

SUMMARY OF THE STATISTICAL REPORT

Introduction

1. This report examines the participation of Indigenous youth in education and their subsequent educational attainment and labour market participation. It is based on data from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses. Census data are supplemented by information from other survey and administrative sources.
2. A table of results from the 1996 Census (the Summary Table) is presented in this section. It documents the differences in the educational and labour market experiences of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth as each age group moves toward the transition from school to post-school activities. The table shows clearly that Indigenous Australians leave school earlier than non-Indigenous Australians and are less likely to proceed to tertiary education or to find full-time work. While it was not possible to bring educational and labour market data together in the table, the low levels of educational and labour market participation for Indigenous Australians imply that *for 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous Australians at least a third of males and a half of females are either unemployed or not in the labour force and not studying.*
3. This report elaborates on the disadvantage shown in the summary table by examining its variation between males and females and between States and regions. Recent changes in the level of disadvantage are also investigated.

Schooling

4. The National Schools Statistical Collection showed that *Year 12 retention rates for Indigenous students were less than half the rates of non-Indigenous students.* In 1997, 30.9% of Indigenous students remained at school until Year 12 compared with 72.8% for non-Indigenous students. Nationally, there was *little sign of improvement in Year 12 retention for Indigenous students*, either absolutely or compared with the Year 12 retention rates of non-Indigenous students. The lower Year 12 retention rates of Indigenous students were the cumulative result of lower student retention across all years of secondary schooling.
5. The 1996 Census shows that *the school participation of Indigenous Australians aged 15 to 19 years was about a third lower than for non-Indigenous Australians.* The school participation rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians were 32.5% and 50.1% for males and 34.7% and 52.3% for females respectively.
6. School participation rates increased for 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, but the rate of increase was a little less than the corresponding increase in school participation for non-Indigenous Australians. *In 1996 the school participation rate of Indigenous Australians compared with non-Indigenous Australians was slightly lower than in 1991.*

SUMMARY TABLE

Educational Participation and Attainment (%)

<i>Age</i>	Primary or Secondary School		Tertiary Education		Any Educational Institution		Post-school Qualifications		<i>Age</i>
	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	
14	99.4	99.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	14
15	73.3	93.6	2.3	0.9	76.1	95.0	0.2	0.2	15
16	49.6	81.1	6.3	4.5	56.8	86.2	0.8	0.7	16
17	29.6	63.2	9.3	11.4	39.9	75.4	1.5	1.9	17
18	8.6	16.1	14.4	38.7	24.0	56.4	3.2	4.4	18
19	2.5	3.1	13.3	43.4	16.8	48.0	5.6	8.9	19
20-24	0.5	0.5	9.9	25.8	11.2	27.7	12.4	34.1	20-24

Labour Market Participation (%) - Males

<i>Age</i>	Full-time Employment		Any Employment		Unemployed		Not in the Labour Force		<i>Age</i>
	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	
15	5.1	9.5	11.4	19.1	10.0	8.6	78.5	72.3	15
16	12.3	28.0	29.5	44.5	23.1	18.5	47.4	37.0	16
17	17.4	37.6	38.9	56.8	24.3	17.2	36.8	26.0	17
18	23.7	35.9	45.8	59.5	25.1	16.2	29.2	24.3	18
19	26.1	39.4	47.5	63.3	24.0	15.0	28.5	21.7	19
20-24	30.9	54.2	52.0	72.5	22.6	12.9	25.5	14.6	20-24

Labour Market Participation (%) - Females

<i>Age</i>	Full-time Employment		Any Employment		Unemployed		Not in the Labour Force		<i>Age</i>
	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	
15	2.8	5.1	10.9	18.2	10.5	8.2	78.6	73.6	15
16	7.0	16.2	21.3	40.0	21.3	18.2	57.4	41.8	16
17	12.7	21.9	31.5	51.2	20.3	16.6	48.2	32.2	17
18	14.9	20.9	35.2	56.4	18.8	14.5	46.0	29.1	18
19	15.2	25.2	34.1	59.9	17.9	13.0	48.0	27.1	19
20-24	19.2	42.0	37.1	67.4	12.2	9.1	50.7	23.5	20-24

See Notes to Tables

Post-school Education

7. The 1996 Census shows that *Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds participated in tertiary education at less than half the rate of non-Indigenous Australians*. The participation rates in tertiary education for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians were 8.4% and 19.3% for males and 9.6% and 20.6% for females respectively.
8. For 15 to 19 year-olds, participation rates in tertiary education for male Indigenous Australians declined between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses (from 8.6% to 8.4%) but increased for female Indigenous Australians (from 9.1% to 9.6%). There was, however, a proportionately greater decline for male non-Indigenous Australians and a greater increase for female non-Indigenous Australians. *Compared with 1991, in 1996 the difference in participation in tertiary education between male Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians had declined marginally while the difference for female Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians had increased slightly*.
9. *Indigenous youth were only marginally less likely to participate in Vocational Education and Training (VET) in 1996 than were non-Indigenous youth*. Indigenous youth were more likely than non-Indigenous youth to use VET as an alternative to schooling and were *over-represented in courses at the lower-end of the skills profile*.
10. *The participation of Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds in higher education in 1996 (2.6%) was substantially lower than for non-Indigenous Australians (10.8%)*. Indigenous Australians were more likely to be enrolled in enabling courses and less likely to be enrolled in degree courses than non-Indigenous Australians. Indigenous Australians were also less likely to continue with their course.

Educational Attainments

11. The average age of leaving school for 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous Australians increased by 0.3 years between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses. At the same time the average age of leaving school for non-Indigenous Australians increased by only 0.2 years. *The difference in school participation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians declined during the mid 1980s to the early 1990s*.
12. *Non-Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds are about three times more likely than Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds to have a post-school qualification*. For 20 to 24 year-olds in 1996, 11.7% of Indigenous Australians had a post-secondary qualification compared with 32.4% of non-Indigenous Australians. Some 29.2% of Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds had left school at or before age 15 and had no post-secondary qualifications compared with 9.3% of non-Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds.

13. *Between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses the percentage of Indigenous 20-24 year-olds with a post-school qualification increased. For Indigenous Australians, 8.1% had a post-secondary qualification in 1991 compared with 11.7% in 1996. The relative improvement was greater for the non-Indigenous population and hence the gap in post-school qualifications between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians narrowed between 1991 and 1996.*

14. *The percentage of Indigenous 20-24 year-olds who had left school at age 15 or earlier and had no post-school qualification declined from 36.1% in 1991 to 29.2% in 1996. The corresponding decline for the non-Indigenous population was proportionately greater and hence the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds widened at the lower end of educational attainment.*
15. *The educational attainment profile of 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous Australians improved between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses. Despite inconsistencies in these changes, there were indications of a slight reduction in the difference in educational attainment between Indigenous and non-Indigenous 20-24 year-olds from 1991 to 1996.*

Employment

16. *The 1996 Census showed that for male 20 to 24 year-olds the percentage of Indigenous Australians in full-time employment (31.4%) was substantially lower than for the non-Indigenous Australians (54.6%). The gap was even larger for females -- the corresponding values were 19.8% and 42.3%.*
17. *Between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses the percentage of the 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous population in full-time employment increased from 28.3% to 31.4% for males and from 17.3% to 19.8% for females. The corresponding values for the non-Indigenous population declined during this period (possibly associated with further increases in educational participation) and hence there has been both an absolute and relative improvement in the extent of participation of Indigenous youth in full-time employment.*

Educational Attainment and Employment

18. *Higher levels of educational attainment are associated with higher levels of employment for Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds. The difference between the levels of employment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds also declines with higher levels of educational attainment -- although differences remain for all attainments.*
19. *The relationship between educational attainment and employment is somewhat larger in capital cities than in other urban areas, and in other urban areas than in rural areas. The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme, which is a substantial source of employment in rural areas, may act to reduce the employment outcomes associated with post-compulsory schooling and further education in rural areas.*
20. *The proportion of Indigenous persons in full-time employment (the full-time employment ratio) increases almost uniformly across categories of educational attainment. Differences between the full-time employment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians continue to be greatest for the lower levels of educational attainment and least for those with higher educational attainments.*

Discussion

21. At nearly every stage, Indigenous youth experience substantial disadvantage in terms of their participation in education, their attainment of educational qualifications, and their participation in the labour market. In most instances, this disadvantage is substantial.

22. *There is considerable variation in the extent of the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth for males and females in the different States and regions and even between Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people with the same level of educational attainment. Only rarely do the disadvantages disappear.*
23. *Participation rates tell only part of the story -- they do not deal with the quality of schooling, training or higher education in which Indigenous youth participate. Where such information is available, it points to further disadvantages in the types of courses in which Indigenous young people enrol and in the outcomes of those courses -- both in terms of educational attainments and labour market participation. In the report a number of instances are identified where participation rates are likely to under-estimate the disadvantages of Indigenous youth.*
24. *Results are presented which show that higher educational attainments are associated with improved labour market outcomes for Indigenous youth. Importantly, however, further results often show poorer labour market outcomes for Indigenous than non-Indigenous youth, even when they have the same level of educational attainment and live in the same region. These results indicate that improved educational outcomes alone are not sufficient to remove the inequalities experienced by Indigenous Australians. While not addressed by results in this report, other factors responsible for persisting disadvantages include poorer levels of health and discrimination, among others.*
25. *Examination of changes in educational and labour market participation in this report are restricted to comparisons over relatively few years -- mostly between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses. Such comparisons are problematic because of a possible increase in the extent to which persons were willing to identify themselves as Indigenous and the results often equivocal in any case. There are some positive signs such as the improvement in employment levels for Indigenous Australians and the narrowing of the employment gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous 20-24 year-olds. Equally, however, there are signs of no change or marginal increases in disadvantage in other measures. These results support the observation that the situation of Indigenous youth is one of generational transmission of inequality and that it is unlikely that any substantial improvements could be observed in a five year period.*
26. *The lower levels of educational and labour market participation observed for Indigenous youth continue despite government and institutional policies and programs designed to improved outcomes -- programs such as ABSTUDY, special entry programs in TAFE and universities, and the CDEP scheme. Were it not for these programs, it would be reasonable to expect the level of disadvantage experienced by Indigenous youth to be substantially greater than it is. That is not to say that such programs may not have unintended consequences. Evidence is presented which suggests that CDEP, particularly in rural areas, may reduce the incentive for young people to continue their schooling.*

INTRODUCTION

This report presents information about the transition of young Indigenous Australians from school to further education and work. Results are presented for:

- school retention;
- educational participation;
- educational attainments; and
- labour market participation.

Comparisons are made, where possible, between the experiences of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. National, State and regional estimates are also provided.

The core of the evidence presented in this report is drawn from the 1996 Census. Results from the 1991 Census are presented in order to provide information about changes in the transition from school to work. These results are supplemented from administrative data collections from the education sectors -- the National Schools Statistical Collection (NSSC), the Vocational Education and Training Statistics Collection, and the Higher Education Student Data Collection. Additional results are presented from the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS) and DEETYA's post program monitoring collection.

The Analyses

In many of the sections presented in this report it is possible to provide four types of analyses -- each with its own value:

- *Comparisons within the Indigenous population*, which examine differences between males and females, between States and regions. Variation in outcomes between these categories can suggest areas for further investigation. If, for instance, the higher apparent Year 12 retention rate for Indigenous students in Queensland could be linked to policies on schooling and curriculum, this might suggest changes which could be introduced to improve Year 12 retention in other States.
- *Comparisons between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations*. These comparisons provide a benchmark against which educational and labour market outcomes for Indigenous youth can be measured. Comparisons among categories can also strengthen interpretations. Indigenous youth, for instance, have lower employment rates than non-Indigenous youth. If these differences persist for males and females from the same State and region and with the same levels of education, then the differences cannot be attributed to State, region or education.

- *Trends over time for Indigenous youth.* It is important to know whether educational and labour market outcomes for Indigenous youth are improving or not and if they are improving in some areas rather than others. For instance, the proportion of male Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds in full-time employment increased between 1991 and 1996 in Australia, but not in the Northern Territory. Changes in policy and program implementation may follow from such an observation.
- *Changes in the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.* This is the fundamental question of equity -- whether relative outcomes are improving and whether the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is closing. Outcomes for Indigenous youth may improve or worsen because of broader factors such as the overall level of economic activity. Non-Indigenous youth will also be affected by such factors. Comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth allow these broader changes to be taken into account -- although not necessarily completely. Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth may not be affected uniformly by changes in economic activity. It is likely that Indigenous youth will benefit disproportionately by increased economic activity and suffer disproportionately from reduced economic activity.

Measuring Indigenous Status

There are several issues associated with records of whether an individual is an Indigenous Australian that affect the results in this report:

Indigenous Australians are a small percentage of the total population

Indigenous Australians are 2.1% of the total population and 2.6% of the 15 to 19 year-old population. This means that Census and administrative collections provide the relatively few reliable sources of information. Sample surveys of the population tend to contain responses from too few Indigenous Australians to provide the basis for reliable estimates of educational or labour force participation.

Even in collections based on population counts, the number of persons recorded as Indigenous may still be small. Detailed classification by State, region, sex and educational or employment activities often results in very small numbers and imposes a limit on the extent of analysis that can be undertaken. Smaller numbers of persons usually lead to greater instability in estimates from year to year.

Errors in recorded Indigenous status

There can be errors in administrative records. Some errors are likely to lead to under-enumeration of Indigenous persons. Informants such as school principals or teachers may not always be in a position to know whether students are Indigenous or not. Concern about discrimination may also result in individuals not identifying themselves as Indigenous. There is evidence of some under-enumeration in the schools collection, for instance.

Errors in measurement may also lead to over-enumeration of Indigenous Australians. Typically a proportion of Australians who were born overseas will incorrectly respond *Yes* to questions such as *Are you an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?* because they misunderstand the question. In particular, the word *Islander* seems to evoke a positive response from some migrant groups.

Investigations associated with the 1996 Census suggested that 15.5% of persons (n=227) who indicated that they were Indigenous in the Census indicated that they were not Indigenous in an interview some three weeks after completing the Census. Conversely, some 84 individuals who were recorded as non-Indigenous in the Census self-defined as Indigenous three weeks later.

While some of this difference may be associated with the difference between self-enumeration (the Census) and interview (the Post Enumeration Survey), it points to a level of unreliability in the data. This is not unique in survey research, but might be expected to be higher than usual for Indigenous status given the emotional content of the question for some people. *The implication to be drawn from the level of error in measurement of Indigenous status is that any results for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are likely to under-estimate the difference.*

The willingness of individuals to identify themselves as Indigenous is a particular problem for comparisons between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses. A review of results from the 1996 Census concluded that 'The difference between the 1991 and 1996 Census counts of Indigenous persons . . . was significantly larger than expected' and attributed this, in part, to 'a large increase in the propensity to indicate Indigenous origin on census forms between the two censuses' (ABS, 1998: 30).

While this is doubtless a problem for producing precise estimates of Indigenous educational and labour market participation, it may not be a large problem. The Indigenous population grew by 11.8% between 1991 and 1996 or, as a percentage of the total population, by a tenth of a percentage point between the Censuses from 2.0% in 1991 to 2.1% in 1996 -- about five per cent more than the total population. Some of this increase can be attributed to the greater natural population growth rate of Indigenous Australians (a real increase), some to issues of improved coverage of the Indigenous population (an artefact of Census methodology) and some to changes in willingness to identify. The aggregate change is not large.

The concern in this report, however, is the extent to which comparisons of educational and labour market participation between 1991 and 1996 may be affected by any greater tendency to identify as Indigenous -- that is, whether 1991 and 1996 comparisons are of like-with-like. Measures of educational and labour force participation will only be affected if that group of persons who identified as Indigenous in 1996 but not in 1991 differs systematically in important regards from those persons who identified as Indigenous in both Censuses (ignoring those whose

recorded identification shifted from Indigenous to non-Indigenous). Given the relatively small size of this group, any systematic difference would have to be very large to alter estimates to any great extent. It is not possible, however, from the information to hand, or possibly in principle, to determine the characteristics of persons who identified themselves as Indigenous in the 1996 Census but not in the 1991 Census. The apparent change in the propensity to indicate Indigenous origin on census forms therefore remains an important caveat on comparisons between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses.

Between 1991 and 1996 there has been a shift in the distribution of the Indigenous population away from rural areas and towards capital cities. Because of the often very different outcomes between geographic regions, change in population distribution makes the interpretation of changes between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses more difficult. There are instances in the tables in this report where a net positive (or negative) relative change in an outcome for the Indigenous population occurs at the same time as a negative (or positive) change within the three geographic regions routinely identified in this report. Within-region comparisons are therefore preferable when making comparisons between outcomes from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses.

Missing responses

A proportion of individuals in the various data sources used in this report do not provide information on whether or not they are Indigenous Australians. The size of this group is often larger than the number of persons who identify themselves as Indigenous. The extent to which the group for which information is unavailable includes Indigenous Australians is difficult to determine. Unless some allowance is made for this missing information, however, there will be underestimation of the extent to which Indigenous (and non-Indigenous) Australians participate in education and the labour force.

The issue is whether these individuals are any more or less likely to be Indigenous. An important point to make about these individuals is that in relatively few cases is information missing only for Indigenous status. Rarely are we talking about a person who is singularly sensitive to questions about their Indigenous background. Rather, these are individuals who are unable or unwilling, or not sufficiently interested, to complete a Census form or an enrolment record. This makes it more difficult to impute missing information. It is possible, however, that the propensity to provide information is positively related to education, in which case Indigenous Australians would be slightly over-represented within this group. This proposition, however, is not supported by results from the ABS Post Enumeration Survey.

The approach taken in this report is to remove persons from the analyses for whom information is unavailable. This is equivalent to assuming that the distribution of characteristics for those for whom information is unavailable is similar to the

distribution of those for whom the information is known. While this is standard practice in survey analysis, it introduces a further caveat on the interpretation of some of the results presented in this report.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1 presents values from the 1996 Census that show the geographical distribution of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations by State and by region (capital city, other urban centres of 1,000 persons or more persons, and rural localities with fewer than 1,000 persons) within State. The distributions are shown for both the full population and for the 15 to 19 year-old population. This report presents many results for these categories -- as well as by sex. There is, however, relatively little difference in the geographical distribution of males and females and hence separate values are not shown in Table 1.

The values shown in Table 1 are not the same as those presented in *Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population* (ABS, 1998). Table 1 is based on counts of individuals rather than estimates. It omits individuals who did not answer the 1996 Census question on Indigenous background:

<p>14. Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?</p> <p>. For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'yes' boxes.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Aboriginal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Torres Strait Islander</p>
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The experimental estimates include adjustments for non-response to the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander question, and for persons recorded as Indigenous whose parents were born overseas, net census undercount, and adjustments based on registered Indigenous births. The published estimates should be used in preference to the values presented in Table 1.

The values presented in Table 1 do, however, offer some advantages. First, Table 1 contains a regional breakdown of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations that is not available from the published estimates. Second, Table 1 is consistent with other tables presented in this report that are also based on census counts.

Much of the focus of this report is on comparisons of the educational and labour market participation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Comparisons of like with like are not easily obtained in survey research (or, by extension, in the analysis of Census returns or administrative records). Education and labour market opportunities vary between States and, within States, by region. The use of extensive classification by State and region (and sex and age) in many of the tables in this report is directed towards obtaining fairer comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes.

State and Region

The geographical distributions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians differ substantially between States. The majority of Indigenous Australians live in New South Wales (28.7%) and Queensland (27.1%). Indigenous Australians comprise 2.1% of the total population, but this fraction is higher in the Northern Territory (25.8%), Western Australia (3.1%), Tasmania (3.1%) and Queensland

(3.0%). Conversely, the Indigenous population is under-represented in the remaining States.

Like the overall Australian population, the overwhelming majority of Indigenous Australians live in either capital cities (26.2%) or in other urban areas (62.9%). Given that observation, however, Indigenous Australians are still more likely to live outside capital cities than other Australians. They are about four and a half times more likely to live in rural areas (10.9% of the Indigenous population compared with 2.4% of the non-Indigenous population) and one and a half times more likely to live in other urban areas (62.9% of the Indigenous population and 41.0% of the non-Indigenous population).

Indigenous Australians are more likely than other Australians to live in rural and other urban areas in all States (excepting perhaps the ACT). This extent of this regional difference, however, is not the same for all States. In the Northern Territory, for instance, members of the Indigenous population are nearly nine times more likely to live in rural areas than the non-Indigenous population (27.5% compared with 3.0%). In Tasmania and Victoria, however, the regional distribution of Indigenous Australians more closely resembles that of the overall population.

Age

Table 1 also shows the State and regional distributions of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. These values are shown separately for two reasons. First, 15 to 19 year-olds are a particular focus of the report and many tables present results for this group. Second, the values in Table 1 emphasise the difference between the age structures of the two populations.

Although the Indigenous population is only 2.1% of the total population, some 2.6% of 15 to 19 year-olds are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. While this may not appear a great difference in absolute terms, it is a large relative difference -- the Indigenous population is substantially younger than the non-Indigenous population. The median age of Australia's Indigenous population is 20.1 years, or some 14 years younger than for the overall population (ABS, 1998:4).

There are several consequences of the difference in age structure for the results presented in this report. First, the relative size of the Indigenous population is slightly larger for the 15 to 19 year-old (and by extension for the 20 to 24 year-old) group than is suggested by values for the overall population. The benchmark value for equitable participation in various forms of education or labour market participation is about 2.6% rather than 2.1% -- if Indigenous Australians comprise 2.6% of the population of students in Year 12, or of 15 to 19 year-olds in vocational education and training or higher education, then they will be participating at a level consistent with their representation in the overall population.

