

3 Aged care

3.1 Residential Aged Care Services Data Collection

Introduction

Residential aged care provides accommodation and other support services, such as domestic services (laundry, cleaning), help with performing daily tasks (moving around, dressing, personal hygiene, eating) and medical care (various levels of nursing care and therapy services). Residential aged care is for older people with physical, medical, psychological or social care needs which cannot be met in the community.

Prior to 1 October 1997, the Australian system of residential aged care consisted of two discrete systems of care – hostels (for lower dependency residents) and nursing homes (for higher dependency residents). As part of the Federal Government's 1997 aged care reforms, hostels and nursing homes were amalgamated into one residential care system.

Both the Aged Care Assessment Team and the residential aged care service record information on residents of residential aged care. The data are entered into the System for the Payment of Aged Residential Care (SPARC), and from there into the Aged and Community Care Management Information System (ACCMIS), managed and regularly updated by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

The Indigenous status of residential aged care residents is recorded on the Aged Care Application and Approval Form which is completed by the Aged Care Assessment Team at the time of assessment. The relevant questions, requiring a yes or no answer, are:

- Are you Aboriginal?
- Are you a Torres Strait Islander?

Analyses

Trend in missing data

Between 1 July 1998 and 30 June 2002 the number and proportion of permanent admissions with missing/ not stated records for Indigenous status has fluctuated. No clear trend over time is discernable. The percentage of missing/ not stated records has increased from 8.1% in 1999–00 to 8.7% in 2001–02. However, this is lower than the rate recorded in 1998–99 (9.4%). The proportion of permanent admissions identified as being Indigenous has remained fairly steady (Table 3.1).

It must be remembered that places offered through Multi-Purpose Services and places funded under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Strategy are not included in these figures. The same is true for all tables throughout this section.

Table 3.1: Permanent admissions to residential aged care, by Indigenous status, 1 July 1998 to 30 June 2002

Indigenous status	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02
Number				
Indigenous	249	227	180	224
Non-Indigenous	40,907	41,593	42,424	42,995
Missing/not stated	4,277	3,690	4,030	4,126
Total permanent	45,433	45,510	46,634	47,345
Per cent				
Indigenous	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
Non-Indigenous	90.0	91.4	91.0	90.8
Missing/not stated	9.4	8.1	8.6	8.7
Total permanent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Age and sex

The number of Indigenous female permanent admissions was higher in every year than the the number of male permanent admissions. The proportion of cases in which Indigenous status was missing/not stated was generally lower among female admissions than male admissions: 9.2% compared with 9.8% for 1998–99 admissions and 8.4% compared to 9.3% for 2001–02 admissions (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2: Permanent admissions to residential aged care, by Indigenous status, 1 July 1998 to 30 June 2002

Sex/status	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02
	Number			
Females				
Indigenous	128	115	107	119
Non-Indigenous	26,113	26,563	27,656	27,937
Missing/not stated	2,652	2,272	2,514	2,574
<i>Total females</i>	28,893	28,950	30,277	30,630
Males				
Indigenous	121	112	73	105
Non-Indigenous	14,794	15,030	14,768	15,058
Missing/not stated	1,625	1,418	1,516	1,552
<i>Total males</i>	16,540	16,560	16,357	16,715
	Per cent			
Females				
Indigenous	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Non-Indigenous	90.4	91.8	91.3	91.2
Missing/not stated	9.2	7.8	8.3	8.4
<i>Total females</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Males				
Indigenous	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.6
Non-Indigenous	89.4	90.8	90.3	90.1
Missing/not stated	9.8	8.6	9.3	9.3
<i>Total males</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

There was no discernible pattern in the distributions of missing/ not stated records for Indigenous status over age groups for the years examined. In the 50–64 age group the proportion of missing/ not stated reduced from 11.3% to 8.4% during the period 1998–99 and 2001–02, with the corresponding figures in the 65 and over age group being a reduction from 9.3% to 8.7%. However, the levels fluctuated in the years in between. In the under 50 age group the highest level of missing/ not stated was in the last year of calculation, 2001–02, at 9.8% compared to 7.4% in the previous year (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Permanent admissions to residential aged care, by age group and Indigenous status, from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 2002

Age/status	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02
Number				
Under 50				
Indigenous	30	18	9	21
Non-Indigenous	352	310	327	273
Missing/not stated	39	32	27	32
<i>Total under 50</i>	421	360	363	326
50–64				
Indigenous	64	58	49	54
Non-Indigenous	1,483	1,542	1,427	1,435
Missing/not stated	198	128	154	136
<i>Total 50–64</i>	1,745	1,728	1,630	1,625
65+				
Indigenous	155	151	122	149
Non-Indigenous	39,072	39,741	40,670	41,287
Missing/not stated	4,040	3,530	3,849	3,958
<i>Total 65+</i>	43,267	43,422	44,641	45,394
Per cent				
Under 50				
Indigenous	7.1	5.0	2.5	6.4
Non-Indigenous	83.6	86.1	90.1	83.7
Missing/not stated	9.3	8.9	7.4	9.8
<i>Total under 50</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50–64				
Indigenous	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.3
Non-Indigenous	85.0	89.2	87.5	88.3
Missing/not stated	11.3	7.4	9.4	8.4
<i>Total 50–64</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
65+				
Indigenous	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Non-Indigenous	90.3	91.5	91.1	91.0
Missing/not stated	9.3	8.1	8.6	8.7
<i>Total 65+</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

State and territory

In 2001-02, the highest percentage of missing/not stated responses for Indigenous status was recorded in the Northern Territory (20%) and the lowest in the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and Victoria (around 2%). These three jurisdictions also had very few residents who were identified as Indigenous. South Australia also had very few residents identified as Indigenous, but had the second highest percentage of missing/not stated responses in 2001-02, and the highest percentage for the years 1999-00 and 2000-01.

In New South Wales the proportion of permanent admissions for whom Indigenous status was missing/not stated increased from 10.3% in 1999-00 to 12.7% in 2001-2002, although this is still lower than the proportion missing/not stated in 1998-99 (13.2%).

In Queensland, the percentage of missing/not stated responses Indigenous status declined from 6.9% in 1998-99 to 3.9% of permanent admissions in 2000-01. The percentage increased to 7.3% in 2001-02.

In Western Australia between 2000-01 and 2001-02 there was a modest decrease in the proportion of admissions for whom Indigenous status was missing/not stated (from 8.7% to 8.1%), although the proportion was somewhat lower in 1998-99 and 1999-00 (7.7% and 7.6% missing/not stated respectively).

The number of new admissions in any year in the Northern Territory is small but almost half of those admitted are Indigenous, where Indigenous status is available. The proportion of missing/not stated in the Northern Territory increased each year from 10.0% for 1998-99 admissions to 20.0% for 2001-02 admissions.

Table 3.4: Admissions of permanent residential aged care residents by state/territory and Indigenous status, from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 2002

Year/status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1998–99									
Indigenous	46	6	78	79	2	1	0	37	249
Non-Indigenous	13,749	10,704	7,079	3,683	4,172	1,079	397	44	40,907
Missing/not stated	2,107	960	534	312	297	52	6	9	4,277
Total	15,902	11,670	7,691	4,074	4,471	1,132	403	90	45,433
Per cent missing/not stated	13.2	8.2	6.9	7.7	6.6	4.6	1.5	10.0	9.4
1999–00									
Indigenous	38	4	59	67	8	2	0	49	227
Non-Indigenous	14,351	10,809	7,426	3,655	3,740	1,095	465	52	41,593
Missing/not stated	1,647	608	397	304	682	31	5	16	3,690
Total	16,036	11,421	7,882	4,026	4,430	1,128	470	117	45,510
Per cent missing/not stated	10.3	5.3	5.0	7.6	15.4	2.7	1.1	13.7	8.1
2000–01									
Indigenous	46	4	50	43	3	2	0	32	180
Non-Indigenous	14,913	11,257	7,804	3,568	3,217	1,159	468	38	42,424
Missing/not stated	1,997	309	317	346	1,031	11	3	16	4,030
Total	16,956	11,570	8,171	3,957	4,251	1,172	471	86	46,634
Per cent missing/not stated	11.8	2.7	3.9	8.7	24.3	0.9	0.6	18.6	8.6
2001–02									
Indigenous	48	2	75	51	4	2	1	41	224
Non-Indigenous	14,723	11,575	7,786	3,629	3,635	1,136	460	51	42,995
Missing/not stated	2,150	269	618	326	705	25	10	23	4,126
Total	16,921	11,846	8,479	4,006	4,344	1,163	471	115	47,345
Per cent missing/not stated	12.7	2.3	7.3	8.1	16.2	2.1	2.1	20.0	8.7

Remoteness

The proportion of residential aged care admissions for which Indigenous status was missing/not stated was higher in major cities than for other geographic areas. For admissions in 2001–02 the proportion of records with missing/not stated Indigenous status for residents in major cities was 10.2% compared with 6% for inner regional areas. The rate of missing/not stated records has remained at a similar level in major cities over the four years reported, whereas the proportion for remote areas has increased from 6.3% to 8.6%. In very remote areas, admissions of Indigenous people outnumbered admissions of non-Indigenous people. While the overall number of admissions in very remote areas was small, a low proportion of missing/not stated for Indigenous status was evident in these areas (2.4% in 2001–02). Other areas showed no particular patterns, with the proportion missing or not stated predominantly around the 6% mark.

