



Community Portrait:

The Blue Mountains LGA

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

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Prepared for Aboriginal Affairs NSW

The Blue Mountains is the Local Government Area of Blue Mountains 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 Blue Mountains 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 Blue Mountains, 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 Blue Mountains in 2016, even if they completed the Census away from home. People who were visiting the Blue Mountains 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: 2.4% of the Blue Mountains' Census respondents said they had Aboriginal origins, but another 4.5% did not answer this question. The ABS estimates that the net undercount rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples was 17.5% in 2016 (equivalent to 137,750 persons nationally). This is slightly higher than 2011 (17.2%). This means that, on average, the Aboriginal population was about a fifth larger than counted. However, despite such omissions, the Census is a vital source of information about Aboriginal Australians.
- National trends** Nationally, the number of people with Aboriginal origins counted in the Census rose by a fifth (21%) between 2011 and 2016. Almost three-quarters of the increase was from births; the rest was caused by more people identifying Aboriginal origins than previously.
- Sources of data** The data for this report are drawn from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (Indigenous) Profiles and Community Profiles published by the ABS from the 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses. Data in this portrait for 2011 and 2006 censuses have been produced using the 2016 boundary regardless of changes to previous LGA or other geographical classifications over time.
- Note: difference and changes shown in this Portrait are rounded to the nearest significant figure but are calculated from the unrounded data, so small anomalies are possible when comparing differences. Small Census counts are randomised by the ABS to protect privacy so are not precise; in this Portrait, numbers less than 5 are reported as 'a few'.

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Snapshot: The Blue Mountains LGA, 2016

- ⌘ In the 2016 Census, 1,823 of the 76,904 residents (2.4%) counted in the Blue Mountains 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 38%, from 1,318; the overall population of the LGA rose by 1%.
 - About 11% of the Aboriginal population were under 5 in 2016. This infant population accounted for two-fifths 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 21 vs 44 years.
 - There was a higher proportion under 18 years old: 43% compared with 22%.
 - There was a lower proportion aged 65 or more: 6% compared with 20%.
- ⌘ Aboriginal households had an average of 3.3 residents, which was larger than non-Aboriginal households (2.5) in the LGA.
 - Four in ten Aboriginal households were couples with children.
 - One in five were one parent families.
 - 11% of the Aboriginal households were single persons (vs 26% of non-Aboriginal households).
- ⌘ Aboriginal households most commonly lived in mortgaged dwellings (42%), with 36% in rented and 18% in fully owned dwellings.
 - In all, 61% of Aboriginal households in the Blue Mountains were home-owners (with or without a mortgage), which was up by 4% since 2011.
- ⌘ The median income of Aboriginal adults was about \$546 a week, which was 79% that of all adults here (\$692).
 - The median income gap had closed by 4% since 2011.
- ⌘ 63% of Aboriginal adults were in the labour force, compared with 62% of non-Aboriginal adults.
 - 8% of the Aboriginal workforce were unemployed, compared with 5% of the non-Aboriginal workforce.
- ⌘ Four in ten Aboriginal residents (758 people) were attending an educational institution.
 - 455 Aboriginal people had completed Year 12, which was 57% more than in 2011 and 150% more than in 2006.
 - Compared with non-Aboriginal residents of the same age, there were:
 - 13% fewer Aboriginal people aged 20–24 year olds in education;
 - 10% fewer Aboriginal people aged 15–19 year olds in education.
 - 54% of Aboriginal adults had some type of post-school qualification, compared with 59% of non-Aboriginal adults in the LGA (14% had a degree or higher, compared with 25%).
- ⌘ 154 Aboriginal people (8.4% 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 45–54 year olds was 3 times the average for this age group in Blue Mountains.
 - for 55–64 year olds, the Aboriginal rate was 3 times the average in the LGA.
 - 17% of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) gave assistance to a person with a severe disability.
- ⌘ 88% of the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal households had an internet connection, which was 7% higher than in 2011.

Tracking changes in the Blue Mountains

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

Indicator	The Blue Mountains LGA, 2016			Change in Aboriginal rate	
	Aboriginal	non-Aboriginal	Gap in 2016	last 5 years 2011–2016	last decade 2006–2016
				up 4%	up 6%
home ownership % of households owning/buying their home	61%	79%	-19%	up 4%	up 6%
personal income* median weekly income of adults (15+)	\$546	\$692	-21%	up 23%	up 54%
household income median weekly income of households	\$1,637	\$1,463	+12%	up 32%	up 55%
workforce participation % of adults 15+ in labour force	63%	62%	same	up 3%	up 2%
unemployment % of unemployed in workforce	8%	5%	+3%	dn 2%	dn 5%
employment employed adults as % of population	37%	49%	-12%	up 1%	up 2%
pre-school % of infants under 5 in education	28%	29%	-0%	up 4%	up 6%
teenage education % of 15–19 year-olds in education	72%	82%	-10%	up 3%	up 12%
children at school % of 5–14 year olds in education	94%	97%	-4%	dn 1%	up 1%
Year 12 completion % of adults (15+) who have left school	42%	60%	-18%	up 6%	up 13%
average schooling average school Year completed	10.7 yrs	11.1 yrs	-0.5 yrs	0.1 yrs	0.4 yrs
tertiary qualifications % of adults 15+ with a post-school qualification	54%	67%	-13%	up 3%	up 12%
degree % of adults 15+ with a degree or higher qualification	14%	29%	-15%	up 2%	up 5%
postgrad % of adults 15+ with a postgraduate qualification	4%	10%	-6%	up 1%	up 3%
disability* % of people with a severe, long-term disability	8.4%	5.5%	+2.9%	up 1%	up 2%

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

Aboriginal population and growth

In the 2016 Census, the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal population was counted as 1,823 people, of whom 1,754 identified as Aboriginal and 36 as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; 33 identified as Torres Strait Islander.

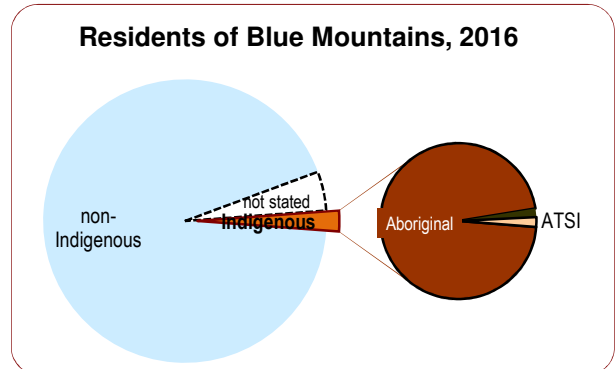
- ⌘ Aboriginal people comprised 2.4% of the Blue Mountains' population, compared with 2.9% in NSW.

4.5% of the Blue Mountains people did not say whether they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins.

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

There were 108 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.



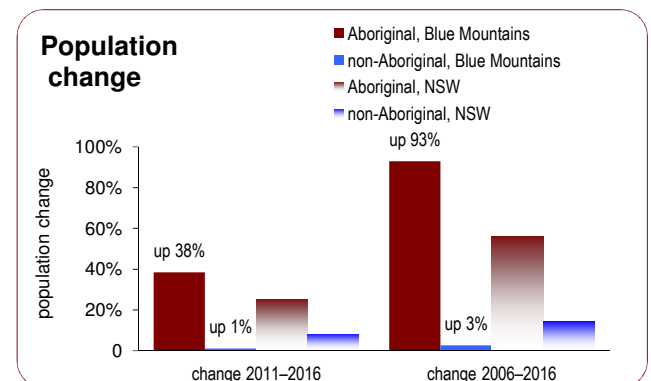
Between 2011 and 2016, the counted Aboriginal population in the Blue Mountains rose by 38% (by 505) from 1,318; in total, the Blue Mountains' population rose by 1%.

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

- ⌘ Between 2006 and 2016, the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal population rose by 93% (from 945 in 2006).

The Blue Mountains' non-Aboriginal population rose by 3% over the decade.

The Aboriginal population counted in NSW rose by 56% over the decade.



On Census night 2016, 1,737 Aboriginal residents of Blue Mountains were at home (95%), and 85 were staying away from home (5%). Offsetting those away, there were 85 Aboriginal visitors staying in the LGA that night, equivalent to 5% of the Aboriginal resident population.

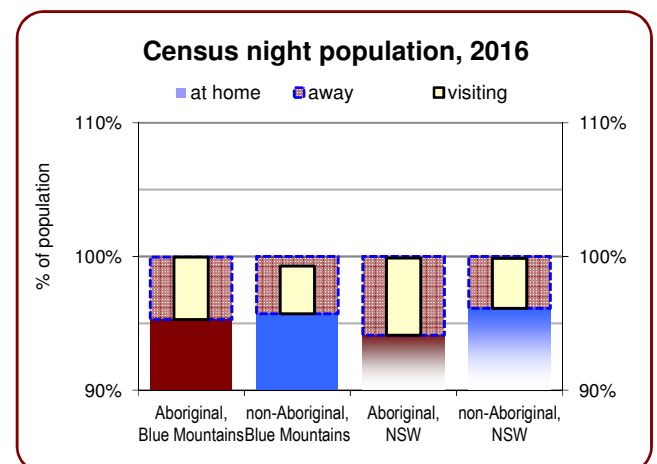
- ⌘ There were a few visitors from the same locality (eg. overnighting with neighbours).

89% of the visitors were from elsewhere in NSW and 6% were from Queensland.

- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal residents away from home was 1% lower than in 2011.

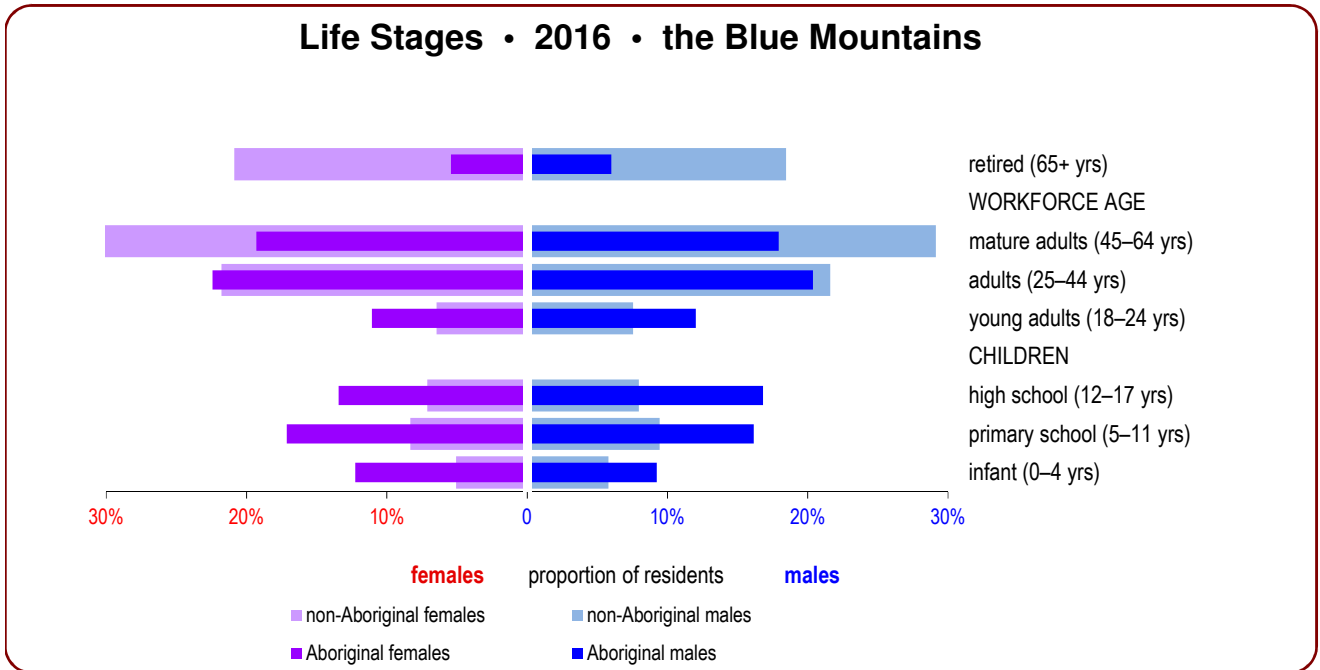
The proportion away from home was similar to non-Aboriginal residents of this LGA; it was 1% lower than for Aboriginal residents of NSW.

- ⌘ There were 9 more Aboriginal visitors than in 2011, when there were 76, equal to 6% of the Aboriginal population.



Life stages

The Aboriginal population of the Blue Mountains 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 Blue Mountains' Aboriginal population in 2016:

⌘ 939 people (52% or five in ten) were adults aged 18–64.

