35*	56*	47*	35*	18*	9*	100	100
<i>Sub-total employed</i>	32*	56*	46*	35*	22*	9*	100	100
Unemployed	16*	54*	54*	33*	30*	13*	100	100
Not in the labour force	12*	28*	35	33	53*	39*	100	100
Housing Tenure type								
Owner	33*	43*	45*	37*	22	20	100	100
Renter ^(g)	19*	50*	42*	33*	39*	17*	100	100
Other ^(h)	31* ⁽ⁱ⁾	62*	36	26	32*	12*	100	100
Treatment when seeking health care in last 12 months								
Worse	19	..	41	..	40	..	100	..
The same or better	23	..	42	..	35	..	100	..
Other	23	..	45	..	32	..	100	..
Total^(h)	23*	47*	43*	35*	35*	19*	100	100
Total number ('000)	10.4	2,298.5	10.6	1,062.4	48.3	2,770.9	71.4	6,252.8

*Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

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

(c) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.

(d) Includes not stated, insufficient information to classify and non-verbal languages.

(e) Remote regions for non-Indigenous data is for remote areas only and does not include very remote areas.

(f) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(g) Renter comprises of renter (excluding boarders) and boarder.

(h) Other comprises of life tenure scheme, participant in rent/buy scheme, rent free and other.

(i) Includes not known, not stated and not applicable.

Source: ABS and AIHW analyses of 2004-05 NATSIHS and 2004-05 National Health Survey.

Non-school qualifications

- In 2004–05, approximately 38% of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years reported they had a non-school qualification compared to 60% of non-Indigenous Australians of the same age (Table 2.06.12).
- A similar proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 25–64 years had completed a certificate course in 2004–05 (25% and 26% respectively). A much higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians had a bachelor degree or diploma as their highest level of non-school qualification (22% and 10% respectively) compared to Indigenous Australians (6% and 6% respectively).

Non-school qualifications by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 35–44 years and non-Indigenous Australians aged 25–34 years were most likely to have a non-school qualification (41% and 67% respectively) than Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in other age groups (Table 2.06.12).
- In 2004–05, a similar proportion of Indigenous males and females aged 25–64 years had a non-school qualification (38% and 37% respectively). Indigenous males were more likely to have completed a certificate course (29%) and less likely to have completed a diploma (3%) or bachelor degree or above (5%) as Indigenous females (22%, 8% and 6% respectively) (Table 2.06.13).

Table 2.06.12: Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

Highest level of non-school qualification ^(a)	25–34 years			35–44 years			45–64 years			Total		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Non-school qualification												
Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	4	28	0.1*	5	22	0.2*	8	18	0.5*	6	22	0.3*
Advanced diploma/diploma	4	10	0.4*	7	10	0.7*	6	10	0.6*	6	10	0.6*
Certificate	30	27	1.1	27	28	1.0	19	25	0.7*	25	26	1.0
Total with non-school qualification^(c)	38	67	0.6*	41	61	0.7*	34	55	0.6*	38	60	0.6*
Does not have a non-school qualification	61	33	1.8*	59	39	1.5*	66	45	1.5*	62	40	1.5*
Total^(d)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons	69,772	2,761,354	..	59,057	2,899,566	..	60,508	4,805,004	..	189,337	10,465,924	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.

(b) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, graduate certificate.

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification inadequately described.

(d) Includes those who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification or not.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Table 2.06.13: Whether has a non-school qualification, by sex and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

Non-school qualification ^(a)	Male			Female			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	5	21	0.2*	6	23	0.3*	6	22	0.3*
Advanced diploma/diploma	3	9	0.3*	8	12	0.7*	6	10	0.6*
Certificate	29	32	0.9	22	21	1.1	25	26	1.0
Total with non-school qualification^(c)	38	63	0.6*	37	57	0.7*	38	60	0.6*
Does not have a non-school qualification	62	37	1.7*	63	43	1.4*	62	40	1.5*
Total^(d)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons	88,344	5,201,663	..	100,992	5,264,261	..	189,337	10,465,924	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.

(b) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, graduate certificate.

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification inadequately described.

(d) Includes those who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification or not.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Non-school qualifications by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years with a non-school qualification ranged from 26% in the Northern Territory to 57% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.06.14). Approximately 27% of Indigenous Australians in the Australian Capital Territory had completed a bachelor degree or above, while in the other states and territories this proportion ranged between 2% and 10%.
- In 2004–05, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years in non-remote areas reported having a non-school qualification (42%) than Indigenous Australians in remote areas (27%) (Table 2.06.15). In major cities, a similar proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians had an advanced diploma/diploma and a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians had a certificate qualification than non-Indigenous Australians. In other remoteness categories, non-Indigenous Australians were more likely to have these qualifications.

Table 2.06.14: Whether has a non-school qualification, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

Highest non-school qualification ^(a)		Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	Advanced diploma/diploma	Certificate	Total with non-school qualification ^(c)	Does not have a non-school qualification	Total ^(d)	Total number of persons	
NSW	Indigenous	%	6 ^(e)	7	25	38	62	100	55,638
	Non-Indigenous	%	23	12	27	63	37	100	3,503,114
	Rate ratio		0.2*	0.6*	0.9	0.6	1.7	..	..
Vic	Indigenous	%	10 ^(e)	6 ^(e)	30	46	54	100	11,901
	Non-Indigenous	%	24	10	23	58	42	100	2,653,502
	Rate ratio		0.4*	0.6*	1.3*	0.8	1.3	..	..
Qld	Indigenous	%	6	7	31	45	55	100	50,796
	Non-Indigenous	%	18	9	30	58	42	100	1,999,866
	Rate ratio		0.3*	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.3	..	..
WA	Indigenous	%	2 ^(e)	3 ^(e)	24	29	71	100	26,990
	Non-Indigenous	%	20	10	27	58	42	100	1,022,664
	Rate ratio		0.1*	0.2*	0.9	0.5	1.7	..	..
SA	Indigenous	%	6 ^(e)	4 ^(e)	26	37	63	100	10,689
	Non-Indigenous	%	20	8	29	58	42	100	790,578
	Rate ratio		0.3*	0.5*	0.9	0.6	1.5	..	..
Tas	Indigenous	%	6	5	26	39	61	100	6,972
	Non-Indigenous	%	17	7	28	54	46	100	243,364
	Rate ratio		0.4*	0.7	0.9	0.7	1.3	..	..
ACT	Indigenous	%	27	6 ^(e)	24	57	43	100	1,762
	Non-Indigenous	%	39	11	20	71	29	100	1,77,134
	Rate ratio		0.7*	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.5	..	..
NT	Indigenous	%	4	4	16	26	73	100	24,589
	Non-Indigenous	%	19	7 ^(e)	20 ^(e)	50	50	100	75,702
	Rate ratio		0.2*	0.6	0.8	0.5	1.4	..	..
Total	Indigenous	%	6	6	25	38	62	100	189,337
	Non-Indigenous	%	22	10	26	60	40	100	1,0465,924
	Rate ratio		0.3*	0.6*	1.0	0.6	1.6	..	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.

(b) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, graduate certificate.

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification inadequately described.

(d) Includes those who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification or not.

(e) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Table 2.06.15: Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status, and remoteness area, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

Highest level of non-school qualification ^(c)	Major cities			Inner regional			Outer regional			Subtotal non-remote			Remote			Very remote ^(a)			Sub total remote ^(a)
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate Ratio ^(c)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(c)	Indig.
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%
Non-school qualification																			
Bachelor degree or above ^(d)	8	26	0.3*	7 ^(b)	14	0.5*	5 ^(b)	13	0.4*	7	22	0.3*	4 ^(b)	10 ^(b)	0.3*	2 ^(b)	..	..	2
Advanced diploma/diploma	9	11	0.9	5 ^(b)	9	0.6*	5	8	0.6*	7	10	0.7*	3 ^(b)	6 ^(b)	0.5*	3	..	..	3
Certificate	32	24	1.3*	23	31	0.7*	26	31	0.8*	28	26	1.0	26	29	0.9*	18	..	..	20
Total with non-school qualification^(e)	49	62	0.8*	37	55	0.7*	37	53	0.7*	42	60	0.7*	32	46	0.7*	25	..	..	27
Does not have a non-school qualification	51	38	1.3*	63	45	1.4*	63	47	1.4*	58	40	1.4*	68	54	1.3*	75	..	..	73
Total^(f)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	..	..	100

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

- (a) Non-Indigenous estimates for very remote areas are not available from the National Health Survey and thus have not been presented here. They have also not been presented for the sub-total for remote areas and a rate ratio is unable to be calculated.
- (b) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (c) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.
- (d) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, graduate certificate.
- (e) Includes persons with a non-school qualification inadequately described.
- (f) Includes those who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification or not.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Non-school qualifications by whether woman has had children

- In 2004–05, Indigenous females aged 25–64 years who had not had children were much more likely to have a non-school qualification than Indigenous females who had children (51% compared to 35%). Indigenous females who had not had children were around twice as likely to have completed a diploma or bachelor degree or above as Indigenous females who had children (Table 2.06.16).

