Community Portrait:
The North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest

A portrait of the Aboriginal community of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest, compared with NSW, from the 2016 and earlier Censuses.

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Prepared for Aboriginal Affairs NSW

The North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest consists of the Local Government Areas called Gilgandra, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Parkes, Warren, Warrumbungle Shire, Western Plains Regional 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest, 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest in 2016, even if they completed the Census away from home. People who were visiting the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest 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: 12.3% of the Nest's Census respondents said they had Aboriginal origins, but another 8.7% 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.

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Snapshot: The North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest, 2016

In the 2016 Census, 13,707 of the 111,557 residents (12.3%) counted in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest 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 16%, from 11,847; the overall population of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest rose by 4%.
- About 13% of the Aboriginal population were under 5 in 2016. This infant population accounted for over nine-tenths 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 43 years.

- There was a higher proportion under 18 years old: 42% compared with 22%.
- There was a lower proportion aged 65 or more: 6% compared with 21%.

Aboriginal households had an average of 3.1 residents, which was larger than non-Aboriginal households (2.4) in the Nest’s region.

- Three in ten Aboriginal households were couples with children.
- Almost three in ten were one-parent families.
- 16% of the Aboriginal households were single persons (vs 30% of non-Aboriginal households).

Aboriginal households most commonly lived in rented dwellings (54%), with 28% in mortgaged and 14% in fully owned dwellings.

- In all, 42% of Aboriginal households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were home-owners (with or without a mortgage), which was up by 2% since 2011.

The median income of Aboriginal adults was about $453 a week, which was 73% that of all adults here ($617).

- The median income gap had widened by 2% since 2011.

One in three Aboriginal residents (4,595 people) was attending an educational institution.

- 2,048 Aboriginal people had completed Year 12, which was 55% more than in 2011 and 136% more than in 2006.
- Compared with non-Aboriginal residents of the same age, there were:
  - 13% fewer Aboriginal people aged 15–19 year olds in education;
  - 7% fewer Aboriginal people aged 20–24 year olds in education.

937 Aboriginal people (6.8% of the Aboriginal population) reported that they had a severe or profound disability.

- Aboriginal people had higher disability rates than average in most age groups.
  - the disability rate for Aboriginal people aged 55–64 year olds was 2.8 times the average for this age group in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest.
  - for 45–54 year olds, the Aboriginal rate was 2.3 times the average in the Nest's region.
  - 13% of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) gave assistance to a person with a severe disability.

66% of the Nest's Aboriginal households had an internet connection, which was 8% more than in 2011.
**Tracking changes in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Cultural and Language Nest in 2016</th>
<th>Change in Aboriginal rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aboriginal</td>
<td>non-Aboriginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>home ownership</strong></td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>personal income</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>household income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>pre-school</strong></td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>teenage education</strong></td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>73%</td>
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<td><strong>children at school</strong></td>
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<td>95%</td>
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<td><strong>Year 12 completion</strong></td>
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<td>40%</td>
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<td><strong>average schooling</strong></td>
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<td>10.6 yrs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>disability</strong></td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Personal income and disability data compare Aboriginal rates with those of the whole population in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest.*
Aboriginal population and growth

In the 2016 Census, the Nest’s Aboriginal population was counted as 13,707 people, of whom 13,370 identified as Aboriginal and 205 as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; 154 identified as Torres Strait Islander.

Aboriginal people comprised 12.3% of the Nest’s population, compared with 2.9% in NSW. 8.7% of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest people did not say whether they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins.

Among the Aboriginal people here, there were 101 males per 100 females.

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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest rose by 16% (by 1,860) from 11,847; the total the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest population rose by 4%.

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

Between 2006 and 2016, the Nest’s Aboriginal population rose by 45% (from 9,421 in 2006). The Nest’s non-Aboriginal population fell by 2% over the decade. The Aboriginal population counted in NSW rose by 56% over the decade.

On Census night 2016, 12,851 Aboriginal residents of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were at home (94%), and 858 were staying away from home (6%). Offsetting those away were 818 Aboriginal visitors to the Nest’s region, equivalent to 6% of the Aboriginal residents.