- 217 (or 12%) were aged 18–24
- 395 (or 22%) were aged 25–44
- 327 (or 18%) were aged 45–64

The number aged 18–64 was up 29% from 2011; and up 87% from 2006.

⌘ 777 Aboriginal residents (43% or over four in ten) were children under 18.

- 198 (or 11%) were under five
- 307 (or 17%) were aged 5–11
- 272 (or 15%) were aged 12–17

The number of children was up 45% since 2011; and up 90% since 2006.

⌘ 105 of Aboriginal residents were aged 65+ years (6% of the total).

The number aged 65+ had risen by 81% since 2011; it was 218% higher than in 2006.

The proportion aged 18–64 among Aboriginal people was 7% lower than for non-Aboriginal (59%).

5% more of the Aboriginal population were young adults (18–24 yrs), and 12% fewer were mature adults (45–64 yrs), compared with the non-Aboriginal population of the LGA.

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

The proportion of Aboriginal children in Blue Mountains was 21% higher than the average for non-Aboriginal people.

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

20% of non-Aboriginal people in Blue Mountains 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 Blue Mountains has an age profile that is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a lower median age (21 vs 44 years).

For the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal population in 2016:

- ⌘ The average age was 28 years in 2016, with half the population aged under 21 years (the median age).
The largest 5-year age groups were 5–9 years (13%), 10–14 years (12%) and 15–19 years (11%).
- ⌘ The average age was similar to in 2011 and one year higher than in 2006.

Proportionally, the biggest increases since 2011 were of 65+ year olds (81% more), 5–9 year olds (71% more) and 60–64 year olds (63% more).

- ⌘ 105 Aboriginal people (5.8%) were aged 65+ years, compared with 20% of non-Aboriginal residents.
- ⌘ There were noticeably more males than females aged 10–14 years, 15–19 years and 65+ years.

The average age was 15 years younger than for the non-Aboriginal residents; the median age was 23 years younger.

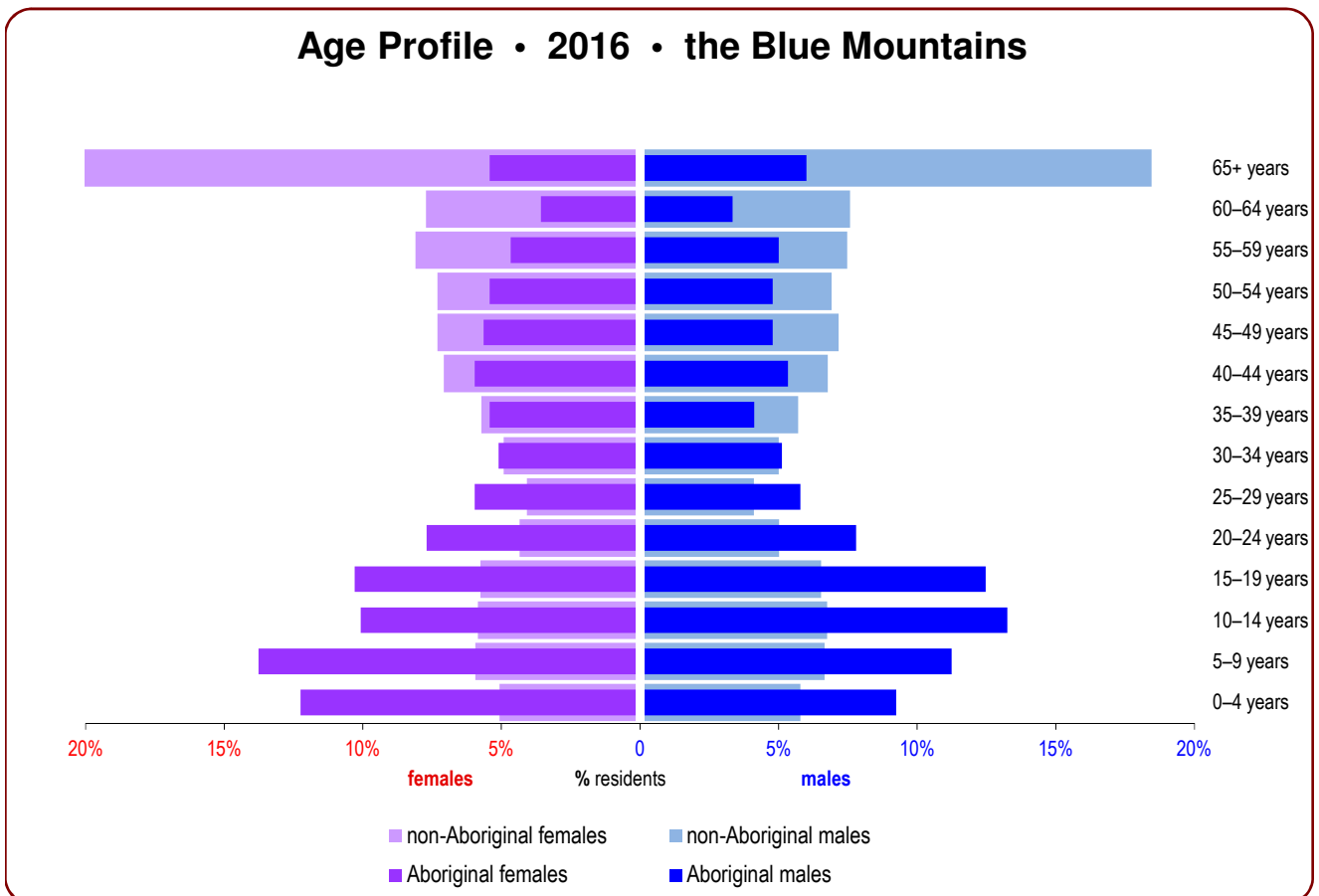
Non-Aboriginal population: about 6% were 5–9 years and also 10–14 years and 15–19 years.

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%); 5–9 year olds (24%); and 60–64 year olds (47%).

The number aged 65+ was 81% higher than in 2011; the percentage of people this age was up by 1.4% since 2011, when it was 4.4%.

There were many more females than males among those aged 0–4 years, then those aged 35–39 years and 5–9 years.



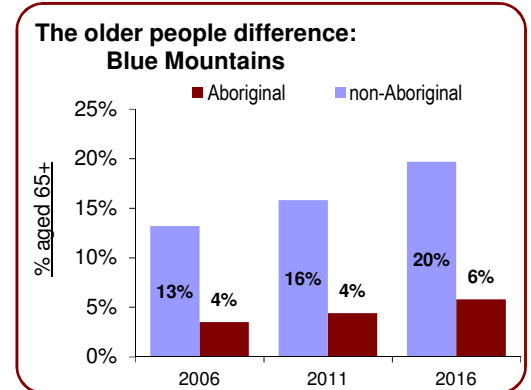
Population Indicators

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, 5.8% of the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal residents were aged 65 or over, compared with 19.7% of non-Aboriginal residents. The older people difference was -14%.
- ⌘ The older people difference had increased by 3% since 2011, after having increased by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The older people difference in NSW was -11%. It had changed little since 2011 and changed little over the previous five years.

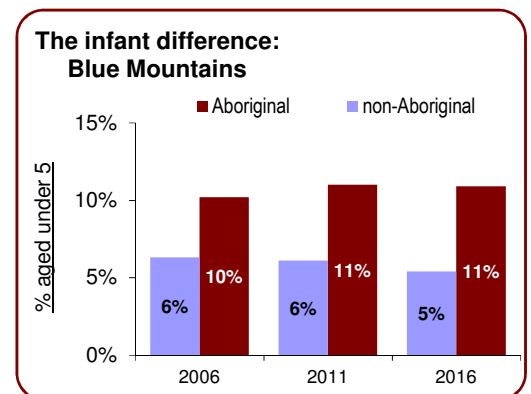


The infant difference

% aged under 5 in population

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 10.9% of the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal residents were infants, compared with 5.4% of non-Aboriginal residents. The infant difference was +6%.
- ⌘ The infant difference had widened by 1% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The infant difference in NSW was +5%. It had changed little since 2011 and changed little over 2006 to 2011.

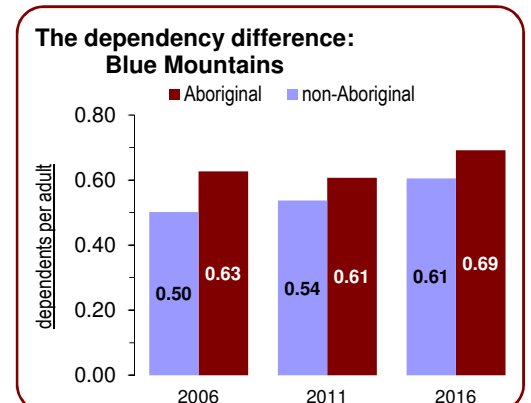


The dependency difference

ratio of dependents to working age adults

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

- ⌘ In 2016, the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal community had a dependency ratio of 0.69, compared with 0.61 for the non-Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal dependency ratio was 0.09 higher.
- ⌘ The dependency difference had changed little since 2011, after having narrowed by 0.06 over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The dependency difference in NSW was 0.13 and had closed by 0.04 since 2011. It had closed by 0.05 over 2006 to 2011.



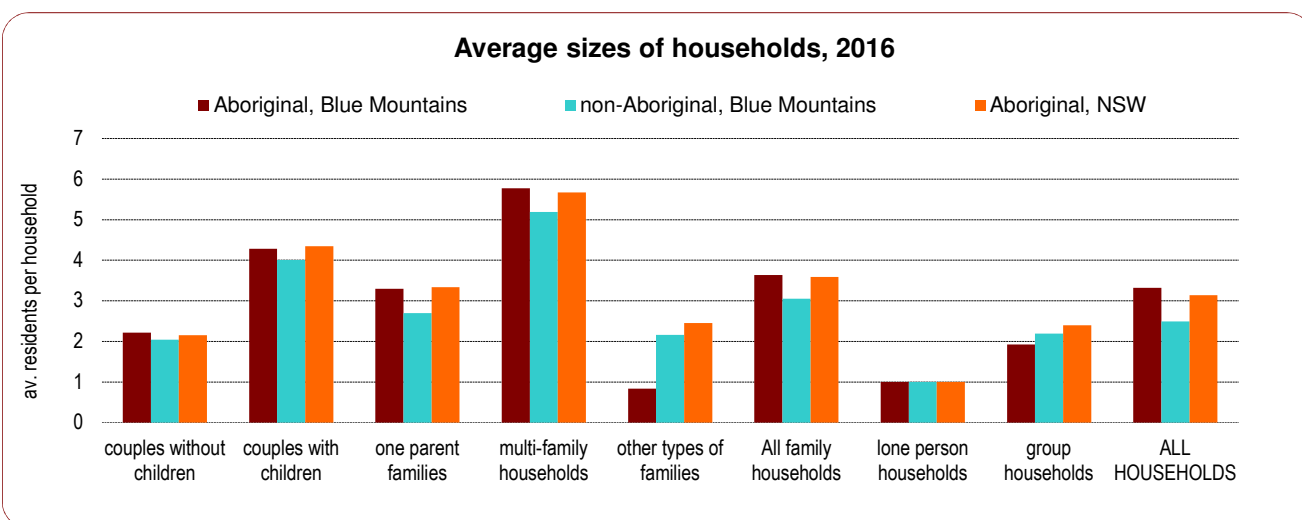
Household types and sizes

In 2016, the 1,823 Aboriginal residents of the Blue Mountains were living in 843 households, 33% more than in 2011.

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

- ⌘ Four in ten were couples with children (334 households, or 40%). 9% higher than non-Aboriginal here
- ⌘ One in five were one parent families (185 households, or 22%). 12% more than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ One in six were couples without children (142 households, or 17%). 11% less than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ One in nine were one-person households (93 households, or 11%). 15% less than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ There were 48 multi-family households, and 12 other types of households.

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



Aboriginal households had an average of 3.3 residents in 2016, which was similar to 2011, and 0.2 larger than in 2006.

- ⌘ Aboriginal households here were 0.2 larger than in NSW, which averaged 3.1 residents.

The average size of the NSW Aboriginal households was little changed since 2011.
- ⌘ The average size of non-Aboriginal households in the LGA was 2.5 residents; Aboriginal households were 34% 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: 11% lone person; Other households: 26%.
- ⌘ Aboriginal couple families had an average of 2.3 children, compared with 2.0 for non-Aboriginal families here. Aboriginal families in NSW averaged 2.3 children.

The average size of Aboriginal nuclear families was down by 0.1 since 2011, and little different from 2006.
- ⌘ Aboriginal one-parent families averaged 2.3 children, compared with 2.3 in NSW and 1.7 for non-Aboriginal one-parent families here.