Table 2.06.16: Indigenous females aged 25–64 years, by non-school qualification and whether the woman has ever had children, 2004–05

Highest level of non-school qualification	Had children	Has not had children	Not stated/form not answered	Total
	%	%	%	%
Bachelor degree or above ^(a)	6	11	3 ^(b)	6
Advanced diploma/ diploma	7	15 ^(c)	5 ^(c)	8
Certificate	21	25	29	22
<i>Total with non-school qualification^(d)</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>37</i>
Does not have a non-school qualification	65	49	63	63
Total^(e)	100	100	100	100
Total number	76,667	12,807	11,519	100,992

(a) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, and graduate certificate.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

(c) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

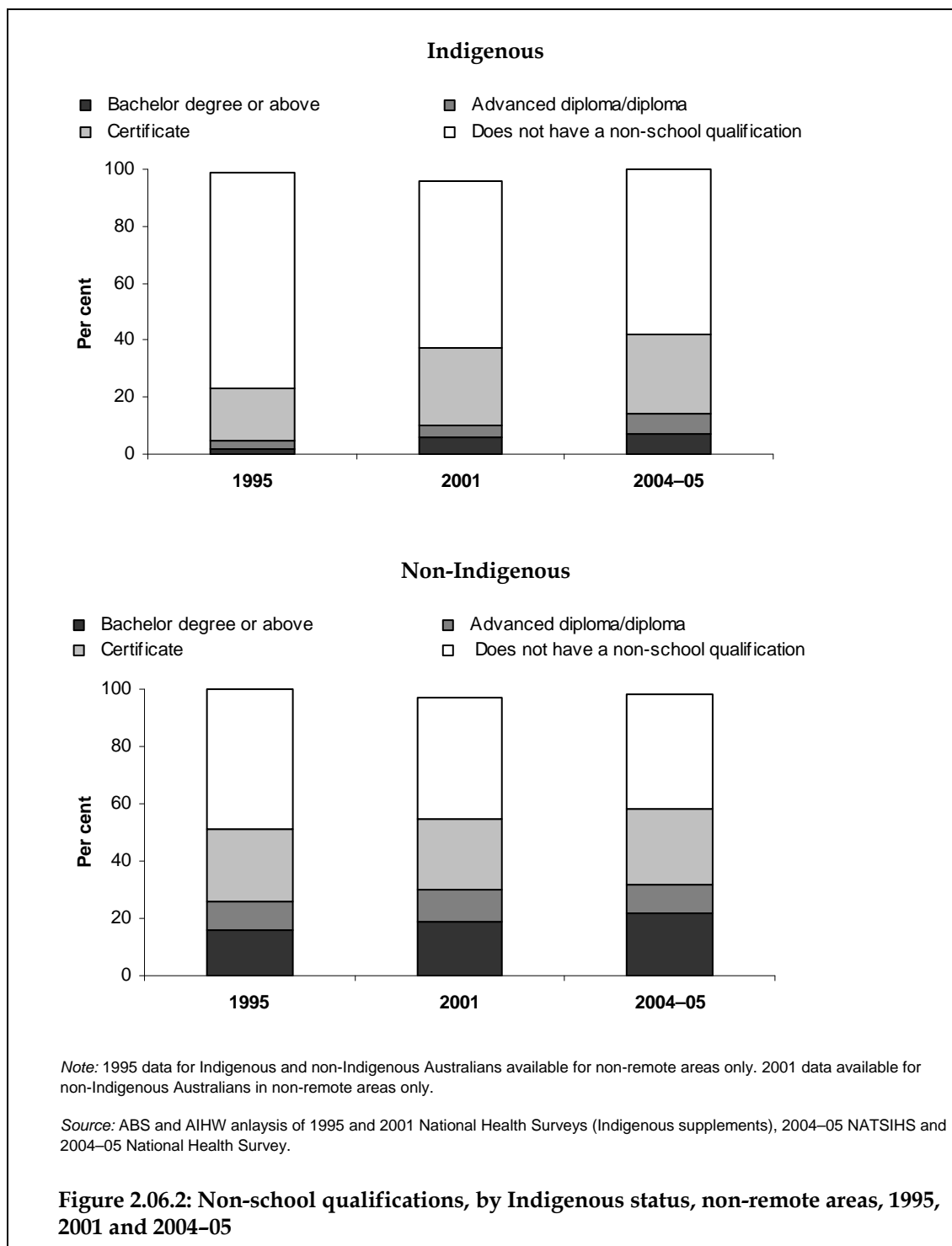
(d) Total may include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.

(e) Includes women who did not answer the form.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS

Time series analysis

- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years in 2004–05 reported that they had a non-school qualification (42%) than in 2001 (37%) or 1995 (23%) (Figure 2.06.2). Approximately 7% of Indigenous Australians had a bachelor degree or higher in 2004–05, compared to 2% in 1995. A higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians also had a non-school qualification in 2004–05 (58%) than in 2001 (55%) or 1995 (51%).



Non-school qualifications by summary health and population characteristics

Tables 2.06.17 and 2.06.18 present the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with non-school qualifications by selected health and population characteristics.

- In 2004-05, Indigenous Australians aged 25-64 years without a non-school qualification were more likely to report fair/poor health status than Indigenous Australians with a non-school qualification (32% compared to 26%) (Table 2.06.17).

- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians in the highest quintile of household income reported having a non-school qualification (63%) than Indigenous Australians in the lowest quintile of household income (26%) (Table 2.06.18).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians who were employed reported having a non-school qualification than those who were unemployed or not in the labour force.
- Homeowners were also more likely to report having a non-school qualification than renters.

Table 2.06.17: Highest non-school qualification held, by summary health characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

Non-school qualification	Self-assessed health status						Number of long-term conditions														
	Excellent/very good			Fair/poor			0			1			2			3			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(d)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(d)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(d)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(d)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(d)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(d)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(d)
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Bachelor degree or above ^(a)	73	92	0.8*	27 ^(e)	8	3.3*	7 ^(e)	12	0.6*	18 ^(e)	21	0.8	20	23	0.9	56	44	1.3	100	100	1.0
Advanced diploma/diploma	82	91	0.9	18	9	1.9*	11 ^(e)	12	0.9	13	23	0.5*	19	21	0.9	58	44	1.3	100	100	1.0
Certificate	74	86	0.9*	26	14	1.9*	10	13	0.8	16	22	0.7*	21	19	1.1	53	47	1.1	100	100	1.0
Total with non-school qualification^(b)	74	89	0.8*	26	11	2.3*	10	12	0.8	15	22	0.7*	19	21	0.9	55	45	1.2	100	100	1.0
Total with no non-school qualification	68	82	0.8*	32	18	1.8*	15	15	1.0	16	20	0.8*	17	18	0.9	52	47	1.1	100	100	1.0
Total^(c)	70	86	0.8*	30	14	2.1*	13	13	1.0	16	21	0.8*	18	20	0.9	53	46	1.2	100	100	1.0

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

- (a) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma and graduate certificate.
- (b) Includes other educational institution and persons for whom specific information could not be determined.
- (c) Includes not stated.
- (d) Ratio: Indigenous proportion divided by non-Indigenous proportion.
- (e) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Note: Data are age standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Table 2.06.18: Highest non-school qualification held, by selected population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

	Degree or higher ^(a)		Diploma		Certificate		Has non-school qualification ^(b)		No non-school qualification		Total	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Main language spoken at home												
English	6*	21*	6*	10*	27	28	40*	60*	60*	40*	100	100
Other ^(c)	3 ^(d)	29*	3*	13*	17	14	25*	56*	75*	44*	100	100
Location												
Remote ^(e)	2	..	3	..	20	..	27	..	73	..	100	..
Non-remote	7*	22*	7*	10*	28	26	42*	60*	58*	40*	100	100
Household income												
1st quintile	1 ^(d)	10*	3 ^(d)	7*	20*	26*	26*	43*	74*	57*	100	100
5th quintile	20*	40*	13 ^(d)	11	27 ^(h)	23	63	75	37*	25*	100	100
Index of disparity												
1st quintile	3*	12*	4*	7*	22	26	30*	46*	70*	54*	100	100
5th quintile	13 ^(f)	37*	10 ^(f)	13	41 ^(d)	21	68 ^(d)	73	32 ^(d)	27	100	100
Employment												
Employed CDEP	1 ^(d)	..	4 ^(d)	..	19	..	25	..	75	..	100	..
Employed non-CDEP	10*	25*	9	11	34*	28*	55*	65*	45*	35*	100	100
<i>Subtotal employed</i>	8*	25*	8*	11*	31	28	49*	65*	51*	35*	100	100
Unemployed	3 ^(d)	20*	6 ^(d)	8	29	26	38*	56*	62*	44*	100	100
Not in the labour force	2*	12*	2 ^(d)	7*	17	22	22*	43*	78*	57*	100	100
Housing tenure type												
Owner	10*	22*	8	10	30	27	50*	61*	50*	39*	100	100
Renter ^(g)	4*	21*	5*	9*	24	25	34*	57*	66*	43*	100	100
Other ^(h)	8 ^(f)	25*	2 ^(d)	12*	20 ^(d)	21	31*	58*	66*	42*	100	100
Treatment when seeking health care in last 12 months												
Worse	8 ^(d)	..	5 ^(d)	..	29	..	43	..	57	..	100	..
The same or better	5	..	6	..	26	..	38	..	62	..	100	..
Other	6 ^(d)	..	5 ^(d)	..	23	..	35	..	65	..	100	..
Total⁽ⁱ⁾	6*	22*	6*	10*	25	26	38*	60*	62*	40*	100	100
Total no. ('000)	10.4	2,298.5	10.6	1,062.4	48.3	2,770.9	71.4	6,252.8	117.8	4,213.1	189.3	10,465.9

