

## **2.01 Access to functional housing with utilities**

**Connection to water, sewerage and electricity services in Indigenous communities and functionality of Indigenous housing facilities required to support Healthy Living Practices**

### **Data sources**

Data on water, sewerage and electricity services come from the 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS) and the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Data on the functionality of housing facilities required to support Healthy Living Practices come from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). Data on homelessness come from 2006 Census of Population and Housing and the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) National Data Collection.

### **Census of Population and Housing**

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

Although the Census data are adjusted for under-count at the person level to arrive at the estimated resident population, no such adjustment is done at the household level. This affects the accuracy of the person counts at the household level to provide adjusted household estimates.

The 1996 and 2001 Census used the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, but the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations replaced this for the 2006 Census.

### **Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey**

The Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS) collects data from all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing organisations and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia. The latest CHINS was enumerated from 1 March to 30 June 2006. The data were collected through personal interviews with key community and Indigenous Housing Organisation (IHO) representatives knowledgeable about housing and infrastructure issues. In addition to the survey instrument and methodology testing conducted prior to the 2006 CHINS, aggregate data from the 2006 CHINS have been compared with that collected in 2001 CHINS. The survey collected information on all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Australia. The ABS conducted the 2006 CHINS on behalf of, and with full funding from, the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). Information collected includes:

- details of current housing stock, dwelling management practices and selected income and expenditure arrangements of Indigenous organisations that provide housing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- details of housing and related infrastructure, such as water, electricity, sewerage, drainage, rubbish collection and disposal, as well as other facilities such as transport, communication, education, sport and health services, available in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The 2006 information was collected on 496 IHOs which managed a total of 21,854 permanent dwellings. Information was also collected on 1,187 discrete Indigenous communities with a combined population of 92,960. Most of these communities were in *Very remote* regions of Australia, with 73% (865) having a population fewer than 50 people.

In the 2006 CHINS, a community questionnaire collected detailed infrastructure information from all discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, as well as for communities which had a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which were not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency (375 communities). The 812 other communities had reported usual populations of less than 50 persons and were asked a subset of questions from the community questionnaire form: the short community questionnaire (ABS 2007a).

Results from this survey were published in August 2007. FaHCSIA and the ABS jointly hold the CHINS data.

## **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey**

The ABS conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every 6 years with the next survey planned for 2013.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

The NATSISS asks respondents about the functionality of various household facilities. These include whether a household has working facilities for washing people, working facilities for washing clothes/bedding, working facilities for storing/preparing food, and working sewerage facilities. These four data items cover the first four Healthy Living Practices.

### **Healthy Living Practices**

The National Indigenous Housing Guide (FaHCSIA 2003) lists nine Healthy Living Practices to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases. These are:

1. Washing people
2. Washing clothes and bedding

3. Removing waste safely
4. Improving nutrition: the ability to store, prepare and cook food
5. Reducing crowding and the potential for the spread of infectious disease
6. Reducing negative contact between people and animals, vermin or insects
7. Reducing the negative impact of dust
8. Controlling the temperature of the living environment
9. Reducing trauma (or minor injury) around the house and living environment.

## **Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection**

The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) is a national program that provides temporary accommodation and support services to assist people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, including women and children escaping domestic violence. SAAP funds non-government, community or local government agencies ranging from small stand-alone agencies with single outlets to agencies with multiple outlets.

The SAAP National Data Collection is a nationally consistent information system combining information from SAAP agencies and state/territory and Commonwealth funding departments. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) manages the SAAP National Data Collection. All non-government organisations funded under the program are required to participate in the SAAP National Data Collection.

## **Data analyses**

### **Connection to services**

The CHINS collects data on water, sewerage and electricity in discrete Indigenous communities. Data from the 2006 survey are presented below.

#### **Water supply**

- Of the 1,187 discrete Indigenous communities surveyed in the 2006 CHINS, 9 reported they had no organised water supply, compared with 21 communities in 2001. In 2006, communities with no organised water supply had a total population of 20 people (0.02%) compared with 90 people (0.1%) in 2001 (Table 2.01.1).
- 1.2% of discrete Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory were not connected to an organised water supply (Table 2.01.1).
- Approximately 59% of discrete Indigenous communities (694 communities), with a reported population of 48,511 people, reported bore water as their main source of water supply (Table 2.01.3).
- Out of 375 discrete Indigenous communities for which data on water interruptions were collected, there were 69 that experienced five or more interruptions to water supply in the 12 months before the survey (Table 2.01.1).

## Drinking water failed testing

- Drinking water failed water-quality tests for 24% of the reported usual population and 29% of all discrete Indigenous communities not connected to a town water supply for which water-testing data were collected. Nationally, 4,796 people in discrete Indigenous communities, not connected to a nearby town supply, lived in communities where drinking water was not sent away for testing in the 12 months before the survey (Table 2.01.4).
- Of communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing, the proportion of communities for which drinking water failed testing in the 12 months before the survey ranged from 16% in Queensland to 80% in New South Wales (Table 2.01.4).
- Non-remote areas had the highest proportion of discrete communities not connected to nearby town supplies whose drinking water failed testing (55%) in the 2006 CHINS (Table 2.01.2).
- In 2006, in Australia overall, a slightly lower proportion of discrete Indigenous communities with a population of 50 or more reported their drinking water failed testing in the previous 12 months (29%) than in 1999 (34%) and 2001 (33%) (Figure 2.01.1; Table 2.01.5).
- In 2006, Queensland and Western Australia had a lower proportion of communities that reported failed drinking water testing in the previous 12 months than in 1999 and 2001. In New South Wales in 2006 a much higher proportion of communities reported their drinking water failed testing in the previous 12 months than in 1999 and 2001 (Figure 2.01.1; Table 2.01.5).

**Table 2.01.1: Water supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006**

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia <sup>(a)</sup>			
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Reported usual pop'n	Per cent
Communities with no organised water supply <sup>(b)</sup>	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	1.1	7	1.1	9	0.8	20	0.02
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised water supply <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	17	1.5	31	0.7	67	2.1	21	2.1	83	1.2	219	1.3	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 5 or more interruptions <sup>(e)(f)(g)</sup>	2	3.8	8	19.5	18	18.6	6	14.6	34	24.3	69	18.4	21,291	25.6
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply greater than 24 hours <sup>(e)(f)(g)</sup>	10	18.9	9	22.0	14	14.4	14	34.1	33	23.6	80	21.3	15,665	18.8
Communities with drinking water not tested <sup>(g)(h)(i)</sup>	1	16.7	8	27.6	3	5.7	11	45.8	22	22.7	45	21.3	4,796	8.6
Communities with drinking water failed testing <sup>(g)(h)(i)</sup>	4	80.0	3	15.8	19	38.0	4	30.8	16	21.3	48	29.3	12,059	21.6
<b>Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire<sup>(e)</sup></b>	<b>53</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>83,318</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
<b>Total no. of communities<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>57</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>92,960</b>	<b>..</b>

(continued)

**Table 2.01.1 (continued): Water supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006**

- (a) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.
- (b) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.
- (c) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised water supply, including those in communities with and without community-organised water supply.
- (d) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all permanent dwellings.
- (e) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on water interruptions were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.
- (f) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete communities for which data on water interruptions were collected.
- (g) In the 12 months before the survey.
- (h) Excludes communities connected to town supply.
- (i) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply.
- (j) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing.

*Sources:* SCRGSP 2007; ABS 2007a; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

**Table 2.01.2: Water supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness, 2006**

	Non remote		Remote		Very remote		Subtotal Remote/Very- remote		Australia			
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent	Reported usual pop'n	Per cent
Communities with no organised water supply <sup>(a)</sup>	0	0.0	1	1.0	8	0.8	9	0.8	9	0.8	20	0.02
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised water supply <sup>(b)</sup>	20	n.a.	36	n.a.	163	n.a.	199	n.a.	219	1.3	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 5 or more interruptions <sup>(c)(d)(e)</sup>	4	6.3	18	42.9	47	17.4	65	20.8	69	18.4	21,291	25.6
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply greater than 24 hours <sup>(c)(d)(e)</sup>	12	19.0	13	31.0	55	20.4	68	21.8	80	21.3	15,665	18.8
Communities with drinking water not tested <sup>(e)(f)(g)</sup>	2	16.7	4	33.3	39	21.0	43	21.7	45	21.3	4,796	8.6
Communities with drinking water failed testing <sup>(e)(f)(h)</sup>	6	54.5	1	12.5	41	28.3	42	27.5	48	29.3	12,059	21.6
<b>Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>63</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>83,318</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>75</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>92,960</b>	<b>..</b>

(a) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.

(b) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised water supply, including those in communities with and without community-organised water supply.

(c) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on water interruptions were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(d) Proportion calculated as a proportion of all discrete communities for which data on water interruptions were collected.

(e) In the 12 months before the survey.

(f) Excludes communities connected to a town supply.

(g) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply.

(h) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing.

Sources: SCRGSP 2007; ABS 2007a; FaHCSIA and ABS analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.01.3: Main source of drinking water, discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia <sup>(a)</sup>			
	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Reported usual pop'n.	Per cent
Connected to town supply	51	89.5	11	8.9	43	15.9	19	20.9	84	13.1	209	17.6	28,084	30.2
Bore water	2	3.5	32	25.8	197	72.7	48	52.7	414	64.6	694	58.5	48,511	52.2
Rain water tank(s)	2	3.5	24	19.4	0	0.0	6	6.6	8	1.2	41	3.5	2,378	2.6
River/reservoir	2	3.5	24	19.4	5	1.8	3	3.3	22	3.4	57	4.8	11,667	12.6
Well or spring	0	0.0	21	16.9	2	0.7	1	1.1	15	2.3	39	3.3	887	1.0
Carted water	0	0.0	4	3.2	2	0.7	0	0.0	21	3.3	27	2.3	637	0.7
Other organised water supply	0	0.0	1	0.8	1	0.4	1	1.1	0	0.0	3	0.3	104	0.1
No organised water supply	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	1.1	7	1.1	9	0.8	20	0.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>92,960</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Source: ABS 2007a.



