



Community Portrait: New South Wales

A portrait of the Aboriginal community of New South Wales, compared with Australia, from the 2016 and earlier Censuses.

Contents

Overview	Preface	2
	Snapshot	3
	Tracking changes	4
Population	Aboriginal population and growth	5
	Life stages	6
	Age profile	7
	Population Indicators	8
Households	Household types and sizes	9
	Household Indicators	10
	Types of housing	11
	Housing costs and tenure	12
	Housing Indicators	13
	Internet @ home	14
Incomes	Personal income	15
	Household income	16
	Income Indicators	17
	Employment	18
	Workforce Gap Indicators	19
Education	Education participation by age	20
	Current education	21
	Education Attendance Indicators	22
	Schooling levels	23
	Education Achievement Indicators	24
	Tertiary qualifications	25
Disability	Higher Education Indicators	26
	Disability levels	27
	Disability care given	28
	Disability Indicators	29

Prepared for Aboriginal Affairs NSW

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 New South Wales 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 New South Wales, 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 New South Wales in 2016, even if they completed the Census away from home. People who were visiting New South Wales 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: 2.9% of the NSW Census respondents said they had Aboriginal origins, but another 5.9% 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: New South Wales, 2016

- ⌘ In the 2016 Census, 216,176 of the 7,480,228 residents (2.9%) counted in New South Wales said that they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins, or both. Of these, 96% were Aboriginal.
 - Between 2011 and 2016, the counted Aboriginal population rose by 25%, from 172,621; the overall population of the state rose by 8%.
 - About 12% of the Aboriginal population were under 5 in 2016. This infant population accounted for four-sevenths 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 22 vs 38 years.
 - There was a higher proportion under 18 years old: 41% compared with 22%.
 - There was a lower proportion aged 65 or more: 5% compared with 16%.
- ⌘ Aboriginal households had an average of 3.1 residents, which was larger than non-Aboriginal households (2.6) in the state.
 - Three in ten Aboriginal households were couples with children.
 - Almost three in ten were one parent families.
 - 15% of the Aboriginal households were single persons (vs 24% of non-Aboriginal households).
- ⌘ Aboriginal households most commonly lived in rented dwellings (54%), with 27% in mortgaged and 15% in fully owned dwellings.
 - In all, 42% of Aboriginal households in New South Wales were home-owners (with or without a mortgage), which was up by 3% since 2011.
- ⌘ The median income of Aboriginal adults was about \$472 a week, which was 71% that of all adults here (\$669).
 - The median income gap had closed by 5% since 2011.
- ⌘ 54% of Aboriginal adults were in the labour force, compared with 63% of non-Aboriginal adults.
 - 15% of the Aboriginal workforce were unemployed, compared with 6% of the non-Aboriginal workforce.
- ⌘ One in three Aboriginal residents (76,509 people) was attending an educational institution.
 - 39,119 Aboriginal people had completed Year 12, which was 64% more than in 2011 and 145% more than in 2006.
 - Compared with non-Aboriginal residents of the same age, there were:
 - 25% fewer Aboriginal people aged 20–24 year olds in education;
 - 18% fewer Aboriginal people aged 15–19 year olds in education.
 - 45% of Aboriginal adults had some type of post-school qualification, compared with 58% of non-Aboriginal adults in the state (7% had a degree or higher, compared with 24%).
- ⌘ 16,488 Aboriginal people (7.6% 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 35–44 year olds was 3 times the average for this age group in New South Wales.
 - for 45–54 year olds, the Aboriginal rate was 3 times the average in the state.
 - 15% of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) gave assistance to a person with a severe disability.
- ⌘ 74% of the NSW Aboriginal households had an internet connection, which was 8% higher than in 2011.

Tracking changes in New South Wales

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

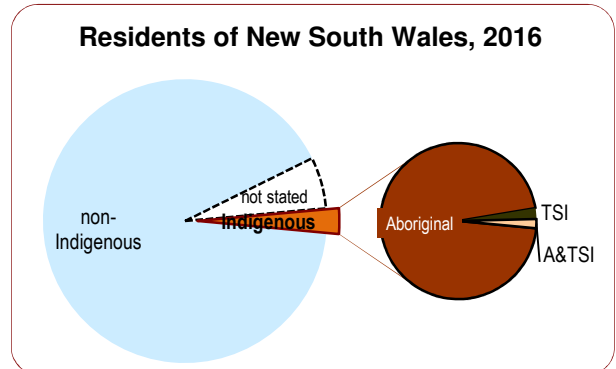
Indicator	New South Wales, 2016			Change in Aboriginal rate	
	Aboriginal	non-Aboriginal	Gap in 2016	last 5 years 2011–2016	last decade 2006–2016
				up 3%	up 6%
home ownership % of households owning/buying their home	42%	65%	-24%	up 3%	up 6%
personal income* median weekly income of adults (15+)	\$472	\$669	-29%	up 26%	up 59%
household income median weekly income of households	\$1,214	\$1,498	-19%	up 29%	up 67%
workforce participation % of adults 15+ in labour force	54%	63%	-8%	up 3%	up 3%
unemployment % of unemployed in workforce	15%	6%	+9%	dn 2%	dn 4%
employment employed adults as % of population	30%	48%	-18%	up 3%	up 5%
pre-school % of infants under 5 in education	25%	25%	-0%	up 2%	up 4%
teenage education % of 15–19 year-olds in education	64%	81%	-18%	up 4%	up 14%
children at school % of 5–14 year olds in education	93%	96%	-3%	up 6%	up 7%
Year 12 completion % of adults (15+) who have left school	30%	58%	-28%	up 6%	up 11%
average schooling average school Year completed	10.3 yrs	10.9 yrs	-0.7 yrs	0.3 yrs	0.5 yrs
tertiary qualifications % of adults 15+ with a post-school qualification	45%	59%	-14%	up 4%	up 8%
degree % of adults 15+ with a degree or higher qualification	7%	25%	-19%	up 2%	up 2%
postgrad % of adults 15+ with a postgraduate qualification	2%	8%	-6%	up 1%	up 1%
disability* % of people with a severe, long-term disability	7.6%	5.4%	+2.2%	up 1%	up 3%

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

Aboriginal population and growth

In the 2016 Census, the NSW Aboriginal population was counted as 216,176 people, of whom 207,256 identified as Aboriginal and 4,839 as Torres Strait Islander; 4,080 identified as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

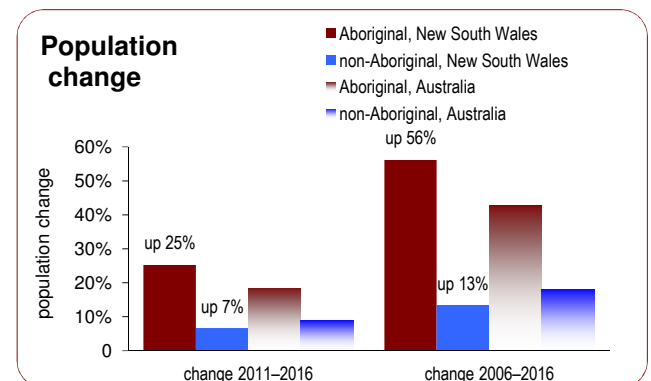
- ⌘ Aboriginal people comprised 2.9% of the NSW population, compared with 2.8% in Australia.
5.9% of New South Wales people did not say whether they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins.
- ⌘ Among the Aboriginal people here, there were 101 females per 100 males.
There were 103 females per 100 males 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 New South Wales rose by 25% (by 43,555) from 172,621; in total, the NSW population rose by 8%.

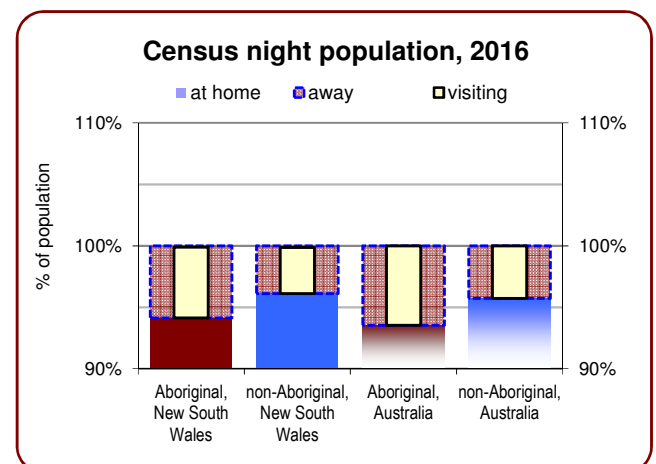
The number of infants born over the last five years accounted for four-sevenths of the Aboriginal population growth between 2011 and 2016.

- ⌘ Between 2006 and 2016, the NSW Aboriginal population rose by 56% (from 138,506 in 2006).
The NSW non-Aboriginal population rose by 13% over the decade.
The Aboriginal population counted in Australia rose by 43% over the decade.



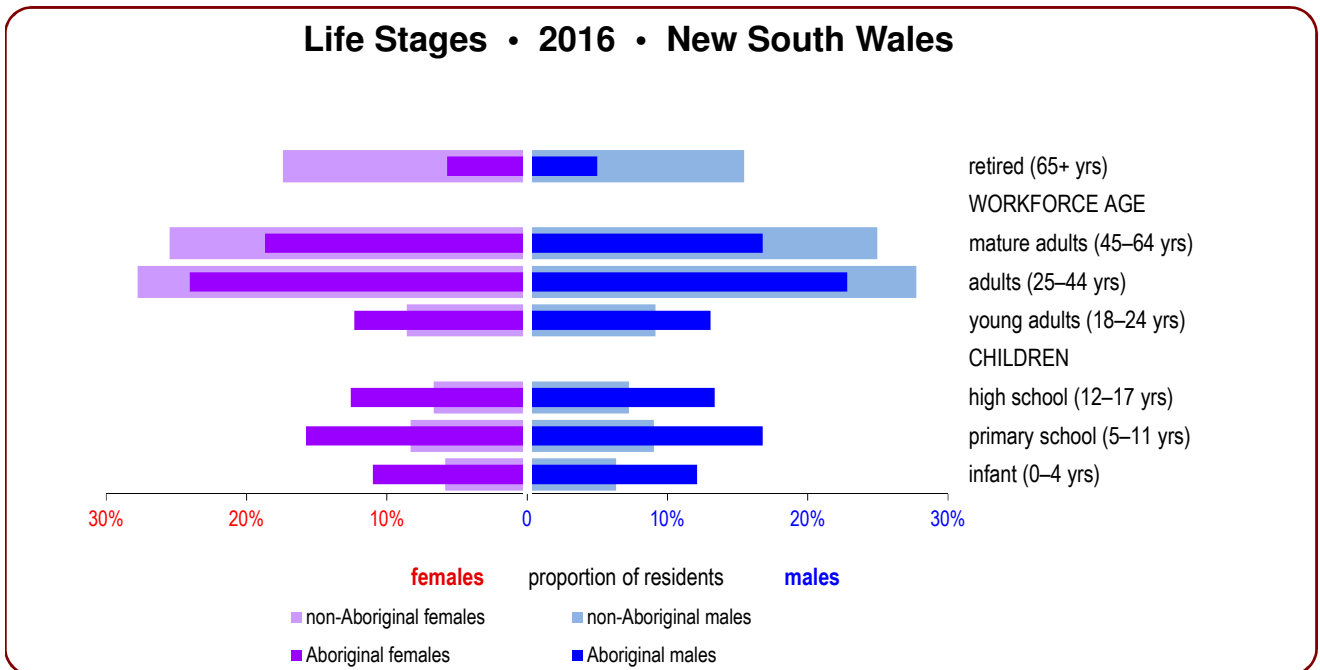
On Census night 2016, 203,474 Aboriginal residents of New South Wales were at home (94%), and 12,701 were staying away from home (6%). Offsetting those away, there were 12,449 Aboriginal visitors staying in the state that night, equivalent to 6% of the Aboriginal resident population.

- ⌘ There were 764 visitors from the same locality (eg. overnighting with neighbours).
85% of the visitors were from elsewhere in NSW and 5% were from Queensland; 2% were from Victoria.
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal residents away from home was similar to 2011.
The proportion away from home was 2% higher than for non-Aboriginal residents of this state; it was similar to Aboriginal residents of Australia.
- ⌘ There were 2,076 more Aboriginal visitors than in 2011, when there were 10,373, equal to 6% of the Aboriginal population.



Life stages

The Aboriginal population of New South Wales 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 the NSW Aboriginal population in 2016:

- ⌘ 116,444 people (54% or over five in ten) were adults aged 18–64.
 - 27,437 (or 13%) were aged 18–24
 - 50,653 (or 23%) were aged 25–44
 - 38,354 (or 18%) were aged 45–64

The number aged 18–64 was up 29% from 2011; and up 65% from 2006.
- ⌘ 88,153 Aboriginal residents (41% or four in ten) were children under 18.
 - 24,956 (or 12%) were under five
 - 35,174 (or 16%) were aged 5–11
 - 28,023 (or 13%) were aged 12–17

The number of children was up 18% since 2011; and up 40% since 2006.
- ⌘ 11,576 of Aboriginal residents were aged 65+ years (5% of the total).

