

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 2006 Census of Population and Housing, the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, 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, because 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 6-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 and over who were usual residents of private dwellings. The survey collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and 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 main provider of vocational education and training (VET) sector research and statistics. VET is a national system designed to give workers the skills for particular occupations and industries. The VET sector includes providers that receive 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).

Although 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 substitute, 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.

Census of Population and Housing

The ABS Census of Population and Housing is conducted by the ABS at 5-yearly intervals, with 2006 being the most recent, and is designed to include all Australian households. The Census uses the ABS standard Indigenous status question and it is asked for each household member.

Although the Census data are adjusted for undercounts at the person level to arrive at the estimated resident population, no such adjustment is done for the statistics used in this measure.

Data analyses

Comparison of Census and NATSIHS data

The NATSIHS and the Census both collect information on educational institution currently attended, highest year of school completed and non-school qualifications for Indigenous Australians.

This measure presents data included in the 2006 edition of this report for persons aged 15 years and over (2004–05 NATSIHS data) and new data from the 2006 Census for persons aged 15–64 years. Data on educational participation and attainment from the NATSIHS is presented first followed by data from the 2006 Census.

A brief summary of the similarities and differences between the estimates for educational participation from the 2004–05 NATSIHS and the 2006 Census are presented below.

Educational institution currently attended

The proportion of persons whose attendance status at educational institutions was not stated was much higher in the Census data than in the NATSIHS data, especially for Indigenous persons. Therefore, these responses have been excluded from the Census calculations to allow for better comparison.

When comparing the educational institution attendance status of Indigenous persons recorded in the 2006 Census with the 2004–05 NATSIHS, the Census estimates are generally lower. The NATSIHS estimated that 19% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over were currently studying, whereas results from the Census showed that 16% were currently studying. The difference is larger for Indigenous females (17% Census compared with 21% NATSIHS) than Indigenous males (15% Census compared with 17% NATSIHS). Comparatively, the difference in estimates for non-Indigenous persons currently studying is smaller – NATSIHS estimated 15% compared with 14% from the Census.

Highest level of school completed

The proportion of persons whose attendance status at educational institutions was not stated was much higher in the Census data than in the NATSIHS data, especially for Indigenous persons. Therefore, these responses have been excluded from the Census calculations to allow for better comparison.

When comparing the highest level of school completed by Indigenous persons recorded in the 2006 Census with the 2004–05 NATSIHS, the results are fairly similar. The NATSIHS estimated that Year 12 was the highest level of school completed for 23% of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, Year 10 or 11 was the highest level completed for 42% and Year 9 or below was the highest level completed for 35%. Results from the Census showed that Year 12 was the highest level of school completed for 24% of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, Year 10 or 11 was the highest level completed for 42%, and Year 9 or below was the highest level completed for 34%.

Non-school qualifications

The proportion of persons whose attendance status at educational institutions was not stated was much higher in the Census data than in the NATSIHS data, especially for Indigenous

persons. Therefore, these responses have been excluded from the Census calculations to allow for better comparison.

When comparing the non-school qualification status of Indigenous persons recorded in the 2006 Census with the 2004–05 NATSIHS, the Census estimates are generally lower. The NATSIHS estimated that 38% of Indigenous persons aged 25–64 years had a non-school qualification, whereas results from the Census showed that 30% had a non-school qualification. The main area of difference is in the results for Certificates – the NATSIHS estimated that 25% of Indigenous persons aged 25–64 years had a Certificate non-school qualification, which is higher than the Census estimate of 18%. The non-Indigenous results are also different – the NATSIHS estimated that 26% of non-Indigenous persons aged 25–64 years had a Certificate non-school qualification, compared with 21% shown by the Census.

Self-reported survey data—NATSIHS

The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected information on the educational institution currently attended, the highest level of school completed by Indigenous people aged 15 years, and the highest level of non-school qualification. These data are presented in Tables 2.06.1 to 2.06.18.

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 with 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% each) and TAFE (9% and 11% respectively). Only 4% of Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years were currently attending university or higher education compared with 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 with 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 ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Secondary school	26	26	1.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	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) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

(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 NHS.

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 ^(a)	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio ^(a)
	%	%		%	%	
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^(b)	17	15	1.1	21	14	1.4*
Not studying	83	85	1.0*	79	85	0.9*
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—
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.

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

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

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

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%) and 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 those 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 ^(d)		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 ^(d)		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 ^(d)		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 ^(d)		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 ^(d)		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 ^(d)		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 ^(d)		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 ^(d)		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 ^(d)		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.

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

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

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
Per cent								
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	8	82	79	79	82	89	87	81
Total ^(c)	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	84	86	88	85	93	n.a.	n.a.	85
Total ^(c)	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
Ratio^(e)								
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	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.

(e) Indigenous rate divided by Indigenous rate.

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

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 with 19%). Year 10 or 11 was the highest level of schooling completed by 43% 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 with 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%) than 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 the Indigenous population reported similar levels of school completed, as did males and females in the non-Indigenous population (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 ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Completed Year 12 ^(b)	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^{(d)(e)}	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) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

(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) Includes persons who never attended school.

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

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

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

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 ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Completed Year 12 ^(b)	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 ^(c)	36	18	2.0*	33	19	1.7*	35	19	1.9*
Total^{(d)(e)}	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) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

(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) Includes persons who never attended school.

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

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

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

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 with 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 that 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 ^(e)		0.5*	1.2*	1.8*	..	..
Vic	Indigenous	%	28	42	30	100	16,444
	Non-Indigenous	%	49	31	20	100	3,737,882
	Rate ratio ^(e)		0.6*	1.4*	1.4*	..	..
Qld	Indigenous	%	29	42	29	100	70,590
	Non-Indigenous	%	45	38	17	100	2,787,025
	Rate ratio ^(e)		0.6*	1.1	1.7*	..	..
WA	Indigenous	%	12	52	35	100	36,503
	Non-Indigenous	%	46	40	14	100	1,417,909
	Rate ratio ^(e)		0.3*	1.3*	2.5*	..	..
SA	Indigenous	%	18	44	38	100	14,324
	Non-Indigenous	%	40	42	18	100	1,135,705
	Rate ratio ^(e)		0.4*	1.1	2.1*	..	..
Tas	Indigenous	%	23	52	25	100	9,430
	Non-Indigenous	%	33	43	24	100	345,136
	Rate ratio ^(e)		0.7*	1.2	1.1	..	..
ACT	Indigenous	%	46	34	20	100	2,300
	Non-Indigenous	%	71	20	9	100	238,831
	Rate ratio ^(e)		0.6*	1.7*	2.3*	..	..
NT	Indigenous	%	15	36	48	100	33,141
	Non-Indigenous	%	41	42	16 ^(f)	100	89,837
	Rate ratio ^(e)		0.4*	0.9	3.0*	..	..
Aust.	Indigenous	%	23	43	35	100	257,424
	Non-Indigenous	%	47	35	19	100	14,699,415
	Rate ratio^(e)		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) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.

(f) 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 NHS.

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 NHS.

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.

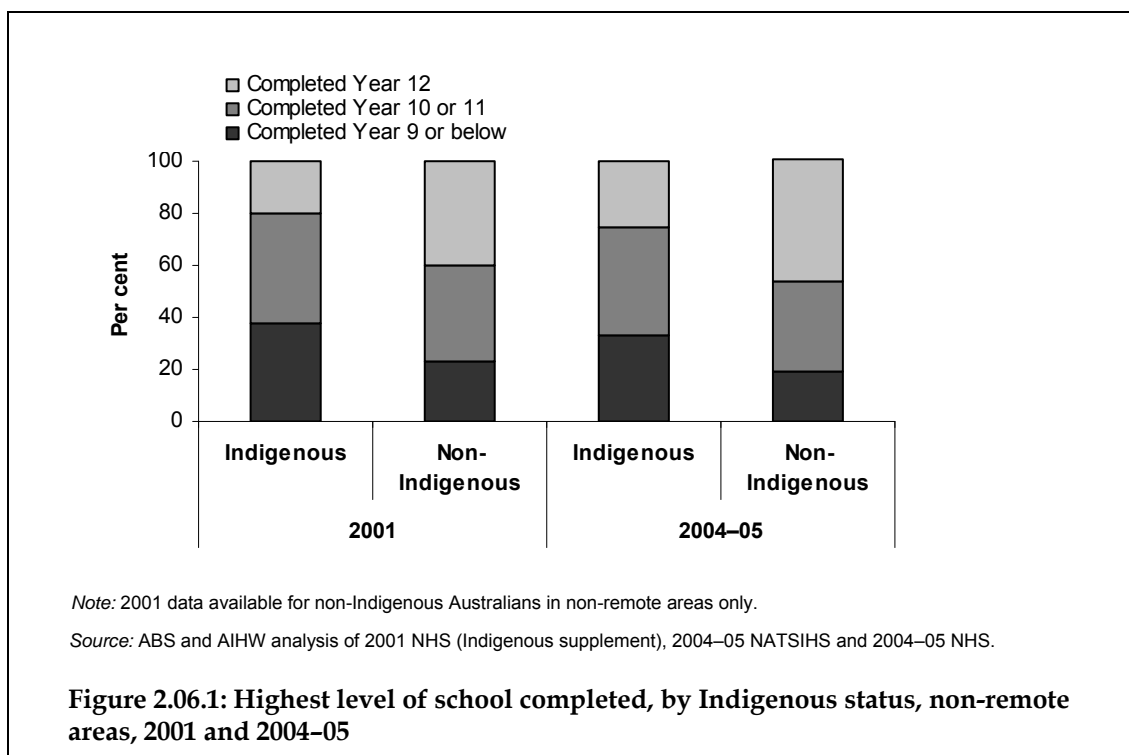
(b) Total may include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.

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

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

Time series analyses

- 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 with 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 with a third of Indigenous Australians who spoke English as their main language (Table 2.06.11).
- Indigenous Australians in the highest (5th) 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) 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 NHS.

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.
	Per cent							
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>Subtotal 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 ^(f)	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⁽ⁱ⁾	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) Non-Indigenous data are for Remote areas only and do 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' includes renter (excluding boarders) and boarder.

(h) 'Other' includes 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 with 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 with Indigenous Australians (6% and 6% respectively).

Non-school qualifications by age and sex

- For Indigenous Australians the age group with the highest rate of non-school qualifications was 35–44 years (41%). For non-Indigenous Australians the highest rate was in the 25–34 year group (67%) (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%) than 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.

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

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.

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

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, whereas 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.

(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 NHS.

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 ^(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.	
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	
Non-school qualification																				
Bachelor degree or above ^(d)	8	26	0.3*	7 ^(e)	14	0.5*	5 ^(e)	13	0.4*	7	22	0.3*	4 ^(b)	10 ^(e)	0.3*	2 ^(e)	..	..	..	2
Advanced diploma/diploma	9	11	0.9	5 ^(e)	9	0.6*	5	8	0.6*	7	10	0.7*	3 ^(b)	6 ^(e)	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^(f)	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^(g)	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 subtotal for Remote areas and a rate ratio is unable to be calculated.
- (b) Indigenous rate divided by non-Indigenous rate.
- (c) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.
- (d) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, graduate certificate.
- (e) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (f) Includes persons with a non-school qualification inadequately described.
- (g) Includes those who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification.