Second, the difference in age structure between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians means that overall comparisons of the educational or labour market participation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are meaningless.

Participation in study or work is closely related to age and only age-specific participation rates are meaningful when comparing the two populations.

Third, although the regional distribution of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians is fairly similar to that for the Indigenous population as a whole, their regional location is substantially different compared with 15 to 19 year-old non-Indigenous Australians. This is because the 15 to 19 year-old non-Indigenous Australians are more likely to live in capital cities (63.1%) than the overall non-Indigenous population (56.6%). Hence the 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous population is even more rural compared with the 15 to 19 year-old non-Indigenous population than is suggested by comparisons between the overall populations.

Table 1 Population Counts ('000s) for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians, by State and Region, 1996

Indigenous . . .	All persons					15-19 years				
	Popn Count		% of Popn		% of Area	Popn Count		% of Popn		% of Area
	Indig.	Not	Indig.	Not	Indig.	Indig.	Not	Indig.	Not	Indig.
Australia	353.3	16874.2	100.0	100.0	2.1	33.1	1254.5	100.0	100.0	2.6
<i>Cap. City</i>	92.6	9542.1	26.2	56.5	1.0	9.4	791.1	28.5	63.1	1.2
<i>Other urban</i>	222.2	6925.8	62.9	41.0	3.1	20.0	443.8	60.4	35.4	4.3
<i>Rural</i>	38.5	406.3	10.9	2.4	8.7	3.7	19.7	11.1	1.6	15.8
NSW	101.6	5716.8	28.7	33.9	1.7	9.1	415.4	27.4	33.1	2.1
<i>Sydney</i>	28.7	3110.9	28.3	54.4	0.9	2.9	253.4	32.3	61.0	1.1
<i>Other urban</i>	67.1	2476.4	66.1	43.3	2.6	5.7	156.1	62.7	37.6	3.5
<i>Rural</i>	5.7	129.5	5.7	2.3	4.3	0.5	5.9	5.0	1.4	7.2
Vic.	21.5	4203.3	6.1	24.9	0.5	2.0	318.0	6.0	25.4	0.6
<i>Melbourne</i>	9.4	2755.4	43.6	65.6	0.3	1.0	228.6	48.7	71.9	0.4
<i>Other Urban</i>	11.7	1370.0	54.2	32.6	0.8	1.0	86.0	50.8	27.0	1.2
<i>Rural</i>	0.5	77.9	2.2	1.9	0.6	0.0	3.5	0.5	1.1	0.3
Qld	95.6	3119.5	27.1	18.5	3.0	9.0	237.1	27.1	18.9	3.6
<i>Brisbane</i>	19.2	1224.0	20.1	39.2	1.5	2.0	110.0	22.8	46.4	1.8
<i>Other Urban</i>	65.4	1806.9	68.5	57.9	3.5	5.9	122.7	65.6	51.7	4.6
<i>Rural</i>	10.9	88.7	11.4	2.8	11.0	1.0	4.5	11.7	1.9	18.8
SA	20.4	1365.8	5.8	8.1	1.5	1.9	95.6	5.8	7.6	2.0
<i>Adelaide</i>	9.1	940.8	44.5	68.9	1.0	0.9	72.9	47.9	76.2	1.3
<i>Other Urban</i>	10.5	385.4	51.5	28.2	2.7	0.9	21.1	47.9	22.0	4.2
<i>Rural</i>	0.8	39.6	4.0	2.9	2.0	0.1	1.7	4.2	1.8	4.5
WA	50.8	1614.8	14.4	9.6	3.1	4.7	121.8	14.2	9.7	3.7
<i>Perth</i>	14.9	1047.2	29.3	64.8	1.4	1.4	85.1	30.0	69.9	1.6
<i>Other Urban</i>	29.4	529.1	57.9	32.8	5.3	2.7	34.5	57.2	28.3	7.2
<i>Rural</i>	6.5	38.5	12.8	2.4	14.4	0.6	2.2	12.8	1.8	21.4
Tas.	13.9	429.6	3.9	2.5	3.1	1.2	29.2	3.5	2.3	3.8
<i>Hobart</i>	2.9	118.3	20.8	27.5	2.4	0.3	9.8	26.7	33.6	3.0
<i>Other Urban</i>	9.9	286.1	71.2	66.6	3.3	0.8	18.0	66.8	61.8	4.1
<i>Rural</i>	1.1	25.2	8.0	5.9	4.2	0.1	1.3	6.5	4.6	5.3
NT	46.3	133.4	13.1	0.8	25.8	5.0	10.9	15.0	0.9	31.3
<i>Darwin</i>	5.5	59.5	11.9	44.6	8.5	0.5	5.3	10.9	48.7	9.2
<i>Other Urban</i>	28.1	69.9	60.6	52.4	28.7	3.0	5.3	61.2	48.5	36.5
<i>Rural</i>	12.8	4.0	27.5	3.0	75.9	1.4	0.3	28.0	2.8	82.2
ACT	2.9	288.0	0.8	1.7	1.0	0.3	26.2	1.0	2.1	1.2

See Notes to Tables

SCHOOL RETENTION

Participation in schooling is the fundamental educational experience that provides the skills for further education and work. Increasingly over the last two decades in Australia more students are completing all 12 years of schooling and the Year 12 certificate has changed from being a qualification obtained by a minority to a mass qualification. In the early 1970s less than a third of school students completed Year 12. By the early 1990s about three-quarters of students completed Year 12, although this growth had ceased by the mid-1990s. Lack of access to a Year 12 qualification is now a significant disadvantage.

Year 12 Retention

Apparent retention to Year 12 is frequently used as a proxy for Year 12 completion. The concept of retention is based on the apparent progress through school of a cohort of students. For instance, in Australia in 1993 there were 6,220 Indigenous students in Year 8, 5,569 in Year 9 in 1994, 4,626 in Year 10 in 1995, 2,855 in Year 11 in 1996 and 1,870 in Year 12 in 1997 (National Schools Collection, 1993-97). The apparent retention rate from Year 8 to Year 12 is $(1870/6220 \times 100 =)$ 30.1%. The values in Table 2 are apparent secondary school retention rates. In States where secondary schooling begins in Year 8, Year 8 is used as a base and in States where secondary schooling begins in Year 7, that is used as the base.

Tables 2a, 2b and 2c show the apparent Year 12 retention rates of males, females and persons respectively for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by State for the period 1990-97. These tables will be referred to collectively as Table 2. The information is drawn from the National Schools Statistical Collection (NSSC) which in turn is based on the administrative records of schools (mediated by relevant State authorities and DEETYA). Results presented in this section are based on these data. The retention rates are not really Year 12 completion -- they are based on participation in Year 12 in July or August of a given calendar year. There is probably some slight slippage between the reference date and the end of the school year (which is often only September or early October in Year 12).

These are *apparent* rates only because there is no guarantee that the students in Year 12 in a given year are the same students who were in Year 11 in the preceding year. There are several confounding factors that may affect the *substance* of Year 12 retention, including emigration and immigration (both into Australia and between States), death, repeating of school Years, and exit and re-entry to the school system. While the effects of some of these factors might be expected to cancel, they become evident when retention rates of greater than 100% are reported.

Retention rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students are also subject to the possibility of re-classification. The status of a student who was not counted as Indigenous in Year 10 might change in Year 11 as records are updated because of moving to a senior secondary college or to a high school from an area school or

because of applying for ABSTUDY. Although there may be reclassification of students from Indigenous to non-Indigenous, there is some evidence in the apparent retention rates that there is under-enumeration of Indigenous students in the earlier years of secondary school. If this is the case, it means that apparent Year 12 retention rates for Indigenous students are biased upwards and over-estimate the extent to which Indigenous students complete Year 12.

Year 12 retention rates are based on population counts in the first grade of secondary schooling. Several consequences follow. Estimates of Year 12 retention will, all else equal, be slightly lower in those States in which secondary schooling begins in Year 7 because there will be an additional year for attrition. This raises the question of the extent to which students discontinue their schooling before Year 8. In total, the percentage is quite small for the population as a whole, but is likely to be larger for Indigenous students. This will lead to over-estimation of Year 12 retention for Indigenous students and under-estimation of the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

More importantly, however, there are some students classified as *ungraded* who are outside the Year-level system. These students do not complete Year 12 and are not included as part of the initial cohort, but are nevertheless members of that cohort. This has a greater effect on the estimates of Year 12 completion for Indigenous students than for estimates of non-Indigenous students. Nationally these students are about 8% of the population of Indigenous secondary school students, but less than 1.5% of non-Indigenous secondary school students. The effect of these students on Year 12 retention estimates is particularly important in the Northern Territory where ungraded students are 46% of Indigenous students enrolled in secondary school. The importance of ungraded students is a little less than the percentages might suggest because these are for total enrolments in a given calendar year. Perhaps between a third and a half of this group belong to any given cohort. Nevertheless, the fact that apparent school retention rates exclude ungraded students means that these results over-estimate school retention and under-estimate the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous apparent retention rates.

The values in Table 2 can be used to address several issues:

- *The extent to which Indigenous Australians complete Year 12.* In 1997 the apparent Year 12 retention rate for Indigenous Australians was 30.9%. Year 12 retention was higher for females (35.5%) than for males (26.5%). The apparent Year 12 retention rate varied substantially among States. It was more than twice as high in Queensland (47.2%), Victoria (46.6%) and Tasmania (49.0%) as in the Northern Territory (9.4%), Western Australia (19.7%) and South Australia (19.5%). Differences between males and females also varied among the States. In the Northern Territory and South Australia, for example, retention rates for females were more than twice as high for males while there were smaller differences in New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania.
- *The differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.* Table 2 contains a line headed *Ratio* which facilitates the comparison of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Year 12 retention rates. It is the ratio of the apparent Year 12 retention rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. A value of 100.0 would show that the Year 12 retention rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians were equal. The greater the difference, the closer the ratio is to zero.

In 1997 nationally the ratio of the Year 12 retention rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students was $(30.9/72.8 * 100=)$ 42.4, which shows that the retention rate of Indigenous students was 42.4% of that of non-Indigenous students. This can be expressed alternatively by saying that non-Indigenous students stayed on to Year 12 at more than twice the rate of Indigenous students. The difference between female Indigenous and non-Indigenous students (a ratio of 45.0) was slightly less than for males (a ratio of 39.4).

Table 2a Apparent Year 12 Retention Rates of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Students by State 1990-1997: Males

State		1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Australia	<i>Indigenous</i>	26.5	26.3	28.4	30.9	---	---	---	---
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	67.2	65.2	67.6	70.5	---	---	---	---
	<i>Ratio</i>	39.4	40.3	42.1	43.8	---	---	---	---
NSW	<i>Indigenous</i>	28.2	29.5	32.0	32.4	29.3	27.1	21.9	17.4
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	62.6	58.5	64.5	66.0	66.9	64.6	57.2	52.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	45.0	50.5	49.6	49.2	43.8	42.0	38.3	33.1
Vic.	<i>Indigenous</i>	40.0	27.1	25.4	17.8	20.4	---	---	---
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	69.4	68.5	67.4	70.3	72.4	---	---	---
	<i>Ratio</i>	57.6	39.6	37.7	25.3	28.3	---	---	---
Qld	<i>Indigenous</i>	43.3	41.1	43.9	50.6	---	---	---	---
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	74.0	72.6	72.6	75.7	---	---	---	---
	<i>Ratio</i>	58.5	56.7	60.5	66.9	---	---	---	---
SA	<i>Indigenous</i>	12.1	18.0	14.8	33.1	33.1	30.3	25.3	21.0
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	62.2	63.5	67.3	78.3	83.7	90.3	79.6	67.7
	<i>Ratio</i>	19.5	28.3	22.0	42.2	39.5	33.5	31.7	31.1
WA	<i>Indigenous</i>	16.6	14.8	16.4	17.0	25.7	13.5	15.7	10.0
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	67.6	66.9	68.6	71.6	73.9	71.3	69.2	61.4
	<i>Ratio</i>	24.5	22.2	23.9	23.8	34.8	18.9	22.8	16.3
Tas.	<i>Indigenous</i>	47.3	31.0	55.4	28.7	34.6	37.3	17.6	19.8
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	54.3	49.8	57.4	56.2	57.2	60.2	49.9	39.4
	<i>Ratio</i>	87.2	62.1	96.5	51.1	60.5	61.9	35.2	50.1
NT	<i>Indigenous</i>	5.8	6.7	6.1	9.2	10.3	20.7	18.7	13.9
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	57.1	59.7	60.5	55.2	63.0	69.0	74.3	55.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	10.2	11.2	10.0	16.7	16.3	30.0	25.2	24.9
ACT	<i>Indigenous</i>	114.3	50.0	86.7	87.5	63.6	75.0	77.8	25.0
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	92.7	92.0	90.2	92.8	92.4	96.7	95.8	85.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	123.2	54.3	96.1	94.2	68.9	77.5	81.2	29.2

See Notes to Tables

The size of the differences between the Year 12 retention of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students differed between States. The relative differences were greatest in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia and least in Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland. With some small variation, these State differences held for both males and females.

- *Changes in Year 12 retention rates.* Table 2 presents results for Year 12 retention rates for the period 1990-97. Information was not available for the for Victoria for 1990-92 or for Queensland for 1990-93. Hence national estimates are not provided before 1994. It is difficult to detect national trends on the basis of values for only four years.

Table 2b Apparent Year 12 Retention Rates of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Students by State 1990-1997: Females

State		1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Australia	<i>Indigenous</i>	35.5	32.2	32.8	34.3	---	---	---	---
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	78.8	79.9	79.1	81.0	---	---	---	---
	<i>Ratio</i>	45.0	40.4	41.5	42.3	---	---	---	---
NSW	<i>Indigenous</i>	36.2	32.6	39.3	29.8	31.0	27.3	24.9	22.1
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	73.5	78.6	75.1	76.4	75.8	74.0	67.1	62.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	49.3	41.5	52.3	39.0	40.9	38.8	37.0	35.3
Vic.	<i>Indigenous</i>	52.1	43.6	37.8	39.8	37.9	---	---	---
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	83.9	82.8	83.4	85.1	86.6	---	---	---
	<i>Ratio</i>	62.1	52.6	45.4	46.8	43.8	---	---	---
Qld	<i>Indigenous</i>	50.9	50.6	45.6	55.8	---	---	---	---
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	84.6	83.3	83.0	84.0	---	---	---	---
	<i>Ratio</i>	60.2	60.7	54.9	66.4	---	---	---	---
SA	<i>Indigenous</i>	27.0	22.8	29.8	41.6	32.7	45.2	30.6	27.9
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	73.7	75.6	77.7	86.6	90.8	97.0	89.9	78.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	36.6	30.2	38.4	48.0	36.0	46.6	34.1	35.5
WA	<i>Indigenous</i>	23.2	17.1	19.6	18.5	21.4	21.2	21.7	15.3
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	80.6	79.8	79.0	80.5	81.9	79.5	77.8	72.1
	<i>Ratio</i>	28.8	21.5	24.8	23.0	26.2	26.7	27.8	21.2
Tas.	<i>Indigenous</i>	50.5	38.9	59.4	54.6	50.7	48.6	23.2	36.0
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	63.8	57.4	62.2	61.3	65.2	60.8	56.9	50.9
	<i>Ratio</i>	79.2	67.7	95.5	89.0	77.8	80.0	40.7	70.7
NT	<i>Indigenous</i>	13.7	10.7	7.6	12.3	10.4	19.7	19.3	13.6
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	61.0	58.1	64.3	62.3	68.4	75.8	76.5	66.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	20.5	18.4	11.8	19.7	15.1	26.0	25.2	20.4
ACT	<i>Indigenous</i>	70.6	68.8	100.0	50.0	133.3	166.7	40.0	12.5
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	91.5	91.0	92.1	94.0	96.2	97.7	95.6	88.7
	<i>Ratio</i>	77.1	75.6	108.6	53.2	138.6	170.6	138.6	170.6

See Notes to Tables

One of the features of Table 2 is the lack of consistency of the estimates for Indigenous students over time. New South Wales, for instance, has a (relatively) substantial increase in Year 12 retention of about 5 percentage points (about 16%) for 1995 -- and this seems to be almost entirely attributable to a 10 percentage point increase for females while the retention rate for males remained relatively unchanged. Again in South Australia retention rates fell by almost half in 1995 -- from 37.3% in 1994 to 22.3% in 1995 -- although it could be that this was associated with the introduction of the South Australian Certificate of Education. Similarly 1993 in Western Australia seemed to have an anomalously high Year 12 retention figure.

Table 2c Apparent Year 12 Retention Rates of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Students by State 1990-1997: Persons

State		1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Australia	<i>Indigenous</i>	30.9	29.2	30.6	35.5	---	---	---	---
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	72.8	72.4	73.2	75.6	---	---	---	---
	<i>Ratio</i>	42.4	40.3	41.8	43.0	---	---	---	---
NSW	<i>Indigenous</i>	32.1	31.0	35.7	31.1	30.2	27.2	23.4	19.8
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	67.9	68.4	69.7	71.0	71.3	69.2	62.0	57.5
	<i>Ratio</i>	47.3	45.3	51.2	43.7	42.4	39.3	37.7	34.4
Vic.	<i>Indigenous</i>	46.6	35.2	31.8	28.3	28.6	---	---	---
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	76.4	75.5	75.1	77.5	79.3	---	---	---
	<i>Ratio</i>	60.9	46.6	42.3	36.5	36.1	---	---	---
Qld	<i>Indigenous</i>	47.2	45.6	44.8	53.1	---	---	---	---
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	79.1	77.8	77.7	79.8	---	---	---	---
	<i>Ratio</i>	59.7	58.6	57.6	66.6	---	---	---	---
SA	<i>Indigenous</i>	19.5	20.3	22.3	37.3	32.9	38.1	27.9	24.2
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	67.8	69.3	72.4	82.4	87.1	93.6	84.5	73.0
	<i>Ratio</i>	28.8	29.3	30.9	45.3	37.7	40.7	33.0	33.2
WA	<i>Indigenous</i>	19.7	16.0	18.0	17.7	23.7	17.2	18.6	12.5
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	74.0	73.2	73.6	75.9	77.8	75.3	73.4	66.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	26.6	21.8	24.5	23.4	30.5	22.8	25.4	18.8
Tas.	<i>Indigenous</i>	49.0	35.4	57.5	39.3	42.0	43.5	20.5	28.0
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	58.8	53.6	59.8	58.7	61.0	60.5	53.3	45.1
	<i>Ratio</i>	83.2	66.1	96.1	66.9	68.9	71.9	38.5	62.0
NT	<i>Indigenous</i>	9.4	8.5	6.8	10.7	10.3	20.2	19.0	13.7
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	54.5	58.9	62.4	58.6	65.6	72.3	75.4	61.0
	<i>Ratio</i>	17.3	14.5	11.0	18.3	15.7	28.0	25.2	22.5
ACT	<i>Indigenous</i>	90.3	58.3	92.0	63.6	88.2	105.6	57.9	20.0
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	91.6	91.5	91.1	93.4	94.3	97.2	95.7	87.1
	<i>Ratio</i>	98.6	63.8	101.0	68.1	93.6	108.6	60.5	23.0

See Notes to Tables

Given the considerable ‘bounce’ in these values, caution is required when looking for trends. Nevertheless, that is what is required in order to answer one of the big questions -- are Year 12 retention rates improving for Indigenous Australians? Given the national values in Table 2, the answer would probably be *We don’t know*, because information on four years is not adequate to detect trends -- and 1994, the first year in the series, was only one year after the high point for Year 12 retention nationally.

Within some of the States there are slightly more encouraging patterns. In New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania there are signs of an upward trend, while in Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia it is difficult to detect any upward movement. In the Northern Territory there seems to be a distinct decline in Year 12 retention for Indigenous Australians.

- *Relative changes in Year 12 retention rates.* Year 12 retention rates for the population as a whole peaked in 1993 and then declined marginally until increasing slightly again in 1997. It is reasonable to expect that Year 12 retention rates for Indigenous students would be influenced to some extent by the same factors that produced these changes. The extent of any change in school retention for Indigenous students is likely to be difficult to determine against the background of broader changes.

By considering the ratios between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Year 12 retention rates, however, it is possible, to some extent, to control for these other factors and to directly examine the Indigenous component of Year 12 retention rates. The focus is now on the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates. Unfortunately this approach makes little difference to the overall conclusion. The four years for which truly national figures are available are not consistent with any improvement in rates of Indigenous Year 12 retention. The longer time series of ratios for New South Wales is, however, somewhat consistent with a relative improvement in Indigenous Year 12 retention rates and so too, possibly, are the results for Tasmania. The briefer series for Victoria suggests a strong reduction in the level of disadvantage in Year 12 retention for Indigenous Australians. For the other States it is again difficult to discern any trend, although results for the Northern Territory suggest a decline in relative Year 12 retention.

Early School Leaving

Year 12 retention rates are the culmination of a series of year-level retention rates -- from Year 7 to Year 8, from Year 8 to Year 9, and so on. Given that Year 12 retention among Indigenous school students is less than half that of non-Indigenous students, it is worth investigating whether these lower rates are the result of some specific grade transition, or whether the lower Year 12 retention is the culmination of a series of lower Year-level to Year-level transitions.

