



Community Portrait: Muswellbrook LGA

A portrait of the Aboriginal community of Muswellbrook, compared with NSW,
from the 2016 and earlier Censuses.

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Prepared for Aboriginal Affairs NSW

Muswellbrook is the Local Government Area of Muswellbrook at the 2016 Census.

Preface

This report uses data from the Census, held every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), to paint a profile of the Aboriginal population of Muswellbrook as it was in August 2016, and show how it had changed over the previous decade.

Language in this report Where it is used in this Portrait, the term 'Aboriginal' is used to describe the many nations, language groups and clans in Muswellbrook, including those from the Torres Strait. This usage recognises that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of NSW.

Who is included? The people described in this Portrait were the usual residents of Muswellbrook in 2016, even if they completed the Census away from home. People who were visiting Muswellbrook on Census night are not included.

Who are Aboriginal? Aboriginal people, in this Portrait, means all people who, in completing the Census, responded that they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins, or both. Non-Aboriginal people are those who said they did not have these origins. Note: the Census question asks people about their origins; it does not ask how they identify in their daily lives.

Are all Aboriginal people counted? Not all Aboriginal people completed the Census and identified their origins: 8.3% of Muswellbrook's Census respondents said they had Aboriginal origins, but another 6.5% did not answer this question. The ABS estimates that the net undercount rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 17.5% in 2016 (equivalent to 137,750 persons nationally). This is slightly higher than 2011 (17.2%). This means that, on average, the Aboriginal population was about a fifth larger than counted. However, despite such omissions, the Census is a vital source of information about Aboriginal Australians.

National trends Nationally, the number of people with Aboriginal origins counted in the Census rose by a fifth (21%) between 2011 and 2016. Almost three-quarters of the increase was from births; the rest was caused by more people identifying Aboriginal origins than previously.

Sources of data The data for this report are drawn from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (Indigenous) Profiles and Community Profiles published by the ABS from the 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses. Data in this portrait for 2011 and 2006 censuses have been produced using the 2016 boundary regardless of changes to previous LGA or other geographical classifications over time.

Note: difference and changes shown in this Portrait are rounded to the nearest significant figure but are calculated from the unrounded data, so small anomalies are possible when comparing differences. Small Census counts are randomised by the ABS to protect privacy so are not precise; in this Portrait, numbers less than 5 are reported as 'a few'.

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Snapshot: Muswellbrook LGA, 2016

- ⌘ In the 2016 Census, 1,342 of the 16,086 residents (8.3%) counted in Muswellbrook said that they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins, or both. Of these, 98% were Aboriginal.
 - Between 2011 and 2016, the counted Aboriginal population rose by 58%, from 847; the overall population of the LGA rose by 2%.
 - About 13% of the Aboriginal population were under 5 in 2016. This infant population accounted for one-third of the Aboriginal population growth between 2011 and 2016.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal community is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a median age of 20 vs 37 years.
 - There was a higher proportion under 18 years old: 44% compared with 25%.
 - There was a lower proportion aged 65 or more: 4% compared with 14%.
- ⌘ Aboriginal households had an average of 3.0 residents, which was larger than non-Aboriginal households (2.5) in the LGA.
 - One in three Aboriginal households were couples with children.
 - Three in ten were one parent families.
 - 15% of the Aboriginal households were single persons (vs 28% of non-Aboriginal households).
- ⌘ Aboriginal households most commonly lived in rented dwellings (60%), with 26% in mortgaged and 10% in fully owned dwellings.
 - In all, 36% of Aboriginal households in Muswellbrook were home-owners (with or without a mortgage), which was down by 6% since 2011.
- ⌘ The median income of Aboriginal adults in Muswellbrook was about \$480 a week, which was 73% that of all adults here (\$657).
 - The median income gap had closed by 1% since 2011.
- ⌘ 56% of Aboriginal adults were in the labour force, compared with 63% of non-Aboriginal adults.
 - 21% of the Aboriginal workforce were unemployed, compared with 7% of the non-Aboriginal workforce.
- ⌘ One in three Aboriginal residents (448 people) was attending an educational institution.
 - 164 Aboriginal people had completed Year 12, which was 93% more than in 2011 and 178% more than in 2006.
 - Compared with non-Aboriginal residents of the same age, there were:
 - 15% fewer Aboriginal people aged 15–19 year olds in education;
 - 6% fewer Aboriginal people aged 20–24 year olds in education.
 - 39% of Aboriginal adults had some type of post-school qualification, compared with 59% of non-Aboriginal adults in the LGA (4% had a degree or higher, compared with 25%).
- ⌘ 101 Aboriginal people (7.5% of the Aboriginal population) reported that they had a severe or profound disability.
 - Aboriginal people had higher disability rates than average in all age groups.
 - the disability rate for Aboriginal people aged 0–4 year olds was 5 times the average for this age group in Muswellbrook.
 - for 35–44 year olds, the Aboriginal rate was 2.7 times the average in the LGA.
 - 13% of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) gave assistance to a person with a severe disability.
- ⌘ 72% of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal households had an internet connection, which was 3% higher than in 2011.

Tracking changes in Muswellbrook

In the table below, some indicators of community structure and well-being are calculated for Aboriginal people in Muswellbrook. The difference or gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Muswellbrook is shown for 2016. Changes in the Aboriginal rates are tracked over the past five years and decade.

Indicator	Muswellbrook LGA, 2016			Change in Aboriginal rate	
	Aboriginal	non-Aboriginal	Gap in 2016	last 5 years 2011–2016	last decade 2006–2016
				up 5%	up 64%
home ownership % of households owning/buying their home	36%	60%	-24%	dn 6%	up 1%
personal income* median weekly income of adults (15+)	\$480	\$657	-27%	up 5%	up 64%
household income median weekly income of households	\$1,120	\$1,373	-18%	dn 13%	up 32%
workforce participation % of adults 15+ in labour force	56%	63%	-7%	up 1%	up 4%
unemployment % of unemployed in workforce	21%	7%	+14%	up 4%	up 4%
employment employed adults as % of population	27%	46%	-19%	dn 1%	up 2%
pre-school % of infants under 5 in education	22%	22%	-0%	up 7%	dn 6%
teenage education % of 15–19 year-olds in education	58%	73%	-15%	up 2%	up 10%
children at school % of 5–14 year olds in education	93%	96%	-3%	up 7%	up 4%
Year 12 completion % of adults (15+) who have left school	21%	33%	-12%	up 4%	up 8%
average schooling average school Year completed	10.0 yrs	10.5 yrs	-0.4 yrs	-0.1 yrs	0.3 yrs
tertiary qualifications % of adults 15+ with a post-school qualification	39%	51%	-12%	dn 1%	dn 2%
degree % of adults 15+ with a degree or higher qualification	4%	9%	-5%	up 1%	same
postgrad % of adults 15+ with a postgraduate qualification	1%	2%	-1%	up 0%	up 1%
disability* % of people with a severe, long-term disability	7.5%	4.9%	+2.6%	up 3%	up 4%

* Personal income and disability data compare Aboriginal rates with those of the whole population in Muswellbrook.

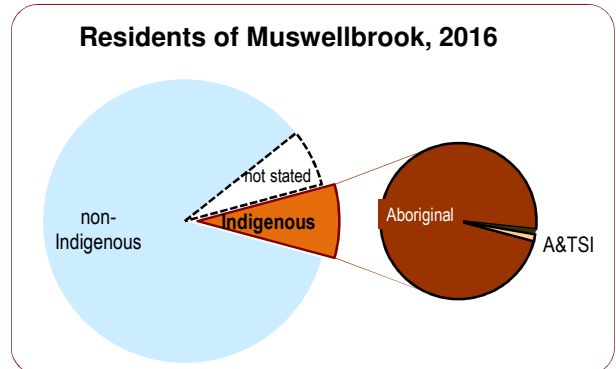
Aboriginal population and growth

In the 2016 Census, Muswellbrook's Aboriginal population was counted as 1,342 people, of whom 1,309 identified as Aboriginal and 19 as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; 15 identified as Torres Strait Islander.

- ⌘ Aboriginal people comprised 8.3% of Muswellbrook's population, compared with 2.9% in NSW. 6.5% of Muswellbrook people did not say whether they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins.

- ⌘ Among the Aboriginal people here, there were 103 males per 100 females. There were 105 males per 100 females among non-Aboriginal people.

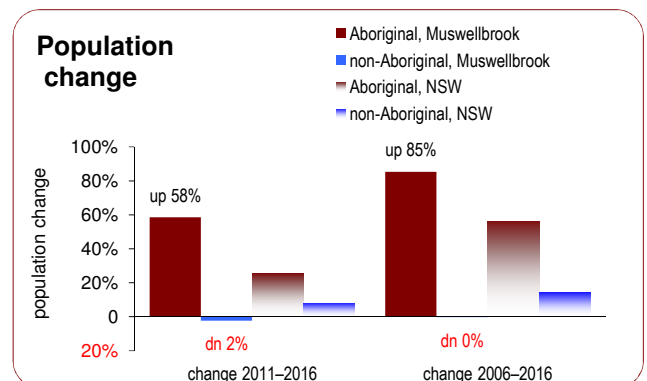
- ⌘ The ABS estimates that the net Census undercount rate nationally for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 17.5% in 2016.



Between 2011 and 2016, the counted Aboriginal population in Muswellbrook rose by 58% (by 495) from 847; in total, Muswellbrook's population rose by 2%.

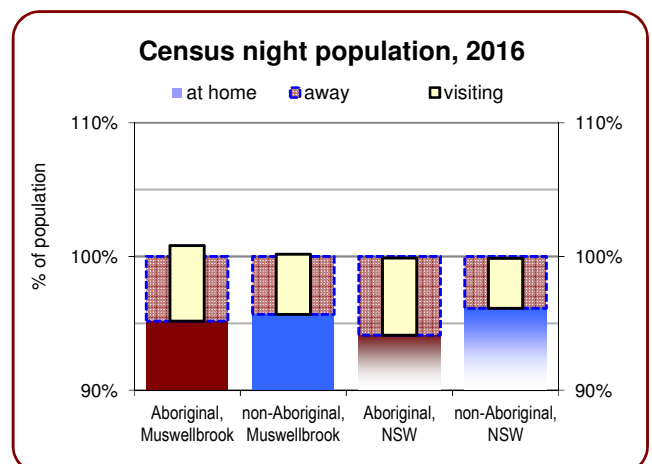
The number of infants born over the last five years accounted for one-third of the Aboriginal population growth between 2011 and 2016.

- ⌘ Between 2006 and 2016, Muswellbrook's Aboriginal population rose by 85% (from 725 in 2006). Muswellbrook's non-Aboriginal population was virtually unchanged over the decade. The Aboriginal population counted in NSW rose by 56% over the decade.



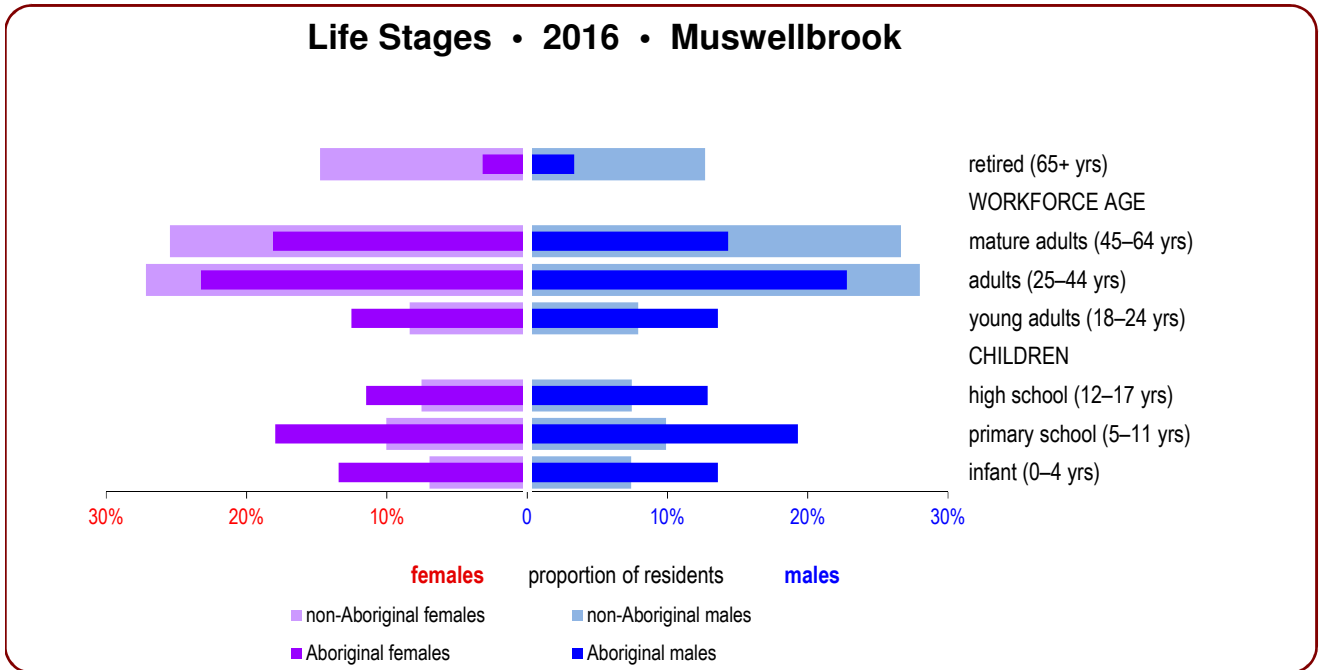
On Census night 2016, 1,277 Aboriginal residents of Muswellbrook were at home (95%), and 65 were staying away from home (5%). Offsetting those away, there were 76 Aboriginal visitors staying in the LGA that night, equivalent to 6% of the Aboriginal resident population.