Table 3.5: Admissions of permanent residential aged care residents by ASGC remoteness^(a) and Indigenous status, from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 2002

Year/status	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Remote	Very remote	Australia
1998–99						
Indigenous	55	22	56	58	58	249
Non-Indigenous	26,963	10,299	3,373	241	27	40,903
Missing/not stated	3,144	871	235	20	7	4,277
Total	30,162	11,192	3,664	319	92	45,429
Per cent missing/not stated	10.4	7.8	6.4	6.3	7.6	9.4
1999–00						
Indigenous	38	17	80	60	32	227
Non-Indigenous	27,187	10,613	3,513	256	20	41,589
Missing/not stated	2,732	707	227	21	3	3,690
Total	29,957	11,337	3,820	337	55	45,506
Per cent missing/not stated	9.1	6.2	5.9	6.2	5.5	8.1
2000–01						
Indigenous	34	16	52	37	41	180
Non-Indigenous	27,453	11,042	3,652	247	30	42,424
Missing/not stated	3,096	660	244	25	5	4,030
Total	30,583	11,718	3,948	309	76	46,634
Per cent missing/not stated	10.1	5.6	6.2	8.1	6.6	8.6
2001–02						
Indigenous	35	20	75	44	50	224
Non-Indigenous	27,524	11,554	3,665	222	30	42,995
Missing/not stated	3,131	736	232	25	2	4,126
Total	30,690	12,310	3,972	291	82	47,345
Per cent missing/not stated	10.2	6.0	5.8	8.6	2.4	8.7

(a) ASGC is the Australian Standard Geographical Classification as developed by the ABS.

Proportion of permanent residents who identified as Indigenous

At 30 June 2002, many permanent residents of residential aged care services who identified as Indigenous were in services where there was a large proportion of residents who identified as Indigenous in that service. For example, of all residents who identified as Indigenous, nearly half (48%) were in services where more than 25% of the residents identified as Indigenous. Thirty eight per cent of those who identified as Indigenous were in services where at least 50% of the residents identified as Indigenous.

There was no consistent relationship between the proportion of records with missing/not stated Indigenous status and the proportion of residents in a service who identified as Indigenous (Table 3.6). The percentage of records with missing/not stated Indigenous status was lowest (7.5%) where services had more than 50% residents who identified as Indigenous. Services with between 1% and 25% of residents who identified as Indigenous had missing/not stated data on Indigenous status for just over 10% of residents. However, services with fewer than 1% of residents who identified as Indigenous were missing Indigenous status information on 8.8% of records.

It should be noted that the percentage of clients who identified as Indigenous has been extracted from the same data that are under scrutiny here. In other words, there is no way of knowing the 'true' proportion of Indigenous clients for each service, only the reported proportion, which itself is affected by the proportion of missing/not stated records. This needs to be taken into account when interpreting the outcome of this particular analysis.

Table 3.6: Permanent residents in residential aged care services, by Indigenous status, by service's proportion of Indigenous residents, 30 June 2002

Indigenous status	Proportion of residents in service who identified as Indigenous					Total
	<=1%	>1-10%	>10-25%	>25-50%	>50%	
	Number					
Indigenous	19	266	69	72	261	687
Non-Indigenous	112,138	11,064	269	108	47	123,626
Missing/not stated	10,803	1,311	38	17	25	12,194
Total	122,960	12,641	376	197	333	136,507
	Per cent					
Indigenous	0.0	2.1	18.4	36.5	78.4	0.5
Non-Indigenous	91.2	87.5	71.5	54.8	14.1	90.6
Missing/not stated	8.8	10.4	10.1	8.6	7.5	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: All services reported a valid code for Indigenous status for at least some of their permanent residents.

Note that variations in numbers of admissions over the first three years of data will vary from previously published data as the database used in this report is a refreshed collection to 30 June 2002. The small variation in numbers between Table 3.5 and earlier tables for 1998-99 and 1999-00 (4 admissions) is probably due to minor omissions in one of the files in the database.

3.2 Home and Community Care Minimum Data Set

Introduction

The Home and Community Care Minimum Data Set (HACC MDS) is collected quarterly. The first available data set covers the July–September 2001 quarter and at the time of preparing this report the most recent data set available was for the July–September 2002 quarter.

In the HACC MDS collection, each agency is asked to submit a one line summary of the service provision provided in that quarter for each client. This includes the clients' circumstances and demographic details. The protocol for internal linkage is that if two or more client records are found to have the same data linkage key then they will be classed as a successful match and their records linked.

While one set of demographic, circumstance, and assistance totals is held in the data repository for each agency reporting the client's data, only one set of demographic data is included in the combined linked data set. This demographic data is not a compilation from multiple data records but rather is a selection of one demographic data record. Consequently not all valid demographic values may be captured and some invalid or missing values may be included. This may have an impact on the consistency of reporting of Indigenous status over time within the linked data, although an increase in the reporting of Indigenous status over time in the unlinked data can be expected to result in an improvement in the linked data.

Where quality is examined over time in this section's text and tables, data covers five quarterly collections. Where only one collection has been examined this is always the most recent collection available at the time of preparing this report, i.e. July–September 2002. As the purpose of this assessment of the data is the improvement of the collection of the data, most of the analysis has been carried out on the unlinked data set as this reflects the data that is received from service agencies. This is also more appropriate where information is analysed by agency, since one record in the linked data set may reflect assistance provided by one or more agencies. Trends are similar in unlinked and linked data.

Analyses

Trend in missing data

Table 3.7 shows the proportion of each response category across the five quarterly collections. The proportion of missing/not stated Indigenous status is declining with time across the collections, from 13.8% in the July 2001 quarter to 11.7% in the July 2002 quarter.

Table 3.7: Indigenous status by quarterly collection, HACC MDS, unlinked client data

Indigenous status	Jul–Sep 2001	Oct–Dec 2001	Jan–Mar 2002	April–Jun 2002	Jul–Sep 2002
Number					
Indigenous	13,902	14,786	10,824	15,061	14,964
Non-Indigenous	316,302	313,012	337,487	382,036	401,552
Missing/not stated	53,035	51,636	51,094	56,565	55,098
Total reports	383,239	379,434	399,405	453,662	471,614
Per cent					
Indigenous	3.6	3.9	2.7	3.3	3.2
Non-Indigenous	82.5	82.5	84.5	84.2	85.1
Missing/not stated	13.8	13.6	12.8	12.5	11.7
Total reports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The number of Indigenous clients in the HACC collection exceeds the number expected for the population in some jurisdictions. This is most likely due to inconsistent coding of this item across agencies.

Table 3.8 shows the proportion of agencies not reporting Indigenous status for any of their clients, and the proportion that has no missing/not stated Indigenous status. Over 40% of agencies report Indigenous status for all of their clients, and in general the number of agencies doing so has been increasing over time. However, because the number of agencies participating in the HACC collection has been increasing at a greater rate, overall the proportion of agencies reporting on Indigenous status for all of the clients has been falling slightly. The number of agencies never reporting Indigenous status has also been decreasing over time, both in numbers and percentage terms. In the July 2002 quarter 7% of agencies were not reporting on Indigenous status.

Table 3.8: Number and proportion of agencies by proportion of records containing missing/not stated Indigenous data by quarter, HACC MDS, unlinked records

Agency reporting of Indigenous status	Jul–Sep 2001	Oct–Dec 2001	Jan–Mar 2002	April–Jun 2002	Jul–Sep 2002
Number					
Not reported	178	173	170	172	165
Reported—some missing/not stated	934	951	1020	1097	1193
Reported—no missing/not stated	859	839	881	924	946
Total agencies	1,971	1,963	2,071	2,193	2,304
Per cent					
Not reported	9.0	8.8	8.2	7.8	7.2
Reported—some missing/not stated	47.4	48.4	49.3	50.0	51.8
Reported—no missing/not stated	43.6	42.7	42.5	42.1	41.1
Total agencies	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Age and sex

There is a higher proportion of missing/not stated responses in males than in females, and for those aged under 50 compared with those 50 years or older (Table 3.9). The proportion of missing/not stated responses is only marginally lower in the 50–64 year age group when compared with the 65 and over age group. The proportion of missing/not stated responses was very high where sex was unknown.

Table 3.9: Missing Indigenous identifier, by sex and age, HACC MDS July–September 2002, unlinked client data

Age group	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Number				
Records with missing Indigenous identifier				
0–49	3,517	3,732	64	7,313
50–64	2,338	3,288	29	5,655
65+	13,631	27,999	500	42,130
Total	19,486	35,019	593	55,098
All records				
0–49	22,112	28,970	106	51,188
50–64	18,605	32,475	72	51,152
65+	107,855	260,557	862	369,274
Total	148,572	322,002	1,040	471,614
Per cent				
Proportion of records with missing Indigenous identifier (%)				
0–49	15.91	12.88	60.38	14.29
50–64	12.57	10.12	40.28	11.06
65+	12.64	10.75	58.00	11.41
Total	13.12	10.88	57.02	11.68

State and territory

Examination of Indigenous status by state and territory, shows that Queensland and South Australia had the highest proportion of missing/not stated responses (21% and 23% respectively) (Table 3.10). These rates were around double that of the Australian Capital Territory which had the third highest non-response rate. The Northern Territory had the lowest proportion of missing/not stated responses to Indigenous status in the most recent collection although this was not consistent over the five quarters (Table 3.11).

Table 3.10: Indigenous status by state and territory, HACC MDS July–September 2002, unlinked client data

Indigenous status	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Other	Aust
Number										
Indigenous	8,849	1,006	2,113	455	1,533	178	786	43	1	14,964
Non-Indigenous	98,996	123,146	75,238	37,344	42,044	16,795	1,733	5,745	511	401,552
Missing/not stated	6,928	11,393	20,683	11,128	2,519	1,584	138	724	1	55,098
Total	114,773	135,545	98,034	48,927	46,096	18,557	2,657	6,512	513	471,614
Per cent										
Indigenous	7.7	0.7	2.2	0.9	3.3	1.0	29.6	0.7	0.2	3.2
Non-Indigenous	86.3	90.9	76.7	76.3	91.2	90.5	65.2	88.2	99.6	85.1
Missing/not stated	6.0	8.4	21.1	22.7	5.5	8.5	5.2	11.1	0.2	11.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The number of Indigenous clients in the HACC collection exceeds the number expected for the population in some jurisdictions. This is most likely due to inconsistent coding of this item across agencies.