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

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 with 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
		Per cent		
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>	35	51	37	37
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% and 50% and should be used with caution.

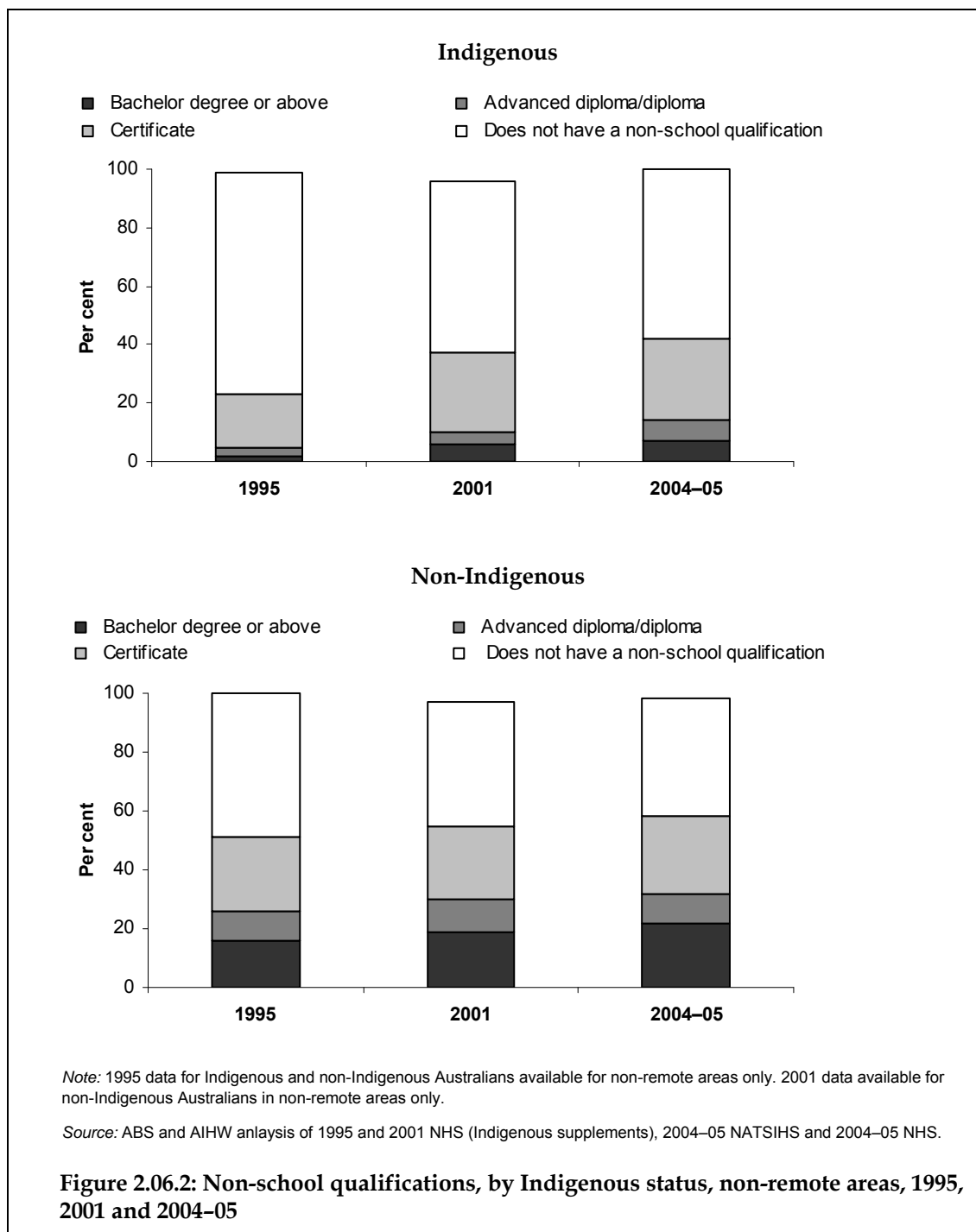
(d) Total may include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.

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

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

Time series analyses

- 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 with 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 with 26%) (Table 2.06.17).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians in the highest (5th) quintile of household income reported having a non-school qualification (63%) than Indigenous Australians in the lowest (1st) 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	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Bachelor degree or above ^(a)	73	92	0.8*	27 ^(b)	8	3.3*	7 ^(b)	12	0.6*	18 ^(b)	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 ^(b)	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^(c)	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^(d)	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) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(c) Includes other educational institution and persons for whom specific information could not be determined.

(d) Includes not stated.

Note: Data are age-standardised.

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

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.
Per cent												
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.

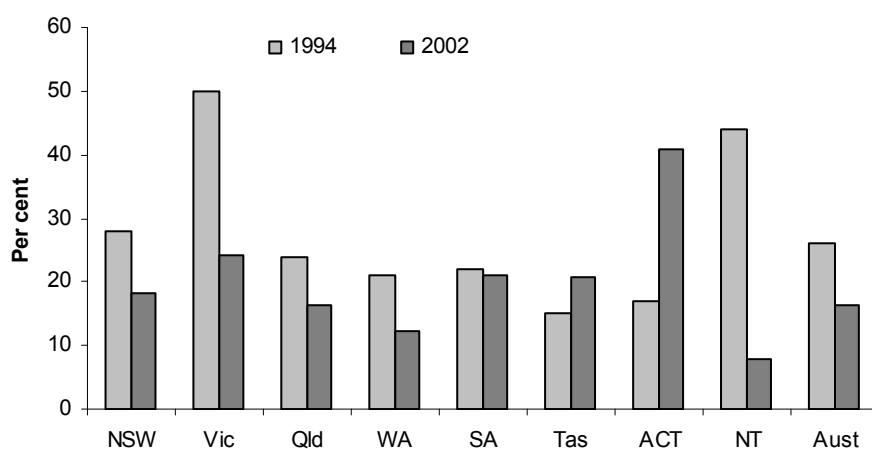
- (a) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma and graduate certificate.
- (b) Includes other educational institution and persons for whom specific information could not be determined.
- (c) Includes not stated, insufficient information to classify and non-verbal languages.
- (d) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (e) Non-Indigenous data are for Remote areas only and do 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' includes renter (excluding boarders) and boarder.
- (h) 'Other' includes 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 NHS.

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 decreased from 26% in 1994 to 16% in 2002.
- The proportion of Indigenous people with a certificate III qualification or higher decreased between 1994 and 2002 in all states and territories except for Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory where an increase was observed.



Notes

1. Excludes persons still at school.
2. The 1994 estimates for the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory have relative standard errors greater than 25% and should be used with caution.

Source: SCRGSP 2005a; ABS & AIHW analyses of ABS 1994 NATSIS and ABS 2002 NATSISS.

Figure 2.06.3: Post-secondary attainment of certificate III or above, by Indigenous people aged 18 years and over, 1994 and 2002

Census data

The 2006 Census of Population and Housing collected information on the educational institution currently attended, the highest level of non-school qualification and the highest level of school completed by Indigenous adults. These data are presented in the following tables.

Educational institution currently attended

- In 2006, approximately 16% of Indigenous people and 14% of non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over were currently studying. Indigenous Australians were more likely to be studying at secondary school (7%) or Technical or further educational institutions (4%) than non-Indigenous Australians (5% and 3% respectively). However, non-Indigenous Australians were more likely to be studying at university or in higher education than Indigenous Australians (5% compared with 3%) (Table 2.06.19).

Educational institution currently attended by age and sex

- A lower proportion of Indigenous than non-Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years were currently attending secondary school (22% and 26% respectively) and technical or further education institutions (6% and 8% respectively). Only 4% of Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years were currently attending university or higher education compared with 18% of non-Indigenous Australians of the same age.
- In 2006, a higher proportion of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over were currently studying (17%) than Indigenous males (15%). Approximately 13% of non-Indigenous males and 15% of non-Indigenous females of the same age were currently studying (Table 2.06.20).
- Approximately 2% of Indigenous males and 3% of Indigenous females were currently studying at university or other higher education compared with 5% and 6% of non-Indigenous males and females respectively.

Table 2.06.19: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

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	22	26	0.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	5	1.5
Technical or further education ^(a)	6	8	0.8	4	4	1.1	3	3	1.3	2	1	2.4	4	3	1.4
University/other higher education	4	18	0.2	3	7	0.5	3	3	0.9	1	1	1.6	3	5	0.5
Total currently studying^(b)	37	56	0.7	9	12	0.7	8	7	1.2	5	2	2.1	16	14	1.2
Not attending	63	44	1.4	91	88	1.0	92	93	1.0	95	98	1.0	84	86	1.0
Total^(c)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number ^(c)	79,540	2,414,604	..	56,057	2,402,389	..	52,484	2,664,383	..	70,609	6,789,677	..	258,690	14,271,053	..
Attendance unknown ^(d)	8	2	4.2	10	2	4.9	9	2	4.0	9	4	2.2	9	3	2.9

.. Not applicable

(a) Includes TAFE colleges.

(b) Includes other educational institution and type of educational institution not stated.

(c) Excludes attendance at educational institution unknown.

(d) Persons whose attendance at an educational institution was unknown as a proportion of total persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.20: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

Educational participation	Males			Females		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%	
Secondary school	7	5	1.6	7	4	1.5
Technical or further education ^(a)	4	3	1.2	4	3	1.5
University/other higher education	2	5	0.4	3	6	0.6
Total currently studying^(b)	15	13	1.1	17	15	1.2
Not attending	85	87	1.0	83	85	1.0
Total^(c)	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number^(c)	122,024	6,947,041	..	136,669	7,324,010	..
Attendance unknown ^(d)	11	3	3.6	7	3	2.3

.. Not applicable

(a) Includes TAFE colleges.

(b) Includes other educational institution and type of educational institution not stated.

(c) Excludes attendance at educational institution unknown.

(d) Persons whose attendance at an educational institution was unknown as a proportion of total persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

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 (22%) and the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion (11%) (Table 2.06.21).
- 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 technical or further education institutions ranged from 1% in the Northern Territory to 7% in Tasmania. The proportion of Indigenous people currently studying who were attending a university or other tertiary institution ranged from 2% in Western Australian and the Northern Territory to 7% in the Australian Capital Territory.
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas were currently studying at secondary school (8%), technical or further education institutions (5%) and university or higher education (3%) than in remote areas (5%, 2% and 1% respectively) (Table 2.06.22).