The number aged 65+ had risen by 58% since 2011; it was 136% higher than in 2006.

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

4% more of the Aboriginal population were young adults (18–24 yrs), and 7% fewer were mature adults (45–64 yrs), compared with the non-Aboriginal population of the state.

Those aged 18–64 made up 55% of the Aboriginal community in Australia; their number had risen by 22% from 2011.

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

In Australia, 40% of the Aboriginal community were children under 18; the number was up 12% since 2011.

16% of non-Aboriginal people in New South Wales were aged 65+.

Across Australia, 5% of Aboriginal people were aged 65+; their number had risen by 49% since 2011, and by 105% since 2006.

Age profile

The Aboriginal population of New South Wales has an age profile that is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a lower median age (22 vs 38 years).

For the NSW Aboriginal population in 2016:

- ⌘ The average age was 28 years in 2016, with half the population aged under 22 years (the median age).
The largest 5-year age groups were 5–9 years (12%), 0–4 years (12%) and 10–14 years (11%).
- ⌘ The average age was one year higher than in 2011 and 3 years higher than in 2006.

Proportionally, the biggest increases since 2011 were of 65+ year olds (58% more), 60–64 year olds (47% more) and 55–59 year olds (46% more).

- ⌘ 11,576 Aboriginal people (5.4%) were aged 65+ years, compared with 16% of non-Aboriginal residents.
- ⌘ There were noticeably more males than females aged 0–4 years, 10–14 years and 20–24 years.

The average age was 12 years younger than for the non-Aboriginal residents; the median age was 16 years younger.

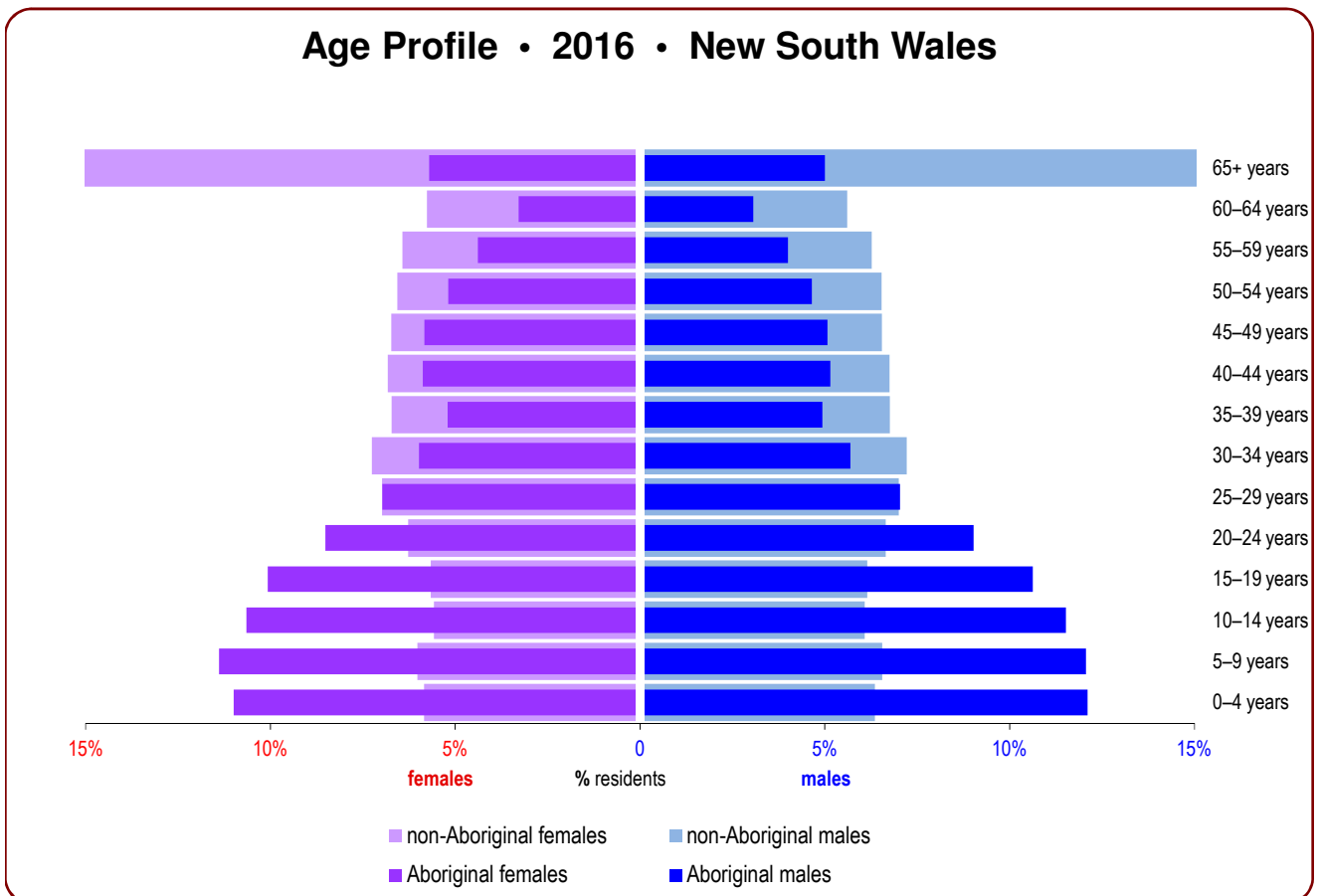
Non-Aboriginal population: about 6% were 5–9 years and also 0–4 years and 10–14 years.

The average age of Aboriginal people in Australia had risen by 2 years since 2011, and risen by 3 years in the decade since 2006.

In Australia's Aboriginal population, the increases since 2011 were: 65+ year olds (49%); 60–64 year olds (44%); and 55–59 year olds (39%).

The number aged 65+ was 58% higher than in 2011; the percentage of people this age was up by 1.1% since 2011, when it was 4.2%.

There were many more females than males among those aged 45–49 years, then those aged 40–44 years and 65+ years.



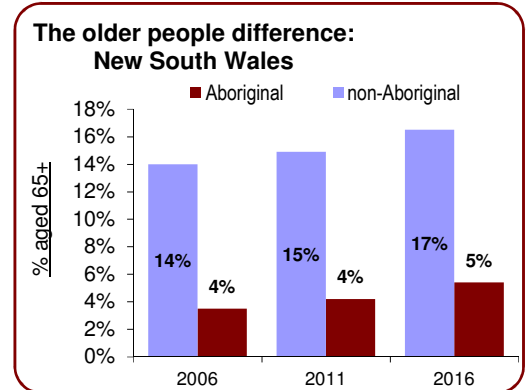
Population Indicators

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, 5.4% of the NSW Aboriginal residents were aged 65 or over, compared with 16.5% of non-Aboriginal residents. The older people difference was -11%.
- ⌘ The older people difference had changed little since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The older people difference in Australia was -11%. It had widened by 1% since 2011 and changed little over the previous five years.

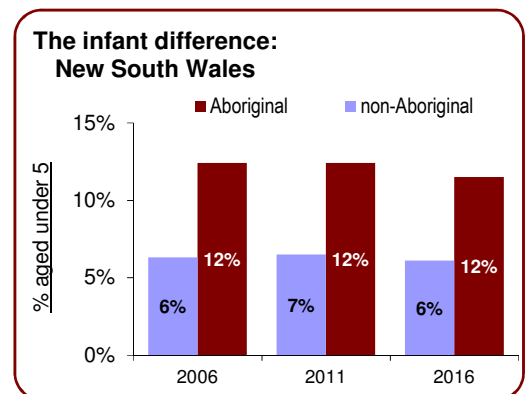


The infant difference

% 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, 11.5% of the NSW Aboriginal residents were infants, compared with 6.1% of non-Aboriginal residents. The infant difference was +5%.
- ⌘ The infant difference had closed by 1% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The infant difference in Australia was +5%. It had closed by 1% since 2011 and changed little over 2006 to 2011.

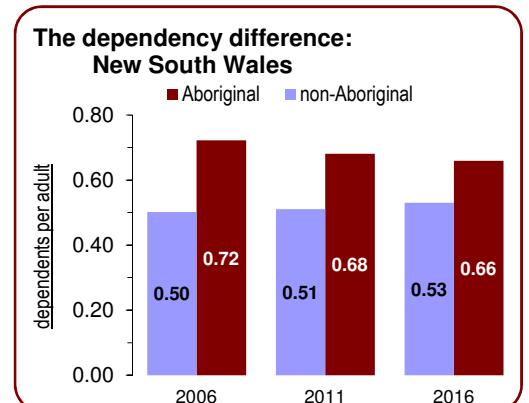


The dependency difference

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, the NSW Aboriginal community had a dependency ratio of 0.66, compared with 0.53 for the non-Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal dependency ratio was 0.13 higher.
- ⌘ The dependency difference had decreased by 0.04 since 2011, after having narrowed by 0.05 over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The dependency difference in Australia was 0.11 and had closed by 0.06 since 2011. It had closed by 0.04 over 2006 to 2011.



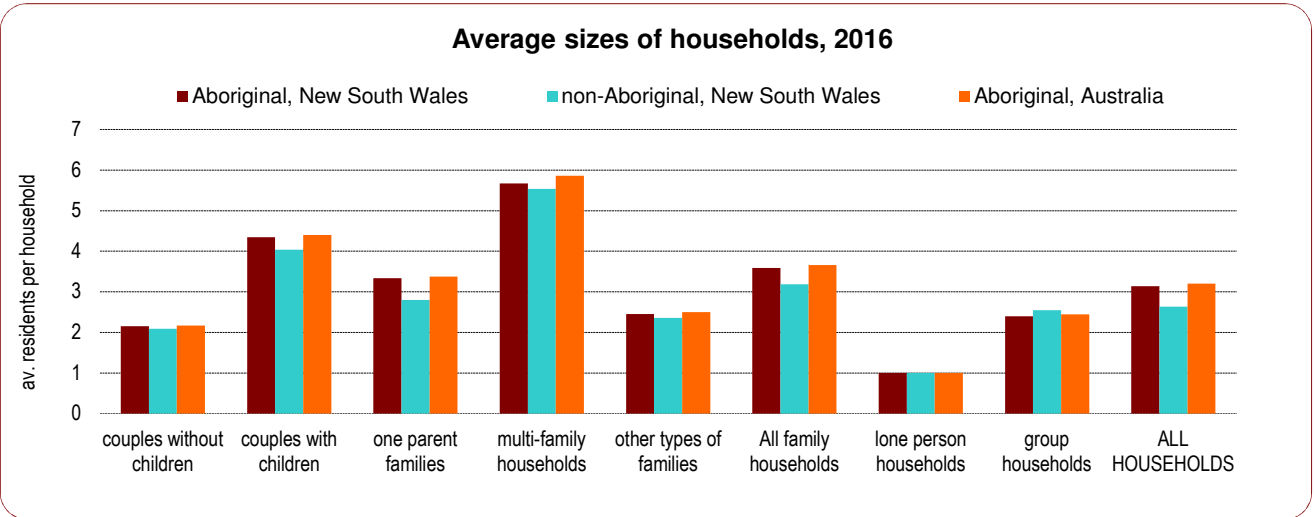
Household types and sizes

In 2016, the 216,176 Aboriginal residents of New South Wales were living in 95,491 households, 29% more than in 2011.

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

- ⌘ Three in ten were couples with children (29,267 households, or 31%). similar to non-Aboriginal here
- ⌘ Almost three in ten were one parent families (25,476 households, or 27%). 16% more than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ One in six were couples without children (15,498 households, or 16%). 9% less than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ One in seven were one-person households (14,223 households, or 15%). 9% less than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ There were 4,155 multi-family households, and 1,801 other types of households.

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



Aboriginal households had an average of 3.1 residents in 2016, which was similar to 2011, and similar to 2006.

- ⌘ Aboriginal households here were similarly sized to Australia, which averaged 3.2 residents. The average size of Australia's Aboriginal households was little changed since 2011.
- ⌘ The average size of non-Aboriginal households in the state was 2.6 residents; Aboriginal households were 19% 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: 24%.
- ⌘ Aboriginal couple families had an average of 2.3 children, compared with 2.0 for non-Aboriginal families here. Aboriginal families in Australia averaged 2.4 children. The average size of Aboriginal nuclear families was little changed since 2011, and little different from 2006.
- ⌘ Aboriginal one-parent families averaged 2.3 children, compared with 2.4 in Australia and 1.8 for non-Aboriginal one-parent families here. The average number of children per one-parent family was little changed since 2011, and little changed since 2006.
- ⌘ At an average size of 3.1 persons, the 95,491 Aboriginal households had some 300,000 members, but only 197,397 Aboriginal people were counted in these households. This suggests that some 100,000 people in the NSW Aboriginal households (one in three) did not identify as Aboriginal in the Census.