Only Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory are showing consistent increases in reporting Indigenous status over time. However, all states and territories reported their lowest proportion of missing data in the most recent quarter (Table 2.11).

Table 3.11: Records with missing/not stated Indigenous status by quarter and by state/territory, HACC MDS, unlinked client data (%)

State	Jul–Sep 2001	Oct–Dec 2001	Jan–Mar 2002	Apr–Jun 2002	Jul–Sep 2002
New South Wales	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.0
Victoria	8.7	11.7	8.8	8.3	8.4
Queensland	24.0	22.7	23.1	22.7	21.1
South Australia	23.3	24.0	22.8	24.0	22.7
Western Australia	10.0	8.7	6.4	6.3	5.5
Tasmania	19.8	10.2	8.1	9.2	8.5
Northern Territory	6.1	6.6	3.2	9.3	5.2
Australian Capital Territory	45.8	15.5	16.0	13.5	11.1

Note: The proportion of records with missing/not stated Indigenous status for 'Other territories' was 0.2%.

Sex and age profile

Analysis was carried out to examine if the sex distribution (Table 3.12) and age distribution (Table 3.13) amongst the missing/not stated records was similar to that of the Indigenous or the non-Indigenous clients. There was a much higher proportion of females in both the Indigenous and the non-Indigenous clients (68.6 and 68.9% respectively), with a similar profile for the missing/not stated records (63.6%).

Table 3.12: Indigenous status by sex, HACC July–September 2002, unlinked client data

Indigenous status	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Number				
Indigenous	4,680	10,271	13	14,964
Non-Indigenous	124,406	276,712	434	401,552
Missing/not stated	19,486	35,019	593	55,098
Total	148,572	322,002	1,040	471,614
Per cent				
Indigenous	31.3	68.6	0.1	100
Non-Indigenous	31.0	68.9	0.1	100
Missing/not stated	35.4	63.6	1.1	100
Total	31.5	68.3	0.2	100.0

Note: The number of Indigenous clients in the HACC collection exceeds the number expected for the population in some jurisdictions. This is most likely due to inconsistent coding of this item across agencies.

The proportion of Indigenous clients was higher within the under 50 and 50–64 year age groups compared with the 65 and over age group, reflecting the lower life expectancy of Indigenous people. Comparing the profiles of the three groups, the profile of the missing/not stated showed a greater resemblance to the profile of the non-Indigenous data than to that of the Indigenous data (Table 3.13).

Table 3.13: Indigenous status by age, HACC MDS, July–September 2002, unlinked client data

Age group	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Missing/not stated	Total
Number				
0–49	2,979	40,896	7,313	51,188
50–64	3,095	42,402	5,655	51,152
65+	8,890	318,254	42,130	369,274
Total	14,964	401,552	55,098	471,614
Per cent				
0–49	19.9	10.2	13.3	10.9
50–64	20.7	10.6	10.3	10.8
65+	59.4	79.3	76.5	78.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The number of Indigenous clients in the HACC collection exceeds the number expected for the population in some jurisdictions. This is most likely due to inconsistent coding of this item across agencies.

Proportion of clients who identified as Indigenous

The proportion of missing data is highest where the agencies are reporting fewer than 1% of clients as Indigenous (Table 3.14). Note that this group includes those agencies which did not report Indigenous status for any of their clients (7.2% of agencies, see Table 3.8).

It should be noted that the percentage of clients who identified as Indigenous has been extracted from the same data that are under scrutiny here. In other words, there is no way of knowing the 'true' proportion of Indigenous clients for each agency, only the reported proportion, which itself is affected by the proportion of missing/not stated records. In addition, the number of Indigenous clients in the HACC collection exceeds the number expected for the population in some jurisdictions. Possible reasons for this are discussed at the end of this section. These factors need to be taken into account when interpreting the outcome of this particular analysis.

Table 3.14: Indigenous status, by agencies' proportion of Indigenous clients, HACC MDS July–September 2002 collection, unlinked client data

Indigenous status	Proportion of clients in agency who identified as Indigenous					Total
	<1% ^(a)	1–9%	10–24%	25–49%	>50%	
	Number					
Indigenous	818	2,580	4,835	3,320	3,411	14,964
Non-Indigenous	287,279	82,266	24,602	7,070	335	401,552
Missing/not stated	46,265	7,786	690	293	64	55,098
Total reports	334,362	92,632	30,127	10,683	3,810	471,614
	Per cent					
Indigenous	0.2	2.8	16.0	31.1	89.5	3.2
Non-Indigenous	85.9	88.8	81.7	66.2	8.8	85.1
Missing/not stated	13.8	8.4	2.3	2.7	1.7	11.7
Total reports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes those agencies which did not report Indigenous status for any of their clients (7.2% of agencies, see Table 3.8).

Note: The number of Indigenous clients in the HACC collection exceeds the number expected for the population in some jurisdictions. This is most likely due to inconsistent coding of this item across agencies.

The type of assistance provided to clients is included in the HACC MDS and has been used here to see if people getting particular services are more or less likely to have missing data on Indigenous status. Assessment, case planning, case coordination and counselling may be provided by most types of agency and have not been included in this list. Similarly, the provision of aids and equipment has not been included as this assistance tends to be a component of personal care service.

Table 3.15 presents the different assistance types arranged by increasing proportion of missing/not stated Indigenous status. Indigenous status was most frequently identified where the type of assistance was domestic assistance (3.8% missing/not stated) and personal care (5.1%). Indigenous status was much less likely to be reported where the assistance was provision of delivered meals (31.3% missing/not stated), followed by centre nursing (22.5%). Other assistance types had between 8% and 15% missing/not stated responses for Indigenous status.

Table 3.15: Indigenous status, by type of service provided, HACC MDS July–September 2002, unlinked client data

Assistance type	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Missing/ Not stated	Total	Missing/ Not stated
	Number				Per cent
Domestic assistance	7,641	129,174	5,348	142,163	3.8
Personal care	1,567	31,153	1,772	34,492	5.1
Home maintenance	1,369	32,013	2,854	36,236	7.9
Respite care	234	7,749	691	8,674	8.0
Centre meals	961	18,624	1,716	21,301	8.1
Centre day care	1,657	37,644	3,969	43,270	9.2
Transport	2,578	50,676	5,877	59,131	9.9
Home nursing	939	50,073	7,224	58,236	12.4
Home modification	86	4,997	725	5,808	12.5
Linen delivery	26	559	87	672	12.9
Social support	1,573	28,534	4,794	34,901	13.7
Other food services	192	1,058	225	1,475	15.3
Centre nursing	296	6,457	1,959	8,712	22.5
Home meals	1,849	34,765	16,711	53,325	31.3
All reports	14,964	401,552	55,098	471,614	11.7

Notes

1. The HACC MDS does not include information about the agency type. The type of service provided has been used here as a surrogate for the agency type, although agencies may provide more than one type of service. As assessment, case planning and counselling may be provided by most types of agency these have not been included in this list. Similarly, the provision of aids and equipment has not been included as this service tends to be a component of personal care service.
2. The number of Indigenous clients in the HACC collection exceeds the number expected for the population in some jurisdictions. This is most likely due to inconsistent coding of this item across agencies.

Consistency of Indigenous identification within the HACC MDS data collection

Internal linkage of the July–September 2002 quarter is based on the statistical linkage key, with no consideration of any other variable, and gives the exact number of records held in the linked data set.

Table 3.16 shows an analysis of the consistency of Indigenous status when linking records within the unlinked database. Within the unlinked data set, 68% (322,705/471,614) of records had a unique statistical linkage key. The remaining 148,909 records were associated with 65,692 different linkage keys, so that these keys average 2.27 client records each. Indigenous status was reported consistently for 76% (49,910) of these linkage keys. That is, Indigenous status was always recorded as Indigenous, non-Indigenous or was not reported for all records with the same linkage key.

For the linkage keys with consistent multiple records, 2% (1,080) were for Indigenous clients and 96% (47,799) were for non-Indigenous clients; 2% (1,031) had consistently missing/not stated Indigenous status. A combination of non-Indigenous with missing/not stated was reported for 21% of the linkage keys with multiple records. This percentage was only 0.3% for a combination of Indigenous with missing/not stated. Incompatible Indigenous status

(Indigenous with non-Indigenous alone or a combination of Indigenous, non-Indigenous and missing/not stated) was recorded for only 2%.

Table 3.16: Internal linkage consistency for Indigenous status within the HACC MDS, July–September 2002, distinct linkage keys

No. of records	Consistent		Inconsistent				Total
	Consistent (Indigenous status reported)	Consistent (Missing/not stated)	Indigenous & Missing/not stated	Non-Indigenous & Missing/not stated	Indigenous & Non-Indigenous	Indigenous, Non-Indigenous & Missing/not stated	
	Number						
One	284,993	37,712	..	..	..	..	322,705
Two	39,872	968	163	9,771	996	..	51,770
Three	7,335	60	37	3,232	329	42	11,035
Four or more	1,672	3	4	1,072	105	31	2,887
<i>Subtotal 2 or more records</i>	<i>48,879</i>	<i>1,031</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>14,075</i>	<i>1,430</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>65,692</i>
Total	333,872	38,743	204	14,075	1,430	73	388,397
	Per cent						
1	88.3	11.7	..	..	..	..	100.0
2	77.0	1.9	0.3	18.9	1.9	..	100.0
3	66.5	0.5	0.3	29.3	3.0	0.4	100.0
4	57.9	0.1	0.1	37.1	3.6	1.1	100.0
<i>Subtotal 2 or more records</i>	<i>74.4</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Total	86.0	10.0	0.1	3.6	0.4	0.0	100.0

Note: For this table an event is the record submitted by the service provision agency and represents receipt of one or more types of assistance by an agency over a 3-month period.