Table 2.06.21: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

	Educational participation		Secondary school	Technical or further education ^(a)	University or other tertiary institution	Total currently studying ^(b)	Not attending	Total ^(c)	Total number ^(c)	Attendance unknown ^(d)
NSW	Indig.	%	7	5	3	18	82	100	78,126	8
	Non-Indig.	%	5	3	5	14	86	100	4,696,887	3
	Rate ratio		1.6	1.6	0.6	1.3	1.0			2.7
Vic	Indig.	%	8	5	4	20	80	100	17,351	9
	Non-Indig.	%	5	3	5	15	85	100	3,627,895	3
	Rate ratio		1.6	1.9	0.7	1.4	0.9			2.7
Qld	Indig.	%	8	3	3	16	84	100	71,912	8
	Non-Indig.	%	4	2	5	13	87	100	2,755,536	3
	Rate ratio		1.8	1.4	0.6	1.3	1.0			2.6
WA	Indig.	%	6	3	2	14	86	100	32,939	11
	Non-Indig.	%	4	3	5	13	87	100	1,382,971	3
	Rate ratio		1.5	1.1	0.5	1.0	1.0			3.7
SA	Indig.	%	8	5	3	18	82	100	14,935	8
	Non-Indig.	%	5	3	5	13	87	100	1,126,978	3
	Rate ratio		1.7	1.7	0.6	1.4	0.9			2.8
Tas	Indig.	%	8	7	3	19	81	100	10,129	5
	Non-Indig.	%	4	3	4	13	87	100	341,194	4
	Rate ratio		1.8	1.9	0.6	1.5	0.9			1.5
ACT	Indig.	%	8	5	7	22	78	100	2,382	4
	Non-Indig.	%	5	3	9	19	81	100	242,905	2
	Rate ratio		1.6	1.5	0.7	1.1	1.0			2.0
NT	Indig.	%	5	1	2	11	89	100	30,760	12
	Non-Indig.	%	4	2	6	13	87	100	95,268	2
	Rate ratio		1.2	0.7	0.3	0.8	1.0			5.0
Aust.^(e)	Indig.	%	7	4	3	16	84	100	258,693	9
	Non-Indig.	%	5	3	5	14	86	100	14,271,050	3
	Rate ratio		1.5	1.4	0.5	1.2	1.0			2.9

(a) Includes TAFE colleges.

(b) Includes other educational institution and type of educational institution not stated.

(c) Excludes attendance at educational institution unknown.

(d) Persons whose attendance at an educational institution was unknown as a proportion of total persons.

(e) Includes other territories.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.22: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

		Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Subtotal non-remote	Remote	Very Remote	Subtotal remote	Total
Indigenous									
Secondary school	%	8	8	8	8	6	4	5	7
Technical or further education ^(a)	%	5	5	4	5	3	2	2	4
University/other higher education	%	5	3	2	3	1	1	1	3
Total currently studying^(b)	%	19	19	16	18	12	9	10	16
Not attending	%	81	81	84	82	88	91	90	84
Total ^(c)	%	100	100	100	100	100	108	110	100
Total number^(c)	no.	85,039	54,430	54,471	193,940	22,326	41,356	63,682	258,692
Attendance unknown ^(d)	%	8	9	10	9	11	8	9	9
Non-Indigenous									
Secondary school	%	5	5	4	5	3	2	3	5
Technical or Further Education ^(a)	%	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3
University/other higher education	%	6	3	2	5	2	2	2	5
Total currently studying^(b)	%	15	12	10	14	8	7	8	14
Not attending	%	85	88	90	86	92	93	92	86
Total ^(c)	%	100	104	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total number^(c)	no.	9,932,022	2,789,706	1,282,265	14,003,993	176,616	58,566	235,182	14,271,055
Attendance unknown ^(d)	%	3	4	3	9	11	3	9	3
Rate ratio									
Secondary school		1.7	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.5
Technical or Further Education ^(a)		1.5	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.4
University/other higher education		0.7	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.5
Total currently studying^(b)		1.3	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Not attending		0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Attendance unknown ^(d)		2.7	2.5	3.1	1.0	1.0	2.6	1.0	2.9

(a) Includes TAFE colleges.

(b) Includes other educational institution and type of educational institution not stated.

(c) Excludes attendance at educational institution unknown.

(d) Persons whose attendance at an educational institution was unknown as a proportion of total persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Highest level of school completed

- In 2006, Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous adults to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below (34% compared with 16%). Year 10 was the highest level of schooling completed by 31% of Indigenous adults and 25% of non-Indigenous adults, Year 11 was the highest level of school completed by 11% of Indigenous adults and 10% of non-Indigenous adults, and Year 12 was the highest level of school completed by 24% of Indigenous adults compared with 49% of non-Indigenous adults (Table 2.06.23).

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 (54%) compared with Indigenous Australians of younger ages (Table 2.06.23).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18–24, 25–34 and 35–44 years were between four and six times as likely to report Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling as non-Indigenous adults.
- In 2006, males and females in the Indigenous population reported similar levels of school completed, as did males and females in the non-Indigenous population (Table 2.06.24).

Table 2.06.23: Highest level of school completed, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

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 or equivalent	%	36	74	0.5	32	70	0.5	19	51	0.4	12	35	0.3	24	49	0.5
Completed Year 11 or equivalent	%	15	9	1.6	14	10	1.5	12	14	0.9	5	9	0.6	11	10	1.1
Completed Year 10 or equivalent	%	28	13	2.1	30	16	1.9	40	28	1.4	29	29	1.0	31	25	1.3
Completed Year 9 or below ^(a)	%	22	4	6.0	24	4	5.3	28	8	3.7	54	26	2.1	34	16	2.1
Total^{(b)(c)}	%	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons ^(c)	no.	47,956	1,608,316	..	54,720	2,385,869	..	50,918	2,639,254	..	66,634	6,559,510	..	220,228	13,192,949	..
Highest year of school not stated ^(d)	%	10	3	3.9	12	3	4.6	12	3	3.7	14	7	1.9	12	5	2.4

.. Not applicable

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

(b) Excludes persons currently attending primary and secondary educational institutions.

(c) Excludes persons who did not state the highest year of school completed.

(d) Persons who did not state the highest year of school completed as a proportion of total persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.24: Highest year of school completed, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

Highest level of school completed	Male			Female			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Year 12 or equivalent	23	49	0.5	25	50	0.5	24	49	0.5
Year 11 or equivalent	11	10	1.0	12	10	1.2	11	10	1.1
Year 10 or equivalent	31	25	1.3	31	24	1.3	31	25	1.3
Year 9 or below ^(a)	35	16	2.3	32	16	2.0	34	16	2.1
Total^{(b)(c)}	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons ^(e)	102,494	6,406,636	..	117,731	6,786,312	..	220,228	13,192,949	..
Highest year of school not stated ^(d)	14	5	2.9	10	5	1.9	12	5	2.4

.. Not applicable

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

(b) Excludes persons currently attending primary and secondary educational institutions.

(c) Excludes persons who did not state the highest year of school completed.

(d) Persons who did not state the highest year of school completed as a proportion of total persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Highest level of school completed by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over reporting Year 12 as their highest level of school completed ranged from 11% in the Northern Territory to 47% in the Australian Capital Territory. The proportion of Indigenous students reporting Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling ranged from 16% in the Australian Capital Territory to 60% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.06.25).
- 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 (27% compared with 14%) (Table 2.06.26).
- In all remoteness areas, Indigenous Australians were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to report their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below.

Table 2.06.25: Highest level of school completed, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

State/ territory			Year 12	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9 or below ^(a)	Total ^{(b)(c)}	Total no. of persons ^(c)	Highest year of school not stated ^(d)
NSW	Indig.	%	23	8	35	34	100	66,233	12
	Non-Indig.	%	50	5	28	16	100	4,338,253	5
	Rate ratio		0.5	1.5	1.2	2.1	..	..	2.2
Vic	Indig.	%	29	16	26	29	100	14,780	12
	Non-Indig.	%	51	15	17	18	100	3,344,922	5
	Rate ratio		0.6	1.1	1.6	1.7	..	..	2.2
Qld	Indig.	%	31	11	32	27	100	61,551	11
	Non-Indig.	%	48	8	29	15	100	2,554,880	5
	Rate ratio		0.6	1.4	1.1	1.9	..	..	2.2
WA	Indig.	%	21	14	36	29	100	27,687	16
	Non-Indig.	%	50	11	27	12	100	1,278,663	5
	Rate ratio		0.4	1.2	1.3	2.5	..	..	3.2
SA	Indig.	%	18	21	27	30	100	12,482	13
	Non-Indig.	%	44	21	19	16	100	1,044,597	5
	Rate ratio		0.4	1.0	1.4	1.9	..	..	2.7
Tas	Indig.	%	23	11	43	23	100	8,716	6
	Non-Indig.	%	37	8	36	18	100	314,375	6
	Rate ratio		0.6	1.2	1.2	1.3	..	..	1.1
ACT	Indig.	%	47	9	27	16	100	2,083	5
	Non-Indig.	%	70	5	17	8	100	226,947	3
	Rate ratio		0.7	1.9	1.6	2.2	..	..	1.8
NT	Indig.	%	11	10	19	60	100	26,548	15
	Non-Indig.	%	50	15	24	11	100	88,985	4
	Rate ratio		0.2	0.7	0.8	5.7	..	..	3.8
Aust.^(e)	Indig.	%	24	11	31	34	100	220,228	12
	Non-Indig.	%	49	10	25	16	100	13,192,949	5
	Rate ratio		0.5	1.1	1.3	2.1	..	..	2.4

.. Not applicable

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

(b) Excludes persons currently attending primary and secondary educational institutions.

(c) Excludes persons who did not state the highest year of school completed.

(d) Persons who did not state the highest year of school completed as a proportion of total persons.

(e) Includes other territories.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.26: Highest level of school completed, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

			Year 12	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9 or below ^(a)	Total ^{(b)(c)}	Total no. of persons ^(c)	Highest year of school not stated ^(d)
Major Cities	Indig.	%	32	11	32	24	100	72,645	11
	Non-Indig.	%	55	9	22	14	100	9,198,201	5
	Rate ratio		0.6	1.2	1.5	1.7	..	..	2.2
Inner Regional	Indig.	%	24	11	35	31	100	45,856	12
	Non-Indig.	%	37	11	32	19	100	2,560,665	6
	Rate ratio		0.6	0.9	1.1	1.6	..	..	2.1
Outer Regional	Indig.	%	23	13	33	31	100	45,526	14
	Non-Indig.	%	36	12	32	20	100	1,181,968	6
	Rate ratio		0.6	1.1	1.0	1.5	..	..	2.6
<i>Subtotal non-remote</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>164,027</i>	<i>12.2</i>
	<i>Non-Indig.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>12,940,834</i>	<i>5.2</i>
	<i>Rate ratio</i>		<i>0.5</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>2.4</i>
Remote	Indig.	%	17	13	30	40	100	18,969	16
	Non-Indig.	%	39	14	31	17	100	165,719	5
	Rate ratio		0.4	0.9	1.0	2.4	..	..	3.4
Very Remote	Indig.	%	13	9	23	54	100	36,279	10
	Non-Indig.	%	41	12	30	16	100	55,840	4
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.7	0.8	3.4	..	..	2.4
<i>Subtotal remote</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>55,248</i>	<i>12</i>
	<i>Non-Indig.</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>221,559</i>	<i>5</i>
	<i>Rate ratio</i>		<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>2.7</i>
Aust.^(e)	Indig.	%	24	11	31	34	100	220,229	12
	Non-Indig.	%	49	10	25	16	100	13,192,949	5
	Rate ratio		0.5	1.1	1.3	2.1	..	..	2.4

.. Not applicable

(a) Includes persons who never attended school

(b) Excludes persons currently attending primary or secondary educational institutions.