The average number of children per one-parent family was little changed since 2011, and up by 0.2 since 2006.
- ⌘ At an average size of 3.3 persons, the 843 Aboriginal households had some 2,800 members, but only 1,719 Aboriginal people were counted in these households.

This suggests that some 1,100 people in the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal households (almost four in ten) did not identify as Aboriginal in the Census.

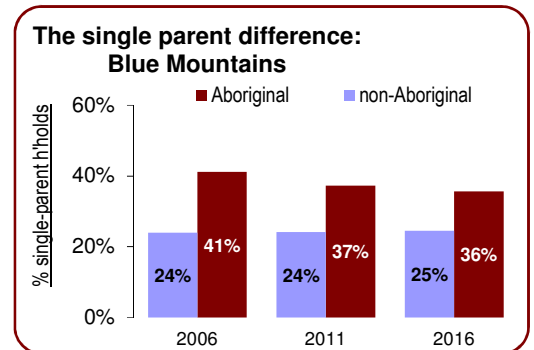
Household Indicators

The single parent difference

% of families with children having one parent

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 36% of the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal family households with children had one parent, compared with 25% of non-Aboriginal families. The difference was +11%.
- ⌘ The single parent difference had decreased by 2% since 2011, after having decreased by 4% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The single parent difference in NSW was +23%. It had decreased by 2% since 2011 after having decreased by 1% over 2006 to 2011.

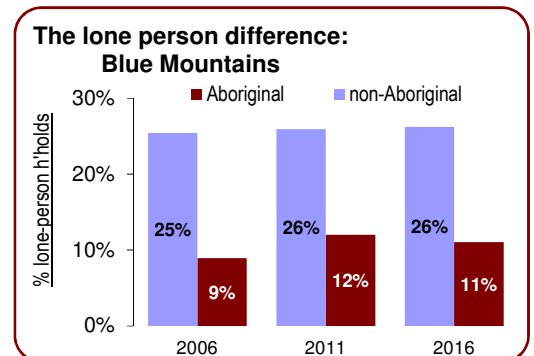


The lone person difference

% of households with one person

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 11% of the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal households were lone persons, compared with 26% of non-Aboriginal households. The lone person difference was -15%.
- ⌘ The lone person difference had increased by 1% since 2011, after having reduced by 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The lone person difference in NSW was -9% and had changed little since 2011. It had decreased by 1% between 2006 and 2011.

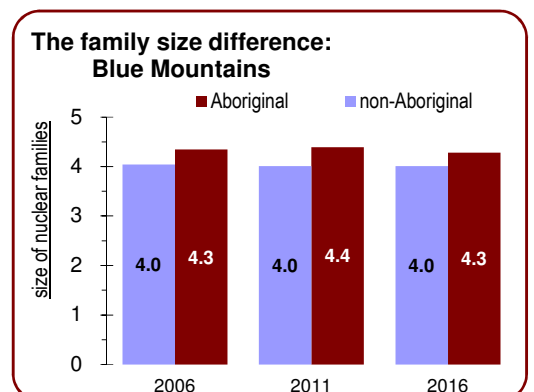


The family size difference

average size of two-parent families

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

- ⌘ In 2016, the average size of the Blue Mountains' 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 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.



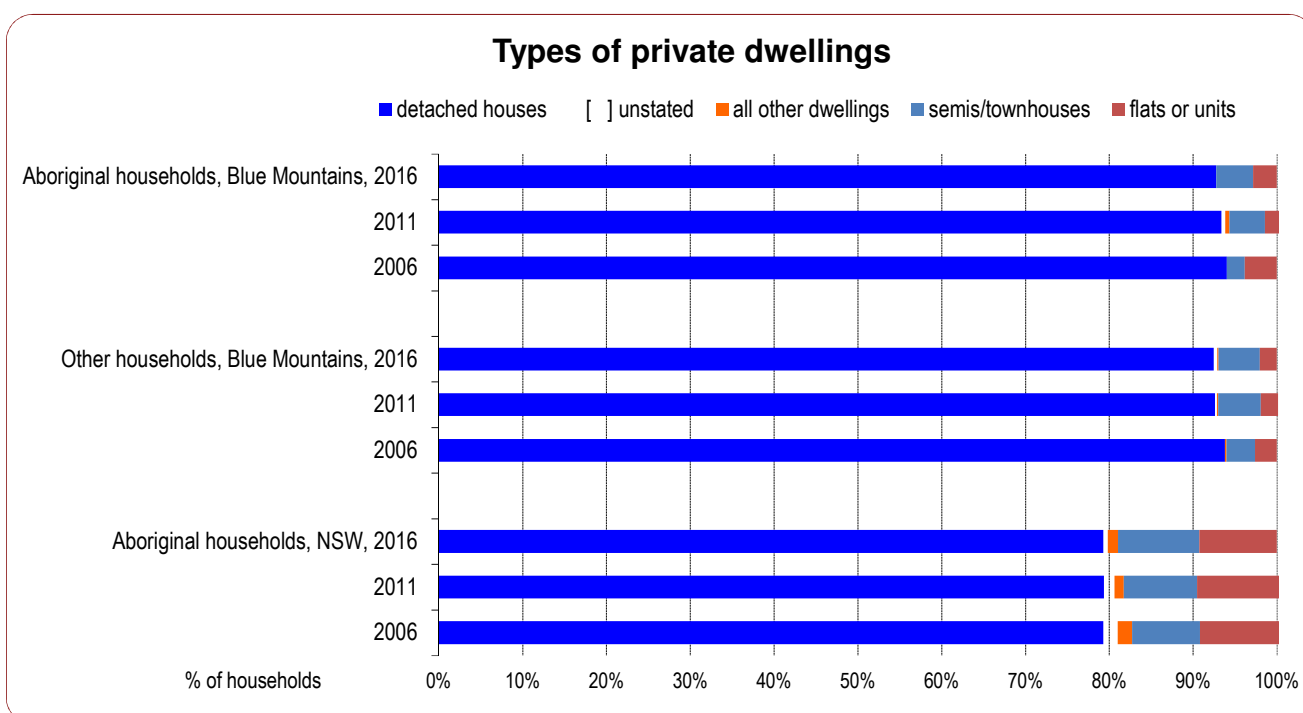
Types of housing

In 2016, most Aboriginal households in the Blue Mountains (93%) were living in detached houses, with 4% living in semis/townhouses and 3% living in flats or units.

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

The proportion in detached houses was 13% higher than that of Aboriginal households in NSW. The proportion in flats or units was 6% lower.

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



21 Aboriginal people in the LGA (1%) were counted living in institutional accommodation on Census night (eg. nursing homes, hospitals, boarding houses, correctional centres, barracks or boarding schools).

- ⌘ There were 16 Aboriginal people living in institutional accommodation in this LGA in 2011, and 18 in 2006.
- ⌘ There were 1.5 males per female among Aboriginal people in institutional accommodation.

In 2016, there were 1,298 people living in institutional accommodation in the Blue Mountains; 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.

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

- ⌘ This was virtually unchanged since 2011.

There were 23 non-Aboriginal people in improvised accommodation in Blue Mountains in 2016.

Housing costs and tenure

In 2016, Aboriginal households in the Blue Mountains most commonly lived in dwellings that were being purchased (42% of the households). Another 36% lived in dwellings that were rented, and 18% in homes that were fully owned.

- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households that rented, 36%, was 18% higher than for other households here.

The proportion living in rented dwellings was down by 6% since 2011, and was 7% lower than in 2006.

The median weekly rent paid by Aboriginal households was \$360. It was \$280 in 2011 and \$200 in 2006.

- ⌘ The proportion living in dwellings that were being bought (42%) was 3% higher than for Other households.

The proportion living in mortgaged dwellings was up by 6% since 2011; and 5% higher than in 2006.

The median monthly mortgage paid by Aboriginal households in the LGA in 2016 was \$1,907. It was \$1,950 in 2011 and \$1,438 for 2006.

- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings (18%) was 22% lower than for non-Aboriginal households.

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

Among Aboriginal households, the proportion renting in Blue Mountains was 18% lower than the rate in NSW.

18% of Other households in Blue Mountains were renting, 1% lower than in 2011, and 2% lower than in 2006.

The median weekly rent paid by Other households in Blue Mountains was \$350. It was \$280 in 2011 and \$200 in 2006.

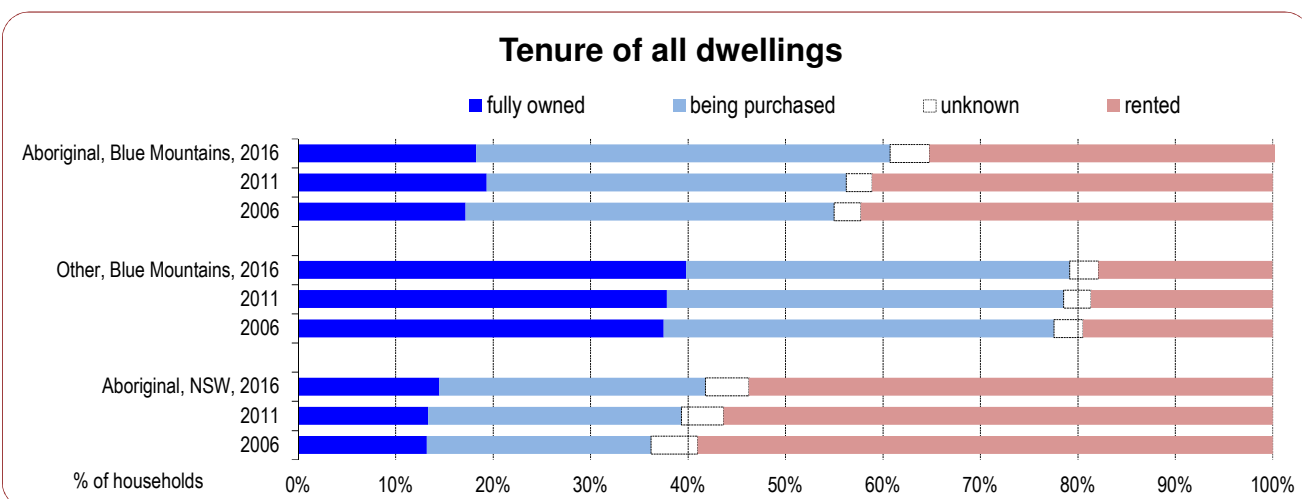
In NSW, 27% of Aboriginal households were home-buyers with a mortgage.

39% of the Other households in Blue Mountains had a mortgage, down by 1% since 2011, and down by 1% since 2006.

The median mortgage paid by Other households in Blue Mountains was \$1,842. It was \$1,842 in 2011 and \$1,500 in 2006.

The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings in Blue Mountains was 4% higher than the average in NSW.

The proportion of Other households in fully owned dwellings in Blue Mountains was up by 2% since 2011, and up by 2% since 2006.



Of 300 Aboriginal rental households, 62% were managed by real estate agents and 17% were managed by public housing.

- ⌘ 51 Aboriginal households lived in public housing (6% of all households).

This number had risen by 18 since 2011.

Only 1% of the Other households lived in public housing.

The number of Other households in public housing in Blue Mountains had risen by 27.

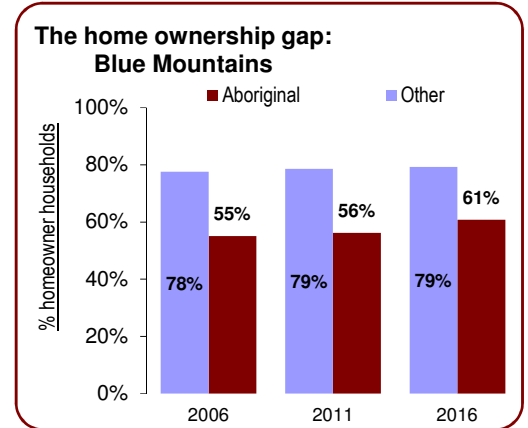
Housing Indicators

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, 61% of Aboriginal households in the Blue Mountains were either buying or owned their home, compared with 79% of other households, a home ownership gap of -19%.
- ⌘ The gap had closed by 3% since 2011, after having closed by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The home ownership gap in NSW was -24% and had closed by 4% since 2011. It had closed by 3% between 2006 and 2011.