Table 3a presents information on apparent retention rates for Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. The table is divided into two panels. Panel A consists of apparent retention rates commencing with Year 8 and then shows the apparent percentage of that group who are still at school in subsequent years. For instance, for Indigenous students as a whole, taking Year 8 as the starting point, 90.7% remain in Year 9, 76.4% remain in Year 10, 46.9% remain in Year 11 and 29.7% remain in Year 12. It is important to note that these values differ from those in Table 2 -- they are based on an average of enrolments in Year 8 in 1991 to 1993, in Year 9 in 1992 to 1994, and so on. Information for three years was used in order to provide more stable estimates.

Panel B takes the same approach, but looks at attrition (drop-out) rates between Year-levels. For instance, for Indigenous students nationally 9.3% of the Year 8 group were not in Year 9 in the subsequent calendar year, 15.7% of the Year 9

group were not in Year 10 in the subsequent calendar year, 38.6% of the Year 10 group were not in Year 11 in the subsequent calendar year and 36.8% of the Year 11 group were not in Year 12 in the subsequent calendar year. Panel A presents information on the stocks of students, Panel B presents information in the processes that produce those stocks.

Table 3a Apparent Year-level Retention and Attrition Rates of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State, Average 1995-97

<i>School Year . . .</i>	Male				Female				Persons			
	12	11	10	9	12	11	10	9	12	11	10	9
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Panel A: Apparent school retention												
Aust. <i>Indigenous</i>	26.6	43.4	73.3	88.1	32.9	50.6	79.7	93.4	29.7	46.9	76.4	90.7
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	66.7	81.3	96.9	99.8	52.4	88.7	98.2	100.0	72.8	84.9	97.7	100.0
NSW <i>Indigenous</i>	28.6	45.6	75.1	94.7	34.0	49.6	81.7	98.5	31.3	47.5	78.4	96.6
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	61.8	75.4	96.3	99.6	50.3	83.6	97.1	99.8	68.6	79.6	96.8	99.8
Vic. <i>Indigenous</i>	29.8	51.3	71.3	83.8	45.0	61.9	78.2	92.6	37.5	56.6	74.8	88.3
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	68.5	84.7	95.0	99.1	83.2	92.4	97.4	99.5	75.7	88.4	96.2	99.3
Qld <i>Indigenous</i>	42.8	57.5	84.1	92.4	49.0	64.4	89.1	96.8	45.8	60.9	86.5	94.6
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	73.1	83.3	99.8	101.1	54.9	91.5	101.6	101.4	78.2	87.2	100.9	101.4
SA <i>Indigenous</i>	14.9	36.5	64.9	87.3	26.7	54.9	76.4	91.1	20.8	45.6	70.6	89.2
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	64.3	87.2	95.8	99.6	48.3	90.8	96.1	99.4	69.8	89.5	96.6	99.7
WA <i>Indigenous</i>	16.0	41.5	81.0	92.9	20.0	46.0	86.1	94.2	17.9	43.7	83.5	93.6
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	67.7	84.5	99.4	100.6	53.0	90.4	100.5	100.5	73.6	87.3	100.0	100.7
Tas. <i>Indigenous</i>	35.1	49.3	111.6	112.6	41.5	66.4	120.1	117.0	38.4	58.1	116.0	114.8
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	53.7	65.7	96.4	98.7	40.1	75.5	97.0	98.7	57.4	69.8	96.7	98.8
NT <i>Indigenous</i>	6.2	14.4	37.8	61.4	10.7	21.5	42.4	72.7	8.3	17.8	40.0	66.7
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	59.1	79.7	90.6	94.9	42.4	85.3	89.4	94.2	58.6	79.2	89.1	94.2
ACT <i>Indigenous</i>	76.5	92.2	88.2	90.2	63.5	88.5	90.4	96.2	69.9	90.3	89.3	93.2
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	91.7	102.4	99.2	100.3	61.2	103.2	98.8	100.0	91.4	102.4	98.8	99.8
Panel B: School discontinuation rates												
Aust. <i>Indigenous</i>	38.7	40.8	16.8	11.9	35.0	36.5	14.7	6.6	36.8	38.6	15.7	9.3
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	17.9	16.1	2.9	0.2	10.7	9.9	1.6	-0.15	14.2	13.1	2.3	0.0
NSW <i>Indigenous</i>	37.3	39.4	20.7	5.3	31.4	39.3	17.1	1.5	34.2	39.3	18.8	3.4
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	18.0	21.7	3.3	0.4	9.9	13.7	2.7	0.00	13.8	17.8	3.0	0.2
Vic. <i>Indigenous</i>	41.8	28.1	15.0	16.2	27.3	20.9	15.6	7.4	33.8	24.3	15.3	11.7
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	19.1	10.9	4.2	0.9	10.0	5.1	2.1	0.49	14.4	8.1	3.2	0.7
Qld <i>Indigenous</i>	25.6	31.6	9.0	7.6	23.9	27.7	8.0	3.2	24.7	29.6	8.5	5.4
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	12.2	16.6	1.3	-1.1	8.5	10.6	-0.5	-1.64	10.3	13.6	0.4	-1.4
SA <i>Indigenous</i>	59.2	43.7	25.7	12.7	51.3	28.2	16.1	8.9	54.5	35.4	20.9	10.8
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	26.3	9.0	3.8	0.4	17.7	5.6	2.5	0.15	22.0	7.3	3.2	0.3
WA <i>Indigenous</i>	61.6	48.7	12.8	7.1	56.6	46.6	8.6	5.8	59.0	47.6	10.7	6.4
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	19.8	15.0	1.3	-0.6	11.5	10.4	0.1	-0.75	15.7	12.7	0.7	-0.7
Tas. <i>Indigenous</i>	28.9	55.8	0.9	-12.6	37.4	44.8	-2.7	-17.0	33.9	49.9	-1.0	-14.8
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	18.2	31.9	2.3	1.3	17.4	23.6	2.0	1.03	17.8	27.8	2.1	1.2
NT <i>Indigenous</i>	57.2	61.9	38.5	38.6	50.2	49.3	41.6	27.3	53.2	55.6	40.1	33.3
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	25.8	12.1	4.5	5.1	19.7	10.1	6.3	6.56	26.0	11.1	5.4	5.8
ACT <i>Indigenous</i>	17.0	-4.4	2.2	9.8	28.3	2.1	6.0	3.8	22.6	-1.1	4.2	6.8
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	10.5	-3.3	1.1	-0.3	10.9	-4.0	1.0	0.59	10.7	-3.7	1.1	0.2

See Notes to Tables

Table 3b Apparent Year-level Retention and Attrition Rates of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State, Average 1997

<i>School Year . . .</i>	Male				Female				Persons			
	<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Panel A: Apparent school retention												
Aust. <i>Indigenous</i>	26.5	45.1	79.2	---	35.5	54.3	82.0	---	30.9	49.6	80.6	---
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	67.2	81.4	96.7	---	78.8	89.5	98.5	---	72.8	85.3	97.6	---
NSW <i>Indigenous</i>	28.2	41.3	72.6	100.0	36.2	53.6	80.0	104.9	32.1	47.4	76.3	102.5
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	62.6	75.0	96.6	99.6	73.5	84.4	97.5	100.0	67.9	79.6	97.1	99.7
Vic. <i>Indigenous</i>	40.0	57.3	85.1	92.5	52.1	82.2	106.3	112.9	46.6	69.4	94.7	102.5
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	69.4	84.8	95.3	99.2	83.9	93.7	98.4	101.0	76.4	89.1	96.8	99.9
Qld <i>Indigenous</i>	43.3	59.3	90.0	113.4	50.9	67.9	89.8	104.4	47.2	63.4	89.9	108.7
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	74.0	83.1	98.1	103.7	84.6	91.9	100.8	105.0	79.1	87.4	99.4	104.5
SA <i>Indigenous</i>	12.1	33.5	65.0	93.9	27.0	46.4	69.7	85.8	19.5	39.5	67.5	89.6
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	62.2	84.4	93.0	100.1	73.8	90.1	95.7	101.0	67.8	87.2	94.3	100.5
WA <i>Indigenous</i>	16.6	43.2	79.1	100.0	23.2	45.8	83.0	99.5	19.7	44.5	81.0	99.8
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	67.6	86.1	100.4	105.2	80.6	91.4	101.5	103.0	74.0	88.7	100.9	104.3
Tas. <i>Indigenous</i>	47.3	48.2	96.7	105.4	50.5	53.6	122.0	110.9	49.0	50.9	108.3	108.3
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	54.3	71.1	95.1	98.2	63.8	77.8	97.7	98.0	58.8	74.4	96.3	98.2
NT <i>Indigenous</i>	5.8	23.6	55.0	75.7	13.7	33.8	42.4	82.6	9.4	28.8	48.3	79.6
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	57.1	86.8	89.1	101.1	67.0	99.7	95.8	108.0	54.5	95.6	86.8	100.4
ACT <i>Indigenous</i>	114.3	70.0	145.4	83.3	70.6	133.3	105.3	100.0	90.3	97.1	120.0	91.2
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	92.7	104.2	100.4	99.6	91.5	103.5	99.4	99.0	91.6	103.9	99.9	99.3
Panel B: School discontinuation rates												
Aust. <i>Indigenous</i>	38.7	37.0	17.1	7.5	30.9	32.3	16.4	3.7	34.5	34.5	16.7	5.6
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	16.4	15.5	2.6	0.4	11.0	8.9	1.4	-0.2	13.6	12.3	2.0	0.1
NSW <i>Indigenous</i>	38.9	44.6	23.6	5.2	26.5	36.2	22.0	-1.3	32.6	40.2	22.7	1.9
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	15.8	21.6	2.5	0.2	11.9	13.4	1.8	0.0	13.8	17.6	2.1	0.1
Vic. <i>Indigenous</i>	45.2	27.6	25.5	21.3	30.3	25.4	16.9	1.1	37.0	26.3	21.4	11.5
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	17.4	10.3	3.5	0.7	9.2	4.0	1.3	-0.5	13.2	7.2	2.4	0.1
Qld <i>Indigenous</i>	26.8	23.7	8.7	2.1	21.7	24.1	8.6	4.2	24.1	23.9	8.6	3.2
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	11.1	16.2	2.3	0.5	7.8	9.2	0.5	-0.7	9.4	12.8	1.4	-0.1
SA <i>Indigenous</i>	55.6	39.5	18.5	11.5	48.2	35.7	22.4	16.5	50.8	37.4	20.7	14.1
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	26.4	9.4	4.6	1.6	19.1	5.5	3.5	1.0	22.7	7.5	4.1	1.3
WA <i>Indigenous</i>	57.5	48.6	15.2	2.4	52.2	44.5	14.8	6.4	54.7	46.6	15.0	4.3
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	19.5	13.3	0.1	-0.9	10.4	9.1	-1.0	-0.8	14.9	11.2	-0.4	-0.9
Tas. <i>Indigenous</i>	20.0	53.7	8.2	-6.7	27.9	53.1	-6.2	-8.4	24.4	53.4	1.3	-7.6
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	15.2	25.8	2.8	1.6	14.1	19.4	1.3	1.3	14.6	22.6	2.1	1.4
NT <i>Indigenous</i>	60.0	21.4	32.1	41.6	33.3	5.6	43.4	11.6	45.5	12.6	38.2	27.1
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	21.5	4.3	9.8	2.2	11.6	-6.9	5.3	1.8	26.7	-4.0	13.2	6.0
ACT <i>Indigenous</i>	11.1	22.2	15.8	0.0	25.0	-5.3	-5.3	12.9	17.6	8.1	5.3	7.1
<i>Non-Indig.</i>	10.2	-5.9	0.4	0.6	11.9	-5.3	1.0	-0.2	11.0	-5.6	0.7	0.2

See Notes to Tables

The strongest feature of the results in Panel A is that the (three-year) cohort of Year 8 Indigenous students begins to be reduced immediately. By Year 9, only 90.7% remain, compared with an unchanged number of non-Indigenous students (in fact, some small number of non-Indigenous students have left school, but have been replaced by immigrants -- a little care is required in making these comparisons). By Year 10, 76.4% of the Indigenous students remain, compared with almost all (97.7%) of the non-Indigenous cohort and by Year 11 less than half (46.9%) of the Indigenous students remain compared with 84.9% of the non-Indigenous students. Finally by Year 12, fewer than 30% of the initial Year 8 group of Indigenous students are still at school while 72.8% of the non-Indigenous group are still at school.

These results can be summarised by converting them into years of schooling. For the Indigenous group, 29.7% received a year of schooling past Year 11, 46.9% received a year of schooling beyond Year 10, 76.4% received a year of schooling beyond Year 9 and 90.7% received a year of schooling beyond Year 8 which is an average of 2.44 years of schooling beyond Year 8. The corresponding value for the non-Indigenous group is 3.55. The conclusion is that Indigenous Australians receive about 1.11 fewer years of schooling after Year 8 than non-Indigenous Australians. This of course ignores the higher proportion of Indigenous students who are ungraded or who left school before Year 8. On the other hand, estimates for non-Indigenous students are increased to some extent by immigration -- but this is likely to have a smaller effect than the biases for the Indigenous estimates.

The values in Panel B show the Year to Year attrition rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. For all students nationally, rates of attrition of Indigenous students are substantially higher than for non-Indigenous students at each Year level. Clearly the proportional differences are larger in the earlier Years of secondary school (9.3% compared with 0.0% and 15.7 compared with 2.3%) but the absolute differences are larger in the later Years (36.8% compared with 14.2% and 38.6% compared with 13.1%).

Table 3b presents parallel results for 1997 only. The values in this table tell very much the same story as those in Table 3a, although they are more variable and frequently display retention rates greater than 100 and negative attrition rates. The results in Table 3b differ in one important respect from those in Table 3a apart from being restricted to 1997. The results do not follow a single cohort over time. For instance, the discontinuation rate for Year 10 in 1997 is based on the comparison of enrolments in Year 10 in 1997 with enrolments in Year 9 in 1996. Each value is for a different cohort. In contrast, Table 3a presents results for a cohort of three years -- persons who were in Year 8 in 1991 to 1993.

The interpretation of the values in Tables 3a and 3b is not straightforward from the perspective of policy intervention. One view is simply that attrition rates for Indigenous students are higher for all Years and that no particular focus is required. An alternative view might be that the greatest attrition proportionately

and in terms of numbers is the transition from Year 10 to Year 11 -- 29.6% of the Indigenous cohort was lost in this transition. Hence it might be suggested that resources be directed towards redressing this problem. It may be, for instance, that some component of this loss is associated with changing schools if Indigenous students are more likely to initially attend secondary schools that do not offer Year 12. Another view is that proportionately the biggest differences are in the earlier Years of school and that these offer the best possibility for intervention (or that these students are in a real sense those most in need).

Some problems with the statistical collection or the use of apparent retention rates are evident in Panels A and B in Table 3a. First, there are retention rates of over 100% (and negative attrition rates) for non-Indigenous students in Queensland and Western Australia. This is an artefact of the greater effect of migration -- particularly between States -- on population growth in these two States.

Retention rates for the Indigenous population in Tasmania are also greater than 100%. This can only be the result of students being reclassified as Indigenous at the end of Year 8 or the beginning of Year 9 or again at the end of Year 9 or the beginning of Year 10. This may be a correction of school records associated with applications for ABSTUDY or with other administrative procedures of the Tasmanian Ministry. This result implies an initial under-enumeration of the Indigenous component of any cohort -- a phenomenon that may exist in other States but which is not obvious in these statistics because attrition is higher. If this is the case, then Indigenous retention rates may be grossly over-estimated. At the least, it suggests that the Tasmanian rates are misleadingly high.

There are also some estimates of retention of over 100% in the Australian Capital Territory. These are associated with the senior secondary college structure of the Territory and the enrolment of students from surrounding New South Wales areas in those colleges at the beginning of Year 11 and possibly some similar movement at earlier stages of schooling.

In summary, Year 12 retention rates for Indigenous students were less than half the rates of non-Indigenous students. Nationally, there was little sign of improvement in Year 12 retention for Indigenous students, either absolutely or compared with the Year 12 retention rates of non-Indigenous students. The lower Year 12 retention rates were the result of greater student attrition across all Years of secondary schooling.

PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION

This section discusses the extent of participation in education by 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians and compares it with the corresponding participation of 15 to 19 year-old non-Indigenous Australians. Table 4 presents participation rates for (mainly) secondary schooling, tertiary education (vocational education and training and higher education) and for education overall. These rates are presented separately for males and females and for States and regions within States. The participation rates are based on population counts from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses.

The lagged time-series data that underlie Table 2 provide a conceptually strong basis for examining progress through school. Such data, however, are dependent on institutional records which break down when students leave school. Nor do Year 12 retention rates consider the school participation of ungraded students. The age-specific education participation rates in Table 4 provide an alternative view of participation in schooling and, importantly, in post-school education. The values in Table 4 provide a cross-sectional view of the educational participation of young Australians at a given time. While useful, these data can be misleading when they are interpreted too easily as progression rates.

The age-grade structure of school students differs between the States. This is the result of differences in the ages at which students start school and the number of years of schooling. On average, Year 12 students in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory are younger than in other States. As a consequence, the participation of 15 to 19 year-olds in school is likely to be lower in those States regardless of any differences in Year 12 retention rates. Conversely, there is a real possibility of higher participation rates in tertiary education in these States simply because a greater proportion of each cohort has left school. Comparisons between the age specific educational participation rates of States in Table 4 can be misleading unless some allowance is made for these differences.

This caveat, however, does not mean that comparisons -- of Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons, regions, males and females and 1991 with 1996 values -- cannot be made within States. Comparisons can also be made between States, provided there is some acknowledgement of the likely effect of differences in schooling age structures on educational participation rates.

The cross-sectional nature of the values also means that it is difficult to make inferences about the origins of an individual. A person enrolled in a tertiary course in Melbourne in 1996 may have completed Year 12 in Port Hedland in 1995. Comparisons between States and regions within States are therefore open to the uncertainties of internal migration for the purpose of education or obtaining work.

Three categories of educational participation are included in Table 4. By age 15, participation in *school* is almost exclusively participation in secondary school. The

1991 Census, however, recorded some participation by 15-year-olds in primary school, particularly for Indigenous students. This had all but disappeared by the time of the 1996 Census. This may be less the result of any real changes in school participation and more the result of administrative changes -- a decision by school authorities to declare ungraded students as post-primary (or secondary) when they reach a given age. Participation in *tertiary education* is enrolment, at the time of the Census, in higher education or in a course offered by a registered VET provider. Any education includes school, tertiary, and a few persons enrolled in *other* educational courses.

Table 4 contains a great deal of detailed information. The following discussion focuses on New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory which include the overwhelming majority of persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. For ease of reference, these four States are referred to collectively as the *large* States. Reference will also be made to national figures.

Schooling

The Indigenous Population

Within the Indigenous population, participation of Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds is higher in New South Wales for both males (36.9%) and females (39.5%) than in most other States. To some extent this reflects the older age-grade structure of schooling in New South Wales. As observed in the previous section on apparent school retention rates, there is quite substantial variation among the States -- even among the three large States with similar age-grade structures. Participation rates in Queensland are at least 10 percentage points higher for both males and females than in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Given the overall low level of participation of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians in school, these are substantial differences and are consistent with the higher apparent Year 12 retention rates for Queensland reported in the previous section.

Young Indigenous Australians in rural areas have lower school participation rates. Nationally, school participation for Indigenous Australians is markedly lower in rural areas (23.1%) than in capital cities (34.9%) or in other urban areas (33.0%). This pattern, however, is not consistent across the States. In New South Wales, for instance, there is little difference between regions (albeit a small but interesting difference in the patterns for males and females). The regional differences, however, are quite pronounced and consistent for the other three large States.

Conclusions about regional differences in school participation need to be tempered by consideration of the issue of movement. The absence of schools -- particularly of secondary schools -- in rural areas with high proportions of Indigenous Australians means that some Indigenous students have to move to urban areas to continue their schooling. The measured school participation rates of urban areas would

therefore increase and the participation rates for rural areas correspondingly decrease.

Nationally, the school participation rate of Indigenous 15 to 19 year-old females is about two percentage points higher than the corresponding rate for males (34.7% compared with 32.5%). This mirrors the somewhat higher Year 12 apparent retention rate for female Indigenous Australians. This difference is reasonably consistent across States and regions within States. There are, however, a few exceptions -- rural New South Wales, Perth, Darwin, rural Northern Territory and Tasmania. The values in Table 4 may marginally understate the true differences between male and female Indigenous Australians if the slightly younger age-grade profile of female students for the population as a whole is also the case for Indigenous Australians.

Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Comparisons

Nationally, the rate of school participation of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians is about a third lower than for non-Indigenous Australians -- 32.5% compared with 50.1% for males and 34.7% compared with 52.3% for females. This is consistent with the substantially lower apparent Year 12 retention rates of Indigenous Australians.

The relative difference between the school participation rates of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is reasonably consistent across States and for males and females. There are, however, some differences among the States. As might be expected from the results for apparent Year 12 retention rates, relative differences are least for Queensland (Indigenous rates are about a quarter lower) and Tasmania (Indigenous rates are about a fifth lower). The greatest differences are in the Northern Territory and Western Australia (participation rates for Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds are about 60% of those of non-Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds).

The values for Australia as a whole suggest that relative differences in school participation rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are substantially higher in rural areas. The ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous participation is less than half in rural areas -- 23.1% compared with 51.0% for males and 25.6% compared with 58.6% for females. In capital cities and other urban areas, however, the differences, while still large, are somewhat smaller. The ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous participation rates is about two-thirds.