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

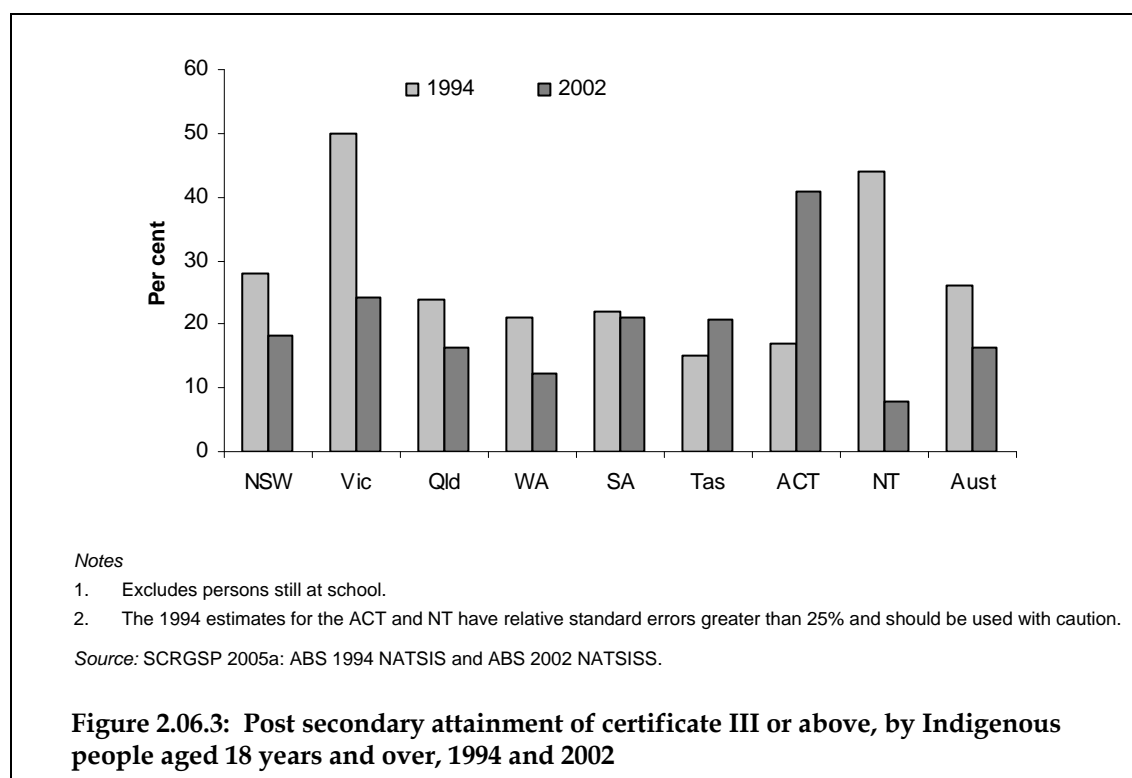
- (a) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma and graduate certificate.
- (b) Total may include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.
- (c) Includes not stated, insufficient information to classify and non-verbal languages.
- (d) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (e) Remote regions for non-indigenous data is for remote areas only and does not include very remote areas.
- (f) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.
- (g) Renter comprises of renter (excluding boarders) and boarder.
- (h) Other comprises of life tenure scheme, participant in rent/buy scheme, rent free and other.
- (i) Includes not known, not stated and not applicable.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Post-secondary attainment

The 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS) and 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) collected information on the post-secondary attainment of Indigenous people. Figure 2.06.3 presents the proportion of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over who completed a post-secondary qualification of certificate III or above by state and territory for 1994 and 2002.

- Between 1994 and 2002, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over with a qualification of certificate III or higher increased from 8.3% in 1994 to 16.3% in 2002.
- The proportion of Indigenous people with a certificate III qualification or higher increased between 1994 and 2002 in all states and territories.



Vocational education and training data

Educational attainment

Data on educational attainment in the vocational education and training sector are available from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research's National VET Provider Collection. Data collected in 2004 are presented below.

- During the year 2004, there were approximately 12,413 course completions in the VET sector by Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over. This constitutes 4.1% of the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over. In comparison, approximately 2.7% of the non-Indigenous population aged 15 years and over completed a course in the VET sector in 2004.
- A similar proportion of Indigenous and other Australians aged 15 years and over had completed a certificate III course (0.6%) or certificate IV, diploma or higher (0.5%) in 2004. A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over had completed a certificate I/II (1.4%) or other certificate course (1.7%) than other Australians (0.7% and 0.9% respectively).

Educational attainment by age and sex

- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians had completed a VET course than other Australians in all age groups except the 15–24 years age group where 6.4% of Indigenous Australians had a VET qualification compared to 7.1% of other Australians (Table 2.06.19).
- Overall, a higher proportion of Indigenous males had completed a course in the VET sector in 2004 than Indigenous females (4.3% compared to 4.0%). However, Indigenous females were more likely to have completed a certificate III course or higher than Indigenous males.

Table 2.06.19: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004

Qualification		15–24 years		25–34 years		35–44 years		45–54 years		55 years and over		Total aged 15 and over	
		Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)
Males													
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	97	13,025	148	7,815	164	6,588	86	4,537	36	1,568	532	33,923
	%	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4
Certificate III	No.	396	20,746	194	8,940	98	6,059	74	4,042	17	1,604	779	41,630
	%	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	1,311	35,053	367	5,747	206	4,173	104	2,892	29	1,466	2,101	49,787
	%	2.7	2.6	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.4	0.6
Other certificates ^(b)	No.	1,327	23,591	672	16,574	454	16,598	237	13,457	70	8,672	2,837	80,599
	%	2.8	1.7	1.9	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.9	1.0
Total completions	No.	3,131	92,415	1,381	39,076	922	33,418	501	24,928	152	13,310	6,249	205,939
	%	6.5	6.8	3.9	2.8	3.2	2.3	2.6	1.8	1.0	0.6	4.3	2.6
Females													
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	137	16,537	242	10,090	255	9,027	163	6,333	57	1,458	855	43,836
	%	0.3	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5
Certificate III	No.	537	22,780	261	9,657	208	10,095	104	6,850	21	1,715	1,134	51,360
	%	1.2	1.8	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.6
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	1,324	37,718	256	6,181	204	6,733	129	4,467	50	1,599	2,012	57,055
	%	2.8	2.9	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.3	0.7
Other certificates ^(b)	No.	885	19,453	459	12,239	427	15,143	254	12,447	88	6,408	2,155	66,606
	%	1.9	1.5	1.2	0.4	1.3	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.3	1.4	0.8
Total completions	No.	2,883	96,488	1,218	38,167	1,094	40,998	650	30,097	216	11,180	6,156	218,857
	%	6.2	7.4	3.2	1.4	3.4	2.8	3.2	2.2	1.2	0.5	4.0	2.7

(continued)

Table 2.06.19 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004

Qualification		15-24 years		25-34 years		35-44 years		45-54 years		55 years and over		Total aged 15 and over	
		Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)	Indig.	Other ^(a)
Persons													
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	234	29,565	390	17,917	419	15,628	249	10,872	93	3,028	1,387	77,881
	%	0.2	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.5
Certificate III	No.	934	43,575	455	18,619	306	16,177	178	10,915	38	3,329	1,914	93,156
	%	1.0	1.6	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.6
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	2,638	72,808	624	11,933	410	10,913	233	7,359	79	3,066	4,117	106,895
	%	2.8	2.7	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.4	0.7
Other certificates ^(b)	No.	2,215	43,063	1,131	28,833	881	31,755	491	25,926	158	15,086	4,995	147,477
	%	2.3	1.6	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.3	1.7	0.9
Total completions	No.	6,021	189,011	2,600	77,302	2,016	74,473	1,151	55,072	368	24,509	12,413	425,409
	%	6.4	7.1	3.6	2.8	3.3	2.5	2.9	2.0	1.1	0.5	4.1	2.7

(a) Includes non-Indigenous Australians and persons for whom Indigenous status was 'not stated'.

