

## 3.18 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples training for health-related disciplines

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians in tertiary education for health-related disciplines

### Data sources

Data for this measure come from the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training's Higher Education Student Statistics Collection and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research collection.

#### DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is the responsible agency for the Higher Education Statistics Collection, which includes information from higher education institutions such as universities and colleges of advanced education. This data collection contains statistics relating to students enrolled in higher education courses between 1 January and 31 December of each year in each Australian higher education provider.

Although universities design and produce their own enrolment forms, DEEWR 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 DEEWR 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.

#### National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) collection

The NCVER 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.

# Analyses

## Higher education sector enrolments

Data on Indigenous student enrolments in higher education university health-related courses are available from DEEWR (formally DEST). Data for 2006 by age group is presented in Tables 3.18.1 and 3.18.2, and Figures 3.18.1 and 3.18.2.

- In 2006 there were 8,835 Indigenous students aged 15 years and over enrolled in higher education health-related courses. This was equivalent to an age specific rate of 17.6 per 1,000. There were 724,490 non-Indigenous students of the same age range who were enrolled in health-related higher education courses, an age specific rate of 35.9 per 1,000 (Table 3.18.1; Figures 3.18.1a and b).
- The largest percentage of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students out of the total number of student enrolments in health-related courses were in the 15–24 year age group (39% and 60%, respectively). However a greater number of Indigenous students enrolled in health-related higher education courses at an older age compared with non-Indigenous students (Table 3.18.1).
- In 2006, enrolments in higher education health-related courses were significantly higher per 1,000 in non-Indigenous persons than Indigenous within the 15–24 year age group. These rates decreased with age most steeply for non-Indigenous students, while the age-specific rates of Indigenous students enrolled in health-related courses were between 34 and 22 per 1,000 across age groups 15–24 to 45–54 years. Enrolment rates in university health-related courses were higher among Indigenous students than among non-Indigenous students aged 35 years and over (Figure 3.18.2).

Data on the number of Indigenous students in university health-related courses by type of course are available from the Higher Education Student Statistics Collection. Data for the number of Indigenous students in university health-related courses in 2008 are presented in Table 3.18.2 and by state and territory in Figure 3.18.3 and Table 3.18.3.

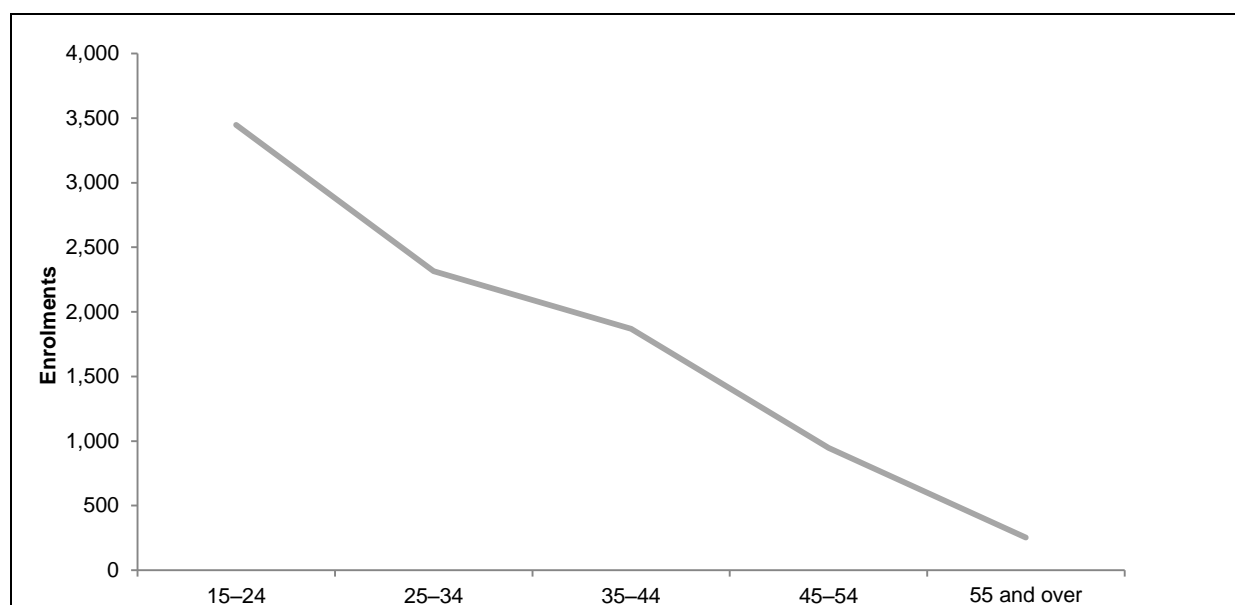
- In 2008, 1,120 Indigenous students were studying university health-related courses, which was equal to a rate of 35 per 10,000. The rate difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students studying undergraduate health-related courses was equal to 14.7 per 10,000 (Table 3.18.2).
- The most common course of health-related studies for both Indigenous and other students was nursing (18.2 and 22.9 per 10,000, respectively), followed by public health courses for Indigenous and rehabilitation therapies and medical studies for other students.
- The largest proportion of Indigenous students studying university health-related courses was in the Northern Territory where 11% (177) of all students were Indigenous, followed by Queensland where 1.5% (314) of students in health-related course were Indigenous (Table 3.18.3; Figure 3.18.3).

**Table 3.18.1: Higher education university health-related course enrolments by age group and Indigenous status, 2006**

| Age group                | Indigenous   |            |                                      | Non-Indigenous |            |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
|                          | No.          | Per cent   | Age specific rate (number per 1,000) | No.            | Per cent   | Age specific rate (number per 1,000) |
| 15–24                    | 3,448        | 39.0       | 33.8                                 | 434,174        | 59.9       | 155.9                                |
| 25–34                    | 2,316        | 26.2       | 31.6                                 | 152,624        | 21.1       | 54.1                                 |
| 35–44                    | 1,870        | 21.2       | 29.6                                 | 82,338         | 11.4       | 27.5                                 |
| 45–54                    | 948          | 10.7       | 22.2                                 | 43,169         | 6.0        | 15.3                                 |
| 55 and over              | 253          | 2.9        | 6.9                                  | 12,185         | 1.7        | 2.5                                  |
| <b>Total 15 and over</b> | <b>8,835</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>17.6</b>                          | <b>724,490</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>35.9</b>                          |

Note: Excludes people under 14 years of age and those with unknown age.

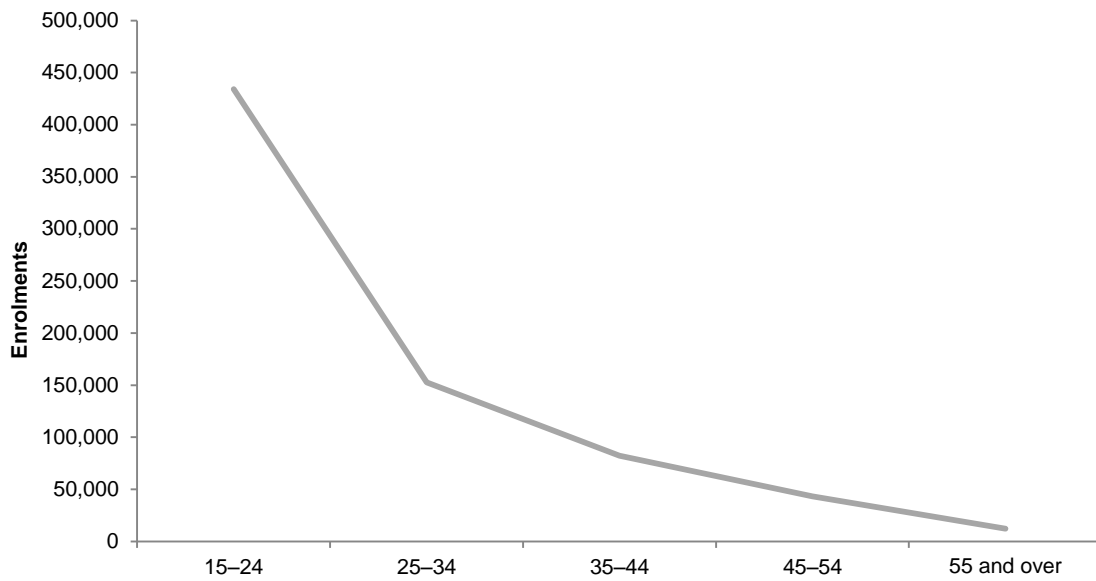
Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.



