



# Indigenous Australians

**Less reliance on welfare, but challenges remain.**

## KEY POINTS:

**Indigenous disadvantage has an early onset – and continues throughout the school years**

- Indigenous children are more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous children to be assessed as developmentally vulnerable when they enter their first year of formal full-time schooling at ages 5 or 6. This was especially apparent among those living in *Remote* and *Very remote* areas.
- However, the proportion of Indigenous children assessed as vulnerable decreased from 47% in 2009 to 43% in 201s 2.
- There have been significant improvements in the Year 12 completion rate and in the rate of successful transitions from school into further study, training or employment.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are over-represented in the child protection system...**

- In 2013–14, a total of 39,716 individual Indigenous children received child protection services. This corresponds to a rate of 137 per 1,000 Indigenous children, which is 7 times the rate for non-Indigenous children (19 per 1,000).

**...and in the youth justice system**

- Indigenous young people aged 10–14 were 23 times as likely to be under supervision and 36 times as likely to be in detention as young non-Indigenous people.

**Lower employment rates, greater need for government assistance – but improvements seen**

- The employment rate for Indigenous 15–64 year olds increased from 37.6% in 1994 to 53.8% in 2008, but then declined to 47.5% in 2012–13.
- In 2012–13, about one-half (49.8%) of Indigenous Australians aged 18–64 who reported a principal source of personal cash income said that government payments were that principal source. This was more than 3 times the rate for non-Indigenous people (16%). This proportion, however, has fallen for Indigenous people, from 63% in 2002.