- ⌘ There were a few visitors from the same locality (eg. overnighting with neighbours). 91% of the visitors were from elsewhere in NSW.
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal residents away from home was 1% lower than in 2011. The proportion away from home was similar to non-Aboriginal residents of this LGA; it was 1% lower than for Aboriginal residents of NSW.
- ⌘ There were 24 more Aboriginal visitors than in 2011, when there were 52, equal to 6% of the Aboriginal population.



Life stages

The Aboriginal population of Muswellbrook had a smaller proportion in the working stage of life (15–64 years) than the non-Aboriginal population, with a higher proportion of children under 15 and a smaller proportion of people aged 65 or older.



In Muswellbrook's Aboriginal population in 2016:

⌘ 716 people (53% or over five in ten) were adults aged 18–64.

- 178 (or 13%) were aged 18–24
- 312 (or 23%) were aged 25–44
- 226 (or 17%) were aged 45–64

The number aged 18–64 was up 60% from 2011; and up 102% from 2006.

⌘ 585 Aboriginal residents (44% or over four in ten) were children under 18.

- 179 (or 13%) were under five
- 246 (or 18%) were aged 5–11
- 160 (or 12%) were aged 12–17

The number of children was up 54% since 2011; and up 63% since 2006.

⌘ 48 of Aboriginal residents were aged 65+ years (4% of the total).

The number aged 65+ had risen by 153% since 2011; it was 269% higher than in 2006.

The proportion aged 18–64 among Aboriginal people was 8% lower than for non-Aboriginal (62%).

5% more of the Aboriginal population were young adults (18–24 yrs), and 9% fewer were mature adults (45–64 yrs), compared with the non-Aboriginal population of the LGA.

Those aged 18–64 made up 54% of the Aboriginal community in NSW; their number had risen by 29% from 2011.

The proportion of Aboriginal children in Muswellbrook was 19% higher than the average for non-Aboriginal people.

In NSW, 41% of the Aboriginal community were children under 18; the number was up 18% since 2011.

14% of non-Aboriginal people in Muswellbrook were aged 65+.

Across NSW, 5% of Aboriginal people were aged 65+; their number had risen by 58% since 2011, and by 136% since 2006.

Age profile

The Aboriginal population of Muswellbrook has an age profile that is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a lower median age (20 vs 37 years).

For Muswellbrook's Aboriginal population in 2016:

- ⌘ The average age was 26 years in 2016, with half the population aged under 20 years (the median age).
The largest 5-year age groups were 0–4 years (13%), 5–9 years (13%) and 10–14 years (12%).
- ⌘ The average age was 2 years higher than in 2011 and 3 years higher than in 2006.

Proportionally, the biggest increases since 2011 were of 55–59 year olds (171% more), 65+ year olds (153% more) and 60–64 year olds (118% more).

- ⌘ 48 Aboriginal people (3.6%) were aged 65+ years, compared with 14% of non-Aboriginal residents.
- ⌘ There were noticeably more males than females aged 15–19 years, 30–34 years and 5–9 years.

The average age was 12 years younger than for the non-Aboriginal residents; the median age was 17 years younger.

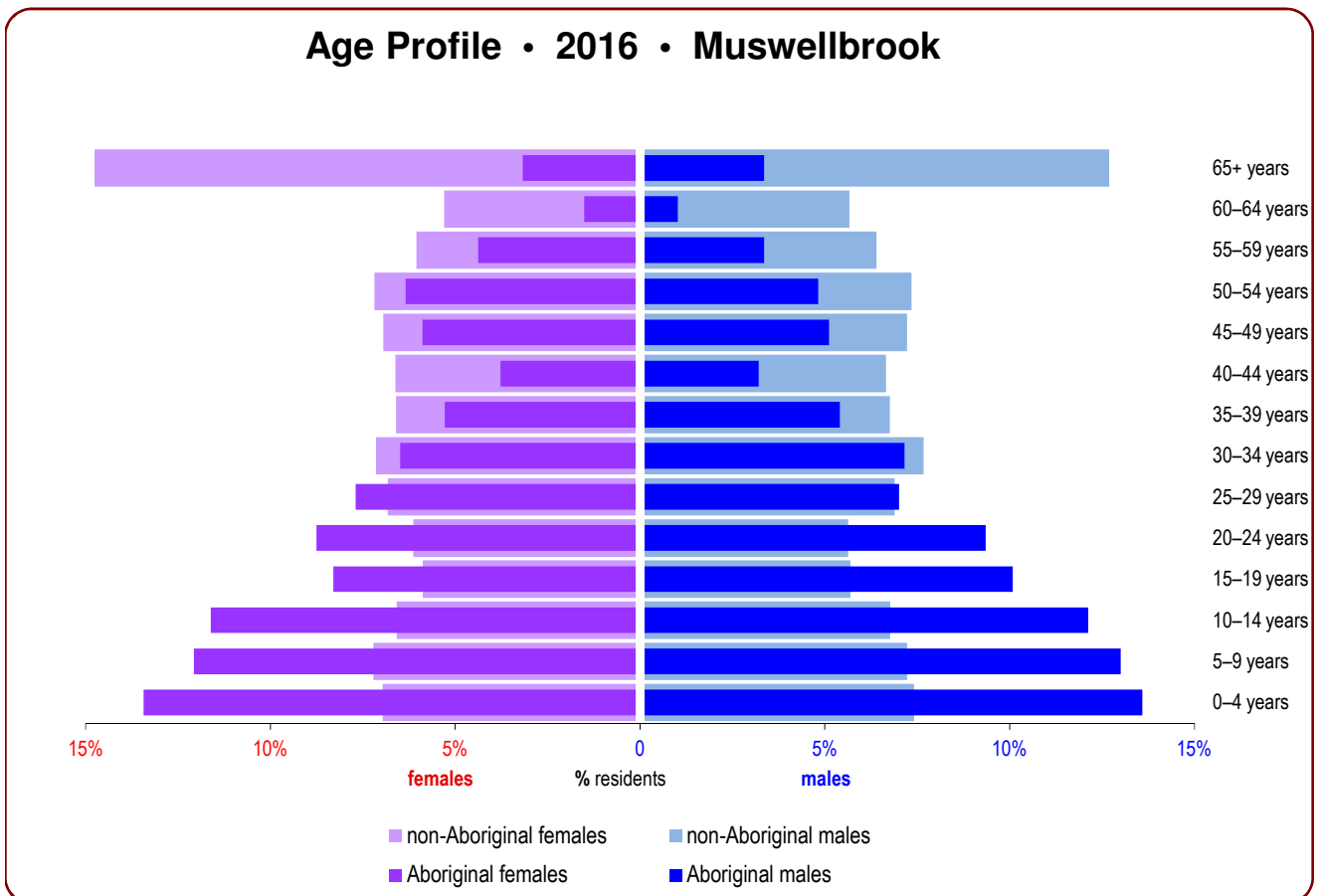
Non-Aboriginal population: about 7% were 0–4 years and also 5–9 years and 10–14 years.

The average age of Aboriginal people in NSW had risen by one year since 2011, and risen by 3 years in the decade since 2006.

In the NSW Aboriginal population, the increases since 2011 were: 55–59 year olds (46%); 65+ year olds (58%); and 60–64 year olds (47%).

The number aged 65+ was 153% higher than in 2011; the percentage of people this age was up by 1.3% since 2011, when it was 2.2%.

There were many more females than males among those aged 60–64 years, then those aged 50–54 years and 55–59 years.



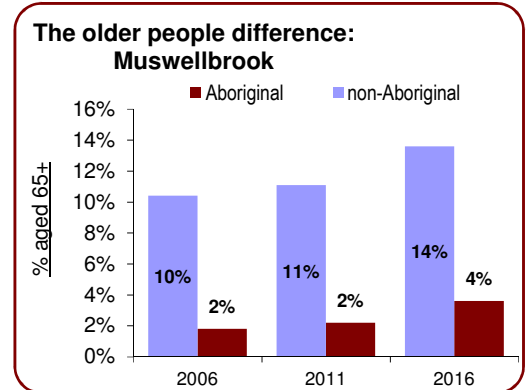
Population Indicators

The older people difference

% aged 65+ in population

Commonly, Aboriginal communities have a lower proportion of people aged over 65, due to a shorter average life-span and higher birth rates.

- ⌘ In 2016, 3.6% of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal residents were aged 65 or over, compared with 13.6% of non-Aboriginal residents. The older people difference was -10%.
- ⌘ The older people difference had increased by 1% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The older people difference in NSW was -11%. It had changed little since 2011 and changed little over the previous five years.

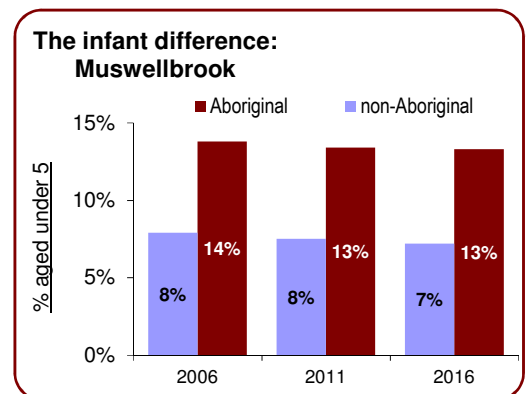


The infant difference

% aged under 5 in population

Aboriginal communities generally have a higher proportion of young people due to larger families and fewer older people.

- ⌘ In 2016, 13.3% of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal residents were infants, compared with 7.2% of non-Aboriginal residents. The infant difference was +6%.
- ⌘ The infant difference had changed little since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The infant difference in NSW was +5%. It had changed little since 2011 and changed little over 2006 to 2011.

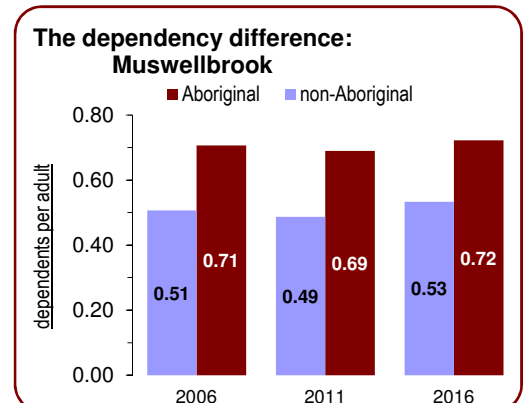


The dependency difference

ratio of dependents to working age adults

The dependency ratio is the average number of people of dependent age (under 15 or 65+) for each person of working age. The national average is 0.5 dependents per adult. A higher ratio means each person of working age has more dependents to support, on average.

- ⌘ In 2016, Muswellbrook's Aboriginal community had a dependency ratio of 0.72, compared with 0.53 for the non-Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal dependency ratio was 0.19 higher.
- ⌘ The dependency difference had changed little since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The dependency difference in NSW was 0.13 and had closed by 0.04 since 2011. It had closed by 0.05 over 2006 to 2011.



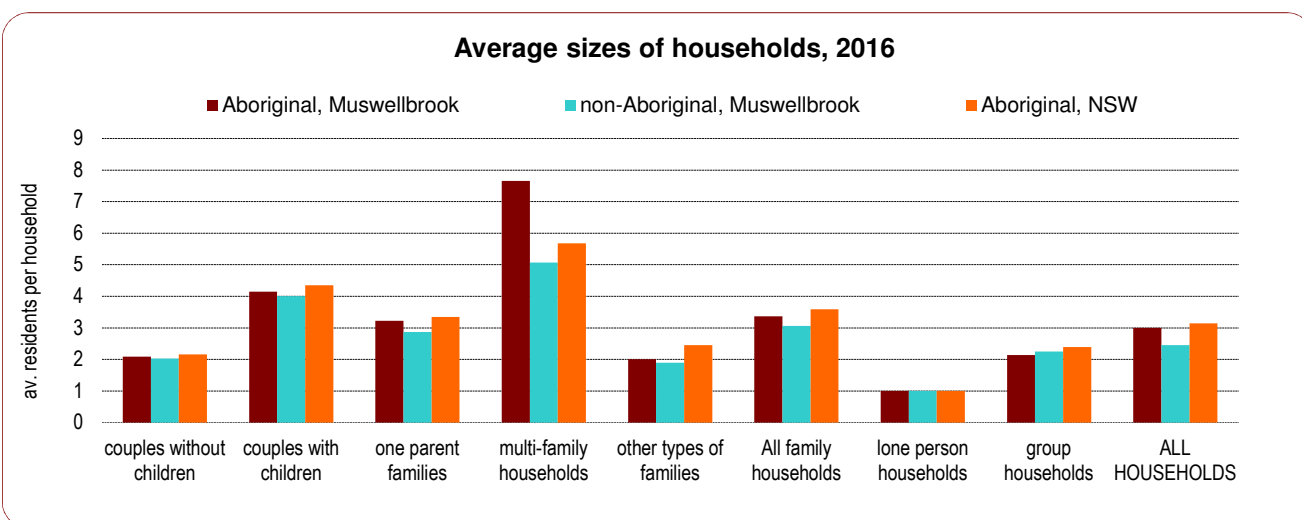
Household types and sizes

In 2016, the 1,342 Aboriginal residents of Muswellbrook were living in 589 households, 65% more than in 2011.

The main types of Aboriginal households* in the LGA in 2016 were:

- ⌘ One in three were couples with children (193 households, or 33%). 3% higher than non-Aboriginal here
- ⌘ Three in ten were one parent families (172 households, or 29%). 18% more than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ One in six were couples without children (98 households, or 17%). 10% less than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ One in seven were one-person households (87 households, or 15%). 13% less than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ There were 10 multi-family households, and 4 other types of households.

* Aboriginal households are those with at least one Aboriginal resident.



Aboriginal households had an average of 3.0 residents in 2016, which was 0.2 lower than in 2011, and 0.3 lower than in 2006.