(c) Excludes persons who did not state the highest year of school completed.

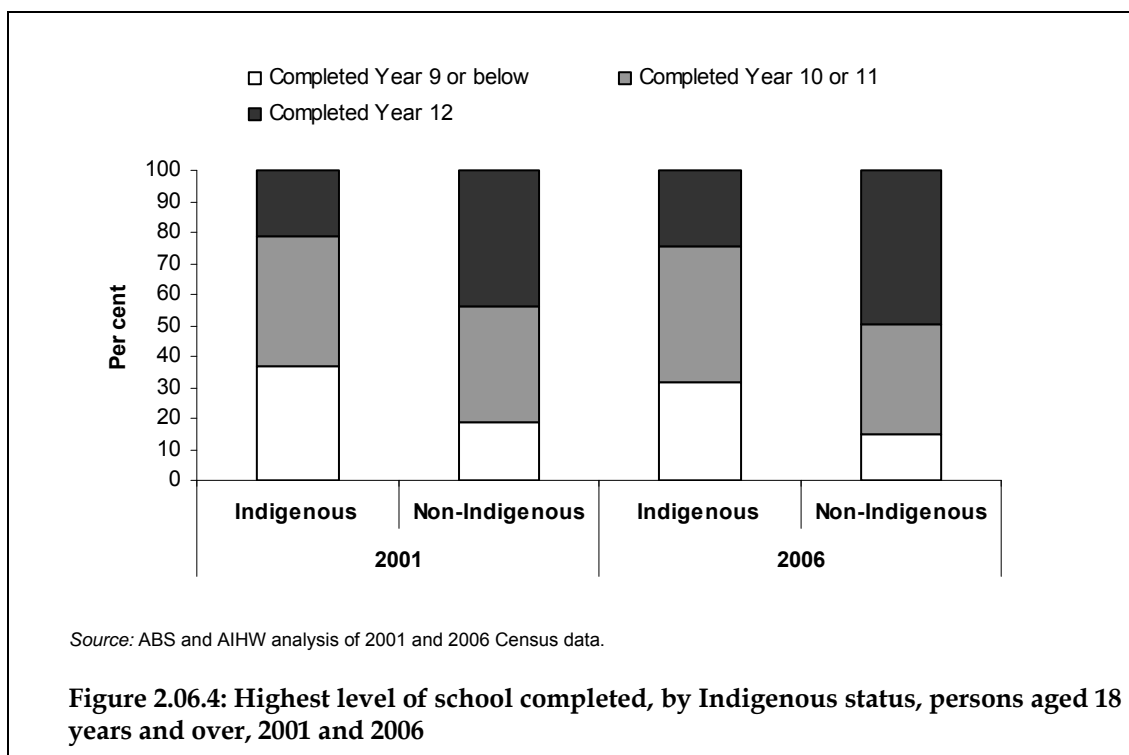
(d) Persons who did not state the highest year of school completed as a proportion of total persons.

(e) Includes migratory and no usual address.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Time series analyses

- A slightly higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported that the highest year of school completed was Year 12 in 2006 (25%) than in 2001 (21%). A higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in 2006 also reported that Year 12 was their highest year of school completed (50%) than in 2001 (44%) (Figure 2.06.4).



Non-school qualifications

- In 2006, approximately 30% of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years reported they had a non-school qualification compared with 55% of non-Indigenous Australians of the same age (Table 2.06.27).
- A higher proportion of non-Indigenous than Indigenous people aged 25–64 years had completed a certificate course in 2006 (21% and 18% respectively). A much higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians had a bachelor degree or diploma as their highest level of non-school qualification (23% and 10% respectively) compared with Indigenous Australians (6% and 5% respectively).

Non-school qualifications by age and sex

- For Indigenous Australians the age group with the highest rate of non-school qualifications was 35–44 years (32%). For non-Indigenous Australians the highest rate was in the 25–34 year group (63%) (Table 2.06.27).
- In 2006, a higher proportion of Indigenous males than females aged 25–64 years had a non-school qualification (32% and 29%, respectively). Indigenous males were more likely to have completed a certificate course (22%) and less likely to have completed a diploma (4%) or bachelor degree or above (5%) than Indigenous females (14%, 6% and 7% respectively) (Table 2.06.28).

Table 2.06.27: Whether has non-school qualification, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 25–64, 2006

Highest level of non-school qualification ^(a)	25–34 years			35–44 years			45–64 years			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Non-school qualification												
Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	5	30	0.2	6	23	0.3	7	19	0.4	6	23	0.3
Advanced diploma/diploma	4	9	0.4	5	10	0.5	6	9	0.6	5	10	0.5
Certificate	21	22	0.9	19	22	0.8	14	20	0.7	18	21	0.8
Total with non-school qualification^(c)	31	63	0.5	32	57	0.6	28	50	0.6	30	55	0.6
Does not have a non-school qualification ^(d)	69	37	1.9	68	43	1.6	72	50	1.4	70	45	1.6
Total^(e)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons ^(e)	53,174	2,356,291	..	49,532	2,600,129	..	53,687	4,368,476	..	156,393	9,324,896	..
Not stated ^(f)	15	4	3.7	14	5	3.1	14	6	2.5	14	5	2.9

.. Not applicable

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

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

(c) Includes inadequately described responses and cases where no response was given to the level of qualification.

(d) Includes persons with a qualification outside the scope of the Australia Standard Classification of Education.

(e) Excludes those who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification.

(f) Persons who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification as a proportion of total persons.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.28: Whether has a non-school qualification, by sex and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

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	7	24	0.3	6	23	0.3
Advanced diploma/diploma	4	8	0.5	6	11	0.6	5	10	0.5
Certificate	22	29	0.8	14	14	1.1	18	21	0.8
Total with non-school qualification^(c)	32	60	0.5	29	51	0.6	30	55	0.6
Does not have a non-school qualification ^(d)	68	40	1.7	71	49	1.4	70	45	1.6
Total^(e)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons ^(e)	72,441	4,590,867	..	83,952	4,734,029	..	156,393	9,324,896	..
Not stated ^(f)	16	5	3.5	13	5	2.4	14	5	2.9

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

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

(c) Includes inadequately described responses and cases where no response was given to the level of qualification.

(d) Includes persons with a qualification outside the scope of the Australia Standard Classification of Education.

(e) Excludes those who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification.

(f) Persons who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification as a proportion of total persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Non-school qualifications by state/territory and remoteness

- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years with a non-school qualification ranged from 17% in the Northern Territory to 50% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.06.29). Approximately 22% of Indigenous Australians in the Australian Capital Territory had completed a bachelor degree or above, whereas in the other states and territories this proportion ranged between 3% and 9%.
- In 2006, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years in non-remote areas reported having a non-school qualification (35%) than Indigenous Australians in remote areas (18%) (Table 2.06.30). In Major Cities, approximately the same proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians had a certificate qualification (20%). In other remoteness categories, non-Indigenous Australians were more likely to have this qualification.

Table 2.06.29: Whether has a non-school qualification, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

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 ^(d)	Total ^(e)	Total no. of persons ^(e)	Not stated ^(f)
NSW	Indig.	%	7	5	20	34	66	100	46,944	14
	Non-Indig.	%	24	10	22	58	42	100	3,046,285	5
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.5	0.9	0.6	1.6	..	..	2.6
Vic	Indig.	%	9	7	20	38	62	100	10,482	14
	Non-Indig.	%	25	10	19	55	45	100	2,362,297	5
	Rate ratio		0.4	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.4	..	..	2.7
Qld	Indig.	%	6	5	19	31	69	100	44,017	13
	Non-Indig.	%	19	9	23	52	48	100	1,823,942	5
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.4	..	..	2.8
WA	Indig.	%	5	4	15	25	75	100	19,627	18
	Non-Indig.	%	21	10	22	55	45	100	913,931	5
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.4	0.7	0.5	1.7	..	..	3.6
SA	Indig.	%	6	5	18	30	70	100	8,754	15
	Non-Indig.	%	19	9	22	51	49	100	720,956	5
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.4	..	..	3.2
Tas	Indig.	%	6	5	23	35	65	100	6,160	8
	Non-Indig.	%	17	8	22	49	51	100	220,658	5
	Rate ratio		0.4	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.3	..	..	1.6
ACT	Indig.	%	22	8	18	50	50	100	1,516	7
	Non-Indig.	%	41	11	16	68	32	100	164,713	3
	Rate ratio		0.6	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.6	..	..	2.2

(continued)

Table 2.06.29 (continued): Whether has a non-school qualification, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

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 ^(d)	Total ^(e)	Total no. of persons ^(e)	Not stated ^(f)
NT	Indig.	%	3	3	11	17	83	100	18,792	17
	Non-Indig.	%	22	10	25	59	41	100	71,055	5
	Rate ratio		0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	2.0	..	..	3.7
Aust.	Indig.	%	6	5	18	30	70	100	156,393	14
	Non-Indig.	%	23	10	21	55	45	100	9,324,896	5
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.5	0.8	0.6	1.6	..	..	2.9

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

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

(c) Includes inadequately described responses and cases where no response was given to the level of qualification.

(d) Includes persons with a qualification outside the scope of the Australia Standard Classification of Education.

(e) Excludes those who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification.

(f) Persons who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification as a proportion of total persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.30: Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

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 ^(d)	Total ^(e)	Total no. of persons ^(e)	Not stated ^(f)
Major Cities	Indig.	%	10	7	20	39	61	100	51,396	13
	Non-Indig.	%	26	10	20	58	42	100	6,502,768	5
	Rate ratio		0.4	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.5			2.6
Inner Regional	Indig.	%	6	5	21	34	66	100	32,354	14
	Non-Indig.	%	15	8	25	51	49	100	1,780,797	5
	Rate ratio		0.4	0.6	0.8	0.7	1.3			2.6
Outer Regional	Indig.	%	4	5	18	29	71	100	33,088	16
	Non-Indig.	%	13	8	24	47	53	100	849,820	5
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.3			3.1
Subtotal non-remote	Indig.	%	7	6	20	35	65	100	116,838	14
	Non-Indig.	%	23	10	21	55	45	100	9,133,385	5
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.5			2.7
Remote	Indig.	%	3	3	15	23	77	100	13,666	18
	Non-Indig.	%	13	7	24	46	54	100	125,494	5
	Rate ratio		0.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.4			3.6
Very Remote	Indig.	%	2	2	10	15	85	100	25,189	13
	Non-Indig.	%	15	8	25	49	51	100	43,662	5
	Rate ratio		0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.7			2.6
Subtotal remote	Indig.	%	2	3	12	18	82	100	38,855	17
	Non-Indig.	%	13	8	24	47	53	100	169,156	5
	Rate ratio		0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.5			3.3

(continued)