43 of the visitors were from the same locality (eg. overnighting with neighbours). Of the out-of-area visitors, 90% were from New South Wales and 3% were from Queensland, with the rest from other states.

The proportion of Aboriginal residents away from home was similar to 2011. The proportion away from home was similar to non-Aboriginal residents of this Nest’s region; it was similar to Aboriginal residents of NSW.

There were 183 more Aboriginal visitors than in 2011, when there were 635, equal to 5% of the Aboriginal population.
Life stages

The Aboriginal population of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest 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 Nest's Aboriginal population in 2016:

- 7,255 people (53% or over five in ten) were adults aged 18–64.
  - 1,789 (or 13%) were aged 18–24
  - 3,073 (or 22%) were aged 25–44
  - 2,393 (or 17%) were aged 45–64

  The number aged 18–64 was up 21% from 2011; and up 63% from 2006.

- 5,694 Aboriginal residents (42% or four in ten) were children under 18.
  - 1,737 (or 13%) were under five
  - 2,244 (or 16%) were aged 5–11
  - 1,713 (or 12%) were aged 12–17

  The number of children was up 5% from 2011; and up 22% from 2006.

- 754 of Aboriginal residents were aged 65+ years (6% of the total).

  The number aged 65+ had risen by 59% from 2011; this was 135% higher than in 2006.

  The proportion aged 18–64 among Aboriginal people was 5% lower than for non-Aboriginal (57%).

  6% more of the Aboriginal population were young adults (18–24 yrs), and 10% fewer were mature adults (45–64 yrs), compared with the non-Aboriginal population of the Nest's region.

  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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was 20% higher than the average for non-Aboriginal.

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

  21% of non-Aboriginal people in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest has an age profile that is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a lower median age (22 vs 43 years).

For the Nest's Aboriginal population in 2016:

- The average age was 27 years in 2016, with half the population aged under 22 years (the median age).
- The largest 5-year age groups were 0–4 years (13%), 5–9 years (12%) and 15–19 years (10%).
- The average age was one year higher than in 2011 and 2 years higher than in 2006.

Proportionally, the biggest increases since 2011 were of 65+ year olds (59% more), 60–64 year olds (42% more) and 20–24 year olds (33% more).

- Only 754 Aboriginal people (5.5%) were aged 65+ years, compared with 21% of non-Aboriginal residents.
- In the Aboriginal community, there were noticeably more males than females aged 10–14 years, 0–4 years and 15–19 years.

The average age was 15 years younger than for the non-Aboriginal residents; the median age was 21 years younger.

- Non-Aboriginal population: about 6% were 0–4 years and also 5–9 years and 5% were 15–19 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: 65+ year olds (58%); 60–64 year olds (47%); and 20–24 year olds (36%).
- The number aged 65+ was 59% higher than in 2011; the percentage of people this age was up by 1.5% since 2011, when it was 4.0%.
- There were many more females than males among those aged 40–44 years, then in those aged 55–59 years and 60–64 years.
Population Indicators

The older people difference
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, 5.5% of the Nest's Aboriginal residents were aged 65 or over, compared with 20.9% of non-Aboriginal residents. The older people difference was -15%.
- The older people difference had increased by 1% since 2011, after having increased by 1% 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
Aboriginal communities generally have a higher proportion of young people due to larger families and fewer older people.

- In 2016, 12.7% of the Nest's Aboriginal residents were infants, compared with 5.9% of non-Aboriginal residents. The infant difference was +7%.
- The infant difference had closed by 1% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous 5 years.
- The infant difference in NSW was +5%. It had changed little since 2011 and changed little over 2006 to 2011.

The dependency difference
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 Nest's Aboriginal community had a dependency ratio of 0.68, compared with 0.64 for the non-Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal dependency ratio was 0.04 higher.
- The dependency difference had decreased by 0.08 since 2011, after having narrowed by 0.11 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 13,707 Aboriginal residents of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were living in 5,471 households, 20% more than in 2011.