- ⌘ Aboriginal households here were 0.1 smaller than in NSW, which averaged 3.1 residents. The average size of the NSW Aboriginal households was little changed since 2011.
- ⌘ The average size of non-Aboriginal households in the LGA was 2.5 residents; Aboriginal households were 22% larger, on average. The average size of non-Aboriginal households changed little from 2011.
- ⌘ The larger size of Aboriginal households is consistent with lower proportions of people living alone. Aboriginal households: 15% lone person; Other households: 28%.
- ⌘ Aboriginal couple families had an average of 2.1 children, compared with 2.0 for non-Aboriginal families here. Aboriginal families in NSW averaged 2.3 children. The average size of Aboriginal nuclear families was down by 0.1 since 2011, and down by 0.3 from 2006.
- ⌘ Aboriginal one-parent families averaged 2.2 children, compared with 2.3 in NSW and 1.9 for non-Aboriginal one-parent families here. The average number of children per one-parent family was down by 0.3 since 2011, and little changed since 2006.
- ⌘ At an average size of 3.0 persons, the 589 Aboriginal households had some 1,800 members, but only 1,228 Aboriginal people were counted in these households. This suggests that some 530 people in Muswellbrook's Aboriginal households (three in ten) did not identify as Aboriginal in the Census.

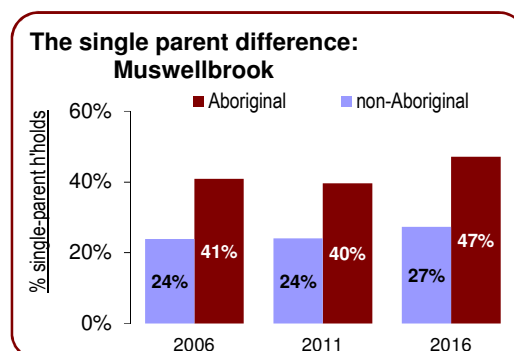
Household Indicators

The single parent difference

% of families with children having one parent

Single parent families often have low incomes because it is difficult for the parent to work without adequate child care and support. High proportions of one-parent families can indicate a higher need for support services.

- ⌘ In 2016, 47% of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal family households with children had one parent, compared with 27% of non-Aboriginal families. The difference was +20%.
- ⌘ The single parent difference had increased by 4% since 2011, after having decreased by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The single parent difference in NSW was +23%. It had decreased by 2% since 2011 after having decreased by 1% over 2006 to 2011.

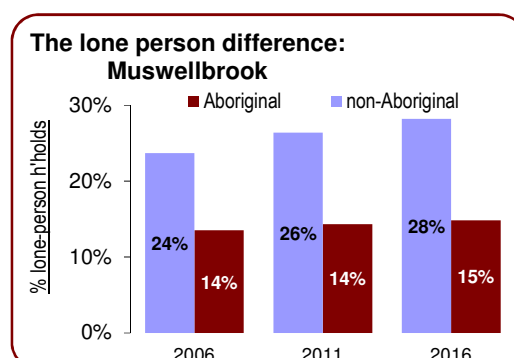


The lone person difference

% of households with one person

Living alone is less common for Aboriginal people than for others, so most communities have a large lone person difference. The difference is influenced locally by the availability of small dwellings.

- ⌘ In 2016, 15% of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal households were lone persons, compared with 28% of non-Aboriginal households. The lone person difference was -13%.
- ⌘ The lone person difference had increased by 1% since 2011, after having increased by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The lone person difference in NSW was -9% and had changed little since 2011. It had decreased by 1% between 2006 and 2011.

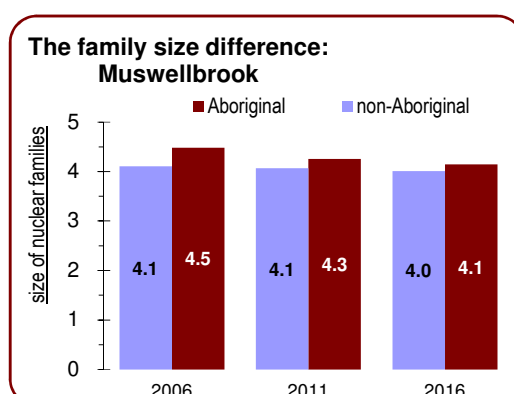


The family size difference

average size of two-parent families

The family size difference is the gap between the average sizes of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal 'nuclear families' (couples with children). Larger families have to spread their income among more members, so living standards tend to be lower.

- ⌘ In 2016, the average size of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal nuclear families was 4.1 persons (i.e. 2.1 children), compared with 4.0 persons (2.0 children) for non-Aboriginal families, a difference of 0.1 children per family.
- ⌘ The family size difference had decreased by 0.1 since 2011, after having decreased by 0.2 over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The family size difference in NSW was 0.3 children per family, and had decreased by 0.1 since 2011. It had increased by 0.1 from 2006 to 2011.



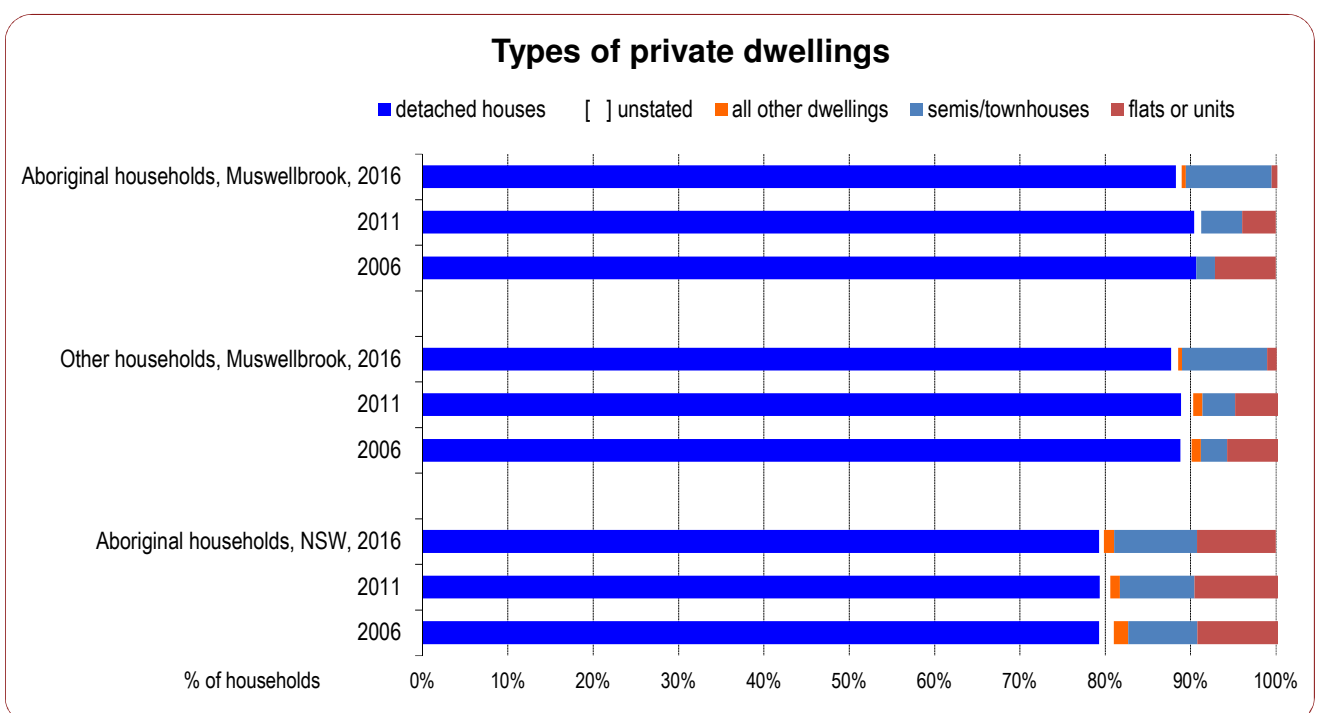
Types of housing

In 2016, most Aboriginal households in Muswellbrook (88%) were living in detached houses, with 10% living in semis/townhouses.

- ⌘ Compared with other households in Muswellbrook, 1% more Aboriginal households lived in detached houses.
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households living in detached houses in Muswellbrook was down by 2% since 2011, and was 2% lower than in 2006.

The proportion in detached houses was 9% higher than that of Aboriginal households in NSW. The proportion in flats or units was 9% lower.

The proportion of non-Aboriginal households in detached houses in Muswellbrook was down by 1% since 2011 and down by 1% since 2006.



40 Aboriginal people in the LGA (3%) were counted living in institutional accommodation on Census night (eg. nursing homes, hospitals, boarding houses, correctional centres, barracks or boarding schools).

- ⌘ There were 50 Aboriginal people living in institutional accommodation in this LGA in 2011, and 39 in 2006.
- ⌘ There were 8.5 males per female among Aboriginal people in institutional accommodation.

In 2016, there were 481 people living in institutional accommodation in Muswellbrook; 3% of the non-Aboriginal population lived in institutions.

Note: very small numbers are randomly altered by the ABS to protect privacy, so are not precise.

No Aboriginal people were reported living in improvised accommodation (eg. shacks, tents or sleeping out) in the LGA on Census night.

- ⌘ This was virtually unchanged since 2011.

There were 3 non-Aboriginal people in improvised accommodation in Muswellbrook in 2016.

Housing costs and tenure

In 2016, Aboriginal households in Muswellbrook most commonly lived in dwellings that were rented (60% of the households). Another 26% lived in dwellings that were being purchased, and 10% in homes that were fully owned.

⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households that rented, 60%, was 24% higher than for other households here.

The proportion living in rented dwellings was up by 6% since 2011, and was 3% higher than in 2006.

The median weekly rent paid by Aboriginal households was \$249. It was \$208 in 2011 and \$128 in 2006.

⌘ The proportion living in dwellings that were being bought (26%) was 6% lower than for Other households.

The proportion living in mortgaged dwellings was down by 5% since 2011; and 1% lower than in 2006.

The median monthly mortgage paid by Aboriginal households in the LGA in 2016 was \$1,733. It was \$1,733 in 2011 and \$1,300 for 2006.

⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings (10%) was 18% lower than for non-Aboriginal households.

The proportion in fully owned dwellings was unchanged since 2011; and 2% higher than in 2006.

Among Aboriginal households, the proportion renting in Muswellbrook was 7% higher than the rate in NSW.

36% of Other households in Muswellbrook were renting, 2% higher than in 2011, and 5% higher than in 2006.

The median weekly rent paid by Other households in Muswellbrook was \$250. It was \$233 in 2011 and \$150 in 2006.

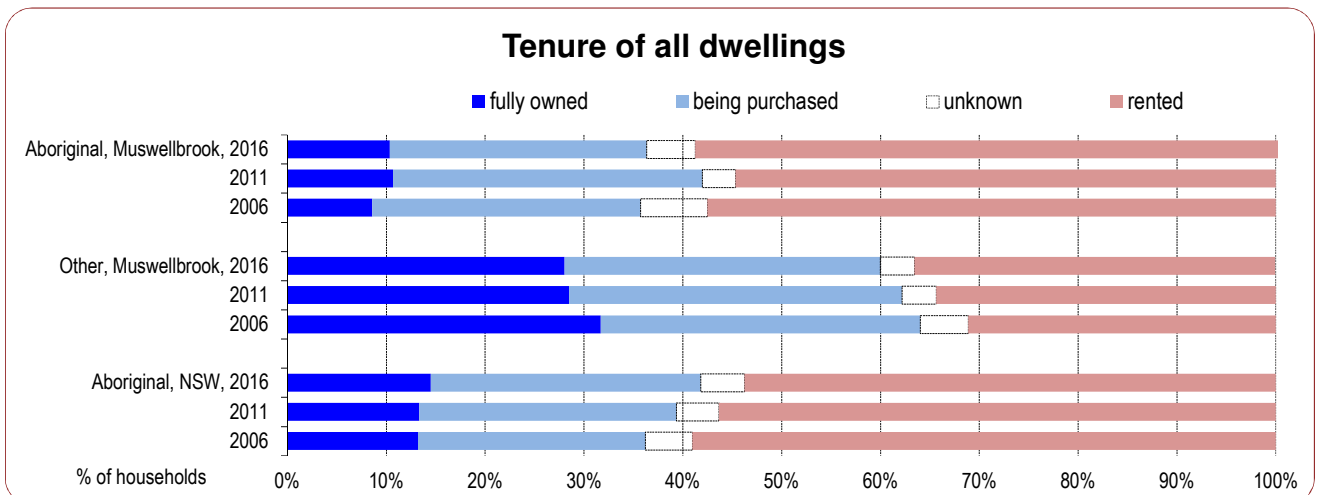
In NSW, 27% of Aboriginal households were home-buyers with a mortgage.

32% of the Other households in Muswellbrook had a mortgage, down by 2% since 2011, and steady since 2006.

The median mortgage paid by Other households in Muswellbrook was \$1,733. It was \$1,733 in 2011 and \$1,300 in 2006.

The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings in Muswellbrook was 4% less than the average in NSW.

The proportion of Other households in fully owned dwellings in Muswellbrook was unchanged since 2011, and down by 4% since 2006.



Of 356 Aboriginal rental households, 60% were managed by real estate agents and 26% were managed by public housing.

⌘ 91 Aboriginal households lived in public housing (15% of all households).

This number had risen by 30 since 2011.

Only 4% of the Other households lived in public housing.

The number of Other households in public housing in Muswellbrook had fallen by 52.

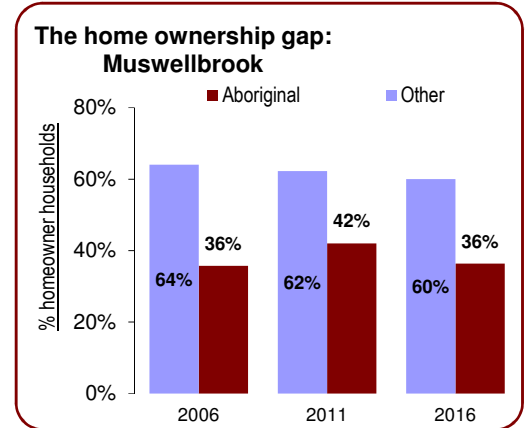
Housing Indicators

The home ownership gap

% of households owning/buying their home

Ownership of a home is the main way that most Australians accumulate wealth and ensure secure accommodation.

