

2.06 Educational participation and attainment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults

Educational participation (persons undertaking formal education or training) and educational attainment (persons who have completed a particular level of school education or non-school qualification).

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research and the Department of Education, Science and Training Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Data presented have not been age-standardised, because education has not been found to be strongly associated with age in analysis of surveys such as the NATSIHS.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

The 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) collected information from 10,439 Indigenous Australians of all ages. This sample was considerably larger than the supplementary Indigenous samples in the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys. The survey was conducted in remote and non-remote areas of Australia and collected a range of information from Indigenous Australians. This included information on health-related actions, health risk factors, health status, socioeconomic circumstances and women's health. The survey provides comparisons over time in the health of Indigenous Australians. It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next NATSIHS to be conducted in 2010–11. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (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 six 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.

National Centre for Vocational Education Research

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research is Australia's main provider of vocational education and training (VET) sector research and statistics. VET is a national system designed to give workers the skills for particular occupations and industries. The VET sector includes providers that receive public VET funding, such as technical and further education organisations, higher education institutions, other government providers (for example, agricultural colleges), community education providers, government-funded private registered training organisations, schools funded through government allocations for VET, and all other Commonwealth and state recurrent and specific-purpose funded VET, regardless of the location of the training organisation.

DEST Higher Education Statistics Collection

The Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) 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, DEST has provided institutions with suggested wording for questions relating to Indigenous status (ABS 2003).

Higher education data could not be provided by remoteness area because DEST does not collect information on where a student comes from. Postcode of home location is often used as a substitute, but it is a poor measure because many students report the campus postcode as their postcode of home location. Using this variable results in participation rates incorrectly biased towards major cities at the expense of regional and remote areas because most campuses are in major cities.

Census of Population and Housing

The ABS 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 and it is asked 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.

Data analyses

Comparison of Census and NATSISS data

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

This measure presents data included in the 2008 edition of this report from the 2006 Census for persons aged 15–64 years and new data from the 2008 NATSISS. Data from the NATSISS is presented first, followed by data from the 2006 Census.

A brief summary of the similarities and differences between the estimates for educational participation from the 2008 NATSISS and the 2006 Census are presented below.

Educational institution currently attended

Where Indigenous responses in the NATSISS have been compared to non-Indigenous responses from other data sources, not stated educational institution currently attended responses have been excluded where possible. Please see table footnotes for details.

When comparing the educational institution attendance status of Indigenous persons recorded in the 2006 Census with the 2008 NATSISS, the Census estimates are generally lower. The NATSISS estimated that 19% of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over were currently studying, whereas results from the Census showed that 16% were currently studying. The difference is larger for Indigenous females (17% Census compared with 20% NATSISS) than Indigenous males (15% Census compared with 18% NATSISS).

Comparatively, the difference in estimates for non-Indigenous persons currently studying is smaller – NATSISS estimated 16% compared with 14% from the Census.

Highest level of school completed

The proportion of persons whose attendance status at educational institutions was not stated was much higher in the Census data than in the NATSISS data, especially for Indigenous persons. Therefore, these responses have been excluded from the Census calculations to allow for better comparison. When Indigenous responses in the NATSISS have been compared to non-Indigenous responses from other data sources, not stated attendance status at educational institutions have been excluded where possible. More details on data limitations are provided in table footnotes.

When comparing the highest level of school that Indigenous persons completed recorded in the 2006 Census with the 2008 NATSISS, the results are fairly similar. The NATSISS estimated that Year 12 was the highest level of school completed for 23% of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, Year 10 or 11 was the highest level completed for 43% and Year 9 or below was the highest level completed for 34% (Table 2.06.5). Results from the Census showed that Year 12 was the highest level of school completed for 24% of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, Year 10 or 11 was the highest level completed for 42%, and Year 9 or below was the highest level completed for 34% (Table 2.06.30).

Non-school qualifications

The proportion of persons whose non-school qualifications were not stated was much higher in the Census data than in the NATSIHS data, especially for Indigenous persons. Therefore, these responses have been excluded from the Census calculations to allow for better comparison. Where Indigenous responses in the NATSISS have been compared to non-Indigenous responses from other data sources, not stated non-school qualifications have been excluded where possible. Please see table footnotes for details.

When comparing the non-school qualification status of Indigenous persons recorded in the 2006 Census with the 2008 NATSISS, the Census estimates are generally lower. The NATSISS estimated that 40% of Indigenous persons aged 25–64 years had a non-school qualification, whereas results from the Census showed that 30% had a non-school qualification. The main area of difference is in the results for certificate level qualifications – the NATSISS estimated that 25% of Indigenous persons aged 25–64 years had a certificate level non-school qualification, which is higher than the Census estimate of 18%. The non-Indigenous results are also different – the NATSIHS estimated that 25% of non-Indigenous persons aged 25–64 years had a certificate level non-school qualification, compared with 21% shown in the Census.

Self-reported survey data—NATSISS

The 2008 NATSISS collected information on the educational institution currently attended, the highest level of schooling that Indigenous people aged 15 years and over completed, and the highest level of non-school qualification. These data are presented in Tables 2.06.1 to 2.06.25.

Educational institution currently attended

- In 2008, approximately 19% of Indigenous people and 16% of non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over were currently studying. Indigenous Australians were twice as likely to be studying at secondary school (8%) as non-Indigenous Australians (4%). However, non-Indigenous Australians were twice as likely to be studying at university or in higher education as Indigenous Australians (6% compared with 3%) (Table 2.06.1).

Educational institution currently attended by age and sex

- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over were currently studying (20%) than Indigenous males (18%). Approximately 16% of both non-Indigenous males and non-Indigenous females of the same age were currently studying (Table 2.06.2).
- Approximately 2% of Indigenous males and 3% of Indigenous females were currently studying at university or another higher education institution compared with 6% of non-Indigenous males and females.

Table 2.06.1: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

Educational participation	15–24 years			25–34 years			35–44 years			45 years and over			Total (15 years and over)		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Secondary school	26.3	24.9	1.1	n.p.	n.p.	..	n.p.	n.p.	..	n.p.	n.p.	..	8.4*	4.2*	2.0
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	9.3	11.2	0.8	5.6	7.0	0.8	4.5	4.6	1.0	3.6*	1.5*	2.5	6.0*	4.6*	1.3
University/other higher education	2.9*	20.3*	0.1	3.1*	5.9*	0.5	3.7	4.1	0.9	1.7*	0.9*	1.9	2.7*	5.6*	0.5
Total currently studying^(b)	40.9*	58.1*	0.7	11.2*	14.7*	0.8	9.3	10.4	0.9	6.6*	2.8*	2.3	19.0*	15.6*	1.2
Not studying	59.1*	41.9*	1.4	88.8*	85.3*	1.0	90.7	89.6	1.0	93.4*	97.2*	1.0	81.0*	84.4*	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0
Total number	103,780	2,783,949		69,931	2,819,126		63,851	2,987,518		89,539	7,783,608		327,101	16,374,202	

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Rate ratio = Indigenous: non-Indigenous.

(b) Includes other institutions not further defined.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.2: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

Educational participation	Males			Females			Persons		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)
	Per cent								
Secondary school	8.7*	4.0*	2.2	8.1*	4.4*	1.8	8.4*	4.2*	2.0
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	5.4	5.1	1.1	6.6*	4.1*	1.6	6.0*	4.6*	1.3
University/other higher education	2.1*	5.6*	0.4	3.3*	5.7*	0.6	2.7*	5.6*	0.5
Total currently studying^(b)	17.7	15.8	1.1	20.2*	15.5*	1.3	19.0*	15.6*	1.2
Not studying	82.3	84.2	1.0	79.8*	84.5*	0.9	81.0*	84.4*	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0
Total number	156,052	8,079,875		171,049	8,294,327		327,101	16,374,202	

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

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

(b) Includes other educational institutions not further defined

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Educational institution currently attended by state/territory and remoteness

- In all states and territories except the Northern Territory, there was a higher proportion of Indigenous persons currently studying than non-Indigenous persons (Table 2.06.3).
- The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over currently studying (27%) and the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion (14%) (Table 2.06.3).
- The proportion of Indigenous people who were currently studying at secondary school ranged from 6% in the Northern Territory to 11% in Tasmania. The proportion of Indigenous people currently studying at TAFE colleges ranged from 3% in the Northern Territory to 10% in the Australian Capital Territory.
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas were currently studying at secondary school (9.3%) and TAFE colleges or equivalent (6.5%) than those in remote areas (5.5% and 4.5% respectively). The proportion studying at university or other higher education institutions was 3.2% in non-remote areas and 1.3% in remote areas (Table 2.06.4).

Table 2.06.3: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Educational participation		Secondary school	TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	University /other higher education	Total currently studying ^(a)	Not studying	Total ^(a)	Total number
NSW	Indigenous	%	9.2*	6.6	2.2 ^(b)	20.0*	80.0*	100.0	96,367
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.4*	4.7	4.8*	15.2*	84.8*	100.0	5,400,320
	Rate ratio ^(d)		2.1	1.4	0.5	1.3	0.9		
Vic	Indigenous	%	9.3*	8.1*	5.2	25.0*	75.0*	100.0	21,938
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.4*	4.6*	6.1	16.1*	83.9*	100.0	4,157,596
	Rate ratio ^(d)		2.1	1.8	0.9	1.6	0.9		
Qld	Indigenous	%	8.4*	5.8	2.5 ^(b)	18.9	81.1	100.0	90,587
	Non-Indigenous	%	3.8*	4.5	6.6*	15.8	84.2	100.0	3,192,880
	Rate ratio ^(d)		2.2	1.3	0.4	1.2	1.0		
WA	Indigenous	%	7.7*	6.5*	2.5*	18.2	81.8	100.0	43,826
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.3*	4.9*	5.5*	15.8	84.2	100.0	1,614,710
	Rate ratio ^(d)		1.8	1.3	0.5	1.2	1.0		
SA	Indigenous	%	8.6*	6.9*	2.5*	19.5*	80.5*	100.0	17,948
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.1*	4.4*	4.7*	14.1*	85.9*	100.0	1,254,826
	Rate ratio ^(d)		2.1	1.6	0.5	1.4	0.9		
Tas	Indigenous	%	11.0*	6.2	2.6 ^(b)	20.9*	79.1*	100.0	12,351
	Non-Indigenous	%	5.3*	5.0	4.1	15.7*	84.3*	100.0	373,776
	Rate ratio ^(d)		2.1	1.2	0.6	1.3	0.9		
ACT	Indigenous	%	7.6 ^(b)	10.0 ^(b)	7.7 ^(b)	26.6	73.4	100.0	2,810
	Non-Indigenous	%	5.2	4.6	10.8	21.9	78.1	100.0	268,844
	Rate ratio ^(d)		1.5	2.2	0.7	1.2	0.9		
NT	Indigenous	%	5.9	2.9	3.1	13.5	86.5	100.0	41,274
	Non-Indigenous	%	2.7 ^(c)	4.9 ^(c)	6.7 ^(b)	16.6 ^(b)	83.4	100.0	111,250
	Rate ratio ^(d)		2.2	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.0		
Aust.	Indigenous	%	8.4*	6.0*	2.7*	19.0*	81.0*	100.0	327,101
	Non-Indigenous	%	4.2*	4.6*	5.6*	15.6*	84.4*	100.0	16,374,202
	Rate ratio ^(d)		2.0	1.3	0.5	1.2	1.0		

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Includes other educational institution, not further defined.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(c) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.4: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Major cities	Inner regional	Outer regional	Subtotal non-remote	Remote	Very remote	Subtotal remote	Total
Per cent								
Indigenous								
Secondary school	10.1*	10.5*	7.1*	9.3*	7.4	4.5	5.5	8.4*
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	6.8*	7.0	5.6	6.5*	5.0	4.2	4.5	6.0*
University/other higher education	4.6*	2.3 ^(b)	1.9*	3.2*	1.9 ^(b)	1.0 ^(b)	1.3 ^(b)	2.7*
<i>Total currently studying^(a)</i>	23.2*	22.2*	17.3*	21.2*	15.5	10.8	12.5	19.0*
Not studying	76.8*	77.8*	82.7*	78.8*	84.5*	89.2	87.5	81.0*
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	105,217	67,416	72,967	245,600	29,839	51,662	81,501	327,101
Non-Indigenous								
Secondary school	4.3*	4.3*	3.8*	4.3*	n.p	..	..	4.2*
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	4.1*	6.0	5.0	4.6*	n.p	..	..	4.6*
University/other higher education	6.6*	3.5	3.3*	5.7*	n.p	..	..	5.6*
<i>Total currently studying^(a)</i>	16.4*	14.5*	12.8*	15.7*	10.0	..	..	15.6*
Not studying	83.6*	85.5*	87.2*	84.3*	90.0*	..	..	84.4*
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	..	100.0
Total number	11,283,887	3,466,410	1,465,288	16,215,586	157,268	..	..	16,374,202
Rate Ratio^(c)								
Secondary school	2.3	2.4	1.9	2.2	..	..	..	2.0
TAFE/technical college/business college/industry skills centre	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.4	..	..	..	1.3
University/other higher education	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	..	..	..	0.5
<i>Total currently studying^(a)</i>	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.6	..	..	1.2
Not studying	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	..	..	1.0

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Includes other educational institutions not further defined.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50%.

(c) Indigenous rate divided by Indigenous rate.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Highest level of school completed

- In 2008, Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over were twice as likely as non-Indigenous adults to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below (34% compared with 16%). Year 10 or 11 was the highest level of schooling that 43% of Indigenous adults and 33% of non-Indigenous adults completed, and Year 12 was the highest level of that 23% of Indigenous adults completed compared with 51% of non-Indigenous adults (Table 2.06.5).

Highest level of school completed by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 65 years and over were much more likely to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below (82%) than Indigenous Australians of younger ages (Table 2.06.5).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18–24, 25–34 and 35–44 years were around five times as likely to report Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling as non-Indigenous adults of the same age groups.
- In 2008, males and females in the Indigenous population reported similar levels of school completed, as did males and females in the non-Indigenous population (Table 2.06.6).

Table 2.06.5: Highest level of school completed^(a), by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

		Highest level of school completed			Total	Total number of persons	
		Completed Year 12	Completed Year 10 or 11	Completed Year 9 or below ^(b)			
18–24	Indigenous	%	32.0*	47.9*	20.1*	100	65,494
	Non-Indigenous	%	75.9*	20.6*	3.5*	100	1,923,185
	Rate ratio ^(c)		0.4	2.3	5.7		
25–34	Indigenous	%	30.1*	47.8*	22.0*	100	69,786
	Non-Indigenous	%	72.6*	23.4*	4.0*	100	2,818,872
	Rate ratio ^(c)		0.4	2	5.5		
35–44	Indigenous	%	24.3*	48.5*	27.2*	100	63,851
	Non-Indigenous	%	55.6*	38.5*	5.9*	100	2,987,350
	Rate ratio ^(c)		0.4	1.3	4.6		
45–64 years	Indigenous	%	9.6*	37.5	52.9*	100	73,551
	Non-Indigenous	%	41.8*	40.8	17.5*	100	5,190,548
	Rate ratio ^(c)		0.2	0.9	3		
65+ years	Indigenous	%	5.2 ^{(c)*}	13.2*	81.5*	100	15,979
	Non-Indigenous	%	22.5*	30.7*	46.8*	100	2,592,921
	Rate ratio ^(c)		0.2	0.4	1.7		
Total	Indigenous	%	22.7*	43.4*	33.9*	100	288,660
	Non-Indigenous	%	51.1*	33.0*	16.0*	100	15,512,876
	Rate ratio ^(c)		0.4	1.3	2.1		

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Excludes those still attending secondary school.