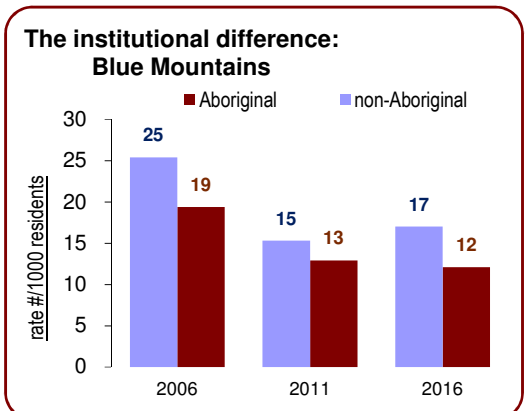


The institutional difference

rate per 1000 of residents in non-private dwellings

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

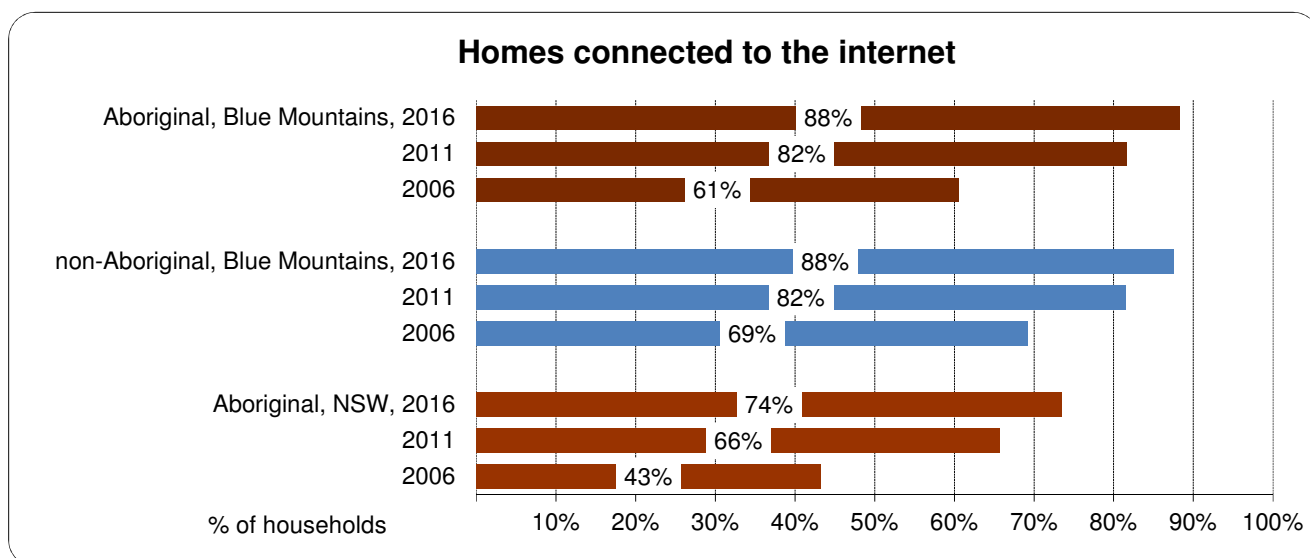
- ⌘ In 2016, 12 in every 1000 Aboriginal residents in the Blue Mountains were in institutional housing, compared with 17 per 1000 non-Aboriginal residents. The institutional difference was -5 per 1000.
- ⌘ The institutional gap had increased by 3 per 1000 since 2011, after having decreased by 4 per 1000 over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The institutional difference in NSW was 9 per 1000 and had changed little since 2011. It had also changed little between 2006 and 2011.



Internet @ home

In 2016, 88% of Aboriginal households in the Blue Mountains had an internet connection while 8% did not (71 households); 3% did not answer the question.

- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households connected to the internet was 15% higher than in NSW (74% connected), ... and similar to non-Aboriginal households in Blue Mountains (where 88% of homes were connected).
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households with internet was up by 7% from 82% in 2011. The proportion was up by 8% for Aboriginal households in NSW. It was up by 6% for non-Aboriginal households in this LGA (from 82% in 2011).
- ⌘ In 2006, 61% of the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal people had the internet at home. This compared with 43% of Aboriginal people in NSW and 69% of non-Aboriginal people in this LGA.

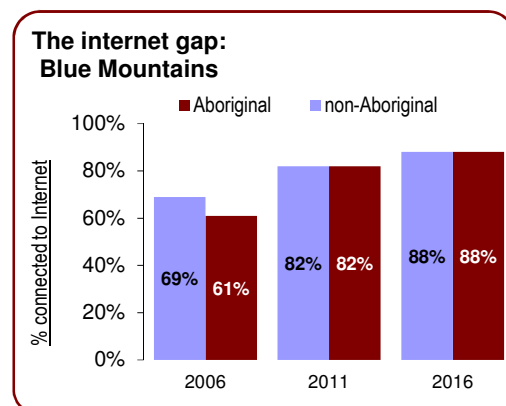


The internet gap

% of households with an internet connection

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

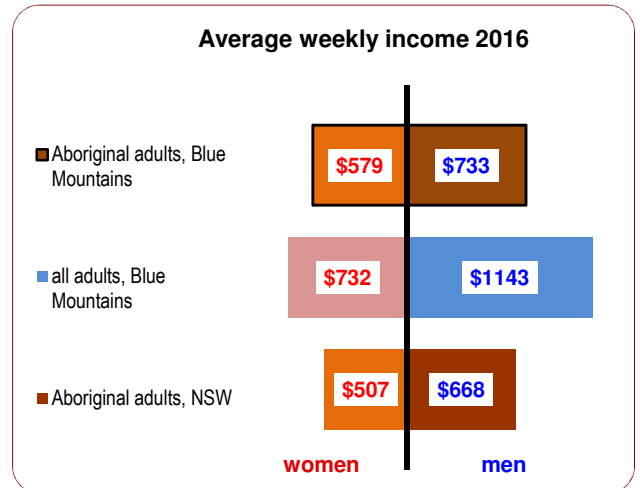
- ⌘ In 2016, 88% of the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal households had an internet connection, compared with 88% of other households, an internet gap of nil.
- ⌘ The internet gap had changed little since 2011, after having closed by 8% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The internet gap in NSW was 9% and had narrowed by 2% since 2011. It narrowed by 8% between 2006 and 2011.
The 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses had different questions about the internet.



Personal income

In 2016, the average weekly income of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) in the Blue Mountains was about \$695, which was 12% more than that of Aboriginal adults in NSW (\$621), but 30% less than the average of all adults in the LGA (\$988).

- ⌘ Aboriginal men in Blue Mountains averaged \$733 a week (64% of the overall male average here). Aboriginal women averaged \$579 a week (79% of the overall female average).
- ⌘ The average weekly income of Aboriginal men was \$65 higher in the LGA than in NSW. The average weekly income of Aboriginal women here was \$73 higher than in NSW.
- ⌘ Half of the Aboriginal adults received under \$546 a week (the median income).



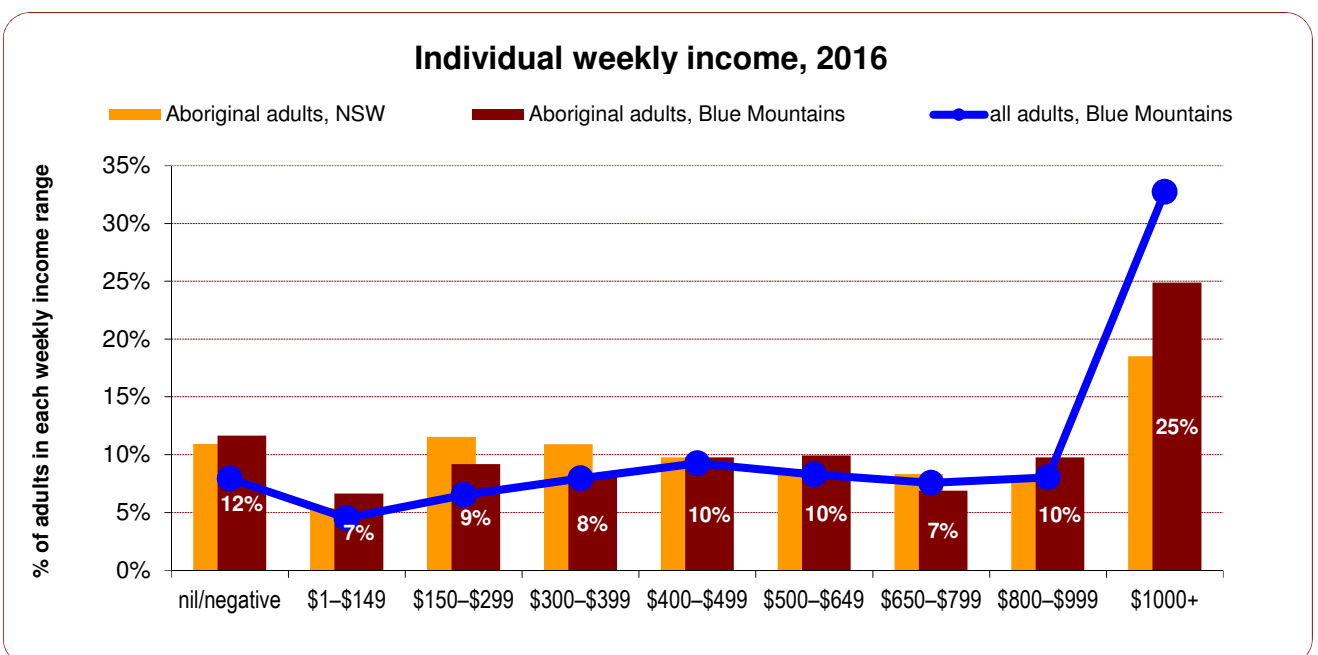
The income distribution pattern among Aboriginal adults in the Blue Mountains was slightly different from Aboriginal adults in NSW, and somewhat different from all adults in the LGA.

Compared with Aboriginal adults across NSW:

- ⌘ proportionally more Aboriginal adults here were in the \$1000+ and \$800–\$999 ranges.
- ⌘ fewer were in the \$300–\$399 and \$150–\$299 ranges.

Compared with all adults in this LGA:

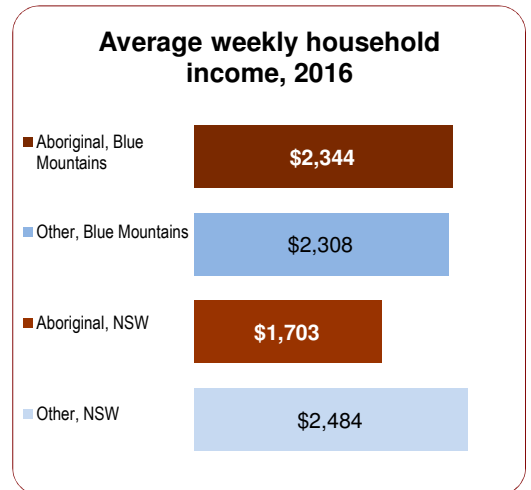
- ⌘ more Aboriginal adults were in the nil/negative and \$150–\$299 ranges, and in the \$1–\$149 range.
- ⌘ proportionally fewer were in the \$1000+ range.



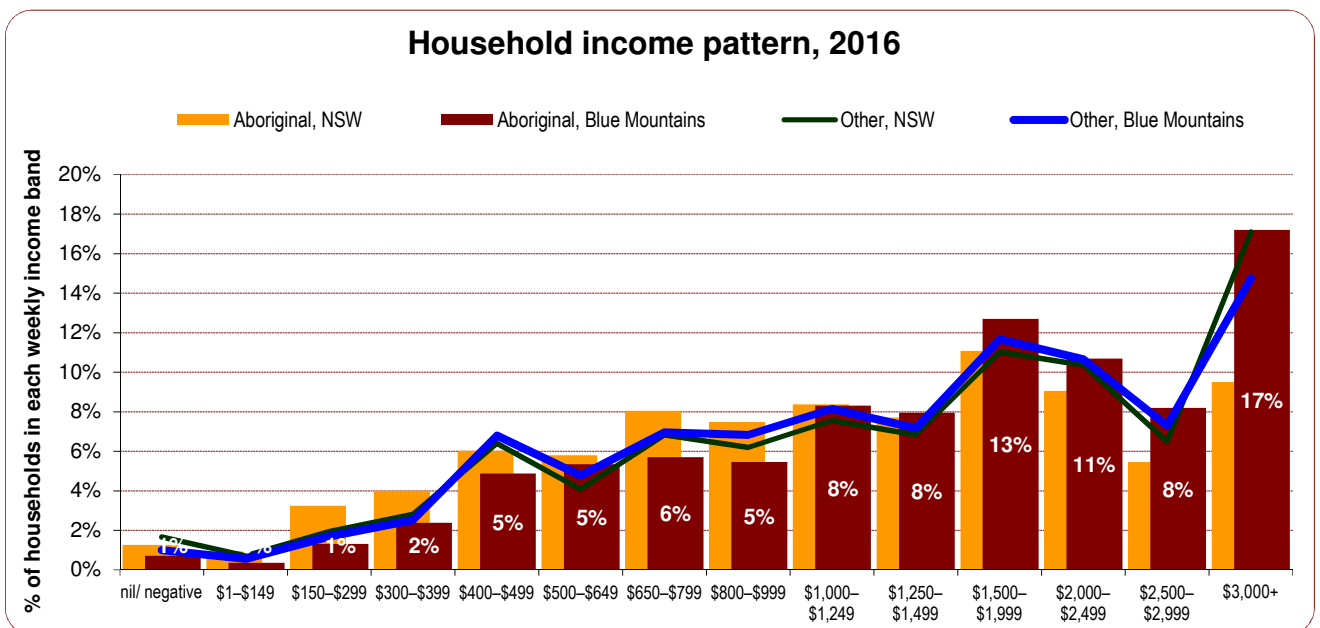
Household income

In 2016, the average income of Aboriginal households in the Blue Mountains was about \$2,344 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 Blue Mountains was 38% more than the average of Aboriginal households in NSW (\$1,703 a week).
- ⌘ It was very close to the average of other households in Blue Mountains – \$2,308 a week.
- ⌘ Half the Aboriginal households received less than \$1,637 a week (the median household income).
- ⌘ Aboriginal households in the LGA had an average size of 3.3 residents, compared with 2.5 for non-Aboriginal households. Household incomes thus had to be spread among more people, compared to other households.