Note: Excludes people under 14 years of age and those with unknown age.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

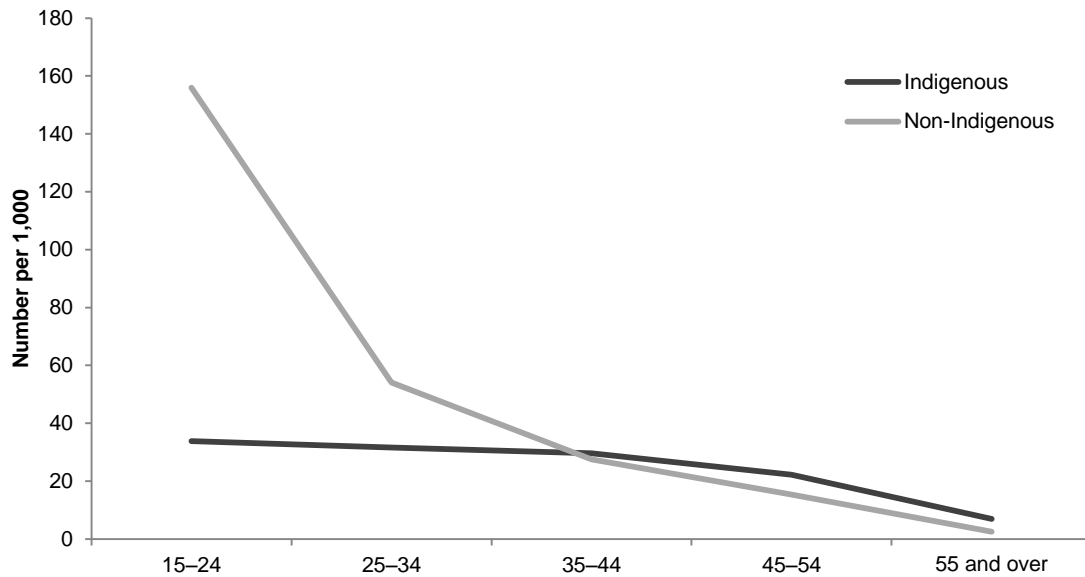
**Figure 3.18.1a: Higher education university health-related course enrolments by age group, Indigenous people, 2006**



Note: Excludes under 14 years and unknown age groups.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

**Figure 3.18.1b: Higher education university health-related course enrolments by age group, non-Indigenous people, 2006**



Note: Excludes under 14 years and unknown age groups.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

**Figure 3.18.2: Higher education university health-related course enrolments by Indigenous status and age group, per 1,000 population, 2006**

**Table 3.18.2: Undergraduate domestic students<sup>(a)</sup> enrolled in health-related courses<sup>(b)</sup>, Indigenous and Other students, 2008**

| Course                   | Indigenous   |   | Other students |   | Rate difference <sup>(d)</sup> |
|--------------------------|--------------|---|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
|                          | Number       | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(c)</sup> | Number         | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(c)</sup> |                                |
| Nursing                  | 582          | 18.2                                    | 32,225         | 22.9                                    | 4.7                            |
| Public health            | 298          | 9.3                                     | 4,188          | 3.0                                     | -6.3                           |
| Indigenous health        | 142          | 4.4                                     | 27             | 0.0                                     | -4.4                           |
| Other public health      | 156          | 4.9                                     | 4,180          | 3.0                                     | -1.9                           |
| Medical studies          | 128          | 4.0                                     | 12,037         | 8.6                                     | 4.6                            |
| Rehabilitation therapies | 73           | 2.3                                     | 12,200         | 8.7                                     | 6.4                            |
| Dental studies           | 20           | 0.6                                     | 2,310          | 1.6                                     | 1.0                            |
| Pharmacy                 | 9            | 0.3                                     | 4,634          | 3.3                                     | 3.0                            |
| Radiography              | n.p.         | 0.3                                     | 1,874          | 1.3                                     | 1.1                            |
| Optical science          | n.p.         | 0.1                                     | 545            | 0.4                                     | 0.3                            |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>1,120</b> | <b>35.0</b>                             | <b>69,833</b>  | <b>49.6</b>                             | <b>14.7</b>                    |

(a) The data takes into account the coding of combined courses to two fields of education. As a consequence, counting both fields of education for combined courses means that the totals may be less than the sum of detailed fields of education.

(b) Medical studies, nursing, pharmacy, dental studies, optical science, public health, radiography, rehabilitation therapies.

(c) Using the 2008 Australian population aged 15–64 years.

(d) Rate difference is Other students rate minus the Indigenous rate.

Note: Data for 2008 are preliminary.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

**Table 3.18.3: Proportion and number of university students enrolled in health-related<sup>(a)</sup> courses who were Indigenous, by state/territory, 2008<sup>(b)(c)</sup>**

| State/territory <sup>(d)</sup> | Indigenous students | Non-Indigenous students | Total students | Indigenous students as a proportion of jurisdiction total |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---|
| New South Wales                | 441                 | 30,056                  | 30,497         | 1.4   |
| Victoria                       | 158                 | 25,589                  | 25,747         | 0.6   |
| Queensland                     | 314                 | 20,619                  | 20,933         | 1.5   |
| Western Australia              | 175                 | 14,071                  | 14,246         | 1.2   |
| South Australia                | 100                 | 11,312                  | 11,412         | 0.9   |
| Tasmania                       | 29                  | 2,465                   | 2,494          | 1.2   |
| Northern Territory             | 177                 | 1,429                   | 1,606          | 11.0  |
| Australian Capital Territory   | 11                  | 1,077                   | 1,088          | 1.0   |
| Australia                      | 23                  | 4,369                   | 4,392          | 0.5   |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>1,428</b>        | <b>110,987</b>          | <b>112,415</b> | <b>1.3</b>  |

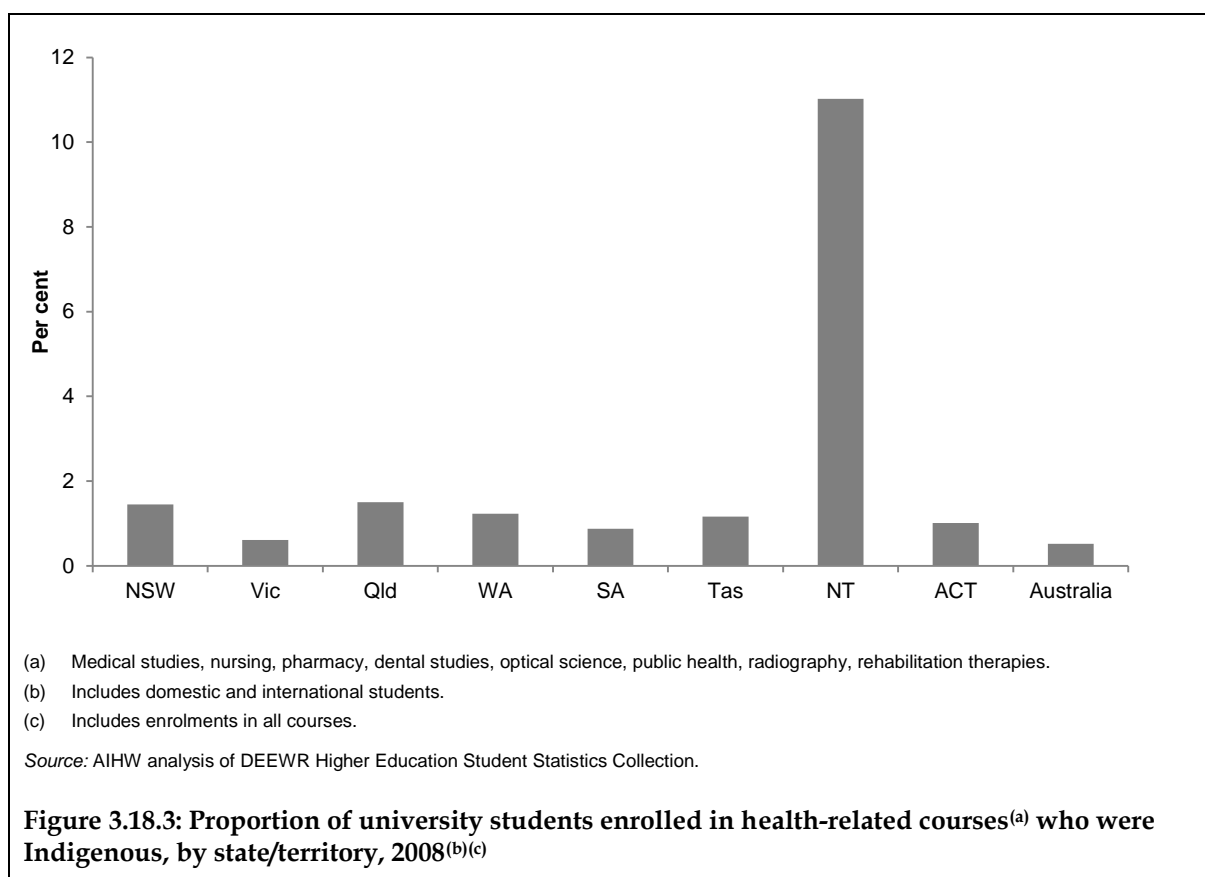
(a) Medical studies, nursing, pharmacy, dental studies, optical science, public health, radiography, rehabilitation therapies.

(b) Includes domestic and international students.

(c) Includes enrolments in all courses.

(d) State/territory classification is based on state of institution.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.



## Higher education sector completions

Data on the completion rate of undergraduate Indigenous student in health-related courses are available from DEEWR and the Higher Education Student Statistics Collection. Data for 2008 are presented in Tables 3.18.4, 3.18.5, 3.18.6, and Figures 3.18.4a, 3.18.4b, 3.18.5 and Figure 3.18.7.

- In 2008, according to Higher Education Student Statistics data, 152 Indigenous students (4.7 per 10,000 students) completed undergraduate health-related courses while 14,449 or 10.3 per 10,000 non-Indigenous students completed these studies. The rate difference between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous completing undergraduate health-related courses was 5.5 per 10,000 (Table 3.18.4).
- The most common type of health-related course that Indigenous undergraduate students had completed in 2008 was nursing (71 completed) followed by public health (47 completed) (Table 3.18.4).
- About 1.6% (1,120) of all undergraduate students enrolled in health-related courses in 2008 was Indigenous. Only 1% of undergraduate students who completed a health-related course in 2008 were of Indigenous origin (Table 3.18.5).
- Approximately 87% of students who completed Indigenous health in 2008 were Indigenous. The next highest was public health where approximately 7% of students who completed this course in 2008 were Indigenous (Table 3.18.5).
- The largest proportion of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students out of the total number of students who completed health-related higher education courses were within

the 15–24 year age group (32% and 55%, respectively). Although the remaining 68% of Indigenous students were distributed across age groups 25 years and above, only 45% of non-Indigenous students were in the age groups above 25 years. This means that a greater number of Indigenous students are completing health-related higher education courses at an older age compared with non-Indigenous students. This is the same relationship observed in student enrolments (Table 3.18.6; Figure 3.18.5).