The main types of Aboriginal households* in the Nest’s region in 2016 were:

- Three in ten were couples with children (1,652 households, or 30%).
- Almost three in ten were one-parent families (1,562 households, or 29%).
- One in six were couples without children (849 households, or 16%).
- One in six were one-person households (882 households, or 16%).
- There were 186 multi-family households, and 118 other types of households.

Average sizes of households, 2016

Aboriginal households had an average of 3.1 residents in 2016, which was similar to 2011, and 0.2 lower than in 2006.

- Aboriginal households here were similarly sized to NSW, which averaged 3.1 residents.
- The average size of non-Aboriginal households in the Nest’s region was 2.4 residents; Aboriginal households were 33% larger, on average.
- The larger size of Aboriginal households is consistent with lower proportions of people living alone.
- Aboriginal couple families had an average of 2.4 children, compared with 2.1 for non-Aboriginal families here. Aboriginal families in NSW averaged 2.3 children.
- Aboriginal one-parent families averaged 2.4 children, compared with 2.3 in NSW and 1.8 for non-Aboriginal one-parent families here.
- At an average size of 3.1 persons, the 5,471 Aboriginal households had some 17,000 members, but only 12,332 Aboriginal people were counted in these households.

* Aboriginal households are those with at least one Aboriginal resident.
The single parent difference
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, 49% of the Nest's Aboriginal family households with children had one parent, compared with 26% 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 NSW was +23%. It had decreased by 2% since 2011 after having decreased by 1% over 2006 to 2011.

The lone person difference
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, 16% of the Nest's Aboriginal households were lone persons, compared with 30% of non-Aboriginal households. The lone person difference was -14%.
- The lone person difference had changed little since 2011, after having narrowed by 1% 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
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 Nest's Aboriginal nuclear families was 4.4 persons (i.e. 2.4 children), compared with 4.1 persons (2.1 children) for non-Aboriginal families, a difference of 0.4 children per family.
- The family size difference had changed little since 2011, after having changed little 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest (89%) were living in detached houses, with 5% living in flats or units and 5% living in semis/townhouses.

- Compared with other households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest, none more Aboriginal households lived in semis/townhouses.

The proportion of Aboriginal households living in detached houses in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was little changed since 2011, and was 1% lower than in 2006.

- The proportion of non-Aboriginal households in detached houses in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was down by 1% since 2011 and down by 1% since 2006.

469 Aboriginal people in the Nest's region (4%) were counted living in institutional accommodation on Census night (eg. nursing homes, hospitals, boarding houses, correctional centres, barracks or boarding schools).

- There were 358 Aboriginal people living in institutional accommodation in this Nest's region in 2011, and 201 in 2006.

- Of the Aboriginal people in institutional accommodation, there were 4.2 males per female.

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

A few Aboriginal people were reported living in improvised accommodation (eg. shacks, tents or sleeping out) in the Nest's region on Census night.

- This was virtually unchanged since 2011.
Housing costs and tenure

In 2016, Aboriginal households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest most commonly lived in dwellings that were rented (54% of the households). Another 28% lived in dwellings that were being purchased, and 14% in homes that were fully owned.

- The proportion of Aboriginal households that rented, 54%, was 28% higher than for other households here.
  The proportion living in rented dwellings was down by 2% since 2011, and was 3% lower than in 2006.
  The median weekly rent paid by Aboriginal households was $230. It was $162 in 2011 and $123 in 2006.
- The proportion living in dwellings that were being bought (28%) was 4% lower than for other households.
  The proportion living in mortgaged dwellings was up by 1% since 2011; and 2% higher than in 2006.
  The median monthly mortgage paid by Aboriginal households in the Nest's region in 2016 was $1,348. It was $1,306 in 2011 and $964 for 2006.
- The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings (14%) was 25% 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was similar to the rate in NSW.
25% of Other households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were renting, similar to 2011, and 1% higher than in 2006.
The median weekly rent paid by Other households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was $227. It was $170 in 2011 and $135 in 2006.
In NSW, 27% of Aboriginal households were homebuyers with a mortgage.
31% of the Other households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest had a mortgage, little changed since 2011, and up by 1% since 2006.
The median mortgage paid by Other households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was $1,431. It was $1,370 in 2011 and $1,051 in 2006.
The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was very close to the average in NSW.
The proportion of Other households in fully owned dwellings in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was down by 1% since 2011, and down by 2% since 2006.