(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

(c) Estimate has a standard error of between 25% and 50%.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.6: Highest year of school completed, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

Highest level of school completed	Male			Female			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio ^(a)
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Completed Year 12	22.3*	51.1*	0.4	23.0*	51.0*	0.5	22.7*	51.1*	0.4
Completed Year 10 or 11	42.9*	33.1*	1.3	43.9*	32.9*	1.3	43.9*	33.0*	1.3
Completed Year 9 or below ^(b)	34.9*	15.8*	2.2	33.1*	16.1*	2.1	33.9*	16.0*	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0
Total number of persons	136,184	7,652,593		152,476	7,860,283		288,660	15,512,876	

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

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

(b) Includes persons who never attended school.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Highest level of school completed by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous adults reporting Year 12 as their highest level of school completed ranged from 16% in the Northern Territory to 44% in the Australian Capital Territory. The proportion of Indigenous students reporting Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling ranged from 18% in the Australian Capital Territory to 44% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.06.7).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in non-remote areas reported Year 12 as their highest level of school completed than their counterparts in remote areas of Australia (25% compared with 16%) (Table 2.06.8).
- In *Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional* and *Remote* areas of Australia, Indigenous Australians were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below.

Table 2.06.7: Highest level of school completed, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

State/territory			Completed Year 12	Completed Year 10 or below	Completed Year 9 or below ^(a)	Total	Total no. of persons
NSW	Indigenous	%	18.0*	40.2*	41.8*	100.0	84,219
	Non-Indigenous	%	52.8*	29.6*	17.6*	100.0	5,099,418
	Rate ratio		0.3	1.4	2.4		
Vic	Indigenous	%	28.9*	42.6*	28.6*	100.0	19,071
	Non-Indigenous	%	54.8*	30.2*	17.0*	100.0	3,948,721
	Rate ratio		0.5	1.4	1.7		
Qld	Indigenous	%	30.3*	42.1	27.6*	100.0	80,037
	Non-Indigenous	%	48.8*	37.0	14.2*	100.0	3,037,211
	Rate ratio		0.6	1.1	1.9		
WA	Indigenous	%	19.8*	53.4*	26.7*	100.0	38,823
	Non-Indigenous	%	50.9*	37.4*	11.8*	100.0	1,521,995
	Rate ratio		0.4	1.4	2.3		
SA	Indigenous	%	20.9*	50.0*	29.1*	100.0	15,905
	Non-Indigenous	%	43.4*	40.0*	16.6*	100.0	1,193,145
	Rate ratio ¹⁾		0.5	1.3	1.8		
Tas	Indigenous	%	20.6*	48.5	30.9*	100.0	10,602
	Non-Indigenous	%	34.1*	45.5	20.4*	100.0	350,581
	Rate ratio ¹⁾		0.6	1.1	1.5		
ACT	Indigenous	%	43.5*	38.8*	17.7*	100.0	2,512
	Non-Indigenous	%	71.0*	21.3*	7.7*	100.0	253,556
	Rate ratio		0.6	1.8	2.3		
NT	Indigenous	%	16.3*	39.8*	43.9*	100.0	37,492
	Non-Indigenous	%	63.0*	26.0*	11.0 ^(b)	100.0	108,248
	Rate ratio		0.3	1.5	4.0		
Australia	Indigenous	%	22.7*	43.4*	33.9*	100.0	288,660
	Non-Indigenous	%	51.1*	33.0*	16.0*	100.0	15,512,876
	Rate ratio		0.4	1.3	2.1		

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Note: Excludes those still attending secondary school.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.8: Highest level of school completed, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

Highest level of school completed	Major Cities		Inner Regional		Outer Regional		Subtotal non-remote		Remote		Very Remote		Subtotal remote		Total									
	Rate		Non-Rate		Non-Rate		Rate		Non-Rate		Non-Rate		Non-Rate		Rate									
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Indig. ratio	Indig.	Indig. ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Indig. ratio	Indig.	Indig. ratio	Indig.	Indig. ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig. ratio							
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%							
Completed Year 12	30.1*	57.4*	0.5	20.8*	37.1*	0.6	21.0*	36.3*	0.6	24.8*	51.2*	0.5	16.8*	39.1*	0.4	16.1	n.a.	..	16.4	n.a.	..	22.7*	51.1*	0.4
Completed Year 10 or 11	43.5*	28.6*	1.5	45.1	41.7	1.1	42.7	45.3	0.9	43.7*	32.9*	1.3	43.9	44.1*	1.0	41.9	n.a.	..	42.7	n.a.	..	43.4*	33.0*	1.3
Completed Year 9 or below ^(a)	26.4*	14.1*	1.9	34.1*	21.2*	1.6	36.3*	18.4*	2.0	31.5*	16.0*	2.0	39.3*	16.8 ^{+(a)}	2.3	41.9	n.a.	..	41.0	n.a.	..	33.9*	16.0*	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	n.a.	..	100.0	n.a.	..	100.0	100.0	..
Number	91,775	10,700,140	..	57,723	3,259,384	..	64,455	1,397,750	..	213,953	15,357,274	..	26,917	154,254	..	49,348	n.a.	..	76,993	n.a.	..	288,660	15,512,876	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Note: Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Highest year of school completed by whether woman has had children

- In 2008, Indigenous females aged 18 years and over who had not had children were twice as likely to report Year 12 as their highest level of school completed (40%) as Indigenous females who had children (20%). A much higher proportion of Indigenous females who had children reported Year 9 or below as their highest level of school completed (34%) than Indigenous females who had not had children (17%) (Table 2.06.9).

Table 2.06.9: Indigenous females aged 18 years and over, by highest year of school completed and whether the woman has ever had children, 2008

Highest level of school completed	Had children	Has not had children	Not stated/form not answered	Total
		Per cent		
Completed Year 12	20	40	24	24
Completed Year 10 or 11	47	43	42	45
Completed Year 9 or below ^(a)	34	17	35	30
Total ^{(b)(c)}	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	88,745	26,007	15,761	130,513

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.10: Highest year of school completed by child's main carer, 2008

Highest level of school completed	Proportion
Completed Year 12	22.7
Completed Year 10 or 11	48.3
Completed Year 9 or below ^(a)	29.0
Total	100.0
Total number	187,575

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

Note: Children aged 0-14 years

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Highest year of school completed by selected population characteristics

- In 2008, among Indigenous Australians who completed year 12, 91% spoke English at home, 81% lived in non-remote areas and 75% were employed. Among those Indigenous Australians who completed to year 9 or below, 81% spoke English at home, 69% lived in non-remote areas and 35% were employed (Table 2.06.11).

Table 2.06.11: Highest level of school completed, by selected population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Completed Yr 12		Completed Yr 10 or 11		Completed Yr 9 or below ^(a)		Total ^(b)	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Per cent								
Main language spoken at home								
English	90.6	86.5	88.1	96.0	81.4	83.5	86.4	89.1
Language other than English	9.4	13.5	11.9	4.0	18.6	16.5	13.6	10.9
Total	65,383	7,920,077	125,356	5,114,976	97,921	2,477,823	288,660	15,512,876
Location								
Remote	18.7	..	25.4	..	31.3	..	25.9	..
Non-remote	81.3	..	74.6	..	68.7	..	74.1	..
Total	65,383	..	125,356	..	97,921	..	288,660	..
Household income								
1st quintile (lowest income)	28.6	8.5	47.0	16.8	65.6	40.1	49.1	16.3
5th quintile (highest income)	9.8	30.7	4.1	15.3	2.7	5.2	4.9	21.4
Total excluding income not stated	51,488	6,677,999	101,187	4,427,215	77,302	2,111,267	229,976	13,216,481
Index of disparity ^(c)								
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	37.8	10.1	49.5	20.1	60.9	31.8	50.6	16.9
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	8.3 ^(g)	31.6	3.2 ^(g)	14.4	1.5 ^(g)	9.2	3.8	22.3
Total excluding not stated	64,356	7,883,314	122,710	5,095,961	93,297	2,462,672	280,363	15,441,947
Employment								
Employed	74.7	78.0	58.2	66.9	35.2	30.7	54.1	66.8
Unemployed	7.7	2.1	11.1	2.6	9.0	1.7	9.6	2.2
Not in the labour force	17.6	19.9	30.7	30.5	55.8	67.7	36.3	31.0
Total	65,383	7,920,077	125,356	5,114,976	97,921	2,477,823	288,660	15,512,876
Housing tenure type								
Owner ^(d)	41.0	61.7	28.8	68.2	21.7	70.1	29.2	65.2
Renter ^(e)	57.4	30.2	69.5	27.4	76.9	25.3	69.2	28.5
Other ^(f)	1.6	8.1	1.8	4.4	1.4	4.6	1.6	6.3
Total excluding not stated	65,134	7,920,077	124,664	5,114,976	97,309	2,477,823	287,107	15,512,876

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

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

(c) Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage.

(d) Includes without a mortgage, with a mortgage and participants in rent-buy schemes.

(e) Includes boarders.

(f) Includes life tenure schemes, rent-free, and other tenure types not further defined.

(g) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Time series analyses

- A slightly higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported that the highest year of school completed was Year 12 in 2008 (23%) than in 2002 (19%). A higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in 2008 also reported that Year 12 was their highest year of school completed (51%) than in 2002 (40%) (Figure 2.06.1).

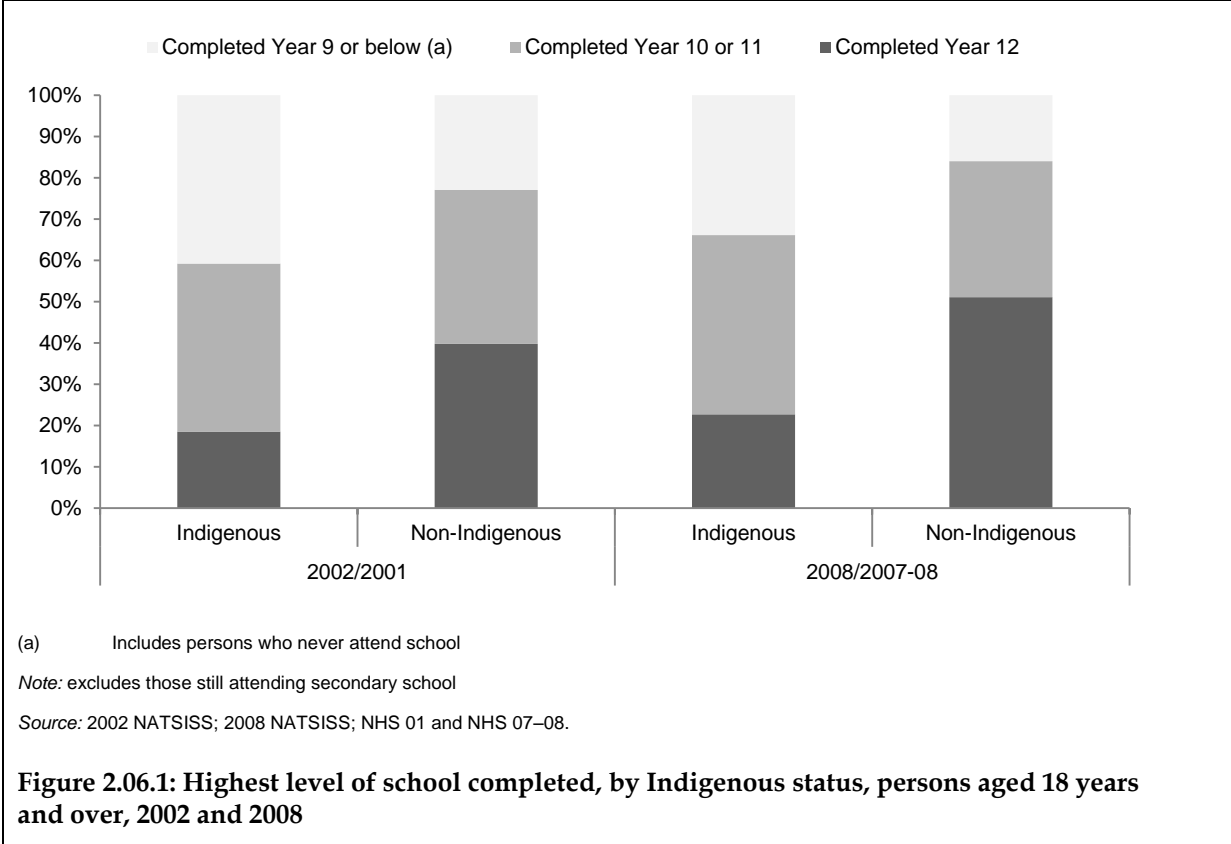


Table 2.06.12: Highest level of school completed, by Indigenous status, 2002 and 2008

	2002		2008	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Level of schooling	Per cent		Per cent	
Completed Year 12	18.5	39.8	22.7	51.1
Completed Year 10 or 11	40.7	37.3	43.4	33.0
Completed Year 9 or below ^(a)	40.8	22.9	33.9	16.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes persons who never attend school.

Note: excludes those still attending secondary school.

Source: 2002 NATSISS; 2008 NATSISS; NHS 01 and NHS 07–08.

Highest year of school completed by summary health and population characteristics

- During 2004–05, around half of all Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years who spoke a language other than English as their main language at home reported their highest level of school completed was Year 9 or below, compared with a third of Indigenous Australians who spoke English as their main language (Table 2.06.13).
- For Indigenous Australians 18 years and over in 2008, those who reported Year 9 or below as their highest year of school completed were less likely to be in the fifth quintile of household income than Indigenous Australians who reported Year 12 as their highest year of school completed (19% compared with 45%) (Table 2.06.14). A similar trend was evident for index of disparity.

Table 2.06.13: Highest year of school completed, by selected population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

	Completed Year 12		Completed Yr 10 or 11		Completed Yr 9 or below ^(a)		Total ^{(b)(c)}	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Per cent							
Main language spoken at home								
English	24*	46*	44*	37*	32*	17*	100	100
Language other than English ^(d)	15*	58*	35*	12*	50*	30*	100	100
Location								
Remote ^(e)	14*	34*	43	47	42*	19*	100	100
Non-remote	26*	47*	42*	35*	32*	19*	100	100
Household income								
1st quintile	11*	25*	41*	32*	48	42	100	100
5th quintile	46*	68*	38*	26*	16 ^(f)	5*	100	100
Index of disparity								
1st quintile	16*	36*	44*	36*	40*	28*	100	100
5th quintile	60 ^(f)	65	29 ^(f)	26	11 ^(f)	9	100	100
Employment								
Employed CDEP	19	..	46	..	35	..	100	..
Employed non-CDEP	35*	56*	47*	35*	18*	9*	100	100
<i>Subtotal employed</i>	32*	56*	46*	35*	22*	9*	100	100
Unemployed	16*	54*	54*	33*	30*	13*	100	100
Not in the labour force	12*	28*	35	33	53*	39*	100	100
Housing tenure type								
Owner	33*	43*	45*	37*	22	20	100	100
Renter ^(g)	19*	50*	42*	33*	39*	17*	100	100
Other ^(h)	31 ^(f)	62*	36	26	32*	12*	100	100
Treatment when seeking health care in last 12 months								
Worse	19	..	41	..	40	..	100	..
The same or better	23	..	42	..	35	..	100	..
Other	23	..	45	..	32	..	100	..
Total⁽ⁱ⁾	23*	47*	43*	35*	35*	19*	100	100
Total number ('000)	10.4	2,298.5	10.6	1,062.4	48.3	2,770.9	71.4	6,252.8

(continued)

Table 2.06.13 (continued): Highest year of school completed, by selected population characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

*Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

- (a) Includes persons who never attended school.
- (b) Total may include persons for whom specific information could not be determined.
- (c) Excludes those who are still attending secondary school.
- (d) Includes not stated, insufficient information to classify and non-verbal languages.
- (e) Non-Indigenous data are for Remote areas only and do not include Very Remote areas.
- (f) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (g) 'Renter' includes renter (excluding boarders) and boarder.
- (h) 'Other' includes life tenure scheme, participant in rent/buy scheme, rent-free and other.
- (i) Includes not known, not stated and not applicable.