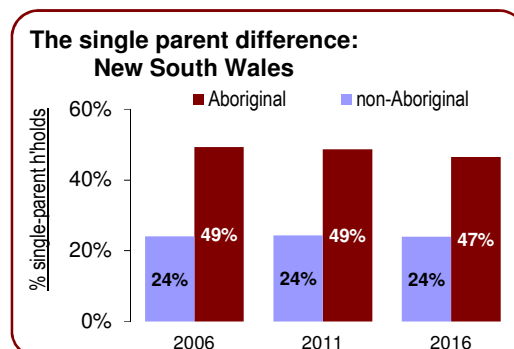
Household Indicators

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 the NSW Aboriginal family households with children had one parent, compared with 24% of non-Aboriginal families. The difference was +23%.
- ⌘ The single parent difference had decreased by 2% since 2011, after having decreased by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The single parent difference in Australia was +21%. It had decreased by 1% since 2011 after having changed little over 2006 to 2011.

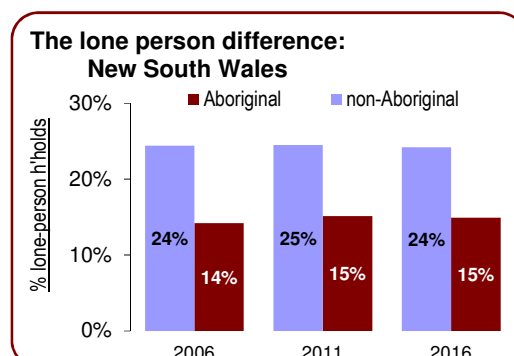


The lone person difference

% 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 the NSW Aboriginal households were lone persons, compared with 24% of non-Aboriginal households. The lone person difference was -9%.
- ⌘ The lone person difference had changed little since 2011, after having reduced by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The lone person difference in Australia was -10% and had changed little since 2011. It had changed little between 2006 and 2011.

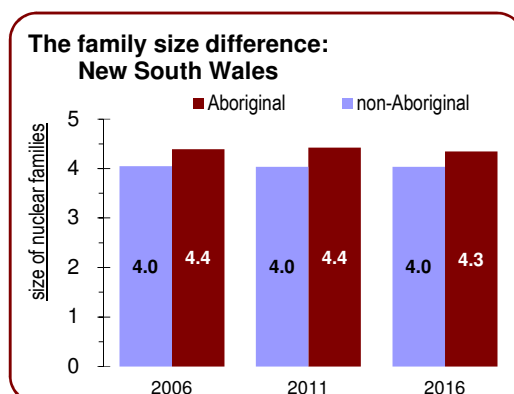


The family size difference

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 the NSW Aboriginal nuclear families was 4.3 persons (i.e. 2.3 children), compared with 4.0 persons (2.0 children) for non-Aboriginal families, a difference of 0.3 children per family.
- ⌘ The family size difference had decreased by 0.1 since 2011, after having increased by 0.1 over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The family size difference in Australia was 0.4 children per family, and had decreased by 0.1 since 2011. It had changed little from 2006 to 2011.



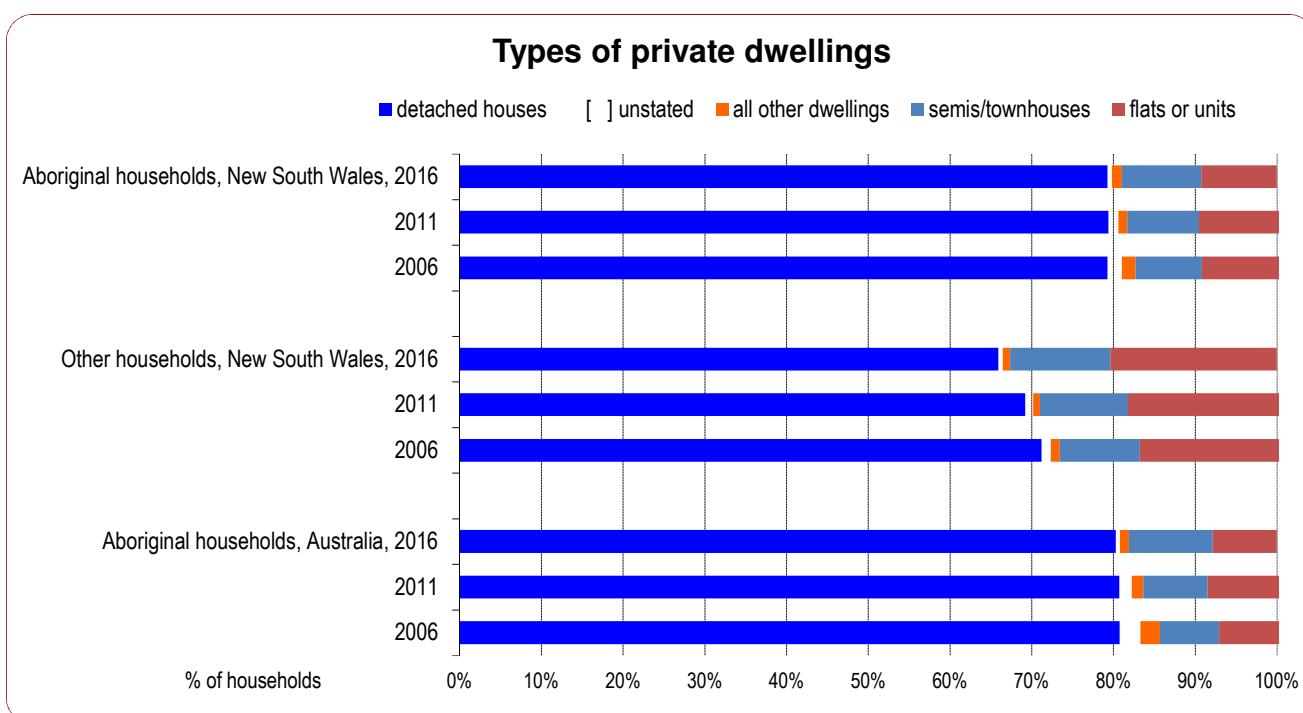
Types of housing

In 2016, most Aboriginal households in New South Wales (79%) were living in detached houses, with 10% living in semis/townhouses and 9% living in flats or units.

- ⌘ Compared with other households in New South Wales, 13% more Aboriginal households lived in detached houses, and 11% fewer lived in flats or units.
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households living in detached houses in New South Wales was little changed since 2011, and was similar to 2006.

The proportion in flats or units was 1% higher than that of Aboriginal households in Australia. The proportion in detached houses was 1% lower.

The proportion of non-Aboriginal households in detached houses in New South Wales was down by 3% since 2011 and down by 5% since 2006.



5,092 Aboriginal people in the state (3%) were counted living in institutional accommodation on Census night (eg. nursing homes, hospitals, boarding houses, correctional centres, barracks or boarding schools).

- ⌘ There were 4,115 Aboriginal people living in institutional accommodation in this state in 2011, and 4,992 in 2006.
- ⌘ There were 3.3 males per female among Aboriginal people in institutional accommodation.

In 2016, there were 134,856 people living in institutional accommodation in New South Wales; 2% 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.

177 Aboriginal people were reported living in improvised accommodation (eg. shacks, tents or sleeping out) in the state on Census night.

- ⌘ This was up by 120 since 2011.
There were 115 males and 65 females in 2016.

There were 2,373 non-Aboriginal people in improvised accommodation in New South Wales in 2016.

Housing costs and tenure

In 2016, Aboriginal households in New South Wales most commonly lived in dwellings that were rented (54% of the households). Another 27% lived in dwellings that were being purchased, and 15% in homes that were fully owned.

⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households that rented, 54%, was 23% higher than for other households here.

The proportion living in rented dwellings was down by 3% since 2011, and was 5% lower than in 2006.

The median weekly rent paid by Aboriginal households was \$270. It was \$200 in 2011 and \$150 in 2006.

⌘ The proportion living in dwellings that were being bought (27%) was 5% lower than for Other households.

The proportion living in mortgaged dwellings was up by 1% since 2011; and 4% higher than in 2006.

The median monthly mortgage paid by Aboriginal households in the state in 2016 was \$1,733. It was \$1,668 in 2011 and \$1,257 for 2006.

⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings (15%) was 18% lower than for non-Aboriginal households.

The proportion in fully owned dwellings was up by 1% since 2011; and 1% higher than in 2006.

Among Aboriginal households, the proportion renting in New South Wales was 4% lower than the rate in Australia.

31% of Other households in New South Wales were renting, 2% higher than in 2011, and 2% higher than in 2006.

The median weekly rent paid by Other households in New South Wales was \$390. It was \$300 in 2011 and \$220 in 2006.

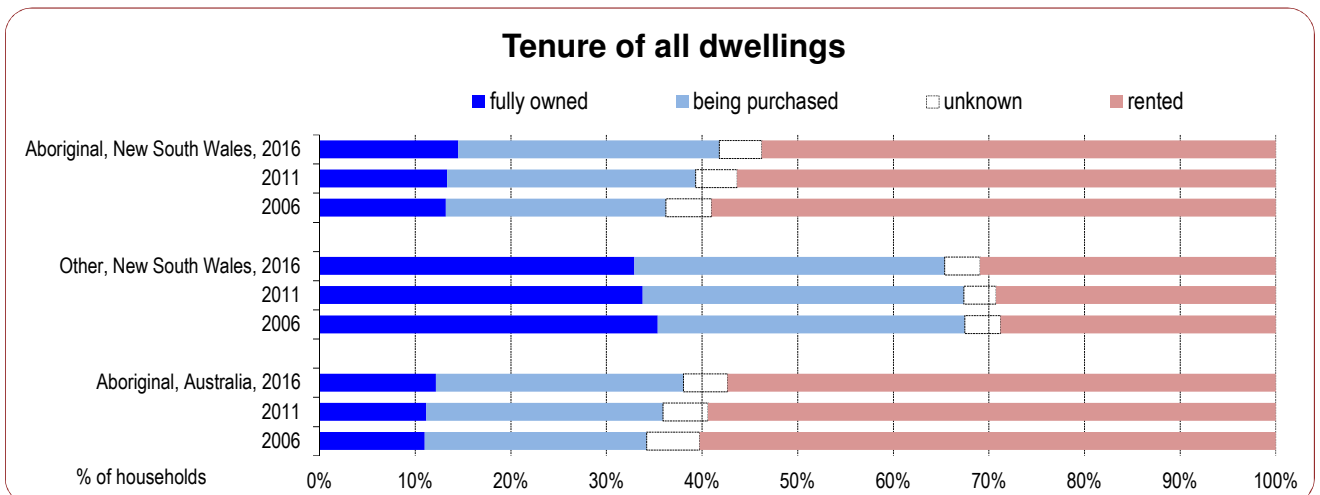
In Australia, 26% of Aboriginal households were home-buyers with a mortgage.

32% of the Other households in New South Wales had a mortgage, down by 1% since 2011, and steady since 2006.

The median mortgage paid by Other households in New South Wales was \$2,000. It was \$2,000 in 2011 and \$1,517 in 2006.

The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings in New South Wales was 2% higher than the average in Australia.

The proportion of Other households in fully owned dwellings in New South Wales was down by 1% since 2011, and down by 2% since 2006.



Of 51,327 Aboriginal rental households, 47% were managed by real estate agents and 29% were managed by public housing.

⌘ 15,010 Aboriginal households lived in public housing (16% of all households).

This number had risen by 932 since 2011.

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

The number of Other households in public housing in New South Wales had fallen by 4,873.

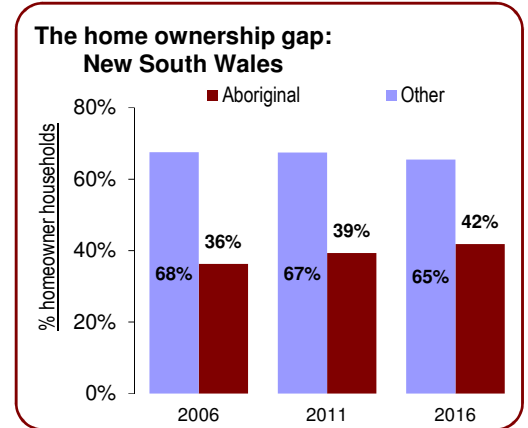
Housing Indicators

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, 42% of Aboriginal households in New South Wales were either buying or owned their home, compared with 65% of other households, a home ownership gap of -24%.
- ⌘ The gap had closed by 4% since 2011, after having closed by 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The home ownership gap in Australia was -28% and had closed by 4% since 2011. It had closed by 3% between 2006 and 2011.