Of 2,929 Aboriginal rental households, 44% were managed by real estate agents and 25% were managed by public housing.
741 Aboriginal households lived in public housing (14% of all households).
This number had fallen by 36 since 2011.

Only 2% of the Other households lived in public housing.
The number of Other households in public housing in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest had fallen by 198.
The institutional difference

In 2016, 37 in every 1000 Aboriginal residents in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were in institutional housing, compared with 22 per 1000 non-Aboriginal residents. The institutional difference was +15 per 1000.

The institutional gap had increased by 3 per 1000 since 2011, after having reversed 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.

Housing Indicators

The home ownership gap

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

- In 2016, 42% of Aboriginal households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were either buying or owned their home, compared with 71% of Other households, a home ownership gap of -29%.
- The gap had closed by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 2% 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 'unhoused' gap

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

- In 2016, 0.2 in every thousand Aboriginal residents in the Nest's region lived in improvised housing; 0.6 per 1000 non-Aboriginal residents did. The unhoused gap was -0.4 per 1000.
- The unhoused gap had changed little since 2011, after having reversed over the previous five years.
- The unhoused gap in NSW was 0.5 per 1000, and had widened by 0.3 per 1000 since 2011. It had closed by 1.1 per 1000 over 2006 to 2011.

Improvised housing includes sheds, tents, humpies and other improvised dwellings occupied on Census night. It also includes people sleeping on park benches or in other 'rough' accommodation (the traditional definition of homeless people).

The institutional difference

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, 37 in every 1000 Aboriginal residents in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were in institutional housing, compared with 22 per 1000 non-Aboriginal residents. The institutional difference was +15 per 1000.
- The institutional gap had increased by 3 per 1000 since 2011, after having reversed 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, 66% of Aboriginal households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest had an internet connection while 30% did not (1,639 households); 4% did not answer the question.

- The proportion of Aboriginal households connected to the internet was 8% lower than in NSW (74% connected).
- The proportion of Aboriginal households with internet was up by 8% from 58% in 2011.
- In 2006, 36% of the Nest’s Aboriginal people had the internet at home.

... and 8% lower than non-Aboriginal households in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest (where 74% of homes were connected).

The internet gap

The internet gap had closed by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 6% over the previous five years.

The internet gap had closed by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 6% 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 internet is becoming increasingly important as a source of communication and information, and is becoming an essential service.

The internet gap • NW Wirad

The proportion of Aboriginal households with internet was up by 8% for Aboriginal households in NSW. It was up by 6% for non-Aboriginal households in this Nest’s region (from 68% in 2011).

This compared with 43% of Aboriginal people in NSW and 52% of non-Aboriginal people in this Nest’s region.

The internet gap • NW Wirad

In 2016, 66% of the Nest’s Aboriginal households had an internet connection, compared with 74% of other households, an internet gap of -8%.

The proportion was up by 8% for Aboriginal households in NSW. It was up by 6% for non-Aboriginal households in this Nest’s region (from 68% in 2011).

The proportion of Aboriginal households connected to the internet was 8% lower than in NSW (74% connected),

The internet gap had closed by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 6% over the previous five years.

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The internet gap in NSW was 9% and had narrowed by 2% since 2011. It narrowed by 8% between 2006 and 2011.

The internet gap • NW Wirad

The proportion of Aboriginal households connected to the internet was 8% lower than in NSW (74% connected),

The proportion of Aboriginal households with internet was up by 8% from 58% in 2011.

In 2006, 36% of the Nest’s Aboriginal people had the internet at home.