Source: ABS and AIHW analyses of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Table 2.06.14: Highest year of school completed, by selected population characteristics, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

	Completed Year 12	Completed Yr 10 or 11	Completed Yr 9 or below ^(a)	Total ^(b)
	Per cent			
Main language spoken at home				
English	23.8	44.3	32.0	100.0
Language other than English	15.6	38.0	46.4	100.0
Total	65,383	125,356	97,921	288,660
Location				
Remote	16.4	42.7	41.0	100.0
Non-remote	24.8	43.7	31.5	100.0
Total	65,383	125,356	97,921	288,660
Household income				
1st quintile	13.0	42.1	44.9	100
5th quintile	45.0	36.5	18.6	100
<i>Total excluding income not stated</i>	<i>51,488</i>	<i>101,187</i>	<i>77,302</i>	<i>229,976</i>
Index of disparity^(c)				
1st quintile	17.2	42.8	40.0	100.0
5th quintile	49.7	37.3	*12.9	100.0
<i>Total excluding not stated</i>	<i>64,356</i>	<i>122,710</i>	<i>93,297</i>	<i>280,363</i>
Employment				
Employed	31.3	46.7	22.1	100.0
Unemployed	18.1	50.1	31.8	100.0
Not in the labour force	11.0	36.8	52.2	100.0
Total	65,383	125,356	97,921	288,660
Housing tenure type				
Owner	32.2	42.2	25.6	100.0
Renter	18.8	43.6	37.6	100.0
Other ^(d)	21.7	54.3	24.0	100.0
<i>Total excluding not stated</i>	<i>65,134</i>	<i>124,664</i>	<i>97,309</i>	<i>287,107</i>

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

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

(c) Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage.

(d) Includes life tenure scheme, participant in rent/buy scheme, rent-free and other tenure not further defined.

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Non-school qualifications

- In 2008, approximately 40% of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years reported they had a non-school qualification compared with 61% of non-Indigenous Australians of the same age (Table 2.06.15).
- A similar proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people aged 25–64 years had completed a certificate course in 2008 (both 25%). A much higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians had a bachelor degree or diploma as their highest level of non-school qualification (25% and 10% respectively) compared with Indigenous Australians (7% and 6% respectively).

Non-school qualifications by age and sex

- For Indigenous Australians the age group with the highest rate of non-school qualifications was 35–44 years (43%). For non-Indigenous Australians the highest rate was in the 25–34 year group (70%) (Table 2.06.15).
- In 2008, a similar proportion of Indigenous males and females aged 25–64 years had a non-school qualification (41% and 39% respectively). Indigenous males were more likely to have completed a certificate course (27%) and less likely to have completed a diploma (4%) or bachelor degree or above (6%) than Indigenous females (22%, 7% and 7% respectively) (Table 2.06.16).

Table 2.06.15: Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 25–64 years, 2007–08

Highest level of non-school qualification ^(a)	25–34 years			35–44 years			45–64 years			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
Non-school qualification	Per cent			Per cent			Per cent			Per cent		
Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	6.3*	32.5*	0.2	6.6*	26.2*	0.3	6.6*	20.0*	0.3	6.5*	24.9*	0.3
Advanced diploma/diploma	4.0*	9.9*	0.4	6.5*	9.9*	0.7	6.5*	9.7*	0.7	5.6*	9.8*	0.6
Certificate	26.3	25.5	1.0	27.1	26.1	1.0	21.0	23.9	0.9	24.7	24.9	1.0
<i>Total with non-school qualification^(c)</i>	<i>39.5*</i>	<i>69.7*</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>42.9*</i>	<i>64.0*</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>38.4*</i>	<i>55.4*</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>40.2*</i>	<i>61.4*</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Does not have a non-school qualification	60.5*	30.3*	2.0	57.1*	36.0*	1.6	61.6*	44.6*	1.4	59.9*	38.6*	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0
Total number of persons	69,931	2,819,126		63,851	2,987,518		73,560	5,190,687		207,342	10,997,331	

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

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

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

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification, the level of which could not be determined..

Source: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08

Table 2.06.16: Whether has a non-school qualification, by sex and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2008

Non-school qualification ^(a)	Male			Female			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	5.6	24.5	0.2	7.3	25.2	0.3	6.5	24.9	0.3
Advanced diploma/diploma	4.3	8.2	0.5	6.8	11.4	0.6	5.6	9.8	0.6
Certificate	27.4	30.2	0.9	22.2	19.7	1.1	24.7	24.9	1.0
<i>Total with non-school qualification^(c)</i>	41.0	64.6	0.6	39.4	58.2	0.7	40.2	61.4	0.7
	59.0	35.4	1.7	60.6	41.8	1.4	59.9	38.6	1.6
Does not have a non-school qualification	59.0	35.4	1.7	60.6	41.8	1.4	59.9	38.6	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	100.0	100.0	1.0
Total number of persons	97,129	5,469,151		110,214	5,528,180		207,342	10,997,331	

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

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

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

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification, the level of which could not be determined

Source: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Non-school qualifications by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years with a non-school qualification ranged from 27% in the Northern Territory to 63% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.06.17). Approximately 21% of Indigenous Australians in the Australian Capital Territory had completed a bachelor degree or above, whereas in the other states and territories this proportion ranged between 5% and 11%.
- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years in non-remote areas reported having a non-school qualification (45%) than Indigenous Australians in remote areas (26%) (Table 2.06.18).

Table 2.06.17: Whether has a non-school qualification, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2008

Highest non-school qualification ^(a)		Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	Advanced diploma/diploma	Certificate	Total with non-school qualification ^(c)	Does not have a non-school qualification	Total ^(d)	Total number of persons	
NSW	Indigenous	%	5.9*	5.8*	26.3	40.9*	59.1*	100.0	60,442
	Non-Indigenous	%	27.0*	8.7*	25.2	63.4*	36.6*	100.0	3,627,960
	Rate ratio		0.2	0.7	1.0	0.6	1.6	1.0	
Vic	Indigenous	%	10.8*	9.3	32.3*	57.4*	42.6	100.0	13,668
	Non-Indigenous	%	26.4*	11.4	22.3*	61.6*	38.4	100.0	2,769,652
	Rate ratio		0.4	0.8	1.4	0.9	1.1	1.0	
Qld	Indigenous	%	6.8*	5.5*	23.9	39.7*	60.4*	100.0	57,638
	Non-Indigenous	%	20.8*	9.4*	27.7	60.0*	40.0*	100.0	2,160,365
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.5	1.0	
WA	Indigenous	%	6.0*	5.1*	24.5	39.7*	60.3*	100.0	28,073
	Non-Indigenous	%	24.6*	10.1*	26.3	62.3*	37.7*	100.0	1,091,885
	Rate ratio		0.2	0.5	0.9	0.6	1.6	1.0	
SA	Indigenous	%	5.0*	7.0*	28.5	43.8*	56.2*	100.0	11,104
	Non-Indigenous	%	19.2*	10.5*	24.1	54.8*	45.2*	100.0	825,159
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.2	1.0	
Tas	Indigenous	%	7.3 ^{*(d)}	2.1 ^{*(d)}	32.7	44.2*	55.8*	100.0	7,632
	Non-Indigenous	%	19.6*	7.7*	26.8	55.9*	44.1*	100.0	246,491
	Rate ratio		0.4	0.3	1.2	0.8	1.3	1.0	
ACT	Indigenous	%	20.8*	9.9 ^(d)	30.4*	63.3	36.7	100.0	1,798
	Non-Indigenous	%	41.6*	11.2	17.6*	71.4	28.6	100.0	187,298
	Rate ratio		0.5	0.9	1.7	0.9	1.3	1.0	
NT	Indigenous	%	5.0*	4.3	14.7	27.2*	72.8*	100.0	26,987
	Non-Indigenous	%	22.9*	6.8 ^(d)	23.9	54.6*	45.4*	100.0	88,522
	Rate ratio		0.2	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.6	1.0	
Aust.	Indigenous	%	6.5*	5.6*	24.7	40.2*	59.9*	100.0	207,342
	Non-Indigenous	%	24.9*	9.8*	24.9	61.4*	38.6*	100.0	10,997,331
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.6	1.0	

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

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

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

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification undetermined.

(d) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Table 2.06.18: Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status, and remoteness area, persons aged 25–64 years, 2008

		Highest level of non-school qualification ^(a)				Total with non-school qualification ^(c)	Does not have a non-school qualification	Total	Total number
		Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	Advanced diploma/diploma	Certificate					
Major Cities	Indigenous	%	10.6	6.6	29.5	50.4	49.6	100.0	67,235
	Non-Indigenous	%	29.8	10.3	22.8	64.5	35.5	100.0	7,632,967
	Rate Ratio ^(c)		0.4*	0.6*	1.3*	0.8*	1.4*	1.0	
Inner Regional	Indigenous	%	5.9	6.4	28.6	44.2	55.9	100.0	39,294
	Non-Indigenous	%	15.0	8.8	29.9	55.4	44.6	100.0	2,220,288
	Rate Ratio ^(c)		0.4*	0.7	1.0	0.8*	1.3*	1.0	
Outer Regional	Indigenous	%	4.5	6.1	24.0	38.2	61.8	100.0	47,222
	Non-Indigenous	%	10.6	8.8	29.1	52.5	47.6	100.0	1,022,112
	Rate Ratio ^(c)		0.4*	0.7	0.8	0.7*	1.3*	1.0	
Subtotal non-remote	Indigenous	%	7.5	6.4	27.6	45.1	55.0	100.0	153,752
	Non-Indigenous	%	25.0	9.8	24.9	61.5	38.5	100.0	10,875,368
	Rate Ratio ^(c)		0.3*	0.7*	1.1	0.7*	1.4*	1.0	
Remote	Indigenous	%	4.6#	3.4#	19.6	29.9	70.1	100.0	20,064
	Non-Indigenous	%	14.7	8.2#	28.2	52.1	47.9	100.0	120,616
	Rate Ratio ^(c)		0.3	0.4	0.7	0.6	1.5	1.0	
Very Remote	Indigenous	%	3.0#	3.3	14.5	23.8	76.2	100.0	33,527
	Non-Indigenous	%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rate ratio ^(c)	%	..	..	..	..	..	..
Subtotal remote	Indigenous	%	3.6	3.3	16.4	26.1	73.9	100.0	53,591

(continued)

Table 2.06.18 (continued): Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status, and remoteness area, persons aged 25–64 years, 2008

		Highest level of non-school qualification ^(a)				Total with non-school qualification ^(c)	Does not have a non-school qualification	Total	Total number
		Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	Advanced diploma/diploma	Certificate					
	Non-Indigenous	%	..	..	..		..	..
	Rate ratio ^(c)	%	..	..	..		..	..
Australia	Indigenous	%	6.5	5.6	24.7	40.2	59.9	100.0	207,342
	Non-Indigenous	%	24.9	9.8	24.9	61.4	38.6	100.0	10,997,331
	Rate ratio ^(c)	%	0.3*	0.6*	1.0	0.7*	1.6*	1.0	

Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

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

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

(c) Includes persons with a non-school qualification, the level of which could not be determined.

Source: 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

Non-school qualifications by whether woman has had children, and child's main carer

- In 2004-05, Indigenous females aged 25-64 years who had not had children were much more likely to have a non-school qualification than Indigenous females who had children (51% compared with 35%). Indigenous females who had not had children were around twice as likely to have completed a diploma or bachelor degree or above as Indigenous females who had children (Table 2.06.19).
- During 2008, 36% of primary carers for a child aged 0-14 years did not have a non-school qualification (Table 2.06.20).

Table 2.06.19: Indigenous females aged 25-64 years, by non-school qualification and whether the woman has ever had children, 2004-05

Highest level of non-school qualification	Had children	Has not had children	Not stated/form not answered	Total
		Per cent		
Bachelor degree or above ^(a)	6	11	3 ^(b)	6
Advanced diploma/ diploma	7	15 ^(c)	5 ^(c)	8
Certificate	21	25	29	22
<i>Total with non-school qualification^(d)</i>	35	51	37	37
Does not have a non-school qualification	65	49	63	63
Total^(e)	100	100	100	100
Total number	76,667	12,807	11,519	100,992

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

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

(c) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

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

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

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

Table 2.06.20: Whether child's main carer has non-school qualification, Indigenous children, 2008

Whether has non-school qualification	Proportion
Has a non-school qualification	64.2
Does not have a non-school qualification	35.8
Total	100.0
Total number	120,336

Note: Children aged 0-14 years

Source: 2008 NATSISS.

Time series analyses

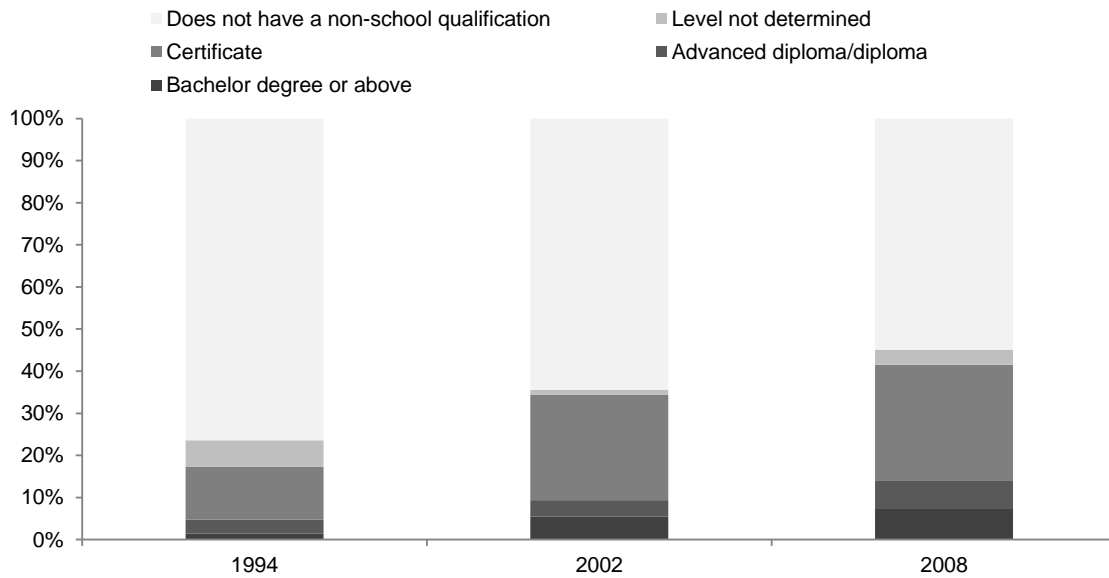
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years in 2008 reported that they had a non-school qualification (45%) than in 2002 (36%) or 1994 (24%) (Figure 2.06.2). Approximately 8% of Indigenous Australians had a bachelor degree or higher in 2008, compared with 2% in 1994. A higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians also had a non-school qualification in 2008 (62%) than in 2001 (58%).