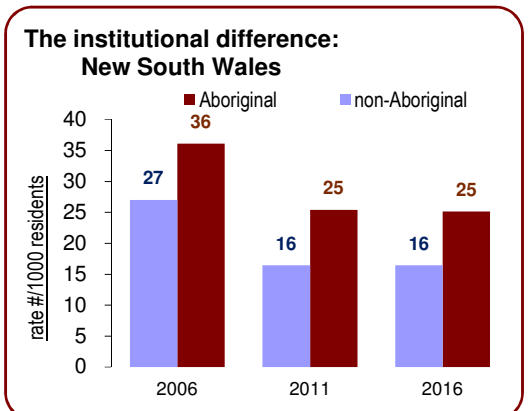


The institutional difference

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, 25 in every 1000 Aboriginal residents in New South Wales were in institutional housing, compared with 16 per 1000 non-Aboriginal residents. The institutional difference was +9 per 1000.
- ⌘ The institutional gap had changed little since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The institutional difference in Australia was 17 per 1000 and had increased by 2 per 1000 since 2011. It had fallen by 1 per 1000 between 2006 and 2011.

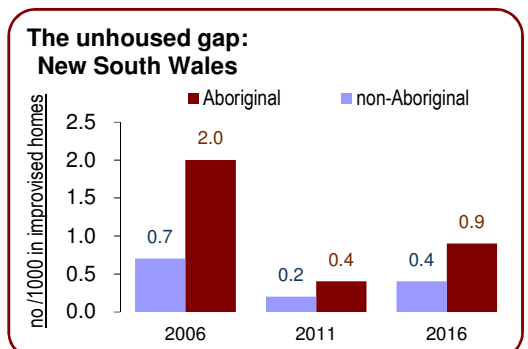


The 'unhoused' gap

rate per 1000 of people in improvised housing

An indicator of homelessness in the Census is the count of people living in improvised housing (eg. shacks, tents or sleeping out).

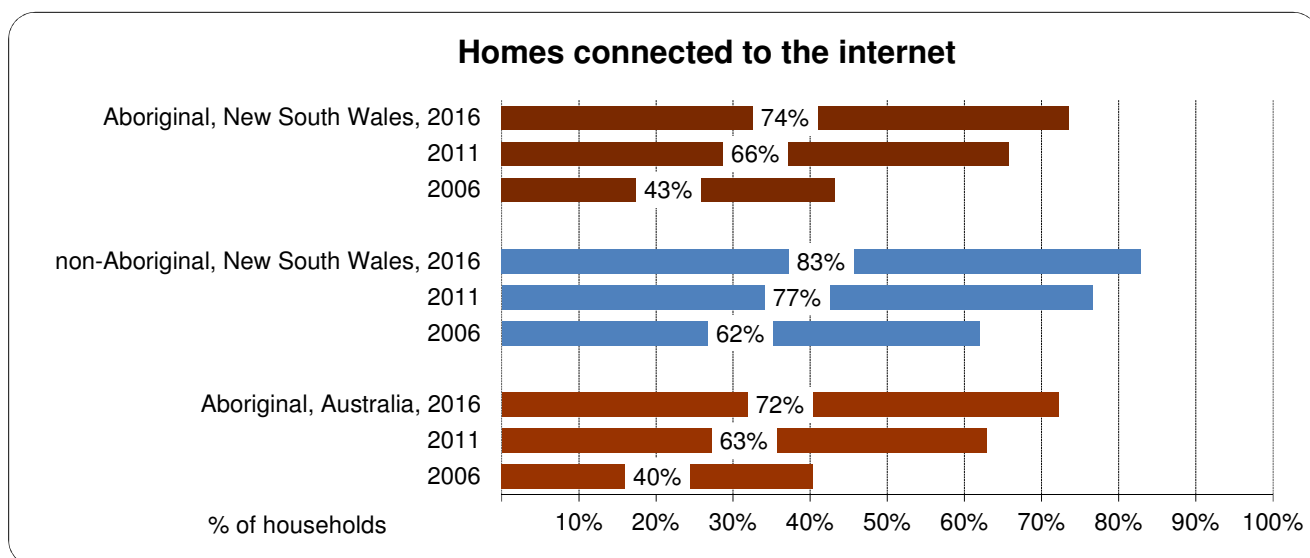
- ⌘ In 2016, 0.9 in every thousand Aboriginal residents in the state lived in improvised housing; 0.4 per 1000 non-Aboriginal residents did. The unhoused gap was +0.5 per 1000.
- ⌘ The unhoused gap had widened by 0.3 per 1000 since 2011, after having closed by 1.1 per 1000 over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The unhoused gap in Australia was 1.3 per 1000, and had closed by 0.6 per 1000 since 2011. It had closed by 2.9 per 1000 over 2006 to 2011.



Internet @ home

In 2016, 74% of Aboriginal households in New South Wales had an internet connection while 23% did not (21,489 households); 4% did not answer the question.

- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households connected to the internet was similar to Australia (72% connected), ... but 9% lower than non-Aboriginal households in New South Wales (where 83% of homes were connected).
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households with internet was up by 8% from 66% in 2011. The proportion was up by 9% for Aboriginal households in Australia. It was up by 6% for non-Aboriginal households in this state (from 77% in 2011).
- ⌘ In 2006, 43% of the NSW Aboriginal people had the internet at home. This compared with 40% of Aboriginal people in Australia and 62% of non-Aboriginal people in this state.



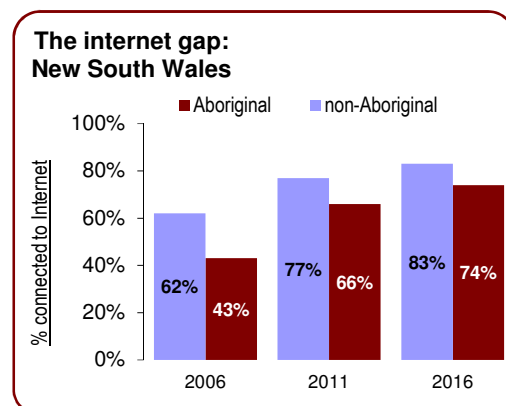
The internet gap

% 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, 74% of the NSW Aboriginal households had an internet connection, compared with 83% of other households, an internet gap of -9%.
- ⌘ The internet gap had closed by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 8% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The internet gap in Australia was 12% and had narrowed by 2% since 2011. It narrowed by 8% between 2006 and 2011.

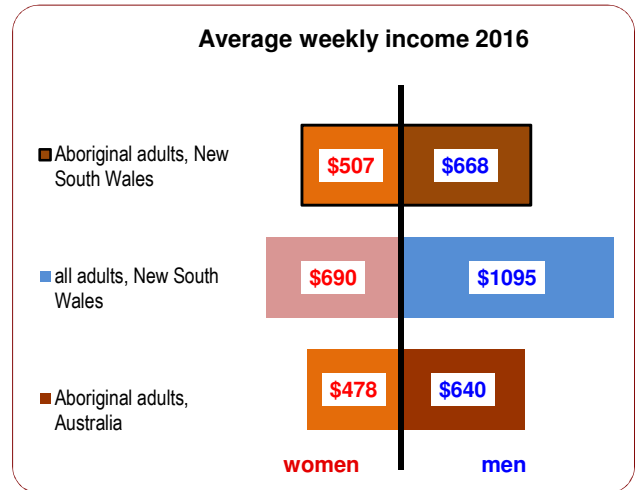
The 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses had different questions about the internet.



Personal income

In 2016, the average weekly income of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) in New South Wales was about \$621, which was close to that of Aboriginal adults in Australia (\$597), but 35% less than the average of all adults in the state (\$955).

- ⌘ Aboriginal men in New South Wales averaged \$668 a week (61% of the overall male average here). Aboriginal women averaged \$507 a week (73% of the overall female average).
- ⌘ The average weekly income of Aboriginal men was \$27 higher in the state than in Australia. The average weekly income of Aboriginal women here was \$29 higher than in Australia.
- ⌘ Half of the Aboriginal adults received under \$472 a week (the median income).



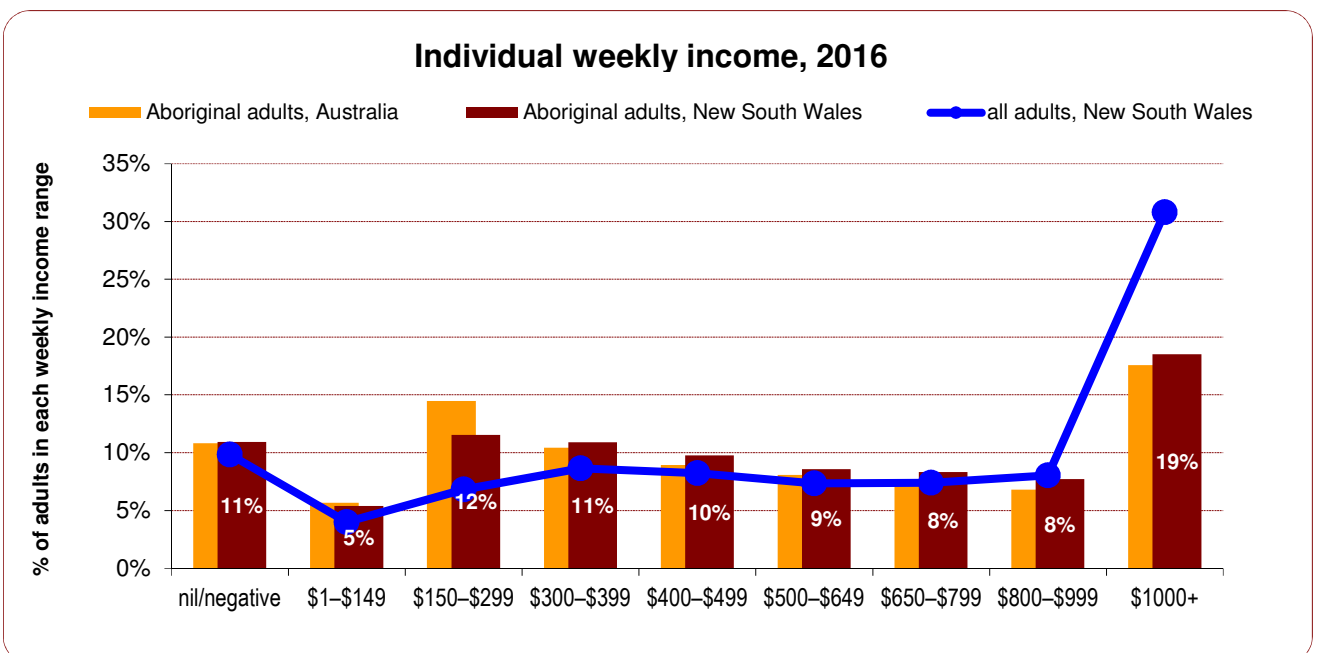
The income distribution pattern among Aboriginal adults in New South Wales was similar to Aboriginal adults in Australia, but also different from all adults in the state.

Compared with Aboriginal adults across Australia:

- ⌘ proportionally more Aboriginal adults here were in the \$650–\$799 and \$1000+ ranges.
- ⌘ fewer were in the \$150–\$299 and \$1–\$149 ranges.

Compared with all adults in this state:

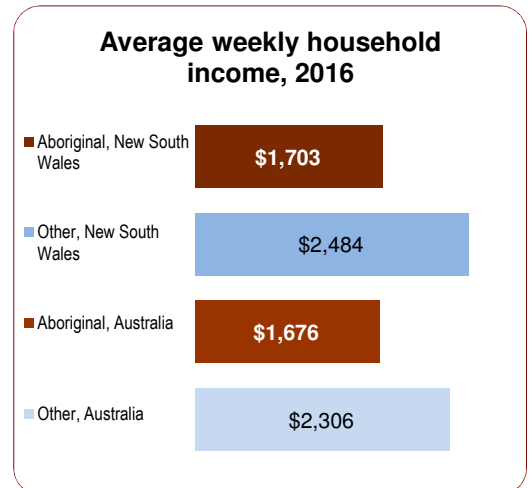
- ⌘ more Aboriginal adults were in the \$150–\$299 and \$300–\$399 ranges.
- ⌘ proportionally fewer were in the \$1000+ range.