- In 2006, the rate of non-Indigenous students aged 15–24 years completing higher education health-related courses was significantly higher than for Indigenous students. However, for ages 45 years and older, the rate of Indigenous students who completed higher education health-related courses was greater than the non-Indigenous rate (Figure 3.18.5).

**Table 3.18.4: Number and rate of undergraduate domestic students<sup>(a)</sup> completing health-related courses<sup>(b)</sup>, by Indigenous status, 2008**

| Course                   | Indigenous |   | Other students |   | Rate difference <sup>(d)</sup> |
|--------------------------|------------|---|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
|                          | Number     | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(c)</sup> | Number         | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(c)</sup> |                                |
| Nursing                  | 71         | 2.2                                     | 7,382          | 5.2                                     | 3.0                            |
| Public health            | 47         | 1.5                                     | 677            | 0.5                                     | -1.0                           |
| Indigenous health        | 27         | 0.8                                     | n.p.           | 0.0                                     | -0.8                           |
| Other public health      | 20         | 0.6                                     | 706            | 0.5                                     | -0.1                           |
| Medical studies          | 13         | 0.4                                     | 2,011          | 1.4                                     | 1.0                            |
| Rehabilitation therapies | 12         | 0.4                                     | 2,353          | 1.7                                     | 1.3                            |
| Dental studies           | n.p.       | 0.1                                     | 499            | 0.4                                     | 0.2                            |
| Pharmacy                 | n.p.       | 0.1                                     | 960            | 0.7                                     | 0.6                            |
| Radiography              | n.p.       | 0.0                                     | 434            | 0.3                                     | 0.3                            |
| Optical science          | 0          | 0.0                                     | n.p.           | 0.1                                     | 0.1                            |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>152</b> | <b>4.7</b>                              | <b>14,449</b>  | <b>10.3</b>                             | <b>5.5</b>                     |

(a) The data takes into account the coding of combined courses to two fields of education. As a consequence, counting both fields of education for combined courses means that the totals may be less than the sum of detailed fields of education.

(b) Medical studies, nursing, pharmacy, dental studies, optical science, public health, radiography, rehabilitation therapies.

(c) Using the 2008 Australian population aged 15–64.

(d) Rate difference is Other students rate minus the Indigenous rate.

Note: The 2008 data are preliminary.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

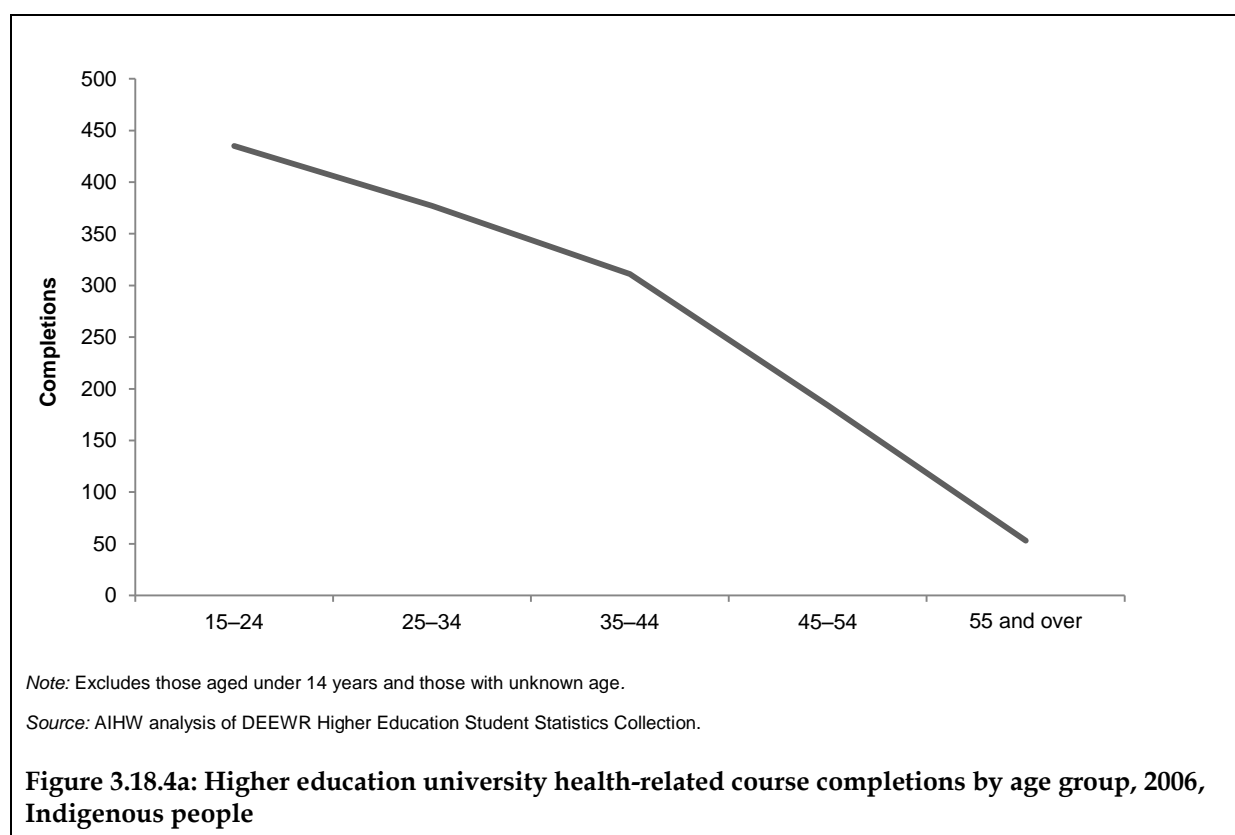
**Table 3.18.5: Undergraduate students<sup>(a)</sup> enrolled in and completed health-related courses<sup>(b)</sup>, Indigenous and total students, 2008**

|                            | Enrolled     |               |                                     | Completed  |               |                                     |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
|                            | Indigenous   | Total         | Indigenous as a proportion of total | Indigenous | Total         | Indigenous as a proportion of total |
|                            |              |               | Per cent                            |            |               | Per cent                            |
| No.                        | No.          | Per cent      | No.                                 | No.        | Per cent      |                                     |
| Nursing                    | 582          | 32,807        | 1.8                                 | 71         | 7,453         | 1.0                                 |
| Public health              | 298          | 4,486         | 6.6                                 | 47         | 724           | 6.5                                 |
| Indigenous health          | 142          | 169           | 84.0                                | 27         | 31            | 87.1                                |
| Other public health        | 156          | 4,336         | 3.6                                 | 20         | 726           | 2.8                                 |
| Medical studies            | 128          | 12,165        | 1.1                                 | 13         | 2,024         | 0.6                                 |
| Rehabilitation therapies   | 73           | 12,273        | 0.6                                 | 12         | 2,365         | 0.5                                 |
| Dental studies             | 20           | 2,330         | 0.9                                 | n.p.       | 503           | 0.8                                 |
| Pharmacy                   | 9            | 4,643         | 0.2                                 | n.p.       | 964           | 0.4                                 |
| Radiography                | n.p.         | 1,883         | 0.5                                 | n.p.       | 435           | 0.2                                 |
| Optical science            | n.p.         | 547           | 0.4                                 | 0          | 133           | 0.0                                 |
| <b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b> | <b>1,120</b> | <b>70,953</b> | <b>1.6</b>                          | <b>152</b> | <b>14,601</b> | <b>1.0</b>                          |

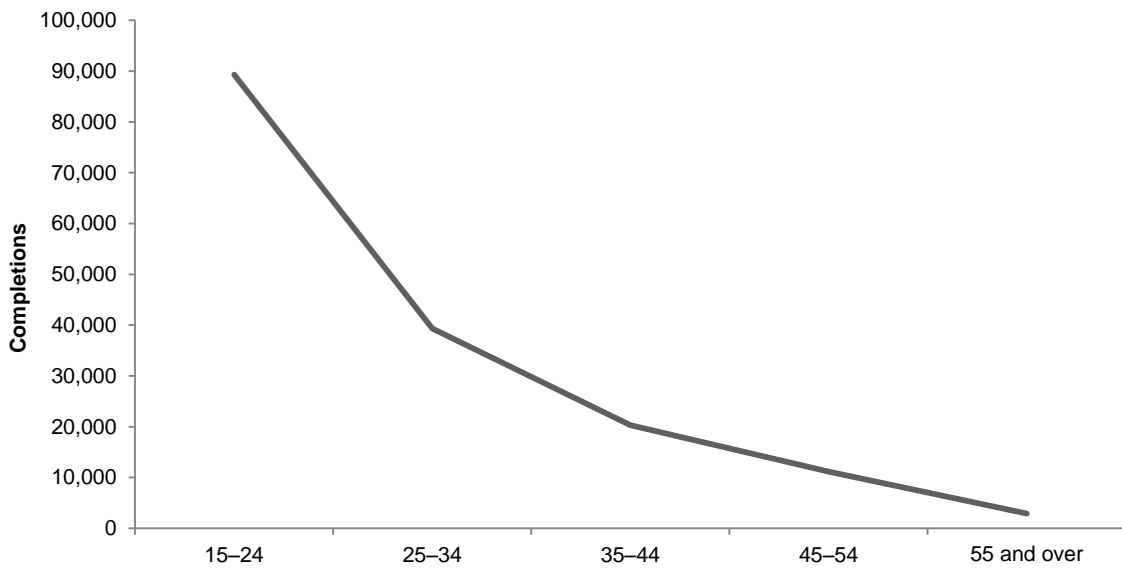
(a) The data takes into account the coding of combined courses to two fields of education. As a consequence, counting both fields of education for combined courses means that the totals may be less than the sum of detailed fields of education.

(b) Medical studies, nursing, pharmacy, dental studies, optical science, public health, radiography, rehabilitation therapies.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.