HACC usage rates

A related problem with the identification of Indigenous status is seen in the analysis of usage rates for Indigenous clients. In New South Wales in particular, usage rates of over a thousand per thousand Indigenous population are calculated for the 65 and over age group, with Victoria showing rates up to 556 per thousand population (Table 3.17, linked data). When rates are calculated for 5-year age groups, apparently illogical rates are seen, particularly in New South Wales and Victoria, resulting in an Australian 75 years plus rate of 1,062 persons per thousand population (Table 3.18). This issue means that it is not possible to publish meaningful age-specific rates for Indigenous HACC clients.

Possible explanations for this problem are:

- an underestimation of the Indigenous population in these areas;
- higher self-identification of Indigenous status among HACC clients than in the Australian Bureau of Statistics census data used to estimate the Indigenous population;
- poor or inconsistent identification of the components of the elements used to derive the statistical linkage key (in particular name and date of birth). This would result in under-matching records for clients who receive assistance from more than one service agency and consequently in an overestimation of the number of Indigenous clients;

or the most likely reason,

- software coding problems in some agencies resulting in the overcounting of Indigenous clients.

Table 3.17: HACC usage rates per 1,000 Indigenous population, HACC MDS July–September 2002, linked client data

Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Other	Aust
Indigenous HACC clients										
0–49	1,174	234	366	146	376	40	212	16	—	2,564
50–64	1,102	191	551	136	434	19	235	10	1	2,679
65+	4,883	474	980	134	610	64	298	8	—	7,451
Total	7,159	899	1,897	416	1,420	123	745	34	1	12,694
ABS Indigenous population estimates^(a)										
0–49	120,760	24,909	113,647	23,030	59,406	15,652	51,748	3,700	197	413,049
50–64	10,668	2,167	8,920	1,881	4,658	1,331	4,148	200	31	34,004
65+	3,891	852	3,468	709	2,005	459	1,654	41	8	13,087
Total	135,319	27,928	126,035	25,620	66,069	17,442	57,550	3,941	236	460,140
Age-specific usage rate (per 1,000 population)										
0–49	9.7	9.4	3.2	6.3	6.3	2.6	4.1	4.3	—	6.2
50–64	103.3	88.1	61.8	72.3	93.2	14.3	56.7	50.0	32.3	78.8
65+	1,254.9	556.3	282.6	189.0	304.2	139.4	180.2	195.1	—	569.3
Total	52.9	32.2	15.1	16.2	21.5	7.1	12.9	8.6	4.2	27.6

(a) Estimated Indigenous population at 30 June 2001 (ABS Cat. No. 3101).

Table 3.18: HACC usage rates per 1,000 Indigenous population (50 years and over) by 5 year age groups, HACC MDS July–September 2002, linked client data

Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Other	Aust
Indigenous HACC clients										
50–54	297	50	151	33	132	9	58	2	—	732
55–59	372	71	179	45	135	5	71	4	—	882
60–64	433	70	221	58	167	5	106	4	1	1,065
65–69	628	75	277	41	195	12	111	1	—	1,340
70–74	888	91	281	43	181	21	75		—	1,580
75+	3,367	308	422	50	234	31	112	7	—	4,531
Total 50+	5,985	665	1,531	270	1,044	83	533	18	1	10,130
ABS Indigenous population estimates										
50–54	4,818	1,047	4,202	867	2,151	615	1,849	96	7	15,652
55–59	3,381	659	2,716	579	1,431	401	1,257	68	10	10,502
60–64	2,469	461	2,002	435	1,076	315	1,042	36	14	7,850
65–69	1,718	317	1,405	278	766	197	664	18	4	5,367
70–74	1,040	218	918	210	511	125	424	6	1	3,453
75+	1,133	317	1,145	221	728	137	566	17	3	4,267
Total 50+	14,559	3,019	12,388	2,590	6,663	1,790	5,802	241	39	47,091
Age specific usage rate per 1,000 population										
50–54	61.6	47.8	35.9	38.1	61.4	14.6	31.4	20.8	—	46.8
55–59	110.0	107.7	65.9	77.7	94.3	12.5	56.5	58.8	—	84.0
60–64	175.4	151.8	110.4	133.3	155.2	15.9	101.7	111.1	71.4	135.7
65–69	365.5	236.6	197.2	147.5	254.6	60.9	167.2	55.6	—	249.7
70–74	853.8	417.4	306.1	204.8	354.2	168.0	176.9	0.0	—	457.6
75+	2,971.8	971.6	368.6	226.2	321.4	226.3	197.9	411.8	—	1,061.9
Total 50+	411.1	220.3	123.6	104.2	156.7	46.4	91.9	74.7	25.6	215.1

(a) Estimated Indigenous population at 30 June 2001 (ABS Cat. No. 3101).

3.3 Community Aged Care Packages

Introduction

The Community Aged Care Packages program is a Commonwealth-funded program designed to provide assistance to enable frail or disabled older people with complex care needs to continue living in the community. The care provided is equivalent to low level care provided in residential aged care, and includes assistance with activities such as personal care, domestic chores, rehabilitation and delivered meals.

Community Aged Care Packages have been in operation since 1992, and data regarding care recipients and service provision have been collected since this time. This information is collected by the Aged Care Assessment Team and the service provider, and is entered into the Aged and Community Care Management Information System (ACCMIS). This database is managed and regularly updated by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

The Indigenous status of Community Aged Care Package (CACP) recipients is recorded on the Aged Care Application and Approval Form which is completed by the Aged Care Assessment Team at the time of assessment. The relevant questions, requiring a yes or no answer, are:

- Are you Aboriginal?
- Are you a Torres Strait Islander?

The number of missing/not stated in the Indigenous status variable for Community Aged Care Package recipients is very low. This is partly due to imputation carried out by the state and territory offices: recipients with missing/not stated Indigenous status, unless clearly receiving services from a predominantly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service, are assumed to be non-Indigenous. Most of the missing/not stated records reported in this section are therefore likely to relate to these predominantly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services. The very low level of missing/not stated Indigenous status should be taken into consideration in the following discussion.

Analyses

Trend in missing data

Since 1999, both the number and proportion of missing/not stated Indigenous status has declined, from a very low 0.4% in 1999 to 0.1% in 2002 (Table 3.19). The number of care recipients, including Indigenous recipients, has increased substantially over the same period, in line with the increase in the size of the program. The proportion of clients identified as being Indigenous has remained fairly steady.

Table 3.19: CACP recipients, by Indigenous status, 30 June 1999 to 30 June 2002

Indigenous status	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number				
Indigenous	383	426	503	717
Non-Indigenous	12,716	16,149	20,197	23,849
Missing/not stated	58	42	28	19
Total recipients	13,157	16,617	20,728	24,585
Per cent				
Indigenous	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.9
Non-Indigenous	96.6	97.2	97.4	97.0
Missing/not stated	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1
Total recipients	100.0			

Sex and age

Approximately 71% of CACP recipients are female. There was a similar decline over time in the proportion with missing/not stated Indigenous status for both males and females (Table 3.20). However, there was a slightly higher percentage of females than males with missing/not stated Indigenous status across all years.

Table 3.20: CACP recipients, by sex and Indigenous status, 30 June 1999 to 30 June 2002

Sex/status	1999	2000	2001	2002
	Number			
Females				
Indigenous	252	275	336	480
Non-Indigenous	8,964	11,423	14,243	16,853
Missing/not stated	46	33	23	16
<i>Total female recipients</i>	<i>9,262</i>	<i>11,731</i>	<i>14,602</i>	<i>17,349</i>
Males				
Indigenous	131	151	167	237
Non-Indigenous	3,752	4,736	5,954	6,996
Missing/not stated	12	9	5	3
<i>Total male recipients</i>	<i>3,895</i>	<i>4,896</i>	<i>6,126</i>	<i>7,236</i>
	Per cent			
Females				
Indigenous	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.8
Non-Indigenous	96.8	97.4	97.5	97.1
Missing/not stated	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
<i>Total female recipients</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Males				
Indigenous	3.4	3.1	2.7	3.3
Non-Indigenous	96.3	96.7	97.2	96.7
Missing/not stated	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0
<i>Total male recipients</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

At 30 June 2002, 93% of CACP recipients were aged 65 and over; 6% were between 50 and 65, and 1% were under age 50. Among the small number of clients aged under 50 there were no cases with missing data (Table 3.21). In general, slightly higher percentages of missing/ not stated Indigenous status were found in the 50–64 age group than the 65 and over group over the 4 years from 1999 to 2002. The proportion of missing/ not stated has declined in a similar pattern over time for the 50–64 and 65 and over age groups.