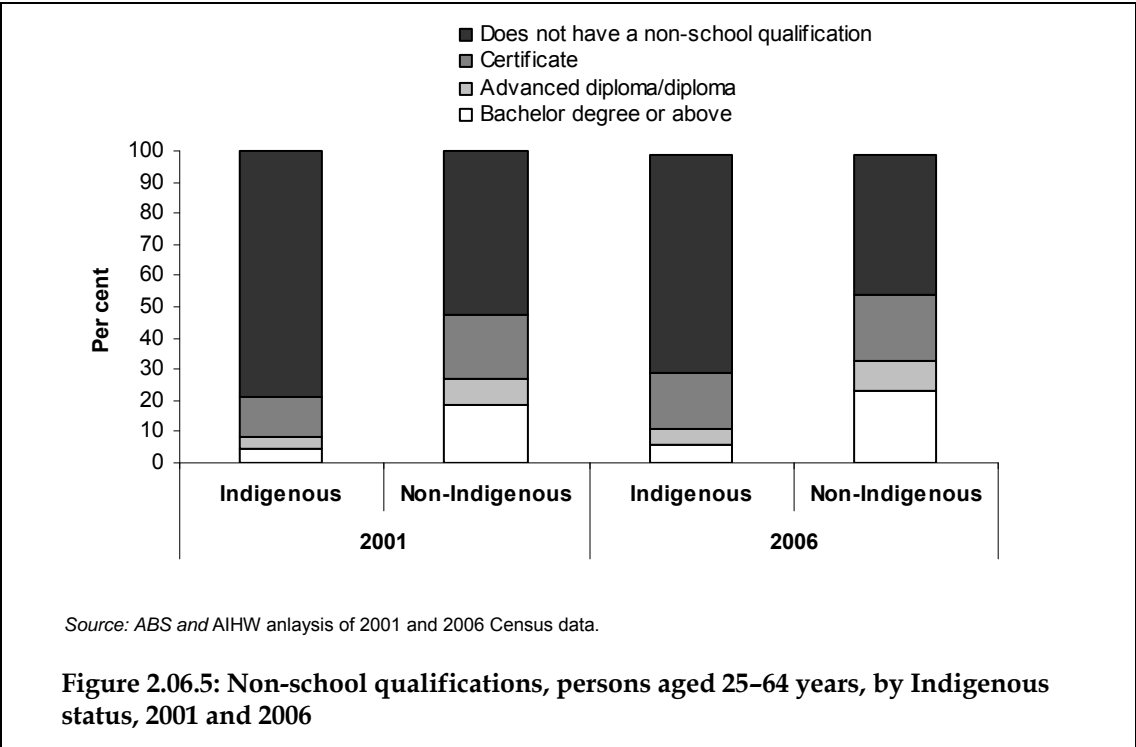
Table 2.06.30 (continued): Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

- (a) As classified to the ABS Classification of Qualifications.
- (b) Includes bachelor degree, doctorate, masters, graduate diploma, graduate certificate.
- (c) Includes inadequately described responses and cases where no response was given to the level of qualification.
- (d) Includes persons with a qualification outside the scope of the Australia Standard Classification of Education.
- (e) Excludes those who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification.
- (f) Persons who did not state whether they had a non-school qualification as a proportion of total persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Time series analyses

- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years in 2006 reported that they had a non-school qualification (30%) than in 2001 (21%). Approximately 6% of Indigenous Australians had a bachelor degree or higher in 2006, compared with 5% in 2001. A higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians also had a non-school qualification in 2006 (55%) than in 2001 (47%) (Figure 2.06.5).



Vocational education and training (VET) 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 2006 are presented below.

- During the year 2006, there were approximately 13,924 course completions in the VET sector by Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over. This constitutes 4.4% of the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over. In comparison, approximately 2.3% of the non-Indigenous population aged 15 years and over completed a course in the VET sector in 2006.
- A similar proportion of Indigenous and other Australians aged 15 years and over had completed a certificate III course (0.7% and 0.6% respectively) or certificate IV, diploma or higher (0.4% and 0.5% respectively) in 2006. A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over had completed a certificate I/II (1.1%) or other certificate course (2.1%) than other Australians (0.5% and 0.8% 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 (Table 2.06.31).
- Overall, a higher proportion of Indigenous males had completed a course in the VET sector in 2006 than Indigenous females (4.6% compared with 4.2%). However, Indigenous females were more likely to have completed a certificate III course or higher than Indigenous males.

Table 2.06.31: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2006

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.	77	13,758	116	7,768	150	6,425	107	4,347	35	1,568	485	33,866
	%	0.1	1.0	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4
Certificate III	No.	435	24,484	195	9,428	139	5,941	78	3,731	18	1,770	865	45,354
	%	0.8	1.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.6
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	1,056	19,789	423	6,576	283	5,224	163	3,719	52	1,851	1,977	37,159
	%	2.0	1.4	1.2	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.3	0.5
Other certificates ^(b)	No.	1,805	21,948	822	13,517	633	12,631	340	10,589	141	7,387	3,741	66,072
	%	3.5	1.5	2.3	1.0	2.1	0.8	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.3	2.4	0.8
Total completions	No.	3,373	79,979	1,556	37,289	1,205	30,221	688	22,386	246	12,576	7,068	182,451
	%	6.5	5.6	4.4	2.6	4.1	2.0	3.3	1.6	1.4	0.5	4.6	2.3
Females													
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	170	18,667	208	9,744	272	8,865	194	6,775	56	1,771	900	45,822
	%	0.3	1.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.6
Certificate III	No.	570	23,559	288	9,483	295	10,321	204	7,511	58	2,075	1,415	52,949
	%	1.1	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.6
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	852	18,947	246	5,729	283	6,645	210	4,956	77	2,000	1,668	38,277
	%	1.7	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.0	0.5
Other certificates ^(b)	No.	1,065	17,503	615	10,336	605	13,659	393	11,697	184	6,779	2,862	59,974
	%	2.1	1.3	1.6	0.7	1.8	0.9	1.8	0.8	0.9	0.3	1.8	0.7
Total completions	No.	2,657	78,676	1,357	35,292	1,455	39,490	1,001	30,939	375	12,625	6,845	197,022
	%	5.3	5.8	3.6	2.5	4.3	2.6	4.5	2.2	1.9	0.5	4.2	2.4

(continued)

Table 2.06.31 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2006

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.	248	32,431	324	17,528	422	15,296	301	11,132	91	3,343	1,386	79,730
	%	0.2	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5
Certificate III	No.	1,006	48,066	483	18,923	434	16,279	282	11,253	76	3,847	2,281	98,368
	%	1.0	1.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.6
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	1,914	38,778	669	12,312	567	11,876	375	8,678	129	3,854	3,654	75,498
	%	1.9	1.4	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.1	0.5
Other certificates ^(b)	No.	2,870	39,455	1,437	23,853	1,238	26,292	733	22,286	325	14,166	6,603	126,052
	%	2.8	1.4	2.0	0.8	2.0	0.9	1.7	0.8	0.9	0.3	2.1	0.8
Total completions	No.	6,038	158,730	2,913	72,616	2,661	69,743	1,691	53,349	621	25,210	13,924	379,648
	%	5.9	5.7	4.0	2.6	4.2	2.3	4.0	1.9	1.7	0.5	4.4	2.3

(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 2006.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2006.

Educational attainment by state/territory and remoteness

- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who completed a VET course ranged from 2% in the Northern Territory to 8% in New South Wales (Table 2.06.32). The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians who completed a certificate IV, diploma or higher in 2006 (2%).
- The proportion of Indigenous and other students who completed a VET course in 2006 was similar in Tasmania and the Northern Territory, whereas in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital 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 2006 was highest in Outer Regional areas (6%) and lowest in Major Cities and Very Remote areas of Australia (4%). Higher proportions of Indigenous Australians living in Major Cities and 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 2.06.33).

Table 2.06.32: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2006

	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	187	0.4	309	0.7	553	1.2	2,298	5.1	3,347	7.5	12,605	0.5	15,353	0.6	11,250	0.4	44,475	1.7	83,683	3.2	
Vic	35	0.4	61	0.6	146	1.5	2	0.0	244	2.5	9,610	0.5	14,743	0.7	10,302	0.5	1,397	0.1	36,052	1.8	
Qld	100	0.2	190	0.5	309	0.7	1,446	3.5	2,045	4.9	4,318	0.3	6,739	0.4	6,299	0.4	19,754	1.3	37,110	2.4	
WA	69	0.3	94	0.4	580	2.6	0	0.0	743	3.3	3,878	0.5	3,837	0.5	5,576	0.7	0	0.0	13,291	1.7	
SA	26	0.3	81	0.9	78	0.9	1	0.0	186	2.1	1,372	0.2	2,333	0.4	2,022	0.3	273	0.0	6,000	1.0	
Tas	20	0.3	36	0.6	52	0.9	2	0.0	110	1.9	1,052	0.6	1,496	0.8	1,406	0.8	297	0.2	4,251	2.3	
ACT	13	0.9	5	0.4	39	2.8	4	0.3	61	4.4	1,108	0.8	697	0.5	499	0.4	1,233	0.9	3,537	2.7	
NT	35	0.2	93	0.5	271	1.4	118	0.6	517	2.6	152	0.2	401	0.6	333	0.5	45	0.1	931	1.5	
Australia	485	0.3	869	0.6	2,028	1.3	3,871	2.5	7,253	4.7	34,095	0.4	45,599	0.6	37,687	0.5	67,474	0.8	184,855	2.3	
Females																					
NSW	300	0.6	463	1.0	585	1.3	2,225	4.8	3,573	7.6	16,208	0.6	17,604	0.6	15,635	0.6	45,884	1.7	95,331	3.5	
Vic	72	0.7	82	0.8	124	1.2	7	0.1	285	2.8	13,533	0.6	15,530	0.7	8,943	0.4	1,968	0.1	39,974	1.9	
Qld	216	0.5	369	0.8	288	0.6	678	1.5	1,551	3.4	5,578	0.3	8,120	0.5	5,614	0.4	11,838	0.7	31,150	2.0	
WA	124	0.5	212	0.9	283	1.2	0	0.0	619	2.6	5,361	0.7	6,235	0.8	4,420	0.6	0	0.0	16,016	2.0	
SA	74	0.8	124	1.3	117	1.2	0	0.0	315	3.4	1,813	0.3	2,303	0.4	1,651	0.3	31	0.0	5,798	0.9	
Tas	38	0.6	70	1.2	49	0.8	0	0.0	157	2.6	1,575	0.8	2,028	1.0	1,252	0.6	4	0.0	4,859	2.5	
ACT	30	2.1	24	1.7	55	3.9	5	0.4	114	8.1	1,716	1.3	1,095	0.8	748	0.5	1,319	1.0	4,878	3.6	
NT	55	0.3	75	0.4	209	1.0	49	0.2	388	1.9	309	0.6	310	0.6	401	0.7	11	0.0	1,031	1.8	
Australia	909	0.6	1,419	0.9	1,710	1.0	2,964	1.8	7,002	4.3	46,093	0.6	53,225	0.6	38,664	0.5	61,055	0.7	199,037	2.4	

(continued)

Table 2.06.32 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

	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	487	0.5	772	0.8	1,142	1.2	4,523	4.9	6,924	7.6	28,822	0.5	32,968	0.6	26,906	0.5	90,359	1.7	179,055	3.3	
Vic	107	0.5	143	0.7	270	1.3	9	0.0	529	2.6	23,147	0.6	30,292	0.7	19,248	0.5	3,368	0.1	76,055	1.8	
Qld	316	0.4	559	0.6	597	0.7	2,124	2.4	3,596	4.1	9,897	0.3	14,860	0.5	11,918	0.4	31,601	1.0	68,276	2.2	
WA	193	0.4	306	0.7	864	1.9	0	0.0	1,363	2.9	9,239	0.6	10,077	0.6	10,010	0.6	0	0.0	29,326	1.8	
SA	100	0.6	205	1.1	198	1.1	1	0.0	504	2.8	3,193	0.3	4,668	0.4	3,694	0.3	306	0.0	11,861	0.9	
Tas	58	0.5	106	0.9	101	0.9	2	0.0	267	2.3	2,634	0.7	3,534	0.9	2,660	0.7	305	0.1	9,133	2.4	
ACT	44	1.6	30	1.1	95	3.4	9	0.3	178	6.4	2,856	1.1	1,799	0.7	1,255	0.5	2,552	0.9	8,462	3.1	
NT	90	0.2	168	0.4	480	1.2	167	0.4	905	2.2	462	0.4	711	0.6	735	0.6	57	0.0	1,965	1.7	
Australia	1,395	0.4	2,289	0.7	3,747	1.2	6,835	2.1	14,266	4.5	80,250	0.5	98,909	0.6	76,426	0.5	128,548	0.8	384,133	2.4	

(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 2006.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2006.