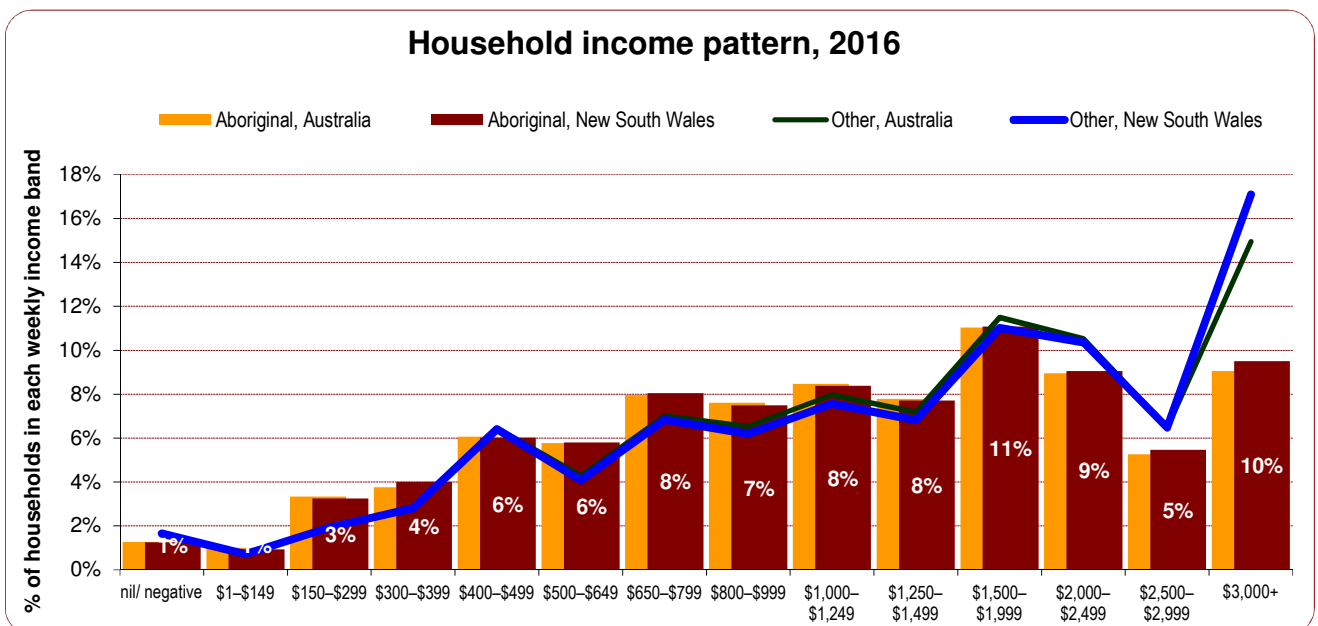
Household income

In 2016, the average income of Aboriginal households in New South Wales was about \$1,703 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 New South Wales was similar to the average of Aboriginal households in Australia (\$1,676 a week).
- ⌘ It was 31% less than the average of other households in New South Wales – \$2,484 a week.
- ⌘ Half the Aboriginal households received less than \$1,214 a week (the median household income).
- ⌘ Aboriginal households in the state had an average size of 3.1 residents, compared with 2.6 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 New South Wales was similar to Australia's Aboriginal households, and different from other households in the state.



Compared with Aboriginal households across Australia:

- ⌘ more Aboriginal households here were in the \$3,000+ and \$300–\$399 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Aboriginal households were in the \$800–\$999 and \$150–\$299 income ranges.

Compared with non-Aboriginal households in this state:

- ⌘ more Aboriginal households were in the \$500–\$649 and \$150–\$299 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Aboriginal households were in the \$3,000+ and \$2,000–\$2,499 income ranges.

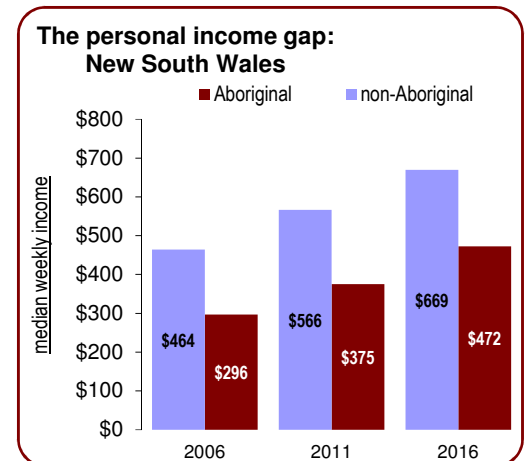
Income Indicators

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 New South Wales (\$472) was 71% that of non-Aboriginal adults in this state (\$669). The personal income gap was -29%.
- ⌘ The personal income gap had closed by 5% since 2011, after having closed by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The personal income gap in Australia was -34% and had narrowed by 4% since 2011. It had narrowed 3% between 2006 and 2011.

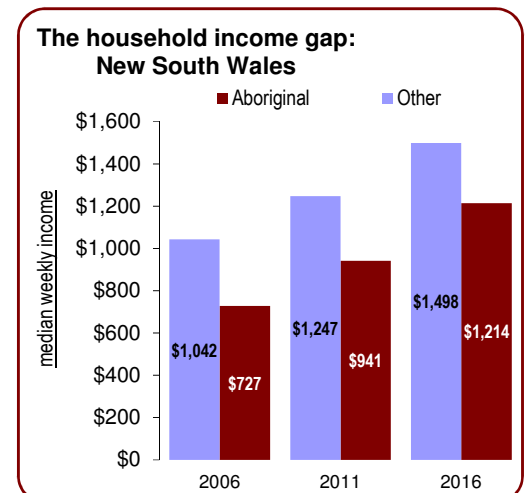


The household income gap

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 New South Wales was \$1,214, compared with \$1,498 for other households in the state. This was 19% lower – this is the household income gap.
- ⌘ The household income gap had narrowed by about 6% since 2011, after having narrowed by about 5% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The household income gap in Australia was 17% and had closed by 3% since 2011. It had narrowed by 3% between 2006 and 2011.



Employment

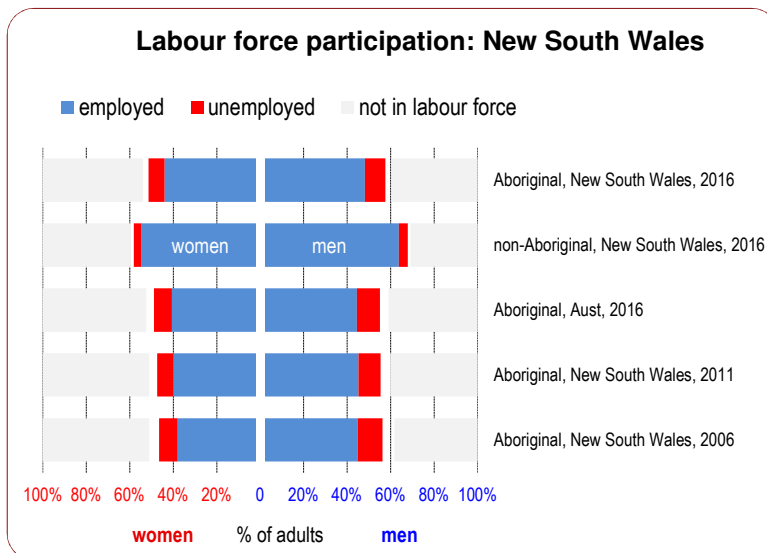
Employment is a prime determinant of a community's income, so it is an important indicator of well-being. In New South Wales, 65,317 out of 141,904 Aboriginal adults (15+) were employed in 2016 – 46% of adults.

11,827 Aboriginal adults were unemployed (8%), so the overall workforce participation rate (employed + unemployed) was 54%.

Aboriginal workforce participation was ...

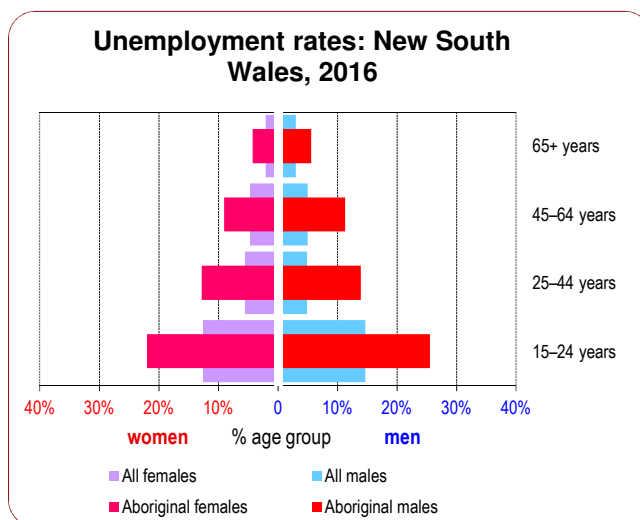
- ⌘ lower for women (51%) than men (58%).
- ⌘ 8% lower than the average for non-Aboriginal adults in the state.
- ⌘ 2% higher than the average for Aboriginal adults in Australia.

The Aboriginal workforce participation rate here was 3% higher than in 2011 and 3% higher than in 2006.

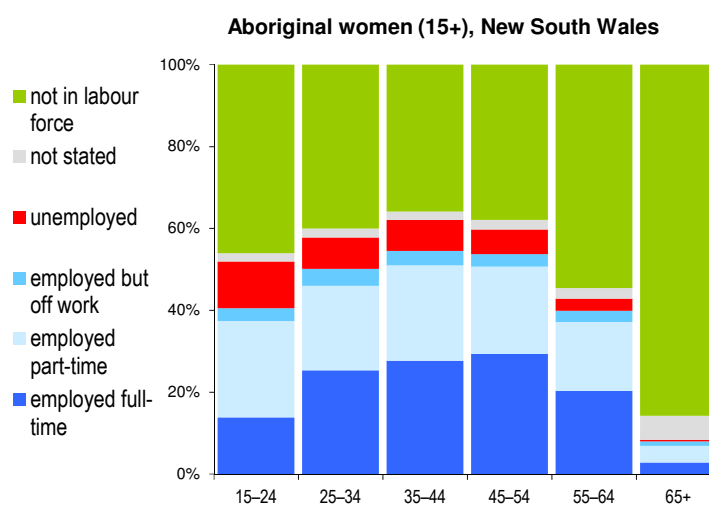
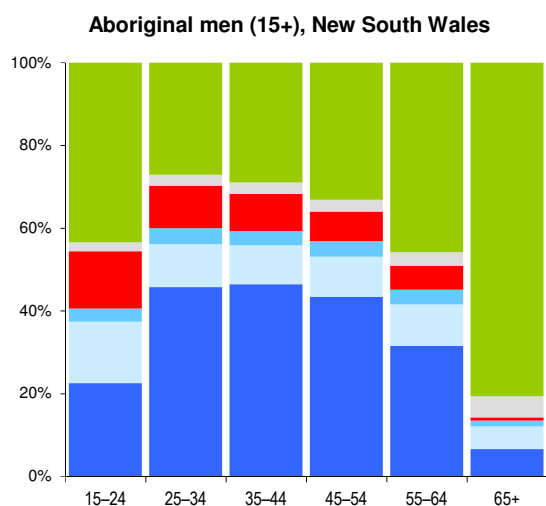


In 2016, the Aboriginal unemployment rate in New South Wales was 15%, with 11,827 people out of work.

- ⌘ This rate was higher than the 6% rate among non-Aboriginal adults in the state.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal unemployment rate was 16% for men and 14% for women.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal unemployment rate was 2% lower than in 2011, and 4% lower than in 2006.
- ⌘ Aboriginal unemployment was highest among those aged 15–24 years (24%) and 25–44 years (13%). It was lowest among those aged 45–64 years (10%).



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



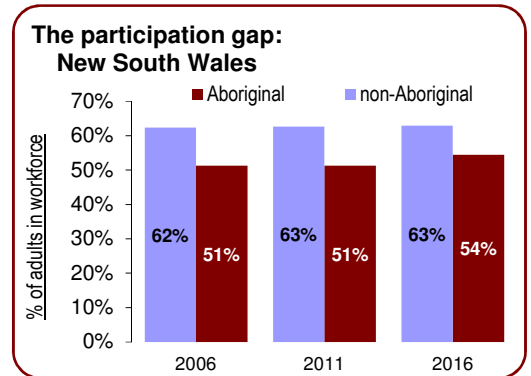
Workforce Gap Indicators

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 New South Wales in the workforce was 54%; the proportion of non-Aboriginal adults in the workforce was 63%; the participation gap was -8%.
- ⌘ The participation gap had closed by 3% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The participation gap in Australia was -12% and had closed by 2% since 2011. It had widened by 1% between 2006 and 2011.

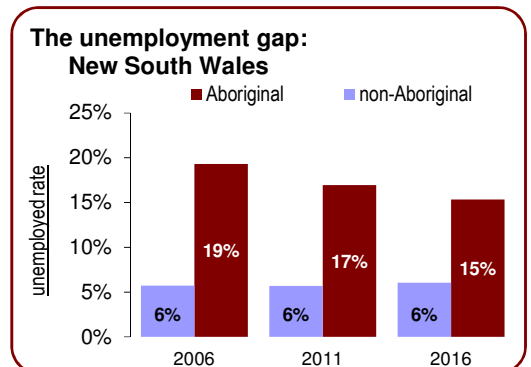


The unemployment gap

% 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, 15% of the Aboriginal workforce in New South Wales were unemployed; 6% of the non-Aboriginal workforce were unemployed; the unemployment gap was +9%.
- ⌘ The unemployment gap had closed by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The unemployment gap between in Australia was +12% and had changed little since 2011. It had widened by 1% between 2006 and 2011.