(b) Includes statements of attainment.

Note: Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident population for December 2004.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2004, unpublished data.

Educational attainment by state/territory and remoteness

- In 2004, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who completed a VET course ranged from 1.6% in the Northern Territory to 7.5% in New South Wales (Table 2.06.20). The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians who completed a certificate IV, diploma or higher in 2004 (2%).
- The proportion of Indigenous and other students who completed a VET course in 2004 was similar in Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, while in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory, the proportion of students who completed a course in the VET sector was higher among Indigenous Australians.
- The proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who completed a course in the VET sector in 2004 was highest in outer regional areas (6.5%) and lowest in very remote areas of Australia (2.7%). Higher proportions of Indigenous Australians living in major cities, inner and outer regional areas had completed a certificate III, certificate IV, diploma or higher, than Indigenous Australians in remote and very remote areas (Table 2.06.21).

Table 2.06.20: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, persons aged 15 years and over, 2004

	Indigenous										Other ^(a)										
	Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates ^(b)		Total completions		Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates ^(b)		Total completions		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Males																					
NSW	245	0.6	321	0.8	647	1.5	2,069	4.8	3,282	7.7	13,706	0.5	19,104	0.7	21,072	0.8	54,673	2.1	108,555	4.1	
Vic	42	0.5	38	0.4	72	0.8	16	0.2	168	1.8	8,978	0.5	10,220	0.5	8,900	0.5	4,067	0.2	32,165	1.7	
Qld	107	0.3	205	0.5	546	1.4	671	1.7	1,529	3.9	3,753	0.3	4,569	0.3	9,086	0.6	20,928	1.4	38,336	2.6	
WA	47	0.2	107	0.5	433	2.0	0	0.0	587	2.7	4,185	0.7	3,700	0.6	5,087	0.9	0	0.0	12,972	2.2	
SA	23	0.3	39	0.5	109	1.3	1	0.0	172	2.1	1,067	0.1	1,637	0.2	2,043	0.3	150	0.0	4,897	0.6	
Tas	9	0.2	35	0.6	80	1.4	8	0.1	132	2.4	834	0.5	1,587	0.9	1,506	0.8	140	0.1	4,067	2.2	
ACT	16	1.2	9	0.7	33	2.5	2	0.2	60	4.6	1,059	1.4	568	0.7	1,612	2.1	633	0.8	3,872	5.0	
NT	43	0.2	25	0.1	181	0.9	70	0.4	319	1.7	341	0.3	245	0.2	481	0.4	8	0.0	1,075	1.0	
Australia	532	0.4	779	0.5	2,101	1.4	2,837	1.9	6,249	4.3	33,923	0.4	41,630	0.5	49,787	0.6	80,599	1.0	205,939	2.6	
Females																					
NSW	359	0.8	449	1.0	686	1.5	1,729	3.9	3,223	7.2	16,989	0.6	21,063	0.8	27,949	1.0	53,069	2.0	119,070	4.4	
Vic	93	1.0	70	0.7	71	0.7	12	0.1	246	2.6	12,147	0.6	13,031	0.6	8,784	0.4	3,228	0.2	37,190	1.8	
Qld	180	0.4	302	0.7	500	1.2	326	0.8	1,308	3.1	5,496	0.4	6,580	0.4	9,679	0.6	9,544	0.6	31,299	2.1	
WA	85	0.4	152	0.7	317	1.4	0	0.0	554	2.5	4,922	0.8	5,977	1.0	4,960	0.8	0	0.0	15,859	0.8	
SA	44	0.5	43	0.5	150	1.7	18	0.2	255	2.9	1,356	0.2	1,650	0.2	1,642	0.2	3	0.0	4,651	0.6	
Tas	17	0.3	59	1.0	83	1.5	1	0.0	160	2.8	1,153	0.6	1,963	1.0	1,678	0.9	62	0.0	4,856	2.5	
ACT	36	2.7	11	0.8	39	2.9	3	0.2	89	6.7	1,298	1.9	745	1.1	1,847	2.7	662	1.0	4,552	6.6	
NT	41	0.2	48	0.2	166	0.8	66	0.3	321	1.6	475	0.4	351	0.3	516	0.5	38	0.0	1,380	1.2	
Australia	855	0.6	1,134	0.7	2,012	1.3	2,155	1.4	6,156	4.0	43,836	0.5	51,360	0.6	57,055	0.7	66,606	0.8	218,857	2.7	

(continued)

Table 2.06.20 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, persons aged 15 years and over, 2004

	Indigenous										Other ^(a)									
	Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates ^(b)		Total completions		Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates ^(b)		Total completions	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Persons																				
NSW	604	0.7	770	0.9	1,333	1.5	3,798	4.4	6,505	7.5	30,700	0.6	40,175	0.8	49,022	0.9	107,742	2.0	227,639	4.3
Vic	135	0.7	108	0.6	143	0.8	28	0.1	414	2.2	21,146	0.5	23,349	0.6	17,703	0.4	7,501	0.2	69,699	1.7
Qld	287	0.4	507	0.6	1,046	1.3	1,000	1.2	2,840	3.5	9,303	0.3	11,150	0.4	18,767	0.6	30,536	1.0	69,756	2.3
WA	132	0.3	259	0.6	751	1.7	0	0.0	1,142	2.6	9,110	0.8	9,679	0.8	10,049	0.8	0	0.0	28,838	2.4
SA	67	0.4	82	0.5	259	1.5	19	0.1	427	2.5	2,423	0.2	3,287	0.2	3,685	0.2	153	0.0	9,548	0.6
Tas	26	0.2	95	0.8	165	1.5	9	0.1	295	2.6	2,019	0.5	3,597	1.0	3,209	0.9	202	0.1	9,027	2.4
ACT	52	2.0	20	0.8	73	2.8	5	0.2	150	5.7	2,364	1.6	1,323	0.9	3,462	2.4	1,297	0.9	8,446	5.8
NT	84	0.2	73	0.2	347	0.9	136	0.4	640	1.6	816	0.4	596	0.3	998	0.4	46	0.0	2,456	1.1
Australia	1,387	0.5	1,914	0.6	4,117	1.4	4,995	1.7	12,413	4.1	77,881	0.5	93,156	0.6	106,895	0.7	147,477	0.9	425,409	2.7

(a) Includes persons for whom Indigenous status was 'not stated'.

(b) Includes statements of attainment.

Note: Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident population for December 2004.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2004, unpublished data.

Table 2.06.21: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and remoteness area, persons aged 15 years and over, 2004

Qualification		Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		Remote		Very remote	
		Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other
Males											
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	188	20,748	87	6,017	166	3,140	34	439	52	266
	%	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6
Certificate III	No.	230	24,095	174	9,537	206	5,359	73	770	82	314
	%	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.7
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	524	27,293	334	11,811	669	7,667	173	1,141	348	538
	%	1.3	0.5	1.3	0.8	2.2	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.2
Other certificates ^(a)	No.	511	36,061	555	19,601	1,159	20,419	352	2,323	216	686
	%	1.3	0.7	2.1	1.3	3.8	2.7	2.6	2.0	0.9	1.5
Total completions	No.	1,453	108,197	1,150	46,966	2,200	36,585	632	4,673	698	1,804
	%	3.6	2.2	4.4	3.1	7.2	4.8	4.7	4.0	2.8	4.0
Females											
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	299	27,058	158	8,419	237	4,163	55	604	90	289
	%	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.9
Certificate III	No.	382	29,542	227	12,028	315	6,856	84	839	113	385
	%	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.4	1.1
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	557	31,926	335	13,597	623	8,337	183	1,453	294	579
	%	1.3	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.9	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.7
Other certificates ^(a)	No.	479	33,755	448	15,802	789	13,744	252	1,761	160	474
	%	1.1	0.6	1.6	1.0	2.4	1.9	1.9	1.7	0.6	1.4
Total completions	No.	1,717	122,281	1,168	49,846	1,964	33,100	574	4,657	657	1,727
	%	3.9	2.3	4.2	3.2	5.9	4.5	4.2	4.6	2.6	5.1

(continued)

Table 2.06.21 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and remoteness, persons aged 15 years and over, 2004

Qualification		Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		Remote		Very remote	
		Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other
Persons											
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	487	47,824	245	14,463	403	7,321	89	1,043	142	555
	%	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7
Certificate III	No.	612	53,715	401	21,621	522	12,237	157	1,610	195	699
	%	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.9
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	1,082	59,235	669	25,423	1,294	16,024	356	2,596	643	1,117
	%	1.3	0.6	1.2	0.8	2.0	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
Other certificates ^(a)	No.	990	69,958	1,006	35,484	1,948	34,187	604	4,087	376	1,160
	%	1.2	0.7	1.9	1.1	3.1	2.3	2.2	1.9	0.7	1.5
Total completions	No.	3,171	230,732	2,321	96,991	4,167	69,769	1,206	9,336	1,356	3,531
	%	3.7	2.2	4.3	3.1	6.5	4.7	4.5	4.3	2.7	4.5