Table 2.06.33: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and remoteness area, 2006

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.	181	20,776	115	5,986	110	2,361	31	366	46	254
	%	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.6
Certificate III	No.	273	25,294	174	10,551	233	5,860	64	891	99	383
	%	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.9
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	550	19,009	344	9,158	469	6,036	253	1,274	393	735
	%	1.1	0.4	1.1	0.5	1.3	0.7	1.8	1.1	1.4	1.7
Other certificates ^(a)	No.	703	30,657	676	16,131	1,393	16,814	350	1,974	716	813
	%	1.5	0.6	2.1	1.0	3.9	2.1	2.5	1.7	2.6	1.9
Total completions	No.	1,707	95,736	1,309	41,826	2,205	31,071	698	4,505	1,254	2,185
	%	3.6	1.8	4.0	2.5	6.1	3.8	5.0	3.8	4.5	5.1
Females											
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	301	27,236	188	9,072	234	4,093	72	507	102	269
	%	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.8
Certificate III	No.	463	30,176	269	12,680	416	6,871	103	873	149	397
	%	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.5	1.2
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	502	21,296	302	9,160	424	5,790	188	872	277	415
	%	1.0	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.7	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.3
Other certificates ^(a)	No.	587	32,137	536	13,411	1,157	12,588	365	1,647	288	547
	%	1.1	0.6	1.7	0.8	3.1	1.6	2.5	1.6	1.0	1.7
Total completions	No.	1,853	110,845	1,295	44,323	2,231	29,342	728	3,899	816	1,628
	%	3.6	2.0	4.0	2.6	5.9	3.8	4.9	3.8	2.8	5.1

(continued)

Table 2.06.33 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and remoteness, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

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.	482	48,050	304	15,076	344	6,456	103	873	148	523
	%	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7
Certificate III	No.	736	55,519	444	23,254	649	12,740	167	1,766	248	780
	%	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.4	1.0
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	1,055	40,356	647	18,332	895	11,833	441	2,148	673	1,150
	%	1.1	0.4	1.0	0.5	1.2	0.7	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.5
Other certificates ^(a)	No.	1,290	62,800	1,212	29,546	2,550	29,410	715	3,621	1,004	1,361
	%	1.3	0.6	1.9	0.9	3.5	1.9	2.5	1.6	1.8	1.8
Total completions	No.	3,563	206,725	2,607	86,208	4,438	60,439	1,426	8,408	2,073	3,814
	%	3.6	1.9	4.0	2.5	6.0	3.8	4.9	3.8	3.7	5.1

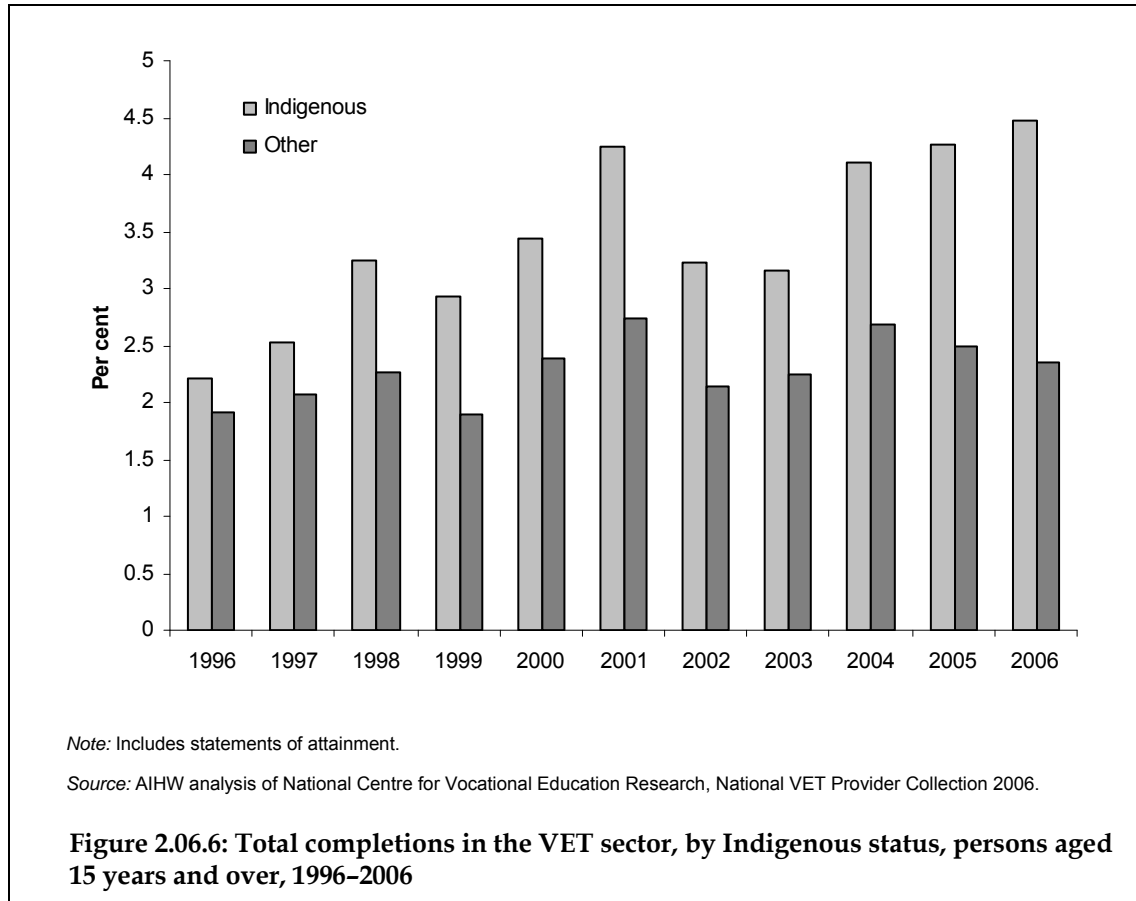
(a) Includes statements of attainment.

Note: Percentages are calculated using the 2006 Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations by ASGC remoteness category.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2006.

Time series analyses

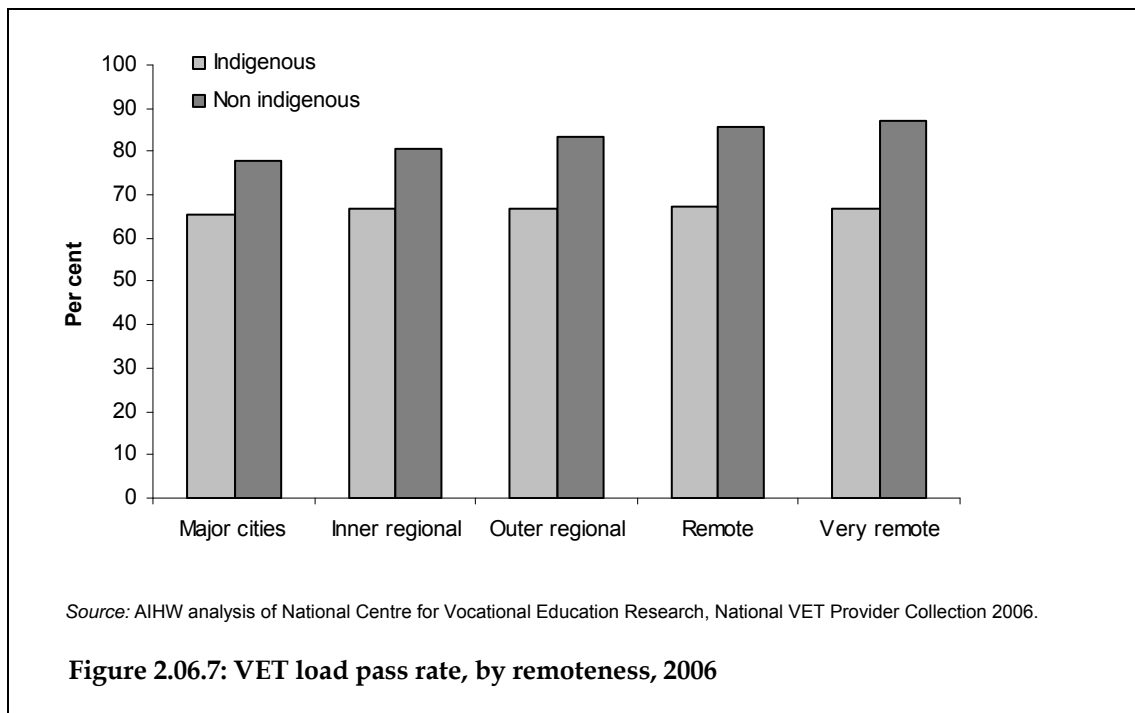
- Between 1996 and 2006, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of Indigenous students and other students who had completed a course in the VET sector, but the magnitude of the increase among Indigenous students was considerably higher (Figure 2.06.6). The fitted trend implies an average yearly increase in the proportion of 0.19% for Indigenous students and 0.05% 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 2006, the VET load pass rate for Indigenous students was 67% compared with 80% for non-Indigenous students. The rate was lower for Indigenous students than for non-Indigenous students across all geographical regions (Figure 2.06.7).



Higher education data

Educational attainment

Data on the educational attainment of Indigenous Australians in the higher education sector are available from the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). Data collected for the year 2006 are presented in the following tables.

- During the year 2006, approximately 0.6% of Indigenous Australians completed a course in the higher education sector compared with 1.0% of other Australians. Approximately 0.4% of Indigenous Australians completed an undergraduate degree and 0.1% of Indigenous Australians completed a postgraduate degree. This compared with 0.7% and 0.3% for other Australians.