% of households with an Internet connection

The internet gap • NW Wirad

In 2006, 36% of the Nest’s Aboriginal people had the internet at home.
**Personal income**

In 2016, the average weekly income of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was about $584, which was 6% less than that of Aboriginal adults in NSW ($621), but 33% less than the average of all adults in the Nest’s region ($872).

- Aboriginal men in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest averaged $626 a week (63% of the overall male average here).
- Aboriginal women averaged $468 a week (79% of the overall female average).
- The average weekly income of Aboriginal men was $41 lower in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest than in NSW.
- The average weekly income of Aboriginal women here was $39 lower than in NSW.
- Half of the Aboriginal adults received under $453 a week (the median income).

The income distribution pattern among Aboriginal adults in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was similar to Aboriginal adults in NSW, but somewhat different from all adults in the Nest's region.

Compared with Aboriginal adults across NSW:

- proportionally more Aboriginal adults here were in the $150–$299 and $500–$649 ranges.
- fewer were in the $1,000 or more and nil/negative ranges.

Compared with all adults in this Nest's region:

- more Aboriginal adults were in the $150–$299 and nil/negative ranges.
- proportionally fewer were in the $1,000 or more range.

### Individual weekly income, 2016

- **Aboriginal adults, NSW**
- **Aboriginal adults, the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest**
- **All adults, the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest**

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**Household income**

In 2016, the average income of Aboriginal households in the Nest's region was about $1,417 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was 17% less than the average of Aboriginal households in NSW ($1,703 a week).
- It was 20% less than the average of the Nest's non-Aboriginal households – $1,774 a week.
- Half the Aboriginal households received less than $1,077 a week (the median household income).
- Aboriginal households in the Nest's region had an average size of 3.1 residents, compared with 2.4 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was slightly different from the NSW Aboriginal households, and partly different from other households in the Nest's region.

Compared with Aboriginal households across NSW:
- more Aboriginal households in this Nest's region were in the $400–$499 and $500–$649 income ranges.
- fewer Aboriginal households were in the $3,000 or more and $2,500–$2,999 income ranges.

Compared with non-Aboriginal households in this Nest's region:
- more Aboriginal households were in the $500–$649 and $150–$299 income ranges.
- fewer Aboriginal households were in the $3,000 or more and $400–$499 income ranges.
**Income Indicators**

**The personal income gap**
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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest ($453) was 73% that of non-Aboriginal adults in this Nest's region ($617). The personal income gap was -27%.
- The personal income gap had widened by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 5% 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**
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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest was $1,077, compared with $1,170 for Other households in the Nest's region. This was 8% lower – this is the household income gap.
- The household income gap had narrowed by about 3% since 2011, after having narrowed by about 6% 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.
Education participation by age

Having high proportions of people in education is a good indicator of positive individual and community development. In the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest, one in three Aboriginal residents (4,595 people) was attending an educational institution in 2016.

Aboriginal participation in education varied with age. Here in education were:
- 23% of 0–4 year olds
- 91% of 5–14 year olds
- 60% of 15–19 year olds
- 14% of 20–24 year olds
- 6% of those aged 25+

Because the Aboriginal population has much higher proportions at school age, their overall participation rate in education, 34%, is higher than the non-Aboriginal rate in this Nest's region, 21%. Relative to non-Aboriginal people of the same age, there were, in education:
- 2% more Aboriginal 25+ year olds
- 2% fewer Aboriginal 0–4 year olds
- 5% fewer Aboriginal 5–14 year olds
- 7% fewer Aboriginal 20–24 year olds
- 13% fewer Aboriginal 15–19 year olds

Overall, the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest's Aboriginal population had 101 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 males per female among 15–19 year olds
- 1.9 females per male among 20–24 year olds
- 2.8 females per male among 25+ year olds

Since 2011, overall participation in education by Aboriginal people in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest had remained stable, but this masks changes among the age groups.

- The proportion of 0–4 year olds in education was up by 3% since 2011, and up by 5% since 2006.
- The proportion of 5–14 year olds in education was up by 7% since 2011, and up by 6% since 2006.
- The proportion of 15–19 year olds in education was up by 5% since 2011, and up by 11% since 2006.
- The proportion of 20–24 year olds in education was up by 1% 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 3,896 Aboriginal children and teenagers in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were attending school, with 483 in pre-school, 2,042 in primary school, and 1,371 in high school.