- ⌘ In 2016, 36% of Aboriginal households in Muswellbrook were either buying or owned their home, compared with 60% of other households, a home ownership gap of -24%.
- ⌘ The gap had widened by 4% since 2011, after having closed by 8% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The home ownership gap in NSW was -24% and had closed by 4% since 2011. It had closed by 3% between 2006 and 2011.

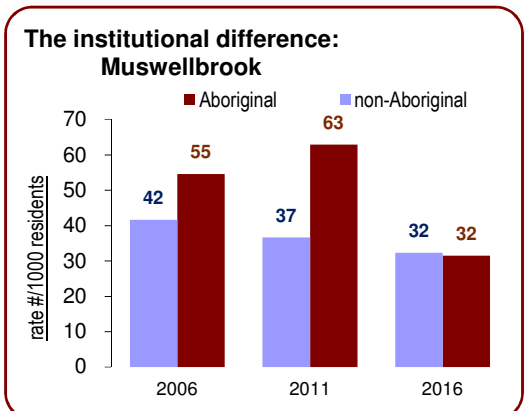


The institutional difference

rate per 1000 of residents in non-private dwellings

Differences in proportion of people in institutional accommodation will reflect the nature and extent of these institutions in the area – they might include hotels, boarding houses, nursing homes, correctional centres, barracks or hospitals.

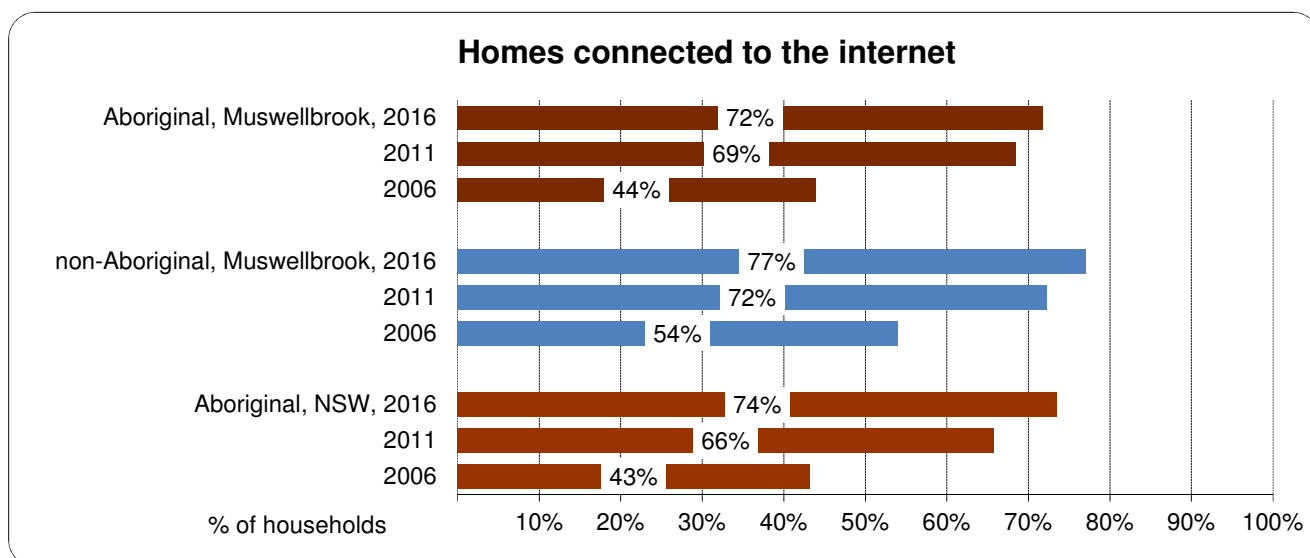
- ⌘ In 2016, 32 in every 1000 Aboriginal residents in Muswellbrook were in institutional housing, compared with 32 per 1000 non-Aboriginal residents. The institutional difference was -1 per 1000.
- ⌘ The institutional gap had reversed since 2011, after having increased by 13 per 1000 over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The institutional difference in NSW was 9 per 1000 and had changed little since 2011. It had also changed little between 2006 and 2011.



Internet @ home

In 2016, 72% of Aboriginal households in Muswellbrook had an internet connection while 25% did not (145 households); 4% did not answer the question.

- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households connected to the internet was similar to NSW (74% connected), ... and 5% lower than non-Aboriginal households in Muswellbrook (where 77% of homes were connected).
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households with internet was up by 3% from 69% in 2011. The proportion was up by 8% for Aboriginal households in NSW. It was up by 5% for non-Aboriginal households in this LGA (from 72% in 2011).
- ⌘ In 2006, 44% of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal people had the internet at home. This compared with 43% of Aboriginal people in NSW and 54% of non-Aboriginal people in this LGA.

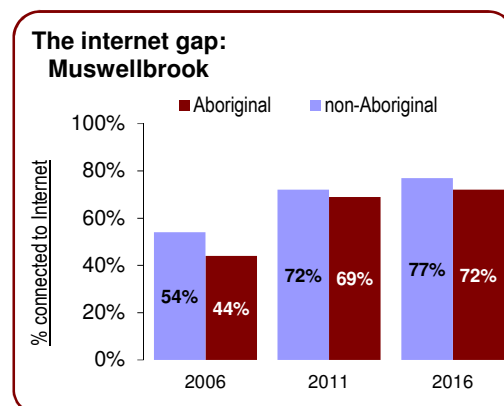


The internet gap

% of households with an internet connection

The internet is becoming increasingly important as a source of communication and information, and is becoming an essential service.

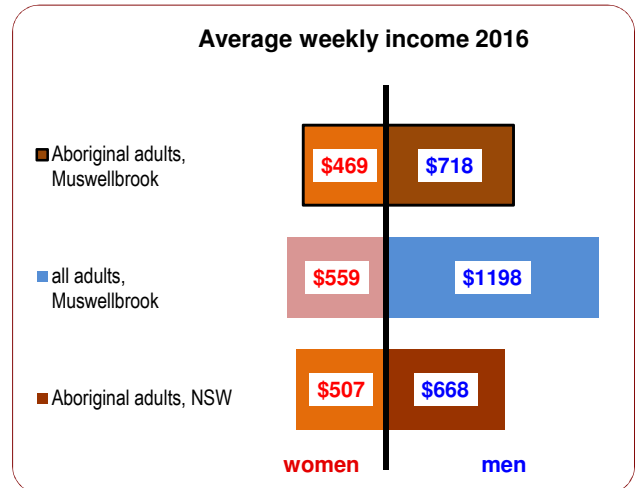
- ⌘ In 2016, 72% of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal households had an internet connection, compared with 77% of other households, an internet gap of -5%.
 - ⌘ The internet gap had widened by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 7% over the previous five years.
 - ⌘ The internet gap in NSW was 9% and had narrowed by 2% since 2011. It narrowed by 8% between 2006 and 2011.
- The 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses had different questions about the internet.



Personal income

In 2016, the average weekly income of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) in Muswellbrook was about \$632, which was close to that of Aboriginal adults in NSW (\$621), but 33% less than the average of all adults in the LGA (\$943).

- ⌘ Aboriginal men in Muswellbrook averaged \$718 a week (60% of the overall male average here).
Aboriginal women averaged \$469 a week (84% of the overall female average).
- ⌘ The average weekly income of Aboriginal men was \$50 higher in the LGA than in NSW.
The average weekly income of Aboriginal women here was \$38 lower than in NSW.
- ⌘ Half of the Aboriginal adults received under \$480 a week (the median income).



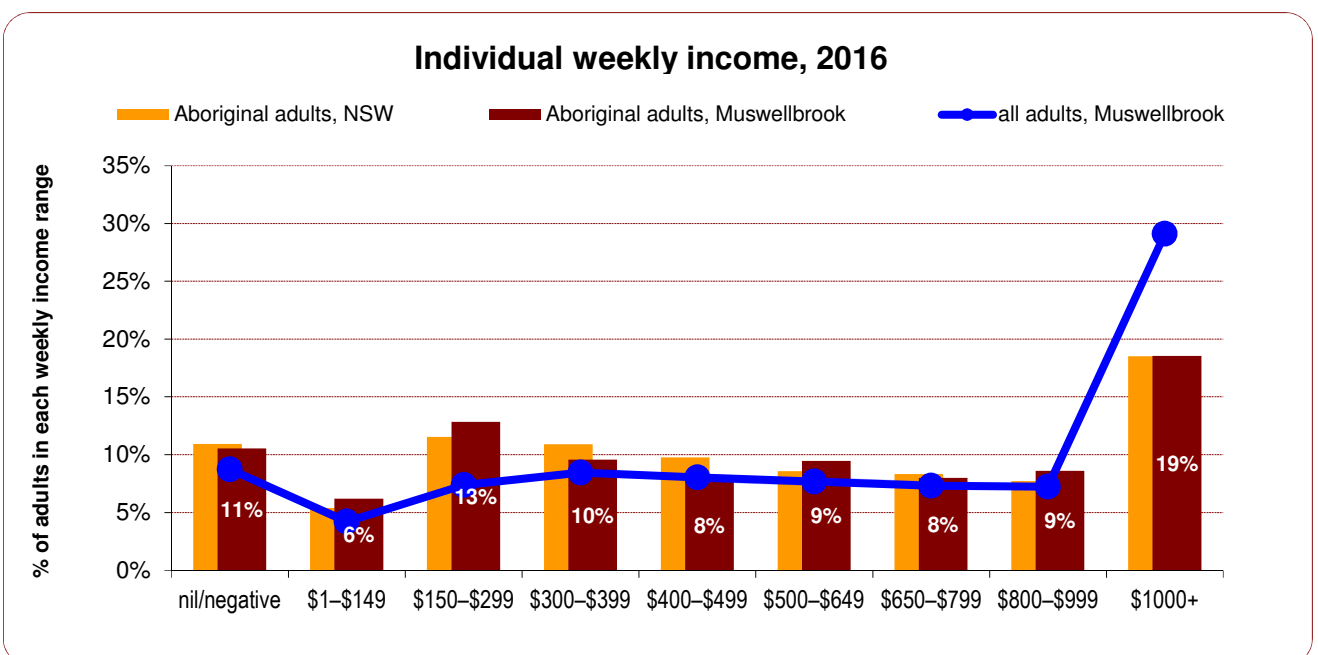
The income distribution pattern among Aboriginal adults in Muswellbrook was similar to Aboriginal adults in NSW, but also different from all adults in the LGA.

Compared with Aboriginal adults across NSW:

- ⌘ proportionally more Aboriginal adults here were in the \$150–\$299 and \$800–\$999 ranges.
- ⌘ fewer were in the \$400–\$499 and \$300–\$399 ranges.

Compared with all adults in this LGA:

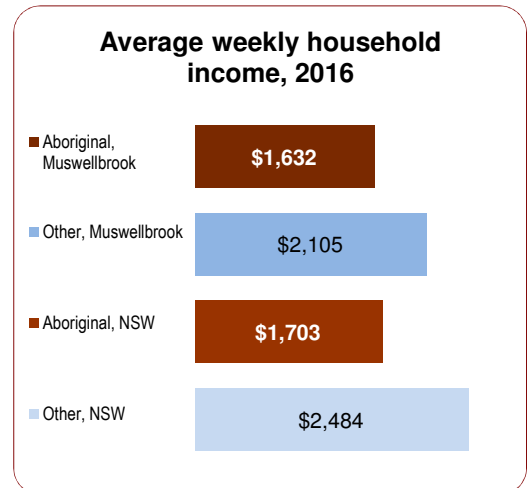
- ⌘ more Aboriginal adults were in the \$150–\$299 and \$1–\$149 ranges.
- ⌘ proportionally fewer were in the \$1000+ range.



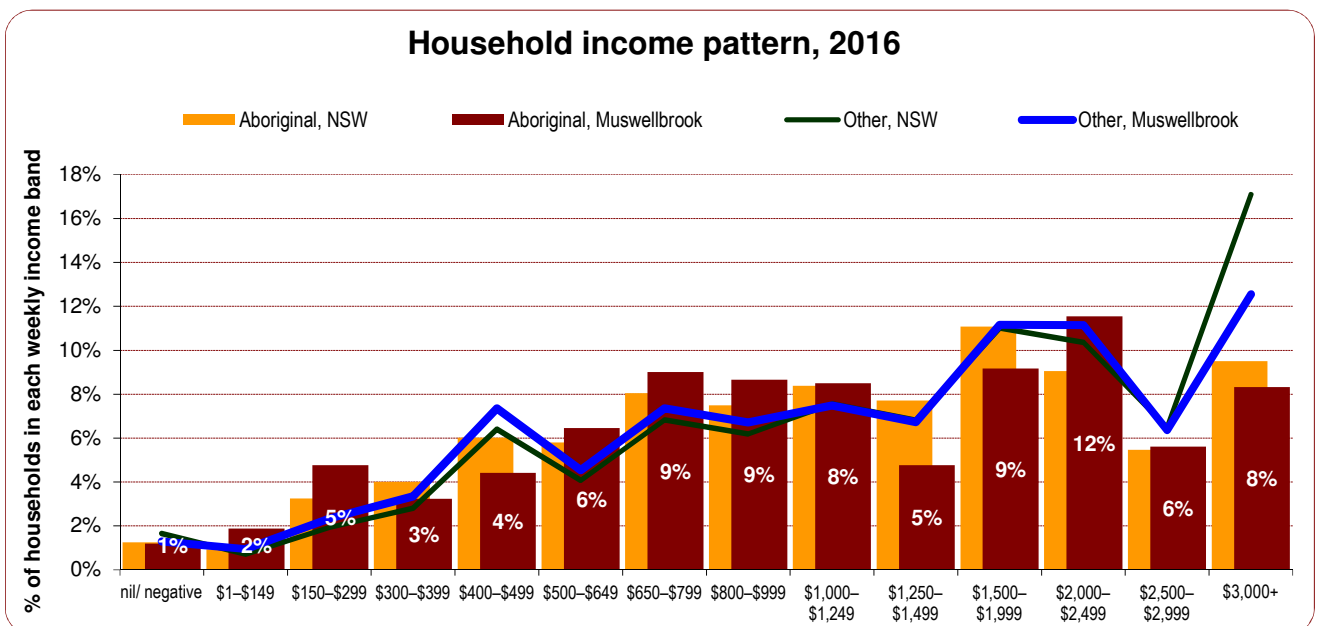
Household income

In 2016, the average income of Aboriginal households in Muswellbrook was about \$1,632 a week. Household income is not a strong indicator of well-being because the benefit the income gives household members is affected by the household's size.