Educational attainment by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 22–24 years were more likely to complete a higher education course in 2006 (1.7%) than those in other age groups. Other Australians aged 22–24 years were also more likely to complete a higher education course in 2006 than those in other age groups (10%) (Table 2.06.34).
- In 2006, a higher proportion of Indigenous females than Indigenous males completed an undergraduate degree (0.6% compared with 0.3%) and a postgraduate degree (0.2% compared with 0.1%).

Table 2.06.34: Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2006

	22–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55+		Total ^(a)													
	Indigenous		Other ^(b)		Indigenous		Other ^(b)		Indigenous		Other ^(b)													
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%												
Males																								
Doctorate or higher	0	0.0	36	0.0	2	0.0	1,089	0.1	0	0.0	522	0.0	2	0.0	347	0.0	0	0.0	215	0.0	4	0.0	2,209	0.0
Master's degree	1	0.0	1,371	0.3	20	0.1	4,622	0.2	16	0.1	2,855	0.2	10	0.0	1,399	0.1	4	0.0	360	0.0	51	0.0	10,607	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate ^(c)	5	0.0	1,607	0.4	17	0.0	3,596	0.2	14	0.0	2,711	0.2	5	0.0	1,397	0.1	3	0.0	330	0.0	44	0.0	9,641	0.1
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>3,014</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>9,307</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>6,088</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>3,143</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>905</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>22,457</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Bachelor's degree	104	0.8	31,258	7.2	82	0.2	7,672	0.4	49	0.2	2,354	0.2	36	0.2	912	0.1	6	0.0	295	0.0	277	0.2	42,491	0.5
Other undergraduate ^(d)	17	0.1	785	0.2	18	0.1	487	0.0	15	0.1	288	0.0	9	0.0	107	0.0	5	0.0	33	0.0	64	0.1	1,700	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>32,043</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>8,159</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>2,642</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>1,019</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>328</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>44,191</i>	<i>0.6</i>
All graduates^(e)	127	1.0	35,057	8.0	139	0.4	17,466	0.8	94	0.3	8,730	0.6	62	0.3	4,162	0.3	18	0.1	1,233	0.1	440	0.4	66,648	0.9
Females																								
Doctorate or higher	0	0.0	40	0.0	3	0.0	1,146	0.1	3	0.0	506	0.0	5	0.0	397	0.0	3	0.0	194	0.0	14	0.0	2,283	0.0
Master's degree	8	0.1	2,024	0.5	19	0.1	4,736	0.2	22	0.1	2,583	0.2	11	0.0	1,856	0.1	7	0.0	442	0.0	67	0.1	11,641	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate ^(c)	16	0.1	4,187	1.0	44	0.1	5,978	0.3	32	0.1	3,593	0.2	23	0.1	2,415	0.2	2	0.0	461	0.0	117	0.1	16,636	0.2
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>6,251</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>11,860</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>6,682</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>4,668</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>1,097</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>30,560</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Bachelor's degree	265	2.0	47,234	11.2	132	0.4	9,714	0.5	121	0.4	4,711	0.3	58	0.3	2,200	0.2	16	0.1	491	0.0	592	0.5	64,350	0.8
Other undergraduate ^(d)	19	0.1	749	0.2	40	0.1	320	0.0	39	0.1	195	0.0	25	0.1	113	0.0	7	0.0	50	0.0	130	0.1	1,427	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>47,983</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>172</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>10,034</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>4,906</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>2,313</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>541</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>722</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>65,777</i>	<i>0.8</i>
All graduates^(e)	308	2.3	54,234	12.9	238	0.6	21,894	1.0	217	0.6	11,588	0.8	122	0.5	6,981	0.5	35	0.2	1,638	0.1	920	0.7	96,337	1.2

(continued)

Table 2.06.34 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2006

	22–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55+		Total ^(a)													
	Indigenous		Other ^(b)		Indigenous		Other ^(b)		Indigenous		Other ^(b)													
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%												
Persons																								
Doctorate or higher	0	0.0	76	0.0	5	0.0	2,235	0.1	3	0.0	1,028	0.0	7	0.0	744	0.0	3	0.0	409	0.0	18	0.0	4,492	0.0
Master's degree	9	0.0	3,395	0.4	39	0.1	9,358	0.2	38	0.1	5,438	0.2	21	0.0	3,255	0.1	11	0.0	802	0.0	118	0.0	22,248	0.1
Postgrad. diploma or certificate ^(c)	21	0.1	5,794	0.7	61	0.1	9,574	0.2	46	0.1	6,304	0.2	28	0.1	3,812	0.1	5	0.0	791	0.0	161	0.1	26,277	0.2
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>9,265</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>21,167</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>12,770</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>7,811</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2,002</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>297</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>53,017</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Bachelor's degree	369	1.4	78,492	9.2	214	0.3	17,386	0.4	170	0.3	7,065	0.2	94	0.2	3,112	0.1	22	0.1	786	0.0	869	0.4	106,841	0.7
Other undergraduate ^(d)	36	0.1	1,534	0.2	58	0.1	807	0.0	54	0.1	483	0.0	34	0.1	220	0.0	12	0.0	83	0.0	194	0.1	3,127	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>80,026</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>272</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>18,193</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>224</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>7,548</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>3,332</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>869</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1,063</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>109,968</i>	<i>0.7</i>
All graduates^(e)	435	1.7	89,291	10.4	377	0.5	39,360	0.9	311	0.5	20,318	0.7	184	0.4	11,143	0.4	53	0.1	2,871	0.1	1,360	0.6	162,985	1.0

(a) Numbers are for all persons completing courses in higher education. Proportions have been calculated from persons aged 22 years and over, as this is the age group most applicable to higher education course completion.

(b) Includes Indigenous status not stated.

(c) Includes postgrad. qual/prelim., grad.(post) dip.—new area, grad.(post) dip.—ext. area, and graduate certificate.

(d) Includes associate degree, advanced diploma (AQF), diploma (AQF) and other undergraduate award courses.

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

Notes

1. Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations for 2006.

2. Note that the numbers reported in the 2006 edition of this report under the higher education data section were for course enrolments rather than for completions as presented here.

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

Educational attainment by state/territory

- The proportion of Indigenous persons who completed a course in the higher education sector ranged from 0.2% in the Northern Territory to 1.4% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.06.35). The Australian Capital Territory also had the highest proportion of Indigenous persons who completed a postgraduate degree in 2006.
- A lower proportion of Indigenous persons completed a higher education course than other Australians in all states and territories.

Table 2.06.35: Completions in the higher education sector^(a) by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2006^(a)

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Indigenous																		
Males																		
Doctorate or higher	1	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.0
Master's degree	16	0.0	11	0.1	15	0.0	5	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.3	0	0.0	51	0.0
Postgrad. dip. or certificate ^(b)	11	0.0	10	0.1	15	0.0	1	0.0	5	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	44	0.0
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Bachelor's degree	97	0.3	30	0.4	71	0.2	33	0.2	22	0.3	9	0.2	5	0.5	9	0.1	277	0.2
Other undergraduate ^(c)	7	0.0	2	0.0	4	0.0	20	0.1	7	0.1	7	0.2	0	0.0	10	0.1	64	0.1
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>0.3</i>
All graduates^(d)	132	0.4	55	0.7	106	0.3	59	0.3	35	0.5	16	0.4	8	0.8	20	0.1	440	0.4
Females																		
Doctorate or higher	4	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	14	0.0
Master's degree	23	0.1	14	0.2	11	0.0	3	0.0	5	0.1	4	0.1	6	0.6	1	0.0	67	0.1
Postgrad. dip. or certificate ^(b)	40	0.1	19	0.2	23	0.1	16	0.1	7	0.1	1	0.0	3	0.3	5	0.0	117	0.1
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Bachelor's degree	205	0.6	54	0.7	131	0.4	68	0.4	40	0.6	30	0.7	12	1.1	29	0.2	592	0.5
Other undergraduate ^(c)	36	0.1	2	0.0	6	0.0	29	0.2	6	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0	22	0.1	130	0.1
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>241</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>722</i>	<i>0.6</i>
All graduates^(d)	308	0.9	90	1.2	174	0.5	118	0.6	59	0.8	37	0.8	22	2.0	57	0.4	920	0.7

(continued)

Table 2.06.35 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Aust	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%(a)	No.	%
Persons																		
Doctorate or higher	5	0.0	3	0.0	4	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	18	0.0
Master's degree	39	0.1	25	0.2	26	0.0	8	0.0	6	0.0	4	0.0	9	0.4	1	0.0	118	0.0
Postgrad. dip. or certificate ^(b)	51	0.1	29	0.2	38	0.1	17	0.0	12	0.1	1	0.0	3	0.1	6	0.0	161	0.1
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>297</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Bachelor's degree	302	0.4	84	0.5	202	0.3	101	0.3	62	0.4	39	0.4	17	0.8	38	0.1	869	0.4
Other undergraduate ^(c)	43	0.1	4	0.0	10	0.0	49	0.1	13	0.1	8	0.1	0	0.0	32	0.1	194	0.1
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>345</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>1,063</i>	<i>0.4</i>
All graduates	440	0.6	145	0.9	280	0.4	177	0.5	94	0.7	53	0.6	30	1.4	77	0.2	1,360	0.6
Other^(e)																		
Males																		
Doctorate or higher	706	0.0	596	0.0	360	0.0	189	0.0	173	0.0	53	0.0	109	0.1	5	0.0	2,209	0.0
Master's degree	4,582	0.2	2,517	0.1	1,577	0.1	681	0.1	474	0.1	77	0.0	484	0.4	17	0.0	10,607	0.1
Postgrad. dip. or certificate ^(b)	2,960	0.1	2,482	0.1	1,701	0.1	1,084	0.1	638	0.1	116	0.1	320	0.2	78	0.1	9,641	0.1
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>8,248</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>5,595</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>3,638</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>1,954</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1,285</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>913</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>22,457</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Bachelor's degree	12,764	0.5	11,492	0.6	7,459	0.5	4,161	0.5	3,311	0.6	986	0.5	1,638	1.3	144	0.2	42,491	0.5
Other undergraduate ^(c)	757	0.0	290	0.0	186	0.0	20	0.0	88	0.0	311	0.2	5	0.0	1	0.0	1,700	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>13,521</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>11,782</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>7,645</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>4,181</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>3,399</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>1,297</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>1,643</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>44,191</i>	<i>0.6</i>
All graduates^(d)	21,769	0.8	17,377	0.9	11,283	0.7	6,135	0.8	4,684	0.8	1,543	0.9	2,556	2.0	245	0.4	66,648	0.9

(continued)