Table 3.21: CACP recipients, by age group and Indigenous status, 30 June 1999 to 30 June 2002

Age/status	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number				
Under 50				
Indigenous	29	30	29	40
Non-Indigenous	113	144	170	210
Missing/not stated	0	0	0	0
<i>Total under 50</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>250</i>
50–64				
Indigenous	111	115	136	221
Non-Indigenous	702	870	1,028	1,318
Missing/not stated	5	5	3	2
<i>Total 50–64</i>	<i>818</i>	<i>990</i>	<i>1,167</i>	<i>1,541</i>
65+				
Indigenous	243	281	338	456
Non-Indigenous	11,901	15,135	18,999	22,321
Missing/not stated	53	37	25	17
<i>Total 65+</i>	<i>12,197</i>	<i>15,453</i>	<i>19,362</i>	<i>22,794</i>
Per cent				
Under 50				
Indigenous	20.4	17.2	14.6	16.0
Non-Indigenous	79.6	82.8	85.4	84.0
Missing/not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Total under 50</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
50–64				
Indigenous	13.6	11.6	11.7	14.3
Non-Indigenous	85.8	87.9	88.1	85.5
Missing/not stated	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.1
<i>Total 50–64</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
65+				
Indigenous	2.0	1.8	1.7	2.0
Non-Indigenous	97.6	97.9	98.1	97.9
Missing/not stated	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1
<i>Total 65+</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Key points

Residential Aged Care Services Data Collection

- There has been an increase in the rate of missing/not stated Indigenous status over the past 3 years. The 2001–02 rate was, however, lower than the rate for 1998–99 permanent admissions (Table 3.1).
- The missing/not stated rate was slightly higher in males (Table 3.2). There was no apparent trend associated with age or sex (Table 3.3).
- The rate of missing/not stated Indigenous status decreased in some states and territories, but it increased in others (Table 3.4).
- The highest proportions of missing/not stated Indigenous status were found in major cities, with lower proportions in regional areas (6%) and quite small proportions in very remote areas (2%) (Table 3.5).
- Residential Aged Care Services in which more than half the residents were Indigenous had the lowest rate of missing/not stated Indigenous status. The next lowest rate was for those services with between 25–50% of Indigenous residents (Table 3.6).
- Overall, the picture is one of decreasing identification of residents in terms of their Indigenous status.

Home and Community Care MDS

- The proportion of missing/not stated Indigenous status has declined with time across five quarterly collections (Table 3.7).
- Over 40% of HACC agencies reported a valid code for Indigenous status for all their clients (Table 3.8).
- Seven per cent of agencies did not report Indigenous status for any of their clients in the latest quarter. This proportion had declined from 9% in the first quarter (Table 3.8).
- There were large differences in the proportion of missing/not stated records between the states and territories (Table 3.10). The most consistent increase in Indigenous identification over the five quarters occurred in Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory (Table 3.11).
- While the sex profile of the missing/not stated records was similar to that of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients, the age profile of the missing/not stated showed a greater resemblance to the age profile of the non-Indigenous data than to that of the Indigenous data (Table 3.12).
- HACC agencies where more than half the clients identified as Indigenous had the lowest rate of missing/not stated Indigenous status. Conversely, those agencies with less than 1% clients who identified as Indigenous had the highest rate (Table 3.14).
- Comparison of the HACC assistance types showed that for those clients receiving domestic assistance and personal care, the rate of missing/not stated Indigenous status was the lowest. The highest rate of missing data was reported for those clients who were provided with delivered meals (Table 3.15).

- Analysis using linkage of records showed that Indigenous status was reported consistently for 74% of the linkage keys. The highest proportion of inconsistent multiple records concerned the combination of non-Indigenous status with missing/not stated (Table 3.16).
- The usage rates of Indigenous people in specific age groups were very high and apparently illogical, indicating data quality problems. Discussion with data custodians suggested the most likely source of this issue is the overcounting of Indigenous clients (due to software coding problems) (Tables 3.17 and 3.18).

Community Aged Care Packages

- The rate of missing/not stated Indigenous status was very low. However, this was at least partly due to imputation carried out at the state and territory level (Table 3.19).

Issues for follow-up

Residential Aged Care Aged Care Services data collection

- Based on the analysis by region, most gains in Indigenous identification could be made in the category 'Major cities', as the highest number of residents, and the highest missing/not stated rate is found in this category.

Home and Community Care MDS

- Given that rates of Indigenous identifications vary with service type, efforts to increase the rate of identification of Indigenous clients who receive delivered home meals, centre nursing, home nursing and social support would have a significant impact on the identification rates for the HACC program overall (Table 3.15).
- As HACC data custodians are already aware, there is a need for investigation into the very high usage rates of specific age groups for Indigenous people in the HACC data collection. Several possible explanations are given earlier in this chapter, and these continue to be explored, particularly in relation to software coding problems.

Community Aged Care Packages

- It is recommended that the practice of imputing clients' Indigenous status based on the main client profile or other service characteristics when their Indigenous status is missing or recorded as not stated should cease.

4 Supported Accommodation Assistance Program

Introduction

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) is jointly funded and managed by the Commonwealth and state governments. SAAP provides temporary accommodation and support services, such as domestic violence counselling, employment assistance and living skills development, to homeless people, and aims to help them achieve self-reliance and independence. Families, single people, young people, and women and children who are escaping domestic violence are assisted under the program.

The SAAP National Data Collection has been providing information on the provision of assistance through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program since 1996–97. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has had the role of National Data Collection Agency (NDCA) since the collection's inception.

The National Data Collection consists of distinct components, each of which can be thought of as a separate collection. Currently, four collections are run annually: the Client Collection, the Administrative Data Collection, the Demand for Accommodation Collection and the Casual Client Collection.

The Client Collection is the main component. It collects information about all clients receiving support under SAAP of more than 1 hour's duration. Data are recorded by service providers during, or immediately following, contact with clients and are then forwarded to the NDCA after clients' support periods have ended or, for ongoing clients, at the end of the reporting period. Data collected include basic socio-demographic information and information on the services required by, and provided to, each client. Information about each client's situation before and after receiving SAAP services is also collected. The data reported here relate only to the Client Collection.

Background

The agencies funded to provide accommodation and support also collect personal information on aspects of their homeless clients. Under the Client Collection protocols agencies must inform clients about how their data will be used and clients must give consent for their personal details to be included in the data collection. Therefore, data quality is affected by the levels of consent to the data collection as well as by errors and omissions. The AIHW has, however, developed a weighting system to adjust for non-consent whereas no adjustments are made for errors and omissions. Given that large numbers of clients do not consent to provide their personal details (13% in 2001–02), the weighting system is essential to estimate to a reasonable degree of accuracy the number of clients assisted by SAAP. The higher the consent rate, the more accurate the estimate.

This chapter includes information on both the levels of non-consent and errors and omissions. While the support period tables provide raw numbers and rates of non-consent, the client tables illustrate how the weighting system can improve the data quality. The client

tables (Table 1b and 2b) also provide the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients attending SAAP agencies so that comparisons can be made against the rates of clients whose Indigenous status is missing/not stated.

Some general points about the data presented here are below.

- The consent rate across all states and territories has increased dramatically since the commencement of the National Data Collection in 1996–97 (Table 4.1a). Even without the use of the weighting system, this trend has significantly improved SAAP data quality. The improvement in consent rates can be attributed to factors such as: a stable questionnaire; frequent training of service providers in all states and territories; and increased trust in the NDCA’s confidentiality protocols.
- The actual rates of missing/not stated data in the tables presented here are low in comparison to non-consent rates (ranging between 1.4% and 2.5% nationally). The trend in missing/not stated responses shows a decrease across the 6 reporting years (with an average of 2.1% of clients), with the exception of 2001–02 (Table 4.1a). Some of the increase in missing/not stated responses in 2001–02 is attributable to the inclusion of many new SAAP-funded agencies in the last financial year. For example, the inclusion of one new agency in 2001–02 increased the number of support periods in one jurisdiction by approximately 20%, reduced the average consent rate by 9% and contributed to a significant rise in the number of errors and omissions. Data from 2002–03 may shed more light on the trends in data quality, in particular whether the last reporting year was an aberration in a trend that has otherwise seen a continued decrease in the rates of missing/not stated data. Preliminary data from the NDCA suggest that this will be the case (for example, the above mentioned agency has improved its consent rates from under 50% to above 90% for the data received so far this year).
- It should be kept in mind that informed consent is one of the key foundations of the collection when assessing data on the SAAP program and its clients. As such, the client has the right to decide what personal information is recorded about them on the client form. So whilst some clients may generally consent to provide personal details about themselves, they may still decide not to consent to a particular question, such as the Indigenous status question. Therefore the total missing/not stated figure possibly comprises a number of non-responses allowed for under the Collection’s protocols. It is not known what proportion of the missing/not stated responses constitute these ‘non-consents’.
- The participation of previously non-participating SAAP-funded agencies in the collection has the potential to provide greater improvements to the quality of Indigenous data than the low rates of errors and missing/not stated responses. For example, Table 4.2a shows that there are 3,600 out of 166,000 support periods in which Indigenous status is not reported. Even if all of those 3,600 support periods were Indigenous (and this report suggests that less than 17%, or about 600 support periods, are likely to be Indigenous) then the participation of one big agency with many Indigenous clients is likely to have a more significant impact on the number of Indigenous clients in the SAAP National Data Collection than all the missing/not stated support periods. In 2001–02, 5.5% of SAAP-funded (or about 70) agencies did not participate in the Collection compared with only 2.3% of support periods where Indigenous status was not recorded. The AIHW has been discussing strategies with the state and territory departments of community services to improve participation of agencies supporting predominantly Indigenous clients.

Analyses

Indigenous identification in SAAP

In the year 2001–02, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 17% (excluding missing/not stated data) of all adults assisted under the SAAP program (AIHW 2002a). The number of Indigenous clients of SAAP services constitutes a substantial over-representation of this population group, which was about 2% of the total Australian adult population during this period.

Tables 4.1a and 4.1b show the proportion of responses to each category from the Indigenous status question on the SAAP form.