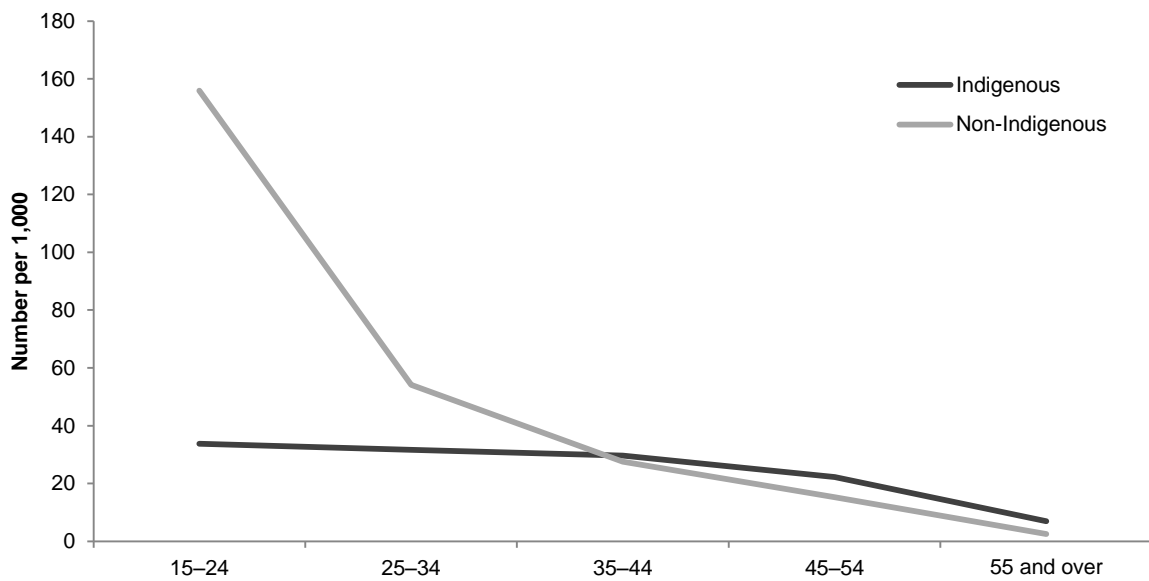




Note: Excludes those aged under 14 years and those with unknown age.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

**Figure 3.18.4b: Higher education university health-related course completions by age group, 2006, non-Indigenous people**



Note: Excludes those aged under 14 years and those with unknown age.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

**Figure 3.18.5: Rate of higher education university health-related course completions by Indigenous status and age group, 2006**

**Table 3.18.6: Higher education health-related course completions by age group and Indigenous status, 2006**

| Age group                | Indigenous   |            |                   | Non-Indigenous |            |                   |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|
|                          | No.          | Per cent   | Age specific rate | No.            | Per cent   | Age specific rate |
| 15–24                    | 435          | 32         | 4.3               | 89,291         | 54.8       | 32.1              |
| 25–34                    | 377          | 27.7       | 5.1               | 39,360         | 24.1       | 14                |
| 35–44                    | 311          | 22.9       | 4.9               | 20,318         | 12.5       | 6.8               |
| 45–54                    | 184          | 13.5       | 4.3               | 11,143         | 6.8        | 4                 |
| 55 and over              | 53           | 3.9        | 1.4               | 2,871          | 1.8        | 0.6               |
| <b>Total 15 and over</b> | <b>1,360</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>4.3</b>        | <b>162,983</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>10</b>         |

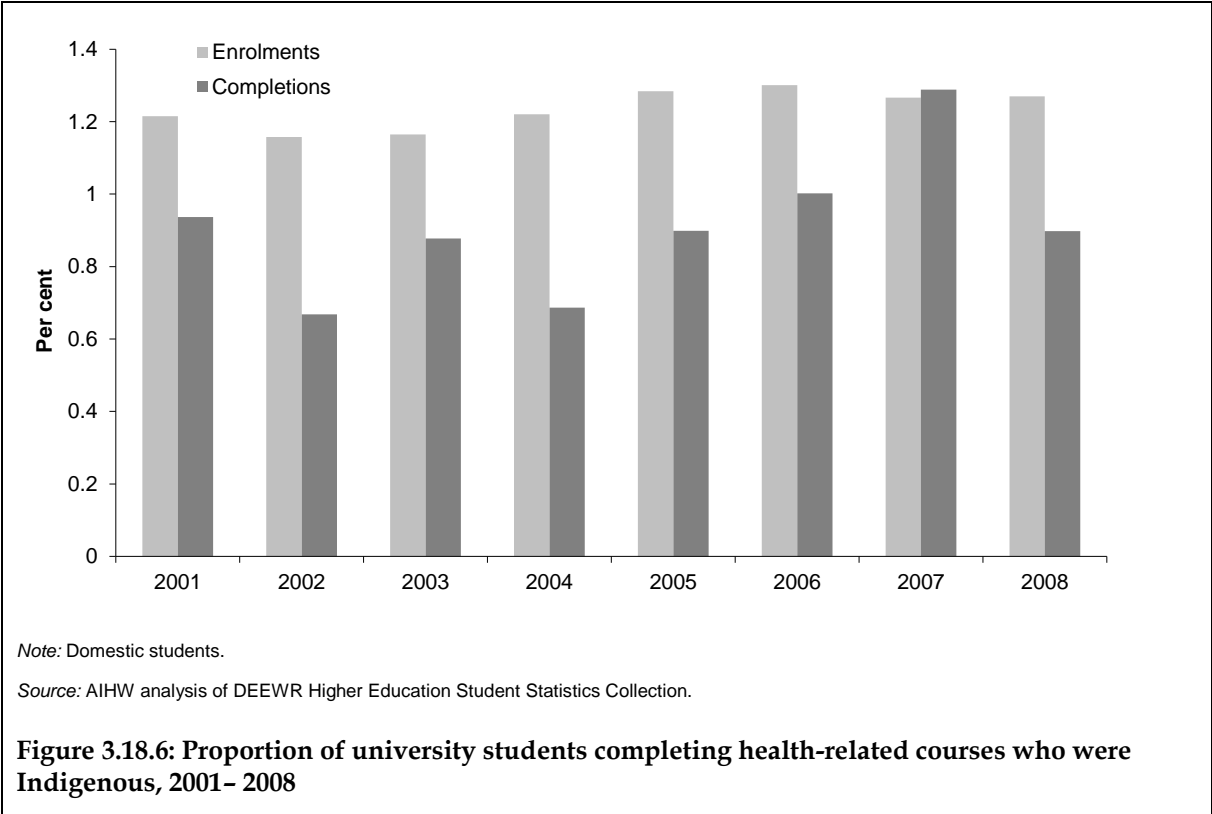
*Note:* Excludes unknown age group.

*Source:* AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

## Time series

Data on undergraduate Indigenous student completions in health-related courses are available from the Higher Education Student Statistics Collection for 2001 to 2008. Data for this time period are presented in Tables 3.18.7, 3.18.8 and Figure 3.18.6.

- During 2001 to 2008, there have been upward trends in the number and rate of Indigenous students who have both enrolled and completed undergraduate health-related courses (Tables 3.18.7 and 3.18.8).
- However, over the same time period the proportion of Indigenous students who have both enrolled in and completed undergraduate health-related courses remained stable when compared with non-Indigenous students. These data suggest that while the rates of Indigenous students have increased over the time period, the rates of non-Indigenous students have increased similarly, producing little change in the proportion of Indigenous students (Table 3.18.7).



**Table 3.18.7: Proportion of university students completing health-related courses<sup>(a)</sup> who were Indigenous 2001-2008<sup>(b)</sup>**

| Year | Enrolments          |                         |                |                                     | Completions         |                         |                |                                     |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
|      | Indigenous Students | Non-Indigenous Students | Total students | Indigenous as a proportion of total | Indigenous Students | Non-Indigenous Students | Total students | Indigenous as a proportion of total |
| 2001 | 932                 | 75,744                  | 76,676         | 1.2                                 | 181                 | 19,146                  | 19,327         | 0.9                                 |
| 2002 | 929                 | 79,341                  | 80,270         | 1.2                                 | 135                 | 20,071                  | 20,206         | 0.7                                 |
| 2003 | 964                 | 81,802                  | 82,766         | 1.2                                 | 182                 | 20,558                  | 20,740         | 0.9                                 |
| 2004 | 1,040               | 84,183                  | 85,223         | 1.2                                 | 152                 | 21,972                  | 22,124         | 0.7                                 |
| 2005 | 1,148               | 88,228                  | 89,376         | 1.3                                 | 200                 | 22,052                  | 22,252         | 0.9                                 |
| 2006 | 1,251               | 94,907                  | 96,158         | 1.3                                 | 236                 | 23,310                  | 23,546         | 1.0                                 |
| 2007 | 1,329               | 103,602                 | 104,931        | 1.3                                 | 329                 | 25,201                  | 25,530         | 1.3                                 |
| 2008 | 1,428               | 110,987                 | 112,415        | 1.3                                 | 248                 | 27,382                  | 27,630         | 0.9                                 |

(a) Includes enrolments in all courses.