- ⌘ The average Aboriginal household income in Muswellbrook was similar to the average of Aboriginal households in NSW (\$1,703 a week).
- ⌘ It was 22% less than the average of other households in Muswellbrook – \$2,105 a week.
- ⌘ Half the Aboriginal households received less than \$1,120 a week (the median household income).
- ⌘ Aboriginal households in the LGA had an average size of 3.0 residents, compared with 2.5 for non-Aboriginal households. Household incomes thus had to be spread among more people, compared to other households.



The income distribution pattern among Aboriginal households in Muswellbrook was slightly different from the NSW Aboriginal households, and partly different from other households in the LGA.



Compared with Aboriginal households across NSW:

- ⌘ more Aboriginal households here were in the \$2,000–\$2,499 and \$150–\$299 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Aboriginal households were in the \$1,250–\$1,499 and \$1,500–\$1,999 income ranges.

Compared with non-Aboriginal households in this LGA:

- ⌘ more Aboriginal households were in the \$150–\$299 and \$800–\$999 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Aboriginal households were in the \$3,000+ and \$400–\$499 income ranges.

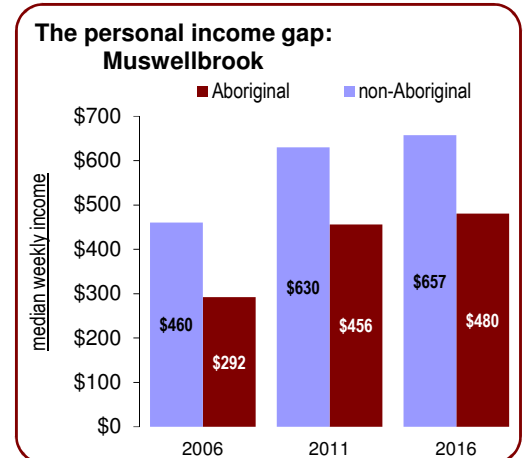
Income Indicators

The personal income gap

median weekly income of adults (15+)

Income is a major contributor to well-being. One indicator of disadvantage is a low median income – the amount which fewer than half the people earn.

- ⌘ In 2016, the median income of Aboriginal adults in Muswellbrook (\$480) was 73% that of non-Aboriginal adults in this LGA (\$657). The personal income gap was -27%.
- ⌘ The personal income gap had closed by 1% since 2011, after having closed by 9% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The personal income gap in NSW was -29% and had narrowed by 5% since 2011. It had narrowed 2% between 2006 and 2011.

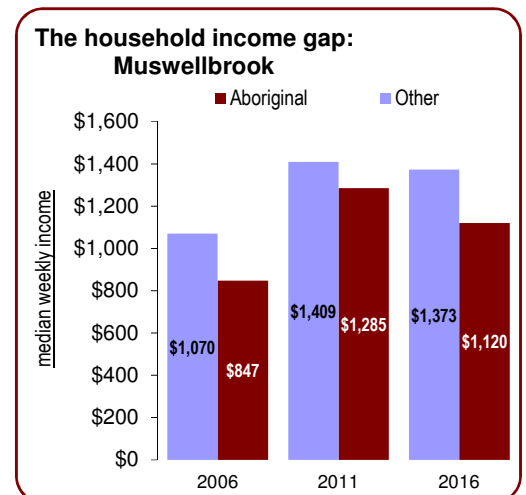


The household income gap

median weekly income of households

Another indicator of disadvantage is a low median household income; half of all households receive less than this amount. However, Aboriginal households tend to be larger, with more dependents, so household income does not reflect disadvantage as well as individual income does.

- ⌘ In 2016, the median income of Aboriginal households in Muswellbrook was \$1,120, compared with \$1,373 for other households in the LGA. This was 18% lower – this is the household income gap.
- ⌘ The household income gap had widened by about 9% since 2011, after having narrowed by about 12% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The household income gap in NSW was 19% and had closed by 6% since 2011. It had narrowed by 5% between 2006 and 2011.



Employment

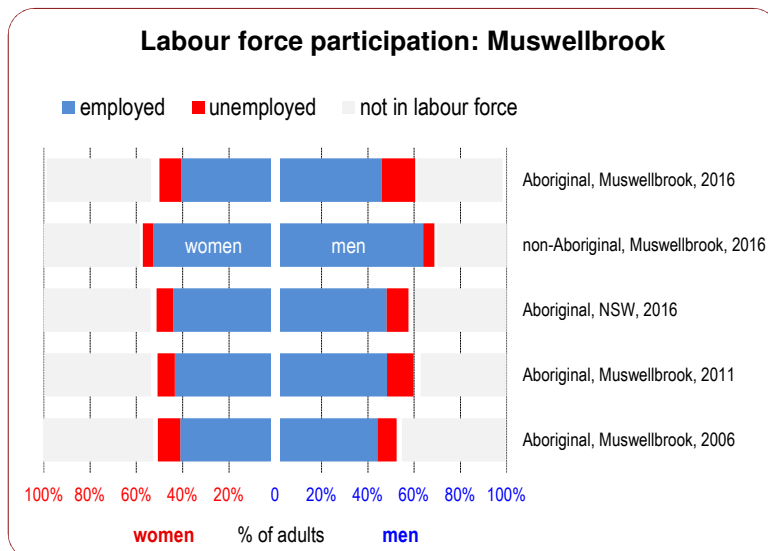
Employment is a prime determinant of a community's income, so it is an important indicator of well-being. In Muswellbrook, 368 out of 826 Aboriginal adults (15+) were employed in 2016 – 45% of adults.

99 Aboriginal adults were unemployed (12%), so the overall workforce participation rate (employed + unemployed) was 56%.

Aboriginal workforce participation was ...

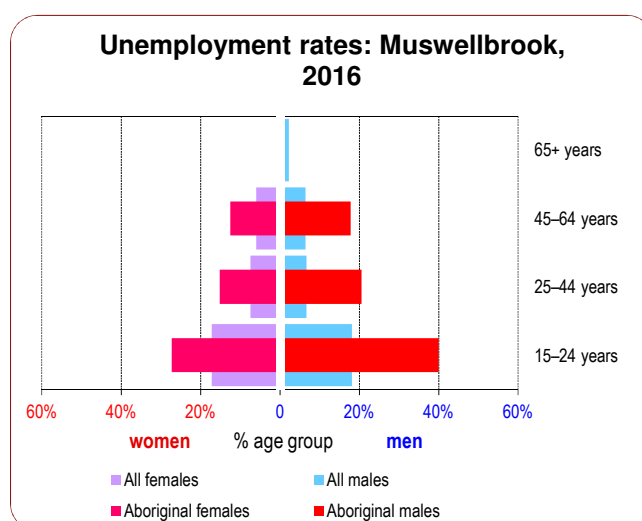
- ⌘ lower for women (50%) than men (61%).
- ⌘ 7% lower than the average for non-Aboriginal adults in the LGA.
- ⌘ 2% higher than the average for Aboriginal adults in NSW.

The Aboriginal workforce participation rate here was similar to 2011 and 4% higher than in 2006.

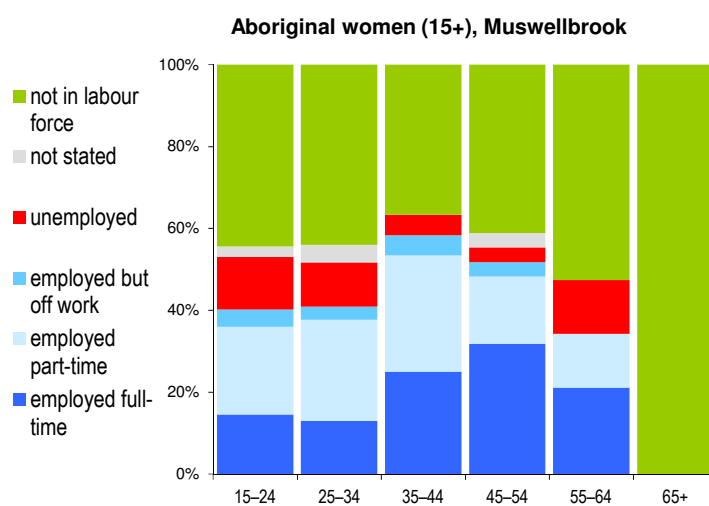
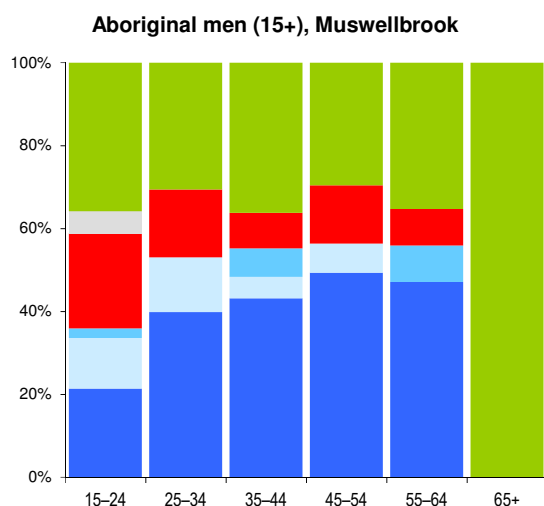


In 2016, the Aboriginal unemployment rate in Muswellbrook was 21%, with 99 people out of work.

- ⌘ This rate was higher than the 7% rate among non-Aboriginal adults in the LGA.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal unemployment rate was 24% for men and 19% for women.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal unemployment rate was 4% higher than in 2011, and 4% higher than in 2006.
- ⌘ Aboriginal unemployment was highest among those aged 15–24 years (35%) and 25–44 years (17%). It was lowest among those aged 45–64 years (13%).



These graphs show the employment patterns for men and women, by age, in 2016.



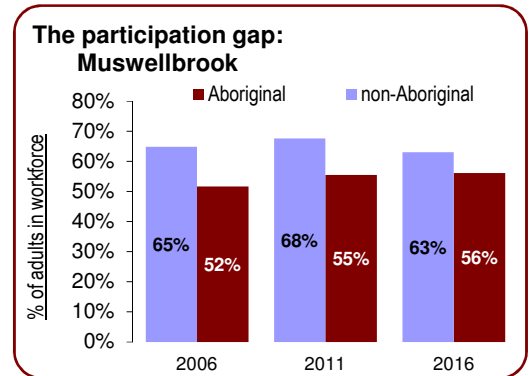
Workforce Gap Indicators

The participation gap

% of adults 15+ in labour force

Employment in the workforce is the main way that people gain income and independence. When the proportion of adults in the workforce is low, communities become more dependent on income support, and poverty increases.

- ⌘ In 2016, the proportion of Aboriginal adults (15+) of Muswellbrook in the workforce was 56%; the proportion of non-Aboriginal adults in the workforce was 63%; the participation gap was -7%.
- ⌘ The participation gap had closed by 5% since 2011, after having closed by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The participation gap in NSW was -8% and had closed by 3% since 2011. It had changed little between 2006 and 2011.

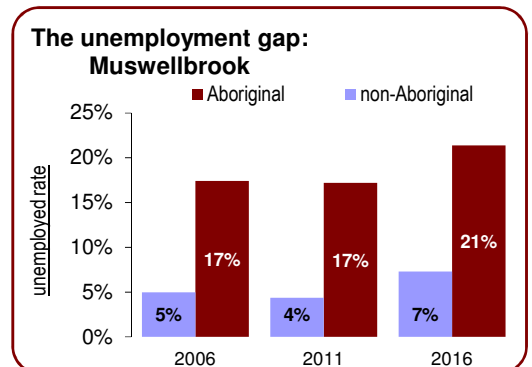


The unemployment gap

% of unemployed in workforce

High unemployment indicates an absence of jobs in occupations for which local people have had training. High unemployment rates have many damaging effects on those unemployed and their community.

- ⌘ In 2016, 21% of the Aboriginal workforce in Muswellbrook were unemployed; 7% of the non-Aboriginal workforce were unemployed; the unemployment gap was +14%.
- ⌘ The unemployment gap had widened by 1% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The unemployment gap between in NSW was +9% and had closed by 2% since 2011. It had narrowed by 3% between 2006 and 2011.

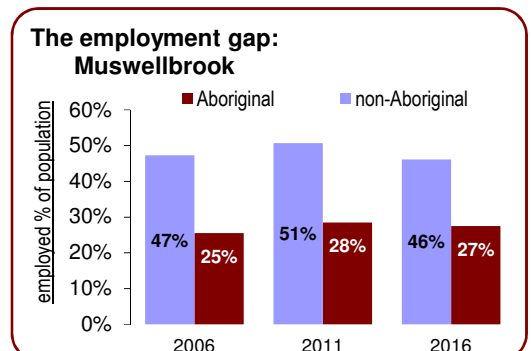


The employment gap

employed adults as % of population

A useful indicator of the financial strength of a community is the proportion of the total population who are employed. A lower proportion means that, on average, each employed person has more people to support.

- ⌘ In 2016, 27% of the Aboriginal population of Muswellbrook were employed; 46% of the non-Aboriginal workforce were employed; the employment gap was -19%.
- ⌘ The employment gap had closed by 3% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The employment gap in NSW was -18% and had closed by 3% since 2011. It had narrowed by 1% between 2006 and 2011.