The number of Aboriginal pre-schoolers was up by 95 or 24% since 2011 and up by 87% since 2006.

- The 483 Aboriginal pre-schoolers equaled 69% of the Aboriginal children aged 4–5.
- In NSW, Aboriginal pre-schoolers equaled 72% of the number aged 4–5 years. Non-Aboriginal pre-schoolers in this Nest’s region represented 76% of their age group.

The number of Aboriginal primary students (2,042) was up by 331 or 19% since 2011; it was 20% higher than in 2006.

- Aboriginal primary students were 106% of the number aged 6–11. This is because some primary students were other ages.
- This rate was 3% lower than the Aboriginal rate in NSW and 6% lower than for non-Aboriginal children in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest.

The number of Aboriginal secondary students (1,371) was up by 125 or 10% since 2011 and 45% higher than 2006.

- Aboriginal secondary students were 80% of the Aboriginal children aged 12–17.
- This rate was 8% lower than the rate for non-Aboriginal secondary students; it was similar to Aboriginal students in NSW.

618 Aboriginal residents of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were in post-school education in 2016. This was 103 more than in 2011, and 283 more than in 2006.

In 2016, there were 190 Aboriginal 15–24 year olds from the Nest’s region enrolled in TAFE (7% of the number this age); 37% attended full-time.

- 8% of Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this Nest’s region attended TAFE, with 35% full-time.
- 9% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this Nest’s region attended TAFE, with 22% full-time.

92 Aboriginal 15–24 year olds from the Nest’s region attended university or other tertiary education (3% of the number this age); 80% were full-time.

- 7% of Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in NSW were at university, with 83% full-time.
- 7% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this Nest’s region were at university, with 74% full-time.

There were 224 Aboriginal students aged 25+ attending TAFE in 2016 (4% of those aged 25–64), with 27% 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 Nest’s region attended TAFE, with 13% full-time.

105 Aboriginal students aged 25+ were in tertiary education in 2016 (2% of 25–64 year olds), with 34% 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 Nest’s region were at university, with 24% full-time.
In 2016, 60% of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest Aboriginal teenagers aged 15–19 were in education, compared with 73% of non-Aboriginal teenagers. The teenage education gap was -13%.

The schooling gap had closed by 4% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.

The pre-school gap

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

- In 2016, 23% of Aboriginal infants in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest were in education, compared with 25% of non-Aboriginal infants. The pre-school gap was -2%.
- The pre-school gap had closed by 1% since 2011, after having closed by 2% 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 closed by 2% since 2011.

The teenage education gap

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

- In 2016, 60% of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest Aboriginal teenagers aged 15–19 were in education, compared with 73% of non-Aboriginal teenagers. The teenage education gap was -13%.
- The teenage education gap had closed by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 3% 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

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

- In 2016, 91% of the Nest’s Aboriginal children aged 5–14 were in education, and 95% of non-Aboriginal of that age were. The schooling gap was -5%.
- The schooling gap had closed by 4% since 2011, after having changed little 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest had completed an average of Year 10.1 of school, compared with Year 10.6 for non-Aboriginal adults. In NSW, Aboriginal adults averaged Year 10.3.

- 2,048 Aboriginal adults in the Nest's region had completed Year 12, which was 55% more than in 2011 and 136% more than in 2006.
- The proportion of Aboriginal adults in the Nest's region who had completed Year 12 was 25%, which was 15% lower than that of non-Aboriginal adults.
- 30% of Aboriginal adults across NSW had completed Year 12.
- 68% of Aboriginal adults in the Nest's region had completed at least Year 10, which was 3% lower than for Aboriginal adults in NSW.
- Of the others, 13% had completed Year 9 and 9% had completed Year 8 or lower; 61 adults did not go to school (1%); 10% 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 the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest 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 136% in the number who had finished Year 12 and an increase of 63% in the number who had finished school at Year 11.