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



Compared with Aboriginal households across NSW:

- ⌘ more Aboriginal households here were in the \$3,000+ and \$2,500–\$2,999 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Aboriginal households were in the \$650–\$799 and \$800–\$999 income ranges.

Compared with non-Aboriginal households in this LGA:

- ⌘ more Aboriginal households were in the \$3,000+ and \$1,500–\$1,999 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Aboriginal households were in the \$400–\$499 and \$800–\$999 income ranges.

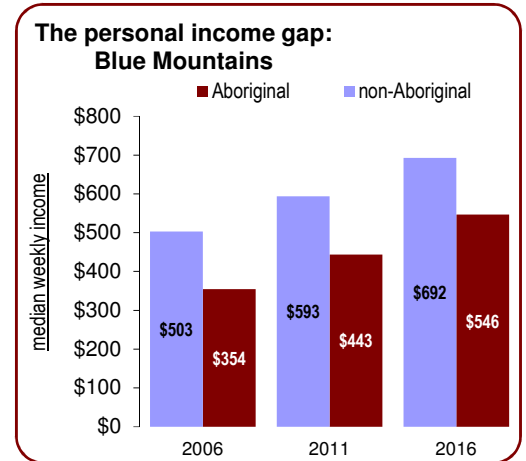
Income Indicators

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 the Blue Mountains (\$546) was 79% that of non-Aboriginal adults in this LGA (\$692). The personal income gap was -21%.
- ⌘ The personal income gap had closed by 4% 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.

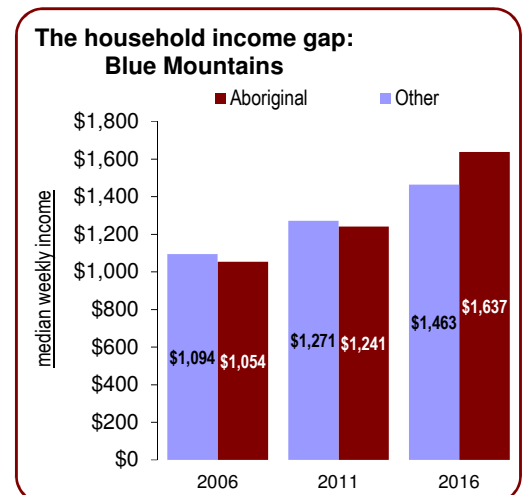


The household income gap

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 the Blue Mountains was \$1,637, compared with \$1,463 for other households in the LGA. This was 12% higher – this is the household income gap.
- ⌘ The household income gap had reversed since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The household income gap in NSW was 19% and had closed by 6% since 2011. It had narrowed by 5% between 2006 and 2011.



Employment

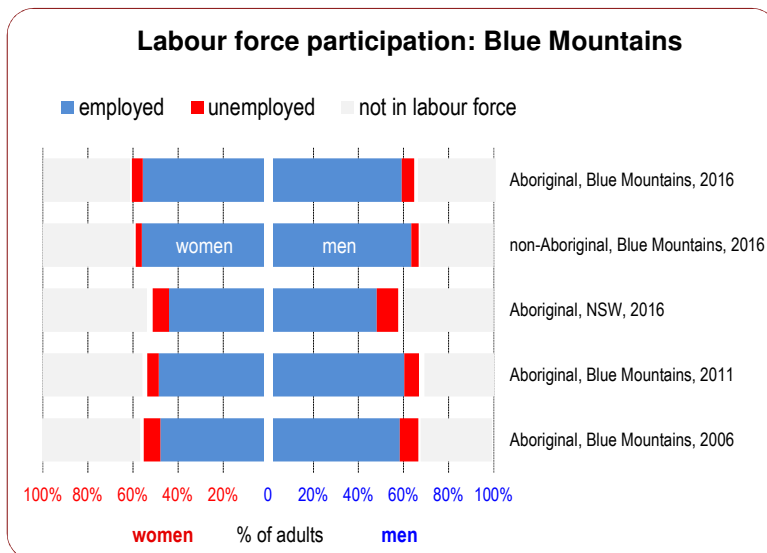
Employment is a prime determinant of a community's income, so it is an important indicator of well-being. In Blue Mountains, 672 out of 1,178 Aboriginal adults (15+) were employed in 2016 – 57% of adults.

60 Aboriginal adults were unemployed (5%), so the overall workforce participation rate (employed + unemployed) was 63%.

Aboriginal workforce participation was ...

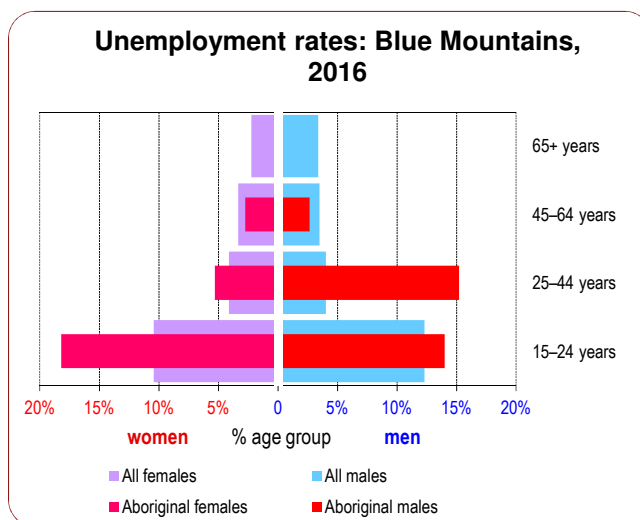
- ⌘ lower for women (60%) than men (64%).
- ⌘ similar to the average for non-Aboriginal adults in the LGA.
- ⌘ 8% higher than the average for Aboriginal adults in NSW.

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

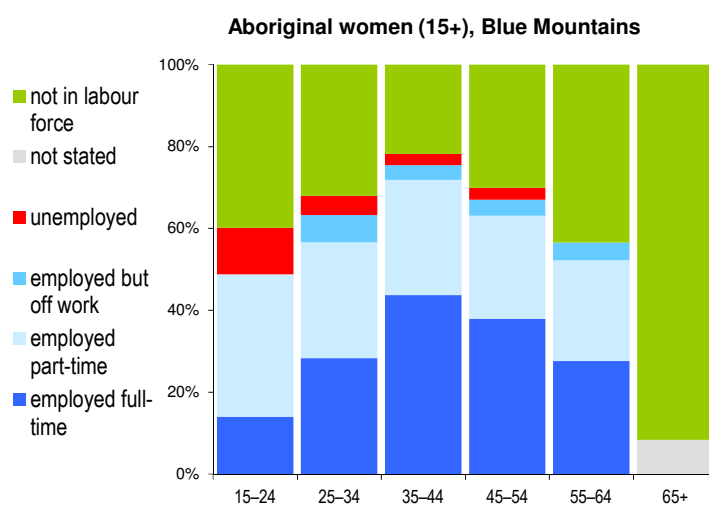
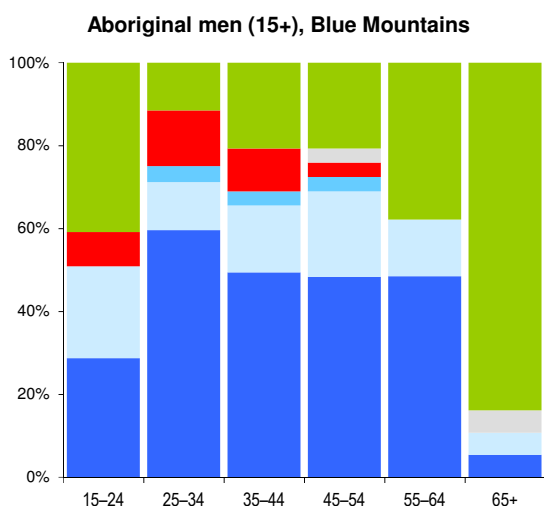


In 2016, the Aboriginal unemployment rate in the Blue Mountains was 8%, with 60 people out of work.

- ⌘ This rate was higher than the 5% rate among non-Aboriginal adults in the LGA.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal unemployment rate was 9% for men and 8% for women.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal unemployment rate was 2% lower than in 2011, and 5% lower than in 2006.
- ⌘ Aboriginal unemployment was highest among those aged 15–24 years (15%) and 25–44 years (8%). It was lowest among those aged 45–64 years (3%).



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



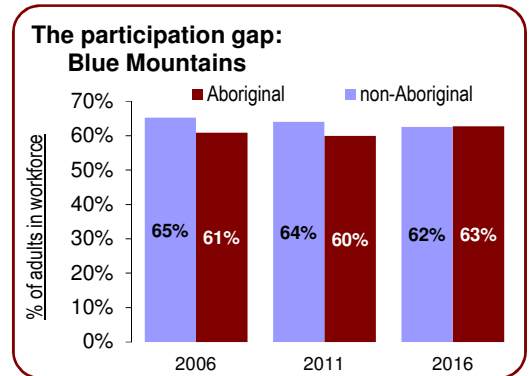
Workforce Gap Indicators

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 the Blue Mountains in the workforce was 63%; the proportion of non-Aboriginal adults in the workforce was 62%; the participation gap was almost nil.
- ⌘ The participation gap had closed by 4% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The participation gap in NSW was -8% and had closed by 3% since 2011. It had changed little between 2006 and 2011.

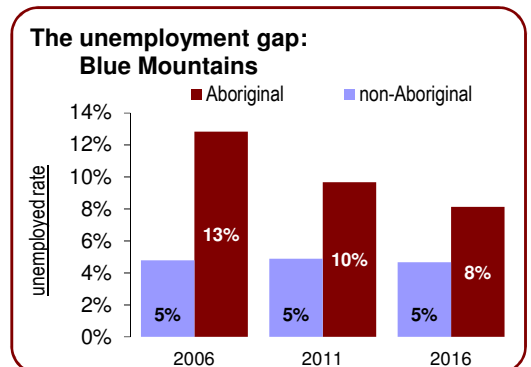


The unemployment gap

% of unemployed in workforce

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 8% of the Aboriginal workforce in the Blue Mountains were unemployed; 5% of the non-Aboriginal workforce were unemployed; the unemployment gap was +3%.
- ⌘ The unemployment gap had closed by 2% since 2011, after having closed by 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The unemployment gap between in NSW was +9% and had closed by 2% since 2011. It had narrowed by 3% between 2006 and 2011.

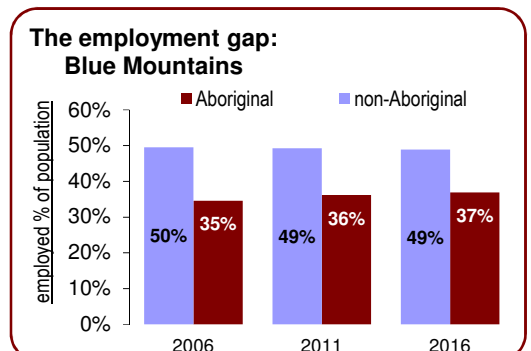


The employment gap

employed adults as % of population

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 37% of the Aboriginal population of the Blue Mountains were employed; 49% of the non-Aboriginal workforce were employed; the employment gap was -12%.
- ⌘ The employment gap had closed by 1% since 2011, after having closed by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The employment gap in NSW was -18% and had closed by 3% since 2011. It had narrowed by 1% between 2006 and 2011.