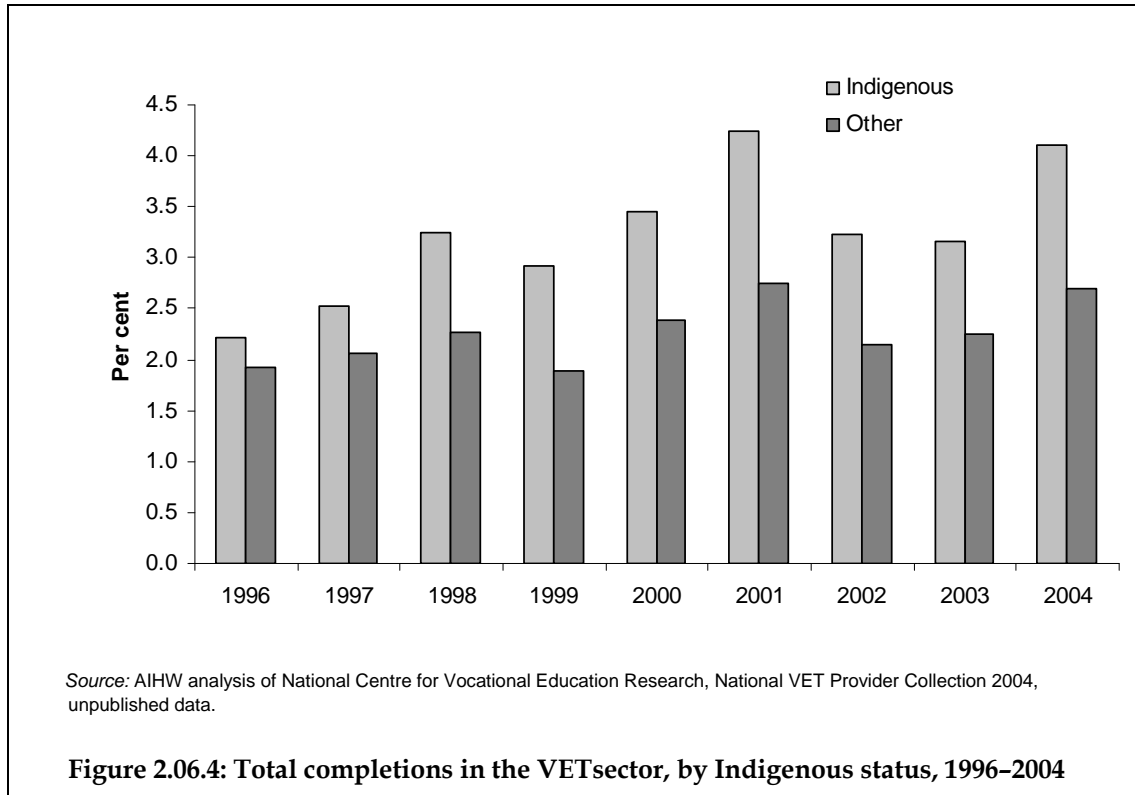
(a) Includes statements of attainment.

Note: Percentages are calculated using the 2001 Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations. This is because population estimates for Indigenous Australians are not available for 2004. Percentages presented here should therefore be used with caution.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2004, unpublished data.

Time series analysis

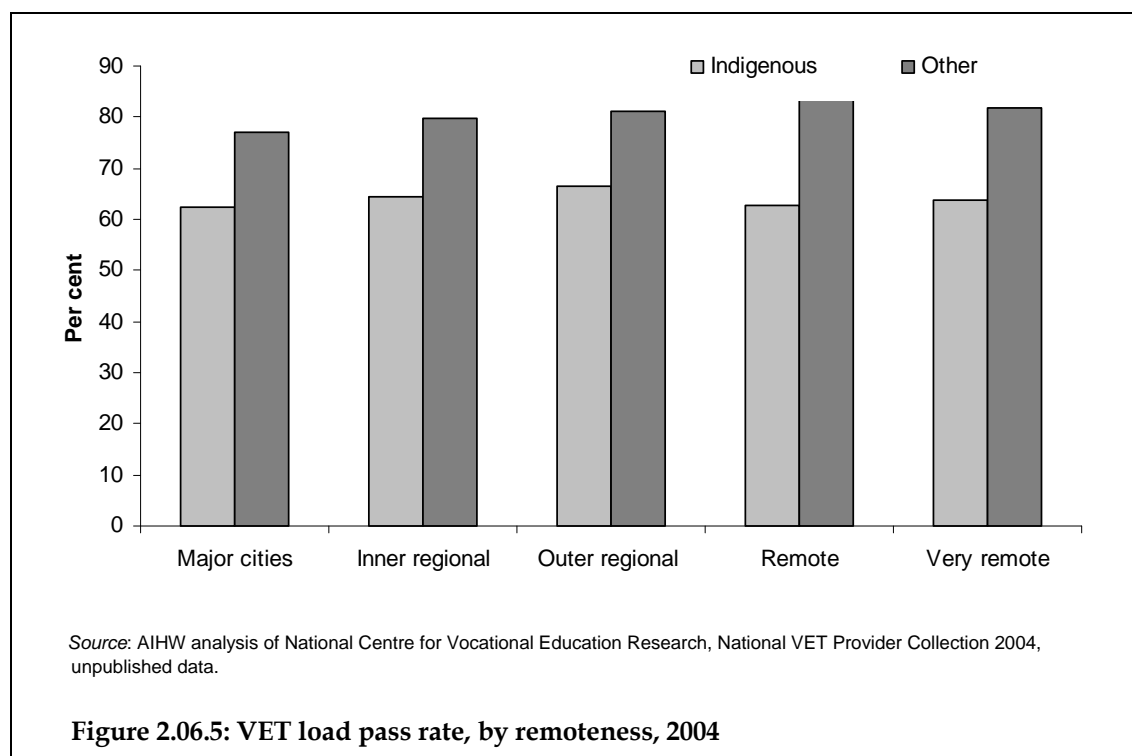
- Between 1996 and 2004, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of Indigenous students and other students who had completed a course in the VET sector, however, the magnitude of the increase among Indigenous students was considerably higher (Figure 2.06.4). The fitted trend implies an average yearly increase in the proportion of 0.2% for Indigenous students and 0.1% for other students.



VET load pass rate

The VET load pass rate indicates the extent to which students pass assessment in an assessable module or unit of competency. Load pass rates are calculated as the number of nominal hours supervised in assessable modules or units of competency completed with a pass assessment divided by the total nominal hours supervised in assessable modules or units of competency.

- In 2004, the VET load pass rate for Indigenous students was 64% compared to 79% for other students. The load pass rate was lower for Indigenous students compared with other students across all geographical regions (Figure 2.06.5).



Higher education data

Educational attainment

Data on the educational attainment of Indigenous Australians in the higher education sector are available from DEST. Data collected for the year 2004 are presented in the tables below.

- During the year 2004, approximately 2.9% of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over completed a course in the higher education sector compared to 4.5% of other Australians. Approximately 2.1% of Indigenous Australians completed an undergraduate degree and 0.4% of Indigenous Australians completed a postgraduate degree. This compared with 3.3% and 1.2% for other Australians.

Educational attainment by age and sex

- Indigenous and other Australians aged 15–24 years were most likely to have completed a higher education course in 2004 (3.6% and 15.6% respectively) than those in other age groups (Table 2.06.22).
- Indigenous Australians aged 35–44 and 45–54 years were most likely to have completed a postgraduate degree (0.7%) and Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years were most likely to have completed an undergraduate degree (3.0%).
- In 2004, a higher proportion of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over had completed a postgraduate degree (0.6%) or an undergraduate degree (2.7%) than Indigenous males (0.2% and 1.5% respectively).