Non-school qualifications by summary health and population characteristics

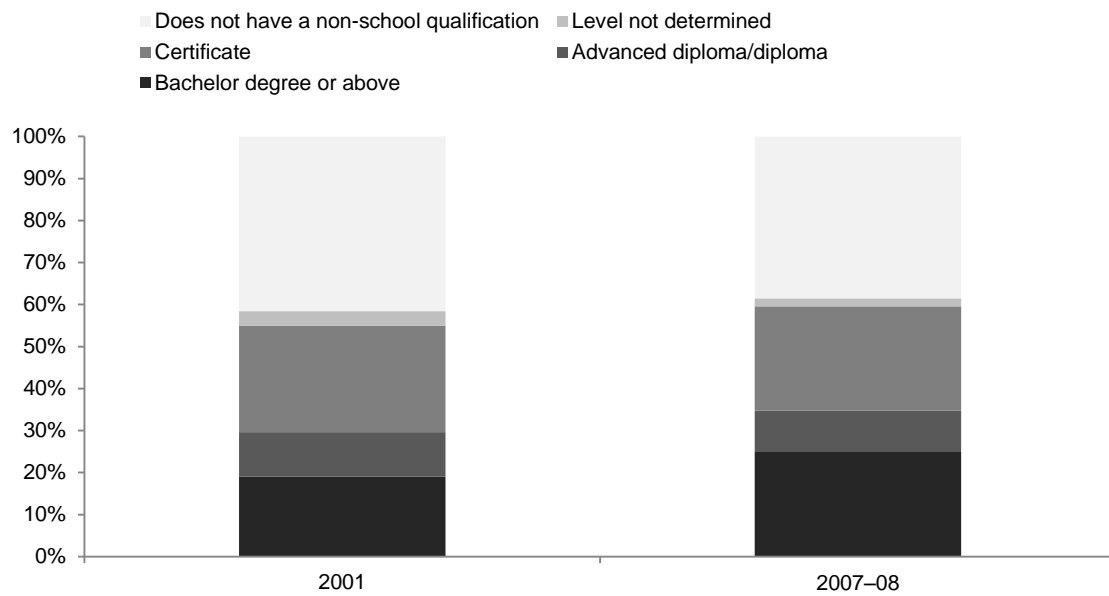
Table 2.06.20 presents the proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with non-school qualifications by selected health and population characteristics.

- In 2004–05, Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years without a non-school qualification were more likely to report fair/poor health status than Indigenous Australians with a non-school qualification (32% compared with 26%) (Table 2.06.21).

Indigenous



Non-Indigenous



Source: Data for Indigenous persons are from the 1994 NATSIS, 2002 and 2008 NATSISS. Data for non-Indigenous persons are from the 2001 and 2007-08 NHS.

Figure 2.06.2: Non-school qualifications, by Indigenous status, non-remote areas, persons aged 25-64 years, 1994, 2002, 2008

Table 2.06.21: Highest non-school qualification held, by summary health characteristics and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2004–05

Non-school qualification	Self-assessed health status						Number of long-term conditions															
	Excellent/very good			Fair/poor			0			1			2			3			Total			
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%
Bachelor degree or above ^(a)	73	92	0.8*	27 ^(b)	8	3.3*	7 ^(b)	12	0.6*	18 ^(b)	21	0.8	20	23	0.9	56	44	1.3	100	100	1.0	
Advanced diploma/diploma	82	91	0.9	18	9	1.9*	11 ^(b)	12	0.9	13	23	0.5*	19	21	0.9	58	44	1.3	100	100	1.0	
Certificate	74	86	0.9*	26	14	1.9*	10	13	0.8	16	22	0.7*	21	19	1.1	53	47	1.1	100	100	1.0	
Total with non-school qualification^(c)	74	89	0.8*	26	11	2.3*	10	12	0.8	15	22	0.7*	19	21	0.9	55	45	1.2	100	100	1.0	
Total with no non-school qualification	68	82	0.8*	32	18	1.8*	15	15	1	16	20	0.8*	17	18	0.9	52	47	1.1	100	100	1.0	
Total^(d)	70	86	0.8*	30	14	2.1*	13	13	1	16	21	0.8*	18	20	0.9	53	46	1.2	100	100	1.0	

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

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

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

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

(d) Includes not stated.

Note: Data are age-standardised.

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

Post-secondary attainment

The 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS) and 2002 and 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) collected information on the post-secondary attainment of Indigenous people. Figure 2.06.3 and Table 2.06.22 presents the proportion of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over who completed a post-secondary qualification of certificate III or above by state and territory for 1994, 2002 and 2008.

- Between 1994 and 2008, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 18 years and over with a qualification of certificate III or higher decreased from 26% in 1994 to 23% in 2008.

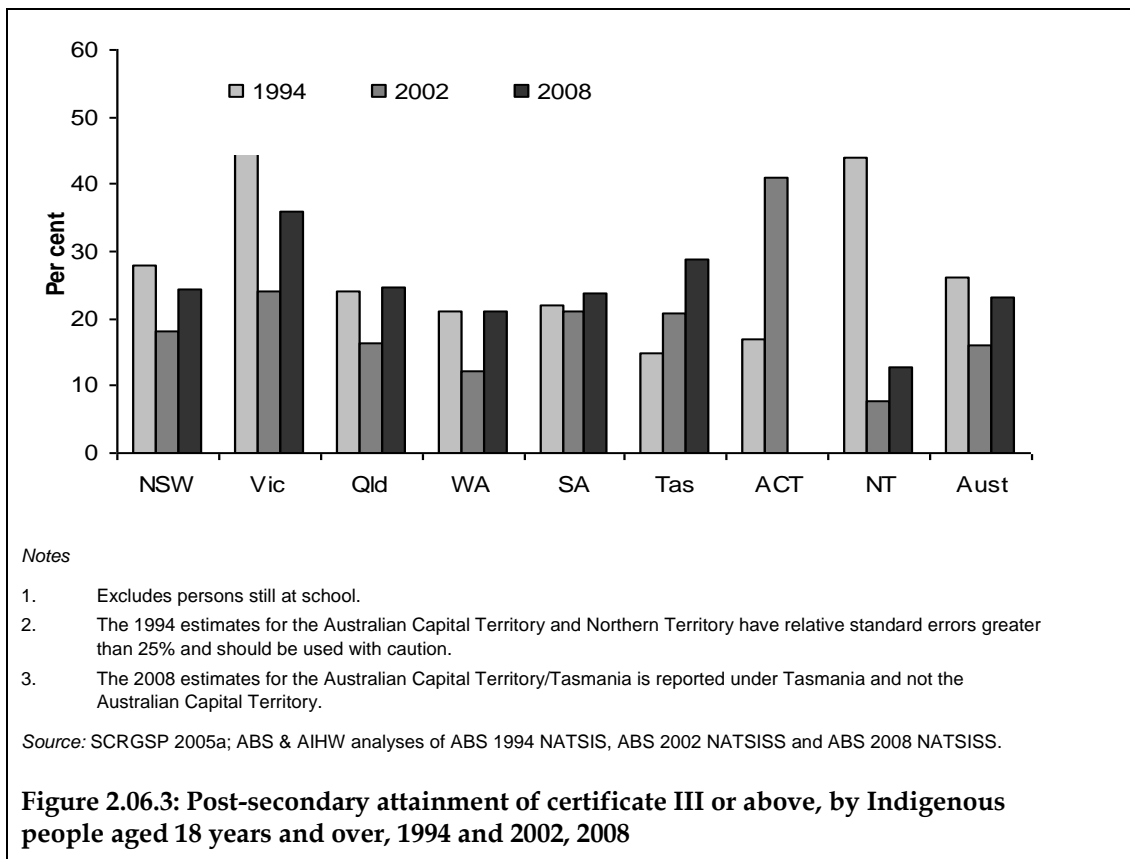


Table 2.06.22: Post-secondary attainment of certificate III or above, by Indigenous people aged 18 years and over, 1994, 2002 and 2008

	1994	2002	2008
	Per cent		
NSW	28.0	18.2	24.3
Vic	50.0	24.2	35.9
Qld	24.0	16.4	24.5
WA	21.0	12.1	21.0
SA	22.0	21.0	23.6
Tas	15.0	20.8	28.7 ^(a)
ACT	17.0	40.9	..
NT	44.0	7.8	12.7
Australia	26.0	16.0	23.2

(a) Includes ACT

Notes

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

Source: SCRGSP 2005a; ABS & AIHW analyses of ABS 1994 NATSISS, ABS 2002 NATSISS and ABS 2008 NATSISS.

Other study and study intentions

The 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) collected information on other study and study intentions by Indigenous people. Tables 2.06.23 and 2.06.24 present information on future study intentions. Table 2.06.25 presents the reasons for not pursuing another education qualification in the last 12 months. Finally, Table 2.06.26 presents information on adult education about Indigenous culture.

- In 2008, 43% of Indigenous males and 53% of Indigenous females intended to study in the next 12 months. This proportion was highest for the 15-24 year old age group (61% for males and 79% for females) (Table 2.06.23).
- The main reason for future educational intentions was to increase knowledge and skills, followed by improving qualifications and getting a better job (Table 2.06.24).
- In 2008, 27% of Indigenous Australians 15 years and over wanted to study for an educational qualification in the last 12 months but did not. The main reasons for this were it was too expensive/ financial reasons, caring for family members, and personal or other family reasons (Table 2.06.25).
- Fifty-four per cent of Indigenous people stated that they were not taught Indigenous culture either at school or as part of further studies. Those who did receive education about Indigenous culture mainly received this at primary or secondary school. The Indigenous culture education received was usually accurate (55% of the time) and 58% of the time the Indigenous person learnt about their own tribe/ clan/ language (Table 2.06.26).

Table 2.06.23: Future study intentions by age and sex, 2008 (proportion)

	Whether has future education intentions	Intends to study in the future	Does not intend to study in the future	Total	Intentions to study are unknown	Total number
Male	15-24	61.1	38.9	100.0	17.0	30,838.6
	25-34	54.1	45.9	100.0	18.9	30,216.1
	35-44	46.7	53.3	100.0	17.0	28,011.9
	45-54	27.9	72.1	100.0	10.1	20,732.0
	55+	10.2	89.8	100.0	6.2	18,674.9
	Total	42.7	57.3	100.0	14.8	128,473.6
Female	15-24	79.0	21.0	100.0	14.8	30,464.4
	25-34	68.4	31.6	100.0	16.2	31,851.4
	35-44	57.5	42.5	100.0	15.6	29,898.9
	45-54	37.2	62.8	100.0	14.4	21,678.5
	55+	11.3	88.7	100.0	7.8	22,521.1
	Total	53.3	46.7	100.0	14.1	136,414.2

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.24: Future study intentions by sex, 2008 (per cent)

Reasons for future educational intentions	Male	Female	Total
To gain a promotion	6.9	4.3	5.4
To get a better job	6.3	6.2	6.3
To get a job	2.9	6.2	4.6
Requirement of current job	0.7	0.7	0.7
Update training	2.1	2.7	2.4
Improve knowledge or skills	8.2	10.2	9.2
Improve qualifications	6.0	7.3	6.6
Interest	2.4	3.5	3.0
Other reason	0.8	0.8	0.8

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.25: Whether wanted to study for an/another educational qualification in last 12 months and main reason didn't, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008 (per cent)

	15-24 years			25 years and over			Total 15+					
	Subtotal non-remote	Remote & Very Remote	Australia	Subtotal non-remote	Remote & Very Remote	Australia	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Subtotal non-remote	Remote & Very Remote	Australia
Wanted to study but did not, by main reason:												
Too much work	2.2 ^(a)	2.0 ^(a)	2.1	4.9	3.3	4.5	4.4	2.5	4.8	4.0	3.0	3.7
Any other work-related reason	1.3 ^(a)	0.9 ^(b)	1.2 ^(a)	1.5	0.5 ^(a)	1.3	1.6 ^(a)	1.1 ^(a)	1.5 ^(a)	1.4	0.6 ^(a)	1.2
Caring for family members	3.4	4.6	3.6	5.2	3.3	4.7	5.0	4.5	4.2	4.6	3.6	4.4
Personal or other family reasons	4.6	2.3 ^(a)	4.1	4.4	3.3	4.1	5.8	3.9	3.1	4.4	3.1	4.1
Course-related reasons	2.6	1.4 ^(a)	2.4	1.1	1.1 ^(a)	1.1	1.7 ^(a)	1.5 ^(a)	1.5 ^(a)	1.6	1.2 ^(a)	1.5
No time	2.4	1.9 ^(a)	2.3	3.1	1.1	2.6	2.9	3.1	2.6	2.9	1.3	2.5
Too expensive/financial reasons	5.6	0.8 ^(a)	4.5	5.9	0.9 ^(a)	4.6	7.3	4.8	4.5	5.8	0.9 ^(a)	4.5
Waiting to hear from educational facility	0.6 ^(a)	0.1 ^(b)	0.5 ^(a)	0.4 ^(a)	0.6 ^(a)	0.4 ^(a)	0.6 ^(b)	0.6 ^(b)	0.2 ^(b)	0.5 ^(a)	0.4 ^(a)	0.5
Nothing available in area	2.5 ^(a)	3.2 ^(a)	2.6	1.1	2.9	1.6	1.3 ^(a)	1.3 ^(a)	2.2 ^(a)	1.6	3.0	1.9
Other reasons	2.8	0.8 ^(b)	2.3	2.6	*0.9	2.1	2.7	2.2 ^(a)	2.9 ^(a)	2.6	0.9	2.2
<i>Total wanted to study for an educational qualification, but didn't</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>25.6</i>	<i>30.1</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>26.9</i>	<i>33.2</i>	<i>25.5</i>	<i>27.4</i>	<i>29.4</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>26.5</i>
<i>Total did not want to study for an education qualification</i>	<i>72.2</i>	<i>82.0</i>	<i>74.4</i>	<i>69.9</i>	<i>82.1</i>	<i>73.1</i>	<i>66.8</i>	<i>74.5</i>	<i>72.6</i>	<i>70.6</i>	<i>82.1</i>	<i>73.5</i>
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.06.26: Adult education about Indigenous culture and level of accuracy, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

	Number	Per cent
Whether taught Indigenous culture at school or as part of further studies		
Was taught Indigenous culture	148,592.3	45.4
Was not taught Indigenous culture	174,986.1	53.5
Never attended school or undertook further studies	3,522.6	1.1
Total	327,101.0	100.0
Where Indigenous cultural education was received^(a)		
Primary school	81,629.9	54.9
Secondary school	88,285.0	59.4
University / other higher education	15,585.6	10.5
TAFE / technical college	14,681.8	9.9
Adult or community education sector	2,575.5	1.7
Other organisation	5,545.0	3.7
Total	208,302.9	100
Level of accuracy of Indigenous cultural education^(a)		
Usually accurate	75,406.9	55.2
Sometimes accurate	48,576.8	35.6
Rarely accurate	10,220.7	7.5
Never accurate	2,355.7	1.7
Total	136,560.1	100.0
Whether learnt anything about clan, tribal or language group identifies with		
Learnt about own clan / tribe / language	55,946.5	57.8
Did not learn about own clan/ tribe / language	40,904.7	42.2
Total	96,851.2	100.0

(a) Persons who have been taught about Indigenous culture at school/further education

Note: Data exclude unknown responses

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Census data

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

Educational institution currently attended

- In 2006, approximately 16% of Indigenous people and 14% of non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over were currently studying. Indigenous Australians were more likely to be studying at secondary school (7%) or technical or further educational institutions (4%) than non-Indigenous Australians (5% and 3% respectively). However, non-Indigenous Australians were more likely to be studying at university or in higher education than Indigenous Australians (5% compared with 3%) (Table 2.06.27).

Educational institution currently attended by age and sex

- A lower proportion of Indigenous than non-Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years were currently attending secondary school (22% and 26% respectively) and technical or further education institutions (6% and 8% respectively). Only 4% of Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years were currently attending university or higher education compared with 18% of non-Indigenous Australians of the same age.
- In 2006, a higher proportion of Indigenous females aged 15 years and over were currently studying (17%) than Indigenous males (15%). Approximately 13% of non-Indigenous males and 15% of non-Indigenous females of the same age were currently studying (Table 2.06.28).
- Approximately 2% of Indigenous males and 3% of Indigenous females were currently studying at university or other higher education compared with 5% and 6% of non-Indigenous males and females respectively.