**Table 2.01.4: Testing of drinking water in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006** <sup>(a)(b)</sup>

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia <sup>(c)</sup>			
	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Number of communities	Per cent	Reported usual pop'n.	Per cent
Did not fail testing <sup>(d)(e)</sup>	1	20.0	9	47.4	30	60.0	9	69.2	51	68.0	100	61.0	29,104	58.2
Failed testing <sup>(d)(e)</sup>	4	80.0	3	15.8	19	38.0	4	30.8	16	21.3	48	29.3	12,059	24.1
Total communities water sent away for testing <sup>(f)(g)</sup>	5	83.3	19	65.5	50	94.3	13	54.2	75	77.3	164	78.1	50,043	n.a.
Not tested <sup>(g)</sup>	1	16.7	8	27.6	3	5.7	11	45.8	22	22.7	45	21.4	4,796	n.a.
Not stated whether water sent away for testing <sup>(g)</sup>	0	0.0	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.9	1,100	2.0
Total not connected to town supply <sup>(h)</sup>	6	11.3	29	70.7	53	54.6	24	58.5	97	69.3	211	56.3	55,939	67.1
Connected to town supply <sup>(h)</sup>	47	88.7	10	24.4	37	38.1	17	41.5	43	30.7	155	41.3	26,791	32.2
Connected to town supply not stated <sup>(h)</sup>	0	0.0	2	4.9	7	7.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	2.4	588	0.7
<b>Total<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>83,318</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In the 12 months before the survey.

(b) All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(c) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

(d) Excludes communities connected to town supply.

(e) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing.

(f) Total includes don't know if failed testing.

(g) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply.

(h) A town supply is a water supply which is shared with a nearby town. The community is not responsible for the water supply, it is normally maintained by a Water Authority or Shire Council. Town supply not necessarily community's main source of drinking water.

Source: ABS 2007a; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

**Table 2.01.5: Percentage of discrete Indigenous communities<sup>(a)</sup> where drinking water failed testing<sup>(b)</sup> in previous 12 months, by state/territory, 1999, 2001 and 2006**

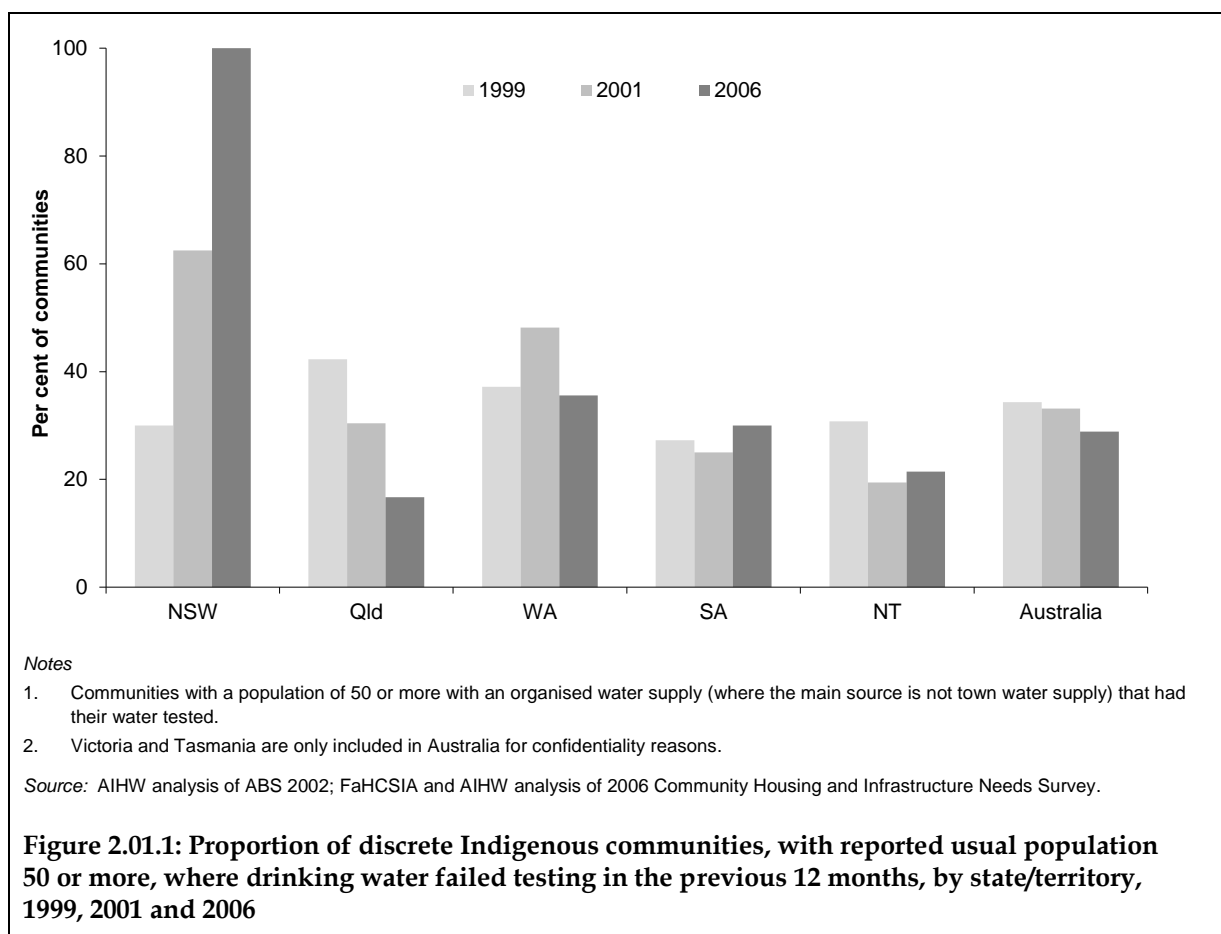
		NSW	Qld	WA	SA	NT	Australia <sup>(c)</sup>
<b>1999</b>	Number of communities	3	11	16	3	24	58
	Per cent	30.0	42.3	37.2	27.3	30.8	34.3
	<b>Total number of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>2001</b>	Number of communities	5	7	26	4	13	56
	Per cent	62.5	30.4	48.1	25.0	19.4	33.1
	<b>Total number of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>2006</b>	Number communities	4	3	16	3	15	43
	Per cent	100.0	16.7	35.6	30.0	21.4	28.9
	<b>Total number of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>149</b>

(a) Communities with a population of 50 or more with an organised water supply (where the main source is not town water supply) that had their water tested.

(b) Testing means water was sent away for testing. Proportion calculated in relation to total communities not connected to a town supply where water was sent away for testing.

(c) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 2002; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.



## Water restrictions and interruptions

- Of the discrete Indigenous communities not connected to a town water supply that completed the long community questionnaire in 2006, 76 (21%) experienced water restrictions in the 12 months before the CHINS (Table 2.01.6).
- Of the 182 communities that reported water interruptions in 2006, 29 reported only one interruption, whereas 69 reported interruptions on five or more occasions in the 12 months before the survey (Table 2.01.6).
- Approximately 28% of discrete Indigenous communities not connected to a town water supply that completed the long community questionnaire in 2006 reported the duration of the longest water interruption in the last 12 months as 1 day, and 0.5% reported the longest water interruption as more than 112 days (Table 2.01.7).

**Table 2.01.6: Water restrictions and interruptions in discrete Indigenous communities<sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup>, by reported usual population, 2006**

	Communities with a population of				All communities	Reported usual population		
	Less than 50	50–99	100–199	200 or more		Number	%	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Water restrictions</b>								
<b>Experienced water restrictions due to</b>								
Drought	7	8	12	7	34	9.3	8,267	10.0
Normal dry season	0	4	4	12	20	5.5	8,129	9.8
Lack of storage containment	0	3	2	6	11	3.0	6,853	8.3
Poor water quality	0	4	3	1	8	2.2	3,634	4.4
Other reason	3	4	5	7	19	5.2	7,222	8.7
<i>Total communities experienced water restrictions<sup>(d)</sup></i>	<i>8</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>25,557</i>	<i>30.9</i>
Did not experience water restrictions	46	97	68	79	290	79.2	57,173	69.1
<b>Water interruptions</b>								
<b>Experienced water interruptions due to</b>								
Equipment breakdown	14	38	38	55	145	39.6	36,139	43.7
Ran out of water	2	6	5	6	19	5.2	3,879	4.7
Poor water quality	0	3	3	4	10	2.7	2,706	3.3
Lack of power	0	3	6	9	18	4.9	6,825	8.2
Planned interruption	4	18	18	26	66	18.0	18,943	22.9
Other water interruption	3	2	1	6	12	3.3	3,235	3.9
<i>Total communities experienced water interruptions<sup>(d)</sup></i>	<i>17</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>182</i>	<i>49.7</i>	<i>44,563</i>	<i>53.9</i>
Did not experience water interruption	37	64	42	41	184	50.3	38,167	46.1
<b>Frequency of water interruption</b>								
Once	4	8	9	8	29	7.9	5,366	6.5
Twice	2	13	8	15	38	10.4	7,403	8.9
Three times	4	8	8	6	26	7.1	4,178	5.1
Four times	2	4	7	7	20	5.5	6,325	7.6
Five times or more	5	19	15	30	69	18.9	21,291	25.7
<b>All communities</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>82,730</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In the 12 months before the survey.

(b) All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(c) Excludes communities connected to town supply.

(d) Component may not add to totals because more than one response may be specified.

Source: ABS 2007a.

**Table 2.01.7: Duration of longest water interruption in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006<sup>(a)(b)(c)</sup>**

		1 day	2 days	3–7 days	8–14 days	15–28 days	29–56 days	57–112 days	>112 days	No restrictions	Total
<b>Number of communities</b>											
NSW	Number	6	3	4	1	0	0	1	1	37	53
Qld	Number	11	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	19	39
WA	Number	22	7	5	1	0	1	0	0	54	90
SA	Number	6	6	4	0	1	1	1	1	21	41
NT	Number	56	14	16	2	1	0	0	0	51	140
<b>Australia<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Proportion of communities</b>											
NSW	Per cent	11.3	5.7	7.5	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.9	69.8	100.0
Qld	Per cent	28.2	12.8	7.7	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.7	100.0
WA	Per cent	24.4	7.8	5.6	1.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	60.0	100.0
SA	Per cent	14.6	14.6	9.8	0.0	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	51.2	100.0
NT	Per cent	40.0	10.0	11.4	1.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.4	100.0
<b>Australia<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) In the 12 months before the survey.