Table 2.06.35 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Aust	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Females																		
Doctorate or higher	699	0.0	650	0.0	333	0.0	210	0.0	195	0.0	61	0.0	110	0.1	6	0.0	2,283	0.0
Master's degree	4,878	0.2	2,845	0.1	1,847	0.1	694	0.1	586	0.1	95	0.1	387	0.3	39	0.1	11,641	0.1
Postgrad. dip. or certificate ^(b)	4,627	0.2	4,801	0.2	2,674	0.2	1,734	0.2	1,336	0.2	196	0.1	479	0.4	125	0.2	16,636	0.2
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>10,204</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>8,296</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>4,854</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>2,638</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>2,117</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>976</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>30,560</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Bachelor's degree	19,659	0.7	16,233	0.8	11,775	0.8	6,253	0.8	5,160	0.8	1,436	0.8	2,133	1.6	318	0.6	64,350	0.8
Other undergraduate ^(c)	549	0.0	389	0.0	215	0.0	66	0.0	104	0.0	19	0.0	19	0.0	4	0.0	1,427	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>20,208</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>16,622</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>11,990</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>6,319</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>5,264</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>1,455</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>2,152</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>322</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>65,777</i>	<i>0.8</i>
All graduates^(d)	30,412	1.1	24,918	1.2	16,844	1.1	8,957	1.2	7,381	1.2	1,807	1.0	3,128	2.3	492	0.9	96,337	1.2
Persons																		
Doctorate or higher	1,405	0.0	1,246	0.0	693	0.0	399	0.0	368	0.0	114	0.0	219	0.1	11	0.0	4,492	0.0
Master's degree	9,460	0.2	5,362	0.1	3,424	0.1	1,375	0.1	1,060	0.1	172	0.0	871	0.3	56	0.0	22,248	0.1
Postgrad. dip. or certificate ^(b)	7,587	0.1	7,283	0.2	4,375	0.1	2,818	0.2	1,974	0.2	312	0.1	799	0.3	203	0.2	26,277	0.2
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>18,452</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>13,891</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>8,492</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>4,592</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>3,402</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>598</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>1,889</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>53,017</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Bachelor's degree	32,423	0.6	27,725	0.7	19,234	0.6	10,414	0.7	8,471	0.7	2,422	0.7	3,771	1.4	462	0.4	106,841	0.7
Other undergraduate ^(c)	1,306	0.0	679	0.0	401	0.0	86	0.0	192	0.0	330	0.1	24	0.0	5	0.0	3,127	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>33,729</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>28,404</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>19,635</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>10,500</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>8,663</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>2,752</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>3,795</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>109,968</i>	<i>0.7</i>
All graduates^(d)	52,181	1.0	42,295	1.1	28,127	0.9	15,092	1.0	12,065	1.0	3,350	0.9	5,684	2.2	737	0.6	162,985	1.0

(a) Numbers are for all persons completing courses in higher education. Proportions have been calculated from persons aged 22 years and over, as this is the age group most applicable to higher education course completion.

(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) Includes Indigenous status not stated.

Notes

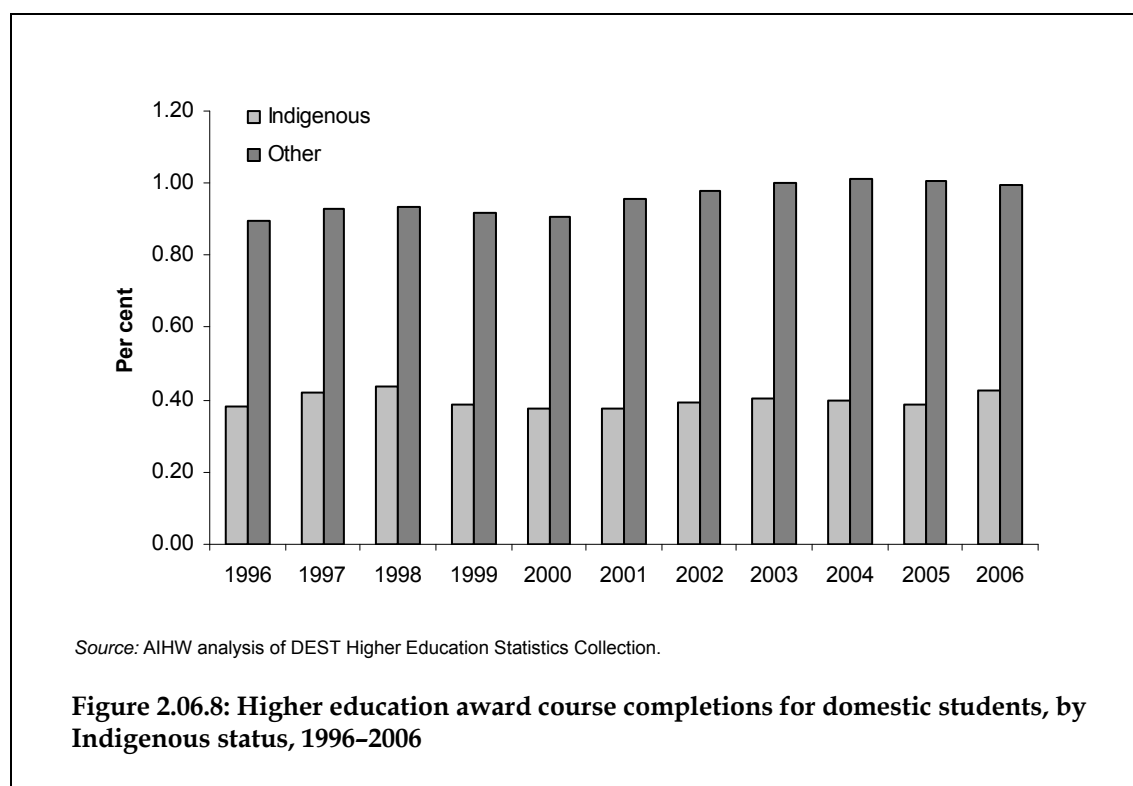
1. Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations for 2006.

2. Note that the numbers reported in the 2006 edition of this report under the higher education data section were for course enrolments rather than for completions as presented here.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEST Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Time series analyses

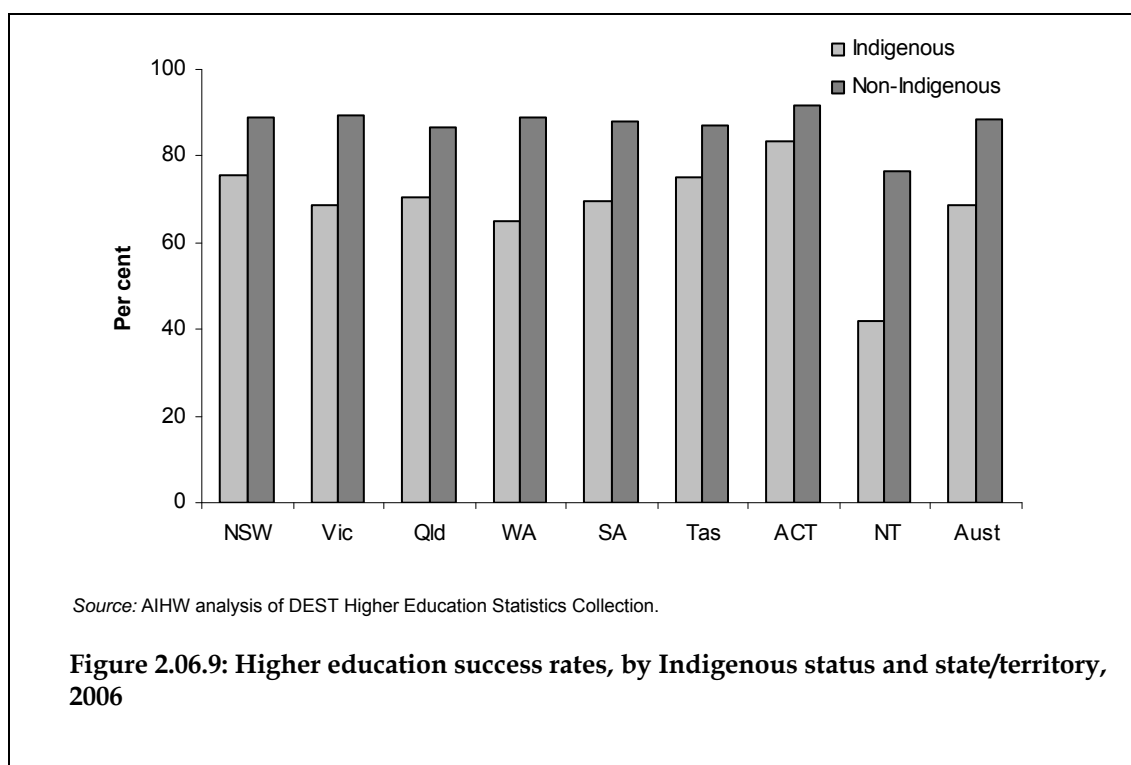
- Between 1996 and 2006, there was little change in the proportion of domestic Indigenous or other students who completed a higher education award course (Figure 2.06.8).



Success rate

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

- In 2006, the success rate for Indigenous students varied by state and territory, ranging from 42% in the Northern Territory to 83% in the Australian Capital Territory. The success rate for non-Indigenous students was similar in most states and territories (between 86% and 92%), except for the Northern Territory (77%) (Figure 2.06.9).



Additional information

Reasons for leaving school early

The 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey collected information on main reasons Indigenous persons left school before completing Year 12 or equivalent. Data are presented by remoteness area in Table 2.06.36.

- 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 was that they got a job or apprenticeship or wanted a job or apprenticeship (16%). Other personal/family reasons accounted for 13% 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 2.06.36).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15–24 years in Remote and Very Remote areas than in non-remote areas reported the main reasons for leaving school before completing Year 12 were that Year 12 or equivalent was not available (8.3%

compared with 1%) or they felt they had done enough at school (10% compared with 6%).

- 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 with 5%).

Table 2.06.36: 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
Per cent						
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 NATSISS 2002.

New apprenticeships

DEST (2006) reported an increase in the participation rates of Indigenous Australians in new apprenticeships in 2004.

- Indigenous people represented 3.3% (8,570) of all new apprenticeship commencements in 2004, an increase from 2.9% (7,970) in 2003.
- Overall, the Indigenous participation rate in new apprenticeships increased from 2.2% (8,500) in 2003 to 2.5% (9,470) in 2004.
- In 2004, the majority (63%) of Indigenous Australians participating in new apprenticeships were male.
- Indigenous students represented 2.4% of new apprenticeships completions, which is in line with their overall participation rate of 2.5%.

Data quality issues

Census of Population and Housing

The Census uses the National health data dictionary standard Indigenous status question and it is asked for each household member. Measures that are drawn from Census data are subject to broad data concerns relating to the unexplainable growth in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population since the 1991 Census, and limitations of self-identification. Other Census data issues relate to the accuracy of the Census count itself, for example, whether people are counted more than once, or are undercounted (ABS 1996).

For the 2002 NATSISS, it was estimated that there were 165,700 Indigenous households compared with 144,700 enumerated in the 2001 Census. Although the Census data are adjusted for undercounts at the person level to arrive at the estimated resident population, no such adjustment is done at the household level. This affects the accuracy of the person counts at the household level to provide adjusted household estimates.

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 establish the accuracy of the estimates and differences.

Information recorded in these surveys is 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, Inner and Outer Regional areas 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 accommodate language and cultural appropriateness in traditional communities and help respondents understand 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 2004–05 NATSIHS and the 2002 NATSISS publications (ABS 2006, 2004a).

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 when comparing data across jurisdictions for load pass rates, as average module durations vary across jurisdictions (SCRGSP 2005b).

(continued)

Data quality issues (continued)

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.*

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 under way to separately record the 'not stated' responses.

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