(b) State/territory classification is based on state of institution.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

**Table 3.18.8: University students completing health-related courses<sup>(a)</sup> who were Indigenous per 10,000 population, 2001– 2008<sup>(b)</sup>**

| Year | Enrolments          |                |   | Completions         |                |   |
|------|---------------------|----------------|---|---------------------|----------------|---|
|      | Indigenous Students | Total students | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(c)</sup> | Indigenous Students | Total students | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(d)</sup> |
| 2001 | 932                 | 76,676         | 29.9                                    | 181                 | 19,327         | 5.8                                     |
| 2002 | 929                 | 80,270         | 29.8                                    | 135                 | 20,206         | 4.3                                     |
| 2003 | 964                 | 82,766         | 30.9                                    | 182                 | 20,740         | 5.8                                     |
| 2004 | 1,040               | 85,223         | 33.3                                    | 152                 | 22,124         | 4.9                                     |
| 2005 | 1,148               | 89,376         | 36.8                                    | 200                 | 22,252         | 6.4                                     |
| 2006 | 1,251               | 96,158         | 40.1                                    | 236                 | 23,546         | 7.6                                     |
| 2007 | 1,329               | 104,931        | 42.6                                    | 329                 | 25,530         | 10.5                                    |
| 2008 | 1,428               | 112,415        | 45.7                                    | 248                 | 27,630         | 7.9                                     |

(a) Medical studies, nursing, pharmacy, dental studies, optical science, public health, radiography, rehabilitation therapies.

(b) Includes domestic and international students.

(c) Using 2008 the Australian population aged 15–64

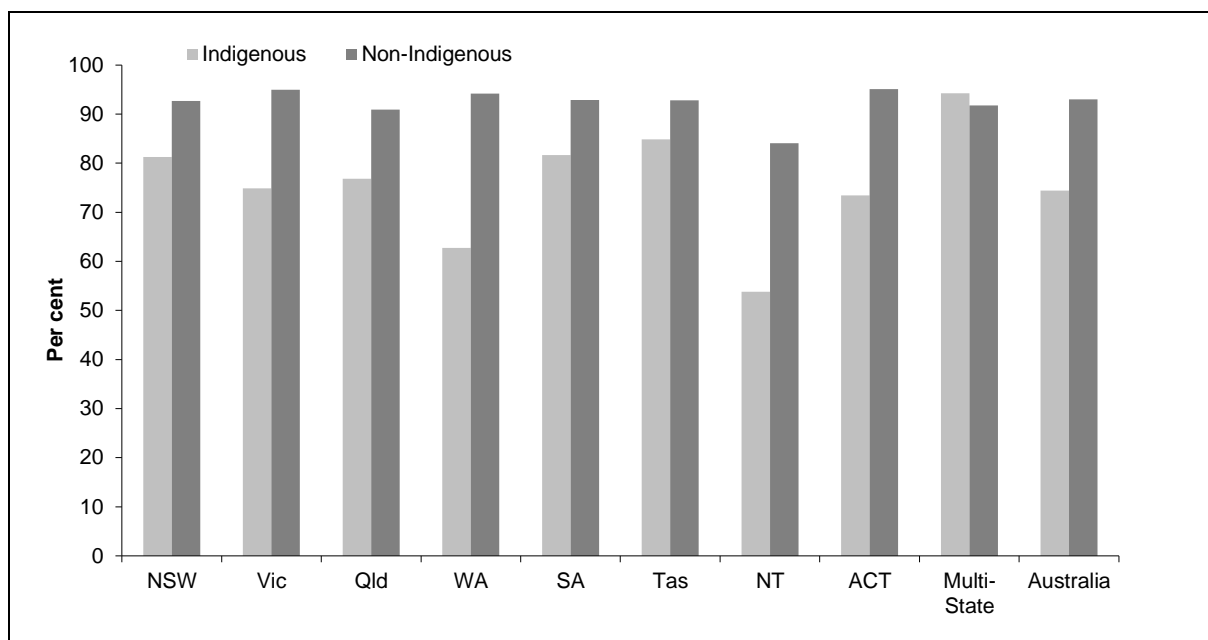
Note: The 2008 data are preliminary

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

## Progress rates

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

- In 2008, the progress rate for Indigenous university students studying health-related courses was 74%. This compared with 93% for non-Indigenous university students studying health-related courses.
- The progress rate for Indigenous students varied by state and territory, ranging from 54% in the Northern Territory to 85% in Tasmania (Table 3.18.9; Figure 3.18.7).



Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

**Figure 3.18.7: Higher education progress rates for university students studying health-related courses, by state/territory and Indigenous status, 2008**

**Table 3.18.9: Higher education progress rates for university students studying health-related courses, by state/territory and Indigenous status, 2008**

| State/territory              | Indigenous |        |               | Non-Indigenous |        |               |
|------------------------------|------------|--------|---------------|----------------|--------|---------------|
|                              | Certified  | Passed | Progress rate | Certified      | Passed | Progress rate |
| New South Wales              | 317        | 258    | 81.3          | 18,244         | 16,913 | 92.7          |
| Victoria                     | 102        | 77     | 74.9          | 16,097         | 15,282 | 94.9          |
| Queensland                   | 211        | 162    | 76.8          | 13,183         | 11,986 | 90.9          |
| Western Australia            | 136        | 85     | 62.7          | 8,154          | 7,678  | 94.2          |
| South Australia              | 66         | 54     | 81.6          | 6,452          | 5,993  | 92.9          |
| Tasmania                     | 26         | 22     | 84.8          | 1,816          | 1,685  | 92.8          |
| Northern Territory           | 104        | 56     | 53.8          | 789            | 663    | 84.1          |
| Australian Capital Territory | 8          | 6      | 73.4          | 787            | 748    | 95.1          |
| Multi-state                  | 13         | 12     | 94.2          | 1,940          | 1,781  | 91.8          |
| Total                        | 984        | 732    | 74.4          | 67,462         | 62,729 | 93.0          |

Source: AIHW analysis of DEEWR Higher Education Student Statistics Collection.

## **Vocational education and training (VET) sector enrolments**

Data on Indigenous students enrolled in health-related courses in the VET sector are available from NCVET and National VET Provider Collection. Data for 2008 are presented below.

- In 2008, there were 6,143 Indigenous enrolments in health-related courses in the VET sector; this represented 6% of all students enrolled in VET courses (Table 3.18.10).
- The most common type of health-related courses in which Indigenous VET students were enrolled in for 2008 was public health (4,094 enrolments) followed by nursing (421 enrolments) (Table 3.18.10).
- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous students enrolled in VET sector health-related courses ranged from 0.9% in the Australian Capital Territory to 53% in the Northern Territory (Table 3.18.11; Figure 3.18.8).
- The proportion of Indigenous students enrolled in VET sector health-related courses increased between 2003 and 2007 (from around 4% to 6%) (Tables 3.18.12a and 3.18.12b).

**Table 3.18.10: Vocational students enrolled in health-related fields of education, by indigenous status: rates and rate differences, Australia 2008**

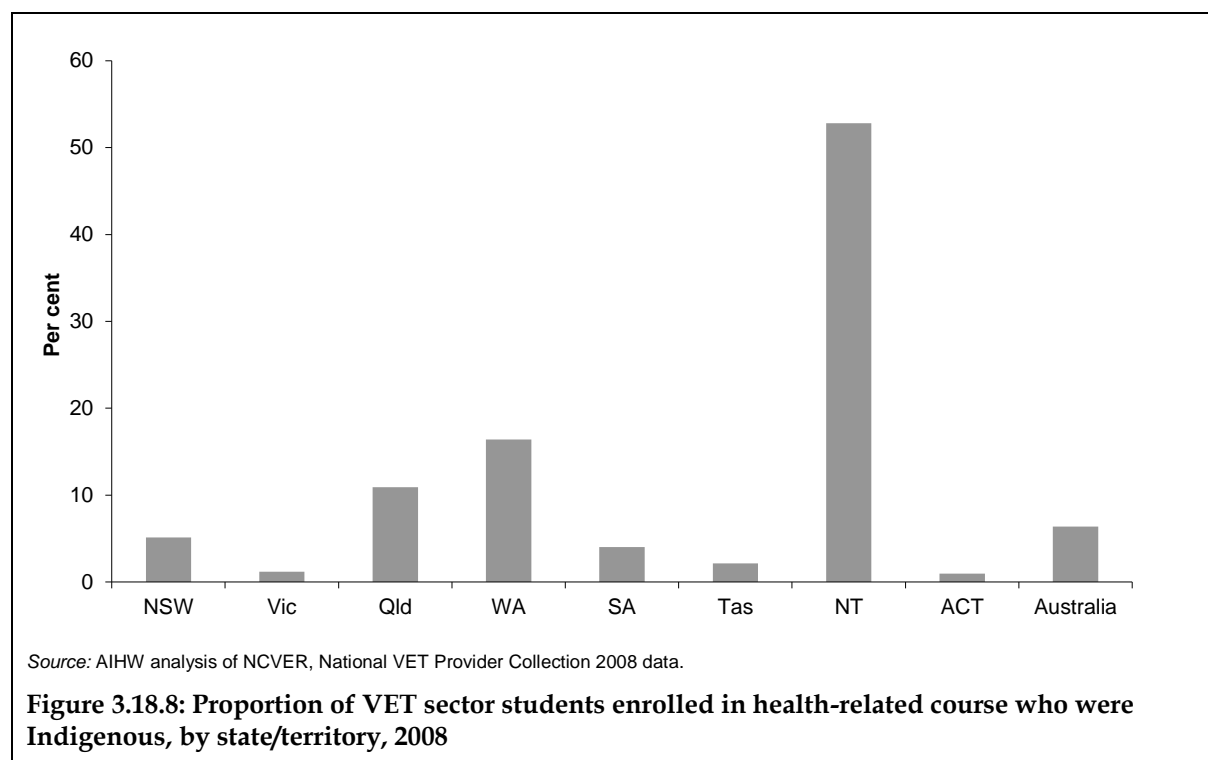
| Course                          | Indigenous   |   | Other Australians |   | Rate difference <sup>(b)</sup><br>per 10,000 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---|-------------------|---|--|
|                                 | Number       | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(a)</sup> | Number            | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(a)</sup> |  |
| 0601 - Medical Studies          | n.p.         | n.p.                                    | 505               | 0.4                                     | n.p.   |
| 0603 - Nursing                  | 421          | 13.3                                    | 19,082            | 13.8                                    | 0.5  |
| 0605 - Pharmacy                 | 0            | ..                                      | 68                | 0.0                                     | ..   |
| 0607 - Dental Studies           | 70           | 2.2                                     | 3,816             | 2.8                                     | 0.5  |
| 0609 - Optical Science          | n.p.         | n.p.                                    | 966               | 0.7                                     | n.p.   |
| 0613 - Public Health            | 4,094        | 129.4                                   | 33,951            | 24.5                                    | -104.9                                       |
| 0617 - Rehabilitation Therapies | 11           | 0.3                                     | 650               | 0.5                                     | 0.1  |
| 0619 - Complementary Therapies  | 59           | 1.9                                     | 3,162             | 2.3                                     | 0.4  |
| 0699 - Other Health             | 1,483        | 46.9                                    | 28,251            | 20.4                                    | -26.5  |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>6,143</b> | <b>194.1</b>                            | <b>90,451</b>     | <b>65.2</b>                             | <b>-128.9</b>                                |

(a) Using the 2007 Australian population aged 15–64.