(b) All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(c) Excludes communities connected to town supply.

(d) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Sources: ABS 2007a; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

## Electricity source and supply

- In 2006, community generators were the main source of electricity reported for 377 Indigenous communities (32%) followed by state grid or transmitted supply reported for 274 communities (23%) (Table 2.01.8). Communities with a reported population of 50 or more were more likely to be connected to a state grid or a transmitted supply than smaller communities.
- No organised electricity supply was reported for 32 discrete Indigenous communities in 2006 (2.7% of all communities surveyed) (Table 2.01.8).
- The proportion of communities with no organised electricity supply ranged from 0.0% in New South Wales to 4.0% in Queensland (Table 2.01.9).
- All dwellings not connected to an organised electricity supply were located in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas, with the highest numbers in *Very remote* areas (Table 2.01.10).

Table 2.01.8: Main source of electricity, all discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

	State grid/transmitted supply	Community generators	Domestic generators	Solar	Solar hybrid	Other organised electricity supply	No organised electricity supply	Total <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Communities with a population of less than 50</b>								
<b>State/territory</b>								
NSW	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Qld	7	10	43	10	0	1	5	85
WA	29	56	71	3	11	1	5	189
SA	17	13	9	3	8	0	1	63
NT	61	138	49	86	83	3	20	510
<b>Australia<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>132</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>865</b>
<b>Communities with a population of 50 or more</b>								
<b>State/territory</b>								
NSW	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
Qld	15	23	0	0	0	1	0	39
WA	26	49	4	0	0	0	0	82
SA	14	10	1	0	1	1	1	28
NT	46	77	1	3	4	0	0	131
<b>Australia<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>142</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>322</b>
<b>All communities</b>								
<b>State/territory</b>								
NSW	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
Qld	22	33	43	10	0	2	5	124
WA	55	105	75	3	11	1	5	271
SA	31	23	10	3	9	1	2	91
NT	107	215	50	89	87	3	20	641
<b>Australia<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>274</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,187</b>

(a) Includes main source of electricity not stated.

(b) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Source: ABS 2007a.

Table 2.01.9: Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia <sup>(a)</sup>			
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Reported usual population	Per cent
Communities with no organised electricity supply <sup>(b)</sup>	0	0.0	5	4.0	5	1.8	2	2.2	20	3.1	32	2.7	284	0.3
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised electricity supply <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	1	0.1	16	0.3	18	0.6	19	1.9	28	0.4	82	0.5	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 20 or more interruptions <sup>(e)(f)(g)</sup>	1	1.9	4	9.8	19	19.6	2	4.9	15	10.7	41	10.9	13,342	16.0
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply longer than 24 hours <sup>(e)(f)(g)</sup>	7	13.2	14	34.1	27	27.8	15	36.6	32	22.9	96	25.6	23,952	28.7
<b>Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire<sup>(e)</sup></b>	<b>53</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>83,318</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total no. of communities<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>57</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>92,960</b>	<b>..</b>

(continued)



**Table 2.01.9 (continued): Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006**

- (a) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.
- (b) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.
- (c) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised electricity supply, including those in communities with and without community-organised electricity supply.
- (d) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all permanent dwellings.
- (e) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on electricity interruptions were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.
- (f) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete Indigenous communities for which data on electricity interruptions were collected.
- (g) In the 12 months before the survey.

*Sources:* ABS 2007a; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

Table 2.01.10: Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness area, 2006

	Major Cities		Inner Regional		Outer Regional		Remote		Very Remote		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Communities</b>												
Communities with no organised electricity supply <sup>(a)</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1.0	31	3.1	32	2.7
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised electricity supply <sup>(b)</sup>	—	—	1	—	4	n.a.	14	n.a.	63	n.a.	82	0.5
Communities experiencing 20 or more interruptions <sup>(c)(d)(e)</sup>	—	—	—	—	1	2.4	6	14.3	34	12.6	41	10.9
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply longer than 24 hours <sup>(c)(d)(e)</sup>	1	25.0	2	11.8	8	19.0	16	38.1	69	25.6	96	25.6
<b>Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total no. of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Reported usual population</b>												
Communities with no organised electricity supply <sup>(a)</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	0.04	280	0.5	284	0.3
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised electricity supply <sup>(b)</sup>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 20 or more interruptions <sup>(c)(d)(e)</sup>	—	—	—	—	180	1.8	1,491	15.6	11,671	19.0	13,342	16.0
Communities experiencing interruptions to supply longer than 24 hours <sup>(c)(d)(e)</sup>	70	17.1	344	18.9	4,641	46.2	1,812	18.9	17,085	27.8	23,952	28.7
<b>Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>410</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>10,041</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>61,456</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>83,318</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total no. of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>410</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,835</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>10,315</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>10,775</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>69,625</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>92,960</b>	<b>..</b>

(continued)

**Table 2.01.10 (continued): Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness area, 2006**

- (a) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.
- (b) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised electricity supply, including those in communities with and without community-organised electricity supply.
- (c) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on electricity interruptions were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.
- (d) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete Indigenous communities for which data on electricity interruptions were collected.
- (e) In the 12 months before the survey.

*Sources:* ABS 2007a; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

## **Electricity interruptions**

- In 2006, interruptions to the electricity supply in the 12 months before the CHINS occurred in 76% (246) of the 322 discrete Indigenous communities with a reported population of 50 or more (Table 2.01.11). This was slightly lower than in 2001 and 1999 when interruptions were reported for 82% and 81% respectively.
- In 2006, approximately one-third (32%) of communities experienced less than 5 electricity interruptions, and 12% experienced 20 or more interruptions in the 12 months before the survey (Table 2.01.11).
- In 2006, approximately 26% of communities experienced interruptions to electricity supply lasting longer than 24 hours. This was higher than that reported in 2001 (13%) and 1999 (14%) (Figure 2.01.2; Table 2.01.12).
- In 2008, 4.8% of Indigenous households experienced major electrical problems. The proportion was higher in remote areas (7.1%) than non-remote areas (4.3%) (Table 2.01.13).

**Table 2.01.11: Electricity interruptions<sup>(a)</sup>, communities with a population of 50 or more, 1999, 2001 and 2006**

Electricity interruptions	2006					2001					1999					
	Communities with a population of					Communities with a population of					Reported usual pop'n					
	50-99	100-199	200 or more	Total	Per cent	50-99	100-199	200 or more	Total	Per cent	50-99	100-199	200 or more	Total	Per cent	Reported usual pop'n
1-4 times	37	31	35	103	32.0	35	32	33	100	30.6	25,403	26.7	120	34.5	25,159	26.4
5-9 times	21	19	21	61	18.9	19	11	39	69	21.1	23,508	24.7	55	15.8	25,812	27.1
10-14 times	10	7	13	30	9.3	6	7	21	34	10.4	13,246	13.9	33	9.5	10,345	10.8
15-19 times	4	2	7	13	4.0	2	1	5	8	2.4	2,750	2.9	16	4.6	5,221	5.5
20 times or more	10	9	20	39	12.1	13	13	28	54	16.5	17,113	18.0	57	16.4	18,490	19.4
<i>Total with electricity interruption<sup>(b)</sup></i>	82	68	96	246	76.4	75	64	128	267	81.7	82,670	87.0	281	80.7	84,027	88.1
Did not experience electricity interruption	34	20	11	65	20.2	26	16	17	59	18.0	12,276	12.9	62	17.8	10,897	11.4
<b>All communities<sup>(c)(d)</sup></b>	<b>123</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>94,996</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>95,423</b>	<b>100.0</b>

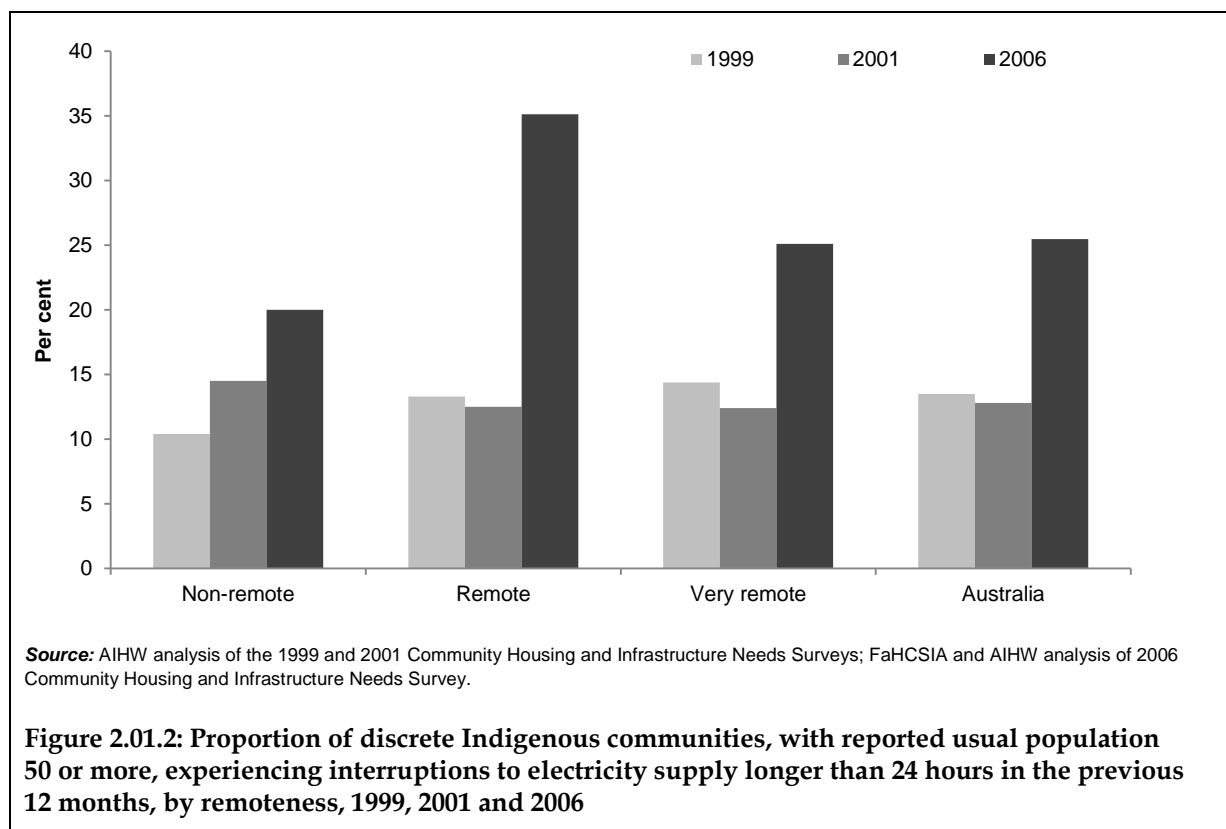
(a) In the 12 months before the survey.