Education participation by age

Having high proportions of people in education is a good indicator of positive individual and community development. In the Blue Mountains, four in ten Aboriginal residents (758 people) were attending an educational institution in 2016.

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

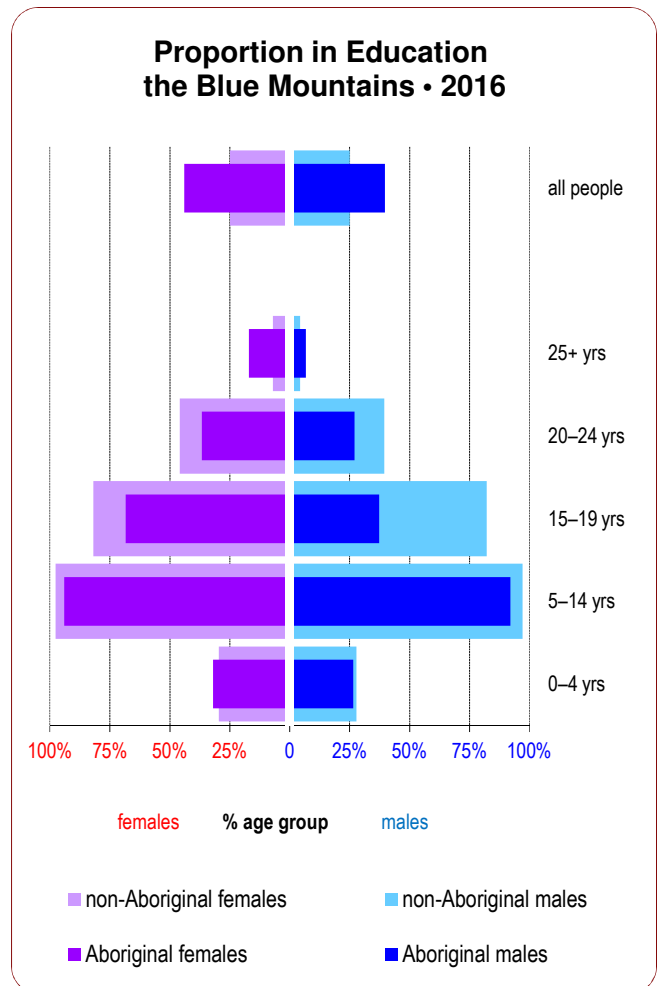
- 28% of the 0–4 year olds
- 93% of the 5–14 year olds
- 72% of the 15–19 year olds
- 29% of the 20–24 year olds
- 12% of those aged 25+

Partly because the Aboriginal population has a much higher proportion of children, their overall rate of participation in education, 42%, is higher than the non-Aboriginal rate in this LGA, 25%. Relative to non-Aboriginal people of the same age, there were, in education:

- 6% more Aboriginal 25+ year olds
- similar proportions of 0–4 year olds
- 4% fewer Aboriginal 5–14 year olds
- 10% fewer Aboriginal 15–19 year olds
- 13% fewer Aboriginal 20–24 year olds

Overall, the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal population had 113 females per 100 males in education. This varied with age. Of those in education, there were:

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



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

- The proportion of 0–4 year olds in education was up by 4% since 2011, and up by 6% since 2006.
- The proportion of 5–14 year olds in education was down by 1% since 2011, and up by 1% since 2006.
- The proportion of 15–19 year olds in education was up by 4% since 2011, and up by 12% since 2006.
- The proportion of 20–24 year olds in education was down by 1% since 2011, and up by 10% since 2006.
- The proportion of 25+ year olds in education was down by 1% since 2011, and up by 3% 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 575 Aboriginal children and teenagers in the Blue Mountains were attending school, with 73 in pre-school, 275 in primary school, and 227 in high school.

The number of Aboriginal pre-schoolers was up by 30 or 70% since 2011 and, from 2006, up by 217%.

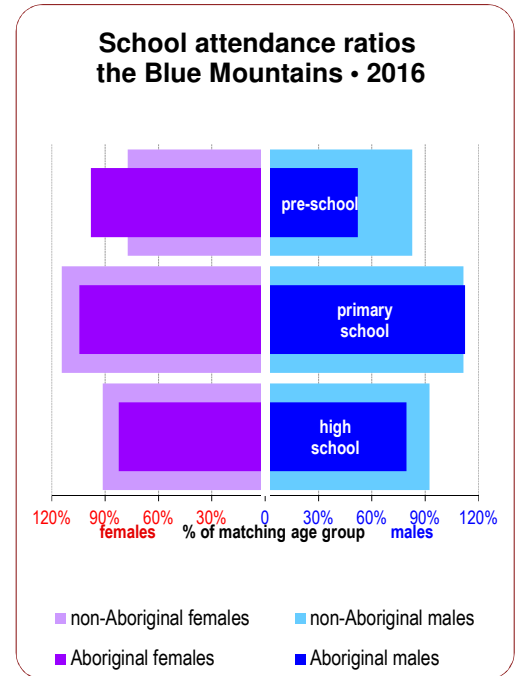
- ⌘ The 73 Aboriginal pre-schoolers equalled 75% of the Aboriginal children aged 4–5.
- ⌘ In NSW, Aboriginal pre-schoolers equalled 72% of the number aged 4–5 years. Non-Aboriginal pre-schoolers in this LGA represented 80% of their age group.

The number of Aboriginal primary students (275) was up by 90 or 49% since 2011; it was 94% higher than in 2006.

- ⌘ Aboriginal primary students were 114% of the number aged 6–11. This is because some primary students were other ages.
- ⌘ This rate was 5% higher than the Aboriginal rate in NSW and 1% higher than for non-Aboriginal children here.

The number of Aboriginal secondary students (227) was up by 50 or 28% since 2011 and 89% higher than 2006.

- ⌘ Aboriginal secondary students were 83% of the Aboriginal children aged 12–17.
- ⌘ This rate was 9% lower than the rate for non-Aboriginal secondary students; it was 3% higher than for Aboriginal students in NSW.



165 Aboriginal residents of the Blue Mountains were in post-school education in 2016. This was 41 more than in 2011, with 101 more than in 2006.

In 2016, there were 39 Aboriginal 15–24 year olds from the LGA enrolled in TAFE (11% of the number this age); 49% attended full-time.

- ⌘ 8% of Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this LGA attended TAFE, with 35% full-time.
- ⌘ 8% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this LGA attended TAFE, with 32% full-time.

39 Aboriginal 15–24 year olds from the LGA attended university or other tertiary education (11% of the number this age); 74% were full-time.

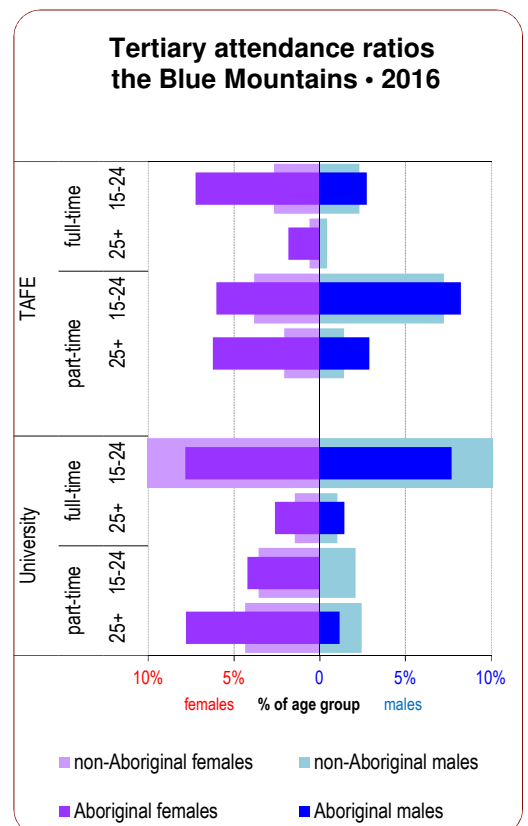
- ⌘ 7% of Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in NSW were at university, with 83% full-time.
- ⌘ 21% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year olds in this LGA were at university, with 86% full-time.

There were 48 Aboriginal students aged 25+ attending TAFE in 2016 (7% of those aged 25–64), with 15% full-time.

- ⌘ 4% of Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in NSW attended TAFE, with 30% full-time.
- ⌘ 2% of non-Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in this LGA attended TAFE, with 22% full-time.

48 Aboriginal residents aged 25+ were in tertiary education in 2016 (7% of 25–64 year olds), with 29% full-time.

- ⌘ 3% of Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in NSW were at university, with 43% full-time.
- ⌘ 5% of non-Aboriginal 25–64 year olds in this LGA were at university, with 27% full-time.



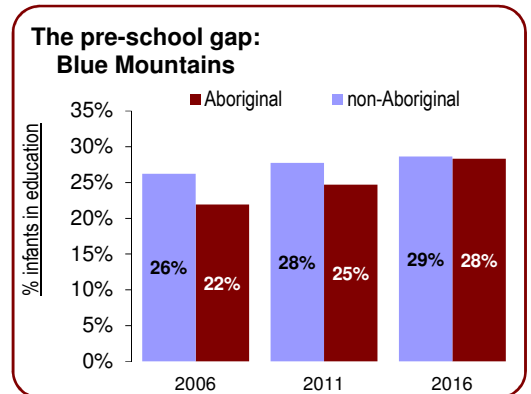
Education Attendance Indicators

The pre-school gap

% of infants under 5 in education

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 28% of Aboriginal infants in the Blue Mountains were in education, compared with 29% of non-Aboriginal infants. The pre-school gap was nil.
- ⌘ The pre-school gap had closed by 3% since 2011, after having closed by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The pre-school rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal infants in NSW were 25% and 25% in 2016, a gap of nil. This gap had narrowed by 2% since 2011.

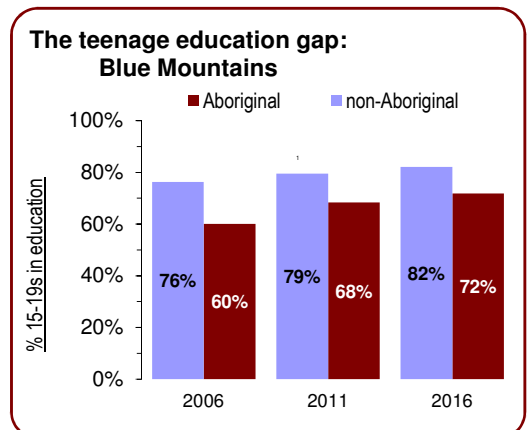


The teenage education gap

% of 15–19 year-olds in education

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 72% of the Blue Mountains Aboriginal teenagers aged 15–19 were in education, compared with 82% of non-Aboriginal teenagers. The teenage education gap was -10%.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap had closed by 1% since 2011, after having closed by 5% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was -18% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It narrowed by 6% over 2006 to 2011.



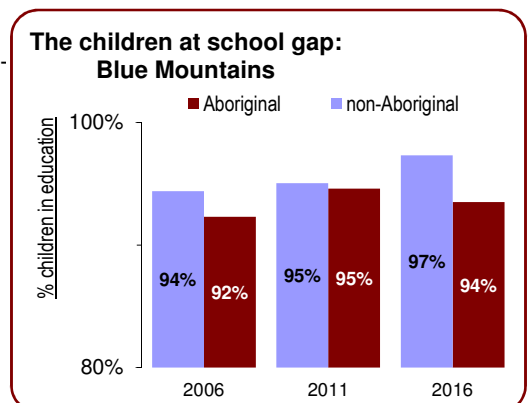
The children at school gap

% of 5–14 year olds in education

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 94% of the Blue Mountains Aboriginal children aged 5–14 were in education, and 97% of non-Aboriginal of that age were. The schooling gap was -4%.
- ⌘ The schooling gap had widened by 4% since 2011, after having closed by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The schooling gap in NSW was -3% and had narrowed by 4% since 2011. It changed little over 2006 to 2011.

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



Schooling levels

In 2016, Aboriginal adults (15+) in the Blue Mountains had completed an average of Year 10.7 of school, compared with Year 11.1 for non-Aboriginal adults. In NSW, Aboriginal adults averaged Year 10.3.

