This four-page summary presents key data on Aboriginal peoples in NSW, including population characteristics, education, employment, housing and crime. Where possible it compares data with non-Aboriginal people.

**Population:** in 2016, the estimated resident population of Aboriginal people in NSW was 265,685, representing 3.4% of the total NSW population and 33.3% of the Aboriginal population of Australia.

**Population growth:** by 2026, the NSW Aboriginal population is expected to grow to 282,962 people.

**Age:** in 2016, the median age of the NSW Aboriginal population was 22 years, compared with 38 years for the non-Aboriginal population. 53% of the Aboriginal population was aged 24 years and below, compared with 31% of the non-Aboriginal population.

**Location:** in 2016, 46.3% of the NSW Aboriginal population lived in major cities, 34.5% in inner regional areas, 15.5% in outer regional areas, 2.8% in remote, and 0.9% in very remote areas.

**Population mobility:** between 2011 and 2016, an estimated 9,645 Aboriginal people left NSW and an estimated 7,959 Aboriginal people moved into NSW.

**Identification change:** in 2016, 55,354 of the NSW Aboriginal population had not identified as Aboriginal in 2011, and 16,052 of those who had identified as Aboriginal in 2011 did not in 2016, resulting in a net inflow of 19.6%.
**Life expectancy:** life expectancy at birth in 2015-17 for Aboriginal people in NSW is 70.9 years for males and 75.9 years for females, compared with 80.2 years for non-Aboriginal males and 83.5 years for non-Aboriginal females.

**Infant mortality:** between 2016 and 2018, the rate of infant mortality was 4.4 per 1,000 for Aboriginal infants, compared with 2.9 per 1,000 for non-Aboriginal infants.

**Health:** in 2018-19, more than four in 10 Aboriginal people (47%) in NSW assessed their own health as very good or excellent.

**Disability:** in 2016, the disability rate for Aboriginal people was 7.6% compared with 5.4% for the NSW population overall.

**Transition to primary school:** in 2015, 34.1% of Aboriginal children were developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain on school entry, compared with 19.4% of non-Aboriginal children.

**Reading and numeracy:** between 2008 and 2018, there was a significant increase in the proportion of Aboriginal students who achieved the National Minimum Standard (NMS) in reading in Years 3 and 5 and in numeracy in Years 5 and 9. For non-Aboriginal students the significant increases across this time period were in the proportion of students in Years 3 and 5 scoring above the NMS in reading and students in Year 5 for numeracy. Between 2017 and 2018 there was no statistically significant change in the proportion of non-Aboriginal or Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in either reading or numeracy. In 2018, there was a lower proportion of Aboriginal students achieving the NMS than non-Aboriginal students in reading and numeracy in all years assessed (Years 3, 5, 7 and 9).

**Year 12 attainment:** in 2016, 67.1% of Aboriginal people in NSW aged 20-24 years had completed Year 12 or higher, compared with 89.3% of the non-Aboriginal population.

**Post-school education:** in 2018, 2,782 Aboriginal people commenced university in NSW, compared with 972 Aboriginal students in 2004. In 2016 45% of Aboriginal people and 59% of non-Aboriginal people aged 15 years or over had a post school qualification.

**Child protection:** At 30 June 2019, there were 6,754 Aboriginal children and young people in out of home care in NSW. In 2018-19, 196.8 in every 1,000 Aboriginal children and young people were the subject of a Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) report. This is more than 4 times the rate for non-Aboriginal children and young people, which was 44.7.

**Language:** in 2016, less than 1% of Aboriginal people in NSW spoke an Aboriginal language at home, compared with 15% for the rest of Australia.

**Community safety:** in 2019, Aboriginal people in NSW were 2.6 times more likely to be a victim of assault compared with non-Aboriginal people.

**Employment:** in 2016, 46% of Aboriginal adults in NSW (15 years and over) were employed, compared with 59% of non-Aboriginal people.

**Unemployment:** in 2016, the unemployment rate in NSW for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people was 15% and 6% of the total labour force respectively. Unemployment amongst Aboriginal people was highest for 18-24 year olds, at 24%.

**Self-employment:** in 2011, 8% of employed Aboriginal people in NSW were owner/managers or contributing family workers compared with 17% of the non-Aboriginal workforce. Between 2006 and 2011, there was a 33% increase in the number of Aboriginal employers.

**Housing and home ownership:** in 2016, 42% of Aboriginal households in NSW owned or were purchasing their home, compared with 65% of non-Aboriginal households.

**Household income (equivalised):** in 2014-15, the median weekly household income for Aboriginal households in NSW was $550, compared with $850 for non-Aboriginal households.

**Incarceration:** in 2019, Aboriginal people in NSW were 9.3 times more likely than non-Aboriginal people to be imprisoned; and 74% had experienced prior imprisonment, compared with 47% of non-Aboriginal people. In the June quarter of 2019, Aboriginal 10-17 year olds were detained at 13 times the rate of non-Aboriginal young people (19.7 per 10,000 compared with 1.5).

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1. Median equivalised household income is not a measure of the total income of a household. It is a measure of the income a lone person in a household would need to have the same standard of living as the household in question (see Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Key Indicators 2016, p 4.81).
**Population**


**Population growth**


**Age**


**Location**


**Population mobility**


**Identification change**


**Life expectancy**


**Infant mortality**


**Health**


**Disability**


**Transition to Primary School**


**Reading and Numeracy**


**Year 12 attainment**

DATA SOURCES

Post school education


Child protection

Language
Australian Bureau of statistics (2016). *Census of Population and Housing, 2016*. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples QuickStats.


Community safety

Employment

Unemployment

Self-employment

Housing and home ownership

Household income

Incarceration