Table 2.06.22: Education attainment in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004

	15–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55+		Total													
	Indigenous		Other ^(a)		Indigenous		Other ^(a)		Indigenous		Other ^(a)													
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%												
Males																								
Doctorate or higher	6	0.0	2,287	0.2	24	0.1	5,808	0.4	27	0.1	3,591	0.2	20	0.1	2,719	0.2	8	0.1	1,201	0.1	85	0.1	15,606	0.2
Master's degree	11	0.0	5,267	0.3	92	0.3	17,871	1.3	87	0.3	10,704	0.8	52	0.3	4,910	0.3	9	0.0	1,140	0.0	251	0.1	39,892	0.6
Postgrad' diploma or certificate ^(b)	15	0.0	2,991	0.2	46	0.2	9,974	0.7	63	0.2	7,301	0.5	22	0.1	3,478	0.2	7	0.0	776	0.0	153	0.0	24,520	0.3
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>10,545</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>33,653</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>21,596</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>11,107</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>3,117</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>489</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>80,018</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Bachelor's degree	941	1.9	163,107	11.9	532	1.4	33,307	2.4	323	1.1	11,913	0.8	129	0.6	4,414	0.3	24	0.1	1,229	0.0	1,949	1.3	213,975	2.8
Other undergraduate ^(c)	70	0.2	1,996	0.1	120	0.3	2,271	0.1	94	0.3	1,256	0.0	46	0.3	503	0.0	17	0.1	199	0.0	347	0.2	6,226	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>1,011</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>165,103</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>652</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>35,578</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>417</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>13,169</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>4,917</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>1,428</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>2,296</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>220,201</i>	<i>2.8</i>
All graduates^(d)	1,205	2.5	178,892	13.1	932	2.6	71,392	5.1	682	2.4	35,936	2.5	300	1.6	16,559	1.2	72	0.5	4719	0.2	3,191	2.2	307,509	3.9
Females																								
Doctorate or higher	8	0.0	2,395	0.2	22	0.1	5,860	0.4	34	0.1	3,904	0.3	46	0.2	3,034	0.2	14	0.1	1,193	0.0	124	0.1	16,386	0.2
Master's degree	24	0.0	6,435	0.5	101	0.3	17,425	1.2	105	0.3	9,606	0.7	70	0.3	6,202	0.5	32	0.2	1,329	0.0	332	0.3	40,997	0.6
Postgrad' diploma or certificate ^(b)	25	0.0	6,434	0.5	93	0.2	13,346	0.9	84	0.3	8,608	0.5	63	0.3	5,184	0.4	14	0.0	964	0.0	279	0.2	34,536	0.4
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>15,264</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>36,631</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>223</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>22,118</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>14,420</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>3,486</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>735</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>91,919</i>	<i>1.2</i>
Bachelor's degree	1,715	3.6	215,111	16.5	905	2.4	43,994	3.1	662	2.1	23,322	1.5	297	1.4	9,886	0.7	42	0.2	2,155	0.1	3,621	2.2	294,469	3.7
Other undergraduate ^(c)	160	0.3	1,479	0.0	206	0.5	1,258	0.0	225	0.7	785	0.0	112	0.5	484	0.0	27	0.1	195	0.0	730	0.5	4,201	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>1,875</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>216,590</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>1,111</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>45,252</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>887</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>24,107</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>409</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>10,370</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>2,350</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>4,351</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>298,670</i>	<i>3.7</i>
All graduates^(d)	2,204	4.7	236,148	18.2	1,491	3.9	84,445	6.0	1,223	3.8	47,836	3.2	651	3.2	25,585	1.9	135	0.7	6,015	0.2	5,704	3.7	400,034	5.0

(continued)

Table 2.06.22 (continued): Educational attainment in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004

	15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55+		Total													
	Indigenous		Other ^(a)		Indigenous		Other ^(a)		Indigenous		Other ^(a)													
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%												
Persons																								
Doctorate or higher	14	0.0	4,682	0.2	46	0.1	11,668	0.4	61	0.1	7,495	0.2	66	0.2	5,753	0.2	22	0.1	2,394	0.0	209	0.1	31,992	0.2
Master's degree	35	0.0	11,702	0.4	193	0.3	35,296	1.3	192	0.3	20,310	0.7	122	0.3	11,112	0.5	41	0.2	2,469	0.0	583	0.1	80,889	0.6
Postgrad ¹ diploma or certificate ^(b)	40	0.0	9,425	0.4	139	0.2	23,320	0.9	147	0.2	15,909	0.5	85	0.2	8,662	0.3	21	0.0	1,740	0.0	432	0.2	59,056	0.4
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>25,809</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>378</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>70,284</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>43,714</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>273</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>25,527</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>6,603</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1,224</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>171,937</i>	<i>1.2</i>
Bachelor's degree	2,656	2.8	378,218	14.2	1,437	1.9	77,301	2.8	985	1.6	35,235	1.2	426	1.1	14,300	0.5	66	0.2	3,384	0.1	5,570	1.8	508,444	3.3
Other undergraduate ^(c)	230	0.2	3,475	0.1	326	0.5	3,529	0.0	319	0.5	2,041	0.0	158	0.3	987	0.0	44	0.1	394	0.0	1,077	0.3	10,427	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>2,886</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>381,693</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>1,763</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>80,830</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>1,304</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>37,276</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>584</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>15,287</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>3,778</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>6,647</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>518,871</i>	<i>3.3</i>
All graduates^(d)	3,409	3.6	415,040	15.6	2,423	3.3	155,837	5.6	1,905	3.2	83,772	2.8	951	2.4	42,144	1.6	207	0.6	10,734	0.2	8,895	2.9	707,543	4.5

(a) Not stated for Indigenous status included with 'Other'.

(b) Includes Postgrad. Qual/Prelim., Grad.(Post) Dip.—new area, Grad.(Post) Dip.—ext area and Graduate Certificate.

(c) Includes Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma (AQF), Diploma (AQF) and other undergraduate award courses

(d) Includes enabling courses and non-award courses.

Note: Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous Estimated resident populations for December 2004.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEST Higher Education Statistics Collection data.

Educational attainment by state/territory

- The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who had completed a course in the higher education sector ranged from 2.1% in Tasmania, to 8.1% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.06.23). The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous persons who had completed a postgraduate degree in 2004.
- A lower proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over had completed a higher education course than other Australians in all states and territories except Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory, where proportions were slightly higher for Indigenous Australians.

Table 2.06.23: Education attainment in the Higher Education sector by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2004

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia ^(a)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Indigenous																		
Males																		
Doctorate or higher	26	0.1	21	0.2	21	0.1	7	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.4	2	0.0	85	0.1
Master's degree	97	0.2	46	0.5	49	0.1	18	0.1	13	0.1	0	0.0	17	1.3	7	0.0	251	0.1
Postgrad' dip. or certificate ^(b)	52	0.1	33	0.3	25	0.0	13	0.0	9	0.0	0	0.0	9	0.7	10	0.1	153	0.0
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>489</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Bachelor's degree	590	1.3	252	2.7	563	1.4	219	1.0	113	1.3	56	1.0	57	4.4	68	0.3	1,949	1.3
Other undergraduate ^(c)	81	0.2	4	0.0	20	0.0	64	0.3	17	0.2	18	0.4	0	0.0	111	0.6	347	0.2
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>671</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>583</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>283</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>2,296</i>	<i>1.6</i>
All graduates^(d)	884	2.1	358	3.9	752	1.9	436	2.0	178	2.1	82	1.5	102	7.8	330	1.7	3,191	2.2
Females																		
Doctorate or higher	41	0.1	29	0.3	17	0.0	12	0.1	12	0.1	3	0.1	4	0.3	5	0.0	124	0.1
Master's degree	130	0.3	55	0.6	61	0.1	36	0.2	18	0.2	6	0.1	13	1.0	5	0.0	332	0.3
Postgrad' dip. or certificate ^(b)	70	0.1	66	0.7	53	0.1	37	0.2	12	0.1	7	0.1	7	0.5	21	0.1	279	0.2
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>241</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>735</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Bachelor's degree	1121	2.4	392	4.1	1,000	2.3	437	1.9	250	2.9	107	1.9	78	5.8	137	0.7	3,621	2.2
Other undergraduate ^(c)	144	0.3	7	0.1	41	0.1	121	0.5	64	0.7	3	0.0	0	0.0	245	1.2	730	0.5
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>1,265</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>1,041</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>558</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>314</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>4,351</i>	<i>2.8</i>
All graduates^(d)	1,582	3.6	551	5.8	1,305	3.0	812	3.6	377	4.3	151	2.6	111	8.3	595	3.0	5,704	3.7

(continued)

Table 2.06.23 (continued): Education attainment in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2004