The lower national relative rates of school participation in rural areas are partly the result of State differences -- rural areas are larger in States with lower participation rates. The extent to which regional differences vary within States is substantial. In New South Wales, for instance, the school participation rates of Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds was about 70 per cent of the non-Indigenous rate regardless of region except for a slightly lower relative rate for Indigenous females in rural areas. In Queensland and Western Australia, however, the relative inequalities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations were substantially greater in rural areas for both males and females. In the Northern Territory the within-region relative ratios are substantially higher (more equal) than the overall State ratio. This follows directly from the over-representation of Indigenous Australian in rural areas and the lower absolute participation in those areas.

Changes between 1991 and 1996

There are at least two approaches to the examination of changes between 1991 and 1996. The first is to investigate whether absolute participation rates have increased or decreased for the Indigenous population. The second is to examine whether the participation of Indigenous Australians has improved relative to that

of non-Indigenous Australians. The former reflects the educational opportunities of Indigenous people while the latter reflects equity. Each is examined in turn.

Table 4a Educational Participation Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous 15 to 19 Year-olds by State and Region: 1991 and 1996, Males

State/Year	Region	<i>School</i>		<i>Tertiary</i>		<i>Any</i>	
		Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>							
Australia							
1996	<i>Cap. City</i>	34.9	50.8	11.6	22.7	48.0	74.3
	<i>Other Urban</i>	33.0	49.0	7.8	14.9	41.6	64.6
	<i>Rural</i>	23.1	51.0	3.8	10.5	27.1	61.9
	<i>All Australia</i>	32.5	50.1	8.4	19.3	41.8	70.1
1991	<i>Cap. City</i>	33.6	48.5	14.5	22.9	50.0	72.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	34.9	46.8	8.2	16.5	44.3	64.5
	<i>Rural</i>	26.7	48.0	4.5	14.5	32.5	64.0
	<i>All Australia</i>	32.1	48.0	8.6	20.0	42.1	69.4
NSW							
1996	<i>Sydney</i>	36.0	54.0	11.8	21.8	48.8	76.7
	<i>Other Urban</i>	37.1	50.7	8.3	17.1	46.0	68.3
	<i>Rural</i>	39.2	55.0	5.2	12.6	44.3	67.8
	<i>All NSW</i>	36.9	52.6	9.1	19.5	46.7	72.9
1991	<i>Sydney</i>	32.8	49.6	14.2	24.2	48.9	75.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	36.8	46.9	10.4	20.3	48.2	68.5
	<i>Rural</i>	36.5	49.2	7.9	16.1	44.9	66.4
	<i>All NSW</i>	35.6	48.7	11.0	21.9	47.7	71.8
Vic.							
1996	<i>Melbourne</i>	38.4	54.2	12.8	22.9	52.9	78.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	32.7	54.3	13.1	14.5	48.4	69.7
	<i>Rural</i>	34.4	56.1	9.4	8.8	43.8	65.6
	<i>All Vic.</i>	35.0	54.3	12.8	19.8	50.0	75.0
1991	<i>Melbourne</i>	36.9	52.1	18.5	21.7	56.3	75.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	34.9	52.4	12.3	14.2	48.1	68.1
	<i>Rural</i>	41.6	55.2	12.4	15.9	58.4	72.6
	<i>All Vic.</i>	36.9	52.6	14.9	19.3	53.2	73.5
Qld							
1996	<i>Brisbane</i>	33.5	44.8	10.5	22.2	45.0	67.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	35.7	46.3	8.1	12.2	44.4	59.1
	<i>Rural</i>	21.1	47.2	3.2	8.5	24.3	56.1
	<i>All Qld</i>	33.7	45.7	8.1	16.4	42.4	62.8
1991	<i>Brisbane</i>	34.8	44.5	10.6	20.1	46.9	66.2
	<i>Other Urban</i>	38.4	45.6	5.0	12.1	44.2	58.8
	<i>Rural</i>	31.9	45.1	3.0	10.5	36.5	57.6
	<i>All Qld</i>	36.1	45.0	5.5	15.2	42.7	61.7

See Notes to Tables

Table 4a Educational Participation Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous 15 to 19 Year-olds by State and Region: 1991 and 1996, Males (cont.)

State/Year	Region	<i>School</i>		<i>Tertiary</i>		<i>Any</i>	
		Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>							
SA							
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	32.8	47.0	10.4	21.1	44.7	69.0
	<i>Other Urban</i>	26.4	49.8	6.9	11.2	33.3	61.5
	<i>Rural</i>	35.1	53.5	8.1	8.0	43.2	61.5
	<i>All SA</i>	30.0	47.9	8.7	18.1	39.4	66.8
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	28.4	45.1	20.0	22.2	51.3	68.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	29.5	48.1	11.4	12.2	45.2	61.4
	<i>Rural</i>	22.6	22.6	5.7	5.7	31.1	31.1
	<i>All SA</i>	27.8	45.6	14.8	20.4	45.9	67.2
WA							
1996	<i>Perth</i>	29.6	43.0	11.9	26.0	45.2	69.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	24.8	40.2	6.0	15.0	31.4	55.6
	<i>Rural</i>	19.0	36.8	4.5	11.1	23.4	48.8
	<i>All WA</i>	25.6	42.1	7.7	22.5	34.8	65.3
1991	<i>Perth</i>	29.1	42.9	12.0	25.2	43.6	69.2
	<i>Other Urban</i>	27.6	40.2	7.6	15.7	35.2	56.6
	<i>Rural</i>	18.1	37.3	3.2	14.9	22.5	53.3
	<i>All WA</i>	24.6	41.7	7.2	22.2	32.9	64.9
Tas.							
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	33.6	44.6	19.5	25.5	57.0	70.8
	<i>Other Urban</i>	35.7	40.9	17.4	20.0	53.7	61.7
	<i>Rural</i>	36.6	42.8	19.7	14.0	56.3	57.2
	<i>All Tas.</i>	35.3	42.1	18.1	21.3	54.6	64.1
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	28.3	41.2	22.8	26.8	51.1	69.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	33.5	36.3	16.3	22.2	51.4	60.1
	<i>Rural</i>	34.2	38.6	13.8	17.2	48.0	57.3
	<i>All Tas.</i>	32.7	38.3	16.8	22.3	50.3	62.3
NT							
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	44.9	47.7	9.4	17.3	54.3	65.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	26.3	42.7	2.5	9.7	30.5	53.0
	<i>Rural</i>	17.9	22.6	1.0	4.8	19.4	32.3
	<i>All NT</i>	26.2	44.8	2.9	13.3	30.3	58.8
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	46.4	51.9	11.4	17.6	61.6	70.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	26.5	41.8	5.4	10.2	35.7	54.7
	<i>Rural</i>	19.8	31.9	2.4	11.2	23.4	46.6
	<i>All NT</i>	24.7	45.3	4.2	14.4	31.1	61.4
ACT							
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	41.5	56.8	11.1	23.6	52.6	81.0
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	36.7	53.4	23.3	25.9	60.0	82.1

See Notes to Tables

Table 4b Educational Participation Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous 15 to 19 Year-olds by State and Region: 1991 and 1996, Females

State/Year	Region	<i>School</i>		<i>Tertiary</i>		<i>Any</i>	
		Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>							
Australia							
1996	<i>Cap. City</i>	37.2	51.6	13.2	24.4	51.5	77.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	35.2	53.1	9.0	15.5	44.9	69.4
	<i>Rural</i>	25.6	58.6	3.6	9.2	29.5	68.7
	<i>All Australia</i>	34.7	52.3	9.6	20.6	45.1	74.1
1991	<i>Cap. City</i>	34.5	48.7	13.4	22.2	49.6	73.0
	<i>Other Urban</i>	34.4	48.1	9.5	15.6	44.8	65.1
	<i>Rural</i>	30.1	56.0	4.0	12.1	35.2	69.5
	<i>All Australia</i>	33.2	49.4	9.1	19.1	43.4	70.3
NSW							
1996	<i>Sydney</i>	40.7	55.1	11.1	22.0	53.0	78.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	39.2	54.4	9.3	16.4	49.3	71.7
	<i>Rural</i>	37.6	61.5	4.6	9.6	42.2	71.6
	<i>All NSW</i>	39.5	54.9	9.5	19.3	49.9	75.4
1991	<i>Sydney</i>	32.5	50.8	11.9	20.7	46.0	73.8
	<i>Other Urban</i>	34.8	48.8	11.1	18.0	46.9	68.0
	<i>Rural</i>	42.3	58.1	6.7	13.1	49.4	72.4
	<i>All NSW</i>	35.4	51.0	10.6	19.0	47.1	71.7
Vic.							
1996	<i>Melbourne</i>	39.3	56.0	12.5	24.9	52.6	82.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	45.8	60.1	10.0	14.6	56.4	75.6
	<i>Rural</i>	50.0	67.1	0.0	8.7	50.0	76.6
	<i>All Vic.</i>	43.1	57.5	10.9	21.2	54.6	79.8
1991	<i>Melbourne</i>	45.0	53.7	9.8	21.2	55.6	76.6
	<i>Other Urban</i>	34.4	54.5	12.4	14.2	46.8	70.1
	<i>Rural</i>	47.3	63.1	10.9	11.1	58.2	75.6
	<i>All Vic.</i>	40.5	55.0	11.1	18.4	52.0	75.1
Qld							
1996	<i>Brisbane</i>	37.2	44.3	13.1	27.0	51.0	72.7
	<i>Other Urban</i>	37.0	48.6	9.1	15.5	46.7	65.0
	<i>Rural</i>	27.6	55.4	2.1	8.0	30.3	64.5
	<i>All Qld</i>	36.1	46.9	9.2	20.4	46.0	68.4
1991	<i>Brisbane</i>	34.2	42.9	15.2	23.0	50.1	68.8
	<i>Other Urban</i>	37.6	45.6	7.1	13.8	45.5	61.0
	<i>Rural</i>	33.0	52.7	4.4	10.7	38.8	65.3
	<i>All Qld</i>	35.9	45.6	8.0	17.3	44.9	65.1

See Notes to Tables

Table 4b Educational Participation Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous 15 to 19 Year-olds by State and Region: 1991 and 1996, Females (cont.)

State/Year	Region	<i>School</i>		<i>Tertiary</i>		<i>Any</i>	
		Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>							
SA							
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	38.2	47.4	12.0	23.9	51.6	72.7
	<i>Other Urban</i>	27.7	54.8	13.1	11.6	41.5	67.4
	<i>Rural</i>	38.9	63.3	8.3	7.4	47.2	71.4
	<i>All SA</i>	33.3	49.6	12.4	20.5	46.7	71.3
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	39.1	43.1	17.0	21.9	57.8	67.3
	<i>Other Urban</i>	32.2	48.8	12.6	10.1	46.2	60.3
	<i>Rural</i>	31.6	31.6	0.0	0.0	31.6	31.6
	<i>All SA</i>	35.8	44.1	13.1	19.8	50.3	66.0
WA							
1996	<i>Perth</i>	28.6	44.8	18.5	26.6	49.3	72.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	27.6	45.7	8.6	13.4	36.7	59.8
	<i>Rural</i>	24.5	41.5	6.9	9.4	31.4	52.8
	<i>All WA</i>	27.5	45.0	11.7	22.8	40.2	69.1
1991	<i>Perth</i>	28.1	42.3	13.7	25.6	44.5	69.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	28.3	42.2	8.4	12.6	37.5	55.7
	<i>Rural</i>	23.6	45.2	2.7	12.9	27.6	59.7
	<i>All WA</i>	26.8	42.5	8.2	22.0	36.5	66.3
Tas.							
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	30.5	43.9	20.1	27.4	52.4	72.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	34.3	44.1	20.1	20.2	56.1	65.7
	<i>Rural</i>	35.2	41.1	14.1	15.9	53.5	58.4
	<i>All Tas.</i>	33.6	43.9	19.5	22.1	55.1	67.3
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	26.9	40.1	16.2	26.7	46.2	68.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	26.0	34.6	22.1	21.9	48.1	58.4
	<i>Rural</i>	35.2	41.0	17.2	16.6	58.6	59.5
	<i>All Tas.</i>	28.9	37.7	19.2	22.2	50.6	61.9
NT							
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	40.4	47.1	6.2	19.2	46.5	66.8
	<i>Other Urban</i>	28.1	48.9	2.4	10.6	31.3	60.7
	<i>Rural</i>	16.1	38.1	1.1	0.0	17.2	38.1
	<i>All NT</i>	26.5	47.9	2.5	15.0	29.4	63.7
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	35.0	46.1	11.8	19.3	49.6	66.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	33.5	40.6	4.9	11.4	40.0	54.9
	<i>Rural</i>	22.5	42.1	1.0	10.7	24.0	54.2
	<i>All NT</i>	26.7	44.0	3.4	15.9	31.1	61.4
ACT							
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	44.3	54.9	14.3	25.9	58.6	81.8
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	54.1	51.7	16.2	27.3	70.3	80.8

See Notes to Tables

Table 4c Educational Participation Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous 15 to 19 Year-olds by State and Region: 1991 and 1996, All persons

State/Year	Region	<i>School</i>		<i>Tertiary</i>		<i>Any</i>	
		Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>							
Australia							
1996	<i>Cap. City</i>	36.0	51.2	12.4	23.5	49.8	75.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	34.1	51.0	8.4	15.1	43.2	66.9
	<i>Rural</i>	24.4	54.6	3.7	9.9	28.3	65.1
	<i>All Australia</i>	33.6	51.2	9.0	19.9	43.5	72.1
1991	<i>Cap. City</i>	34.1	48.6	13.9	22.5	49.8	72.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	34.7	47.4	8.9	16.0	44.5	64.8
	<i>Rural</i>	28.3	51.7	4.3	13.4	33.7	66.5
	<i>All Australia</i>	32.7	48.6	8.8	19.6	42.8	69.8
NSW							
1996	<i>Sydney</i>	38.3	54.5	11.4	21.9	50.9	77.6
	<i>Other Urban</i>	38.1	52.5	8.8	16.7	47.6	69.9
	<i>Rural</i>	38.3	58.1	4.8	11.2	43.2	69.6
	<i>All NSW</i>	38.2	53.7	9.3	19.4	48.3	74.1
1991	<i>Sydney</i>	32.7	50.2	13.1	22.5	47.4	74.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	35.8	47.9	10.8	19.2	47.6	68.3
	<i>Rural</i>	39.2	53.3	7.3	14.7	47.0	69.2
	<i>All NSW</i>	35.5	49.8	10.8	20.5	47.4	71.8
Vic.							
1996	<i>Melbourne</i>	38.9	55.1	12.7	23.9	52.7	80.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	39.1	57.1	11.6	14.5	52.3	72.5
	<i>Rural</i>	40.0	61.4	6.0	8.7	46.0	70.9
	<i>All Vic.</i>	39.0	55.9	11.9	20.4	52.3	77.4
1991	<i>Melbourne</i>	40.9	52.9	14.1	21.5	55.9	76.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	34.6	53.4	12.3	14.2	47.4	69.1
	<i>Rural</i>	44.1	58.9	11.7	13.7	58.3	74.0
	<i>All Vic.</i>	38.7	53.8	13.0	18.9	52.6	74.3
Qld							
1996	<i>Brisbane</i>	35.4	44.6	11.8	24.6	48.0	70.3
	<i>Other Urban</i>	36.4	47.4	8.6	13.8	45.5	62.0
	<i>Rural</i>	24.2	51.1	2.6	8.2	27.2	60.1
	<i>All Qld</i>	34.9	46.3	8.7	18.3	44.2	65.5
1991	<i>Brisbane</i>	34.5	43.7	12.9	21.6	48.5	67.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	38.0	45.6	6.1	13.0	44.9	59.9
	<i>Rural</i>	32.4	48.6	3.6	10.6	37.6	61.2
	<i>All Qld</i>	36.0	45.3	6.7	16.3	43.8	63.4

See Notes to Tables

Table 4c Educational Participation Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous 15 to 19 Year-olds by State and Region: 1991 and 1996, All persons (cont.)

State/Year	Region	<i>School</i>		<i>Tertiary</i>		<i>Any</i>	
		Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %	Indig. %	Not-Ind. %
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>							
SA							
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	35.6	47.2	11.2	22.5	48.2	70.8
	<i>Other Urban</i>	27.1	52.2	10.2	11.4	37.6	64.3
	<i>Rural</i>	37.0	58.1	8.2	7.7	45.2	66.1
	<i>All SA</i>	31.7	48.7	10.6	19.3	43.2	69.0
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	34.0	44.1	18.4	22.1	54.7	67.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	30.8	48.5	12.0	11.1	45.7	60.9
	<i>Rural</i>	27.0	27.0	2.9	2.9	31.4	31.4
	<i>All SA</i>	31.9	44.8	13.9	20.1	48.1	66.6
WA							
1996	<i>Perth</i>	29.1	43.9	15.3	26.3	47.3	71.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	26.2	42.8	7.3	14.2	34.0	57.6
	<i>Rural</i>	21.7	39.0	5.7	10.3	27.4	50.7
	<i>All WA</i>	26.6	43.5	9.7	22.6	37.5	67.2
1991	<i>Perth</i>	28.6	42.6	12.9	25.4	44.0	69.6
	<i>Other Urban</i>	28.0	41.2	8.0	14.2	36.4	56.2
	<i>Rural</i>	20.5	40.8	3.0	14.0	24.7	56.2
	<i>All WA</i>	25.7	42.1	7.7	22.1	34.6	65.6
Tas.							
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	31.9	44.2	19.8	26.4	54.6	71.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	35.0	42.5	18.8	20.1	54.9	63.7
	<i>Rural</i>	35.9	42.0	16.9	14.9	54.9	57.8
	<i>All Tas.</i>	34.4	43.0	18.8	21.7	54.9	65.7
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	27.5	40.6	18.9	26.7	48.2	69.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	29.9	35.4	19.1	22.1	49.8	59.3
	<i>Rural</i>	34.7	39.7	15.5	16.9	53.2	58.3
	<i>All Tas.</i>	30.8	38.0	18.0	22.2	50.4	62.1
NT							
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	42.6	47.4	7.8	18.2	50.4	66.2
	<i>Other Urban</i>	27.2	45.6	2.4	10.1	30.9	56.5
	<i>Rural</i>	17.0	28.8	1.0	2.9	18.3	34.6
	<i>All NT</i>	26.3	46.3	2.7	14.1	29.9	61.1
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	40.5	49.0	11.6	18.4	55.4	68.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	30.0	41.2	5.2	10.8	37.9	54.8
	<i>Rural</i>	21.1	35.7	1.7	11.0	23.7	49.5
	<i>All NT</i>	25.7	44.7	3.8	15.1	31.1	61.4
ACT							
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	42.9	55.8	12.7	24.7	55.6	81.4
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	44.5	52.6	20.1	26.6	64.6	81.4

See Notes to Tables

Absolute changes The overall school participation rate of both male and female Indigenous Australians was higher in 1996 than in 1991. For males, the increase was very modest -- from 32.1% in 1991 to 32.5% in 1996. For females, the increase was slightly higher -- from 33.2% in 1991 to 34.7% in 1996. These changes were not consistent across regions -- the participation rates declined for both male and female Indigenous Australians in rural areas and for Indigenous males in other urban areas.

The majority of school participation rates for Indigenous Australians increased for regions within States. Some of the larger increases were for females in Sydney (from 32.5% to 40.7%) and in other urban areas in New South Wales (from 34.8% to 39.2%). Similarly there was a large increase for Indigenous males in Sydney from 32.8% to 36.0%. The school participation of male and female Indigenous Australians has declined in most areas in Queensland and in the Northern Territory.

Relative changes Although the national school participation rates of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians have increased marginally between 1991 and 1996, so too have the corresponding rates of non-Indigenous Australians. A further issue, then, is whether the rates for Indigenous Australians have improved relative to those of non-Indigenous Australians. Overall they have not improved. The value considered here is the ratio of the 1996 relative rate to the 1991 relative rate. For males, for instance, this is $(32.5/51.0)/(32.1/48.0)$. In 1991 the ratio was 66.9 and in 1996 it was 64.9 -- the participation of male Indigenous Australians relative to that of male non-Indigenous Australians *declined* (very marginally) between 1991 and 1996. This change is summarised by the further ratio $64.9/66.9 = 0.97$. Ratios less than 1 indicate a worsening of the relative position of Indigenous Australians and ratios greater than 1 indicate an improvement.

Table 4 provides very little indication of significant improvement in the school participation of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians compared with that of non-Indigenous Australians. In the large States, the only substantial improvements were for males in rural Northern Territory (a ratio of 1.28) and females in Sydney (1.15) and Darwin (1.13). On the other hand, there are several instances of decline in the larger States -- in Queensland rural areas for both males (0.63) and females (0.80), for females in New South Wales rural areas (0.84) and for females outside Darwin (0.70 and 0.79).

Tertiary Education

The Indigenous Population

Nationally, some 8.4% of male and 9.6% of female 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians participated in tertiary education in 1996. Participation was substantially higher for males and females in capital cities (11.6% and 13.2% respectively) than in other urban (7.8% and 9.0%) or rural areas (3.8% and 3.6%).

There were some differences among the States, but these were not usually very large -- except for the Northern Territory which has participation rates substantially below the national average -- 2.9% for males and 2.5% for females. The lower participation rate in the Northern Territory is partly attributable to the greater proportion of the population living in rural areas. Even so, the tertiary education participation rates for each of the regions within the Northern Territory are often substantially below the national means.

Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Comparisons

Nationally, the tertiary education participation rates of Indigenous Australians are less than half those of non-Indigenous Australians. This is the case for both males and females. Regional considerations make little difference to the picture -- the participation rates of Indigenous Australians in urban and other areas are a little over half of those of non-Indigenous Australians, while in rural areas participation rates of Indigenous Australians are just over a third of those of non-Indigenous Australians.