Education participation by age

Having high proportions of people in education is a good indicator of positive individual and community development. In Muswellbrook, one in three Aboriginal residents (448 people) was attending an educational institution in 2016.

Aboriginal participation in education varied with age. Here in education were:

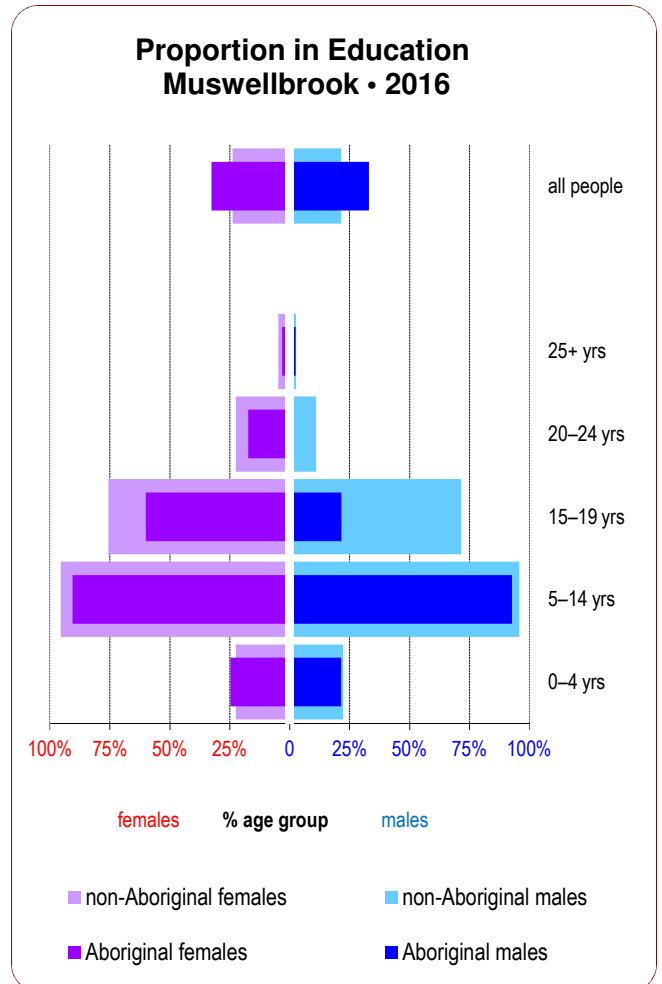
- 22% of the 0–4 year olds
- 93% of the 5–14 year olds
- 58% of the 15–19 year olds
- 10% of the 20–24 year olds
- 3% of those aged 25+

Partly because the Aboriginal population has a much higher proportion of children, their overall rate of participation in education, 33%, is higher than the non-Aboriginal rate in this LGA, 23%. Relative to non-Aboriginal people of the same age, there were, in education:

- similar proportions of 0–4 year olds
- similar proportions of 25+ year olds
- 3% fewer Aboriginal 5–14 year olds
- 6% fewer Aboriginal 20–24 year olds
- 15% fewer Aboriginal 15–19 year olds

Overall, Muswellbrook's Aboriginal population had 105 males per 100 females in education. This varied with age. Of those in education, there were:

- 1.1 females per male among 0–4 year olds
- 1.2 males per female among 5–14 year olds
- 1.0 males per female among 15–19 year olds
- only females among 20–24 year olds
- 1.3 females per male among 25+ year olds



Since 2011, overall participation in education by Aboriginal people in Muswellbrook had increased by 2%, but this masks changes among the age groups.

- The proportion of 0–4 year olds in education was up by 7% since 2011, and down by 6% since 2006.
- The proportion of 5–14 year olds in education was up by 7% since 2011, and up by 4% since 2006.
- The proportion of 15–19 year olds in education was up by 2% since 2011, and up by 10% since 2006.
- The proportion of 20–24 year olds in education was down by 2% since 2011, and down by 1% since 2006.
- The proportion of 25+ year olds in education was steady since 2011, and steady since 2006.

Note: In January 2010, the school leaving age in NSW changed from 15 to 17 years of age.

Current education

In 2016, some 398 Aboriginal children and teenagers in Muswellbrook were attending school, with 56 in pre-school, 222 in primary school, and 120 in high school.

The number of Aboriginal pre-schoolers was up by 35 or 167% since 2011 and, from 2006, up by 93%.

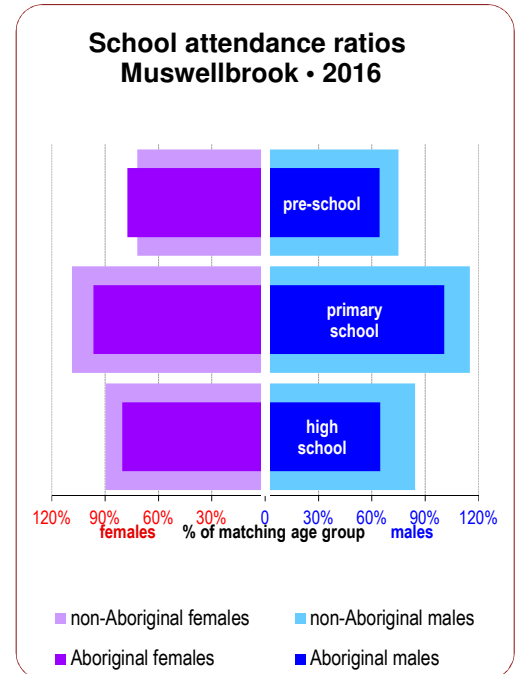
- ⌘ The 56 Aboriginal pre-schoolers equalled 75% of the Aboriginal children aged 4–5.
- ⌘ In NSW, Aboriginal pre-schoolers equalled 72% of the number aged 4–5 years. Non-Aboriginal pre-schoolers in this LGA represented 72% of their age group.

The number of Aboriginal primary students (222) was up by 93 or 72% since 2011; it was 87% higher than in 2006.

- ⌘ Aboriginal primary students were 101% of the number aged 6–11. This is because some primary students were other ages.
- ⌘ This rate was 9% lower than the Aboriginal rate in NSW and 11% lower than for non-Aboriginal children here.

The number of Aboriginal secondary students (120) was up by 35 or 41% since 2011 and 54% higher than 2006.

- ⌘ Aboriginal secondary students were 75% of the Aboriginal children aged 12–17.
- ⌘ This rate was 13% lower than the rate for non-Aboriginal secondary students; it was 6% lower than for Aboriginal students in NSW.



42 Aboriginal residents of Muswellbrook were in post-school education in 2016. This was 8 more than in 2011, with 20 more than in 2006.

In 2016, there were 14 Aboriginal 15–24 year olds from the LGA enrolled in TAFE (6% of the number this age); 21% attended full-time.

- ⌘ 8% of Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this LGA attended TAFE, with 35% full-time.
- ⌘ 11% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this LGA attended TAFE, with 25% full-time.

A few Aboriginal 15–24 year olds from the LGA attended university or other tertiary education (2% of the number this age); none were full-time.

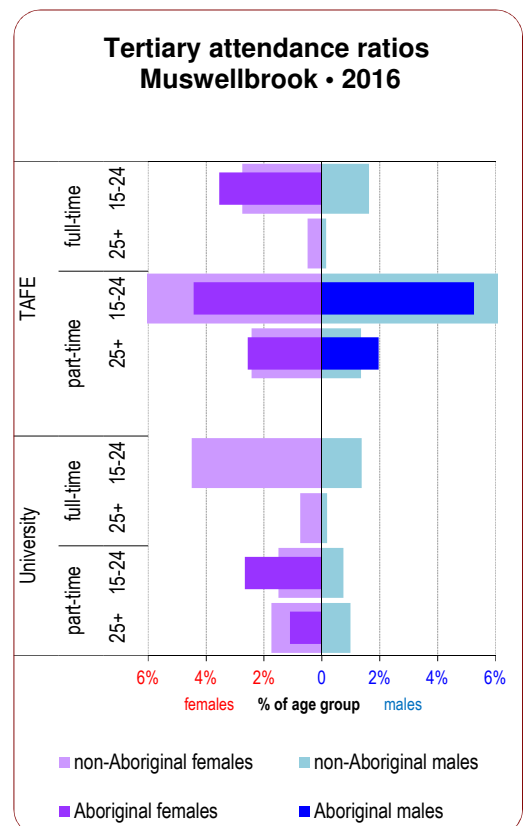
- ⌘ 7% of Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in NSW were at university, with 83% full-time.
- ⌘ 4% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this LGA were at university, with 69% full-time.

There were 8 Aboriginal students aged 25+ attending TAFE in 2016 (1% of those aged 25–64), with none full-time.

- ⌘ 4% of Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in NSW attended TAFE, with 30% full-time.
- ⌘ 2% of non-Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in this LGA attended TAFE, with 16% full-time.

8 Aboriginal residents aged 25+ were in tertiary education in 2016 (1% of 25–64 year olds), with 38% full-time.

- ⌘ 3% of Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in NSW were at university, with 43% full-time.
- ⌘ 2% of non-Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in this LGA were at university, with 27% full-time.



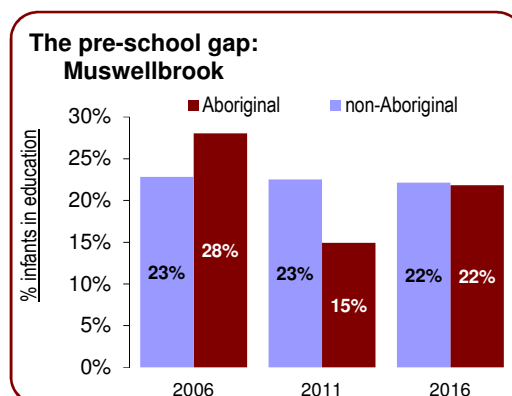
Education Attendance Indicators

The pre-school gap

% of infants under 5 in education

Early childhood education is an important contributor to success in school and later education, and makes paid work more feasible for parents.

- ⌘ In 2016, 22% of Aboriginal infants in Muswellbrook were in education, compared with 22% of non-Aboriginal infants. The pre-school gap was nil.
- ⌘ The pre-school gap had closed by 7% since 2011, after having reversed over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The pre-school rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal infants in NSW were 25% and 25% in 2016, a gap of nil. This gap had narrowed by 2% since 2011.

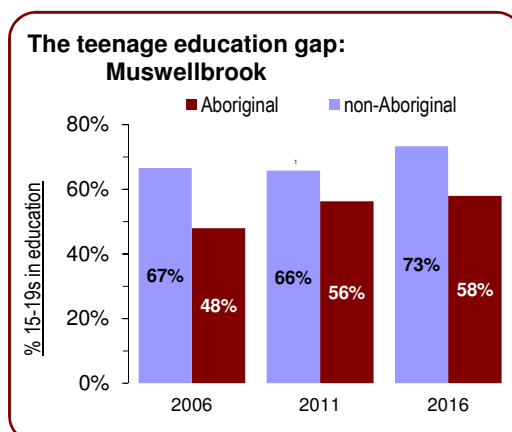


The teenage education gap

% of 15–19 year-olds in education

Education of older teenagers is vital for their future employment, so low levels of participation in education indicates disadvantage.

- ⌘ In 2016, 58% of Muswellbrook Aboriginal teenagers aged 15–19 were in education, compared with 73% of non-Aboriginal teenagers. The teenage education gap was -15%.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap had widened by 6% since 2011, after having closed by 9% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was -18% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It narrowed by 6% over 2006 to 2011.



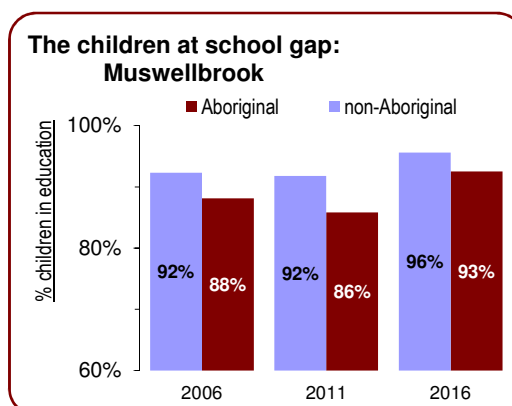
The children at school gap

% of 5–14 year olds in education

School is compulsory for children up to the age of 17*. Low schooling rates suggest truancy and/or underage school leavers.

- ⌘ In 2016, 93% of Muswellbrook Aboriginal children aged 5–14 were in education, and 96% of non-Aboriginal of that age were. The schooling gap was -3%.
- ⌘ The schooling gap had closed by 3% since 2011, after having widened by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The schooling gap in NSW was -3% and had narrowed by 4% since 2011. It changed little over 2006 to 2011.

* In January 2010, the school leaving age in NSW changed from 15 to 17 years of age.



Schooling levels

In 2016, Aboriginal adults (15+) in Muswellbrook had completed an average of Year 10.0 of school, compared with Year 10.5 for non-Aboriginal adults. In NSW, Aboriginal adults averaged Year 10.3.

- ⌘ 164 Aboriginal adults in the LGA had completed Year 12, which was 93% more than in 2011 and 178% more than in 2006.