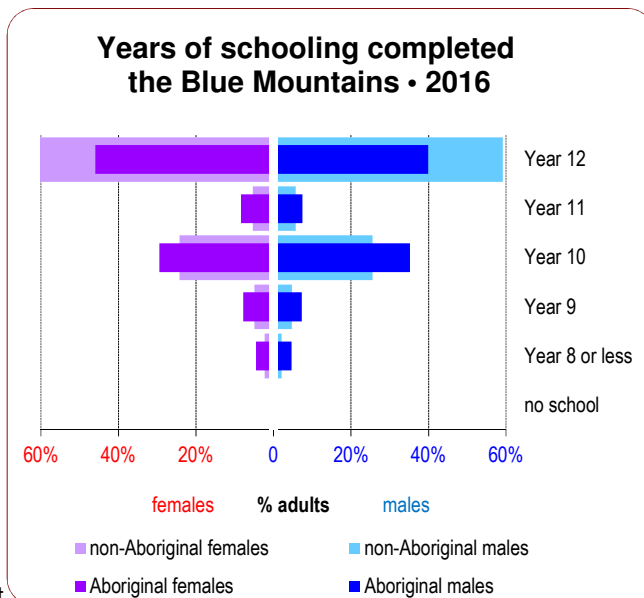
- ⌘ 455 Aboriginal adults in the LGA had completed Year 12, which was 57% more than in 2011 and 150% more than in 2006.

The proportion of Aboriginal adults in the LGA who had completed Year 12 was 42%, which was 18% lower than that of non-Aboriginal adults.

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

- ⌘ 81% of Aboriginal adults in the LGA had completed at least Year 10, which was 10% more than for Aboriginal adults in NSW.
- ⌘ Of the others, 8% had completed Year 9 and 4% had completed Year 8 or lower; 8 adults did not go to school (1%); 5% 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 Blue Mountains left school had changed little since 2011, and was up by 5 months since 2006.

Over the decade to 2016, there was an increase of 150% in the number who had finished Year 12 and an increase of 51% in the number who had finished school at Year 11.

For Aboriginal adults in this LGA, average schooling:

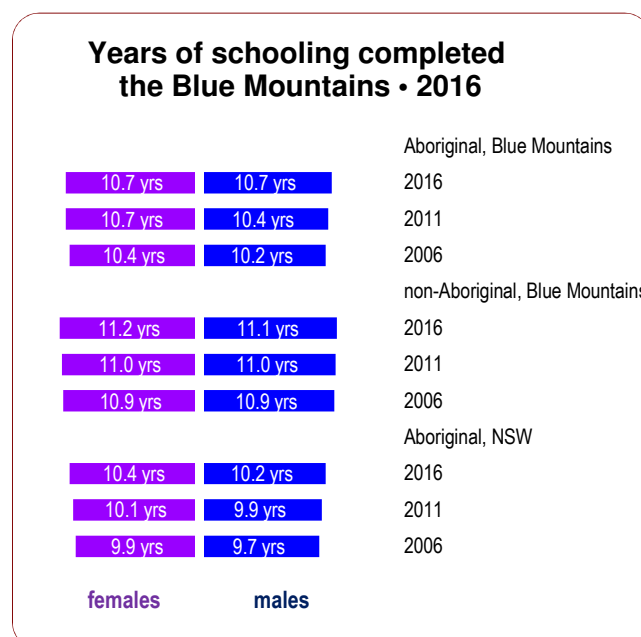
- ⌘ for men had risen by 4 months since 2011, and had risen by 6 months since 2006.
- ⌘ for women had changed little since 2011, and had risen by 4 months since 2006.

For non-Aboriginal adults, average schooling:

- ⌘ for men had risen by one month since 2011, and had risen by 2 months since 2006.
- ⌘ for women had risen by 2 months since 2011, and had risen by 4 months since 2006.

The average schooling of Aboriginal adults in NSW:

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



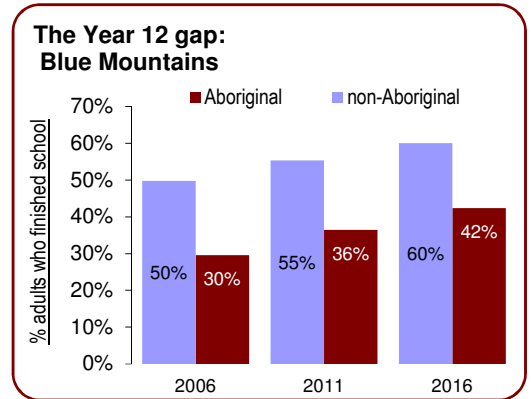
Education Achievement Indicators

The Year 12 gap

% of adults (15+) who have left school

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 42% of the Blue Mountains Aboriginal adults had completed Year 12, compared with 60% of non-Aboriginal adults. The Year 12 gap was -18%.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap had closed by 1% since 2011, after having closed by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap in NSW was -28% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It widened by 2% between 2006 and 2011.

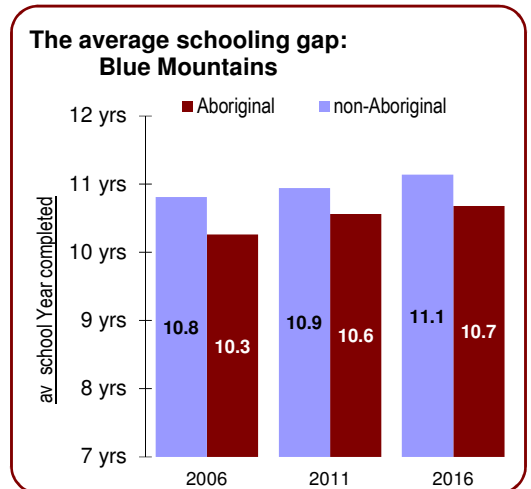


The average schooling gap

average school Year completed

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

- ⌘ In 2016, the Blue Mountains Aboriginal adults had completed an average of Year 10.7 at school, compared with Year 11.1 for non-Aboriginal adults. The average schooling gap was -0.5 years.
- ⌘ The average schooling gap had widening by one month since 2011, after having closing by 2 months over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The average schooling gap in NSW was 8 months. It had changed little since 2011, after having changed little between 2006 and 2011.



Tertiary qualifications

The type and extent of post-school qualifications has a major influence on the earning capacities of a community. In the 2016 Census, 637 Aboriginal adults in the Blue Mountains reported having tertiary educational qualifications, which was 54% of the number aged 15+.

By comparison, 45% of Aboriginal adults in NSW and 67% of non-Aboriginal adults in Blue Mountains had a tertiary qualification.

162 Aboriginal adults in the LGA had a degree or higher qualification (14%), with 53 having a postgraduate degree.

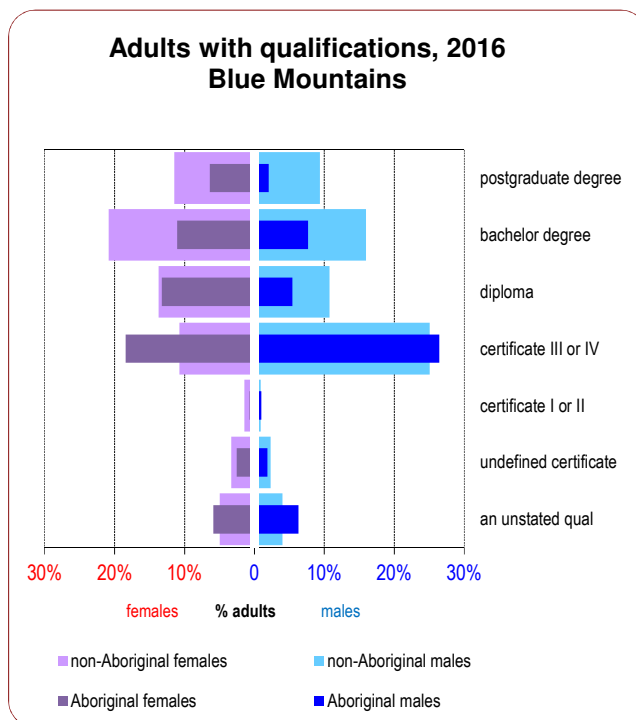
- ⌘ In NSW, 7% of the Aboriginal residents had a degree or higher qualification.
- ⌘ 29% of the non-Aboriginal residents of Blue Mountains had a degree or more.

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

- certificate III or IV, held by 262 people (22%);
- bachelor degree, by 109 people (9%);
- diploma, by 106 people (9%).

While the number of Aboriginal adults in Blue Mountains rose by 34% from 2011 to 2016, the number with qualifications rose by 42%. There were:

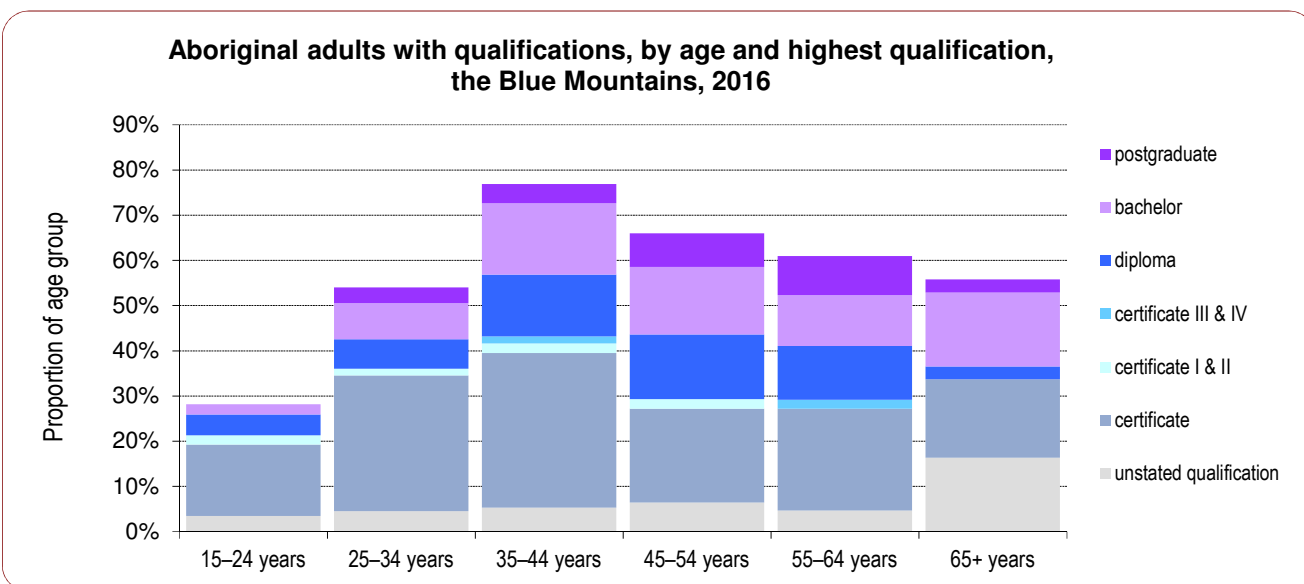
- 91 more with a certificate III or IV;
- 40 more with a bachelor degree;
- 28 more with a diploma.



In the decade from 2006, the number of Aboriginal adults in the LGA with qualifications increased by 111%, while the adult population increased by 92%. There were 185 more with a certificate III or IV and 74 more with a bachelor degree qualification.

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

The chart below shows how the level of qualifications varies with age. Here, Aboriginal people aged 35–44 years had the most higher qualifications, then people aged 45–54 years and 55–64 years.



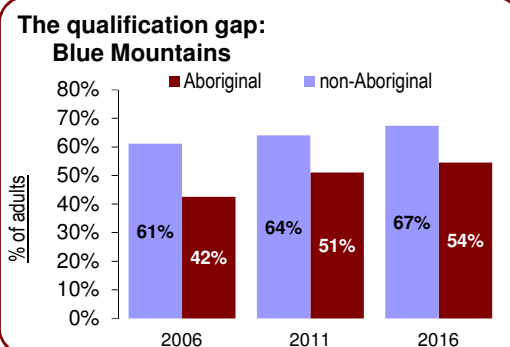
Higher Education Indicators

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, 54% of the Blue Mountains Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a post-school qualification, compared with 67% of non-Aboriginal adults. The qualification gap was -13%.
- ⌘ The qualification gap had changed little since 2011, after having closed by 6% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The qualification gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in NSW was -14% and had narrowed by 1% since 2011. It widened by 1% over 2006 to 2011.

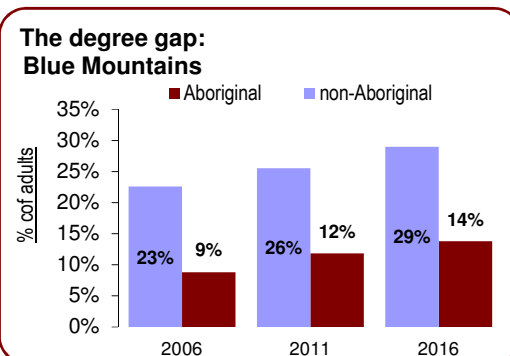


The degree gap

% of adults 15+ with a degree or higher qualification

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 14% of the Blue Mountains Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a degree or higher qualification, compared with 29% of non-Aboriginal adults. The degree education gap was -15%.
- ⌘ The degree gap had widened by 1% since 2011, after having changed little over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The degree gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in NSW was -19% and had widened by 3% since 2011. It widened by 3% over 2006 to 2011.