Table 2.06.27: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

		Educational participation								
		Secondary school	Technical or further education ^(a)	University/other higher education	Total currently studying ^(b)	Not attending	Total ^(c)	Total number ^(c)	Attendance unknown ^(d)	
15–24 years	Indig. %	22	6	4	37	63	100	79,540	8	
	Non-Indig. %	26	8	18	56	44	100	2,414,604	2	
	Rate ratio	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.7	1.4	..	..	4.2
25–34 years	Indig. %	..	4	3	9	91	100	56,057	10	
	Non-Indig. %	..	4	7	12	88	100	2,402,389	2	
	Rate ratio	..	1.1	0.5	0.7	1	..	..	4.9
35–44 years	Indig. %	..	3	3	8	92	100	52,484	9	
	Non-Indig. %	..	3	3	7	93	100	2,664,383	2	
	Rate ratio	..	1.3	0.9	1.2	1	..	..	4
45 years and over	Indig. %	..	2	1	5	95	100	70,609	9	
	Non-Indig. %	..	1	1	2	98	100	6,789,677	4	
	Rate ratio	..	2.4	1.6	2.1	1	..	..	2.2
Total	Indig. %	7	4	3	16	84	100	258,690	9	
	Non-Indig. %	5	3	5	14	86	100	14,271,053	3	
	Rate ratio	1.5	1.4	0.5	1.2	1	..	..	2.9

(a) Includes TAFE colleges.

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

(c) Excludes attendance at educational institution unknown.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.28: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

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

(a) Includes TAFE colleges.

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

(c) Excludes attendance at educational institution unknown.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Educational institution currently attended by state/territory and remoteness

- The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over currently studying (22%) and the Northern Territory had the lowest proportion (11%) (Table 2.06.29).
- In all states and territories except the Northern Territory, there was a higher proportion of Indigenous persons currently studying than non-Indigenous persons.
- The proportion of Indigenous people currently studying who were attending technical or further education institutions ranged from 1% in the Northern Territory to 7% in Tasmania. The proportion of Indigenous people currently studying who were attending a university or other tertiary institution ranged from 2% in Western Australian and the Northern Territory to 7% in the Australian Capital Territory.
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas were currently studying at secondary school (8%), technical or further education institutions (5%) and university or higher education (3%) than in remote areas (5%, 2% and 1% respectively) (Table 2.06.30).

Table 2.06.29: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and state/territory, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

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

(a) Includes TAFE colleges.

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

(c) Excludes attendance at educational institution unknown.

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

(e) Includes other territories.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.30: Educational institution currently attended, by Indigenous status and remoteness, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

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

(a) Includes TAFE colleges.

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

(c) Excludes attendance at educational institution unknown.

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Highest level of school completed

- In 2006, Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over were more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous adults to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below (34% compared with 16%). The highest level of schooling completed was Year 10 for 31% of Indigenous adults and 25% of non-Indigenous adults, Year 11 for 11% of Indigenous adults and 10% of non-Indigenous adults, and Year 12 for 24% of Indigenous adults compared with 49% of non-Indigenous adults (Table 2.06.31).

Highest level of school completed by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 45 years and over were much more likely to report that their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below (54%) compared with Indigenous Australians of younger ages (Table 2.06.31).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18–24, 25–34 and 35–44 years were between four and six times as likely to report Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling as non-Indigenous adults (Table 2.06.31).
- In 2006, males and females in the Indigenous population reported similar levels of school completed, as did males and females in the non-Indigenous population (Table 2.06.32).

Table 2.06.31: Highest level of school completed, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

Highest level of school completed		18–24			25–34			35–44			45 years and over			Total		
		Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
Completed Year 12 or equivalent	%	36	74	0.5	32	70	0.5	19	51	0.4	12	35	0.3	24	49	0.5
Completed Year 11 or equivalent	%	15	9	1.6	14	10	1.5	12	14	0.9	5	9	0.6	11	10	1.1
Completed Year 10 or equivalent	%	28	13	2.1	30	16	1.9	40	28	1.4	29	29	1.0	31	25	1.3
Completed Year 9 or below ^(a)	%	22	4	6.0	24	4	5.3	28	8	3.7	54	26	2.1	34	16	2.1
Total^{(b)(c)}	%	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons ^(c)	no.	47,956	1,608,316	..	54,720	2,385,869	..	50,918	2,639,254	..	66,634	6,559,510	..	220,228	13,192,949	..
Highest year of school not stated ^(d)	%	10	3	3.9	12	3	4.6	12	3	3.7	14	7	1.9	12	5	2.4

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

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

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.32: Highest year of school completed, by Indigenous status and sex, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

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

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

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

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Highest level of school completed by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous adults aged 18 years and over reporting Year 12 as their highest level of school completed ranged from 11% in the Northern Territory to 47% in the Australian Capital Territory. The proportion of Indigenous students reporting Year 9 or below as their highest level of schooling ranged from 16% in the Australian Capital Territory to 60% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.06.33).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in non-remote areas reported Year 12 as their highest level of school completed than Indigenous Australians in remote areas of Australia (27% compared with 14%) (Table 2.06.34).
- In all remoteness areas, Indigenous Australians were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to report their highest level of schooling completed was Year 9 or below.

Table 2.06.33: Highest level of school completed, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

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

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

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

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

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

(e) Includes other territories.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.34: Highest level of school completed, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 18 years and over, 2006

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

(a) Includes persons who never attended school

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

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

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

(e) Includes migratory and no usual address.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Time series analyses

- A slightly higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported that the highest year of school completed was Year 12 in 2006 (25%) than in 2001 (21%). A higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over in 2006 also reported that Year 12 was their highest year of school completed (50%) than in 2001 (44%) (Table 2.06.35).

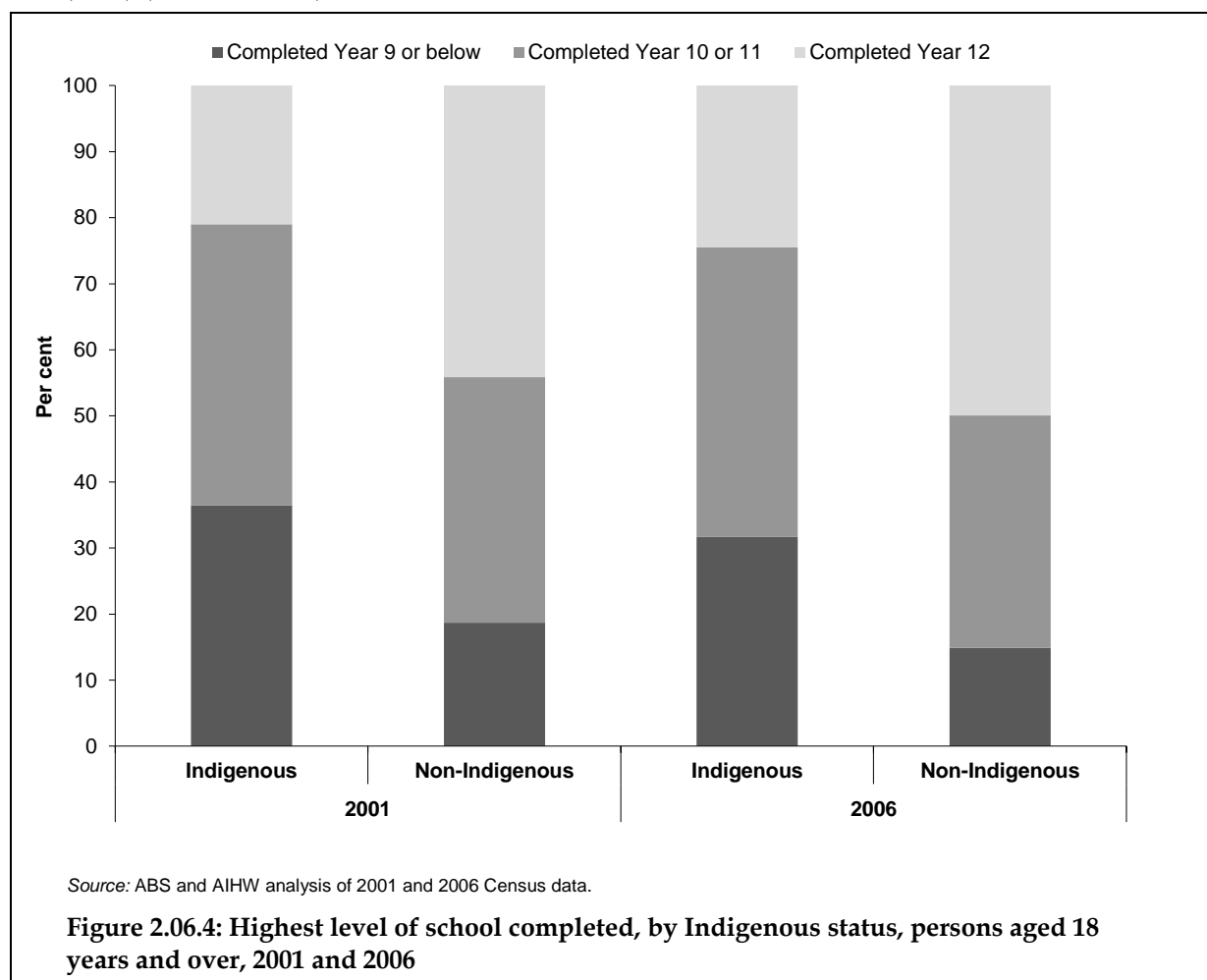


Table 2.06.35: Highest level of school completed, by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2001 and 2006, per cent

	2001		2006	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Completed Year 12	21.0	44.1	24.5	49.9
Completed Year 10 or 11	42.5	37.2	43.8	35.2
Completed Year 9 or below	36.5	18.7	31.7	14.9

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2001 and 2006 Census data.

Non-school qualifications

- In 2006, approximately 30% of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years reported they had a non-school qualification compared with 55% of non-Indigenous Australians of the same age (Table 2.06.36).
- A higher proportion of non-Indigenous than Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years had completed a certificate course in 2006 (21% and 18% respectively). A much higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians had a bachelor degree or diploma as their highest level of non-school qualification (23% and 10% respectively) compared with Indigenous Australians (6% and 5% respectively).

Non-school qualifications by age and sex

- For Indigenous Australians the age group with the highest rate of non-school qualifications was 35–44 years (32%). For non-Indigenous Australians the highest rate was in the 25–34 year group (63%) (Table 2.06.36).
- In 2006, a higher proportion of Indigenous males than females aged 25–64 years had a non-school qualification (32% and 29%, respectively). Indigenous males were more likely to have completed a certificate course (22%) and less likely to have completed a diploma (4%) or bachelor degree or above (5%) than Indigenous females (14%, 6% and 7% respectively) (Table 2.06.37).

Table 2.06.36: Whether has non-school qualification, by Indigenous status and age group, persons aged 25–64, 2006

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.37: Whether has a non-school qualification, by sex and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

Non-school qualification ^(a)	Male			Female			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	5	21	0.2	7	24	0.3	6	23	0.3
Advanced diploma/diploma	4	8	0.5	6	11	0.6	5	10	0.5
Certificate	22	29	0.8	14	14	1.1	18	21	0.8
<i>Total with non-school qualification^(c)</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Does not have a non-school qualification ^(d)	68	40	1.7	71	49	1.4	70	45	1.6
Total^(e)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..
Total number of persons ^(e)	72,441	4,590,867	..	83,952	4,734,029	..	156,393	9,324,896	..
Not stated ^(f)	16	5	3.5	13	5	2.4	14	5	2.9

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Non-school qualifications by state/territory and remoteness

- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years with a non-school qualification ranged from 17% in the Northern Territory to 50% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.06.38). Approximately 22% of Indigenous Australians in the Australian Capital Territory had completed a bachelor degree or above, whereas in the other states and territories this proportion ranged between 3% and 9%.
- In 2006, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years in non-remote areas reported having a non-school qualification (35%) than Indigenous Australians in remote areas (18%) (Table 2.06.39). In Major Cities, approximately the same proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians had a certificate qualification (20%). In other remoteness categories, non-Indigenous Australians were more likely to have this qualification.

Table 2.06.38: Whether has a non-school qualification, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

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

(continued)

Table 2.06.38 (continued): Whether has a non-school qualification, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

Highest non-school qualification ^(a)		Bachelor degree or above ^(b)	Advanced diploma/diploma	Certificate	Total with non-school qualification ^(c)	Does not have a non-school qualification ^(d)	Total ^(e)	Total no. of persons ^(e)	Not stated ^(f)	
NT	Indigenous	%	3	3	11	17	83	100	18,792	17
	Non-Indigenous	%	22	10	25	59	41	100	71,055	5
	Rate ratio		0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	2.0	..	..	3.7
Aust.	Indigenous	%	6	5	18	30	70	100	156,393	14
	Non-Indigenous	%	23	10	21	55	45	100	9,324,896	5
	Rate ratio		0.3	0.5	0.8	0.6	1.6	..	..	2.9

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.06.39: Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

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

(continued)

Table 2.06.39 (continued): Whether has a non-school qualification, by Indigenous status and remoteness area, persons aged 25–64 years, 2006

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

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Time series analyses

- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 25–64 years in 2006 reported that they had a non-school qualification (approximately 30%) than in 2001 (approximately 21%). Approximately 6% of Indigenous Australians had a bachelor degree or higher in 2006, compared with 5% in 2001. A higher proportion of non-Indigenous Australians also had a non-school qualification in 2006 (approximately 55%) than in 2001 (approximately 47%) (Table 2.06.40).

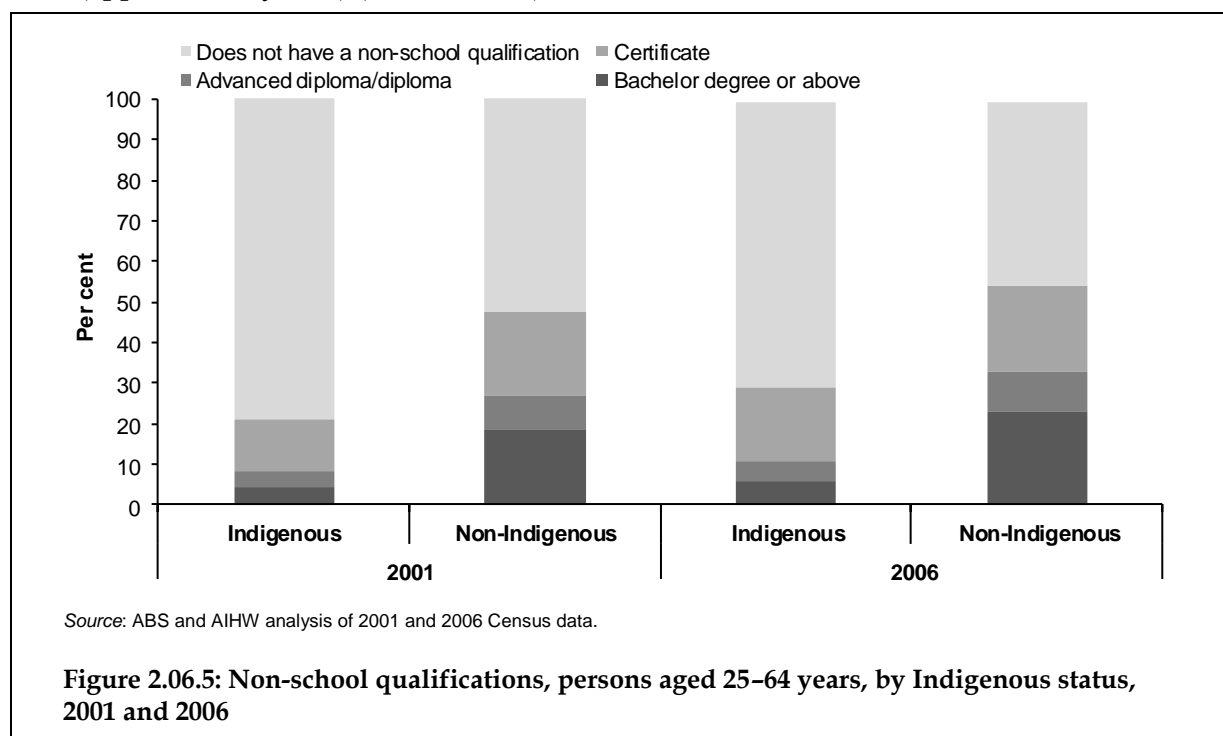


Table 2.06.40: Non-school qualifications, persons aged 25–64 years, by Indigenous status, 2001 and 2006, per cent

	2001		2006	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Bachelor degree or above	5	19	6	23
Advanced diploma/diploma	4	8	5	10
Certificate	13	21	18	21
Does not have a non-school qualification	79	53	70	45

Note: Percentages in tables may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2001 and 2006 Census data.