(b) Includes 'Number of electricity interruptions' not stated.

(c) Includes communities with no organised electricity supply.

(d) Includes 'Whether experienced electricity interruption' not stated.

Source: ABS 2002, 2007



**Table 2.01.12: Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more, experiencing interruptions to electricity supply longer than 24 hours in the previous 12 months, by remoteness, 1999, 2001 and 2006**

		Non-remote	Remote	Very remote	Australia
<b>1999</b>	Number of communities	7	6	34	47
	Per cent	10.4	13.3	14.4	13.5
	<b>Total number of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>67</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>348</b>
<b>2001</b>	Number of communities	9	5	28	42
	Per cent	14.5	12.5	12.4	12.8
	<b>Total number of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>62</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>327</b>
<b>2006</b>	Number of communities	10	13	59	82
	Per cent	20.0	35.1	25.1	25.5
	<b>Total number of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>50</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>322</b>

(a) Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more.

Source: AIHW analysis of the 1999 and 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Surveys; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

**Table 2.01.13: Number and proportion of Indigenous households with major electrical problems, by remoteness area, 2008**

	Number	Proportion
Major cities	2,764	3.8
Inner regional	1,551	3.5
Outer regional	2,565	6.0
<i>Total non-remote</i>	<i>6,879</i>	<i>4.3</i>
Remote	855	5.5
Very remote	1,449	8.5
<i>Total remote</i>	<i>2,304</i>	<i>7.1</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,183</b>	<b>4.8</b>

Note: Proportions exclude unknown/not stated responses

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

### Sewerage systems

- In 2006, the majority of discrete Indigenous communities had septic tanks for their sewerage (695 communities or 59%) (Table 2.01.14).
- Approximately 1,969 people living in discrete Indigenous communities in 2006 did not have an organised sewerage system. A further 3,703 people relied on pit toilets for their sewerage (Table 2.01.18).
- The proportion of discrete Indigenous communities in Very Remote areas without an organised sewerage system dropped from 86 communities (8.3%) in 2001 to 20 communities (2.0%) in 2006 (Table 2.01.15).
- The number of discrete Indigenous communities connected to a town sewerage system increased from 89 (7.3%) in 2001 to 121 (10.2%) in 2006 (Table 2.01.15).
- Approximately 2.1% of all discrete Indigenous communities (25 communities) in 2006 had no organised sewerage system. This ranged from 1.1% (7 communities) in the Northern Territory to 4.0% (5 communities) in Queensland. A further 17% (202 communities) relied on pit toilets (Table 2.01.17).
- In 2006, 4.0% of communities in non-remote areas, 1.9% in Remote areas and 2.0% in Very Remote areas had no organised sewerage system (Table 2.01.18).

### Sewerage system overflows and leakages

- In 2006, 38% of all discrete Indigenous communities (142 out of 375) which provided data on sewerage system leakages and overflows reported overflows or leakages in the 12 months before the survey. Of these 142 communities, 82 (22%) reported 1–4 overflows/leakages and 14 (3.7%) reported 20 or more overflows/leakages (Table 2.01.16).
- The proportion of communities with a population of 50 or more which experienced 10 or more sewerage overflows or leakages in the 12 months before the survey was lower in 2006 than in 2001 and 1999 across all remoteness areas (Figure 2.01.3; Table 2.01.19).

Table 2.01.14: Number of discrete Indigenous communities with different types of sewerage systems, by state/territory, 2006

	Town system	Community waterborne	Septic tanks: common effluent disposal	Septic tanks: leach drains	Pit toilets	Pan toilets	Other organised system	No organised system	Total no. communities <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Communities with a population of less than 50</b>									
NSW	13	—	3	1	—	—	—	2	18
Queensland	1	—	3	35	27	—	8	4	82
WA	3	8	14	147	9	1	—	7	194
SA	—	3	14	32	9	—	—	2	62
NT	8	1	20	286	148	—	1	6	509
Australia <sup>(b)</sup>	25	12	54	501	193	1	9	21	865
<b>Communities with a population of 50 or more</b>									
NSW	29	2	6	3	—	—	—	—	39
Queensland	12	13	7	9	—	—	—	—	38
WA	14	33	14	28	1	—	—	1	83
SA	4	6	13	8	2	—	—	—	29
NT	39	39	8	44	6	—	—	—	130
Australia <sup>(b)</sup>	98	96	48	92	9	—	—	1	322
<b>All communities</b>									
NSW	42	2	9	4	—	—	—	2	57
Queensland	13	13	10	44	27	—	8	4	120
WA	17	41	28	175	10	1	—	8	277
SA	4	9	27	40	11	—	—	2	91
NT	47	40	28	330	154	—	1	6	639
Australia <sup>(b)</sup>	121	108	102	593	202	1	9	22	1,187

(continued)



**Table 2.01.14 (continued): Number of discrete Indigenous communities with different types of sewerage systems, by state/territory, 2006**

(a) Components may not add to totals as more than one response may be specified.

(b) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

Source: ABS 2007a.

Table 2.01.15: Number of discrete Indigenous communities with different types of sewerage systems, by remoteness area, 2001 and 2006

	Town system	Community waterborne	Septic tanks: common effluent disposal.	Septic tanks: leach drains	Pit toilets	Pan toilets	Other organised system	No organised system	Total no. communities <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Non-remote</b>									
2001	38	7	16	14	—	—	—	2	77
2006	43	10	12	13	—	—	—	3	75
<b>Remote</b>									
2001	26	10	15	46	7	2	—	3	109
2006	30	9	7	57	7	—	—	2	104
<b>Very remote</b>									
2001	25	79	73	537	217	1	12	86	1,030
2006	48	89	82	523	195	1	9	20	1,008
<b>Remote/Very remote</b>									
2001	51	89	88	583	224	3	12	89	1,139
2006	78	98	89	580	202	1	9	22	1,112
<b>All communities</b>									
2001	89	96	104	597	224	3	12	91	1,216
2006	121	108	101	593	202	1	9	25	1,187

(a) Components may not add to totals as more than one response may be specified.

Source: ABS 2007a.

**Table 2.01.16: Discrete Indigenous communities reporting sewerage system leakages and overflows<sup>(a)(b)</sup>, by type of sewerage system, 2006**

	Frequency of sewerage system leakages or overflows				Total with overflows	No overflows	Total communities <sup>(b)(c)</sup>
	1–4 times	5–9 times	10–19 times	20 times or more			
<b>Number of communities</b>							
Town system	26	6	3	2	37	73	110
Community waterborne	26	7	3	5	41	60	101
Septic tanks: common effluent disposal	12	3	6	1	22	37	62
Septic tanks: leach drains	24	13	7	7	51	60	113
Pit toilets	2	0	0	1	3	5	10
Pan toilets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other organised system	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No organised system	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
<b>Total<sup>(d)(e)</sup></b>	<b>82</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Proportion of communities</b>							
Town system	23.6	5.5	2.7	1.8	33.6	66.4	100.0
Community waterborne	25.7	6.9	3.0	5.0	40.6	59.4	100.0
Septic tanks: common effluent disposal	19.4	4.8	9.7	1.6	35.5	59.7	100.0
Septic tanks: leach drains	21.2	11.5	6.2	6.2	45.1	53.1	100.0
Pit toilets	20.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	30.0	50.0	100.0
Pan toilets	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other organised system	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
No organised system	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*(continued)*

**Table 2.01.16 (continued): Discrete Indigenous communities reporting sewerage system leakages and overflows<sup>(a)(b)</sup>, by type of sewerage system, 2006**

- (a) In the 12 months before the survey.
- (b) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.
- (c) Includes whether experienced sewerage system leakage not stated.
- (d) Includes type of sewerage system not stated.
- (e) Components may not add to total as more than one response may be specified.

*Source:* FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

**Table 2.01.17: Sewerage in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006**

	NSW		Qld		WA		SA		NT		Australia <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
No organised sewerage system <sup>(b)</sup>	2	3.5	5	4.0	8	3.0	3	3.3	7	1.1	25	2.1
Pit toilets <sup>(b)(c)</sup>	—	—	27	21.8	10	3.7	11	12.2	154	24.0	202	17.0
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised sewerage system <sup>(d)(e)</sup>	17	1.5	26	0.6	175	5.5	12	1.2	151	2.1	381	2.2
Communities experiencing 10 or more overflows or leakages <sup>(f)(g)(h)</sup>	3	5.7	3	7.3	7	7.2	4	9.8	13	9.3	31	8.3
Communities experiencing overflows or leakages for longer than 48 hours <sup>(f)(g)(h)</sup>	10	18.9	11	26.8	23	23.7	11	26.8	24	17.1	81	21.6
<b>Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire<sup>(f)</sup></b>	<b>53</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total no. of communities<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>57</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>..</b>

(a) Victoria and Tasmania are only included in Australia for confidentiality reasons.

(b) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.

(c) May not be main type of sewerage system; more than one type could be specified.

(d) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised sewerage system, including those in communities with and without community-organised sewerage system.

(e) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all permanent dwellings.

(f) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(g) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected.

(h) In the 12 months before the survey.