Trend in missing data

The proportion of responses to all four categories of Indigenous status has increased across the 6 years of data collection while non-consent has reduced from one-third of support periods to 13% in 2001–02 (Table 4.1a). The rate for missing/not stated responses fell from 2.5% in 1996–97 to 1.4% in 2000–01, but then returned to above the 1997–98 level of 1.9% in 2001–02.

When looking at client-level data in Table 4.1b the picture is somewhat different. The proportion of Aboriginal clients increased from 11.8% in 1996–97 to 15.1% in 2001–02, and the proportion of non-Indigenous clients fell from 84% to 82%. There was an increase in the proportion of Torres Strait Islander clients from 0.4% to 0.8%, and a decrease in the proportion of missing/not stated responses to Indigenous status from 2.5% to 2.2%.

The major reasons for the increase in Indigenous clients in the SAAP National Data Collection are the rolling into SAAP of PADV (Partnership Against Domestic Violence) funds, which funded a high proportion of Indigenous clients, and the recent participation of one agency that supports a large number of Indigenous clients (over 10,000 support periods a year).

When comparing the proportion of 'missing/not stated' in Tables 4.1a and 4.2a (support periods) with those in the client tables (4.1b and 4.2b), the missing/not stated rate is slightly higher when the reporting unit is clients, even though there are more support periods with a missing/not stated Indigenous identifier than clients. This is caused by the interaction between the weighting system used to adjust for agency non-participation and SAAP client non-consent, support periods and clients. In this chapter the support period tables have been left unweighted so raw numbers can be reported. Refer to the *Homeless people in SAAP: SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2001–02 Australia* for a detailed explanation of the weighting system utilised in the National Data Collection.

The highest proportion of missing/not stated Indigenous status responses amongst SAAP clients was recorded in 1996–97 at 3.2% (Table 4.2b). Since that time the proportion of missing/not stated responses to the question on Indigenous identification has accounted for approximately 2% of clients.

Table 4.1a: SAAP support periods: proportion of responses to Indigenous identification categories by reporting period, Australia, 1996–97 to 2001–02

Indigenous identification response categories	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	Total (%)	Total (no.)
Non-Indigenous	57.0	64.1	63.4	66.1	64.2	66.2	63.6	593,900
Aboriginal person	8.2	9.1	9.6	10.7	14.2	16.5	11.5	107,300
Torres Strait Islander person	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	2.0	0.7	6,700
Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander ^(a)	—	—	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	1,000
Consent not provided	32.1	24.6	25.0	21.0	18.5	13.0	22.2	207,200
Missing/not stated	2.5	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.9	17,400
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (no.)	148,900	156,600	155,000	146,800	160,500	166,500	..	934,300

(a) This category was only introduced in the 1998–99 collection year.

Note: Number excluded due to errors (un-weighted): 1,000.

Table 4.1b: SAAP clients: proportion of responses to Indigenous identification categories by reporting period, Australia, 1996–97 to 2001–02

Indigenous identification response categories	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	Total (%)	Total (no.)
Non-Indigenous	84.4	85.6	85.5	84.6	82.6	81.5	84.0	485,200
Aboriginal person	11.8	11.8	12.3	12.9	14.4	15.1	13.1	75,600
Torres Strait Islander person	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	3,000
Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander ^(a)	—	—	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	700
Missing/not stated	3.2	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.7	2.4	2.1	12,300
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>..</i>
Total (no.)	87,800	99,600	95,900	95,200	98,200	100,700	..	577,500

(a) This category was only introduced in the 1998–99 collection year.

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors (weighted): 700.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

States and territories

Across the states and territories, Tasmania generally reported a higher proportion of clients whose Indigenous status was missing/not stated (4.6%) compared to all other jurisdictions (Table 4.2b). In the last 4 years the Northern Territory reported the lowest proportion of clients whose Indigenous status was missing/not stated, generally 1% of clients or less.

The proportion of missing/not stated responses to Indigenous status has decreased across all years with the exception of 2001–02. The conclusions at the end of this chapter present a possible explanation for the increase in 2001–02.

Table 4.2a: SAAP support periods: proportion of missing/not stated and Indigenous identification category responses by state and territory, by reporting period, Australia, 1996–97 to 2001–02

Year		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total (%)	Total (no.)	
1996–97	Indigenous	9.9	2.7	7.3	18.3	7.2	4.9	6.5	22.5	8.4	12,500	
	Non-Indigenous	61.3	61.4	48.7	46.1	57.2	55.8	64.1	39.6	57.0	84,800	
	Missing/not stated	2.6	2.0	3.2	1.6	2.4	3.4	1.8	1.6	2.5	3,700	
	Consent not provided	26.2	33.9	40.8	33.9	33.2	35.9	27.6	36.3	32.1	47,800	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	55,000	34,900	23,900	11,500	10,900	4,900	3,000	4,600	..	148,800	
1997–98	Indigenous	10.2	3.1	8.1	25.4	9.4	5.2	5.8	28.0	9.4	14,800	
	Non-Indigenous	65.3	74.8	55.6	50.7	66.9	54.7	69.5	44.7	64.1	100,400	
	Missing/not stated	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.5	2.6	1.4	1.7	1.9	2,900	
	Consent not provided	22.7	20.1	34.4	22.3	22.2	37.5	23.4	25.7	24.6	38,500	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	52,700	39,600	25,500	11,900	12,300	6,100	3,200	5,200	..	156,500	
1998–99	Indigenous	10.2	3.3	9.4	22.3	10.0	6.5	5.9	39.2	10.0	15,400	
	Non-Indigenous	61.5	73.7	59.2	50.6	67.3	58.6	66.8	44.3	63.5	98,300	
	Missing/not stated	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	2,400	
	Consent not provided	26.4	21.5	30.0	25.3	21.3	33.9	26.4	15.5	25.0	38,800	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	52,900	42,500	22,900	11,800	10,700	5,600	3,000	5,600	..	155,000	
1999–00	Indigenous	12.0	3.5	12.1	25.4	10.0	6.6	7.8	38.5	11.2	16,400	
	Non-Indigenous	61.8	77.8	64.2	53.3	69.3	62.4	72.2	45.6	66.1	97,000	
	Missing/not stated	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.6	2.3	0.9	1.1	1.7	2,500	
	Consent not provided	24.5	17.0	21.8	19.9	19.0	28.7	19.1	14.9	21.0	30,900	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	47,000	39,900	24,100	12,200	10,200	5,600	3,200	4,600	..	146,800	
2000–01	Indigenous	12.2	3.5	26.4	30.1	11.4	7.5	9.1	42.6	15.4	24,700	
	Non-Indigenous	63.4	77.3	56.7	52.8	68.4	67.0	75.4	42.8	64.5	103,100	
	Missing/not stated	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.6	0.9	0.6	1.4	2,300	
	Consent not provided	22.7	17.8	15.5	16.1	19.0	23.9	14.7	14.0	18.6	29,700	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	45,400	40,900	35,600	14,700	10,300	5,000	2,900	4,900	..	159,800	
2001–02	Indigenous	13.7	4.0	37.1	30.6	11.5	7.6	10.7	51.8	18.7	31,100	
	Non-Indigenous	70.9	81.1	51.3	56.6	62.0	70.7	74.3	38.0	66.2	110,200	
	Missing/not stated	2.3	2.9	1.8	1.0	1.7	3.5	1.4	1.1	2.2	3,600	
	Consent not provided	13.1	12.0	9.9	11.8	24.8	18.1	13.6	9.1	13.0	21,600	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	44,800	43,100	38,300	14,300	13,300	5,400	2,600	4,700	..	166,500	

Note: Clients may have support periods at agencies in more than one state or territory.

Table 4.2b: SAAP clients: proportion of missing/not stated and Indigenous identification category responses by state and territory, by reporting period, Australia, 1996-97 to 2001-02

Year		NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total (%)	Total (no.)	
1996-97	Indigenous	13.3	4.2	13.3	26.7	11.0	7.5	9.8	38.2	12.4	10,300	
	Non-Indigenous	83.0	93.3	82.7	70.9	85.7	88.3	88.0	58.9	84.4	70,200	
	Missing/not	3.7	2.5	4.0	2.4	3.3	4.1	2.2	2.9	3.2	2,700	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	25,400	22,900	13,900	7,300	6,400	3,000	1,900	2,300	..	83,200	
1997-98	Indigenous	13.2	4.0	13.0	29.9	12.1	7.8	7.4	39.5	12.4	11,700	
	Non-Indigenous	84.9	94.1	84.5	68.3	86.6	88.7	90.9	58.8	85.6	80,500	
	Missing/not	1.9	1.9	2.5	1.7	1.3	3.5	1.7	1.7	2.0	1,900	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	27,700	27,000	15,400	7,800	7,900	3,600	1,900	2,800	..	94,000	
1998-99	Indigenous	13.2	4.5	13.9	29.6	13.1	8.9	7.9	44.8	12.9	11,700	
	Non-Indigenous	84.9	93.9	84.4	68.4	85.5	90.1	90.7	54.3	85.4	77,400	
	Missing/not	2.0	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.4	1.0	1.4	0.9	1.7	1,500	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	25,900	28,000	14,300	7,500	6,800	3,300	1,800	3,000	..	90,700	
1999-00	Indigenous	14.6	4.5	15.1	30.4	12.1	8.5	9.8	42.4	13.5	12,200	
	Non-Indigenous	83.5	93.6	82.5	68.2	86.1	88.7	89.0	56.6	84.6	76,100	
	Missing/not	1.9	1.8	2.4	1.4	1.8	2.8	1.2	1.0	1.9	1,700	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	24,400	27,400	15,000	8,100	7,000	3,300	1,900	2,800	..	90,000	
2000-01	Indigenous	15.3	4.8	19.6	33.5	13.3	8.8	10.0	44.4	15.4	14,300	
	Non-Indigenous	82.7	93.6	78.6	65.1	85.3	88.8	88.9	55.1	82.9	76,700	
	Missing/not	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.4	2.4	1.1	0.6	1.7	1,600	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	24,500	26,900	16,800	9,300	7,000	3,300	1,900	2,800	..	92,500	
2001-02	Indigenous	15.8	5.0	23.1	32.6	13.6	8.9	11.8	52.4	16.2	15,500	
	Non-Indigenous	81.9	92.1	74.8	66.2	84.1	86.5	86.5	46.6	81.4	77,800	
	Missing/not	2.4	2.9	2.1	1.2	2.3	4.6	1.7	1.1	2.4	2,300	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	..
	Total (no.)	25,200	28,200	17,300	8,600	8,200	3,500	1,700	2,900	..	95,600	

Notes

1. Clients may have support periods at agencies in more than one state or territory.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Remoteness

In locations where support periods to Indigenous clients make up the majority of responses to the Indigenous question (that is in the more remote areas of Australia), the proportion of missing/ not stated responses to Indigenous status was lower (Table 4.3). Consent rates tend to be higher in remote areas than in major cities and inner regional areas.