Vocational education and training (VET) data

Educational attainment

Data on educational attainment in the vocational education and training sector are available from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research's National VET Provider Collection. Data collected in 2008 and 2006 are presented below.

- During the year 2008, there were approximately 9,660 course completions in the VET sector by Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over. This constitutes 2.8% of the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over. In comparison, approximately 1.8% of the non-Indigenous population aged 15 years and over completed a course in the VET sector in 2008 (Table 2.06.41).
- Over the same period, a similar proportion of Indigenous and other Australians aged 15 years and over had completed a certificate IV course, diploma or higher (0.5% each) or certificate III, (0.9% and 0.7% respectively) in 2008. A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over had completed a certificate I/II (1.4%) than other Australians (0.6%).

Educational attainment by age and sex

- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians 35 years and older, had completed a VET course than other Australians (Table 2.06.41).
- Overall, a higher proportion of Indigenous females had completed a course in the VET sector in 2008 than Indigenous males (1.6% compared with 1.2%).

Table 2.06.41: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008^(a)

Qualification		15–24 years		25–34 years		35–44 years		45–54 years		55 years and over		Total aged 15 and over	
		Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)
Males													
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	138	14,123	146	9,290	155	7,643	110	5,337	42	2,131	591	38,524
	%	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2
Certificate III	No.	648	32,743	270	11,664	179	6,591	96	4,049	42	1,803	1,235	56,850
	%	0.6	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.3
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	1,558	27,430	412	6,094	277	4,557	169	3,208	51	1,873	2,467	43,162
	%	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.3
Other certificates ^(c)	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total completions	No.	2,344	74,296	828	27,048	611	18,791	375	12,594	135	5,807	4,293	138,536
	%	2.2	2.6	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.1	1.2	0.8
Females													
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	242	17,985	272	10,853	337	10,198	251	8,128	97	2,342	1,199	49,506
	%	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3
Certificate III	No.	850	29,094	339	10,566	332	11,410	189	8,323	50	2,568	1,760	61,961
	%	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.4
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	1,392	28,794	348	6,324	334	7,612	228	6,256	99	2,450	2,401	51,436
	%	1.3	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.3
Other certificates ^(c)	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

(continued)

Table 2.06.41 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008^(a)

Qualification	15–24 years		25–34 years		35–44 years		45–54 years		55 years and over		Total aged 15 and over		
	Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)	Indig.	Other ^(b)	
Total completions	No.	2,484	75,873	959	27,743	1,003	29,220	668	22,707	246	7,360	5,360	162,903
	%	2.3	2.6	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.0	1.4	0.8	0.6	0.1	1.6	1.0
Persons													
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	No.	380	32,117	419	20,155	493	17,868	361	13,495	139	4,478	1,792	88,113
	%	0.4	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.5
Certificate III	No.	1,498	61,853	610	22,240	511	18,017	286	12,387	92	4,375	2,997	118,872
	%	1.4	2.1	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.7
Certificate I/Certificate II	No.	2,951	56,252	761	12,431	611	12,187	398	9,477	150	4,328	4,871	94,675
	%	2.7	1.9	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.4	0.6
Other certificates ^(c)	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total completions	No.	4,828	150,222	1,790	54,826	1,615	48,072	1,045	35,359	381	13,181	9,660	301,660
	%	4.5	5.2	1.7	1.9	2.4	1.6	2.2	1.2	0.9	0.3	2.8	1.8

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

(b) Includes non-Indigenous Australians and persons for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

(c) Includes statements of attainment and bridging courses.

Note: Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident population for 2008.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2008.

Educational attainment by state/territory and remoteness

- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who completed a VET course ranged from 2% in the Northern Territory to 8% in New South Wales (Table 2.06.42). The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians who completed a certificate IV, diploma or higher in 2006 (2%).
- The proportion of Indigenous and other students who completed a VET course in 2006 was similar in Tasmania and the Northern Territory, whereas in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, the proportion of Indigenous students who completed a course in the VET sector was higher than non-Indigenous Australians.
- The proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over who completed a course in the VET sector in 2006 was highest in Outer Regional areas (6%) and lowest in Major Cities and Very Remote areas of Australia (4%). Higher proportions of Indigenous Australians living in Major Cities and Inner and Outer Regional areas had completed a certificate III, certificate IV, diploma or higher than Indigenous Australians in Remote and Very Remote areas (Table 2.06.43).

Table 2.06.42: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2006

	Indigenous										Other ^(a)										
	Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates ^(b)		Total completions		Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates ^(b)		Total completions		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Males																					
NSW	187	0.4	309	0.7	553	1.2	2,298	5.1	3,347	7.5	12,605	0.5	15,353	0.6	11,250	0.4	44,475	1.7	83,683	3.2	
Vic	35	0.4	61	0.6	146	1.5	2	0.0	244	2.5	9,610	0.5	14,743	0.7	10,302	0.5	1,397	0.1	36,052	1.8	
Qld	100	0.2	190	0.5	309	0.7	1,446	3.5	2,045	4.9	4,318	0.3	6,739	0.4	6,299	0.4	19,754	1.3	37,110	2.4	
WA	69	0.3	94	0.4	580	2.6	0	0.0	743	3.3	3,878	0.5	3,837	0.5	5,576	0.7	0	0.0	13,291	1.7	
SA	26	0.3	81	0.9	78	0.9	1	0.0	186	2.1	1,372	0.2	2,333	0.4	2,022	0.3	273	0.0	6,000	1.0	
Tas	20	0.3	36	0.6	52	0.9	2	0.0	110	1.9	1,052	0.6	1,496	0.8	1,406	0.8	297	0.2	4,251	2.3	
ACT	13	0.9	5	0.4	39	2.8	4	0.3	61	4.4	1,108	0.8	697	0.5	499	0.4	1,233	0.9	3,537	2.7	
NT	35	0.2	93	0.5	271	1.4	118	0.6	517	2.6	152	0.2	401	0.6	333	0.5	45	0.1	931	1.5	
Australia	485	0.3	869	0.6	2,028	1.3	3,871	2.5	7,253	4.7	34,095	0.4	45,599	0.6	37,687	0.5	67,474	0.8	184,855	2.3	
Females																					
NSW	300	0.6	463	1.0	585	1.3	2,225	4.8	3,573	7.6	16,208	0.6	17,604	0.6	15,635	0.6	45,884	1.7	95,331	3.5	
Vic	72	0.7	82	0.8	124	1.2	7	0.1	285	2.8	13,533	0.6	15,530	0.7	8,943	0.4	1,968	0.1	39,974	1.9	
Qld	216	0.5	369	0.8	288	0.6	678	1.5	1,551	3.4	5,578	0.3	8,120	0.5	5,614	0.4	11,838	0.7	31,150	2.0	
WA	124	0.5	212	0.9	283	1.2	0	0.0	619	2.6	5,361	0.7	6,235	0.8	4,420	0.6	0	0.0	16,016	2.0	
SA	74	0.8	124	1.3	117	1.2	0	0.0	315	3.4	1,813	0.3	2,303	0.4	1,651	0.3	31	0.0	5,798	0.9	
Tas	38	0.6	70	1.2	49	0.8	0	0.0	157	2.6	1,575	0.8	2,028	1.0	1,252	0.6	4	0.0	4,859	2.5	
ACT	30	2.1	24	1.7	55	3.9	5	0.4	114	8.1	1,716	1.3	1,095	0.8	748	0.5	1,319	1.0	4,878	3.6	
NT	55	0.3	75	0.4	209	1.0	49	0.2	388	1.9	309	0.6	310	0.6	401	0.7	11	0.0	1,031	1.8	
Australia	909	0.6	1,419	0.9	1,710	1.0	2,964	1.8	7,002	4.3	46,093	0.6	53,225	0.6	38,664	0.5	61,055	0.7	199,037	2.4	

(continued)

Table 2.06.42 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

	Indigenous										Other ^(a)										
	Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates ^(b)		Total completions		Certificate IV, diploma or higher		Certificate III		Certificate I/ Certificate II		Other certificates ^(b)		Total completions		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Persons																					
NSW	487	0.5	772	0.8	1,142	1.2	4,523	4.9	6,924	7.6	28,822	0.5	32,968	0.6	26,906	0.5	90,359	1.7	179,055	3.3	
Vic	107	0.5	143	0.7	270	1.3	9	0.0	529	2.6	23,147	0.6	30,292	0.7	19,248	0.5	3,368	0.1	76,055	1.8	
Qld	316	0.4	559	0.6	597	0.7	2,124	2.4	3,596	4.1	9,897	0.3	14,860	0.5	11,918	0.4	31,601	1.0	68,276	2.2	
WA	193	0.4	306	0.7	864	1.9	0	0.0	1,363	2.9	9,239	0.6	10,077	0.6	10,010	0.6	0	0.0	29,326	1.8	
SA	100	0.6	205	1.1	198	1.1	1	0.0	504	2.8	3,193	0.3	4,668	0.4	3,694	0.3	306	0.0	11,861	0.9	
Tas	58	0.5	106	0.9	101	0.9	2	0.0	267	2.3	2,634	0.7	3,534	0.9	2,660	0.7	305	0.1	9,133	2.4	
ACT	44	1.6	30	1.1	95	3.4	9	0.3	178	6.4	2,856	1.1	1,799	0.7	1,255	0.5	2,552	0.9	8,462	3.1	
NT	90	0.2	168	0.4	480	1.2	167	0.4	905	2.2	462	0.4	711	0.6	735	0.6	57	0.0	1,965	1.7	
Australia	1,395	0.4	2,289	0.7	3,747	1.2	6,835	2.1	14,266	4.5	80,250	0.5	98,909	0.6	76,426	0.5	128,548	0.8	384,133	2.4	

(a) Includes persons for whom Indigenous status was not stated.

(b) Includes statements of attainment.

Note: Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident population for 2006.

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

Table 2.06.43: Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and remoteness area, 2006

Qualification		Major Cities		Inner Regional		Outer Regional		Remote		Very Remote	
		Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other
Males											
Cert. IV, diploma or higher	Number	181	20,776	115	5,986	110	2,361	31	366	46	254
	Per cent	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.6
Certificate III	Number	273	25,294	174	10,551	233	5,860	64	891	99	383
	Per cent	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.9
Certificate I/Certificate II	Number	550	19,009	344	9,158	469	6,036	253	1,274	393	735
	Per cent	1.1	0.4	1.1	0.5	1.3	0.7	1.8	1.1	1.4	1.7
Other certificates ^(a)	Number	703	30,657	676	16,131	1,393	16,814	350	1,974	716	813
	Per cent	1.5	0.6	2.1	1.0	3.9	2.1	2.5	1.7	2.6	1.9
Total completions	Number	1,707	95,736	1,309	41,826	2,205	31,071	698	4,505	1,254	2,185
	Per cent	3.6	1.8	4.0	2.5	6.1	3.8	5.0	3.8	4.5	5.1
Females											
Cert IV, diploma or higher	Number	301	27,236	188	9,072	234	4,093	72	507	102	269
	Per cent	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.8
Certificate III	Number	463	30,176	269	12,680	416	6,871	103	873	149	397
	Per cent	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.5	1.2
Certificate I/Certificate II	Number	502	21,296	302	9,160	424	5,790	188	872	277	415
	Per cent	1.0	0.4	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.7	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.3
Other certificates ^(a)	Number	587	32,137	536	13,411	1,157	12,588	365	1,647	288	547
	Per cent	1.1	0.6	1.7	0.8	3.1	1.6	2.5	1.6	1.0	1.7
Total completions	Number	1,853	110,845	1,295	44,323	2,231	29,342	728	3,899	816	1,628
	%	3.6	2.0	4.0	2.6	5.9	3.8	4.9	3.8	2.8	5.1

(continued)

Table 2.06.43 (continued): Educational attainment in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, sex and remoteness, persons aged 15 years and over, 2006

Qualification		Major Cities		Inner Regional		Outer Regional		Remote		Very Remote	
		Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other	Indigenous	Other
Persons											
Certificate IV, diploma or higher	Number	482	48,050	304	15,076	344	6,456	103	873	148	523
	Per cent	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7
Certificate III	Number	736	55,519	444	23,254	649	12,740	167	1,766	248	780
	Per cent	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.4	1.0
Certificate I/Certificate II	Number	1,055	40,356	647	18,332	895	11,833	441	2,148	673	1,150
	Per cent	1.1	0.4	1.0	0.5	1.2	0.7	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.5
Other certificates ^(a)	Number	1,290	62,800	1,212	29,546	2,550	29,410	715	3,621	1,004	1,361
	Per cent	1.3	0.6	1.9	0.9	3.5	1.9	2.5	1.6	1.8	1.8
Total completions	Number	3,563	206,725	2,607	86,208	4,438	60,439	1,426	8,408	2,073	3,814
	Per cent	3.6	1.9	4.0	2.5	6.0	3.8	4.9	3.8	3.7	5.1

(a) Includes statements of attainment.

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

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

Time series analyses

- Between 1996 and 2008, there was a non-statistically significant increase in the proportion of Indigenous students who had completed a course in the VET sector. Over the same period there was no change in the proportion of other students who had completed a course in the VET sector (Figure 2.06.6).