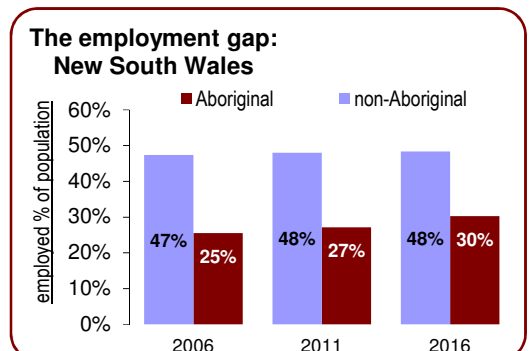


The employment gap

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, 30% of the Aboriginal population of New South Wales were employed; 48% of the non-Aboriginal workforce were employed; the employment gap was -18%.
- ⌘ The employment gap had closed by 3% since 2011, after having closed by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The employment gap in Australia was -21% and had closed by 2% since 2011. It had widened 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 New South Wales, one in three Aboriginal residents (76,509 people) was attending an educational institution in 2016.

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

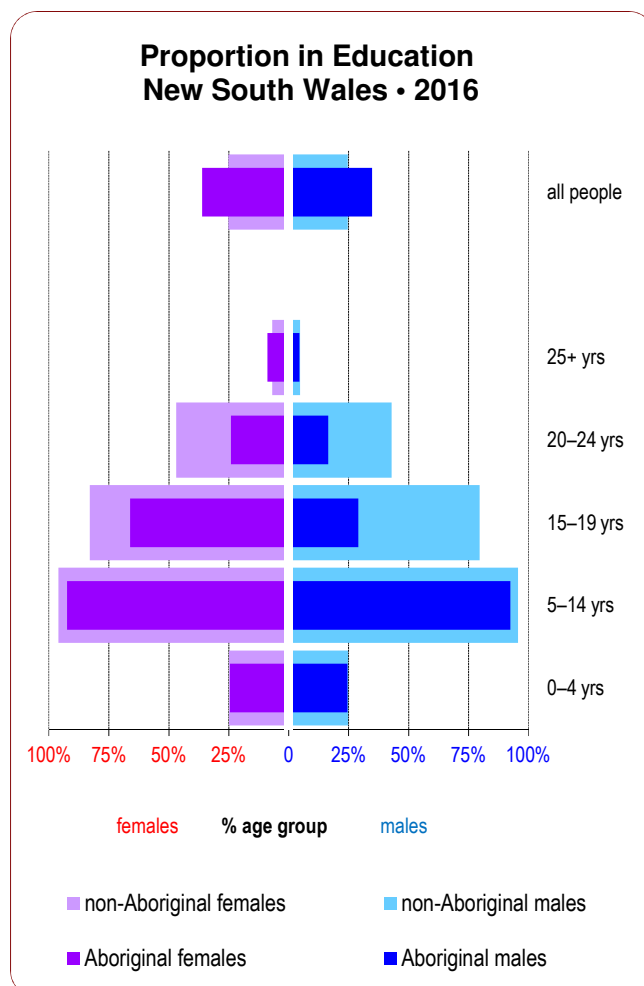
- 25% of the 0–4 year olds
- 92% of the 5–14 year olds
- 64% of the 15–19 year olds
- 20% of the 20–24 year olds
- 7% of those aged 25+

Partly because the Aboriginal population has a much higher proportion of children, their overall rate of participation in education, 35%, is higher than the non-Aboriginal rate in this state, 25%. Relative to non-Aboriginal people of the same age, there were, in education:

- similar proportions of 25+ year olds
- similar proportions of 0–4 year olds
- 3% fewer Aboriginal 5–14 year olds
- 18% fewer Aboriginal 15–19 year olds
- 25% fewer Aboriginal 20–24 year olds

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

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



Since 2011, overall participation in education by Aboriginal people in New South Wales had increased by 1%, but this masks changes among the age groups.

- The proportion of 0–4 year olds in education was up by 2% since 2011, and up by 4% since 2006.
- The proportion of 5–14 year olds in education was up by 6% since 2011, and up by 7% since 2006.
- The proportion of 15–19 year olds in education was up by 4% since 2011, and up by 14% since 2006.
- The proportion of 20–24 year olds in education was up by 2% since 2011, and up by 5% 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 62,960 Aboriginal children and teenagers in New South Wales were attending school, with 7,286 in pre-school, 33,034 in primary school, and 22,640 in high school.

The number of Aboriginal pre-schoolers was up by 1,686 or 30% since 2011 and, from 2006, up by 82%.

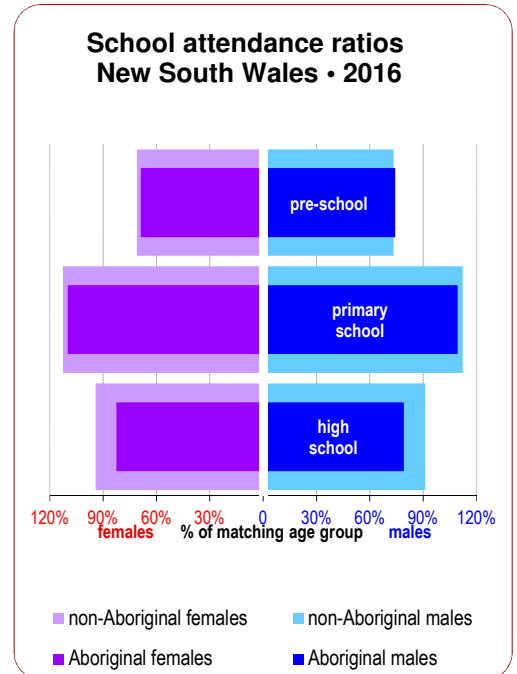
- ⌘ The 7,286 Aboriginal pre-schoolers equalled 72% of the Aboriginal children aged 4–5.
- ⌘ In Australia, Aboriginal pre-schoolers equalled 56% of the number aged 4–5 years. Non-Aboriginal pre-schoolers in this state represented 72% of their age group.

The number of Aboriginal primary students (33,034) was up by 7,901 or 31% since 2011; it was 48% higher than in 2006.

- ⌘ Aboriginal primary students were 110% of the number aged 6–11. This is because some primary students were other ages.
- ⌘ This rate was 1% higher than the Aboriginal rate in Australia and 3% lower than for non-Aboriginal children here.

The number of Aboriginal secondary students (22,640) was up by 4,047 or 22% since 2011 and 66% higher than 2006.

- ⌘ Aboriginal secondary students were 81% of the Aboriginal children aged 12–17.
- ⌘ This rate was 12% lower than the rate for non-Aboriginal secondary students; it was 3% higher than for Aboriginal students in Australia.



12,131 Aboriginal residents of New South Wales were in post-school education in 2016. This was 2,812 more than in 2011, with 5,601 more than in 2006.

In 2016, there were 3,149 Aboriginal 15–24 year olds from the state enrolled in TAFE (8% of the number this age); 35% attended full-time.

- ⌘ 6% of Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this state attended TAFE, with 44% full-time.
- ⌘ 7% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this state attended TAFE, with 38% full-time.

2,999 Aboriginal 15–24 year olds from the state attended university or other tertiary education (7% of the number this age); 83% were full-time.

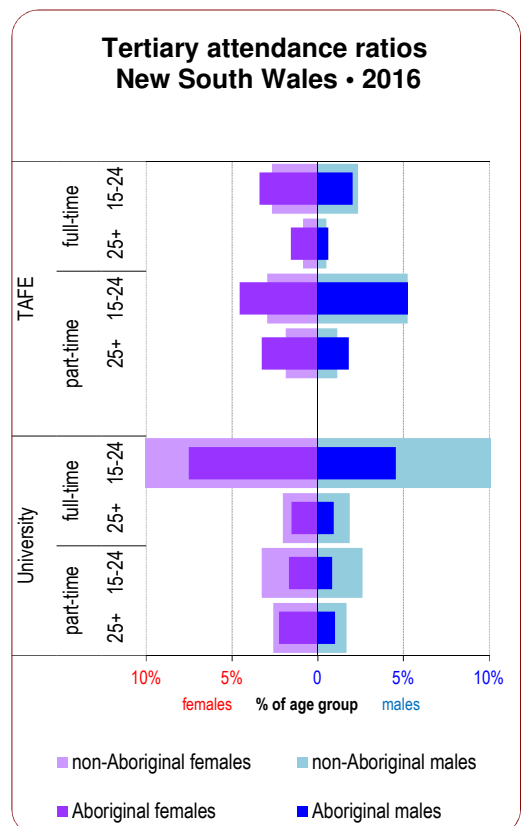
- ⌘ 6% of Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in Australia were at university, with 83% full-time.
- ⌘ 26% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this state were at university, with 89% full-time.

There were 3,262 Aboriginal students aged 25+ attending TAFE in 2016 (4% of those aged 25–64), with 30% full-time.

- ⌘ 3% of Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in Australia attended TAFE, with 33% full-time.
- ⌘ 2% of non-Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in this state attended TAFE, with 31% full-time.

2,599 Aboriginal residents aged 25+ were in tertiary education in 2016 (3% of 25–64 year olds), with 43% full-time.

- ⌘ 3% of Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in Australia were at university, with 45% full-time.
- ⌘ 4% of non-Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in this state were at university, with 48% full-time.



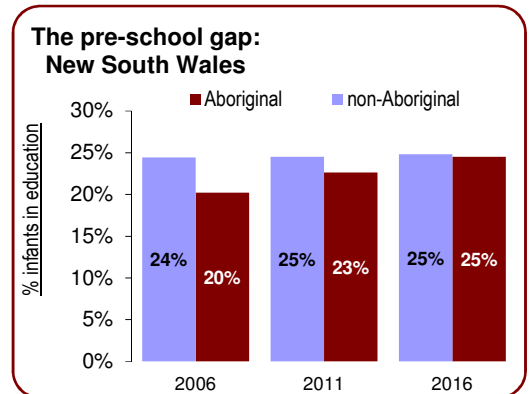
Education Attendance Indicators

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, 25% of Aboriginal infants in New South Wales were in education, compared with 25% of non-Aboriginal infants. The pre-school gap was nil.
- ⌘ The pre-school gap had closed by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The pre-school rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal infants in Australia were 20% and 21% in 2016, a gap of -1%. This gap had narrowed by 2% since 2011.

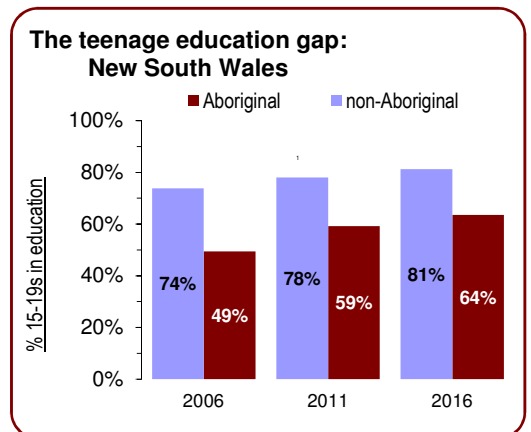


The teenage education gap

% 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, 64% of New South Wales Aboriginal teenagers aged 15–19 were in education, compared with 81% of non-Aboriginal teenagers. The teenage education gap was -18%.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap had closed by 1% since 2011, after having closed by 6% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in Australia was -21% and had narrowed by 2% since 2011. It narrowed by 4% over 2006 to 2011.



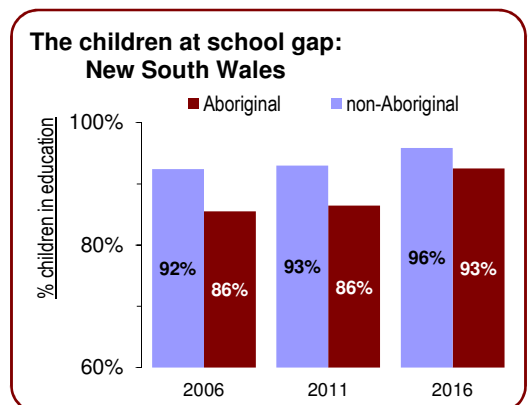
The children at school gap

% 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 New South Wales 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 4% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The schooling gap in Australia was -5% and had narrowed by 3% since 2011. It narrowed by 2% 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 New South Wales had completed an average of Year 10.3 of school, compared with Year 10.9 for non-Aboriginal adults. In Australia, Aboriginal adults averaged Year 10.3.