Table 4.3: SAAP support periods: proportion of missing/not stated and Indigenous identification responses by geographical location and reporting period, Australia, 2001–02

Geographical location	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Consent not provided	Missing/not stated	Total (%)	Total (no.)
Major cities	75.5	7.0	15.0	2.5	100.0	97,000
Inner regional	72.8	11.8	13.1	2.3	100.0	31,200
Outer regional	43.9	47.4	7.1	1.5	100.0	29,300
Remote	25.5	63.3	10.6	0.7	100.0	4,900
Very remote	5.0	86.2	7.8	1.1	100.0	4,200
Total (%)	66.2	18.7	13.0	2.2	100.0	..
Total (no.)	110,200	31,100	21,600	3,600	..	166,500

Main reason for seeking assistance

For Indigenous clients, the most commonly reported main reasons for seeking assistance were domestic violence (26%), physical and emotional abuse (23%), time out from family or other situation (25%), and recent arrival to area with no means of support (18%). The missing/not stated rates for these categories were lower than the overall 1.8% missing/not stated rate (1.7%, 1.6%, 1.5% and 1.3% respectively). Conversely, the two categories with the highest missing/not stated rates (emergency accommodation ended and 'other') had relatively few support periods where clients identified themselves as Indigenous (10.6% and 12.3% respectively).

Table 4.4: SAAP support periods: proportion of missing/not stated and Indigenous identification category responses by main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 2001–02

Main reason for seeking assistance	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Missing/not stated	Total (%)	Total (no.)
Time out from family/other situation	73.9	24.6	1.5	100.0	5,300
Relationship/family breakdown	87.1	11.1	1.8	100.0	10,700
Interpersonal conflict	86.0	11.8	2.2	100.0	2,700
Physical/emotional abuse	75.3	23.1	1.6	100.0	3,100
Domestic violence	72.4	25.9	1.7	100.0	21,800
Sexual abuse	87.1	12.0	0.8	100.0	700
Financial difficulty	87.1	11.4	1.5	100.0	9,400
Eviction/previous accommodation ended	87.5	10.8	1.8	100.0	12,000
Drug/alcohol/substance abuse	83.2	15.1	1.7	100.0	6,000
Emergency accommodation ended	85.8	10.6	3.6	100.0	1,900
Recently left institution	85.0	13.3	1.7	100.0	1,800
Psychiatric illness	92.4	5.8	1.8	100.0	1,800
Recent arrival to area with no means of support	80.7	18.0	1.3	100.0	6,000
Itinerant	80.5	17.4	2.0	100.0	3,100
Usual accommodation unavailable	83.7	14.2	2.1	100.0	10,900
Gambling	90.3	7.6	2.1	100.0	300
Other	84.6	12.3	3.1	100.0	6,200
Total (%)	81.7	16.4	1.8	100.0	..
Total (no.)	84,600	17,000	1,900	..	103,500
Consent not provided	..	..	..	..	17,500
Total including consent not provided	..	..	..	..	121,000

Notes

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions associated with the question on main reason for seeking assistance (un-weighted): 5,480.
2. Table excludes high-volume records because not all items were included on the high-volume form.

Service provided

Table 4.5 shows the types of support provided to clients. Like previous tables, it shows that where there are high proportions of Indigenous records, the proportion of missing/not stated responses tends to be smaller (e.g. culturally appropriate support (1.0%), assistance to obtain/maintain government payment (1.1%) and drug and alcohol assistance (1.2%)). Only three categories are over 2.0%. The three categories are intellectual disability services (2.2%), assistance with immigration issues (2.3%) and interpreter services (2.1%). Two of these categories suggest that high rates of missing/not stated responses may be more closely associated with SAAP clients who were born overseas in non-English-speaking countries.

Table 4.5: SAAP support periods: proportion of missing/not stated and Indigenous identification category responses by type of services provided, Australia, 2001-02

Type of service	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Consent not provided	Missing/not stated	Total (%)	Total (no.)
Housing/accommodation	66.3	22.3	9.8	1.6	100.0	123,200
SAAP/CAP accommodation	64.7	24.9	8.8	1.6	100.0	103,900
Assistance to obtain/maintain short-term accommodation	57.9	32.2	8.5	1.4	100.0	36,200
Assistance to obtain/maintain independent housing	77.1	11.6	9.9	1.4	100.0	29,600
Financial/employment	65.3	24.4	8.7	1.6	100.0	65,500
Assistance to obtain/maintain government payment	52.5	41.4	5.1	1.1	100.0	26,000
Employment/training assistance	78.8	10.8	9.0	1.4	100.0	5,600
Financial assistance/material aid	70.0	18.2	10.1	1.8	100.0	46,000
Financial counselling	79.7	10.8	7.9	1.6	100.0	12,100
Counselling	64.5	22.7	11.4	1.3	100.0	80,500
Incest/sexual assault	65.6	9.4	23.5	1.4	100.0	3,300
Domestic violence	66.3	14.1	17.9	1.7	100.0	21,800
Family/relationship	67.4	21.5	9.9	1.2	100.0	23,000
Emotional/other	66.8	21.4	10.5	1.3	100.0	69,200
Assistance with problem gambling	86.5	7.0	5.3	1.1	100.0	1,000
General support/advocacy	68.0	18.8	11.6	1.6	100.0	119,700
Living skills/personal development	78.0	12.0	8.8	1.2	100.0	23,400
Assistance with legal issues/court support	64.7	24.1	9.8	1.4	100.0	17,800
Advice/information	67.4	19.4	11.7	1.6	100.0	101,300
Retrieval/storage/removal of belongings	64.2	29.3	5.1	1.4	100.0	44,100
Advocacy/liaison on behalf of client	72.8	12.3	13.4	1.5	100.0	49,000
Brokerage services	71.9	12.7	14.0	1.4	100.0	6,800
Specialist services	57.7	34.6	6.4	1.4	100.0	48,600
Psychological services	82.2	7.5	8.8	1.4	100.0	1,600
Psychiatric services	85.2	7.8	5.8	1.2	100.0	3,200
Pregnancy support	74.2	15.0	8.9	1.8	100.0	2,500
Family planning support	76.1	12.6	10.2	1.1	100.0	1,200
Drug/alcohol support or intervention	52.0	43.3	3.5	1.2	100.0	24,600
Physical disability services	76.8	10.3	12.6	0.3	100.0	300
Intellectual disability services	79.9	7.4	10.5	2.2	100.0	400
Culturally appropriate support	29.7	64.8	4.5	1.0	100.0	22,300
Interpreter services	84.9	3.5	9.5	2.1	100.0	1,700
Assistance with immigration issues	85.5	0.8	11.4	2.3	100.0	1,000
Health/medical services	54.7	39.3	4.7	1.3	100.0	28,700
Basic support and services n.e.s	65.4	23.9	9.2	1.6	100.0	108,500
Meals	63.5	26.8	8.3	1.4	100.0	85,100
Laundry/shower facilities	62.5	27.5	8.5	1.5	100.0	82,800
Recreation	64.0	27.5	7.1	1.4	100.0	44,100
Transport	65.9	22.1	10.6	1.4	100.0	45,200
Other	75.8	16.0	6.3	1.9	100.0	17,500
No services provided directly	68.7	9.0	18.1	4.2	100.0	2,500
Total (%)	66.2	18.7	13.0	2.2	100.0	—
Total (no.)	110,200	31,100	21,600	3,600	—	166,500

Target group and service delivery model

The results from analyses of target group and service delivery model tend to indicate that the less targeted the service provision, the higher the proportion of missing/not stated responses to the Indigenous status question (Tables 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8). For example, in Table 4.6, agencies with a primary target group of cross-target, multiple or general recorded a higher proportion of missing/not stated responses to Indigenous status (2.6%) compared with other primary target groups. Similarly, in terms of service delivery model, Table 4.7 illustrates that day support agencies (6.1%) and 'other' agencies (2.7%) recorded the highest proportion of missing/not stated responses. Consistent with the previous tables, Table 4.8 shows that the lowest rates of missing/not stated responses (1.3%) were reported in agencies where the secondary target group was Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background. Agencies whose secondary target group were clients with 'Other' special characteristics or those with no secondary target group reported higher rates of missing/not stated responses (2.4% and 2.3% respectively).