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Aust ^(a)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Persons																		
Doctorate or higher	67	0.1	50	0.3	38	0.0	19	0.0	15	0.1	3	0.0	9	0.3	7	0.0	209	0.1
Master's degree	227	0.3	101	0.5	110	0.1	54	0.1	31	0.2	6	0.0	30	1.1	12	0.0	583	0.1
Postgrad' dip. or certificate ^(b)	122	0.2	99	0.5	78	0.1	50	0.1	21	0.1	7	0.1	16	0.5	31	0.1	432	0.2
<i>Sub-total postgraduate</i>	<i>416</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>226</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>1,224</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Bachelor's degree	1,711	1.9	644	3.5	1,563	1.8	656	1.5	363	2.1	163	1.5	135	5.2	205	0.5	5,570	1.8
Other undergraduate ^(c)	225	0.2	11	0.0	61	0.0	185	0.4	81	0.5	21	0.2	0	0.0	356	0.9	1,077	0.3
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>1,936</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>655</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>1,624</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>841</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>444</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>184</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>561</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>6,647</i>	<i>2.2</i>
All graduates	2,466	2.8	909	4.8	2,057	2.5	1,248	2.8	555	3.2	233	2.1	213	8.1	925	2.4	8,895	2.9
Other^(e)																		
Males																		
Doctorate or higher	4,585	0.2	3,851	0.2	2,721	0.2	1,644	0.3	1,283	0.2	399	0.2	907	1.1	81	0.1	15,606	0.2
Master's degree	15,575	0.5	12,326	0.7	5,646	0.3	2,609	0.5	1,477	0.2	233	0.2	1,384	1.7	108	0.1	39,892	0.6
Postgrad' dip. or certificate ^(b)	8,524	0.3	6,513	0.4	3,844	0.2	2,313	0.5	1,454	0.2	243	0.1	1,129	1.4	179	0.1	24,520	0.3
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>28,684</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>22,690</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>12,211</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>6,566</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>4,214</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>875</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>3,420</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>368</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>80,018</i>	<i>1.0</i>
Bachelor's degree	66,163	2.5	52,488	2.7	43,135	2.9	21,782	3.7	15,278	2.0	4,920	2.7	7061	9.1	995	0.9	213,975	2.8
Other undergraduate ^(c)	2,350	0.1	1084	0.0	1,179	0.0	115	0.0	231	0.0	1185	0.6	28	0.0	42	0.0	6,226	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>68,513</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>53,572</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>44,314</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>21,897</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>15,509</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>6,105</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>7,089</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>1037</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>220,201</i>	<i>2.8</i>
All graduates^(d)	100,414	3.8	77,122	4.0	58,423	3.9	28,942	4.9	19,957	2.6	7,108	3.9	10,724	13.8	1,591	1.5	307,509	3.9

(continued)

Table 2.06.23 (continued): Education attainment in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2004

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Aust ^(e)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Females																		
Doctorate or higher	4,612	0.2	4,551	0.2	2,769	0.2	1,633	0.3	1,388	0.2	407	0.2	786	1.1	96	0.1	16,386	0.2
Master's degree	15,538	0.5	11,702	0.6	6,562	0.4	2,929	0.5	1,821	0.2	275	0.2	1,095	1.6	185	0.1	40,997	0.6
Postgrad' dip. or certificate ^(b)	9,882	0.4	10,675	0.5	4,852	0.4	3,474	0.6	2,632	0.3	352	0.2	1,375	2.0	387	0.4	34,536	0.4
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>30,032</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>26,928</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>14,183</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>8,036</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>5,841</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>1,034</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>3,256</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>668</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>91,919</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Bachelor's degree	90,497	3.4	68,326	3.4	60,965	4.0	30,293	5.0	22,237	2.8	6,219	3.2	8,275	12.0	2,242	2.0	294,469	3.7
Other undergraduate ^(c)	1,760	0.0	747	0.0	990	0.0	172	0.0	242	0.0	88	0.0	47	0.1	79	0.0	4,201	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>92,257</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>69,073</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>61,955</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>30,465</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>22,479</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>6,307</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>8,322</i>	<i>12.1</i>	<i>2,321</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>298,670</i>	<i>3.7</i>
All graduates^(d)	126,836	4.7	96,895	4.8	78,601	5.2	39,001	6.4	28,621	3.7	7,573	4.0	11,678	16.9	3245	2.9	400,034	5.0
Persons																		
Doctorate or higher	9,197	0.2	8,402	0.2	5,490	0.2	3,277	0.3	2,671	0.2	806	0.2	1,693	1.1	177	0.1	31,992	0.2
Master's degree	31,113	0.5	24,028	0.6	12,208	0.4	5,538	0.5	3,298	0.2	508	0.2	2,479	1.7	293	0.1	80,889	0.6
Postgrad' dip. or certificate ^(b)	18,406	0.3	17,188	0.4	8,696	0.3	5,787	0.5	4,086	0.3	595	0.1	2,504	1.7	566	0.3	59,056	0.4
<i>Subtotal Postgraduate</i>	<i>58,716</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>49,618</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>26,394</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>14,602</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>10,055</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>1,909</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>6,676</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>1,036</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>171,937</i>	<i>1.1</i>
Bachelor's degree	156,660	3.0	120,814	3.1	104,100	3.5	52,075	4.4	37,515	2.4	11,139	3.0	15,336	10.5	3,237	1.5	508,444	3.3
Other undergraduate ^(c)	4,110	0.0	1,831	0.0	2,169	0.0	287	0.0	473	0.0	1,273	0.4	75	0.1	121	0.0	10,427	0.0
<i>Sub-total undergraduate</i>	<i>160,770</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>122,645</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>106,269</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>52,362</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>37,988</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>12,412</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>15,411</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>3,358</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>518,871</i>	<i>3.3</i>
All graduates^(d)	227,250	4.3	174,017	4.4	137,024	4.6	67,943	5.6	48,578	3.1	14,681	3.9	22,402	4,836	2.2	2.2	707,543	4.5

(a) Includes other territories.

(b) Includes Postgrad. Qual/Prelim., Grad.(Post) Dip.—new area, Grad.(Post) Dip.—ext area and Graduate Certificate.

(c) Includes Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma (AQF), Diploma (AQF) and other undergraduate award courses.

(d) Includes enabling courses and non-award courses.

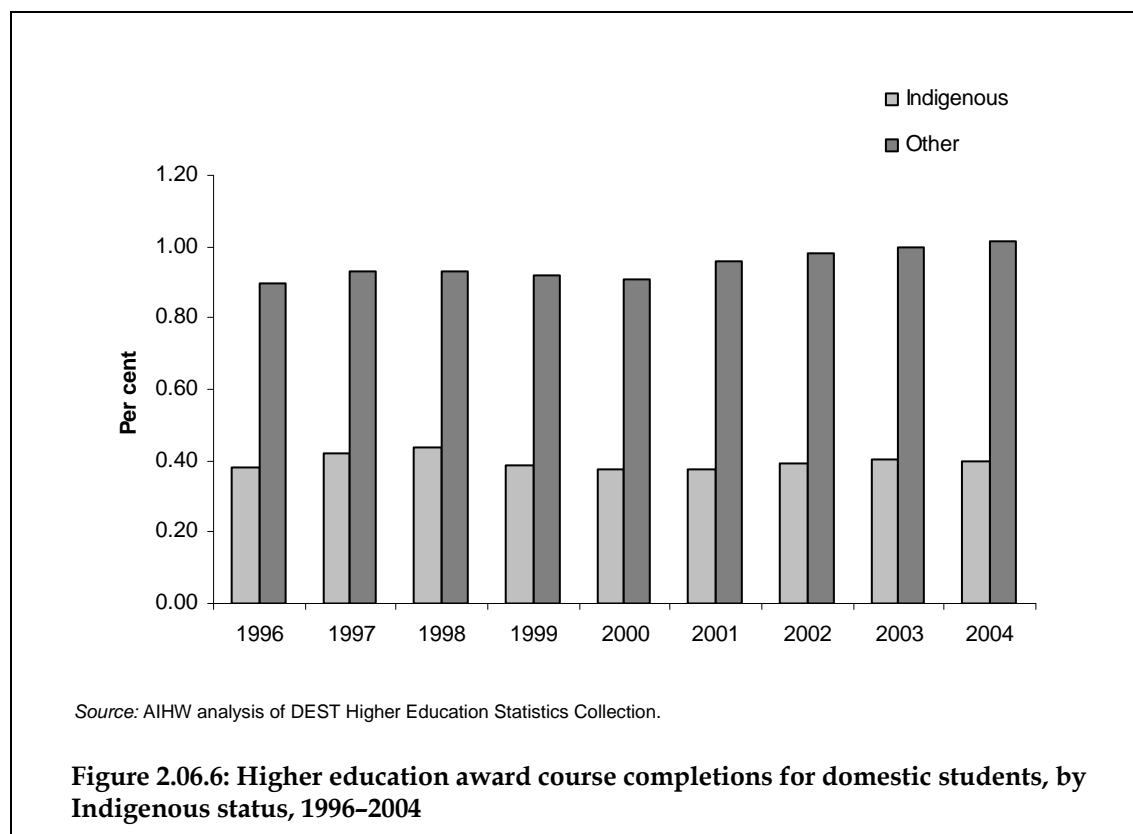
(e) Not stated for Indigenous status included with 'Other'.