For Aboriginal adults in this Nest's region, average schooling:
- For men had risen by 4 months since 2011, and had risen by 7 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 2 months since 2011, and had risen by 5 months since 2006.
- For women had risen by 2 months 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.
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, 25% of the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest Aboriginal adults had completed Year 12, compared with 40% of non-Aboriginal adults. The Year 12 gap was -15%.
- The Year 12 gap had changed little since 2011 after widening by 1% from 2006 to 2011.
- 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
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, the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest Aboriginal adults had completed an average of Year 10.1 at school, compared with Year 10.6 for non-Aboriginal adults. The average schooling gap was 0.4 years (5 months).
- The average schooling gap had changed little since 2011, after closing by one month 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.
Disability levels

In 2016 in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest, 937 Aboriginal residents had a long-term severe disability; 6.8% of the population. Among all the Nest's residents, 5.9% 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 (30%) and 55–64 year olds (17%).

Among younger Aboriginal residents, the disability rate was highest among 5–14 year olds at 6% and 35–44 year olds at 4%.

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 Nest's region, the overall Aboriginal disability rate was 1.2 times that in the overall population: 6.8% compared with 5.9%.

Among 55–64 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (17%) was 2.8 times the overall rate (6.1%);

Among 45–54 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (10%) was 2.3 times that of all residents (4.2%).

Aboriginal disability rates were higher for men than women: 7.5% to 6.2%. Among all residents, they were similar for men and women: 5.8% to 5.9%.

There were 2.4 females per male among 35–44 year olds with a disability.

On the other hand, there were 2.6 males per female among 5–14 year olds with a disability. There were 2.1 males per female among 20–24 year olds.

From 2011 to 2016, the overall disability rate among Aboriginal residents of the Nest's region rose from 5.7% to 6.8%.

In the Nest's region, the greatest change in the Aboriginal disability rate was the increase among those aged 65+, from 23.4% in 2011 to 30.4% in 2016.

Disability rates also rose among 5–14 year olds and 15–19 year olds.

Disability rates fell most among those aged 0–4 years.

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

Among all the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest residents, the disability rate changed little, and was 5.9% in 2016.
Disability care given

In the 2016 Census, 1,188 Aboriginal adults in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest, 13% of the adult population, reported that they gave assistance to a person with a severe or profound disability. There were at that time 937 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 19% of 35–44 year olds to 6% of 15–19 year olds.

Carers are more often women than men. In the the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest Aboriginal community, there were 1.7 females per male among Female carers were most common among 55–64 year olds with 2.4 females per male caring, and among 25–34 year olds, with 1.8 females per male caring.

Male carers were most common among carers aged 15–19 with 1.4 males per female caring.

The 13% carer rate among Aboriginal residents was higher than the average for all adults in the Nest's region (12%).

Among 35–44 year olds, the proportion of Aboriginal carers was 1.5 times the average.

Among 25–34 year olds, the proportion of Aboriginal carers was 1.4 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 similar proportions of carers among Aboriginal people aged 35–44 here. There were similar proportions of carers here among those aged 45–54.

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

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

Among all the Nest's adults, caring rates changed little.

In the Nest's region, Aboriginal caring rates increased most among 55–64 year olds, from 14% in 2011 to 18% in 2016.

Caring rates also rose 3% among 65+ year olds and 3% among 45–54 year olds.

Caring rates fell most among 20–24 year olds, down by 4%.
The disability gap

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, 6.8% of the Nest's Aboriginal residents had a severe, long-term disability, compared with 5.9% for all residents. The disability gap was +0.9%. The Aboriginal disability rate was 1.2 times the overall rate.
- The disability gap in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest had widened by 0.8% since 2011, after having reversed 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

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

- In 2016, 13% of the Nest's Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) provided assistance to a person with a severe disability, compared with 12% of all adults. The carer difference was +2% (rounded).
- The carer difference in the North West Wiradjuri Cultural and Language Nest had widened by 1% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- The carer difference in NSW was +3% in 2016. This had widened by 0.7% since 2011.