The extent of the differences between non-Indigenous and Indigenous participation rates is not the same across the States. In the smaller States -- Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory -- the differences are somewhat reduced (particularly in Tasmania, for males in Victoria outside Melbourne and for females in South Australia outside Adelaide). Among the larger States, however, the relative participation of males (but not females) in Western Australia is below the national average and the relative participation rates of Indigenous Australians in the Northern Territory are substantially below the national average for all groups excepting males in Darwin.

Changes between 1991 and 1996

Absolute Changes Participation rates in tertiary education have declined for 15 to 19 year-old male Indigenous Australians between 1991 (8.6%) and 1996 (8.4%) but increased for female 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians between 1991 (9.1%) and 1996 (9.6%). The decline for males occurred in all three regions -- and was larger within each region than overall. A similar phenomenon can be observed for females -- participation rates within each region declined between 1991 and 1996 despite the overall mean showing some increase. This can occur because of a change in the regional distribution of the Indigenous population between 1991 and 1996 -- the 1996 population is more urbanised.

There are some marked differences between the large States. Indigenous participation in tertiary education increased in Queensland and Western Australia between 1991 and 1996 but declined in New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

Relative Changes Between 1991 and 1996 the tertiary education participation rates of non-Indigenous males aged 15 to 19 also declined and the corresponding rates for females increased. The question then is whether the participation rates of the Indigenous population have improved relative to those of the non-Indigenous population. The answer is that they are almost unchanged nationally for both males and females. There is some difference between regions -- for both males and females the relative position of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians in rural areas has improved, while the position of the same group in capital cities has declined.

The national values are the sum of somewhat different changes among the States. In New South Wales the participation of both male and female Indigenous Australians has declined compared to that of male and female non-Indigenous Australians in all three regions. In Queensland the relative position of male Indigenous Australians has improved, particularly in urban areas outside Brisbane. This has been offset somewhat by a relative decline in Brisbane. A similar pattern exists for females, except that the increase in other urban areas was not as large and the decline in Brisbane was larger, leading to an overall relative decline between 1991 and 1996. In Western Australia it was the relative position of females that increased -- particularly in rural areas -- while the relative participation rates of male Indigenous Australians were almost unchanged overall, again though with improvement in rural areas and decline in other regions. In the Northern Territory the relative participation of Indigenous Australians declined overall and in all regions for both males and females between 1991 and 1996.

Any Education

Participation in *Any education* is participation in either school or in the tertiary sector or in other forms of education. The discussion of the values for *Any education* in Table 4 will be somewhat less detailed than for the specific forms of education represented by schooling and tertiary education. These values do, however, provide a useful summary of educational participation for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The Indigenous Population

Educational participation within the Indigenous population is higher for females than males (45.1% compared with 41.8%) and higher in capital cities than in other urban areas and in other urban areas than in rural areas for both males and females. There are differences in the level of educational provision between regions. Regional differences in participation reflect in part the movement of people between regions for educational purposes as well as educational opportunities associated with residence in a given region.

Educational participation is higher than the national average in New South Wales, largely because of the older age-grade structure in schools. Queensland has Indigenous participation rates marginally above the national average, despite having a younger age-grade structure in schools. This reflects the relatively high Year 12 retention rate for Indigenous students in Queensland. The higher Year 12 retention rate does not, however, seem to be associated with higher participation rates in tertiary education. Indigenous education participation rates were somewhat below the national average in Western Australia for both males and females within regions excepting rural females. Educational participation rates were below the national average in the Northern Territory.

Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Comparisons

Nationally the educational participation rates of 15 to 19 year-olds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin are about 60 per cent of those of the non-Indigenous population. In rural areas the Indigenous education participation rate falls to less than half the level of the non-Indigenous population. There is little difference in the level of disadvantage experienced by Indigenous males and females.

The level of relative educational disadvantage (the extent to which Indigenous educational participation differs from non-Indigenous participation) experienced by Indigenous Australians is not the same in all States. It is least in Tasmania, slightly above the national average in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia (although the male Indigenous population in South Australia is just below the national average) and below the national average in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Differences in the regional distributions of the Indigenous population between States account for some of these State differences. For instance, in Western Australia the relative disadvantage of the Indigenous populations in Perth and rural areas is no worse (and in most instances better) than in the rest of the nation. Similarly the relative educational disadvantage in Darwin is less than in other capital cities, although this may reflect a higher proportion of Indigenous students having to move from rural and other areas to the capital city to continue their education.

Changes between 1991 and 1996

Absolute Changes The educational participation of 15 to 19 year-old male Indigenous Australians declined between 1991 (42.1%) and 1996 (41.8%) while the corresponding rate for females increased from 43.4% in 1991 to 45.1% in 1996. Educational participation rates for males declined for all three regions while for females they declined for capital cities and rural areas and were almost unchanged for other urban areas. The within-region changes for males (declines of 2.0, 1.7 and 5.4 percentage points for urban, other urban and rural respectively) are stronger than the overall change (a decline of 0.3 percentage points). This reflects a decline in the relative size of the Indigenous population living in rural areas (and a corresponding growth in the percentage living in capital cities) between 1991 and 1996. The within-region changes for the female 15 to 19 Indigenous population are not consistent either. Growth was strongest in the capital cities but rates actually declined in rural areas.

Changes were not consistent across the States or within regions. In New South Wales participation for Indigenous males declined but increased for Indigenous females; in Queensland overall rates for Indigenous males were almost unchanged but fell substantially in rural areas while rates for Indigenous females increased marginally but again fell in rural areas; in Western Australia there were increases for both males and females; and in the Northern Territory rates declined for both males and females.

Relative Changes The overall level of educational disadvantage of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians, in terms of educational participation, was virtually unchanged between 1991 and 1996 for both males and females. Relative differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates within regions increased somewhat, particularly in rural areas.

There were some instances in which the educational disadvantage of Indigenous Australians was reduced significantly between 1991 and 1996: males and females in Western Australia, males in Hobart and rural Tasmania, and males in rural Northern Territory. There were many more instances in which disadvantage increased: females in rural New South Wales, females in Melbourne, males and females in rural Victoria and Queensland, males and females in all regions in South Australia, and males and females in other urban areas in the Northern Territory.

The overall picture is one of limited improvements in the equity of educational participation in some areas accompanied by deterioration in equity in many more areas.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The preceding section showed that Indigenous young people have lower rates of participation in post-school education than non-Indigenous youth. This section and the next discuss participation in the two major components of post-school education -- the vocational education and training (VET) and the higher education sectors.

Table 5 shows participation rates in VET for 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The participation rate for Indigenous Australians is 26.0%. This value is considerably higher than the corresponding value in the previous section for participation in any form of post-school education. There are two reasons for the difference. First, information on enrolments is derived from the VET student data collection -- a systematised set of enrolment and administrative records. These cover total enrolments in a given year rather than at a particular point in time -- as does the Census. Hence the participation figures are higher. Second, the fact that the participation data are enrolments, and that many VET courses are of less than 12 months duration, means that the participation rates in Table 5 over-state the true participation rates to the extent that individuals enrol in more than one course in a given year -- and many do. Thus the values in Table 5 are not participation rates in the usual sense.

Table 5 brings together two very different data sources into a participation rate. The numerator is derived from administrative records collected under variable conditions. There is substantial missing data for answers to many questions in this data source either because questions were not asked or because students did not answer them when asked. This is particularly the case with questions about Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status. The numerator, however, is based on Census-derived population estimates which have been extensively massaged to remove biases. This difference in sources of data means that the estimates in Table 5 are subject to a little more error than usual. It is unlikely, however, that the size of differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates will be greatly affected by these concerns.

There is, however, a possible source of bias in these comparisons. To the extent that Indigenous students in the VET sector enrol in shorter courses -- and evidence is presented later which suggests that they do -- they are more likely to be multiple enrolments. Hence the participation rate of Indigenous Australians would appear greater than that of non-Indigenous Australians without in fact being any higher.

Table 5 shows that there is relatively little difference between the participation rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds. The overall value for Indigenous Australians is 26.0% while the corresponding value for non-Indigenous Australians is 27.5%. While this difference might deserve comment in other contexts, in the context of Indigenous education it is modest. As for the population as a whole, male Indigenous Australians are more likely to participate in VET than

female Indigenous Australians. The participation rate in VET, however, is marginally higher for Indigenous females than for non-Indigenous females.

There are several States where the participation rate of Indigenous Australians in VET is higher than for non-Indigenous Australians. Indigenous Australians in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory have higher participation rates than non-Indigenous Australians. Relative participation rates are substantially lower, both relatively and absolutely, in Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

If Indigenous students leave school earlier than non-Indigenous students, as they do, then there is a relatively greater pool of persons available to participate in VET. Hence it could be argued that the apparently (for some parts of Australia) equitable participation rates in VET disguise real differences. This argument becomes a little stronger if it can be claimed that Indigenous Australians are also to a considerable extent excluded from higher education -- and the next section argues that they are.

The major feature of the participation rates for 15 to 19 year-olds -- the apparently equitable participation rates -- is repeated, more or less, for the participation of 20 to 24 year-olds in VET. Differential participation in schooling cannot be used to explain these results.

Prior Schooling

VET has traditionally provided a post-school pathway for young people who leave school early -- and young Indigenous Australians are more likely to leave school early. Table 6 shows the number of years of schooling completed for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. A major feature is the difference in the distributions of the two groups -- the Indigenous distribution peaks at Year 10 (37.8%) while the non-Indigenous distribution peaks at Year 12 (42.0%).

The VET sector is to some extent serving different purposes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. For Indigenous Australians, VET is principally an alternative to schooling as a means for continuing education and training while for non-Indigenous Australians it is more (though by no means entirely) an add-on to 12 years of schooling. The difference is one of complements and supplements. Given this difference, lower apparent outcomes from VET should be expected for Indigenous Australians -- a proposition that is consistent with findings presented later in this report.

There are quite large differences between the percentages of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians enrolled in VET after completing Year 12 -- nation-wide the difference is greater than 20 percentage points and represents a ratio of about two and a half to one -- which is broadly consistent with the difference in Year 12 retention rates. The VET sector recruits broadly across the spectrum of school

completion for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. The key to further improvement of the profile of Indigenous Australians within this sector in part lies in further improvement of outcomes in the school sector.

Types of Vocational Education and Training

Tables 7, 8 and 9 provide information on the relative enrolments of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in different types of education and training. The tables deal with field of study, qualification and stream of study respectively. There is evidence of differences in each and that Indigenous Australians are often systematically over-represented in courses providing lower level skills which, in turn, are likely to be associated with lower labour market outcomes.

Table 5 Participation Rates in Vocational Education and Training for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State and Sex: 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year-olds in 1996.

<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Persons</i>		
	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	
.	%	%	%	%	%	%	
15 to 19 year-olds							
Aust.	<i>Participation rate</i>	28.4	30.9	23.7	23.4	26.0	27.5
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.92		1.01		0.95	
NSW	<i>Participation rate</i>	35.7	32.2	30.5	27.4	33.1	30.5
	<i>Ratio</i>	1.11		1.12		1.09	
Vic.	<i>Participation rate</i>	41.5	29.2	27.5	18.4	34.3	24.0
	<i>Ratio</i>	1.42		1.50		1.43	
Qld	<i>Participation rate</i>	25.1	33.7	19.7	27.2	22.4	30.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.74		0.72		0.73	
SA	<i>Participation rate</i>	30.7	23.2	32.4	17.4	31.6	20.4
	<i>Ratio</i>	1.33		1.87		1.55	
WA	<i>Participation rate</i>	21.4	33.3	20.0	22.9	20.7	28.3
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.64		0.87		0.73	
Tas.	<i>Participation rate</i>	26.9	27.5	19.5	17.4	23.2	22.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.98		1.12		1.02	
NT	<i>Participation rate</i>	22.5	35.8	18.1	30.5	20.3	33.5
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.63		0.59		0.61	
ACT	<i>Participation rate</i>	29.4	22.7	29.0	18.5	29.2	20.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	1.30		1.57		1.42	
20 to 24 year-olds							
Aust.	<i>Participation rate</i>	25.1	25.0	18.1	19.6	21.5	22.4
	<i>Ratio</i>	1.01		0.92		0.96	
NSW	<i>Participation rate</i>	30.4	25.5	22.5	22.2	26.4	24.1
	<i>Ratio</i>	1.19		1.01		1.09	
Vic.	<i>Participation rate</i>	46.9	31.0	27.5	21.4	37.0	26.2
	<i>Ratio</i>	1.51		1.29		1.41	
Qld	<i>Participation rate</i>	16.7	19.0	13.6	13.7	15.1	16.4
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.88		0.99		0.92	
SA	<i>Participation rate</i>	37.0	22.7	24.1	20.4	30.4	21.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	1.63		1.18		1.41	
WA	<i>Participation rate</i>	19.7	22.4	14.8	18.3	17.2	20.4
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.88		0.81		0.85	
Tas.	<i>Participation rate</i>	19.0	21.1	8.5	15.4	13.6	18.3
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.90		0.56		0.74	
NT	<i>Participation rate</i>	25.6	29.5	17.8	23.8	21.7	26.7
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.87		0.75		0.81	
ACT	<i>Participation rate</i>	19.6	21.8	16.5	16.4	18.0	19.2
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.90		1.00		0.94	

See Notes to Tables

Table 6 Year Left School by State and Region for 15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Students Enrolled in Vocational Education and Training Courses, 1996

Year left school . . .	7		8		9		10		11		12	
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	Ind.	Non	Ind.	Non	Ind.	Non	Ind.	Non	Ind.	Non	Ind.	Non
Males												
<i>Australia %</i>	1.5	0.3	3.3	0.7	24.7	6.5	38.0	34.5	17.1	20.2	15.5	37.9
<i>Capital City %</i>	1.4	0.3	3.2	0.7	22.2	5.7	37.1	30.7	18.5	19.7	17.6	42.8
<i>Other Urban %</i>	2.1	0.1	1.4	0.3	23.0	6.8	40.5	41.2	14.4	17.8	18.6	33.8
<i>Rural %</i>	0.8	0.3	2.9	0.7	27.8	8.0	37.5	40.6	16.1	21.6	15.0	28.8
<i>Remote %</i>	3.2	0.2	5.5	0.9	23.4	5.4	39.8	35.8	17.9	24.1	10.2	33.5
<i>NSW %</i>	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	31.8	7.4	40.1	43.7	14.9	16.1	12.9	32.7
<i>Vic %</i>	4.2	0.7	10.7	1.7	26.8	8.6	36.0	28.2	11.5	23.7	10.7	37.2
<i>Qld %</i>	1.5	0.1	3.6	0.5	15.5	3.2	34.1	29.7	19.2	18.9	26.0	47.6
<i>SA %</i>	3.0	0.4	7.0	1.3	24.1	4.4	36.2	17.2	18.6	32.1	11.1	44.7
<i>WA %</i>	1.5	0.1	4.4	0.4	16.2	3.3	44.6	31.4	19.0	23.4	14.4	41.4
<i>Tas. %</i>	0.9	0.2	1.7	0.3	6.0	4.2	52.1	42.8	28.2	26.1	11.1	26.4
<i>NT %</i>	3.0	0.0	5.5	1.6	40.2	17.6	25.6	30.5	19.6	20.3	6.0	30.0
<i>ACT %</i>	2.9	0.4	14.7	0.8	23.5	5.3	20.6	22.3	11.8	10.7	26.5	60.4
Females												
<i>Australia %</i>	1.5	0.2	2.7	0.3	19.3	5.1	37.6	28.7	19.2	17.6	19.7	48.1
<i>Capital City %</i>	0.9	0.2	2.2	0.3	16.1	4.4	34.7	25.0	20.9	17.0	25.1	53.1
<i>Other Urban %</i>	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	21.2	6.0	35.1	35.0	16.8	16.4	26.9	42.4
<i>Rural %</i>	0.3	0.2	1.8	0.3	22.0	6.4	39.9	34.7	18.8	19.0	17.2	39.4
<i>Remote %</i>	5.9	0.0	6.9	0.5	17.8	5.5	37.9	29.8	18.3	23.2	13.2	40.9
<i>NSW %</i>	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	25.6	6.4	40.8	37.2	17.2	18.6	16.3	37.7
<i>Vic. %</i>	2.4	0.4	6.6	0.8	21.1	5.9	27.7	19.4	22.3	16.0	19.9	57.6
<i>Qld %</i>	0.5	0.1	1.6	0.3	10.9	2.2	35.2	25.8	21.0	17.0	30.8	54.5
<i>SA %</i>	2.3	0.4	8.5	0.6	14.6	3.6	34.7	13.9	27.2	21.3	12.7	60.1
<i>WA %</i>	1.7	0.2	5.1	0.5	16.0	3.6	43.9	23.8	16.5	15.1	16.8	56.8
<i>Tas. %</i>	0.0	0.3	2.3	0.2	4.7	3.0	38.4	32.7	31.4	23.9	23.3	39.9
<i>NT %</i>	10.1	0.0	7.6	0.5	24.2	11.5	28.8	19.8	15.2	21.2	14.1	47.0
<i>ACT %</i>	2.9	0.3	2.9	1.0	20.0	4.2	22.9	13.7	14.3	10.3	37.1	70.6
Persons												
<i>Australia %</i>	1.5	0.2	3.0	0.5	22.2	5.9	37.8	32.2	18.1	19.2	17.4	42.0
<i>Capital City %</i>	1.2	0.3	2.8	0.6	19.5	5.2	36.1	28.4	19.6	18.6	20.9	47.0
<i>Other Urban %</i>	1.2	0.1	0.8	0.3	22.2	6.4	38.4	38.5	15.4	17.2	22.0	37.5
<i>Rural %</i>	0.5	0.2	2.4	0.5	25.0	7.4	38.7	38.2	17.4	20.6	16.1	33.0
<i>Remote %</i>	4.6	0.1	6.2	0.8	20.6	5.5	38.8	33.7	18.1	23.8	11.7	36.1
<i>NSW %</i>	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	28.9	7.0	40.5	40.8	16.0	17.2	14.5	34.9
<i>Vic. %</i>	3.5	0.6	9.1	1.4	24.6	7.6	32.8	25.1	15.7	21.0	14.3	44.4
<i>Qld %</i>	1.1	0.1	2.7	0.4	13.4	2.8	34.6	28.1	20.0	18.1	28.2	50.5
<i>SA %</i>	2.7	0.4	7.8	1.0	19.2	4.1	35.4	15.9	23.1	27.9	11.9	50.6
<i>WA %</i>	1.6	0.2	4.7	0.4	16.1	3.4	44.3	28.5	17.8	20.2	15.5	47.4
<i>Tas. %</i>	0.5	0.2	2.0	0.3	5.4	3.8	46.3	39.1	29.6	25.3	16.3	31.3
<i>NT %</i>	6.5	0.0	6.5	1.2	32.2	15.3	27.2	26.5	17.4	20.7	10.1	36.4
<i>ACT %</i>	2.9	0.3	8.7	0.9	21.7	4.8	21.7	18.7	13.0	10.5	31.9	64.7

See Notes to Tables

Table 7 Field of Study of Course for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians Enrolled in Vocational Education and Training by Age, 1996

<i>Age . . .</i>	<i>17 and under</i>		<i>18-19 yrs</i>		<i>19 & under</i>		<i>20-24 yrs</i>	
	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>
<i>Land & Marine Resources, Animal Husbandry</i>	8.4	5.6	6.8	4.2	7.8	4.8	6.5	4.2
<i>Architecture, Building</i>	4.4	7.5	6.9	9.2	5.4	8.5	6.1	8.7
<i>Art, Humanities & Social Sciences</i>	7.6	5.0	7.8	4.8	7.7	4.9	9.1	6.4
<i>Business, Administration, Economics</i>	12.5	16.1	15.3	20.4	13.6	18.5	14.1	22.5
<i>Education</i>	0.7	0.3	1.5	0.3	1.0	0.3	1.7	0.7
<i>Engineering, Surveying</i>	9.3	19.5	9.5	20.9	9.4	20.3	7.5	19.6
<i>Health, Community Services</i>	4.5	5.8	6.7	6.9	5.4	6.4	8.2	7.6
<i>Law, Legal Studies</i>	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.7
<i>Science</i>	1.2	2.8	1.3	3.2	1.2	3.0	1.3	3.9
<i>Veterinary Science, Animal Care</i>	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3
<i>Services, Hospitality, Transportation</i>	10.6	18.3	10.1	15.2	10.4	16.5	7.5	11.3
<i>TAFE Multi-Field Education</i>	40.7	18.8	33.9	14.2	37.9	16.2	37.5	13.9
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>n=</i>	7015	126545	4859	168522	11874	295067	9089	254109

See Notes to Tables

Table 7, for instance, shows that although there is participation by Indigenous Australian across all fields of study, Indigenous Australians are over-represented in Multi-field education -- a field that includes basic literacy and numeracy courses, pre-vocational and pre-employment courses, general skills development courses and general secondary education.

The over-representation occurs as much for 20 to 24 year-olds as for 15 to 19 year-olds -- although marginally more persons under 17 than 18-19 year-olds participate in these courses. This pattern re-enforces the view that participation in VET is an alternative pathway for Indigenous Australians out of school -- and one that, while perhaps providing skills, is unlikely to provide higher-end qualifications.