Note: Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations for December 2004.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEST Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Time series analysis

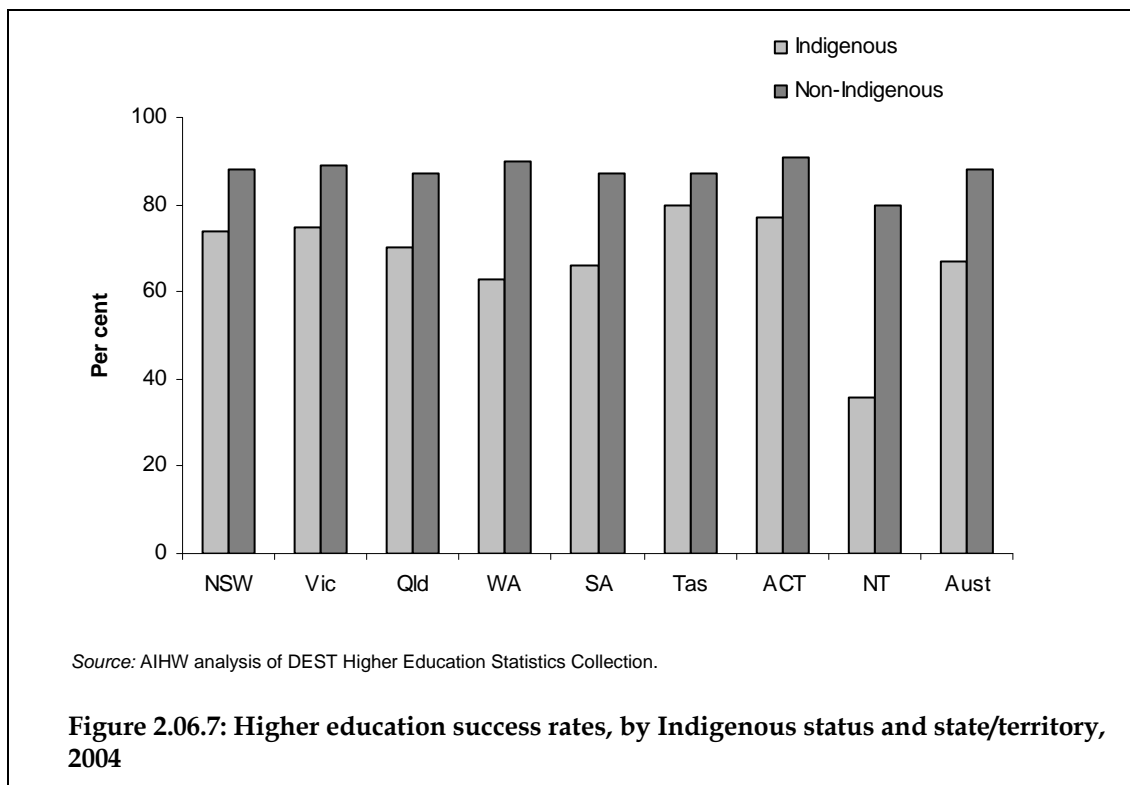
- Between 1996 and 2004, there was little change in the proportion of domestic Indigenous or other students who have completed a higher education award course (Figure 2.06.6).



Success rate

The success rate for higher educational institutions is based on the proportion of units passed within a year compared with the total units enrolled.

- In 2004, the success rate for Indigenous students varied by state and territory, ranging from 36% in the Northern Territory to 80% in Tasmania. The success rate for non-Indigenous students was similar in most states and territories (between 87% and 91%) (Figure 2.06.7).



Additional information

Reasons for leaving school early

The 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey collected information on main reasons why Indigenous persons left school before completing Year 12 or equivalent. Data are presented by remoteness area in Table 2.06.24 below.

- In 2002, of Indigenous persons aged 15–24 years who reported they had left school before completing Year 12, the most common main reason given for this was that they did not like school (26%). The second most common main reason for Indigenous persons to leave school before completing Year 12 was that they got a job or apprenticeship or wanted a job or apprenticeship (16%). Other personal/family reasons accounted for 12.9% of Indigenous respondents leaving school before Year 12. When all personal/family reasons are combined they account for 17% of Indigenous students leaving school early. Approximately 10% of Indigenous persons reported leaving school early because they did not do well at school (Table 2.06.24).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15–24 years in remote and very remote areas reported that Year 12 or equivalent was not available as the main reason for leaving school before completing Year 12 (8.3%) or they felt they had done enough at school (10%) than Indigenous persons in non-remote areas (1% and 6% respectively).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous persons in non-remote areas reported not doing well at school as the main reason for leaving school early than Indigenous persons in remote areas (13% compared to 5%).

Table 2.06.24: Main reason left school before completing Year 12 or equivalent, by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 15–24 years, 2002

Main reason left school	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Subtotal non-remote	Remote & very remote	Australia
	%	%	%	%	%	%
School-related reasons						
Did not like school	21.7	35.3	25.3	26.2	25.6	26.0
Did not do well	19.0	5.0	7.9	12.5	4.9	10.1
Feel had done enough	6.9	4.3	7.1	6.3	10.1	7.5
Changed to other type of study	0.6	2.4	4.4	2.0	0.6	1.6
Other school-related reason	9.7	9.0	11.1	9.9	7.9	9.3
Work-related reasons						
Got/wanted a job/apprenticeship	12.2	20.1	19.1	16.0	14.5	15.5
Little difference to work prospects	3.1	0.0	0.4	1.6	1.5	1.6
Other work-related reason	0.3	0.3	2.5	0.9	0.7	0.8
Personal/family reasons						
Caring for family members	2.8	3.5	1.3	2.6	2.2	2.5
Own ill health or disability	0.6	2.4	2.9	1.6	1.6	1.6
Other personal/family reason	16.7	11.8	12.7	14.4	9.7	12.9
Other reasons						
Location/transport reasons	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.6
Financial reasons	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5
Year 12 or equivalent not available	2.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	8.3	3.3
Other reason	4.0	3.8	4.3	4.0	3.2	3.8
Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.6	2.4
Total who left school before completing Year 12 or equivalent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	16,100	8,734	8,413	33,247	15,259	48,506

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS NATSISS 2002.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The NATSIHS and NATSISS both use the standard Indigenous status question. The survey samples were specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and thus overcome the problem inherent in most national surveys with small and unrepresentative Indigenous samples. As with other surveys, the NATSIHS and NATSISS are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Calculations of standard errors and significance testing help to identify the accuracy of the estimates and differences.

Information recorded in these surveys are essentially 'as reported' by respondents. The ABS makes every effort to collect accurate information from respondents, particularly through careful questionnaire design, pre-testing of questionnaires, use of trained interviewers and assistance from Indigenous facilitators. Nevertheless, some responses may be affected by imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions.

Non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the National Health Survey (NHS) and the 2002 General Social Survey. The NHS was conducted in major cities, regional and remote areas, but very remote areas were excluded from the sample. Time series comparisons are available through the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys and the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey.

In remote communities there were some modifications to the NATSIHS and NATSISS content in order to address language and cultural appropriateness in traditional communities, as well as to assist respondents in understanding the concepts. Some questions were excluded and some reworded. Also, paper forms were used in communities in remote areas and computer-assisted interview (CAI) instruments were used in non-remote areas. The CAI process included built in edit checks and sequencing.

Further information on NATSIHS and NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the national publications (ABS 2004a; 2006).

National Centre for Vocational Education Research data

This collection gathers information from providers (in receipt of public VET funding) about activity of the VET system in Australia. The collection encompasses all delivery funded wholly or in part from public funds.

Non-identification rates for Indigenous students in these data are high. Care also needs to be taken in comparing data across jurisdictions for load pass rates as average module durations vary across jurisdictions (SCRGSP 2005b).

DEST Higher Education Schools Statistics Collection

The Higher Education Schools Statistics Collection only includes information from higher education institutions in Australia as determined under the Higher Education Funding Act 1988. This includes:

- *institutions that receive block operating grant funding for teaching and research activities*
- *other public higher education institutions that receive some level of operating grant funding*
- *the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, the National Institute of Dramatic Art and the Australian Defence Force Academy.*

(continued)

Data quality issues (continued)

Private institutions are not required to report statistical data to DEST and are therefore outside the scope of the collection (ABS 2003). The collection of data from private higher education institutions is being trialled (ABS 2004b).

Institutions receive detailed written documentation about what information is required to be furnished in the form of an electronic help file. Universities design and produce their own statistical information (enrolment) forms. These are designed to be used by institutions to collect the required information from students. DEST has provided institutions with suggested wording for questions relating to Indigenous status, language spoken at home and disability (ABS 2003).

Approximately 3% of students in this data collection have a 'Not stated' Indigenous status. At the moment these are recorded as non-Indigenous although plans are underway to separately record the 'Not stated' responses.

References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2003. Directory of Education and Training Statistics Higher Education Student Statistics Collection. ABS cat. No. 1136.0. Canberra: ABS.

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ABS 2004b. Measuring learning in Australia: plan to improve the quality, coverage and use of education and training statistics. ABS cat. No. 4231. Canberra: ABS.

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SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2005a. Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage: key indicators 2005. Canberra: Productivity Commission.

SCRGSP 2005b. Report on government services 2005. Canberra: Productivity Commission.