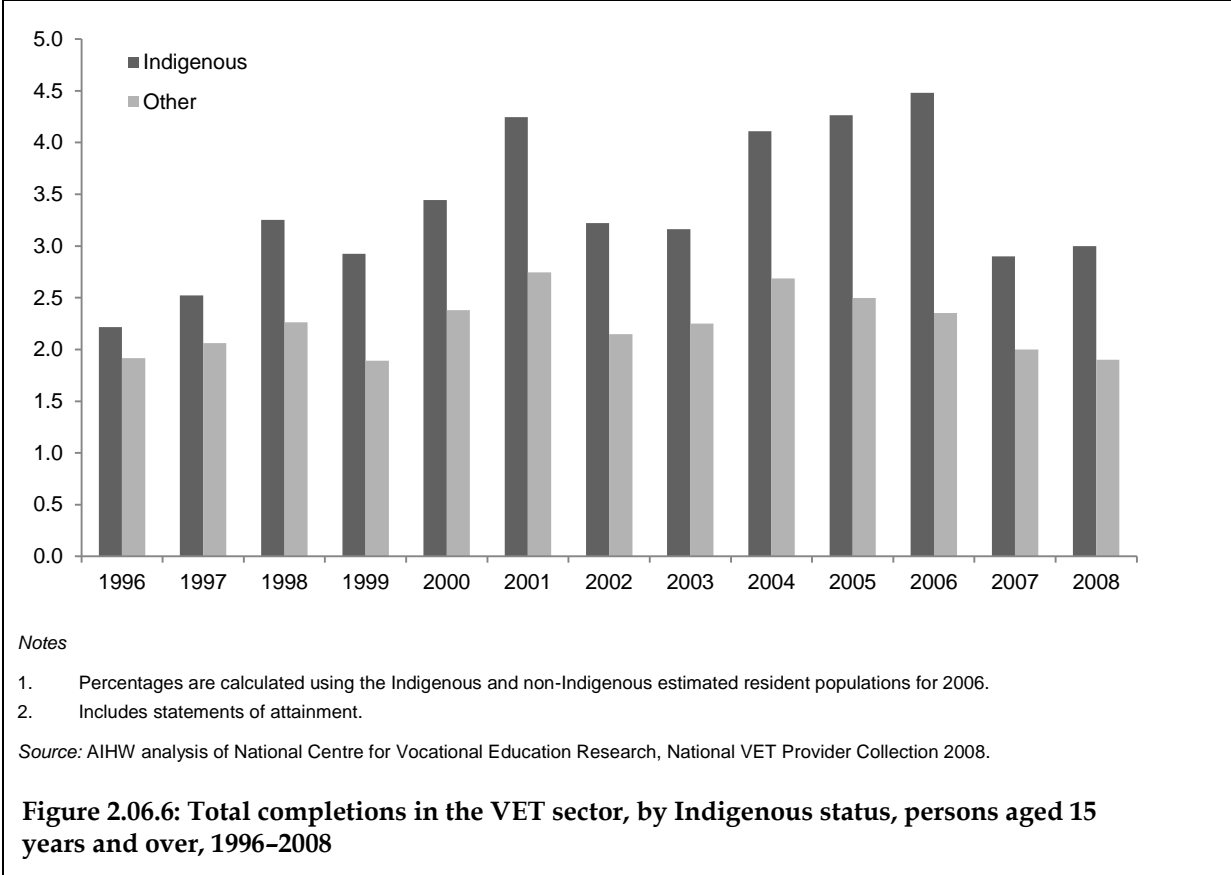


Table 2.06.44: Total completions in the VET sector, by Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, 1996–2006

	Indigenous		Other	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1996	5,515	2.2	271,087	1.9
1997	6,414	2.5	295,694	2.1
1998	8,460	3.3	328,235	2.3
1999	7,790	2.9	278,040	1.9
2000	9,399	3.4	354,931	2.4
2001	11,877	4.2	415,643	2.7
2002	9,241	3.2	330,198	2.1
2003	9,311	3.2	351,315	2.3
2004	12,413	4.1	425,409	2.7
2005	13,213	4.3	401,372	2.5
2006	14,266	4.5	384,133	2.4
2007	9,402	2.9	326,988	2.0
2008	9,824	3.0	304,435	1.9

Notes

1. Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations for 2006.
2. Includes statements of attainment.

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2008.

VET load pass rate

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

- In 2008, the VET load pass rate for Indigenous students was 70% compared with 80% for non-Indigenous students. The rate was lower for Indigenous students than for non-Indigenous students across all geographical regions (Figure 2.06.7).

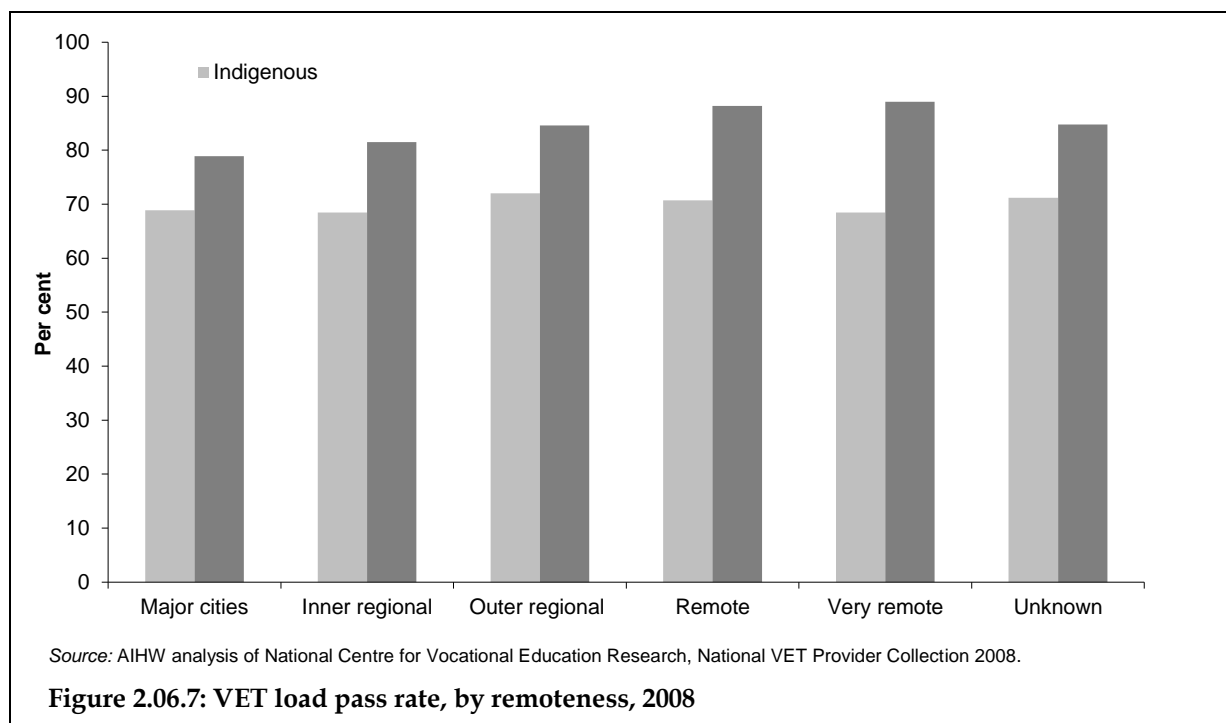


Table 2.06.45: VET load pass rate, by remoteness, 2008

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Other ^(a)
	Per cent		
Major cities	68.9	78.9	78.7
Inner regional	68.5	81.5	81.6
Outer regional	72.0	84.6	84.5
Remote	70.7	88.2	88.1
Very remote	68.5	89.0	87.5
Unknown	71.2	84.8	84.2
Total^(b)	69.7	80.4	80.3

(a) Includes non-Indigenous and not stated Indigenous status combined.

(b) The total does not include the load pass rate for students located outside Australia.

Note: Load pass rate equals the number of nominal hours supervised in assessable modules or units of competency with a pass assessment divided by total nominal hours supervised in assessable modules or units of competency

Source: AIHW analysis of National Centre for Vocational Education Research, National VET Provider Collection 2008.

Higher education data

Educational attainment

Data on the educational attainment of Indigenous Australians in the higher education sector are available from the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). Data collected for the years 2006 and 2008 are presented in the following tables.

- During the year 2008, approximately 0.4% of Indigenous Australians completed a course in the higher education sector compared with 1.3% of other Australians. Approximately 0.3% of Indigenous Australians completed an undergraduate degree and 0.1% of Indigenous Australians completed a postgraduate degree. This compared with 0.6% for both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees for other Australians.

Educational attainment by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 22–24 years were more likely to complete a higher education course in 2008 (0.9%) than those in other age groups. Other Australians aged 22–24 years were also more likely to complete a higher education course in 2006 than those in other age groups (8%) (Table 2.06.46).
- In 2008, a higher proportion of Indigenous females than Indigenous males completed an undergraduate degree (0.4% compared with 0.2%) and a postgraduate degree (0.2% compared with 0.1%).

Table 2.06.46: Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008^(a)

	22–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55+		Total ^(a)													
	Indigenous		Other ^(b)		Indigenous		Other ^(b)		Indigenous		Other ^(b)		Indigenous		Other ^(b)									
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%								
Males																								
Doctorate or higher	0	0.0	48	0.0	n.p.	0.0	1,642	0.1	n.p.	0.0	778	0.1	n.p.	0.0	447	0.0	n.p.	0.0	214	0.0	7	0.0	3,129	0.0
Master's degree	n.p.	0.0	7,984	1.7	n.p.	0.0	14,015	1.0	n.p.	0.1	4,993	0.3	n.p.	0.1	1,905	0.1	n.p.	0.0	479	0.0	47	0.0	29,376	0.4
Postgrad. diploma or certificate ^(c)	n.p.	0.1	2,433	0.5	24	0.1	5,422	0.4	21	0.1	3,355	0.2	23	0.1	1,604	0.1	4	0.0	435	0.0	80	0.1	13,249	0.2
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>10,465</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>21,079</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>9,126</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>3,956</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>1,128</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>45,754</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Bachelor's degree	82	0.6	23,166	5.0	84	0.2	12,161	0.8	32	0.1	2,613	0.2	24	0.1	931	0.1	5	0.0	283	0.0	227	0.2	39,154	0.5
Other undergraduate ^(d)	6	0.0	1,112	0.2	19	0.1	823	0.1	8	0.0	264	0.0	5	0.0	97	0.0	0	0.0	41	0.0	38	0.0	2,337	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>24,278</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>12,984</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2,877</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>1,028</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>265</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>41,491</i>	<i>0.6</i>
All graduates^(e)	98	0.7	34,743	7.5	141	0.4	34,063	2.3	81	0.2	12,003	0.8	67	0.3	4,984	0.3	12	0.1	1,452	0.1	399	0.3	87,245	1.2
Females																								
Doctorate or higher	0	0.0	53	0.0	n.p.	0.0	1,481	0.1	5	0.0	664	0.0	6	0.0	497	0.0	n.p.	0.0	240	0.0	14	0.0	2,935	0.0
Master's degree	9	0.1	8,161	1.8	n.p.	0.1	12,724	0.9	26	0.1	4,193	0.3	24	0.1	2,213	0.2	n.p.	0.0	589	0.0	96	0.1	27,880	0.4
Postgrad. diploma or certificate ^(c)	21	0.2	4,337	1.0	49	0.1	7,957	0.6	43	0.1	4,412	0.3	24	0.1	2,718	0.2	n.p.	0.0	607	0.0	146	0.1	20,031	0.3
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>12,551</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>22,162</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>9,269</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>5,428</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>1,436</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>50,846</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Bachelor's degree	109	0.8	27,052	6.1	119	0.3	14,008	1.0	117	0.3	5,172	0.3	67	0.3	2,567	0.2	n.p.	0.1	568	0.0	435	0.3	49,367	0.6
Other undergraduate ^(d)	5	0.0	757	0.2	25	0.1	544	0.0	31	0.1	215	0.0	16	0.1	142	0.0	n.p.	0.0	67	0.0	80	0.1	1,725	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>27,809</i>	<i>6.3</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>14,552</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>5,387</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>2,709</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>635</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>515</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>51,092</i>	<i>0.7</i>
All graduates^(e)	144	1.0	40,360	9.1	223	0.6	36,714	2.5	222	0.6	14,656	1.0	137	0.5	8,137	0.6	45	0.2	2,071	0.1	771	0.6	101,938	1.3

(continued)

Table 2.06.46 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2006

	22–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55+		Total ^(a)													
	Indigenous		Other ^(b)		Indigenous		Other ^(b)		Indigenous		Other ^(b)													
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%												
	Persons																							
Doctorate or higher	0	0.0	101	0.0	5	0.0	3,123	0.1	7	0.0	1,442	0.0	8	0.0	944	0.0	n.p.	0.0	454	0.0	21	0.0	6,064	0.0
Master's degree	11	0.0	16,145	1.8	39	0.1	26,739	0.9	44	0.1	9,186	0.3	37	0.1	4,118	0.1	n.p.	0.0	1068	0.0	143	0.1	57,256	0.4
Postgrad. diploma or certificate ^(c)	29	0.1	6,770	0.7	73	0.1	13,379	0.5	64	0.1	7,767	0.3	47	0.1	4,322	0.1	13	0.0	1042	0.0	226	0.1	33,280	0.2
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>23,016</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>43,241</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>18,395</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>9,384</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>2,564</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>96,600</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Bachelor's degree	191	0.7	50,218	5.6	203	0.3	26,169	0.9	149	0.2	7,785	0.3	91	0.2	3,498	0.1	n.p.	0.1	851	0.0	662	0.3	88,521	0.6
Other undergraduate ^(d)	11	0.0	1,869	0.2	44	0.1	1367	0.0	39	0.1	479	0.0	21	0.0	239	0.0	n.p.	0.0	108	0.0	118	0.0	4,062	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>52,087</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>27,536</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>8,264</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>3,737</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>959</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>780</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>92,583</i>	<i>0.6</i>
All graduates^(e)	242	0.9	75,103	8.3	364	0.5	70,777	2.4	303	0.4	26,659	0.9	204	0.4	13,121	0.5	57	0.1	3,523	0.1	1170	0.4	189,183	1.3

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

(b) Includes Indigenous status not stated.

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

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

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

Notes

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

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

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

Educational attainment by state/territory

- The proportion of Indigenous persons who completed a course in the higher education sector ranged from 0.2% in the Northern Territory to 1.7% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.06.47). The Australian Capital Territory also had the highest proportion of Indigenous persons who completed a postgraduate degree or undergraduate degree in 2008.
- A lower proportion of Indigenous persons completed a higher education course than other Australians in all states and territories.

Table 2.06.47: Completions in the higher education sector^(a) by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2008^(a)

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Indigenous																		
Males																		
Doctorate or higher	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	0	0.0	n.p.	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	0.0
Master Degree	n.p.	0.0	11	0.1	9	0.0	5	0.0	n.p.	0.0	0	0.0	n.p.	0.2	n.p.	0.0	48	0.0
Postgrad. Dip. or certificate ^(b)	41	0.1	7	0.1	14	0.0	0	0.0	9	0.1	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.3	n.p.	0.0	81	0.1
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Bachelor's degree	98	0.3	39	0.5	62	0.2	29	0.2	18	0.3	8	0.2	8	0.7	8	0.0	274	0.2
Other undergraduate ^(c)	19	0.1	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	9	0.0	7	0.1	n.p.	0.0	0	0.0	n.p.	0.0	45	0.0
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>319</i>	<i>0.3</i>
All graduates	177	0.5	59	0.7	87	0.2	43	0.2	39	0.6	11	0.2	13	1.2	14	0.1	455	0.4
Female																		
Doctorate or higher	5	0.0	4	0.0	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	0	0.0	n.p.	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	0.0
Master Degree	46	0.1	14	0.2	16	0.0	n.p.	0.0	8	0.1	4	0.1	n.p.	0.3	n.p.	0.0	99	0.1
Postgrad. Dip. or certificate ^(b)	66	0.2	14	0.2	26	0.1	11	0.1	8	0.1	5	0.1	5	0.4	n.p.	0.0	150	0.1
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>263</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Bachelor's degree	196	0.5	60	0.7	119	0.3	80	0.4	32	0.4	23	0.5	16	1.4	37	0.2	586	0.4
Other undergraduate ^(c)	26	0.1	0	0.0	n.p.	0.0	32	0.2	6	0.1	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.1	9	0.0	93	0.1
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>679</i>	<i>0.5</i>
All graduates	339	0.9	92	1.0	164	0.4	130	0.7	54	0.7	35	0.7	25	2.2	54	0.3	942	0.7

(continued)