The results in Table 8 support the view that Indigenous Australians in VET are over-represented at the lower-end of the qualification range. Table 8 shows the

current bi-classification system of Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) awards and the older award structure. Within the AQF structure there is relatively little difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous participation in the lower end of the hierarchy (Senior Secondary and Certificates 1 and 2), but certainly lower

Table 8 Qualification of Course for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians Enrolled in Vocational Education and Training by Age, 1996

Age . . .	17 and under		18-19 yrs		19 & under		20-24 yrs	
	Indig.	Non Ind.	Indig.	Non-Ind.	Indig.	Non-Ind.	Indig.	Non-Ind.
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>								
<i>Diploma</i>	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.7
<i>Associate Diploma</i>	0.5	1.2	2.7	9.7	1.4	6.0	3.2	11.6
<i>Adv. Cert. - Post Trade</i>	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.7
<i>Adv. Cert. - Other</i>	0.9	1.0	1.6	3.6	1.2	2.5	2.1	5.3
<i>Certificate - Trade</i>	3.0	8.7	5.4	14.1	4.0	11.8	3.7	10.6
<i>Certificate - NEC</i>	36.2	20.8	31.8	13.2	34.4	16.5	30.9	12.9
<i>Endorsements to Cert.</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
<i>Statement of Attainment</i>	16.7	17.3	16.8	13.4	16.7	15.0	18.0	15.1
<i>Certificate of Competency</i>	1.9	0.3	1.6	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.1	0.5
<i>Certificate of Proficiency</i>	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.1
<i>AQF - Senior Secondary</i>	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.5
<i>AQF - Certificate I</i>	8.3	9.0	5.9	2.5	7.3	5.3	5.3	1.9
<i>AQF - Certificate II</i>	11.5	13.2	9.5	5.8	10.7	9.0	10.0	4.5
<i>AQF - Certificate III</i>	5.0	10.0	7.0	9.0	5.8	9.4	6.2	6.9
<i>AQF - Certificate IV</i>	2.0	1.1	2.2	4.3	2.1	2.9	2.6	4.3
<i>AQF - Diploma</i>	0.8	1.9	1.9	7.7	1.3	5.2	1.7	6.1
<i>AQF - Advanced Diploma</i>	0.1	0.4	0.4	2.4	0.2	1.5	0.4	2.7
<i>AQF - Bachelor's Degree</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<i>Other Qualifications</i>	2.9	5.1	2.7	3.9	2.8	4.4	4.2	6.0
<i>Not App. - Non Award</i>	9.7	9.0	9.4	8.1	9.5	8.5	9.7	9.5
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>n =</i>	7015	126545	4859	168522	11874	295067	9089	254109

See Notes to Tables

participation at the upper end of qualifications. The largest difference, however, is the substantial over-representation in the lowest category of the previous award nomenclature system - *Certificate - Not Elsewhere Classified* -- 34.4% of non-Indigenous 15 to 19 year-old enrolments compared with 16.5% of non-Indigenous enrolments. The difference persists across age groups and is therefore less likely to be simply the result of Indigenous students having lower levels of schooling.

Results for the stream of study of enrolment tell a similar story -- Indigenous Australians are substantially over-represented at the lower end of the skills profile. Nearly 40% of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians in VET are in courses that deal with Basic Employment Skills or Educational Preparation, compared with about 20% of non-Indigenous Australians. There seems to be relatively little flow-through of students from these courses to further qualification because the situation is similar among 20 to 24 year-olds.

Table 9 Stream of Course for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians Enrolled in Vocational Education and Training by Age, 1996

<i>Age ...</i>	<i>17 and under</i>		<i>18-19 yrs</i>		<i>19 & under</i>		<i>20-24 yrs</i>	
	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>
<i>Basic Employment Skills</i>	27.6	13.4	21.7	7.3	25.2	9.9	22.5	10.5
<i>Educational Preparation</i>	13.8	10.7	11.4	7.6	12.8	9.0	13.7	5.9
<i>Operatives: Initial</i>	22.0	23.0	19.4	12.7	20.9	17.1	19.6	13.7
<i>Recog. Trades: Part Exempt</i>	7.2	10.3	5.0	3.3	6.3	6.3	3.7	1.6
<i>Recog. Trades: Complete</i>	4.2	14.4	9.7	22.9	6.5	19.3	6.7	16.3
<i>Other Skills: Part Exempt</i>	9.8	9.9	9.5	5.3	9.7	7.3	9.5	4.8
<i>Other Skills: Complete</i>	11.2	10.6	13.3	8.5	12.1	9.4	12.5	8.7
<i>Trade Tech./Supervisory</i>	0.9	1.7	2.2	7.6	1.4	5.1	3.0	10.1
<i>Para-prof. Technician</i>	0.7	0.9	1.3	2.0	0.9	1.6	1.1	1.7
<i>Para-prof. Higher Tech.</i>	1.3	2.8	4.3	17.0	2.5	10.9	4.9	17.2
<i>Professional</i>	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.9	0.3	1.2	0.5	2.4
<i>Operatives: Post Initial</i>	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.4	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.9
<i>Trades/Other Skills: Post Init.</i>	0.5	0.9	0.5	1.7	0.5	1.4	0.9	4.2
<i>Trade Tech/Super: Post Init.</i>	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4
<i>Para-prof Tech: Post Initial</i>	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3
<i>Para-prof High Tech: Post Init.</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>n =</i>	7015	126545	4859	168522	11874	295067	9089	254109

See Notes to Tables

The key feature of the participation of Indigenous Australians in VET probably follows from their greater participation at the lower end of the skills profile of courses. Indigenous Australians are far less likely to obtain qualifications -- Basic Vocational Qualifications or Skilled Vocational Qualifications -- from their participation in VET than non-Indigenous Australians. This is discussed in a later section.

HIGHER EDUCATION

This section draws on information from the Higher Education Student Data Collection to present results regarding the participation of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians in higher education. The Collection is based on student enrolment records supplied by universities in a common format to DEETYA.

The results presented in this section show that participation in higher education by Indigenous youth is substantially lower than for non-Indigenous youth. In previous sections it was found that Indigenous young people had levels of participation in tertiary education which were lower than for the general population, but levels of participation in vocational education and training which broadly corresponded to that of the overall population. A finding that the participation of Indigenous Australians is lower in the other major component of tertiary education -- higher education -- is consistent with these results.

Participation Rates

The higher education participation rate of Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds is about a quarter of the participation rate of non-Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds. Table 10 shows that about 10.8% of non-Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds were enrolled in higher education in 1996. The corresponding rate for Indigenous Australians was 2.6%. Table 10 shows the ratio of these two values -- 0.24, or about a quarter. The ratios in Table 10 show the extent to which participation rates for Indigenous youth differ from the participation rates for non-Indigenous youth -- the further below one, the greater the inequality.

In Table 10 we have a small percentage (2.6% of Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds) of a small part of the population (about 2.6% of the 15 to 19 year-old population). The number of Indigenous students recorded as participating in higher education in 1996, 966, is too small to sustain separate analyses by State or State separately for males and females. The participation rates are presented in Table 10 in any case, but their interpretation should be treated with care. In fact, the attempt to produce participation rates for Indigenous students by marrying two different sources -- population estimates derived principally from the census and enrolment data from administrative records -- itself creates uncertainties. The differences in Table 10, however, exist regardless of methodological considerations. Refinement would make them only a little smaller or larger.

Participation rates for Indigenous females are higher than for Indigenous males, almost by a factor of two. This largely reflects differences in the wider population, although participation rates for Indigenous females are somewhat closer to those of non-Indigenous females than is the case for males.

Table 10 also shows higher education participation rates for 20 to 24 year-olds. These are substantially higher than the rates for 15 to 19 year-olds for Indigenous and non-Indigenous males and females. The differences in the extent of participation in higher education between Indigenous and non-Indigenous

Australians are marginally lower for 20 to 24 year-olds. This points to a slightly greater tendency for delayed entry to higher education by Indigenous youth.

Table 10 Age Participation Rates in Higher Education for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State and Sex: 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 Year-olds, 1996

<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Persons</i>		
	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	<i>Indig</i>	<i>Non-Ind.</i>	
.	%	%	%	%	%	%	
15 to 19 year-olds							
Aust.	<i>Participation rate</i>	1.9	8.9	3.3	12.8	2.6	10.8
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.22		0.26		0.24	
NSW	<i>Participation rate</i>	1.8	7.2	2.5	10.8	2.1	8.9
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.24		0.23		0.24	
Vic.	<i>Participation rate</i>	3.7	9.9	6.9	14.3	5.3	12.0
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.37		0.48		0.44	
Qld	<i>Participation rate</i>	2.2	9.5	4.3	13.9	3.3	11.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.23		0.31		0.28	
SA	<i>Participation rate</i>	1.5	10.1	3.1	14.1	2.3	12.1
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.15		0.22		0.19	
WA	<i>Participation rate</i>	1.9	9.4	2.9	12.0	2.4	10.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.20		0.24		0.22	
Tas.	<i>Participation rate</i>	2.9	7.7	2.6	9.6	2.8	8.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.37		0.27		0.32	
NT	<i>Participation rate</i>	0.8	5.8	1.7	10.6	1.2	7.9
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.14		0.16		0.16	
ACT	<i>Participation rate</i>	7.4	16.4	8.9	19.1	8.2	17.7
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.45		0.47		0.46	
20 to 24 year-olds							
Aust.	<i>Participation rate</i>	3.7	14.6	5.3	17.5	4.5	16.0
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.25		0.30		0.28	
NSW	<i>Participation rate</i>	3.8	14.0	5.7	16.7	4.8	15.3
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.27		0.34		0.31	
Vic.	<i>Participation rate</i>	7.3	16.9	9.7	20.9	8.5	18.8
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.43		0.47		0.45	
Qld	<i>Participation rate</i>	3.3	12.5	4.3	15.0	3.8	13.7
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.26		0.28		0.28	
SA	<i>Participation rate</i>	4.7	14.4	5.9	16.8	5.3	15.6
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.33		0.35		0.34	
WA	<i>Participation rate</i>	3.2	12.6	4.5	15.3	3.8	13.9
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.25		0.30		0.28	
Tas.	<i>Participation rate</i>	4.0	13.0	4.6	13.6	4.3	13.3
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.31		0.34		0.33	
NT	<i>Participation rate</i>	2.1	9.3	4.5	18.3	3.3	13.3
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.23		0.25		0.25	
ACT	<i>Participation rate</i>	16.1	30.7	14.8	32.0	15.4	31.4
	<i>Ratio</i>	0.52		0.46		0.49	

See Notes to Tables

Enrolment in Higher Education

Tables 11, 12 and 13 show the basis for admission of 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who enrolled in higher education for the first time in 1996, their prior educational qualifications, and the types of courses in which they enrolled, respectively. These tables show that, compared with non-Indigenous students:

- Indigenous students were less likely to be admitted to higher education courses on the basis of their Year 12 study, but more likely to be admitted on the basis of special entry, an examination conducted by the university, or other criteria.
- Indigenous students were less likely to have completed Year 12, but more likely to have completed some other qualification.
- Indigenous students were substantially less likely to enrol in a degree and more likely to enrol in a diploma or enabling course.

These results suggest that Indigenous students coming more or less directly from school are less prepared for higher education than non-Indigenous school leavers.

There is a puzzling aspect to these results. The Year 12 retention rate for Indigenous students is about 40% of that of non-Indigenous students, yet the higher education participation rate is 24% of that of non-Indigenous students. These two values suggest that there is a significantly higher proportion of Indigenous Year 12 students who do not go on to higher education. The previous section did not show that these Indigenous students were disproportionately attracted to the VET sector. Table 12, however, shows substantial numbers of Indigenous students entering higher education without Year 12 when there should be a pool of Indigenous Year 12 graduates available.

The lower levels of participation by Indigenous youth in higher education can be attributed to the relatively poor schooling outcomes for Indigenous students. This assertion may not be as obvious as it seems. Given that there are substantial differences in schooling outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, the overwhelmingly lower Indigenous participation rate in higher education should mean that higher education institutions are selecting students intensively from the upper end of the distribution of school achievement for Indigenous youth -- and the school achievement of that upper end may not be too different from the school achievement of many non-Indigenous young people who enter higher education.

The question, then, is why the Indigenous students who enter higher education are so much less likely to have completed Year 12 and why they are so much more likely to undertake enabling courses. This seems to be an issue for the higher education sector to address. Poorer outcomes from the school sector for

Indigenous students may provide a limit on expansion of participation in higher education, but it may not explain the different admission, enrolment and educational backgrounds of Indigenous students given their current low level of participation.

Table 11 Basis for Admission to Higher Education for 15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Students New to Higher Education, 1996

<i>Basis for Admission</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	Indig. %	Non-I. %	Indig. %	Non-I. %	Indig. %	Non-I. %
Indigenous . . .						
<i>A complete or incomplete TAFE qualification</i>	1.3	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.8
<i>Year 12 at school or elsewhere</i>	37.7	92.4	47.3	90.3	43.8	91.2
<i>Special entry</i>	36.4	3.1	30.3	4.2	32.5	3.7
<i>An examination conducted by the university</i>	13.8	2.7	13.5	3.8	13.6	3.3
<i>Other</i>	10.8	1.0	8.6	0.9	9.5	0.9
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Number of students</i>	231	31,111	393	41498	624	72609

See Notes to Tables

Table 12 Educational Background prior to Course Entry for 15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Students New to Higher Education, 1996

<i>Educational Background</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	Indig. %	Non-I. %	Indig. %	Non-I. %	Indig. %	Non-I. %
Indigenous . . .						
<i>TAFE Diploma</i> <i>None</i>	98.7	98.8	99.0	99.0	98.9	98.9
<i>Incomplete</i>	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8
<i>Complete</i>	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
<i>TAFE Award</i> <i>None</i>	93.9	98.8	97.5	98.6	96.1	98.7
<i>Incomplete</i>	2.6	0.4	1.3	0.5	1.8	0.4
<i>Complete</i>	3.5	0.8	1.3	0.9	2.1	0.8
<i>TAFE Year 12</i>	6.1	5.6	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.3
<i>School Year 12</i>	78.7	96.9	79.6	96.6	79.3	96.7
<i>Other Qualification</i>	12.9	2.8	8.9	3.4	10.4	3.2

See Notes to Tables

Table 13 Level of Course in which Enrolled for 15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Students New to Higher Education, 1996

<i>Level of Course</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	Indig. %	Non-I. %	Indig. %	Non-I. %	Indig. %	Non-I. %
Indigenous . . .						
<i>Bachelor's Pass or Honours</i>	56.3	96.6	66.7	97.8	62.8	97.3
<i>Advanced Diploma or Diploma</i>	10.0	2.6	6.6	1.4	7.8	1.9
<i>Enabling</i>	31.2	0.4	26.0	0.5	27.9	0.5
<i>Other</i>	2.6	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.4	0.3
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Number of students</i>	231	31111	393	41498	624	72609

See *Notes to Tables*

Table 14 New to Higher Education, Commencing and Continuing: 15 to 19 Year-old Higher Education Students, 1996

<i>Sex . . .</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-I.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-I.</i>	<i>Indig.</i>	<i>Non-I.</i>
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>New to Higher Education</i>	65.8	55.8	63.9	54.6	64.6	55.1
<i>Commencing</i>	8.6	6.4	9.6	7.2	9.2	6.8
<i>Continuing</i>	25.6	37.9	26.5	38.2	26.2	38.1
<i>Total</i>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Number of students</i>	351	55802	615	76038	966	131840

See Notes to Tables

Staying in Higher Education

Table 14 shows that Indigenous students, having enrolled in higher education, are less likely to stay there. Previous tables in this section were based on students who were new to higher education -- those who enrolled in a university for the first time in 1996. Table 14, however, is based on all 15 to 19 year-old students who were enrolled in 1996. There are differences in the percentages of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who were commencing and who were continuing -- 64.6% of Indigenous students were in their first year at a university, a further 9.2% were commencing a course (but not their first higher education course), and 26.2% were continuing. For non-Indigenous students, the percentage entering higher education was smaller and the percentage continuing larger. These values suggest a lower retention rate for Indigenous students within higher education and ultimately a lower graduation rate.

Some of this difference is consistent with the higher rate of enrolment of Indigenous students in enabling courses. The category of commencing students contains students who complete an enabling course and proceed to a subsequent course -- and the percentage of Indigenous students in this category is, as expected, higher. This is not sufficiently high, however, to offset the higher attrition rates for Indigenous students. Assuming that the ratio of Indigenous and non-Indigenous enrolments has been similar for 1994 and 1995, the results in Table 14 point clearly to lower retention rates for Indigenous students.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS

Educational qualifications are the outcomes of the process of educational participation. They represent the joint probability of participation in a course leading to a qualification and of successful completion of the course. Tables 15a, 15b, and 15c show the highest level of educational attainment for males, females and persons respectively. These tables will be referred to collectively as Table 15.

It makes little sense to examine the educational attainments of 15 to 19 year-olds because many in that group will not have had the opportunity to complete a course. The values in Table 15 are for 20 to 24 year-olds. Hence the qualifications are the result of educational participation undertaken from the late 1980s to 1996. Given the results of the previous sections, it is unlikely that the educational attainments of Indigenous Australians aged 15 to 19 at the time of the 1996 Census will be any higher when they are aged 20 to 24. There will, however, be variations in the level of qualifications among States and between regions.

There are several features of Table 15 that require explanation. First it presents two discrete sets of results -- mean age left school and highest educational attainment. Second, the values for educational attainment are percentaged across the table and sum to 100 per cent within the Indigenous and non-Indigenous categories. The first value in Table 15 for educational attainment should therefore be read as *24.2% of Indigenous Australians aged 20 to 24 in capital cities have left school at age 15 or earlier as their highest educational attainment*. Third, comparisons should therefore be made between Indigenous and non-Indigenous values within a given level of attainment and a given row. Hence, 24.2% would be compared with 7.7% in order to examine differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Fourth, values are presented for *Ex-Capital City* which is other urban and rural. It proved difficult to construct direct comparisons with 1991 for other urban and rural (these values are derived from a different source than the values in Table 4 -- a source subject to more introduced random error). Comparisons between 1991 and 1996 can therefore be made only for the capital city and not-capital city regions. Regional comparisons within 1996, however, can be made for capital city, other urban and rural. Fifth, regional (and State) differences are clouded by the possibility of movement between regions (and States). It is arguable (though hard evidence is absent) that persons with more years of schooling and higher educational attainments are more likely to move from rural to other areas, thereby inflating values for those areas and reducing estimates for rural areas. Sixth, the values for many post-school attainments, particularly for the Indigenous population, are quite small. This can produce quite large relative changes for small absolute changes.

Age left school

The measure *Mean age left school* is an approximate measure that summarises the level of schooling of a group of individuals. It cannot be directly translated into Years of schooling or Highest Year-level completed. Nevertheless, there is a sense

in which it reflects differences in the amount of schooling received. The values in Table 15 are an approximation because the ages were truncated at *age 14 or below* and *at age 19 or above*. This is likely to have produced some over-estimation of values, particularly for the Indigenous population -- though the effect will be at most modest. Comparisons of these values between States will be affected by the differing age-grade profiles between States.

The Indigenous Population

Among the Indigenous population, the mean age at which 20 to 24 year-olds had left school was 16.1 years. This was only very slightly higher for females (16.2 years) than for males (16.1 years). There are slightly larger differences between regions -- 16.3 years for capital cities, 16.1 for other urban areas, and 15.8 for rural areas. These differences hold for both males and females.

The mean age left school in Queensland is higher for both Indigenous males (16.1 years) and females (16.3 years) than for other States with a similar age-grade structure. This is consistent with other data that indicate higher Indigenous school participation rates and higher apparent Year 12 retention rates for Indigenous students in Queensland. South Australia has similar values -- 16.1 years for males and 16.2 years for females -- possibly reflecting higher apparent Year 12 retention rates in the past. Indigenous students left school at a younger age in Western Australia and the Northern Territory -- 15.7 and 15.6 years respectively for males and 15.7 and 16.1 years respectively for females.

Regional patterns are not always consistent within States. There are instances in which the mean age at which Indigenous students left school are higher in rural or other urban areas than in the capital city. These results suggest that the interpretation of regional differences as the result of rural-urban drift might not be correct.

Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Comparisons

The values in Table 15 show consistently that Indigenous students leave school at a younger age than non-Indigenous students. The differences may not appear huge -- about 0.7 years for males and 0.8 years for females. It is worth noting though that the values in Table 15 suggest that a sizeable difference in Year 12 retention -- the (approximate) gap of 10 percentage points between males and females -- corresponds to a difference of only about 0.1 years in terms of age left school (comparing 16.9 for males and 17.0 for females). Hence these differences are quite large in terms of the way in which school retention figures are usually understood.

The differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are relatively consistent among the States -- for both males and females possibly a little smaller in Queensland and Tasmania and a little larger in the Northern Territory.

Changes between 1991 and 1996

Comparison of 20 to 24 year-olds in 1996 with 20 to 24 year-olds in 1991 means moving back in history. If 20 to 24 year-olds in 1996 were the senior secondary school students of the early 1990s, then the 20 to 24 year-olds of 1991 were the senior secondary students of the mid 1980s. These two time points correspond to a period of rapid growth in Year 12 retention across the nation -- a growth that peaked in 1992. It might be expected that measures of Indigenous schooling across this period should also be associated with substantial growth.