Table 4.6: SAAP support periods: proportion of missing/not stated and Indigenous identification category responses by primary target group of SAAP agency, Australia, 2001-02

Primary target group	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Consent not provided	Missing/not stated	Total (%)	Total (no.)
Young people	69.9	10.8	17.2	2.0	100.0	33,300
Single men only	83.0	8.1	6.9	1.9	100.0	29,300
Single women only	71.5	11.9	14.3	2.3	100.0	3,800
Families	67.4	12.5	18.2	1.8	100.0	8,200
Women escaping domestic violence	52.2	26.6	19.3	1.9	100.0	35,700
Cross-target/multiple/general	63.6	25.1	8.7	2.6	100.0	56,200
Total	66.2	18.7	13.0	2.2	100.0	..
Total no.	110,200	31,100	21,600	3,600	..	166,500

Table 4.7: SAAP support periods: proportion of missing/not stated and Indigenous identification categories responses by service delivery model of SAAP agency, Australia, 2001–02

Service delivery model	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Consent not provided	Missing/not stated	Total (%)	Total (no.)
Crisis/short-term	58.9	28.8	10.4	1.8	100.0	70,900
Medium/long-term	76.2	7.7	14.3	1.8	100.0	37,000
Day support	84.1	4.9	4.9	6.1	100.0	9,500
Outreach support	42.4	23.4	32.3	2.0	100.0	8,500
Telephone information/referral	73.6	5.0	19.5	1.9	100.0	4,500
Multiple	70.8	12.7	14.4	2.1	100.0	25,600
Other	68.8	17.8	10.6	2.7	100.0	10,400
Total	66.2	18.7	13.0	2.2	100.0	..
Total no.	110,200	31,100	21,600	3,600	..	166,500

Table 4.8: SAAP support periods: proportion of missing/not stated and Indigenous identification categories responses by secondary target group of SAAP agency, Australia, 2001–02

Secondary target group	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Consent not provided	Missing/not stated	Total (%)	Total (no.)
Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander peoples	26.7	65.0	7.0	1.3	100.0	24,400
People from non-English-speaking backgrounds	79.3	5.0	13.6	2.1	100.0	3,700
Other special characteristics	72.4	15.7	9.4	2.4	100.0	14,500
No secondary target group	72.9	10.3	14.5	2.3	100.0	124,000
Total	66.2	18.7	13.0	2.2	100.0	..
Total no.	110,200	31,100	21,600	3,600	..	166,500

Linkage key analysis of Indigenous data quality

Tables 4.9 to 4.11 present the findings of linkage key analysis in Indigenous SAAP data quality over three years. The protocols established for the SAAP National Data Collection require that SAAP clients provide information in a climate of informed consent. If a client's consent is not obtained, only a limited number of questions can be completed on data collection forms, and an 'alpha code' is not recorded. Alpha codes are used to create a linkage key, which allows data collected on separate occasions from the same client to be combined without identifying the client. Thus alpha codes allow enumeration of actual clients in addition to occasions of support.

In analysing the linkage key data potential scenarios include:

- the client reported their Indigenous status consistently;
- the client reported varied responses to the Indigenous status question across multiple support periods (this may be unintentional, the client may consent on one occasion but not the next, or the client may consciously choose to report varying responses);

- the client may have given consent to record their alpha code but may have chosen to not consent to the question on Indigenous status;
- the agency worker may not have asked the question of the client and therefore left the question blank, or they may have responded to the question by making an assumption about the Indigenous status of the client without asking.

It is also worth noting that recent analysis shows that as the client population increases so too does the rate of alpha code duplication. Based on 1999–00 data the total number of clients is underestimated by approximately 3% because about 3% of clients have the alpha code of another client.

The total proportion of consistent and valid responses has decreased slightly from 95.8% in 1999–00 to 94.8% in 2001–02 (Tables 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11). Furthermore, as clients had more support periods it was more likely that Indigenous status was reported more inconsistently. For example, in 2001–02 the rate of consistent and valid reporting for clients with two support periods was 90.8% and with four or more it declined to 78.6%. A similar pattern was seen across all years examined.

There was a slight increase in the proportion of responses where both Indigenous and non-Indigenous status was reported for the same alpha code (from 1.6% in 1999–00 to 1.8% in 2001–2002). Duplication of alpha codes (i.e. where two clients have the same or similar names that produce the same alpha code) may partly contribute to this apparently inconsistent reporting.

Whilst the overall rate of inconsistent reporting of Indigenous status in 2001–02 was 5.2%, a response can be assigned to the missing Indigenous status for 1% of clients. In these instances, at least one support period for these clients reported a valid response to the Indigenous status question. It is not unreasonable to assume that the Indigenous status reported by the client on at least one form can be assigned against the missing status on other forms for the same clients. This means that the Indigenous status of 4.2% of clients in SAAP cannot be determined for 2001–02.

Table 4.9: SAAP clients (unweighted): proportion of recorded Indigenous status by support periods, Australia 1999–00

Support periods	Consistent (Indigenous status reported)	Consistent (missing/ not stated)	Indigenous & missing/ not stated	Non-Indigenous & missing/ not stated	Indigenous & Non-Indigenous	Indigenous, Non-Indigenous & missing/ not stated	Total (%)	Total number
One	98.0	2.0	—	—	—	—	100.0	55,950
Two	91.7	1.8	0.2	1.5	4.8	—	100.0	9,800
Three	88.6	1.8	0.3	2.5	6.6	0.2	100.0	3,650
Four or more	81.5	1.3	0.5	6.1	9.7	0.9	100.0	4,150
Total	95.8	1.9	0.1	0.7	1.5	0.1	100.0	..
Total no.	70,400	1,400	50	500	1,100	50	..	73,500

Table 4.10: SAAP clients (unweighted): proportion of recorded Indigenous status by support periods, Australia 2000–01

Support periods	Consistent (valid)	Consistent (missing/ not stated)	Indigenous & missing/ not stated	Non-Indigenous & missing/ not stated	Indigenous & Non-Indigenous	Indigenous, Non-Indigenous & missing/ not stated	Total (%)	Total number
One	97.8	2.2	—	—	—	—	100.0	58,250
Two	92.1	1.9	0.3	1.4	4.3	—	100.0	10,400
Three	86.9	1.8	0.7	3.1	7.2	0.3	100.0	3,750
Four or more	79.2	2.0	1.0	7.2	9.3	1.3	100.0	4,750
Total	95.4	2.1	0.1	0.8	1.5	0.1	100.0	..
Total no.	73,600	1,650	100	600	1,150	50	..	77,150

Table 4.11: SAAP clients (unweighted): proportion of recorded Indigenous status by support periods, Australia 2001–02

Support periods	Consistent (valid)	Consistent (missing/ not stated)	Indigenous & missing/ not stated	Non-Indigenous & missing/ not stated	Indigenous & Non-Indigenous	Indigenous, Non-Indigenous & missing/ not stated	Total (%)	Total number
One	97.6	2.4	—	—	—	—	100.0	61,450
Two	90.8	2.1	0.4	1.7	5.0	—	100.0	11,600
Three	86.1	2.4	0.5	3.2	7.5	0.3	100.0	4,350
Four or more	78.6	2.0	1.6	6.6	9.6	1.6	100.0	5,300
Total	94.8	2.4	0.2	0.8	1.7	0.1	100.0	..
Total no.	78,400	1,950	150	700	1,400	100	..	82,700

Increasing the level of Indigenous identification

- The above analysis indicates that non-Indigenous clients of SAAP appear more likely to report an error or not respond to the Indigenous question than Indigenous clients.
- The 2.2% of missing/not stated responses to the Indigenous question on the SAAP client collection form includes some ‘non-consents’. The number is, however, unknown and strategies to reduce errors and other non-responses will not work in this instance. Strategies to improve consent are more appropriate for these types of non-responses.
- As alluded to in the opening section, the non-participation of some SAAP-funded agencies appears to present a potentially greater challenge to fully enumerate the Indigenous population within SAAP than errors and omissions in data recorded. The SAAP NDCA together with the SAAP Information Sub-committee is currently looking at strategies to continually increase and encourage participation. One essential element of this is the current training program, which has recently been adapted for specific use in training Indigenous service providers in the value, uses and ‘how to’s’ of the data

collection. The success of the training program has been notable with the continued increase in consent and participation rates over several years of the collection. Continued refinement of the training program and research into participation and consent rate changes in the regions where training has been conducted will continue to inform strategies to improve data quality.

- The rise in the missing/not stated rates in 2001–02 is probably attributable to the introduction of new agencies to the SAAP National Data Collection. The increase in missing/not stated responses is likely to happen every time there is an injection of funds into the SAAP program and new agencies start participating in the collection. It often takes an agency some time to develop appropriate procedures to collect data from clients who are victims of domestic violence, have substance abuse issues or are desperate to find accommodation.

Key findings

- The proportion of valid responses to each category from the Indigenous status question have increased across the 6 years of data collection as consent rates to the data collection have improved (Tables 4.1a).
- The proportion of missing/not stated responses to Indigenous status decreased across all years with the exception of 2001–02. In the last 4 years the Northern Territory reported the lowest proportion of clients whose Indigenous status was missing/not stated, generally 1% of clients or less (Tables 4.2a and 4.2b).
- The proportion of missing/not stated responses by type of service provided tended to be smaller where there were high proportions of Indigenous records (Table 4.5).
- The results from analyses related to target group and service delivery model tended to indicate that the less targeted the service provision, the higher the proportion of missing/not stated responses to the Indigenous status question (Tables 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8).
- Linkage key analysis showed that Indigenous status was reported consistently for 95% of SAAP clients for the period 2001–02.

Issues for follow-up

- Strategies to improve the consent rate will also assist in an improvement in the identification rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.
- Likewise, strategies to improve the participation rate of SAAP-funded agencies in the SAAP collection will also facilitate a more accurate count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. Strategies are currently being considered by the major SAAP data collection stakeholders.