Table 2.06.47 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Persons																		
Doctorate or higher	8	0.0	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	21	0.0
Master Degree	62	0.1	25	0.1	25	0.0	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.1	4	0.0	n.p.	0.2	n.p.	0.0	147	0.1
Postgrad. Dip. or certificate ^(b)	107	0.1	21	0.1	40	0.1	11	0.0	17	0.1	6	0.1	8	0.4	n.p.	0.0	231	0.1
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Bachelor degree	294	0.4	99	0.6	181	0.2	109	0.3	50	0.3	31	0.3	24	1.1	45	0.1	860	0.3
Other undergraduate ^(c)	45	0.1	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	41	0.1	13	0.1	n.p.	0.0	n.p.	0.0	12	0.0	138	0.1
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>339</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>184</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>998</i>	<i>0.4</i>
All graduates	516	0.7	151	0.9	251	0.3	173	0.5	93	0.7	46	0.5	38	1.7	68	0.2	1,397	0.5
Other^(e)																		
Males																		
Doctorate or higher	981	0.0	798	0.0	504	0.0	278	0.0	279	0.0	50	0.0	197	0.2	11	0.0	3,129	0.0
Master Degree	10,347	0.4	7,779	0.4	5,693	0.4	2,144	0.3	2,335	0.4	280	0.2	968	0.8	79	0.1	29,955	0.4
Postgrad. Dip. or certificate ^(b)	4,017	0.2	3,511	0.2	2,804	0.2	1,300	0.2	981	0.2	155	0.1	474	0.4	58	0.1	13,681	0.2
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>15,345</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>12,088</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>9,001</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>3,722</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>3,595</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>485</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>1,639</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>46,765</i>	<i>0.6</i>
Bachelor degree	17,588	0.7	18,258	1.0	10,081	0.7	6,562	0.9	4,453	0.8	1,196	0.7	1,539	1.3	154	0.3	60,583	0.8
Other undergraduate ^(c)	2,327	0.1	1,624	0.1	857	0.1	859	0.1	348	0.1	104	0.1	39	0.0	1	0.0	6,306	0.1
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>19,915</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>19,882</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>10,938</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>7,421</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>4,801</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>1,578</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>155</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>66,889</i>	<i>0.9</i>
All graduates	35,260	1.5	31,970	1.7	19,939	1.4	11,143	1.5	8,396	1.5	1,785	1.1	3,217	2.7	303	0.5	113,654	1.5

(continued)

Table 2.06.47 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Female																		
Doctorate or higher	921	0.0	795	0.0	466	0.0	251	0.0	272	0.0	57	0.0	146	0.1	14	0.0	2,936	0.0
Master Degree	11,328	0.5	7,065	0.4	5,089	0.3	1,795	0.2	1,815	0.3	248	0.1	857	0.7	63	0.1	28,652	0.4
Postgrad. Dip. or certificate ^(b)	5,769	0.2	5,622	0.3	3,730	0.3	2,101	0.3	1,712	0.3	371	0.2	711	0.6	157	0.3	21,011	0.3
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>18,018</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>13,482</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>9,285</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>4,147</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>3,799</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>676</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1,714</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>234</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>52,599</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Bachelor degree	24,233	1.0	24,588	1.3	14,307	1.0	9,271	1.2	6,815	1.2	1,531	0.9	2,110	1.7	459	0.9	85,091	1.1
Other undergraduate ^(c)	2,146	0.1	1,595	0.1	911	0.1	792	0.1	371	0.1	27	0.0	35	0.0	4	0.0	6,061	0.1
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>26,379</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>26,183</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>15,218</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>10,063</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>7,186</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>1,558</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>2,145</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>463</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>91,152</i>	<i>1.2</i>
All graduates	44,397	1.8	39,665	2.0	24,503	1.7	14,210	1.9	10,985	1.9	2,234	1.3	3,859	3.1	697	1.4	143,751	1.9
Persons																		
Doctorate or higher	1,902	0.0	1,593	0.0	970	0.0	529	0.0	551	0.0	107	0.0	343	0.1	25	0.0	6,065	0.0
Master Degree	21,675	0.4	14,844	0.4	10,782	0.4	3,939	0.3	4,150	0.4	528	0.2	1,825	0.8	142	0.1	58,607	0.4
Postgrad. Dip. or certificate ^(b)	9,786	0.2	9,133	0.2	6,534	0.2	3,401	0.2	2,693	0.2	526	0.2	1,185	0.5	215	0.2	34,692	0.2
<i>Subtotal postgraduate</i>	<i>33,363</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>25,570</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>18,286</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>7,869</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>7,394</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>1,161</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>3,353</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>99,364</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Bachelor degree	41,821	0.9	42,846	1.1	24,388	0.8	15,833	1.1	11,268	1.0	2,727	0.8	3,649	1.5	613	0.6	145,674	1.0
Other undergraduate ^(c)	4,473	0.1	3,219	0.1	1,768	0.1	1,651	0.1	719	0.1	131	0.0	74	0.0	5	0.0	12,367	0.1
<i>Subtotal undergraduate</i>	<i>46,294</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>46,065</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>26,156</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>17,484</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>11,987</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>2,858</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>3,723</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>618</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>158,041</i>	<i>1.1</i>
All graduates	79,657	1.6	71,635	1.9	44,442	1.5	25,353	1.7	19,381	1.7	4,019	1.2	7,076	2.9	1,000	0.9	257,405	1.7

Table 2.06.47 (continued): Completions in the higher education sector, by Indigenous status, sex and state/territory, 2008

- (a) Numbers are for all persons completing courses in higher education. Proportions have been calculated from persons aged 22 years and over, as this is the age group most applicable to higher education course completion.
- (b) Includes postgrad. qual/prelim., grad.(post) dip.—new area, grad.(post) dip.—ext. area, and graduate certificate.
- (c) Includes associate degree, advanced diploma (AQF), diploma (AQF) and other undergraduate award courses.
- (d) Includes enabling courses and non-award courses.
- (e) Includes Indigenous status not stated.

Notes

1. Percentages are calculated using the Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimated resident populations for 2006.
2. Note that the numbers reported in the 2006 edition of this report under the higher education data section were for course enrolments rather than for completions as presented here.

Source: AIHW analysis of DEST Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Time series analyses

- Between 1996 and 2006, there was little change in the proportion of domestic Indigenous or other students who completed a higher education award course (Table 2.06.48, Figure 2.06.8).

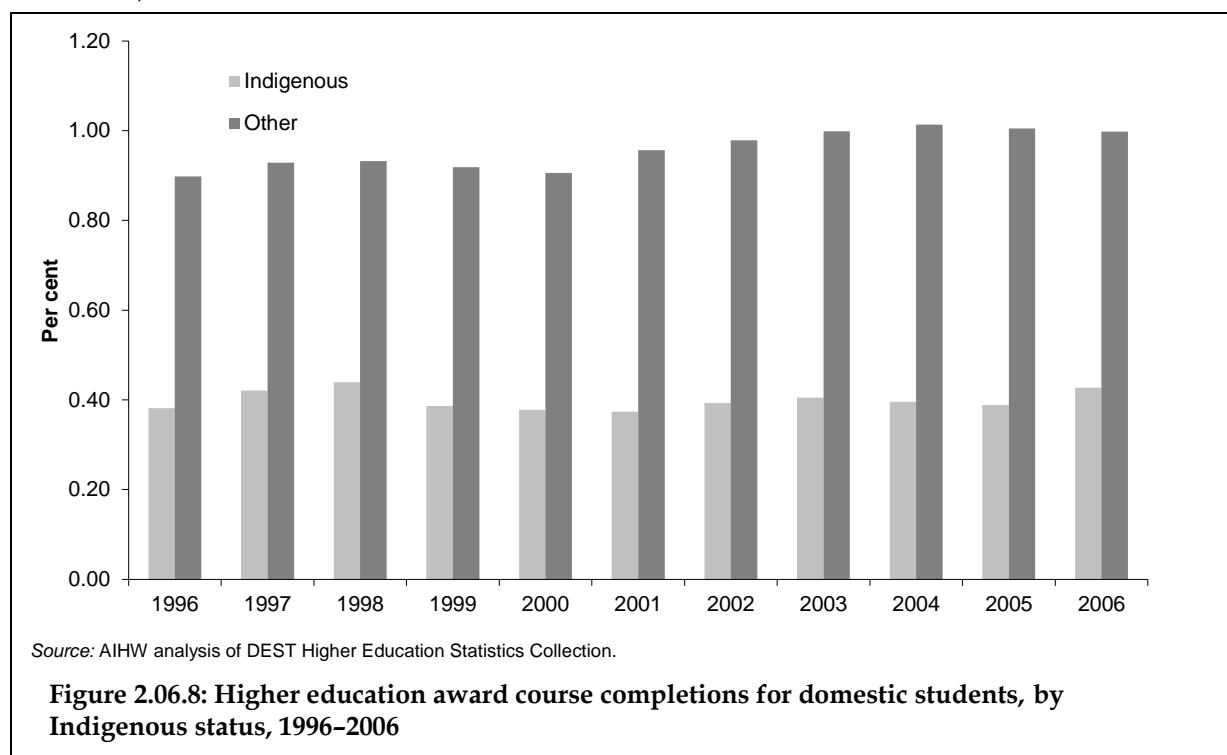


Table 2.06.48: Higher education award course completions for domestic students, by Indigenous status, 1996–2006 (per cent)

Year	Indigenous	Other
1996	0.38	0.90
1997	0.42	0.93
1998	0.44	0.93
1999	0.39	0.92
2000	0.38	0.91
2001	0.37	0.96
2002	0.39	0.98
2003	0.40	1.00
2004	0.40	1.01
2005	0.39	1.01
2006	0.43	1.00

Source: AIHW analysis of DEST Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Success rate

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

- In 2006, the success rate for Indigenous students varied by state and territory, ranging from 42% in the Northern Territory to 83% in the Australian Capital Territory. The success rate for non-Indigenous students was similar in most states and territories (between 87% and 92%), except for the Northern Territory (77%) (Table 2.06.49), (Figure 2.06.9).

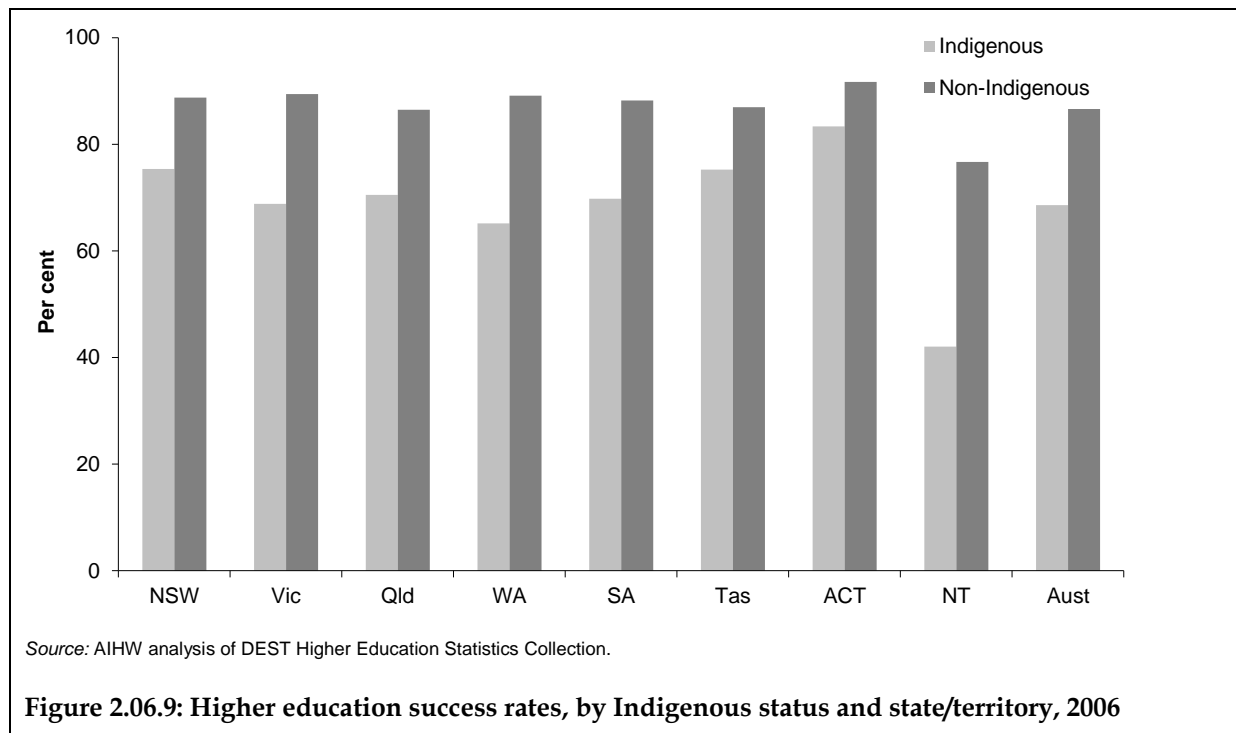


Figure 2.06.9: Higher education success rates, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

Table 2.06.49: Higher education success rates, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

	Indigenous	Other
NSW	75.4	88.8
Vic	68.9	89.5
Qld	70.5	86.5
WA	65.2	89.1
SA	69.8	88.2
Tas	75.3	87.0
ACT	83.4	91.7
NT	42.1	76.7
Australia	68.6	88.5

Source: AIHW analysis of DEST Higher Education Statistics Collection.

Additional information

New apprenticeships

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

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

Data quality issues

Census of Population and Housing

The Census uses the National health data dictionary standard Indigenous status question and it is asked for each household member. Measures that are drawn from Census data are subject to broad data concerns relating to the unexplainable growth in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population since the 1991 Census, and 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 undercounted (ABS 1996).

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

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

The NATSIHS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSIHS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. It therefore overcomes the problem inherent in most national surveys with small and unrepresentative Indigenous samples. As with other surveys, the NATSIHS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Calculations of standard errors and significance testing help to identify the accuracy of the estimates and differences.

Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents. The ABS makes every effort to collect accurate information from respondents, particularly through careful questionnaire design, pre-testing of questionnaires, use of trained interviewers and assistance from Indigenous facilitators. Nevertheless, imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions may affect some responses.

Non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the National Health Survey (NHS). The NHS was conducted in *Major cities, Inner and Outer regional areas and Remote and Very remote areas*, but *Very remote areas* were excluded from the sample. Time series comparisons are available through the 1995 and 2001 NHS.

In *Remote and Very remote* communities there were some modifications to the NATSIHS content in order to accommodate language and cultural appropriateness in traditional communities and help respondents understand the concepts. Some questions were excluded and some reworded. Also, paper forms were used in communities in remote areas and computer-assisted interview (CAI) instruments were used in non-remote areas. The CAI process included built-in edit checks and sequencing.

Further information on NATSIHS data quality issues can be found in the NATSIHS 2004–05 publication (ABS 2006).

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. All interviews were conducted by trained ABS officers. However, some factor 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 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010).

National Centre for Vocational Education Research data

This collection gathers information from providers (in receipt of public VET funding) about activity of the VET system in Australia. The collection encompasses all delivery funded wholly or in part from public funds.

Non-identification rates for Indigenous students in these data are high. Care also needs to be taken when comparing data across jurisdictions for load pass rates, as average module durations vary across jurisdictions (SCRGSP 2005b).

DEST Higher Education Schools Statistics Collection

The Higher Education Schools Statistics Collection only includes information from higher education institutions in Australia as determined under the Higher Education Funding Act 1988. This includes:

- institutions that receive block operating grant funding for teaching and research activities

- other public higher education institutions that receive some level of operating grant funding
- the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, the National Institute of Dramatic Art and the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Private institutions are not required to report statistical data to DEST and are therefore outside the scope of the collection (ABS 2003). The collection of data from private higher education institutions is being trialled (ABS 2004b).

Institutions receive detailed written documentation about what information is required to be furnished in the form of an electronic help file. Universities design and produce their own statistical information (enrolment) forms. These are designed for institutions to use to collect the required information from students. DEST has provided institutions with suggested wording for questions relating to Indigenous status, language spoken at home and disability (ABS 2003).

Approximately 3% of students in this data collection have a 'not stated' Indigenous status. At the moment these are recorded as non-Indigenous, although plans are under way to separately record the 'not stated' responses.

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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