(b) Rate difference is the Other Australians rate minus the Indigenous rate.

Note: The 2008 data are preliminary.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, unpublished data.



**Table 3.18.11: Proportion of VET sector students enrolled in health-related course who were Indigenous, by state/territory, 2008**

| State/Territory              | %    |
|------------------------------|------|
| New South Wales              | 5.1  |
| Victoria                     | 1.2  |
| Queensland                   | 10.9 |
| Western Australia            | 16.4 |
| South Australia              | 4.0  |
| Tasmania                     | 2.1  |
| Northern Territory           | 52.8 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 0.9  |
| Australia                    | 6.4  |

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection 2008 data.

**Table 3.18.12a: Indigenous VET sector health-related course enrolments, by course, 2003–2007**

| Course                          | Year         |              |              |              |              | Linear trend change 2003–07  |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                 | 2003         | 2004         | 2005         | 2006         | 2007         | Annual change <sup>(a)</sup> | Per cent change <sup>(a)</sup> |
| 0601 - Medical Studies          | 91           | 62           | n.p.         | 130          | n.p.         | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0603 - Nursing                  | 192          | 172          | 245          | 357          | 405          | 61.1*                        | 165.1                          |
| 0605 - Pharmacy                 | n.p.         | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0607 - Dental Studies           | 47           | 54           | 50           | 46           | 51           | 1.1                          | 15.5                           |
| 0609 - Optical Science          | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.         | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0613 - Public Health            | 3,192        | 2,136        | 2,436        | 2,856        | 3,661        | 165.8                        | 35.3                           |
| 0617 - Rehabilitation Therapies | 30           | n.p.         | 15           | 56           | 73           | 12.4*                        | 84.5                           |
| 0619 - Complementary Therapies  | 24           | 33           | 27           | n.p.         | 61           | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0699 - Other Health             | 1,340        | 1,587        | 1,716        | 1,673        | 1,583        | 57.2                         | 26.8                           |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>4,920</b> | <b>4,067</b> | <b>4,497</b> | <b>5,149</b> | <b>5,839</b> | <b>292</b>                   | <b>37.5</b>                    |

\* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the  $p < 0.05$  level over the six reporting periods.

(a) Average period change determined using regression analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, unpublished data.



**Table 3.18.12b: Other Australians VET sector health-related course enrolments by course, 2003–2007**

| Course                             | Year           |               |               |               |                | Linear trend change<br>2003–07  |                                   |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                    | 2003           | 2004          | 2005          | 2006          | 2007           | Annual<br>change <sup>(a)</sup> | Per cent<br>change <sup>(a)</sup> |
| 0601 - Medical Studies             | 1,793          | 1,157         | 673           | 456           | 716            | -285.5*                         | -97.3                             |
| 0603 - Nursing                     | 10,810         | 12,968        | 15,398        | 17,274        | 19,210         | 2,110.6*                        | 112.8                             |
| 0605 - Pharmacy                    | 112            | 23            | 20            | 30            | 200            | 18.3                            | 20.4                              |
| 0607 - Dental Studies              | 3,193          | 3,232         | 3,623         | 3,616         | 3,428          | 85.4                            | 18.4                              |
| 0609 - Optical Science             | 889            | 905           | 965           | 1,063         | 869            | 11.8                            | 8.1                               |
| 0613 - Public Health               | 66,801         | 44,201        | 37,528        | 37,101        | 33,662         | -7,337.8                        | -110.7                            |
| 0617 - Rehabilitation<br>Therapies | 1,788          | 1,152         | 807           | 773           | 1,054          | -184.7                          | -34.0                             |
| 0619 - Complementary<br>Therapies  | 2,800          | 3,675         | 3,101         | 3,178         | 3,286          | 47.5                            | 42.5                              |
| 0699 - Other Health                | 38,645         | 31,626        | 37,048        | 33,753        | 38,222         | 128.1                           | 1.9                               |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>126,831</b> | <b>98,939</b> | <b>99,163</b> | <b>97,244</b> | <b>100,647</b> | <b>-5,406.3</b>                 | <b>-32.1</b>                      |

\* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the  $p < 0.05$  level over the six reporting periods.

(a) Average period change determined using regression analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, unpublished data.

## Vocational education and training sector completions

Data on Indigenous students who completed health-related courses in the VET sector are available from NCVET and National VET Provider Collection. Data for 2008 are presented below.

- In 2008 there were 395 Indigenous completions in health-related courses in the VET sector; this represented 4% of all students who completed VET courses. Completions were however at a much higher rate for Indigenous students (12.5 per 10,000) than for non-Indigenous students (7.2 per 10,000) (Table 3.18.13).
- The most common type of health-related course completed by Indigenous VET students in 2008 was public health (182 completions) followed by nursing (98 completions). Indigenous students as a proportion of the total students completing these courses were 7% and 3.2% respectively (Table 3.18.13 and Table 3.18.14).
- The proportion of students completing VET sector health-related courses who were Indigenous increased between 1996 and 2002 (from 2.4% to 6.6%). In 2003, the proportion of completions dropped to 3.1% and slowly decreased until 2005 before reaching 3.5% by 2008 (Table 3.18.16; Figure 3.18.9).
- Over the period 2003–2007 the fitted trend implies a 28% increase in the rate of Indigenous Australians who completed VET health-related courses. This increase, however, was not significant. Over the same period there was a significant increase (37%) in the rate of VET sector health-related course completion by other Australians (Tables 3.18.15a and 3.18.15b).

**Table 3.18.13: Vocational students, course completions in health-related field of education, rates and rate differences, Australia 2008**

| Course                          | Indigenous |   | Other Australians |   | Rate difference <sup>(b)</sup> per 10,000 |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|-------------------|---|---|
|                                 | Number     | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(a)</sup> | Number            | Rate (number per 10,000) <sup>(a)</sup> |   |
| 0601 - Medical Studies          | 0          | 0.0                                     | n.p.              | 0.0                                     | ..  |
| 0603 - Nursing                  | 98         | 3.1                                     | 2,992             | 2.2                                     | -0.9                                      |
| 0605 - Pharmacy                 | 0          | 0.0                                     | n.p.              | 0.0                                     | ..  |
| 0607 - Dental Studies           | 11         | 0.3                                     | 1,296             | 0.9                                     | 0.6                                       |
| 0609 - Optical Science          | 0          | n.a.                                    | 109               | 0.1                                     | ..  |
| 0613 - Public Health            | 182        | 5.8                                     | 2,410             | 1.7                                     | -4.0                                      |
| 0617 - Rehabilitation Therapies | n.p.       | n.a.                                    | 157               | 0.1                                     | ..  |
| 0619 - Complementary Therapies  | n.p.       | n.a.                                    | 858               | 0.6                                     | ..  |
| 0699 - Other Health             | 94         | 3.0                                     | 2,174             | 1.6                                     | -1.4                                      |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>395</b> | <b>12.5</b>                             | <b>10,031</b>     | <b>7.2</b>                              | <b>-5.2</b>                               |

(a) Using the 2007 Australian population aged 15–64 years.

(b) Rate difference is the Other Australians rate minus the Indigenous rate.

Note: The 2008 data are preliminary.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVET, National VET Provider Collection, unpublished data.

**Table 3.18.14: VET sector students enrolled and completed health-related courses<sup>(a)</sup>, 2008**

|                          | Enrolled     |               |                                     | Completed <sup>(b)</sup> |               |                                     |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
|                          | Indigenous   | Total         | Indigenous as a proportion of total | Indigenous               | Total         | Indigenous as a proportion of total |
|                          |              |               | Per cent                            |                          |               | Per cent                            |
| No.                      | No.          | Per cent      | No.                                 | No.                      | Per cent      |                                     |
| Public health            | 4,094        | 38,045        | 10.8                                | 182                      | 2,592         | 7.0                                 |
| Nursing                  | 421          | 19,503        | 2.2                                 | 98                       | 3,090         | 3.2                                 |
| Medical studies          | n.p.         | 507           | ..                                  | 0                        | 34            | 0.0                                 |
| Dental studies           | 70           | 3,886         | 1.8                                 | 11                       | 1,307         | 0.8                                 |
| Complementary therapies  | 59           | 3,221         | 1.8                                 | n.p.                     | 866           | 0.9                                 |
| Rehabilitation therapies | 11           | 661           | 1.7                                 | n.p.                     | 159           | 1.3                                 |
| Optical science          | n.p.         | 969           | ..                                  | 0                        | 109           | 0.0                                 |
| Pharmacy                 | 0            | 68            | 0.0                                 | 0                        | n.p.          | 0.0                                 |
| Other health             | 1,483        | 29,734        | 5.0                                 | 94                       | 2,268         | 4.1                                 |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>6,143</b> | <b>96,594</b> | <b>6.4</b>                          | <b>395</b>               | <b>10,426</b> | <b>3.8</b>                          |

(a) Qualification field of education classification.