Source: FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

**Table 2.01.18: Sewerage in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness, 2006**

	Non-remote		Remote		Very Remote		Remote/Very Remote		Australia			
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Reported usual population	Per cent
No organised sewerage system <sup>(a)</sup>	3	4.0	2	1.9	20	2.0	22	2.0	25	2.1	1,969	2.1
Pit toilets <sup>(a)(b)</sup>	—	—	7	6.7	195	19.3	202	18.2	202	17.0	3,703	4.0
Permanent dwellings not connected to organised sewerage system <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	34	n.a	45	n.a	302	n.a	347	n.a.	381	2.2	n.a.	n.a.
Communities experiencing 10 or more overflows or leakages <sup>(e)(f)(g)</sup>	4	6.3	1	2.4	26	9.6	27	8.7	31	8.3	5,341	6.4
Communities experiencing overflows or leakages for longer than 48 hours <sup>(e)(f)(g)</sup>	14	22.2	9	21.4	58	21.5	67	21.5	81	21.6	14,376	17.3
<b>Total no. of communities which completed the full community questionnaire<sup>(e)</sup></b>	<b>63</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>83,318</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total no. of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>75</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>92,960</b>	<b>..</b>

(a) Calculation based on all discrete Indigenous communities.

(b) May not be main type of sewerage system; more than one type could be specified.

(c) All permanent dwellings not connected to an organised sewerage system, including those in communities with and without community-organised sewerage system.

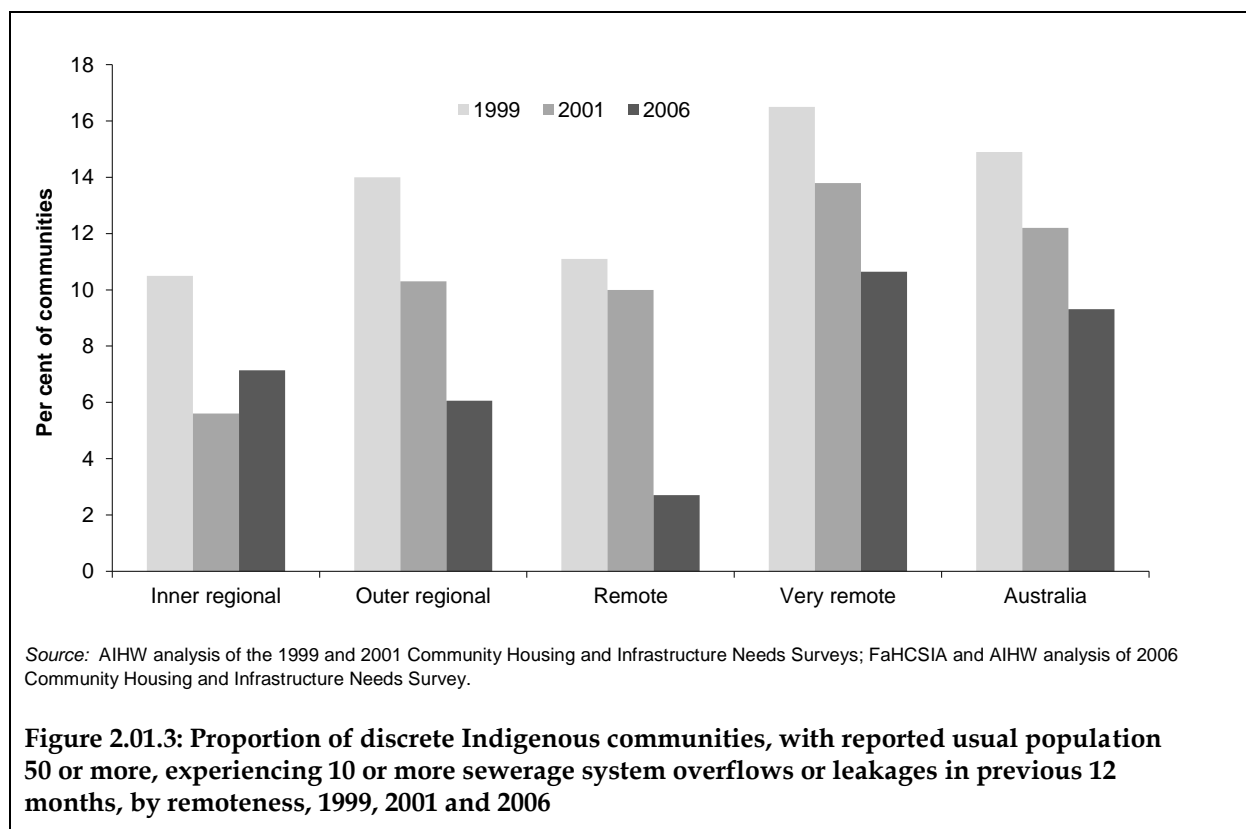
(d) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all permanent dwellings.

(e) All discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected. All discrete Indigenous communities with a reported usual population of 50 persons or more, and communities which have a reported usual population of less than 50 persons but which are not administered by a larger discrete Indigenous community or Resource Agency.

(f) Percentage calculated as a proportion of all discrete Indigenous communities for which data on sewerage system leakages and overflows were collected.

(g) In the 12 months before the survey.

Source: FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.



**Table 2.01.19: Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more, experiencing 10 or more sewerage system overflows or leakages in previous 12 months, by remoteness, 1999, 2001 and 2006**

		Non-remote	Remote	Very remote	Australia
<b>1999</b>	Number of communities	8	5	39	52
	Per cent	11.9	11.1	16.5	14.9
	<b>Total number of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>67</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>348</b>
<b>2001</b>	Number of communities	5	4	31	40
	Per cent	8.1	10.0	13.8	12.2
	<b>Total number of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>62</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>327</b>
<b>2006</b>	Number of communities	3	1	25	30
	Per cent	6.0	2.7	10.6	9.3
	<b>Total number of communities<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>50</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>322</b>

(a) Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more.

Source: AIHW analysis of the 1999 and 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Surveys; FaHCSIA and AIHW analysis of 2006 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey.

## Healthy Living Practices

Connection to services does not necessarily mean that the housing facilities (for example, toilets, baths, showers, washing machines, cooking facilities and refrigerators) are functional. The 2008 NATSISS collected information on the functionality of key household facilities required to support Healthy Living Practices. This included the functionality of facilities required to support the following four Healthy Living Practices – washing people; washing clothes and bedding; removing waste safely; and improving nutrition: the ability to store, prepare and cook food. These data were self-reported by people in the households.

- In 2008, approximately 99% of Indigenous households reported that they had working facilities for washing people, 94% reported working facilities for washing clothes/bedding, 94% reported working facilities for storing/preparing food and 98% reported working sewerage systems (Table 2.01.20).
- The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous households that reported that they did not have working facilities for washing people (4.1%), washing clothes/bedding (12%), storing/preparing food (17%) or working sewerage facilities (3.9%) (Table 2.01.20).
- The proportion of Indigenous households that reported that they did not have working facilities for washing people, washing clothes/bedding, storing/preparing food and working sewerage facilities was higher in remote areas (3.0%, 11%, 15% and 2.5% respectively) than in non-remote areas (1.2%, 5.0%, 4.4% and 1.4% respectively) (Table 2.01.21; Figure 2.01.4).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous households with three or more dependent children aged 0–4 years reported that they did not have working facilities for washing clothes/bedding or for storing/preparing food (12% and 14% respectively) than Indigenous households with no dependent children (5.7% and 5.5% respectively). The proportion of Indigenous households without working facilities for washing people and working sewerage facilities was similar for households with none, 1, 2 and 3 or more dependent children aged 0–4 years (Table 2.01.22).
- Access to functional facilities to support the first four Healthy Living Practices was greater in households that were not overcrowded and did not have structural problems (Table 2.01.23).
- Access to functional facilities to support the first four Healthy Living Practices was lower for those households that usually did not consume vegetables or fruit each day compared to households that consumed at least one serve of fruit or vegetables each day (Table 2.01.24).
- In 2008, 50,439 Indigenous households had major structural problems. The proportion of households that had major structural problems was greater in remote (34%), than non-remote areas (25%) (Table 2.01.25)



**Table 2.01.20: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by state/territory, 2008**

	Unit	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Has working facilities for washing people <sup>(a)</sup>	Per cent	98.5	98.3	99.6	98.6	96.3	98.3	99.7	95.9	98.5
Does not have working facilities for washing people	Per cent	1.5	1.7	0.4	1.4	3.7	1.7	0.3	4.1	1.5
Has working facilities for washing clothes/bedding <sup>(b)</sup>	Per cent	94.2	93.9	95.5	94.2	91.3	96.4	98.3	87.9	94.0
Does not have working facilities for washing clothes/bedding	Per cent	5.8	6.1	4.5	5.8	8.7	3.6	1.7	12.1	6.0
Has working facilities for storing/preparing food <sup>(c)</sup>	Per cent	94.4	95.7	95.8	93.1	91.6	96.6	96.8	82.6	93.8
Does not have working facilities for storing/preparing food	Per cent	5.6	4.3	4.2	6.9	8.4	3.4	3.2	17.4	6.2
Has working sewerage facilities <sup>(d)</sup>	Per cent	98.5	97.9	99.3	99.3	96.2	98.3	99.7	96.1	98.4
Does not have working sewerage facilities	Per cent	1.5	2.1	0.7	0.7	3.8	1.7	0.3	3.9	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total reported<sup>(e)</sup></b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>64,028</b>	<b>15,700</b>	<b>52,758</b>	<b>21,713</b>	<b>11,611</b>	<b>9,323</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>14,956</b>	<b>192,049</b>
<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>314</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>421</i>	<i>242</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>1,371</i>
<b>Total households</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>64,341</b>	<b>15,819</b>	<b>53,179</b>	<b>21,956</b>	<b>11,710</b>	<b>9,323</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>15,108</b>	<b>193,421</b>

(a) Comprises households with a working bath or shower.

(b) Comprises households with working washing machine and/or laundry tub.

(c) Comprises households with working stove/oven/cooking facilities and a kitchen sink and a working refrigerator.

(d) Comprises households with a working toilet.