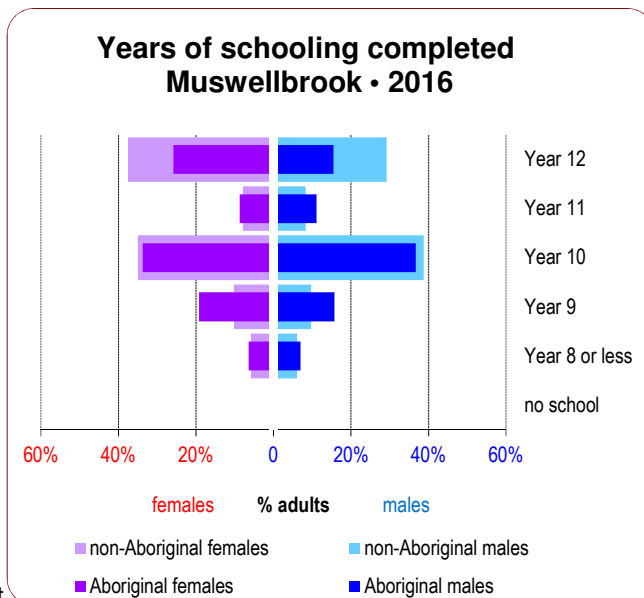
The proportion of Aboriginal adults in the LGA who had completed Year 12 was 21%, which was 12% lower than that of non-Aboriginal adults.

30% of Aboriginal adults across NSW had completed Year 12.

- ⌘ 66% of Aboriginal adults in the LGA had completed at least Year 10, which was 5% lower than for Aboriginal adults in NSW.

- ⌘ Of the others, 17% had completed Year 9 and 7% had completed Year 8 or lower; 7 adults did not go to school (1%); 8% did not say.

The average Year of school is calculated by multiplying the number who finished each Year's school by the Year, assuming those who replied '8 years or less' averaged 7 years schooling, those who responded 'no school' had 0 years, and excluding those who did not respond.



The average Year when Aboriginal people in Muswellbrook left school had changed little since 2011, and was up by 2 months since 2006.

Over the decade to 2016, there was an increase of 178% in the number who had finished Year 12 and an increase of 121% in the number who had finished school at Year 11.

For Aboriginal adults in this LGA, average schooling:

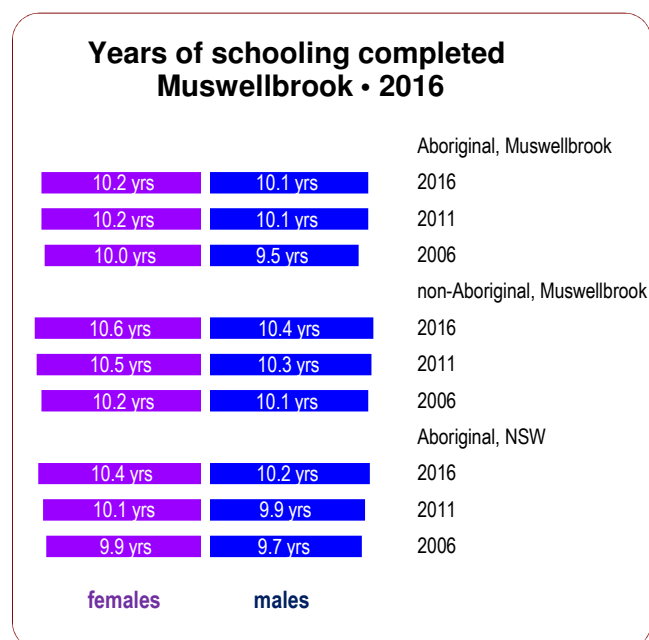
- ⌘ for men had changed little since 2011, and had risen by 7 months since 2006.
- ⌘ for women had changed little since 2011, and had risen by 2 months since 2006.

For non-Aboriginal adults, average schooling:

- ⌘ for men had risen by one month since 2011, and had risen by 4 months since 2006.
- ⌘ for women had risen by one month since 2011, and had risen by 5 months since 2006.

The average schooling of Aboriginal adults in NSW:

- ⌘ for men had risen by 4 months since 2011, and risen by 6 months since 2006.
- ⌘ for women had risen by 4 months since 2011, and risen by 6 months since 2006.



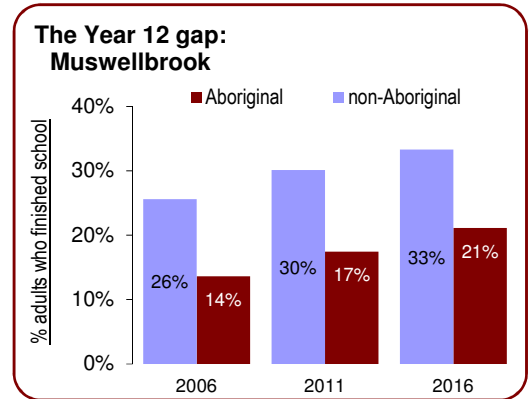
Education Achievement Indicators

The Year 12 gap

% of adults (15+) who have left school

The proportion of adults who have completed Year 12 is an important indicator of a community's educational resources. Nationally, over half of all adults (58%) have completed Year 12.

- ⌘ In 2016, 21% of Muswellbrook Aboriginal adults had completed Year 12, compared with 33% of non-Aboriginal adults. The Year 12 gap was -12%.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap had changed little since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap in NSW was -28% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It widened by 2% between 2006 and 2011.

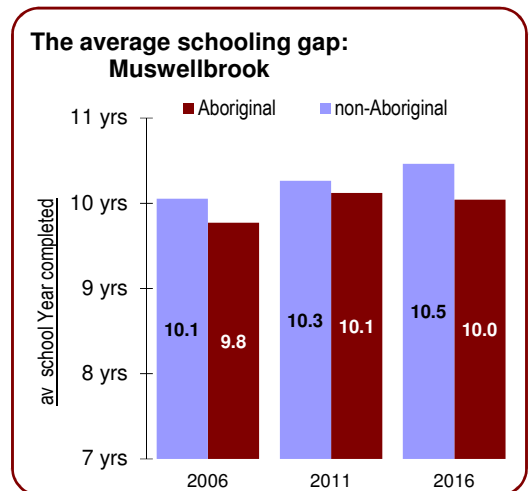


The average schooling gap

average school Year completed

The average Year of schooling completed by adults is an indicator of a community's educational resources. Nationally, the average is Year 11.

- ⌘ In 2016, Muswellbrook Aboriginal adults had completed an average of Year 10.0 at school, compared with Year 10.5 for non-Aboriginal adults. The average schooling gap was -0.4 years.
- ⌘ The average schooling gap had widening by 4 months since 2011, after having closing by 2 months over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The average schooling gap in NSW was 8 months. It had changed little since 2011, after having changed little between 2006 and 2011.



Tertiary qualifications

The type and extent of post-school qualifications has a major influence on the earning capacities of a community. In the 2016 Census, 330 Aboriginal adults in Muswellbrook reported having tertiary educational qualifications, which was 40% of the number aged 15+.

By comparison, 45% of Aboriginal adults in NSW and 51% of non-Aboriginal adults in Muswellbrook had a tertiary qualification.

31 Aboriginal adults in the LGA had a degree or higher qualification (4%), with 8 having a postgraduate degree.

- ⌘ In NSW, 7% of the Aboriginal residents had a degree or higher qualification.
- ⌘ 9% of the non-Aboriginal residents of Muswellbrook had a degree or more.

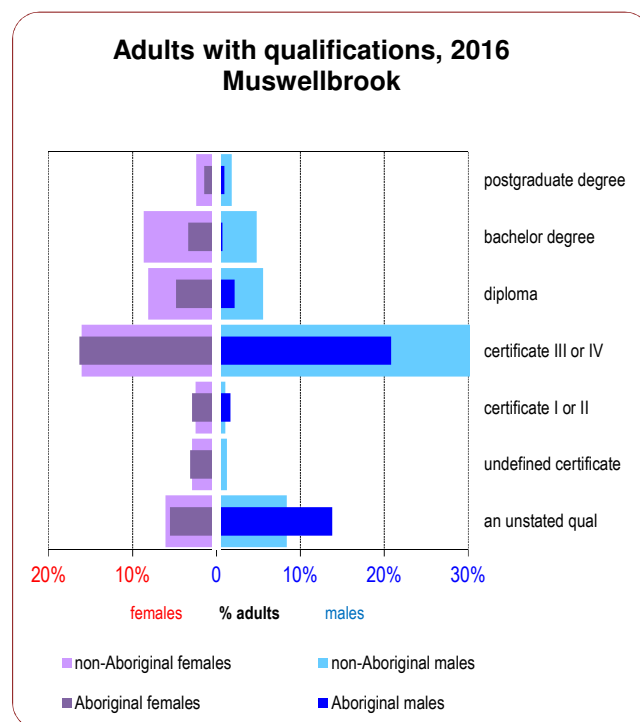
The most common highest qualification held by Aboriginal adults here were:

- certificate III or IV, held by 158 people (19%);
- an unstated qual, by 81 people (10%);
- diploma, by 24 people (3%).

While the number of Aboriginal adults in Muswellbrook rose by 57% from 2011 to 2016, the number with qualifications rose by 59%. There were:

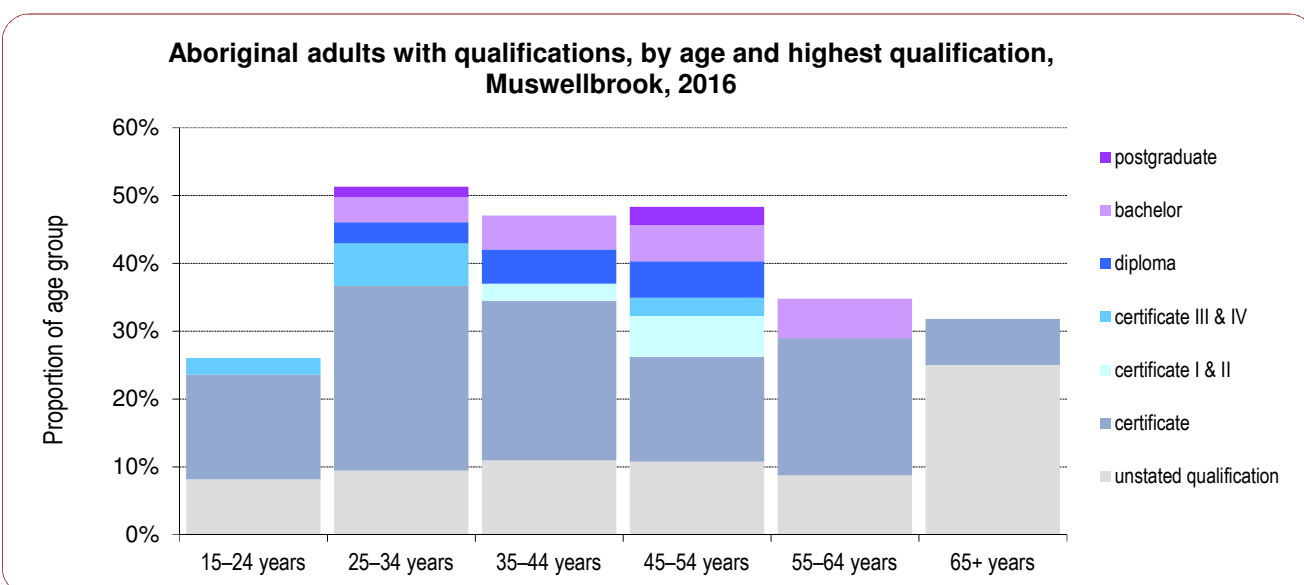
- 81 more with a certificate III or IV;
- 13 more with a bachelor degree;
- 13 more with a certificate I or II.

In the decade from 2006, the number of Aboriginal adults in the LGA with qualifications increased by 75%, while the adult population increased by 90%. There were 114 more with a certificate III or IV and 20 more with a certificate I or II qualification.



In this decade, the number of Aboriginal adults in NSW with qualifications increased by 99%. There were 204% more with a diploma and 200% more with a postgraduate degree.

The chart below shows how the level of qualifications varies with age. Here, Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years had the most higher qualifications, then people aged 45–54 years and 35–44 years.



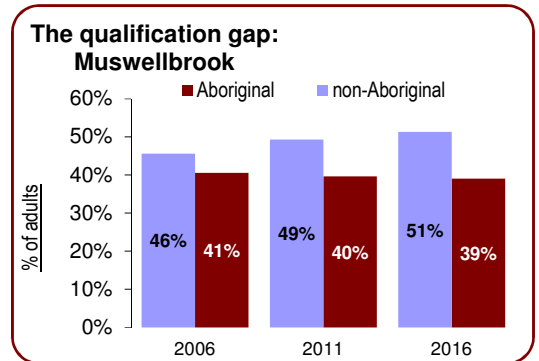
Higher Education Indicators

The qualification gap

% of adults 15+ with a post-school qualification

Tertiary and further education is becoming essential for many occupations, so the proportion of adults with post-school qualifications is a broad indicator of a community's earning capacity.

- ⌘ In 2016, 39% of Muswellbrook Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a post-school qualification, compared with 51% of non-Aboriginal adults. The qualification gap was -12%.
- ⌘ The qualification gap had widened by 2% since 2011, after having widened by 5% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The qualification gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in NSW was -14% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It widened by 1% over 2006 to 2011.

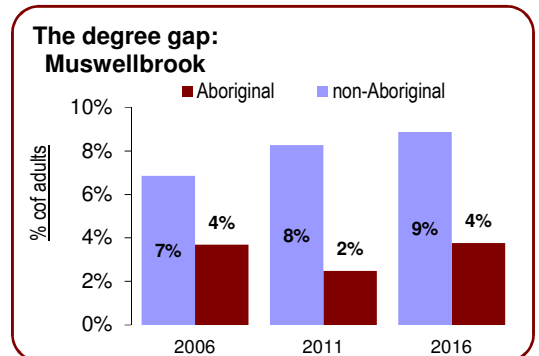


The degree gap

% of adults 15+ with a degree or higher qualification

Most higher skilled and better paid jobs require a university degree or equivalent for entry, so the proportion of adults with a degree or higher indicates the community's capacity to gain these jobs.

- ⌘ In 2016, 4% of Muswellbrook Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a degree or higher qualification, compared with 9% of non-Aboriginal adults. The degree education gap was -5%.
- ⌘ The degree gap had closed by 1% since 2011, after having widened by 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The degree gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in NSW was -19% and had widened by 3% since 2011. It widened by 3% over 2006 to 2011.