(b) The number of qualifications completed in 2008 is based on preliminary data and will be revised upwards in the next collection.

Source: National VET Provider Collection 2008.

**Table 3.18.15a: VET sector health-related course completions by course, Indigenous students, 2003–2007**

| Course                          | Year       |            |            |            |            | Linear trend change 2003–07  |                                |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                 | 2003       | 2004       | 2005       | 2006       | 2007       | Annual change <sup>(a)</sup> | Per cent change <sup>(a)</sup> |
| 0601 - Medical Studies          | 0          | n.p.       | 0          | 104        | 0          | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0603 - Nursing                  | 34         | 45         | 53         | 46         | 82         | 9.7*                         | 87.2                           |
| 0605 - Pharmacy                 | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0607 - Dental Studies           | 9          | 18         | 11         | 12         | 21         | 1.8                          | 120                            |
| 0609 - Optical Science          | n.p.       | 0          | n.p.       | 0          | n.p.       | ..                           | n.a.                           |
| 0613 - Public Health            | 190        | 123        | 133        | 202        | 223        | 14.5                         | 17.5                           |
| 0617 - Rehabilitation Therapies | 11         | 0          | n.p.       | n.p.       | n.p.       | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0619 - Complementary Therapies  | n.p.       | n.p.       | 7          | n.p.       | 13         | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0699 - Other Health             | 17         | 13         | 12         | 68         | 20         | 6.1                          | 12.5                           |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>265</b> | <b>206</b> | <b>222</b> | <b>438</b> | <b>363</b> | <b>42.8</b>                  | <b>28.4</b>                    |

\* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the  $p < 0.05$  level over the six reporting periods.

(a) Average period change determined using regression analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection, unpublished data.

**Table 3.18.15b: VET sector health-related course completions, Other Australians, by course, 2003–2007**

| Course                          | Year         |              |              |              |               | Linear trend change 2003–07  |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                 | 2003         | 2004         | 2005         | 2006         | 2007          | Annual change <sup>(a)</sup> | Per cent change <sup>(a)</sup> |
| 0601 - Medical Studies          | 180          | 50           | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.          | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0603 - Nursing                  | 2,731        | 2,497        | 3,873        | 3,283        | 4,009         | 334.2*                       | 81.4                           |
| 0605 - Pharmacy                 | 86           | 9            | n.p.         | n.p.         | n.p.          | ..                           | ..                             |
| 0607 - Dental Studies           | 993          | 988          | 1,347        | 1,399        | 1,422         | 126.9*                       | 99.4                           |
| 0609 - Optical Science          | 109          | 120          | 125          | 129          | 197           | 18.5*                        | 109.9                          |
| 0613 - Public Health            | 1,504        | 1,378        | 1,353        | 1,928        | 2,082         | 170.6*                       | 66.8                           |
| 0617 - Rehabilitation Therapies | 449          | 174          | 91           | 109          | 171           | -62.1                        | -57.5                          |
| 0619 - Complementary Therapies  | 580          | 810          | 805          | 1,015        | 910           | 86.5*                        | 428.9                          |
| 0699 - Other Health             | 648          | 924          | 883          | 837          | 1,276         | 116.9*                       | 12                             |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>7,280</b> | <b>6,950</b> | <b>8,487</b> | <b>8,712</b> | <b>10,076</b> | <b>735.4*</b>                | <b>37.2</b>                    |

\* Represents results with statistically significant increases or declines at the  $p < 0.05$  level over the six reporting periods.

(a) Average period change determined using regression analysis.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVET, National VET Provider Collection, unpublished data.

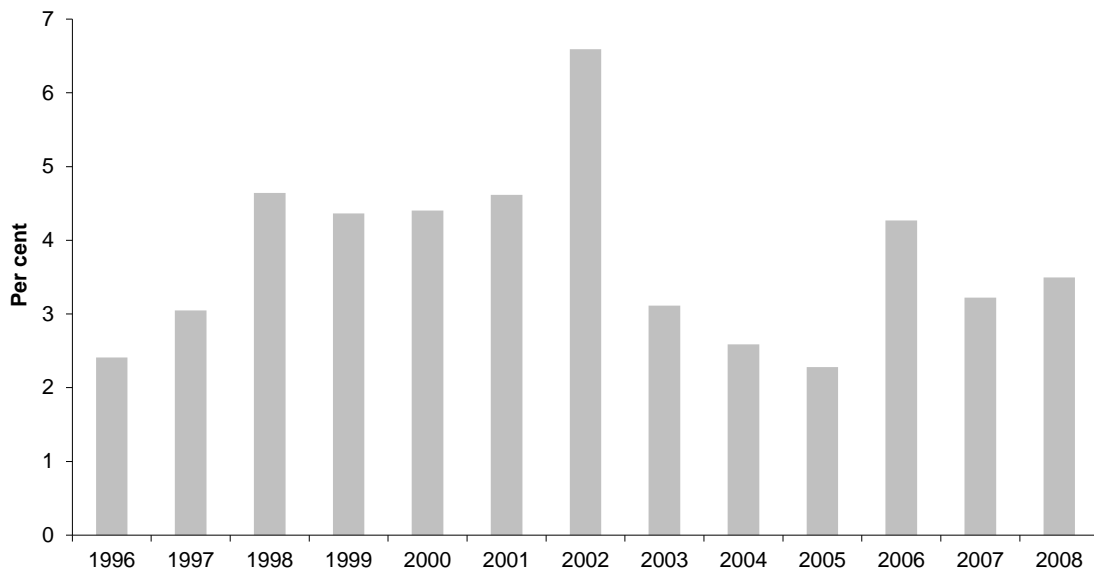
**Table 3.18.16: Proportion of vocational education and training sector students completing health-related courses who were Indigenous, 1996–2008<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

| Year | Per cent |
|------|----------|
| 1996 | 2.4      |
| 1997 | 3.1      |
| 1998 | 4.6      |
| 1999 | 4.4      |
| 2000 | 4.4      |
| 2001 | 4.6      |
| 2002 | 6.6      |
| 2003 | 3.1      |
| 2004 | 2.6      |
| 2005 | 2.3      |
| 2006 | 4.3      |
| 2007 | 3.2      |
| 2008 | 3.5      |

(a) 1996 to 2001 data were based on the 'health and community services' field of study. A new classification, field of education, was introduced in 2001 and applied to data from 2002 onwards.

(b) The number of qualifications completed in 2008 is based on preliminary data and will be revised upwards in the next collection.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVET, National VET Provider Collection 2008 data.



(a) 1996 to 2001 data were based on the 'Health and Community Services' field of study. A new classification, field of education, was introduced in 2001 and applied to data from 2002 and onwards.

(b) The number of qualifications completed in 2008 is based on preliminary data and will be revised upwards in the next collection.

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVER, National VET Provider Collection 2008 data.

**Figure 3.18.9: Proportion of vocational education and training sector students completing health-related courses who were Indigenous, 1996–2008<sup>(a)(b)</sup>**

## Load pass rates

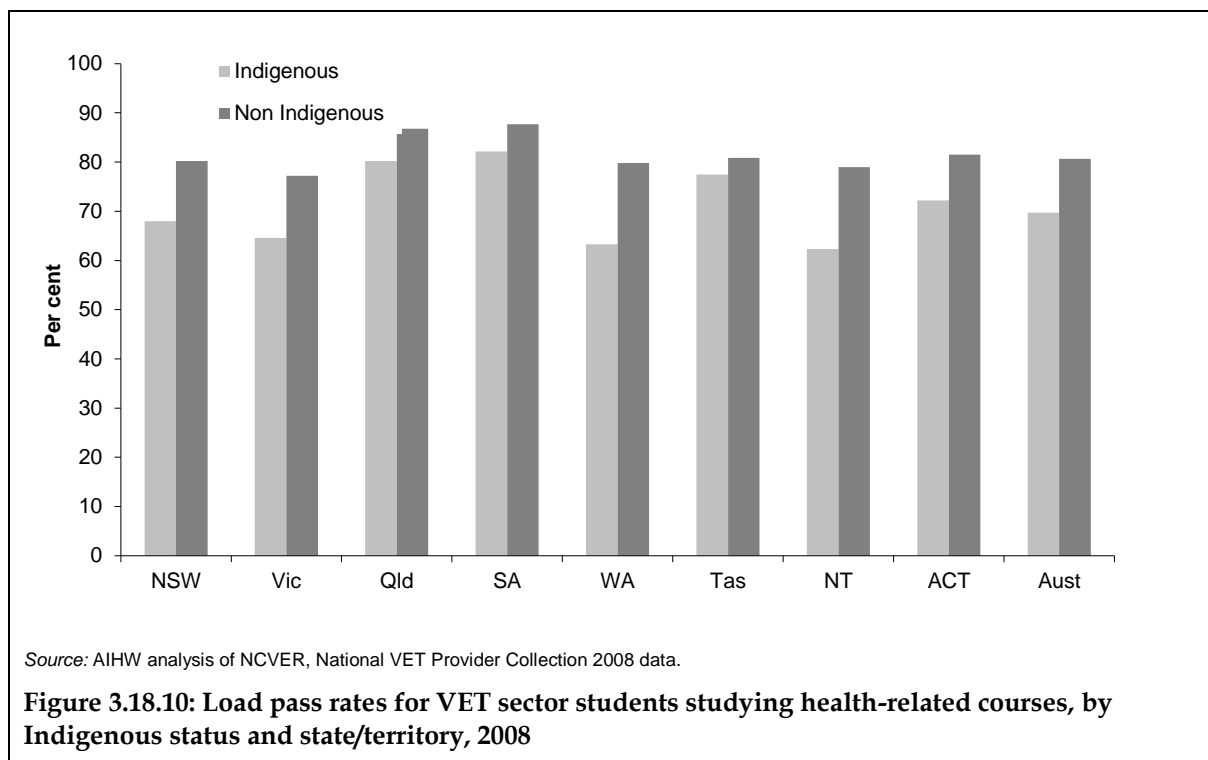
The VET load pass rate indicates the extent to which students pass assessment in an assessable module or unit of competency. Load pass rates are calculated as the number of nominal hours supervised in assessable modules or units of competency completed with a pass assessment divided by the total nominal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

- In 2008, the VET load pass rate for Indigenous students studying health-related courses was 70%, compared with 81% for non-Indigenous students. The load pass rate for Indigenous students studying health-related courses ranged from 62% in The Northern Territory to 82% in South Australia (Table 3.18.17; Figure 3.18.10).