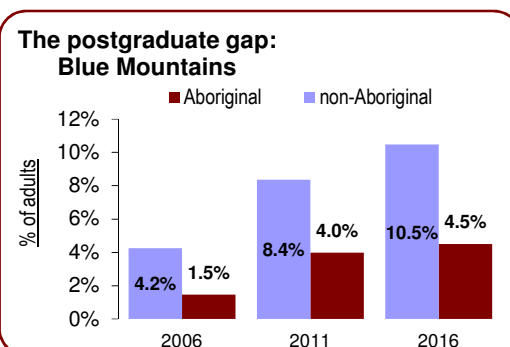


The postgraduate gap

% of adults 15+ with a postgraduate qualification

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 4.5% of Blue Mountains Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a post-graduate qualification, compared with 10.5% of non-Aboriginal adults. The postgraduate gap was -6.0%.
- ⌘ The postgraduate gap had widened by 1.6% since 2011, after having widened by 1.6% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The postgraduate gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults in NSW was -6.2% and had widened by 1.3% since 2011. It widened by 2.1% over 2006 to 2011.



Disability levels

In 2016 in the Blue Mountains, 154 Aboriginal residents had a long-term severe disability; 8.4% of the population. Among all the Blue Mountains' residents, 5.5% 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 (19%) and 55–64 year olds (15%).
Among younger Aboriginal residents, the disability rate was highest among 15–19 year olds at 8% and 5–14 year olds at 8%.

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

- ⌘ In this LGA, the overall Aboriginal disability rate was 1.5 times that in the overall population: 8.4% compared with 5.5%.

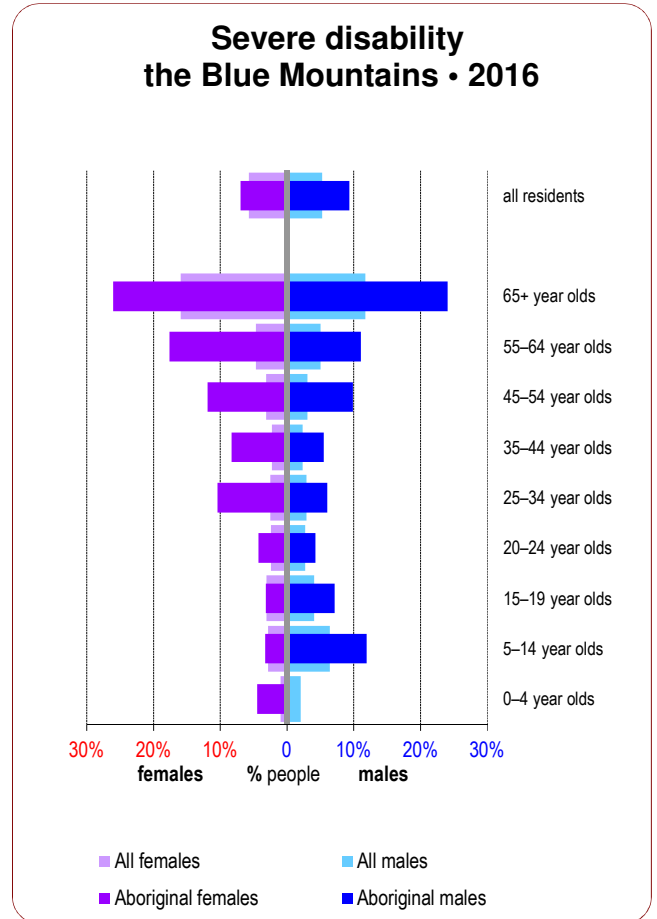
Among 45–54 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (10%) was 3 times the overall rate (3.1%);

Among 55–64 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (15%) was 3 times that of all residents (4.9%).

- ⌘ Aboriginal disability rates were higher for men than women: 9.4% to 6.9%. Among all residents, they were similar for men and women: 5.3% to 5.7%.

There were 1.8 females per male among 25–34 year olds with a disability.

On the other hand, there were 3.9 males per female among 5–14 year olds with a disability. There were 2.7 males per female among 15–19 year olds.



From 2011 to 2016, the overall disability rate among Aboriginal residents of the LGA rose from 7.5% to 8.4%.

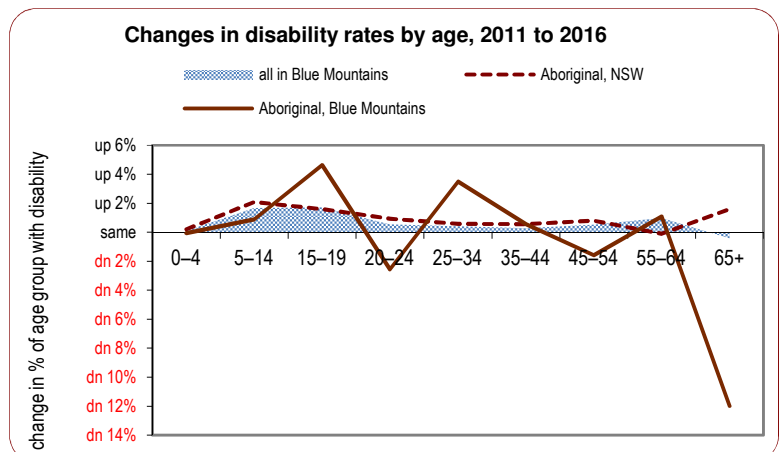
Among Aboriginal people in NSW, the disability rate rose from 6.2% to 7.6%.

Among all Blue Mountains residents, the disability rate rose 1.0%, and was 5.5% in 2016.

In the LGA, the greatest change in the Aboriginal disability rate was the increase among those aged 15–19, from 3.1% in 2011 to 7.8% in 2016.

Disability rates also rose among 25–34 year olds and 55–64 year olds.

Disability rates fell most among those aged 65+ years.



Disability care given

In the 2016 Census, 201 Aboriginal adults in the Blue Mountains, 17% of the adult population, reported that they gave assistance to a person with a severe or profound disability. There were at that time 154 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 29% of 45–54 year olds and 23% of 65+ year olds to 7% of 15–19 year olds.

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

Female carers were most common among 20–24 year olds with 4.0 females per male caring, and among 45–54 year olds, with 2.9 females per male caring.

Male carers were most common among carers aged 65+ with 2.1 males per female caring.

⌘ The 17% carer rate among Aboriginal residents was higher than the average for all adults in the LGA (14%).

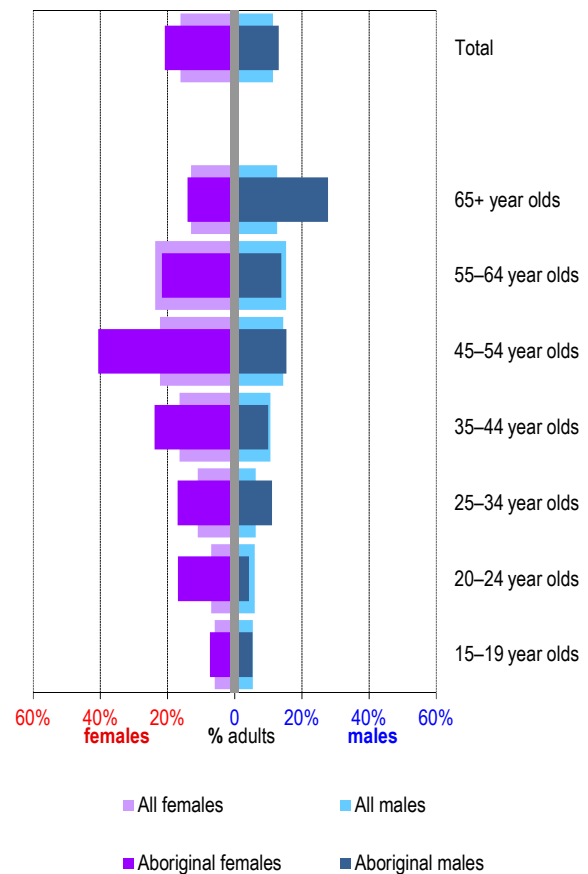
Among 65+ year olds, the proportion of Aboriginal carers was 1.8 times the average.

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

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

Relative to the NSW Aboriginal community, there were 9% more carers among Aboriginal people aged 65+ here. There were 2% fewer carers here among those aged 20–24.

Carers • the Blue Mountains • 2016



From 2011 to 2016, overall caring rates among Aboriginal adults in the LGA rose from 14% to 17%, an increase of 3%.

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

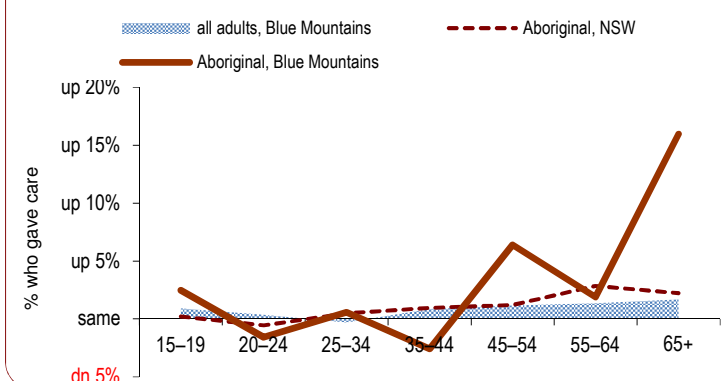
Among all the Blue Mountains' adults, caring rates rose by 1%.

⌘ In the LGA, Aboriginal caring rates increased most among 65+ year olds, from 7% in 2011 to 23% in 2016.

Caring rates also rose 6% among 45–54 year olds and 2% among 15–19 year olds..

Caring rates fell most among 35–44 year olds, down by 3%, and among those aged 20–24, down by 2%.

Changes in caring rates, by age, 2011–2016



Disability Indicators

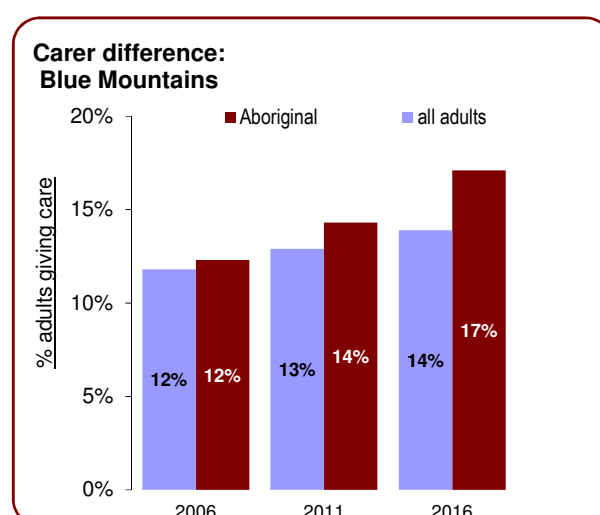
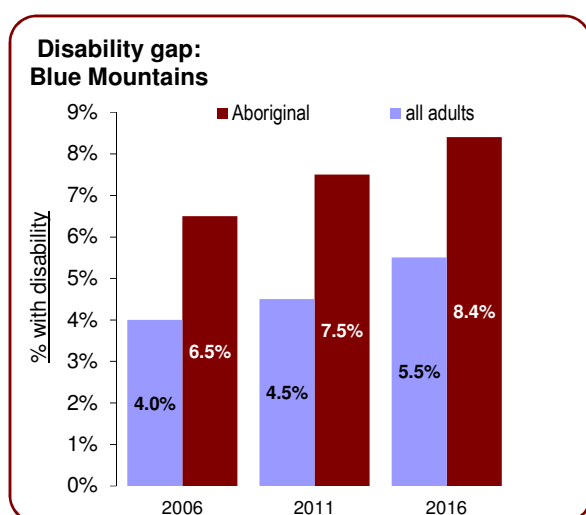
The disability gap

% 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, 8.4% of the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal residents had a severe, long-term disability, compared with 5.5% for all residents. The disability gap was +2.9%. The Aboriginal disability rate was 1.5 times the overall rate.
- ⌘ The disability gap in the Blue Mountains had changed little since 2011, after having widened by 0.5% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The disability gap in NSW was +2.2% and had widened by 0.9% since 2011.

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



The carer difference

% of adults caring for a person with a disability

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

- ⌘ In 2016, 17% of the Blue Mountains' Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) provided assistance to a person with a severe disability, compared with 14% of all adults. The carer difference was +3%.
- ⌘ The carer difference in the Blue Mountains had widened by 2% since 2011, after having widened by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The carer difference in NSW was +3% in 2016. This had widened by 0.7% since 2011.