(e) Excludes households for which information about working facilities was not reported.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

**Table 2.01.21: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by remoteness, 2008**

	Unit	Non-remote				Remote			
		Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Total	Remote	Very Remote	Total	Total
Has working facilities for washing people <sup>(a)</sup>	Per cent	98.9	98.2	99.0	98.8	99.0	95.2	97.0	98.5
Does not have working facilities for washing people	Per cent	1.1	1.8	1.0	1.2	1.0	4.8	3.0	1.5
Has working facilities for washing clothes/bedding <sup>(b)</sup>	Per cent	95.3	94.7	95.0	95.0	92.3	86.0	89.0	94.0
Does not have working facilities for washing clothes/bedding	Per cent	4.7	5.3	5.0	5.0	7.7	14.0	11.0	6.0
Has working facilities for storing/preparing food <sup>(c)</sup>	Per cent	96.4	94.4	95.5	95.6	91.3	79.2	85.0	93.8
Does not have working facilities for storing/preparing food	Per cent	3.6	5.6	4.5	4.4	8.7	20.8	15.0	6.2
Has working sewerage facilities <sup>(d)</sup>	Per cent	99.3	97.3	98.9	98.6	98.8	96.2	97.5	98.4
Does not have working sewerage facilities	Per cent	0.7	2.7	1.1	1.4	1.2	3.8	2.5	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total reported<sup>(e)</sup></b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>71,926</b>	<b>44,934</b>	<b>42,759</b>	<b>159,619</b>	<b>15,467</b>	<b>16,963</b>	<b>32,430</b>	<b>192,049</b>
<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>652</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>1,045</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>326</i>	<i>1,371</i>
<b>Total households</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>72,579</b>	<b>45,027</b>	<b>43,059</b>	<b>160,664</b>	<b>15,614</b>	<b>17,142</b>	<b>32,756</b>	<b>193,421</b>

(a) Comprises households with a working bath or shower.

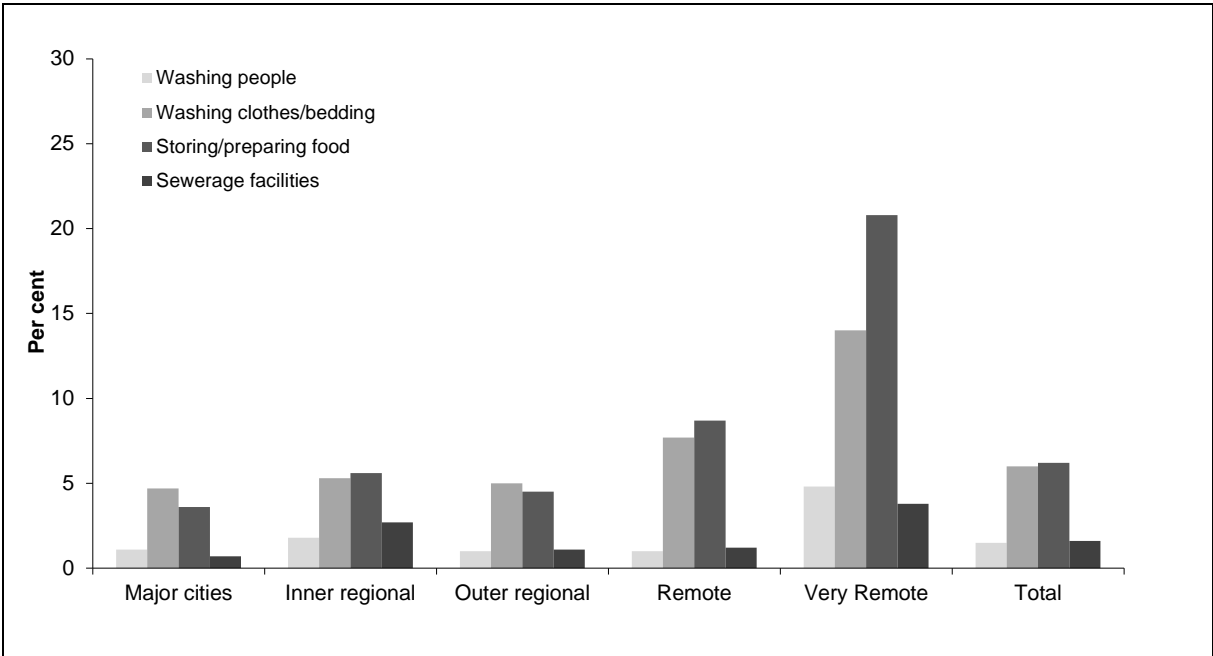
(b) Comprises households with working washing machine and/or laundry tub.

(c) Comprises households with working stove/oven/cooking facilities and a kitchen sink and a working refrigerator.

(d) Comprises households with a working toilet.

(e) Excludes households for which information about working facilities was not reported.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.



Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

**Figure 2.01.4: Proportion of Indigenous households reporting lack of working facilities for each of the first four Healthy Living Practices, by remoteness, 2008**

**Table 2.01.22: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by number of dependent children aged 0-4 years in household, 2008**

	Number of dependent children aged 0-4 years in household									
	None		1		2		3+		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Has working facilities for washing people <sup>(a)</sup>	140,363	98.6	32,749	97.9	12,562	97.9	3,413	99.1	189,087	98.5
Does not have working facilities for washing people	1,954	1.4	711	2.1	265	2.1	32	0.9	2,963	1.5
Has working facilities for washing clothes/bedding <sup>(b)</sup>	134,187	94.3	31,376	93.8	11,976	93.4	3,028	87.9	180,566	94.0
Does not have working facilities for washing clothes/bedding	8,131	5.7	2,085	6.2	852	6.6	417	12.1	11,484	6.0
Has working facilities for storing/preparing food	134,419	94.5	30,916	92.4	11,848	92.4	2,967	86.1	180,150	93.8
Does not have working facilities for storing/preparing food <sup>(c)</sup>	7,898	5.5	2,544	7.6	980	7.6	477	13.9	11,899	6.2
Has working sewerage facilities <sup>(d)</sup>	140,353	98.6	32,740	97.8	12,574	98.0	3,365	97.7	189,032	98.4
Does not have working sewerage facilities	1,964	1.4	720	2.2	253	2.0	79	2.3	3,017	1.6
<b>Total reported<sup>(e)</sup></b>	<b>142,317</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33,460</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,827</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,445</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,049</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<i>Not stated</i>	937	..	282	..	145	..	7	..	1,371	..
<b>Total households</b>	<b>143,254</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>33,742</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>12,973</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>3,452</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>193,421</b>	<b>..</b>

(a) Comprises households with a working bath or shower.

(b) Comprises households with working washing machine and/or laundry tub.

(c) Comprises households with working stove/oven/cooking facilities and a kitchen sink and a working refrigerator.

(d) Comprises households with a working toilet.

(e) Excludes households for which information about working facilities was not reported

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

**Table 2.01.23: Proportion of Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008**

	Washing people	Washing clothes/bedding	Storing/preparing food	Sewerage facilities
<b>Overcrowding<sup>(a)</sup></b>				
Overcrowded household	13.4	13.1	12.3	13.4
Not an overcrowded household	86.6	86.9	87.7	86.6
<b>Housing</b>				
Housing does have structural problems	25.9	24.7	24.7	25.9
Housing does not have structural problems	74.2	75.3	75.3	74.1
<b>Total households</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATISS.

**Table 2.01.24: Proportion of Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008**

	Washing people	Washing clothes/bedding	Storing/preparing food	Sewerage facilities
<b>Nutrition (children aged 14 years and younger)<sup>(a)</sup></b>				
Number of serves of vegetables consumed daily				
Does not usually eat vegetables	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
1 serve or less	30.3	29.9	30.4	30.4
2 serves	28.8	28.7	28.5	28.7
3 serves	23.4	23.8	23.3	23.3
4 serves	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8
5 serves or more	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1
Number of serves of fruit consumed daily				
Does not usually eat fruit	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9
1 serve or less	34.8	35.3	35.1	34.9
2 serves	38.3	37.9	37.8	38.2
3 serves	15.7	15.6	15.8	15.6
4 serves	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1
5 serves or more	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3
<b>Total persons</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Nutrition data represents non-remote participants only.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

**Table 2.01.25: Indigenous households: major structural problems, Australia 2008**

	Non-remote		Remote		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>Has major structural problems:</b>						
rising damp (non-remote only)	8,136	5.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
major cracks in wall/floors	18,680	11.7	4,534	14.0	23,213	12.1
sinking/moving foundations	10,131	6.3	1,500	4.6	11,631	6.1
sagging floors	7,115	4.5	1,901	5.9	9,016	4.7
walls or windows that aren't straight	10,351	6.5	3,498	10.8	13,849	7.2
wood rot/termite damage	8,627	5.4	2,703	8.3	11,330	5.9
major electrical problems	6,879	4.3	2,304	7.1	9,183	4.8
major plumbing problems	8,133	5.1	3,223	9.9	11,356	5.9
major roof defect	6,644	4.2	1,842	5.7	8,486	4.4
other major structural problems	3,086	1.9	1,388	4.3	4,474	2.3
<b>Total has major structural problems<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>39,302</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>11,138</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>50,439</b>	<b>26.3</b>
No major structural problems	120,318	75.4	21,292	65.7	141,610	73.7
<b>Total<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>159,619</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32,430</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,049</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Sum of components will equal more than 100% as more than one type of problem can be reported.

(b) Excludes not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

## Homelessness

### Census data

The ABS collects information on the number of homeless people on Census night. The ABS defines people as homeless if their accommodation falls below the minimum community standard of a small rental flat with a bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom and some security of tenure.

- The 2006 Census data indicate that there were 4,116 Indigenous people who were homeless on Census night (Table 2.01.26):
  - This included 2,283 with no conventional accommodation (in improvised dwellings or sleeping rough)
  - 662 in hostels, refuges or night shelters
  - 1,171 residing temporarily with others.
- The Northern Territory (1,143) recorded the largest number of Indigenous homeless people followed by Queensland (1,019).
- The national rate of Indigenous homelessness was 90 per 10,000 (Table 2.01.26).
- The highest rates of Indigenous homelessness were found in the Northern Territory (213 per 10,000) and Western Australia (111 per 10,000), while Tasmania had the lowest rate (45 per 10,000) (Table 2.01.26).
- Across Australia, the rate of homelessness for Indigenous Australians was 3.8 times higher than the rate for non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.01.26).