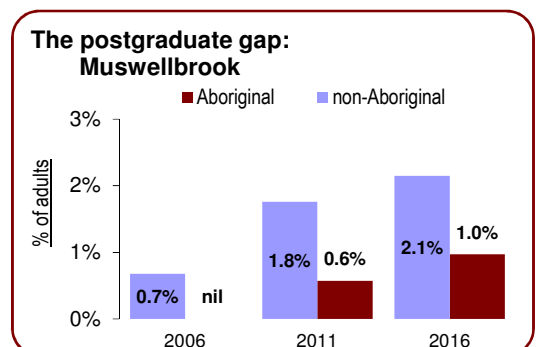


The postgraduate gap

% of adults 15+ with a postgraduate qualification

Increasingly, getting promoted in many industries requires a post-graduate qualification, but the number of Aboriginal people with post-graduate degrees has been low.

- ⌘ In 2016, 1.0% of Muswellbrook Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a post-graduate qualification, compared with 2.1% of non-Aboriginal adults. The postgraduate gap was -1.2%.
- ⌘ The postgraduate gap had changed little since 2011, after there being no Aboriginal adults so qualified in 2006.
- ⌘ The postgraduate gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in NSW was -6.2% and had widened by 1.3% since 2011. It widened by 2.1% over 2006 to 2011.



Disability levels

In 2016 in Muswellbrook, 101 Aboriginal residents had a long-term severe disability; 7.5% of the population. Among all Muswellbrook's residents, 4.9% reported a disability.

People with a long-term severe disability are those needing help or assistance with self-care, mobility or communication, because of a disability, long-term health condition or old age. This data compares Aboriginal people with the total population.

- ⌘ Disability rates tend to rise with age. In 2016, they peaked among Aboriginal 65+ year olds (33%) and 55–64 year olds (14%). Among younger Aboriginal residents, the disability rate was highest among 5–14 year olds at 9% and 35–44 year olds at 8%.

Because Aboriginal communities tend to have fewer people in the oldest age groups where disability rates are much higher, the overall disability rate can be lower than in non-Aboriginal communities. This can mask much higher rates in some age groups.

- ⌘ In this LGA, the overall Aboriginal disability rate was 1.6 times that in the overall population: 7.5% compared with 4.9%.

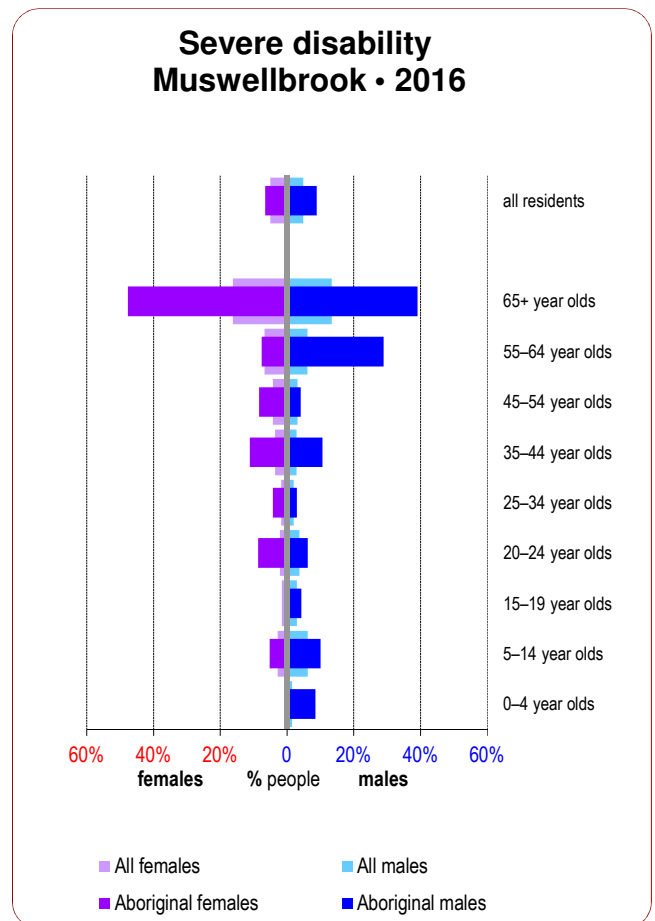
Among 0–4 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (4%) was 5 times the overall rate (1.0%);

Among 35–44 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (8%) was 2.7 times that of all residents (3.0%).

- ⌘ Aboriginal disability rates were higher for men than women: 8.9% to 6.5%. Among all residents, they were similar for men and women: 4.9% to 4.9%.

There were 2.3 females per male among 45–54 year olds with a disability.

On the other hand, there were 3.0 males per female among 55–64 year olds with a disability. There were only males among those with a disability aged 0–4, 15–19.



From 2011 to 2016, the overall disability rate among Aboriginal residents of the LGA rose significantly from 4.5% to 7.5%.

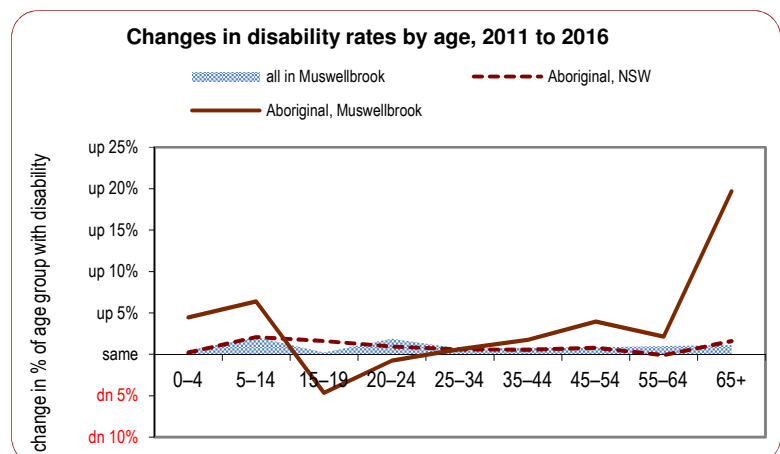
Among Aboriginal people in NSW, the disability rate rose from 6.2% to 7.6%.

Among all Muswellbrook residents, the disability rate rose 1.4%, and was 4.9% in 2016.

In the LGA, the greatest change in the Aboriginal disability rate was the increase among those aged 65+, from 13.6% in 2011 to 33.3% in 2016.

Disability rates also rose among 5–14 year olds and 0–4 year olds.

Disability rates fell most among those aged 15–19 years.



Disability care given

In the 2016 Census, 106 Aboriginal adults in Muswellbrook, 13% of the adult population, reported that they gave assistance to a person with a severe or profound disability. There were at that time 101 Aboriginal residents who reported a severe or profound disability.

⌘ Across the age groups, the proportion of Aboriginal people caring for a person with a disability ranged from 19% of 55–64 year olds and 17% of 35–44 year olds to 5% of 15–19 year olds.

⌘ Carers are more often women than men. In this Aboriginal community, there were 1.6 females per male among carers.

Female carers were most common among 25–34 year olds with 4.8 females per male caring, and among 55–64 year olds, with 2.3 females per male caring.

Male carers were most common among carers aged 20–24 with 1.4 males per female caring, and among those aged 35–44 with 1.3.

⌘ The 13% carer rate among Aboriginal residents was higher than the average for all adults in the LGA (11%).

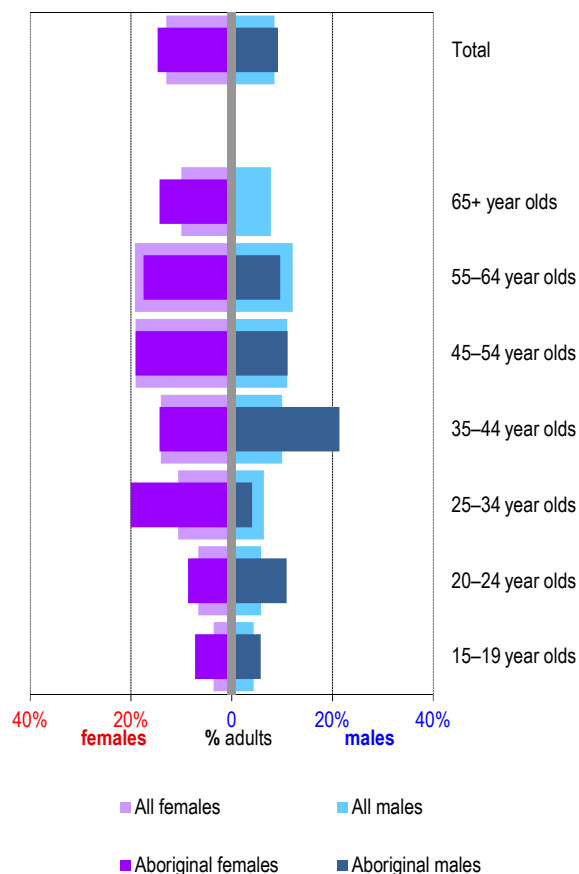
Among 20–24 year olds, the proportion of Aboriginal carers was 2.3 times the average.

Among 25–34 year olds, the proportion of Aboriginal carers was 1.6 times the average.

⌘ In NSW, 15% of Aboriginal adults were caring for a person with a disability.

Relative to the NSW Aboriginal community, there were 5% more carers among Aboriginal people aged 20–24 here. There were 6% fewer carers here among those aged 45–54.

Carers • Muswellbrook • 2016



From 2011 to 2016, overall caring rates among Aboriginal adults in the LGA changed only slightly from 13%.

⌘ Among Aboriginal adults in NSW, caring rates rose by 1%.

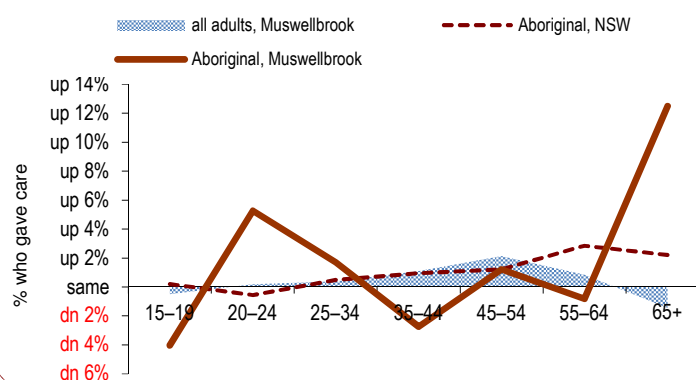
Among all Muswellbrook's adults, caring rates rose by 1%.

⌘ In the LGA, Aboriginal caring rates increased most among 65+ year olds, from none in 2011 to 13% in 2016.

Caring rates also rose 5% among 20–24 year olds..

Caring rates fell most among 15–19 year olds, down by 4%, and among those aged 35–44, down by 3%.

Changes in caring rates, by age, 2011–2016



Disability Indicators

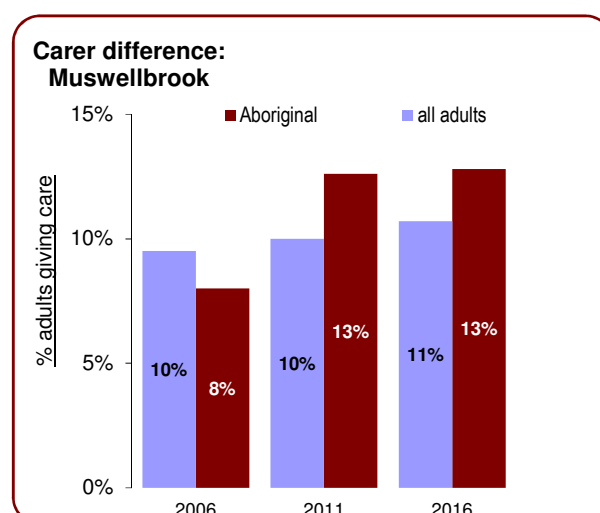
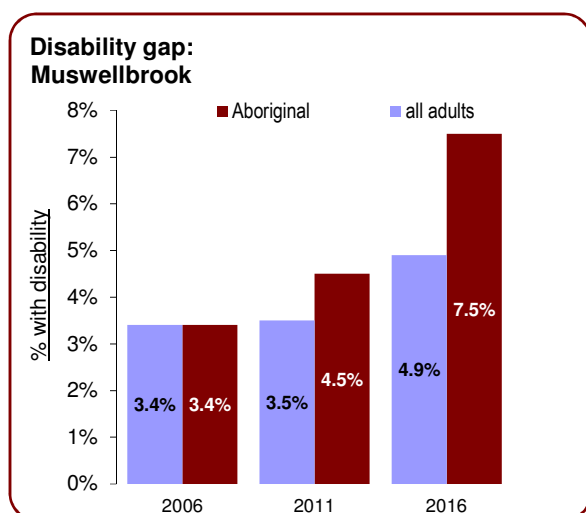
The disability gap

% of people with a severe, long-term disability

Disability rates provide a useful indicator of a community's health and need for support services. Nationally, disability rates among Aboriginal people are about 25% higher than overall rates, across most age groups.

- ⌘ In 2016, 7.5% of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal residents had a severe, long-term disability, compared with 4.9% for all residents. The disability gap was +2.6%. The Aboriginal disability rate was 1.5 times the overall rate.
- ⌘ The disability gap in Muswellbrook had widened by 1.6% since 2011, after having widened by 1.0% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The disability gap in NSW was +2.2% and had widened by 0.9% since 2011.

In the Census, people with disabilities are those with a severe or profound disability lasting more than six months, who require help with daily activities, self-care or communicating.



The carer difference

% of adults caring for a person with a disability

Aboriginal people have higher disability rates and larger families, so often have proportionally more carers than the general population.

- ⌘ In 2016, 13% of Muswellbrook's Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) provided assistance to a person with a severe disability, compared with 11% of all adults. The carer difference was +2% (rounded).
- ⌘ The carer difference in Muswellbrook had changed little since 2011, after having reversed over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The carer difference in NSW was +3% in 2016. This had widened by 0.7% since 2011.