**Table 3.18.17: Load pass rate for VET sector students studying health-related courses, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008**

|                              | Indigenous (per cent) | Non Indigenous (per cent) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| New South Wales              | 67.9                  | 80.2                      |
| Victoria                     | 64.6                  | 77.2                      |
| Queensland                   | 80.2                  | 86.8                      |
| Western Australia            | 63.3                  | 79.8                      |
| South Australia              | 82.2                  | 87.7                      |
| Tasmania                     | 77.5                  | 80.9                      |
| Northern Territory           | 62.3                  | 79.0                      |
| Australian Capital territory | 72.2                  | 81.5                      |
| Australia                    | 69.7                  | 80.6                      |

Source: AIHW analysis of NCVET, National VET Provider Collection 2008 data.



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker occupations

Tables 3.18.18 and 3.18.19 present the number and rate of VET sector students completing a course aimed at Indigenous health workers in 2008.

- In 2008, 126 VET sector students had completed a course aimed at Indigenous health worker occupations in Australia. The majority of these course completions were at the certificate III or IV level (107, or 85%) (Table 3.18.18).
- South Australia had the highest number of students completing a course aimed at Indigenous health worker occupations (48), followed by New South Wales (39).
- Of all VET sector students who had completed a course aimed at Indigenous health worker occupations in 2008, (91) 72% were female and (35) 28% were males (Table 3.18.19).

**Table 3.18.18: Number of vocational education and training sector students completing a program aimed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker occupations<sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup>, by qualification type and state/territory, 2008**

|                   | NSW       | Vic       | Qld       | WA       | SA        | Tas      | ACT      | NT       | Australia  |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Certificate I     | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0          |
| Certificate II    | n.p.      | 0         | 0         | 0        | 13        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 15         |
| Certificate III   | 11        | 11        | 19        | 0        | 6         | 0        | n.p.     | 0        | 48         |
| Certificate IV    | 26        | 0         | n.p.      | 0        | 25        | 0        | 7        | 0        | 59         |
| Diploma or higher | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0        | n.p.      | 0        | 0        | 0        | n.p.       |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>39</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>48</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>126</b> |

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations code 3493—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.

(b) An Australian Standard Classification of Occupations code assigned to the courses indicates the most likely occupation associated with this course. It should also be remembered that students may enrol in more than one course.

(c) The number of qualifications completed in 2008 is based on preliminary data and will be revised upwards in the next collection.

*Note:* Rates (no. per 1,000 population) have not been presented as the numbers are too small to produce rates.

*Source:* NCVET, National VET Provider Collection 2008 data.

**Table 3.18.19: Number of vocational education and training sector students completing a program aimed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker occupations<sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup>, by qualification type and sex, 2008**

|                   | Males     | Females   | Persons    |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                   | Number    |           |            |
| Certificate I     | 0         | 0         | 0          |
| Certificate II    | 13        | n.p.      | 15         |
| Certificate III   | 7         | 41        | 48         |
| Certificate IV    | 15        | 44        | 59         |
| Diploma or higher | 0         | n.p.      | n.p.       |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>35</b> | <b>91</b> | <b>126</b> |

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations code 3493—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.

(b) An Australian Standard Classification of Occupations code assigned to the courses indicates the most likely occupation associated with this course. It should also be remembered that students may enrol in more than one course.

(c) The number of qualifications completed in 2008 is based on preliminary data and will be revised upwards in the next collection.

*Note:* Rates (no. per 1,000 population) have not been presented because the numbers are too small.

*Source:* NCVET, National VET Provider Collection 2008 data.



## **Data quality issues**

### **DEEWR 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 DEEWR and are therefore outside the scope of the collection (ABS 2003). The collection of data from private higher education institutions is being trialled (ABS 2004).

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. DEEWR 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 record the 'not stated' responses separately.

### **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 that is 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, because average module durations vary across jurisdictions (SCRGSP 2005).

## **List of symbols used in tables**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| n.a.   | not available   |
| –      | rounded to zero (including null cells)  |
| 0      | zero  |
| ..     | not applicable  |
| n.e.c. | not elsewhere classified  |
| n.f.d. | not further defined   |
| n.p.   | not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated |

## References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2003. Directory of Education and Training AVETMISS Vocational Education and Training (VET) Provider Collection. ABS cat. no. 1136.0. Canberra: ABS.

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

SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2005. Report on government services 2005. Vol. 2. Canberra: Productivity Commission.

## List of tables

|                 |  |      |
|-----------------|--|------|
| Table 3.18.1:   | Higher education university health-related course enrolments by age group and Indigenous status, 2006.....                                   | 2080 |
| Table 3.18.2:   | Undergraduate domestic students enrolled in health-related courses, Indigenous and Other students, 2008.....                                 | 2082 |
| Table 3.18.3:   | Proportion and number of university students enrolled in health-related courses who were Indigenous, by state/territory, 2008.....           | 2082 |
| Table 3.18.4:   | Number and rate of undergraduate domestic students completing health-related courses, by Indigenous status, 2008.....                        | 2084 |
| Table 3.18.5:   | Undergraduate students enrolled in and completed health-related courses, Indigenous and total students, 2008.....                            | 2085 |
| Table 3.18.6:   | Higher education health-related course completions by age group and Indigenous status, 2006.....   | 2087 |
| Table 3.18.7:   | Proportion of university students completing health-related courses who were Indigenous 2001-2008.....                                       | 2089 |
| Table 3.18.8:   | University students completing health-related courses who were Indigenous per 10,000 population, 2001- 2008.....                             | 2089 |
| Table 3.18.9:   | Higher education progress rates for university students studying health-related courses, by state/territory and Indigenous status, 2008..... | 2090 |
| Table 3.18.10:  | Vocational students enrolled in health-related fields of education, by indigenous status: rates and rate differences, Australia 2008.....    | 2092 |
| Table 3.18.11:  | Proportion of VET sector students enrolled in health-related course who were Indigenous, by state/territory, 2008.....                       | 2093 |
| Table 3.18.12a: | Indigenous VET sector health-related course enrolments, by course, 2003-2007.....  | 2093 |
| Table 3.18.12b: | Other Australians VET sector health-related course enrolments by course, 2003-2007.....  | 2094 |
| Table 3.18.13:  | Vocational students, course completions in health-related field of education, rates and rate differences, Australia 2008.....                | 2095 |
| Table 3.18.14:  | VET sector students enrolled and completed health-related courses, 2008.....   | 2096 |
| Table 3.18.15a: | VET sector health-related course completions by course, Indigenous students, 2003-2007.....  | 2096 |

|                 |  |      |
|-----------------|--|------|
| Table 3.18.15b: | VET sector health-related course completions, Other Australians, by course, 2003–2007.....   | 2097 |
| Table 3.18.16:  | Proportion of vocational education and training sector students completing health-related courses who were Indigenous, 1996–2008.....  | 2097 |
| Table 3.18.17:  | Load pass rate for VET sector students studying health-related courses, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008.....  | 2099 |
| Table 3.18.18:  | Number of vocational education and training sector students completing a program aimed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker occupations, by qualification type and state/territory, 2008 ..... | 2101 |
| Table 3.18.19:  | Number of vocational education and training sector students completing a program aimed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker occupations, by qualification type and sex, 2008 .....             | 2101 |

## List of figures

|                 |  |      |
|-----------------|--|------|
| Figure 3.18.1a: | Higher education university health-related course enrolments by age group, Indigenous people, 2006.....                                      | 2080 |
| Figure 3.18.1b: | Higher education university health-related course enrolments by age group, non-Indigenous people, 2006.....                                  | 2081 |
| Figure 3.18.2:  | Higher education university health-related course enrolments by Indigenous status and age group, per 1,000 population, 2006.....             | 2081 |
| Figure 3.18.3:  | Proportion of university students enrolled in health-related courses who were Indigenous, by state/territory, 2008.....                      | 2083 |
| Figure 3.18.4a: | Higher education university health-related course completions by age group, 2006, Indigenous people .....                                    | 2085 |
| Figure 3.18.4b: | Higher education university health-related course completions by age group, 2006, non-Indigenous people .....                                | 2086 |
| Figure 3.18.5:  | Rate of higher education university health-related course completions by Indigenous status and age group, 2006 .....                         | 2086 |
| Figure 3.18.6:  | Proportion of university students completing health-related courses who were Indigenous, 2001– 2008 .....                                    | 2088 |
| Figure 3.18.7:  | Higher education progress rates for university students studying health-related courses, by state/territory and Indigenous status, 2008..... | 2090 |
| Figure 3.18.8:  | Proportion of VET sector students enrolled in health-related course who were Indigenous, by state/territory, 2008.....                       | 2092 |
| Figure 3.18.9:  | Proportion of vocational education and training sector students completing health-related courses who were Indigenous, 1996–2008.....        | 2098 |
| Figure 3.18.10: | Load pass rates for VET sector students studying health-related courses, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008.....                 | 2100 |