⌘ 39,119 Aboriginal adults in the state had completed Year 12, which was 64% more than in 2011 and 145% more than in 2006.

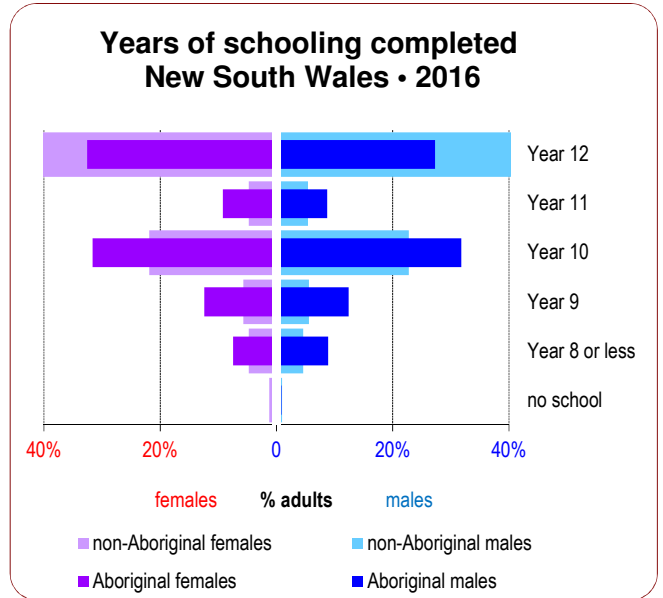
The proportion of Aboriginal adults in the state who had completed Year 12 was 30%, which was 28% lower than that of non-Aboriginal adults.

31% of Aboriginal adults across Australia had completed Year 12.

⌘ 71% of Aboriginal adults in the state had completed at least Year 10, which was similar to Aboriginal adults in Australia.

⌘ Of the others, 12% had completed Year 9 and 8% had completed Year 8 or lower; 953 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 New South Wales left school had risen by 4 months since 2011, and was up by 6 months since 2006.

Over the decade to 2016, there was an increase of 145% in the number who had finished Year 12 and an increase of 70% in the number who had finished school at Year 11.

For Aboriginal adults in this state, average schooling:

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

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

For non-Aboriginal adults, average schooling:

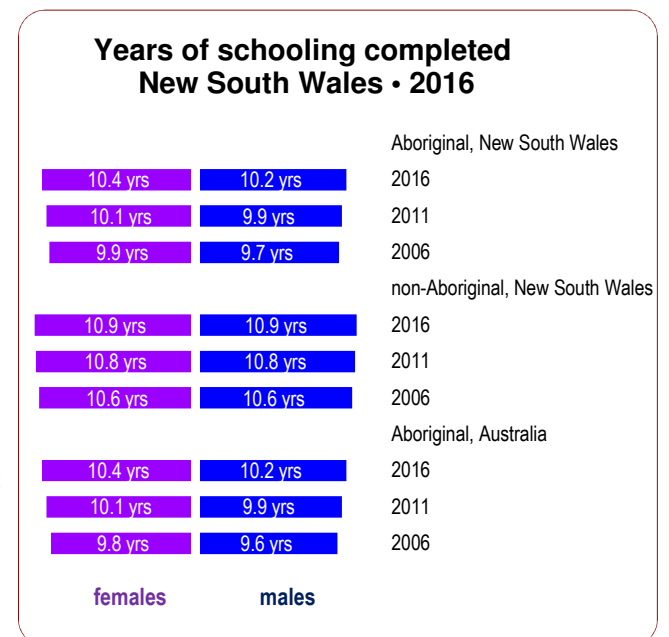
⌘ for men had risen by one month since 2011, and had risen by 4 months since 2006.

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

The average schooling of Aboriginal adults in Australia:

⌘ for men had risen by 4 months since 2011, and risen by 7 months since 2006.

⌘ for women had risen by 4 months since 2011, and risen by 7 months since 2006.



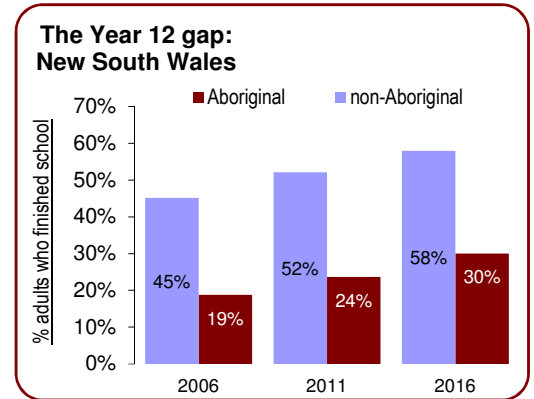
Education Achievement Indicators

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, 30% of New South Wales Aboriginal adults had completed Year 12, compared with 58% of non-Aboriginal adults. The Year 12 gap was -28%.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap had changed little since 2011, after having widened by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap in Australia was -27% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It widened by 2% between 2006 and 2011.

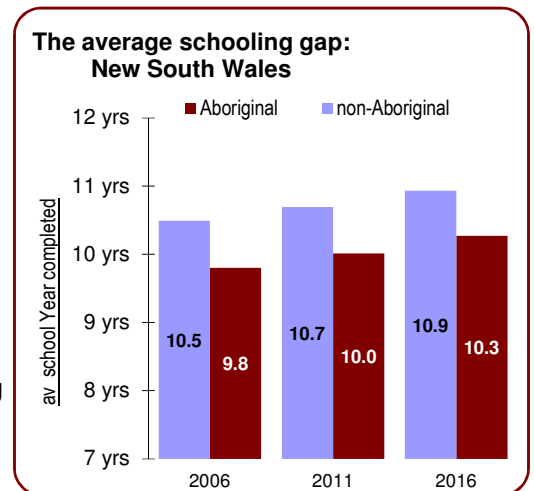


The average schooling gap

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, New South Wales Aboriginal adults had completed an average of Year 10.3 at school, compared with Year 10.9 for non-Aboriginal adults. The average schooling gap was -0.7 years.
- ⌘ The average schooling gap had barely changing since 2011, after having barely changing over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The average schooling gap in Australia was 8 months. It had narrowed by one month since 2011, after having narrowed by one month 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, 64,552 Aboriginal adults in New South Wales reported having tertiary educational qualifications, which was 45% of the number aged 15+.

By comparison, 44% of Aboriginal adults in Australia and 59% of non-Aboriginal adults in New South Wales had a tertiary qualification.

9,515 Aboriginal adults in the state had a degree or higher qualification (7%), with 2,511 having a postgraduate degree.

- ⌘ In Australia, 6% of the Aboriginal residents had a degree or higher qualification.
- ⌘ 25% of the non-Aboriginal residents of New South Wales had a degree or more.

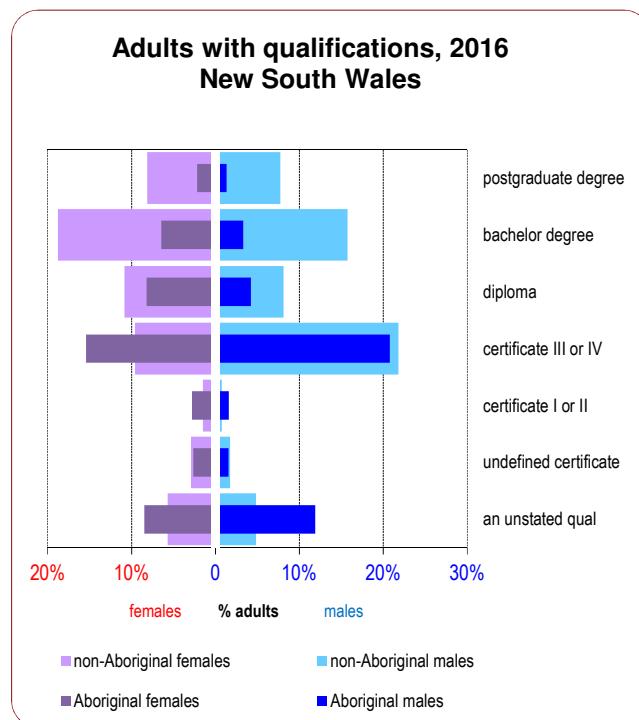
The most common highest qualification held by Aboriginal adults here were:

- certificate III or IV, held by 25,600 people (18%);
- an unstated qual, by 14,389 people (10%);
- diploma, by 8,908 people (6%).

While the number of Aboriginal adults in New South Wales rose by 29% from 2011 to 2016, the number with qualifications rose by 43%. There were:

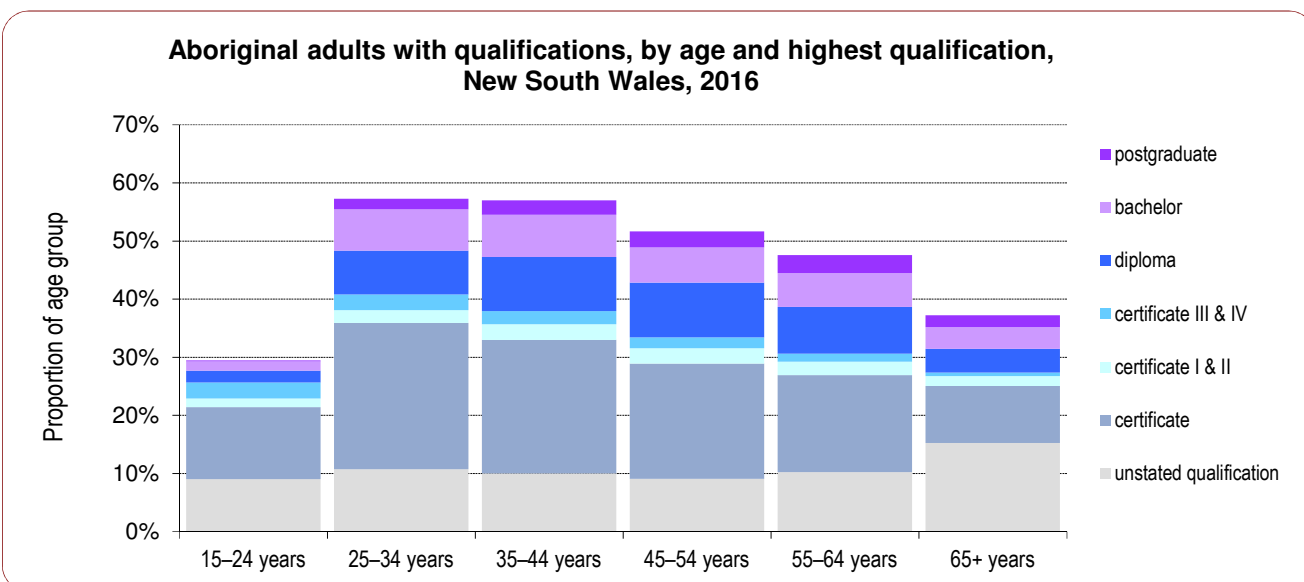
- 9,670 more with a certificate III or IV;
- 4,162 more with a diploma;
- 2,665 more with a bachelor degree.

In the decade from 2006, the number of Aboriginal adults in the state with qualifications increased by 89%, while the adult population increased by 66%. There were 15,873 more with a certificate III or IV and 5,976 more with a diploma qualification.



In this decade, the number of Aboriginal adults in Australia with qualifications increased by 88%. There were 192% more with a postgraduate degree and 172% more with a diploma.

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 35–44 years and 45–54 years.



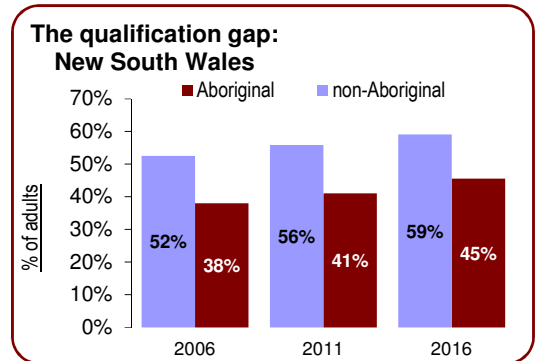
Higher Education Indicators

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, 45% of New South Wales Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a post-school qualification, compared with 59% of non-Aboriginal adults. The qualification gap was -14%.
- ⌘ The qualification gap had closed by 1% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The qualification gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in Australia was -14% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It changed little over 2006 to 2011.

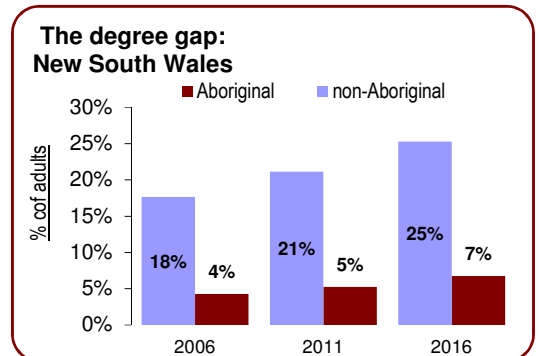


The degree gap

% 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, 7% of New South Wales Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a degree or higher qualification, compared with 25% of non-Aboriginal adults. The degree education gap was -19%.
- ⌘ The degree gap had widened by 3% since 2011, after having widened by 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The degree gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in Australia was -18% and had widened by 3% since 2011. It widened by 2% over 2006 to 2011.