- South Australia had the largest difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates, with the rate of Indigenous homelessness more than five times the rate of non-Indigenous homelessness (Table 2.01.26).

**Table 2.01.26: Number and rate of Indigenous people who are homeless, simple definition, by state/territory, 2006**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<b>Number</b>									
<b>Primary homeless</b>									
No conventional accommodation	250	55	469	402	152	24	4	927	2,283
<b>Secondary homeless</b>									
Hostel, refuge, night shelter	206	38	198	76	39	9	14	82	662
Friends/ relatives	315	70	352	171	67	43	19	134	1,171
<b>Total number</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>4,116</b>
<b>Rate</b>									
Number per 10,000	56	54	80	111	101	45	96	213	90
Rate ratio	2.9	3.6	2.1	3.3	5.3	1.8	4.2	1.6	3.8

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

## SAAP clients

SAAP services are provided to people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Those using SAAP services represent a sub set of homeless people as not all homeless people will use a SAAP service.

### Characteristics of clients

- In 2008–09 an estimated 122,100 people who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless received some form of assistance from SAAP (Table 2.01.27).
- Of these, 21,900 (18%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders clients (Table 2.01.27).
- Indigenous females are almost two and a half times as likely as Indigenous males to seek SAAP assistance (Table 2.01.27).
- Indigenous SAAP clients were younger than non-Indigenous clients (Table 2.01.27; Figure 2.01.5):
  - There were a higher proportion of Indigenous females in all age categories under 35 years compared with non-Indigenous females, as well as among Indigenous males in all age categories under 25 years compared to non-Indigenous males.
  - The mean age for Indigenous male (31 years) and female (29 years) SAAP clients was below the mean age for non-Indigenous male (34 years) and female (31 years) SAAP clients.

**Table 2.01.27: SAAP clients: sex and age, by Indigenous status and age, 2008–09**

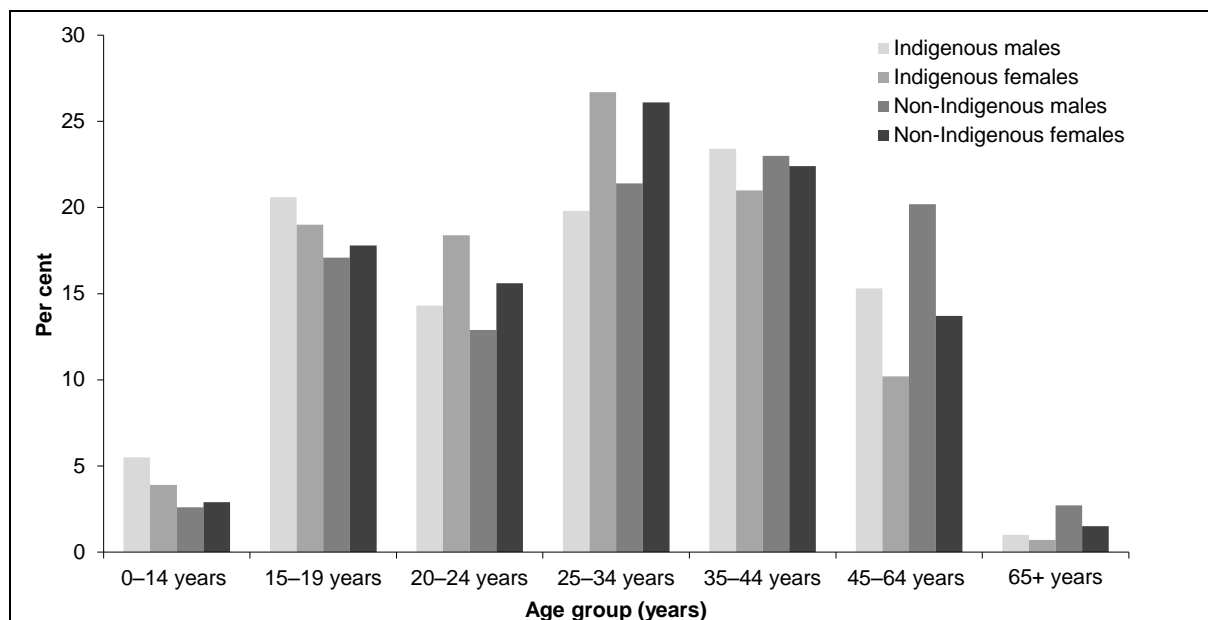
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number
<b>Total SAAP clients</b>						
<b>Sex and age</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
0–14 years	5.5	300	2.6	1,100	3.0	1,400
15–19 years	20.6	1,300	17.1	6,900	17.6	8,200
20–24 years	14.3	900	12.9	5,200	13.1	6,100
25–34 years	19.8	1,300	21.4	8,600	21.2	9,900
35–44 years	23.4	1,500	23.0	9,300	23.1	10,700
45–64 years	15.3	1,000	20.2	8,100	19.5	9,100
65+ years	1.0	100	2.7	1,100	2.5	1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46,600</b>
<b>Female</b>						
0–14 years	3.9	600	2.9	1,700	3.1	2,400
15–19 years	19.0	3,000	17.8	10,700	18.1	13,600
20–24 years	18.4	2,900	15.6	9,300	16.2	12,200
25–34 years	26.7	4,200	26.1	15,600	26.2	19,800
35–44 years	21.0	3,300	22.4	13,400	22.1	16,700
45–64 years	10.2	1,600	13.7	8,200	13.0	9,800
65+ years	0.7	100	1.5	900	1.3	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15,600</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75,500</b>
<b>Mean age</b>						
Male	..	30.8	..	33.8	..	33.4
Female	..	29.4	..	31.2	..	31.8
<b>Median age</b>						
Male	..	29	..	33	..	32
Female	..	27	..	30	..	29

*Notes:*

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions in 'Indigenous status' (weighted): 3,700 clients.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

*Source:* SAAP Client Collection.





Source: SAAP Client Collection.

**Figure 2.01.5: SAAP clients: sex and age, by Indigenous status and age, 2008-09**

### State and region

- In 2008-09, most SAAP support periods for Indigenous clients were in New South Wales (27%) followed by Western Australia (17%). For the non-Indigenous clients, most support periods were in Victoria (36%) followed by New South Wales (28%) (Table 2.01.28).
- In 2008-09, 37% of Indigenous SAAP clients were living in a *Major city* compared with 71% of non-Indigenous SAAP clients (Table 2.01.28).
- There were correspondingly higher proportions of Indigenous SAAP clients living in *Outer regional*, *Remote* and *Very remote* locations (26%, 6.8% and 12%) compared with non-Indigenous clients (8.6%, 0.8% and 0.2% respectively) (Table 2.01.28).

**Table 2.01.28: SAAP support periods: Indigenous status, by region and state/territory, Australia, 2008–09 (per cent)**

Region	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas <sup>(a)</sup>	ACT	NT <sup>(b)</sup>	Total	
									Per cent	Number
<b>Indigenous</b>										
Major city	46.5	51.7	28.1	32.3	60.7	n.p.	100.0	n.p.	36.6	11,400
Inner regional	32.4	31.5	18.1	4.1	4.0	86.1	n.p.	n.p.	18.7	5,800
Outer regional	15.8	16.7	42.5	27.8	30.2	13.4	n.p.	27.1	25.7	8,000
Remote	4.1	0.0	9.4	11.3	2.9	0.5	n.p.	13.8	6.8	2,100
Very remote	1.2	n.p.	2.0	24.5	2.2	n.p.	n.p.	59.1	12.2	3,800
<b>Total (row %)</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>5,950</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>31,100</b>
<b>Non-Indigenous</b>										
Major city	74.5	80.0	52.0	77.2	78.9	n.p.	100.0	n.p.	70.9	97,950
Inner regional	19.9	15.9	25.1	13.4	7.2	89.6	n.p.	n.p.	19.5	26,950
Outer regional	5.3	4.0	21.2	6.9	11.5	9.7	n.p.	80.6	8.6	11,900
Remote	0.2	0.1	1.4	2.1	2.2	0.7	n.p.	9.6	0.8	1,050
Very remote	0.0	n.p.	0.3	0.4	0.3	n.p.	n.p.	9.8	0.2	300
<b>Total (row %)</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>39,200</b>	<b>48,950</b>	<b>19,750</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>138,100</b>

(a) Hobart is classified as Inner Regional.

(b) Darwin is classified as Outer Regional.

*Notes*

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (unweighted): 10,603 support periods.
2. 'Region' in this report is based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Structure (ABS 2007b). SAAP agencies are categorised based on the postcode supplied by the relevant state or territory community services department. Please note that this postcode forms part of the mailing address of the agency and may not match the actual location of the agency. For more information please see 'Region' in Appendix 2.
3. To ensure confidentiality, some cells in this table have been suppressed. While these cases are not presented separately, they are included in the totals.
4. Unweighted data. Figures could not be weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent at the remoteness level. Note that only those records for which consent was obtained were included in this table.

Sources: SAAP Client Collection.

### **Main reason for seeking assistance**

- In 2008–09, the most common main reason for seeking assistance among Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients was domestic/family violence (25% and 21% support periods respectively) (Table 2.01.29).
- The broad category 'Interpersonal relationships' was recorded as the main reason for seeking assistance for almost half (50%) of Indigenous SAAP clients and 43% of non-Indigenous SAAP clients (Table 2.01.29).
- Compared to the non-Indigenous SAAP clients, Indigenous SAAP clients were more likely to state that their main reason for seeking assistance was for 'Time out from family/ other situation' (11% of support periods compared with 6.5%) and overcrowding issues (6.4% compared with 2.7%) (Table 2.01.29).
- In 2008–09, Indigenous SAAP clients were less likely to report having financial problems than non-Indigenous SAAP clients (9.7% and 14% support periods respectively) (Table 2.01.29).