Absolute changes The mean age at which Indigenous students had left school increased for 20 to 24 year-olds between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses. Overall, the increase was from 15.8 years to 16.1 years. The size of the increase was more or less consistent (within the limits of rounding) for males and females and for

metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Increases in average age of school leaving were larger in non-Metropolitan South Australia for males and in non-metropolitan New South Wales and Brisbane for females. Increases were smaller in Melbourne for both males and females, in Hobart and the Australian Capital Territory for males, and in non-metropolitan Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania for females. In summary, the results in Table 15 point to increases in the age at which Indigenous students left school between the 1991 and 1996 Census for persons aged 20 to 24 at the time of the censuses -- results which refer to schooling in the mid 1980s to the early 1990s.

Relative changes Indigenous Australians participated in the continuing rapid increase in school retention during this period. The question is, did they participate to the same extent as other Australians? Overall, the answer is *Yes, they did*, with some variation between males and females and across States and regions. The average age of leaving school for Indigenous Australians increased by 0.3 years at a time when the average age of leaving school increased 0.2 years for non-Indigenous Australians. The relative increase seemed higher in the cities and lower in non-metropolitan areas. It is possible that the relative outcomes for male Indigenous Australians in non-metropolitan areas declined somewhat.

Qualifications

The greater part of Table 15 presents results which show the distribution of educational attainments and qualifications for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 20 to 24 years.

Indigenous Australians

For Australia as a whole, 29.2% of Indigenous Australians aged 20 to 24 at the 1996 Census had left school aged 15 or younger and obtained no post-school qualification; 59.1% had left school aged 16 or over and obtained no post-school qualification, 2.9% had obtained a basic vocational qualification, 5.2% had obtained a skilled vocational qualification, 1.8% had obtained an undergraduate diploma, and 1.8% had obtained a university degree.

There are some differences between males and females. Male Indigenous Australians are slightly more likely to have a post-school qualification (12.5%) than female Indigenous Australians (11.0%). This is largely because of their greater likelihood of obtaining a skilled vocational qualification (principally at this age the result of an apprenticeship or traineeship) -- 8.3% for males compared with 2.2% for females. Females are substantially more likely to obtain other post-school qualifications than are males -- they obtain basic vocational qualifications, diplomas and degrees at almost twice the rate at which males obtain these qualifications (although in all instances the base levels are still quite low). Among those who do not have a post-school qualification, females are also more likely to have stayed at school to age 16 or beyond.

There are substantial differences between the educational attainments of Indigenous Australians currently living in capital cities, in other urban areas, and in rural areas. Persons living in capital cities are more likely to have any form of post-school qualification than persons living in other urban areas, who, in turn, are more likely to have any form of post-school qualification than persons living in rural areas. These differences, of course, may reflect inter-regional migration as well as real differences in educational opportunities and outcomes between regions.

There are also differences among the States. Given the number of categories of attainment and male and female differences it is not easy to summarise the wealth of detail in Table 15. One approach is simply to consider the percentage of the Indigenous population with any post-school qualification. By this criterion, for both males and females, educational outcomes are better than the national average for the Indigenous population in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales, and worse in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. In South Australia outcomes for males are lower, and for females higher, than for the national average. Values for Queensland are generally close to the national average. The pattern for States was generally repeated for regions within States.

There is variation among States not simply in the percentage of the Indigenous population obtaining a post-secondary qualification, but also in the type of qualification obtained. For instance the percentage of the Indigenous population aged 20 to 24 with a degree is markedly higher in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland than in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia. South Australia again exhibits a difference between males and females - females are much more likely to have obtained a degree than males. Indigenous Australians in Victoria are more likely to have a diploma than other Indigenous Australians while in South Australia they are more likely to have obtained a basic vocational qualification. Males in South Australia have a lower than expected level of skilled vocational qualifications.

Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Comparisons

Nationally, 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous Australians are far less likely to have obtained a post-school qualification (11.7%) than non-Indigenous Australians (33.4%). This is true for both males (12.6% and 32.4%) and females (11.0% and 32.4%). It is also true for males and females within regions. The extent of the difference is reduced, although still large, for capital cities (non-Indigenous Australians are about twice as likely as Indigenous Australians to have obtained a post-school qualification) but is substantially greater for rural areas (non-Indigenous Australians are more than six times as likely as Indigenous Australians to have obtained a post-school qualification).

Within these gross differences there are further inequalities. Among those with no post-school qualification, Indigenous Australians are more likely to have left school early (33.1%) than non-Indigenous Australians (13.7)%. Among those with post-

school qualifications, Indigenous Australians are more likely to have obtained basic vocational qualifications (24.8%) than non-Indigenous Australians (13.0%) and are less likely to have obtained a degree (15.3%) than non-Indigenous Australians (35.0%).

It is difficult to track the detail of the differences for males and females across States and regions presented in Table 15. In general terms, it can be noted that differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are somewhat less in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and parts of South Australia and greater in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Table 15a Mean Age Left School and Highest Level of Educational Attainment for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Males

State/		Mean		Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
Year	Region	age left school		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual.		Diploma		Degree	
Indigenous . . .		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Australia															
1996	Cap. City	16.3	17.0	24.2	7.7	58.5	60.0	2.5	2.5	10.4	13.8	1.9	5.3	2.4	10.7
	Other Urban	16.0	16.7	31.6	11.8	56.6	55.7	2.0	2.8	8.2	20.2	0.9	3.9	0.8	5.6
	Rural	15.7	16.5	40.2	16.1	55.4	52.6	0.4	2.5	3.5	21.4	0.2	2.5	0.4	4.8
	Ex-Capital City	16.0	16.7	33.0	12.0	56.4	55.6	1.7	2.8	7.5	20.2	0.8	3.8	0.7	5.6
	All Australia	16.1	16.9	30.4	9.3	57.0	58.3	1.9	2.6	8.3	16.2	1.1	4.8	1.2	8.8
1991	Cap. City	16.0	16.8	32.5	11.3	53.4	59.4	1.8	2.1	11.2	16.9	0.6	2.8	0.5	7.3
	Ex Capital City	15.7	16.4	40.2	17.3	51.9	52.7	1.2	2.5	6.1	21.5	0.5	2.4	0.1	3.7
	All Australia	15.8	16.7	38.0	13.2	52.3	57.2	1.4	2.2	7.5	18.4	0.5	2.7	0.2	6.2
NSW															
1996	Sydney	16.4	17.1	21.4	6.9	60.4	58.2	2.0	2.5	12.2	15.6	1.5	6.2	2.6	10.6
	Other Urban	16.3	16.8	23.9	9.6	61.5	56.9	2.1	2.9	10.1	21.2	0.9	4.2	1.6	5.2
	Rural	15.8	16.6	34.4	12.5	61.3	54.5	1.4	2.2	2.8	24.4	0.0	2.7	0.0	3.8
	Ex-Sydney	16.3	16.8	24.7	9.7	61.5	56.8	2.0	2.9	9.5	21.3	0.8	4.1	1.4	5.2
	All NSW	16.3	17.0	23.7	8.0	61.1	57.7	2.0	2.6	10.4	17.9	1.0	5.4	1.8	8.5
1991	Sydney	16.0	16.8	28.9	9.8	55.9	59.9	2.2	2.3	11.8	18.2	0.6	3.2	0.6	6.8
	Ex Sydney	15.9	16.5	30.4	13.9	58.7	55.6	1.5	2.4	9.1	22.4	0.5	2.3	0.0	3.3
	All NSW	16.0	16.7	29.9	11.2	57.7	58.4	1.7	2.3	10.0	19.6	0.5	2.9	0.2	5.6
Vic.															
1996	Melbourne	16.5	17.2	18.9	5.9	57.7	62.8	2.0	2.0	14.3	12.7	4.3	5.7	2.7	11.0
	Other Urban	16.2	16.9	27.3	8.7	51.2	59.5	3.5	2.3	15.3	19.9	2.8	4.2	0.0	5.4
	Rural	16.5	16.8	0.0	11.4	100.0	57.5	0.0	1.9	0.0	21.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	5.0
	Ex-Melbourne	16.2	16.9	26.9	8.8	51.8	59.4	3.4	2.3	15.1	19.9	2.7	4.1	0.0	5.4
	All Vic.	16.4	17.1	22.9	6.7	54.8	61.9	2.7	2.1	14.7	14.8	3.5	5.2	1.4	9.4
1991	Melbourne	16.4	17.1	22.5	8.6	60.7	61.9	1.6	1.8	12.7	17.4	0.8	2.5	1.6	7.7
	Ex Melbourne	15.8	16.6	38.4	12.5	49.4	56.0	0.9	2.0	11.3	24.1	0.0	1.9	0.0	3.5
	All Vic.	16.1	17.0	30.0	9.6	55.4	60.5	1.3	1.9	12.1	19.0	0.4	2.4	0.8	6.7
Qld															
1996	Brisbane	16.2	16.8	24.6	9.8	57.7	58.6	2.6	2.6	9.8	13.1	2.4	4.5	2.9	11.4
	Other Urban	16.1	16.6	27.6	14.4	59.4	54.3	2.0	2.6	9.3	18.4	1.1	4.1	0.6	6.2
	Rural	15.9	16.3	34.1	21.9	62.9	48.2	0.0	2.3	2.4	19.0	0.0	3.0	0.6	5.6
	Ex-Brisbane	16.1	16.6	28.6	14.6	59.9	54.1	1.7	2.6	8.2	18.5	0.9	4.0	0.6	6.2
	All Qld	16.1	16.7	27.7	12.4	59.4	56.2	1.9	2.6	8.6	16.0	1.2	4.2	1.2	8.5
1991	Brisbane	15.8	16.5	34.6	16.5	48.8	55.5	2.2	2.1	12.6	14.4	1.3	3.3	0.4	8.2
	Ex Brisbane	15.9	16.3	36.5	21.8	55.4	49.9	1.3	2.6	5.4	18.5	1.3	3.1	0.1	4.2
	All Qld	15.9	16.4	36.1	19.2	54.0	52.7	1.5	2.3	6.9	16.5	1.3	3.2	0.2	6.1

Table 15a Mean Age Left School and Highest Level of Educational Attainment for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Males (continued)

State/ Year	Region	Mean age left school		Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		Ind.	Not	Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual.		Diploma		Degree	
Indigenous . . .		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
SA															
1996	Adelaide	16.2	16.8	29.8	9.1	60.4	61.3	3.0	3.5	4.5	13.6	1.5	3.7	0.8	8.8
	Other Urban	15.9	16.6	35.4	12.4	54.8	57.2	5.7	4.0	3.3	18.9	0.0	2.2	0.8	5.3
	Rural	16.3	16.5	15.4	14.0	69.2	56.8	0.0	4.0	15.4	20.8	0.0	1.8	0.0	2.6
	Ex-Adelaide	16.0	16.6	33.5	12.5	56.2	57.2	5.2	4.0	4.4	19.0	0.0	2.2	0.7	5.1
	All SA	16.1	16.8	31.7	9.9	58.3	60.3	4.1	3.6	4.5	14.9	0.7	3.4	0.7	7.9
1991	Adelaide	15.9	16.6	38.1	13.2	52.8	59.0	2.0	2.5	7.2	16.6	0.0	2.5	0.0	6.2
	Ex Adelaide	15.3	16.2	45.8	20.9	45.8	52.4	2.3	3.0	6.2	19.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	3.3
	All SA	15.6	16.5	42.4	15.0	48.9	57.5	2.2	2.6	6.6	17.1	0.0	2.3	0.0	5.5
WA															
1996	Perth	15.9	16.6	36.3	11.7	51.0	56.5	2.4	2.6	7.3	14.0	1.0	5.1	2.0	10.1
	Other Urban	15.6	16.3	46.7	17.4	47.4	47.8	0.5	3.0	4.2	22.4	1.0	3.0	0.3	6.4
	Rural	15.6	16.1	50.9	23.3	39.9	42.4	0.0	3.5	8.2	22.0	1.0	1.6	0.0	7.2
	Ex-Perth	15.6	16.3	47.5	17.8	45.9	47.5	0.4	3.0	5.0	22.4	1.0	2.9	0.2	6.4
	All WA	15.7	16.5	44.3	13.6	47.4	53.6	1.0	2.7	5.7	16.6	1.0	4.4	0.7	9.0
1991	Perth	15.5	16.5	49.1	17.1	40.0	54.1	1.1	2.2	9.8	16.6	0.0	2.5	0.0	7.4
	Ex Perth	15.4	16.1	55.5	24.3	40.4	43.8	0.4	2.7	3.6	22.6	0.0	2.0	0.0	4.7
	All WA	15.4	16.4	53.6	19.0	40.3	51.5	0.6	2.4	5.4	18.1	0.0	2.4	0.0	6.7
Tas.															
1996	Hobart	16.3	16.8	16.1	10.9	59.1	61.4	2.2	2.8	20.4	12.3	0.0	2.6	2.2	10.0
	Other Urban	16.0	16.3	27.4	16.6	52.6	53.2	2.5	2.6	16.6	20.4	0.0	2.5	0.8	4.7
	Rural	15.9	16.3	15.4	17.5	48.7	56.3	7.7	2.7	28.2	18.1	0.0	1.3	0.0	4.0
	Ex-Hobart	16.0	16.3	26.3	16.6	52.3	53.4	3.0	2.6	17.8	20.3	0.0	2.4	0.8	4.6
	All Tas.	16.1	16.5	23.6	14.7	54.0	56.1	2.8	2.7	18.4	17.6	0.0	2.4	1.1	6.5
1991	Hobart	16.2	16.6	16.7	13.0	64.4	60.5	4.5	2.2	14.4	16.1	0.0	1.8	0.0	6.3
	Ex Hobart	15.8	16.1	22.8	19.9	53.7	51.2	2.2	2.3	20.1	21.7	0.0	2.0	1.1	2.9
	All Tas.	15.9	16.3	20.8	17.0	57.3	55.2	3.0	2.3	18.3	19.3	0.0	1.9	0.8	4.3
NT															
1996	Darwin	16.5	16.9	17.9	8.9	65.0	57.3	4.7	3.3	10.1	17.0	1.2	4.3	1.2	9.1
	Other Urban	15.5	16.6	41.3	13.2	53.6	47.6	1.3	3.5	3.1	24.7	0.2	4.6	0.4	6.5
	Rural	15.5	16.6	46.0	11.9	53.5	56.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	19.5	0.0	2.5	0.5	6.3
	Ex-Darwin	15.5	16.6	42.7	13.1	53.6	48.1	0.9	3.5	2.2	24.4	0.2	4.4	0.5	6.4
	All NT	15.6	16.7	39.8	11.1	54.9	52.5	1.4	3.4	3.1	20.9	0.3	4.4	0.5	7.7
1991	Darwin	16.3	16.6	25.6	11.8	64.1	54.6	0.0	3.1	10.3	22.1	0.0	3.2	0.0	5.2
	Ex Darwin	15.3	16.4	47.7	16.4	49.2	45.6	0.9	3.4	2.1	24.3	0.0	4.6	0.0	5.6
	All NT	15.4	16.5	44.9	13.9	51.1	50.5	0.8	3.2	3.1	23.1	0.0	3.9	0.0	5.4
ACT															
1996	All ACT	16.9	17.4	14.4	4.2	65.4	65.1	2.0	3.5	7.8	8.5	3.9	4.5	6.5	14.3
1991	All ACT	16.5	17.3	16.0	4.8	72.0	67.4	0.0	2.1	4.0	10.9	4.0	2.9	4.0	11.9

See Notes to Tables

Table 15b Mean Age Left School and Highest Level of Educational Attainment for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Females

State/ Year	Region	Mean		Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		age left school		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual.		Diploma		Degree	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Indigenous . . .															
Australia															
1996	Cap. City	16.4	17.1	23.4	7.7	60.6	58.0	5.1	5.6	3.2	3.6	3.2	9.0	4.6	16.1
	Other Urban	16.1	16.8	28.7	12.1	61.5	58.8	3.9	6.3	2.0	4.8	2.4	7.9	1.5	10.0
	Rural	15.9	16.7	37.0	14.9	58.8	56.4	0.5	6.5	1.1	5.1	1.6	6.3	0.9	10.7
	Ex-Capital City	16.1	16.8	29.9	12.2	61.1	58.7	3.4	6.3	1.8	4.9	2.2	7.8	1.4	10.1
	All Australia	16.2	17.0	28.0	9.3	61.0	58.3	3.9	5.9	2.2	4.0	2.5	8.6	2.4	13.9
1991	Cap. City	16.1	16.8	31.1	12.8	58.8	61.7	4.3	6.5	2.3	3.6	2.0	6.4	1.6	9.0
	Ex Capital City	15.8	16.5	35.7	19.5	58.9	58.6	2.7	6.4	1.1	4.0	1.1	6.2	0.5	5.3
	All Australia	15.9	16.7	34.3	14.9	58.9	60.7	3.2	6.5	1.5	3.8	1.4	6.3	0.8	7.8
NSW															
1996	Sydney	16.5	17.1	22.8	7.3	61.7	55.5	5.2	6.3	2.7	3.8	3.9	11.0	3.6	16.2
	Other Urban	16.4	16.9	23.6	10.7	64.4	58.8	4.1	7.0	3.0	4.8	2.9	9.7	1.9	9.0
	Rural	16.2	16.7	28.4	12.3	60.8	59.6	1.5	7.3	3.1	5.5	4.6	7.7	1.5	7.6
	Ex-Sydney	16.4	16.9	23.9	10.7	64.2	58.9	4.0	7.0	3.0	4.8	3.0	9.6	1.9	9.0
	All NSW	16.4	17.0	23.5	8.6	63.4	56.8	4.4	6.6	2.9	4.2	3.3	10.5	2.4	13.4
1991	Sydney	16.1	16.9	29.1	11.7	58.3	60.4	5.9	8.4	2.9	3.9	2.2	6.6	1.6	9.0
	Ex Sydney	15.9	16.5	30.2	17.2	62.1	60.2	4.1	8.4	1.7	4.1	1.3	5.3	0.7	4.8
	All NSW	16.0	16.7	29.8	13.5	60.7	60.3	4.7	8.4	2.1	4.0	1.6	6.2	1.0	7.6
Vic.															
1996	Melbourne	16.4	17.3	19.2	5.3	61.7	61.3	6.5	4.0	2.7	3.1	2.5	9.2	7.5	17.0
	Other Urban	16.3	17.1	23.6	7.8	61.2	63.7	4.1	5.6	3.7	4.6	5.1	8.2	2.4	10.2
	Rural	17.0	17.0	0.0	9.8	100.0	59.5	0.0	7.1	0.0	5.4	0.0	8.3	0.0	9.9
	Ex-Melbourne	16.3	17.1	23.4	7.9	61.4	63.5	4.0	5.6	3.6	4.7	5.1	8.2	2.4	10.1
	All Vic.	16.4	17.3	21.3	6.0	61.5	61.9	5.2	4.4	3.2	3.5	3.8	8.9	4.9	15.1
1991	Melbourne	16.4	17.2	24.2	8.8	66.6	66.8	4.3	5.3	1.4	3.6	2.8	6.1	0.7	9.3
	Ex Melbourne	16.1	16.8	29.2	12.7	59.7	66.7	3.2	5.4	3.2	4.3	4.0	5.7	0.8	5.1
	All Vic.	16.2	17.1	26.5	9.7	63.3	66.8	3.8	5.3	2.3	3.8	3.4	6.0	0.8	8.3
Qld															
1996	Brisbane	16.4	16.8	22.1	9.8	61.0	57.9	4.4	5.0	3.3	3.3	3.4	7.5	5.8	16.6
	Other Urban	16.4	16.7	22.8	13.6	66.2	57.8	4.9	5.4	1.5	4.9	2.8	7.1	1.8	11.2
	Rural	16.1	16.5	28.2	17.9	67.4	55.6	0.6	4.5	1.2	5.1	2.5	4.8	0.0	12.0
	Ex-Brisbane	16.3	16.7	23.6	13.7	66.3	57.7	4.2	5.4	1.5	4.9	2.8	7.0	1.6	11.2
	All Qld	16.3	16.7	23.3	11.9	65.1	57.8	4.3	5.2	1.9	4.2	2.9	7.2	2.5	13.7
1991	Brisbane	15.9	16.5	36.0	19.3	55.6	56.1	2.2	4.2	2.6	2.9	1.6	8.3	2.0	9.2
	Ex Brisbane	16.2	16.3	28.6	24.5	65.3	53.3	2.9	4.9	0.9	3.6	1.7	8.1	0.6	5.6
	All Qld	16.1	16.4	30.2	21.9	63.2	54.7	2.8	4.6	1.3	3.2	1.7	8.2	0.9	7.4

Table 15b Mean Age Left School and Highest Level of Educational Attainment for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Females (continued)