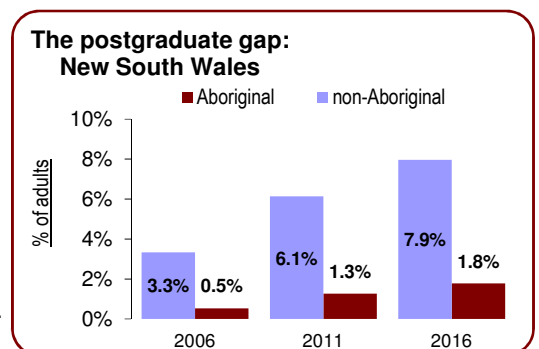


The postgraduate gap

% 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, 1.8% of New South Wales Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a post-graduate qualification, compared with 7.9% of non-Aboriginal adults. The postgraduate gap was -6.2%.
- ⌘ The postgraduate gap had widened by 1.3% since 2011, after having widened by 2.1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The postgraduate gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in Australia was -5.8% and had widened by 1.2% since 2011. It widened by 2.2% over 2006 to 2011.



Disability levels

In 2016 in New South Wales, 16,488 Aboriginal residents had a long-term severe disability; 7.6% of the population. Among all the NSW residents, 5.4% 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 (27%) and 55–64 year olds (15%).
Among younger Aboriginal residents, the disability rate was highest among 5–14 year olds at 7% and 35–44 year olds at 6%.

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 state, the overall Aboriginal disability rate was 1.4 times that in the overall population: 7.6% compared with 5.4%.

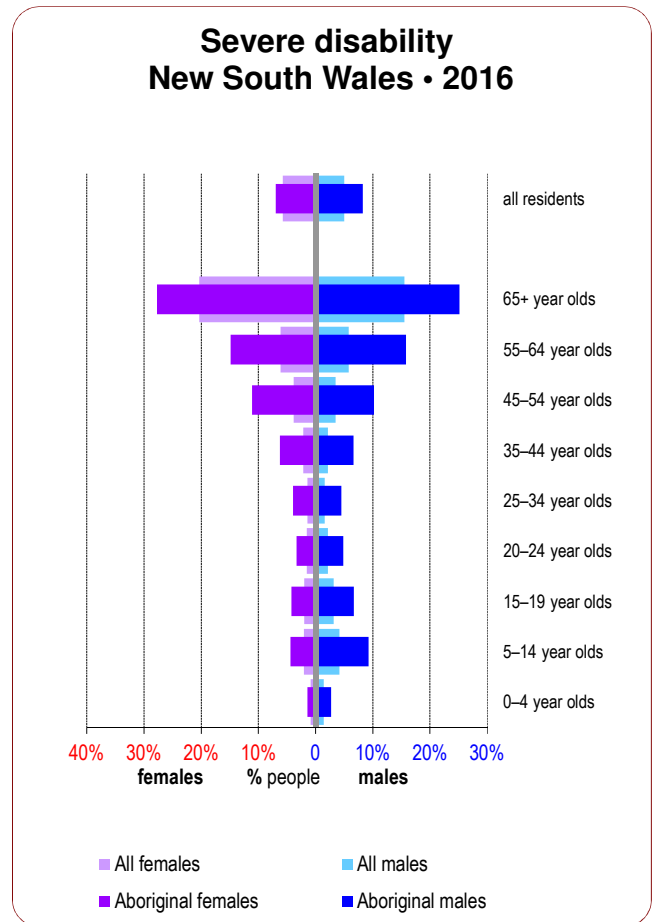
Among 35–44 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (6%) was 3 times the overall rate (2.2%);

Among 45–54 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (11%) was 3 times that of all residents (3.7%).

- ⌘ Aboriginal disability rates were higher for men than women: 8.3% to 7.0%. Among all residents, they were lower for men than women: 5.0% to 5.7%.

There were 1.3 females per male among 65+ year olds with a disability.

On the other hand, there were 2.2 males per female among 5–14 year olds with a disability. There were 2.1 males per female among 0–4 year olds.



From 2011 to 2016, the overall disability rate among Aboriginal residents of the state rose from 6.2% to 7.6%.

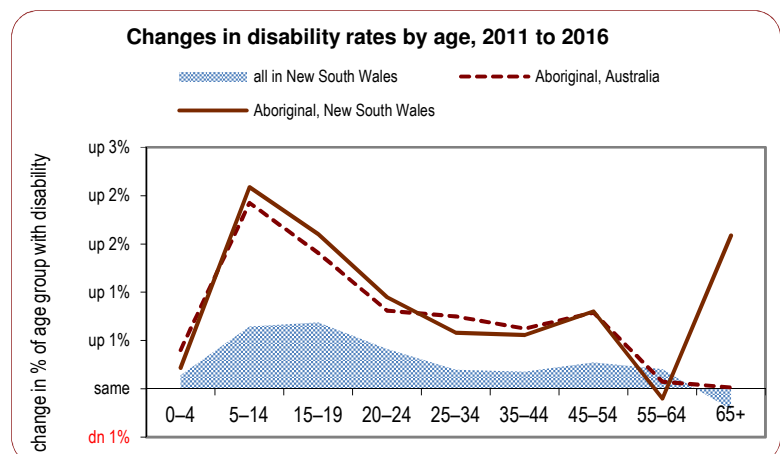
Among Aboriginal people in Australia, the disability rate rose from 5.4% to 6.7%.

Among all New South Wales residents, the disability rate changed little, and was 5.4% in 2016.

In the state, the greatest change in the Aboriginal disability rate was the increase among those aged 5–14, from 4.8% in 2011 to 6.9% in 2016.

Disability rates also rose among 15–19 year olds and 65+ year olds.

Disability rates fell most among those aged 55–64 years.



Disability care given

In the 2016 Census, 20,600 Aboriginal adults in New South Wales, 15% of the adult population, reported that they gave assistance to a person with a severe or profound disability. There were at that time 16,488 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 20% of 45–54 year olds and 20% of 55–64 year olds to 7% of 15–19 year olds.

⌘ Carers are more often women than men. In this Aboriginal community, there were 1.7 females per male among carers.

Female carers were most common among 35–44 year olds with 2.0 females per male caring, and among 45–54 year olds, with 1.9 females per male caring.

Male carers were less common than women carers across all age groups.

⌘ The 15% carer rate among Aboriginal residents was higher than the average for all adults in the state (12%).

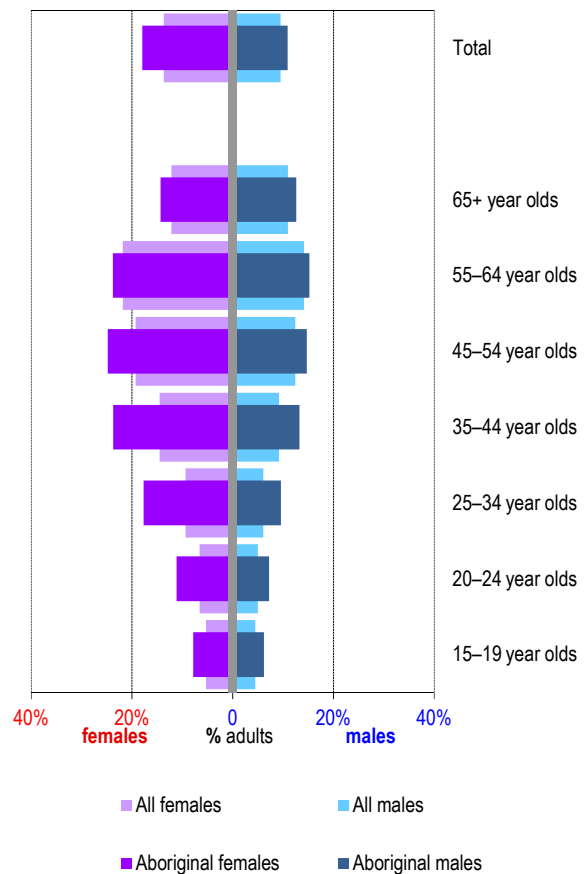
Among 25–34 year olds, the proportion of Aboriginal carers was 1.8 times the average.

Among 20–24 year olds, the proportion of Aboriginal carers was 1.6 times the average.

⌘ In Australia, 14% of Aboriginal adults were caring for a person with a disability.

Relative to Australia's Aboriginal community, there were 2% more carers among Aboriginal people aged 45–54 here. There were 2% more carers here among those aged 35–44.

Carers • New South Wales • 2016



From 2011 to 2016, overall caring rates among Aboriginal adults in the state changed only slightly from 14%.

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

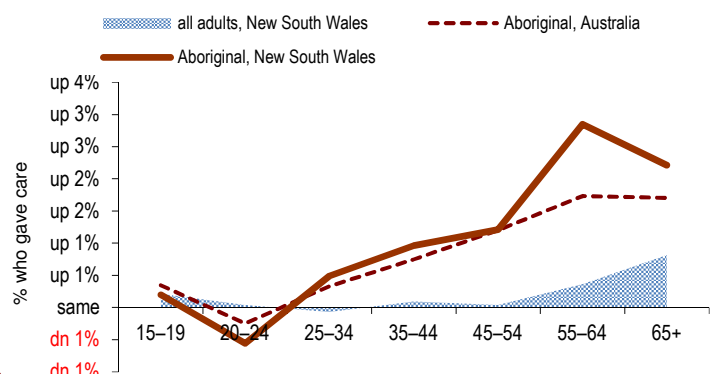
Among all the NSW adults, caring rates changed little.

⌘ In the state, Aboriginal caring rates increased most among 55–64 year olds, from 17% in 2011 to 20% in 2016.

Caring rates also rose 2% among 65+ year olds..

Caring rates fell most among 20–24 year olds (with no change).

Changes in caring rates, by age, 2011–2016



Disability Indicators

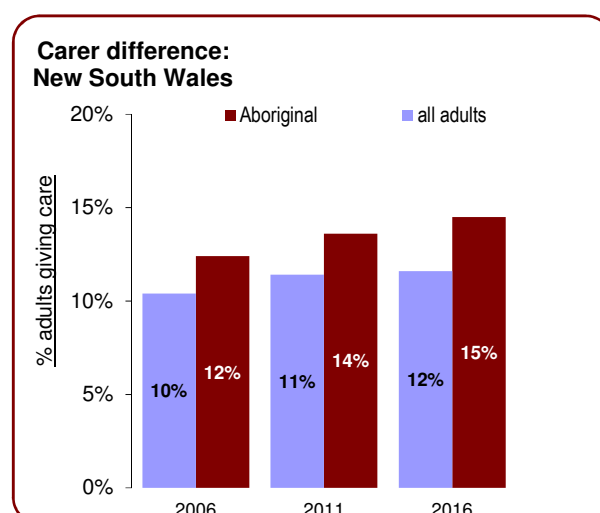
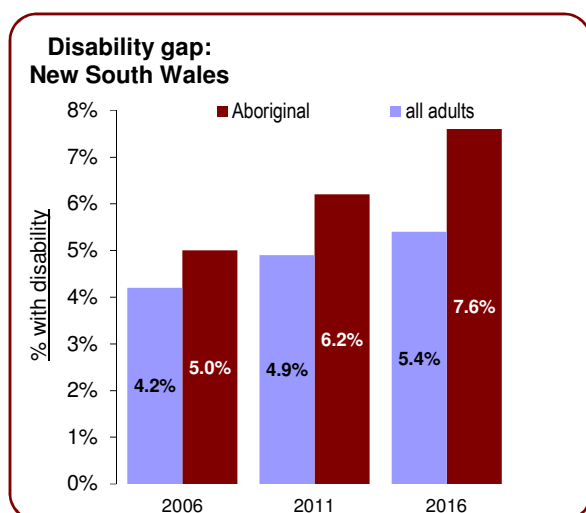
The disability gap

% 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, 7.6% of the NSW Aboriginal residents had a severe, long-term disability, compared with 5.4% for all residents. The disability gap was +2.2%. The Aboriginal disability rate was 1.4 times the overall rate.
- ⌘ The disability gap in New South Wales had widened by 0.9% since 2011, after having widened by 0.5% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The disability gap in Australia was +1.6% and had widened by 1.1% 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, 15% of the NSW Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) provided assistance to a person with a severe disability, compared with 12% of all adults. The carer difference was +3% (rounded).
- ⌘ The carer difference in New South Wales had widened by 1% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The carer difference in Australia was +2% in 2016. This had changed little since 2011.