**Table 2.01.29: SAAP support periods: Indigenous status, by main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 2008–09 (per cent)**

Main reason for seeking assistance	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total	
			Per cent	Number
<b>Interpersonal relationships</b>				
Time out from family/other situation	10.6	6.5	7.2	14,150
Relationship/family breakdown	9.0	10.7	10.4	20,250
Interpersonal conflict	2.3	2.8	2.7	5,300
Sexual abuse	0.7	0.7	0.7	1,350
Domestic/family violence	25.4	21.3	22.1	43,050
Physical/emotional abuse	1.5	1.2	1.2	2,400
<b>Financial</b>				
Gambling	0.1	0.3	0.2	450
Budgeting problems	2.8	4.5	4.2	8,150
Rent too high	1.0	1.5	1.4	2,700
Other financial difficulty	5.8	8.1	7.7	14,950
<b>Accommodation</b>				
Overcrowding issues	6.4	2.7	3.3	6,500
Eviction/asked to leave	5.1	7.4	6.9	13,550
Emergency accommodation ended	1.4	2.3	2.1	4,150
Previous accommodation ended	5.7	7.7	7.3	14,300
<b>Health</b>				
Mental health issues	0.8	2.0	1.8	3,450
Problematic drug/alcohol/substance use	4.2	5.3	5.1	10,000
Psychiatric illness	0.3	0.9	0.8	1,550
Other health issues	1.3	1.1	1.1	2,200
<b>Other reasons</b>				
Gay/lesbian/transgender issues	0.1	0.3	0.3	550
Recently left institution	1.5	1.4	1.4	2,750
Recent arrival to area with no means of support	3.3	2.4	2.6	5,000
Itinerant	3.5	2.7	2.8	5,500
Other	7.2	6.5	6.6	12,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total (row per cent)</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total (number)</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>160,700</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>195,200</b>

*Notes*

1. Number excluded due to errors and omissions (weighted): 17,187 support periods.
2. Figures have been weighted to adjust for agency non-participation and client non-consent.

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

### Accompanying children

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children make up 24% of all children accompanying SAAP clients (Table 2.01.30).
- Close to half (47%) of the accompanying Indigenous children were aged 0–4 years, a quarter (28%) were aged 5–9 years. Non-Indigenous children had a very similar percentage breakdown by age (Table 2.01.30).

**Table 2.01.30: Children accompanying SAAP clients, by Indigenous status and age, 2008–09**

Age group	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
0–4	8,700	46.5	24,500	44.0	35,100	44.4
5–9	5,300	28.2	15,400	27.7	22,000	27.8
10–14	3,550	19.0	11,550	20.8	16,200	20.5
15–17	1,150	6.3	4,200	7.5	5,800	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,700</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>79,100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: SAAP Client Collection.

### Unmet requests for SAAP accommodation

The Demand for Accommodation Collection attempts to measure unmet need for SAAP accommodation in two separate weeks during the year. This collection counted those who were seeking accommodation but whose request for accommodation could not be met for one week in December 2008 and May 2009.

- There was an average of 74 Indigenous people per day with valid unmet requests for assistance in December 2008 and May 2009 (Table 2.01.31).
- There were more Indigenous females (43) with unmet requests for SAAP accommodation than Indigenous males (31) (Table 2.01.31).
- Queensland (21) had the most valid unmet requests for SAAP accommodation per day followed by Western Australia (16.5) (Table 2.01.31).

**Table 2.01.31: Valid unmet requests for SAAP accommodation<sup>(a)</sup>, 3–9 December 2008 and 6–12 May 2009**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Males	6.1	3.0	9.1	7.9	1.9	0.3	0.1	2.3	30.8
Females	7.7	3.4	11.5	8.6	4.8	0.3	0.4	6.3	42.9
Persons	13.9	6.4	20.6	16.5	6.7	0.6	0.5	8.6	73.7

(a) Estimated average number per day of potential Indigenous clients with accompanying children.

Sources: SAAP Demand for Accommodation Collection.

## **Data quality issues**

### **Census of Population and Housing**

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

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

### **Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS)**

The 2006 CHINS collected information on a variety of topics from discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Australia and on Indigenous organisations that provide rental housing to Indigenous people. In 2006, CHINS information was collected on 496 Indigenous organisations, which managed a total of 21,854 permanent dwellings. The majority of those dwellings were located in the Northern Territory (6,448), Queensland (6,230), New South Wales (4,176) and Western Australia (3,462) (ABS 2007a).

The CHINS survey covers only discrete Indigenous communities. In 2006, the CHINS collected information from 1,187 discrete Indigenous communities. This included approximately 92,960 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders or 18% of the total Indigenous population. CHINS data is collected every 5 years. The data are collected from key personnel in Indigenous communities and housing organisations that are knowledgeable about housing and infrastructure issues.

The estimates are not subject to sampling error because the CHINS was designed as a complete enumeration of discrete Indigenous communities. However, data could not be obtained from a small number of communities. In addition, the community population was often estimated by community representatives without reference to records. Therefore, the data is subject non-sampling error.

Further information on the CHINS can be found in the publication *Housing and infrastructure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Australia 2006* (ABS 2007a).

### **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)**

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6,900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings, such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities, were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004-05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: User's guide, 2008* (ABS 2010).

### **Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)**

The SAAP collection is an administrative data collection and therefore cannot be used as an indicator for the Australian population. Due to the definition of homelessness for SAAP, there is no way to distinguish whether a person who receives SAAP support was at imminent risk of homelessness or was actually homeless. Therefore, SAAP cannot be used as an indicator for the Australian homeless population.

SAAP also requires valid consent to be given each time a client is supported (support period) in order to collect all the client level and support period level information. However, if consent is not given, then only a limited amount of information can be collected about the particular client and their support period and this client cannot be linked with any other support periods they may have had.

The Indigenous status question for SAAP requires consent to collect information and is answered by the client and must be recorded as stated by the client, irrespective of the worker's perception based on appearance or other factors. This may lead to an under-count of Indigenous SAAP clients if the client does not give consent or does not identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

A weighting model has been developed to adjust for agency non-participation, client non-consent and client mixed consent in SAAP data. These weights are applied to the majority of SAAP tables and help reflect the true usage of SAAP services across Australia.

Midway through the 2008-2009 reporting period, SAAP was discontinued and replaced by the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA). This resulted in some changes in the way the jurisdictions administer the agencies. The number of funded agencies and the number of agencies that were required to participate in the collection decreased. This was a contributing factor in the decrease in the number of support periods in 2008-2009. As a result of these changes, the number of support periods and the estimated number of clients in 2008-2009 cannot be directly compared with the number of support periods and clients in 2007-2008.

## 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

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## List of tables

Table 2.01.1: Water supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006 .....	738
Table 2.01.2: Water supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness, 2006.....	740
Table 2.01.3: Main source of drinking water, discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006.....	741
Table 2.01.4: Testing of drinking water in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006.....	742
Table 2.01.5: Percentage of discrete Indigenous communities where drinking water failed testing in previous 12 months, by state/territory, 1999, 2001 and 2006 .....	743
Table 2.01.6: Water restrictions and interruptions in discrete Indigenous communities, by reported usual population, 2006 .....	745
Table 2.01.7: Duration of longest water interruption in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006 .....	746
Table 2.01.8: Main source of electricity, all discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006.....	748
Table 2.01.9: Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006.....	749
Table 2.01.10: Electricity supply in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness area, 2006.....	751
Table 2.01.11: Electricity interruptions, communities with a population of 50 or more, 1999, 2001 and 2006 .....	754
Table 2.01.12: Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more, experiencing interruptions to electricity supply longer than 24 hours in the previous 12 months, by remoteness, 1999, 2001 and 2006 .....	755
Table 2.01.13: Number and proportion of Indigenous households with major electrical problems, by remoteness area, 2008.....	756
Table 2.01.14: Number of discrete Indigenous communities with different types of sewerage systems, by state/territory, 2006.....	757
Table 2.01.15: Number of discrete Indigenous communities with different types of sewerage systems, by remoteness area, 2001 and 2006 .....	759
Table 2.01.16: Discrete Indigenous communities reporting sewerage system leakages and overflows, by type of sewerage system, 2006 .....	760
Table 2.01.17: Sewerage in discrete Indigenous communities, by state/territory, 2006 .....	762
Table 2.01.18: Sewerage in discrete Indigenous communities, by remoteness, 2006.....	763
Table 2.01.19: Discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more, experiencing 10 or more sewerage system overflows or leakages in previous 12 months, by remoteness, 1999, 2001 and 2006.....	764

Table 2.01.20: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by state/territory, 2008 .....	766
Table 2.01.21: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by remoteness, 2008 .....	767
Table 2.01.22: Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by number of dependent children aged 0-4 years in household, 2008 .....	769
Table 2.01.23: Proportion of Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008 .....	770
Table 2.01.24: Proportion of Indigenous households: access to functional facilities required to support the first four Healthy Living Practices, by selected population and socioeconomic characteristics, 2008 .....	770
Table 2.01.25: Indigenous households: major structural problems, Australia 2008.....	771
Table 2.01.26: Number and rate of Indigenous people who are homeless, simple definition, by state/territory, 2006 .....	772
Table 2.01.27: SAAP clients: sex and age, by Indigenous status and age, 2008-09 .....	773
Table 2.01.28: SAAP support periods: Indigenous status, by region and state/territory, Australia, 2008-09 (per cent) .....	775
Table 2.01.29: SAAP support periods: Indigenous status, by main reason for seeking assistance, Australia, 2008-09 (per cent) .....	777
Table 2.01.30: Children accompanying SAAP clients, by Indigenous status and age, 2008-09 .....	778
Table 2.01.31: Valid unmet requests for SAAP accommodation <sup>(a)</sup> , 3-9 December 2008 and 6-12 May 2009 .....	778

## List of figures

Figure 2.01.1: Proportion of discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more, where drinking water failed testing in the previous 12 months, by state and territory, 1999, 2001 and 2006 .....	744
Figure 2.01.2: Proportion of discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more, experiencing interruptions to electricity supply longer than 24 hours in the previous 12 months, by remoteness, 1999, 2001 and 2006 .....	755
Figure 2.01.3: Proportion of discrete Indigenous communities, with reported usual population 50 or more, experiencing 10 or more sewerage system overflows or leakages in previous 12 months, by remoteness, 1999, 2001 and 2006 .....	764
Figure 2.01.4: Proportion of Indigenous persons reporting lack of working facilities for each of the first four Healthy Living Practices, by remoteness, 2008.....	768
Figure 2.01.5: SAAP clients: sex and age, by Indigenous status and age 2008-09 .....	774