State/ Year	Region	Mean		Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		age left school		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual.		Diploma		Degree	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Indigenous . . .															
SA															
1996	Adelaide	16.3	16.8	19.3	8.7	62.6	60.1	6.2	7.9	4.0	4.1	2.6	5.4	5.3	14.0
	Other Urban	16.0	16.7	29.8	11.4	56.6	61.0	7.5	8.8	2.6	4.8	1.7	4.0	1.7	9.9
	Rural	16.2	16.6	24.4	13.5	75.6	60.2	0.0	7.6	0.0	5.2	0.0	3.4	0.0	10.1
	Ex-Adelaide	16.0	16.7	29.2	11.5	58.7	60.9	6.7	8.7	2.3	4.9	1.6	4.0	1.6	9.9
	All SA	16.2	16.8	23.9	9.3	60.8	60.3	6.4	8.1	3.2	4.3	2.1	5.1	3.6	13.0
1991	Adelaide	16.3	16.6	29.1	14.1	63.9	62.3	3.1	6.5	0.0	4.0	1.6	6.0	2.4	7.1
	Ex Adelaide	15.7	16.3	43.9	19.4	50.4	60.9	3.6	5.7	1.4	3.9	0.7	6.0	0.0	4.0
	All SA	16.0	16.5	36.8	15.2	56.8	62.0	3.4	6.4	0.8	4.0	1.1	6.0	1.1	6.4
WA															
1996	Perth	16.0	16.7	35.0	11.6	52.5	55.2	3.8	6.8	2.8	4.1	3.4	8.2	2.5	14.0
	Other Urban	15.7	16.4	40.4	18.6	53.8	51.2	2.8	7.4	1.2	5.7	1.3	6.2	0.5	10.8
	Rural	15.4	16.4	48.8	20.5	48.8	44.4	0.0	6.4	1.2	4.3	1.2	6.4	0.0	18.0
	Ex-Perth	15.7	16.4	41.9	18.7	52.9	50.8	2.3	7.4	1.2	5.6	1.3	6.2	0.4	11.2
	All WA	15.8	16.6	39.7	13.7	52.8	53.9	2.8	7.0	1.7	4.6	1.9	7.6	1.1	13.2
1991	Perth	15.7	16.5	41.7	18.6	49.9	56.6	3.5	7.0	2.4	3.7	1.4	5.3	1.0	8.9
	Ex Perth	15.6	16.2	45.7	26.1	51.0	49.5	1.8	6.1	0.8	4.6	0.4	5.9	0.2	7.7
	All WA	15.6	16.4	44.5	20.4	50.6	54.9	2.4	6.8	1.3	3.9	0.7	5.4	0.4	8.6
Tas.															
1996	Hobart	16.5	16.8	21.2	13.9	63.5	57.5	3.8	4.7	7.7	3.6	1.9	4.9	1.9	15.4
	Other Urban	15.9	16.3	35.8	23.4	53.4	55.0	3.9	5.1	3.1	4.3	1.6	4.0	2.3	8.1
	Rural	16.1	16.3	41.7	21.7	25.0	55.0	0.0	7.9	8.3	3.4	0.0	2.9	25.0	9.1
	Ex-Hobart	16.0	16.3	36.3	23.3	50.9	55.0	3.6	5.3	3.6	4.3	1.4	4.0	4.3	8.1
	All Tas.	16.1	16.5	32.2	20.2	54.3	55.8	3.6	5.1	4.7	4.0	1.6	4.3	3.6	10.6
1991	Hobart	16.1	16.6	31.4	19.2	55.1	61.0	5.8	4.9	3.8	3.4	1.9	4.6	1.9	6.9
	Ex Hobart	16.0	16.2	33.2	27.3	58.0	55.3	3.6	5.4	4.0	3.5	1.2	3.9	0.0	4.5
	All Tas.	16.0	16.4	32.5	23.8	56.9	57.8	4.4	5.2	3.9	3.5	1.5	4.2	0.7	5.5
NT															
1996	Darwin	16.6	16.9	22.2	7.5	65.3	57.9	7.5	8.4	1.3	4.4	1.3	7.9	2.5	14.1
	Other Urban	15.6	16.8	39.9	10.6	56.7	55.7	1.8	8.0	0.4	5.8	0.7	8.1	0.4	11.8
	Rural	15.7	16.8	42.3	12.9	56.3	46.8	0.5	4.3	0.0	6.5	0.5	11.5	0.5	18.0
	Ex-Darwin	15.7	16.8	40.7	10.7	56.6	55.2	1.4	7.8	0.3	5.8	0.6	8.3	0.5	12.1
	All NT	15.8	16.9	38.7	9.1	57.5	56.5	2.0	8.1	0.4	5.1	0.7	8.1	0.7	13.1
1991	Darwin	16.3	16.6	22.4	14.5	69.4	60.8	4.7	5.9	0.9	4.6	2.6	6.7	0.0	7.6
	Ex Darwin	15.3	16.6	45.1	16.1	53.6	53.7	0.8	8.0	0.0	5.1	0.2	9.1	0.3	7.9
	All NT	15.5	16.6	41.5	15.2	56.1	57.7	1.5	6.8	0.1	4.8	0.6	7.7	0.3	7.7
ACT															
1996	All ACT	16.8	17.3	15.0	4.6	63.1	58.2	3.8	6.6	5.6	3.8	1.9	8.3	10.6	18.5
1991	All ACT	16.6	17.2	19.3	6.3	59.0	66.3	7.2	6.9	7.2	2.9	0.0	4.8	7.2	12.9

See Notes to Tables

Table 15c Mean Age Left School and Highest Level of Educational Attainment for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Persons

State/ Year	Region	Mean		Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		age left school		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual.		Diploma		Degree	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Indigenous . . .															
Australia															
1996	Cap. City	16.3	17.0	23.8	7.7	59.6	59.0	3.8	4.1	6.6	8.6	2.6	7.2	3.6	13.4
	Other Urban	16.1	16.7	30.1	12.0	59.1	57.2	3.0	4.5	5.0	12.7	1.6	5.8	1.2	7.8
	Rural	15.8	16.6	38.6	15.5	57.1	54.5	0.5	4.5	2.3	13.4	0.9	4.4	0.6	7.7
	Ex-Capital City	16.0	16.7	31.4	12.1	58.8	57.1	2.6	4.5	4.6	12.7	1.5	5.8	1.1	7.8
	All Australia	16.1	16.9	29.2	9.3	59.1	58.3	2.9	4.2	5.2	10.1	1.8	6.7	1.8	11.3
1991	Cap. City	16.0	16.8	31.8	12.0	56.3	60.6	3.2	4.3	6.4	10.2	1.3	4.6	1.1	8.2
	Ex Capital City	15.8	16.4	37.9	18.4	55.5	55.6	2.0	4.4	3.5	12.9	0.8	4.3	0.3	4.5
	All Australia	15.8	16.7	36.1	14.1	55.8	59.0	2.3	4.4	4.4	11.1	1.0	4.5	0.5	7.0
NSW															
1996	Sydney	16.4	17.1	22.1	7.1	61.1	56.8	3.7	4.4	7.2	9.6	2.8	8.6	3.1	13.5
	Other Urban	16.3	16.8	23.7	10.1	63.1	57.8	3.2	4.9	6.4	13.2	1.9	6.9	1.7	7.1
	Rural	16.0	16.7	31.5	12.4	61.1	57.0	1.5	4.7	3.0	15.0	2.2	5.2	0.7	5.7
	Ex-Sydney	16.3	16.8	24.3	10.2	62.9	57.8	3.0	4.9	6.1	13.3	2.0	6.8	1.7	7.0
	All NSW	16.4	17.0	23.6	8.3	62.3	57.2	3.3	4.6	6.5	11.0	2.2	7.9	2.1	10.9
1991	Sydney	16.0	16.9	29.0	10.7	57.2	60.1	4.2	5.4	7.0	11.0	1.5	4.9	1.1	7.9
	Ex Sydney	15.9	16.5	30.3	15.5	60.4	57.9	2.8	5.4	5.2	13.5	0.9	3.8	0.4	4.0
	All NSW	16.0	16.7	29.8	12.3	59.3	59.4	3.3	5.4	5.9	11.8	1.1	4.5	0.6	6.6
Vic.															
1996	Melbourne	16.5	17.3	19.0	5.6	59.8	62.1	4.3	3.0	8.3	7.8	3.4	7.5	5.2	14.0
	Other Urban	16.3	17.0	25.3	8.3	56.5	61.5	3.8	3.9	9.1	12.4	4.0	6.1	1.3	7.7
	Rural	16.7	16.9	0.0	10.6	100.0	58.5	0.0	4.4	0.0	13.5	0.0	5.6	0.0	7.4
	Ex-Melbourne	16.3	17.0	25.1	8.4	56.9	61.4	3.8	3.9	9.0	12.5	4.0	6.1	1.3	7.7
	All Vic.	16.4	17.2	22.1	6.4	58.3	61.9	4.0	3.3	8.6	9.1	3.7	7.1	3.2	12.3
1991	Melbourne	16.4	17.1	23.4	8.7	63.8	64.4	3.0	3.6	6.8	10.5	1.9	4.3	1.1	8.5
	Ex Melbourne	15.9	16.7	33.5	12.6	54.8	61.3	2.1	3.7	7.0	14.4	2.1	3.8	0.4	4.3
	All Vic.	16.2	17.0	28.2	9.6	59.6	63.7	2.6	3.6	6.9	11.4	2.0	4.2	0.8	7.5
Qld															
1996	Brisbane	16.3	16.8	23.3	9.8	59.4	58.3	3.5	3.8	6.4	8.2	2.9	6.0	4.4	14.0
	Other Urban	16.3	16.6	25.1	14.0	62.9	56.0	3.5	4.0	5.3	11.7	2.0	5.6	1.2	8.7
	Rural	16.0	16.4	31.2	19.9	65.1	51.9	0.3	3.4	1.8	12.0	1.2	3.9	0.3	8.8
	Ex-Brisbane	16.2	16.6	26.1	14.2	63.2	55.9	3.0	4.0	4.8	11.7	1.8	5.5	1.1	8.7
	All Qld	16.2	16.7	25.4	12.2	62.3	57.0	3.1	3.9	5.2	10.1	2.1	5.7	1.9	11.1
1991	Brisbane	15.9	16.5	35.3	17.9	52.3	55.8	2.2	3.2	7.4	8.6	1.5	5.9	1.3	8.7
	Ex Brisbane	16.0	16.3	32.5	23.1	60.4	51.6	2.2	3.7	3.1	11.2	1.5	5.5	0.4	4.9
	All Qld	16.0	16.4	33.1	20.5	58.7	53.7	2.2	3.5	4.0	9.9	1.5	5.7	0.5	6.8

Table 15c Mean Age Left School and Highest Level of Educational Attainment for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Persons (continued)

State/ Year	Region	Mean		Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		age left school		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual.		Diploma		Degree	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Indigenous . . .															
SA															
1996	Adelaide	16.3	16.8	24.2	8.9	61.6	60.7	4.7	5.7	4.2	8.9	2.1	4.6	3.2	11.4
	Other Urban	16.0	16.6	32.7	11.9	55.7	59.0	6.6	6.3	2.9	12.1	0.8	3.1	1.3	7.5
	Rural	16.3	16.5	20.0	13.8	72.5	58.5	0.0	5.8	7.5	13.1	0.0	2.6	0.0	6.3
	Ex-Adelaide	16.0	16.6	31.4	12.1	57.4	59.0	5.9	6.3	3.4	12.2	0.8	3.0	1.1	7.4
	All SA	16.1	16.8	27.7	9.6	59.6	60.3	5.3	5.8	3.8	9.7	1.5	4.2	2.2	10.4
1991	Adelaide	16.1	16.6	33.1	13.7	58.9	60.7	2.6	4.5	3.2	10.3	0.9	4.2	1.3	6.6
	Ex Adelaide	15.5	16.3	44.8	20.2	48.1	56.5	3.0	4.3	3.7	11.7	0.4	3.6	0.0	3.7
	All SA	15.8	16.5	39.4	15.1	53.1	59.8	2.8	4.5	3.5	10.6	0.6	4.1	0.6	6.0
WA															
1996	Perth	16.0	16.7	35.6	11.7	51.8	55.8	3.2	4.7	4.9	9.0	2.2	6.7	2.2	12.1
	Other Urban	15.7	16.4	43.5	18.0	50.6	49.4	1.6	5.1	2.7	14.6	1.2	4.5	0.4	8.4
	Rural	15.5	16.2	49.9	21.9	44.1	43.4	0.0	5.0	4.9	13.0	1.1	4.0	0.0	12.7
	Ex-Perth	15.6	16.3	44.7	18.2	49.4	49.1	1.3	5.1	3.1	14.5	1.1	4.5	0.3	8.7
	All WA	15.7	16.6	42.0	13.6	50.1	53.8	1.9	4.8	3.7	10.7	1.5	6.0	0.9	11.1
1991	Perth	15.6	16.5	45.2	17.9	45.2	55.3	2.4	4.6	5.9	10.1	0.8	3.9	0.5	8.2
	Ex Perth	15.5	16.1	50.5	25.1	45.8	46.5	1.2	4.3	2.2	14.1	0.2	3.8	0.1	6.1
	All WA	15.5	16.4	48.9	19.7	45.7	53.2	1.5	4.6	3.3	11.1	0.4	3.9	0.2	7.7
Tas.															
1996	Hobart	16.4	16.8	18.8	12.4	61.4	59.4	3.1	3.8	13.7	7.9	1.0	3.7	2.0	12.7
	Other Urban	16.0	16.3	31.7	20.0	53.0	54.1	3.2	3.9	9.6	12.3	0.8	3.3	1.6	6.4
	Rural	16.0	16.3	28.0	19.5	37.3	55.7	4.0	5.2	18.7	11.1	0.0	2.1	12.0	6.4
	Ex-Hobart	16.0	16.3	31.4	20.0	51.6	54.2	3.3	4.0	10.5	12.2	0.7	3.2	2.6	6.4
	All Tas.	16.1	16.5	28.1	17.5	54.2	56.0	3.2	3.9	11.3	10.8	0.8	3.4	2.4	8.5
1991	Hobart	16.1	16.6	24.7	16.2	59.4	60.7	5.2	3.6	8.7	9.6	1.0	3.3	1.0	6.6
	Ex Hobart	15.9	16.2	27.8	23.6	55.8	53.2	2.9	3.9	12.4	12.7	0.6	2.9	0.6	3.7
	All Tas.	16.0	16.4	26.7	20.4	57.1	56.5	3.7	3.7	11.0	11.4	0.7	3.1	0.7	4.9
NT															
1996	Darwin	16.5	16.9	20.0	8.2	65.1	57.6	6.0	5.8	5.8	10.7	1.2	6.1	1.8	11.6
	Other Urban	15.6	16.7	40.6	11.9	55.2	51.5	1.5	5.7	1.8	15.6	0.4	6.3	0.4	9.0
	Rural	15.6	16.7	44.0	12.4	55.0	51.7	0.2	4.0	0.0	13.4	0.2	6.7	0.5	11.7
	Ex-Darwin	15.6	16.7	41.7	12.0	55.1	51.5	1.1	5.6	1.2	15.5	0.4	6.3	0.5	9.2
	All NT	15.7	16.8	39.3	10.1	56.2	54.5	1.7	5.7	1.7	13.2	0.5	6.2	0.6	10.3
1991	Darwin	16.3	16.6	23.7	13.2	67.2	57.8	2.8	4.5	4.7	13.2	1.6	5.0	0.0	6.4
	Ex Darwin	15.3	16.5	46.3	16.3	51.5	49.6	0.9	5.7	1.0	14.9	0.1	6.8	0.2	6.7
	All NT	15.5	16.6	43.1	14.5	53.8	54.1	1.2	5.0	1.5	13.9	0.3	5.8	0.2	6.6
ACT															
1996	All ACT	16.8	17.3	14.7	4.4	64.2	61.6	2.9	5.1	6.7	6.1	2.9	6.4	8.6	16.4
1991	All ACT	16.6	17.3	17.7	5.5	65.2	66.8	3.8	4.6	5.7	6.8	1.9	3.8	5.7	12.4

See Notes to Tables

Non-Indigenous males (8.8%) are about 7 times as likely as Indigenous males (1.2%) to obtain a degree. The difference is smaller in capital cities and larger in rural areas. The inequality is less in New South Wales (a little less than 5 times) and Tasmania (about 6 times) and greater in South Australia (about 11 times), Western Australia (nearly 13 times) and the Northern Territory (about 15 times).

Even within capital cities, there are substantial differences. Nation-wide 20 to 24 year-old non-Indigenous males are 4.5 times as likely to obtain a degree as Indigenous males. This difference is less in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, about the same in Hobart, a little larger in Perth and greater in Adelaide and Darwin.

The extent of inequality in obtaining a degree -- just for those living in a capital city -- are of the same order for females. Nationally non-Indigenous females are about 3.5 times more likely to obtain a degree than Indigenous females. This varies from 2.3 times in Melbourne, 2.6 time in Adelaide, 2.9 times in Brisbane, 4.6 times in Sydney, 5.6 times in Darwin and Perth, and 8.1 times in Hobart.

The apparently equitable participation of Indigenous youth in the VET sector does not translate into equitable qualifications. Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds are less likely to have a Basic Vocational Qualification (2.9% compared with 4.2%) or a Skilled Vocational Qualification (5.2% compared with 10.1%).

The outcomes for Indigenous Australians for Skilled Vocational Qualifications, however, suggest a very good completion rate. Table 8 shows that Indigenous young people were about a third as likely to have enrolled in a Trade Certificate (4.0% compared with 11.8%) and just over half as likely to have enrolled in a Certificate III (5.8% compared with 9.4%) -- assuming broadly similar overall participation rates in VET (as suggested by results in Table 5).

If the participation rates in Tables 5 and 8 (for 15 to 19 year-olds) are similar to the participation rates when this cohort of 20 to 24 year-olds was younger, we might expect Indigenous Australians to be a little less than half as likely to have obtained a Skilled Vocational Qualification as non-Indigenous Australians -- if they had the same completion rate. In fact, however, the attainment rate for Skilled Vocational Qualifications for Indigenous Australians is a little more than half the rate of non-Indigenous Australians. These very rough calculations, which involve a number of assumptions, suggest completion rates for Indigenous apprentices and trainees broadly similar to those for non-Indigenous apprentices and trainees.

Changes between 1991 and 1996

Absolute changes The educational attainments of 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous Australians improved between 1991 and 1996. The percentage of Indigenous Australians who left school at age 15 or younger has declined from 36.1% to 29.2% and the percentage with a post-secondary qualification has increased from 8.1% to 11.7%. Each category of post-school qualification has shown some increase, but the greatest proportional increase was for degrees. From a low base in 1991 of only one 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous Australian in every 200 having a degree, by 1996 this had more than tripled to a little over 3 in every 200. While estimates of change based on such relatively small proportions are inherently unstable, they are

nevertheless consistent with the view that there was some growth in the educational attainments of Indigenous Australians between 1991 and 1996.

The improvement was experienced by both males and females -- though the rate of growth for males with degrees was higher, but from a much lower initial level in 1991. Given the small values involved it is possibly unwise to attribute too much importance to the relative rates of growth of the various qualifications for males and females and regions except to note that there had been an increase in the level of post-school qualifications for both males and females in both capital cities and outside capital cities. There was also a proportional shift within the qualifications away from basic vocational qualifications towards higher-end qualifications.

Relative changes From 1991 to 1996 the percentage of Indigenous Australians aged 20 to 24 with post-school qualifications increased from 8.1% to 11.7%. In this same period the percentage of non-Indigenous Australians aged 20 to 24 with post-school qualifications increased from 26.9% to 32.4%. In 1991 non-Indigenous Australians were 3.3 times more likely to have a post-school qualification than Indigenous Australians. In 1996 this difference had declined to 2.8 times. There had been an improvement in equity -- the educational attainments of Indigenous Australians had moved towards those of non-Indigenous Australians. Equity also improved slightly more for Indigenous Australians outside capital cities and more for degrees than for other outcomes. Similarly, the improvement was greater for females than for males.

At the lower end of the attainment distribution, however, the percentage of Indigenous Australians who left school at age 15 or earlier declined from 36.1% in 1991 to 29.2% in 1996 while the percentage of non-Indigenous Australians who left school at age 15 or earlier declined from 14.1% in 1991 to 9.3% in 1996. The rate of decline was greater for non-Indigenous Australians. In 1991 Indigenous Australians were two and a half times as likely as non-Indigenous Australians to be in this category. In 1996 they were three times as likely. The relative position of Indigenous Australians declined in terms of the lowest educational attainment.

This apparently contradictory result -- a relative improvement for post-school attainments together with a relative worsening for the lowest level of attainment -- is not explained by any change in the middle category (school to age 16 or beyond and no post-school qualification). There is little relative change in this category. Instead, this is the consequence of the initial educational distributions of educational attainments in 1991 -- a constant absolute shift away from the bottom category to post-school qualifications for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups produces a greater proportionate increase for post-school attainments for Indigenous Australians but a smaller proportionate decline in the bottom category.

Interpretation of any change is equivocal -- there is improvement for Indigenous Australians in one sense but decline in another. We can note that the educational attainments of Indigenous Australians were markedly lower than for non-Indigenous Australians in 1991 and that a similar absolute improvement in that profile for both groups should improve the overall relative level of educational attainment for Indigenous Australians. Coupled with the relative improvement

noted earlier in the mean age at which Indigenous Australians left school, the interpretation is encouraging. There is some evidence in favour of an improvement in the relative educational attainments of Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds.

Overall Table 15 indicates some improvement in post-school educational attainments for Indigenous Australians both absolutely and relative to the non-Indigenous population. The results are for young people who would have been in senior secondary school in the early 1990s. Previous discussion suggests that the school and tertiary participation of Indigenous Australians aged 15 to 19 years in 1996 has increased only marginally while the relative rate is almost unchanged. There may not be a platform of improved educational participation among 15 to 19 year-old Indigenous Australians to sustain any improvement in educational attainment over the coming years.

LABOUR MARKET PARTICIPATION

This section considers the labour market outcomes of young Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The values presented in Table 16 provide the basis for much of the discussion. Several aspects of this table require explanation. First, employment levels are presented separately for the labour force and for the population. It is more usual to present employment levels as a percentage of the labour force. There are occasions, however, where population ratios are used, particularly when examining the employment or unemployment of young people, many of whom may be at school. In this instance it seemed useful to present both because of the lower levels of labour market participation of Indigenous Australians. Second, Table 16 shows participation in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP). CDEP is a scheme which employs Indigenous Australians on designated projects designed to improve the infrastructure of their community. Although the scheme has been in operation for many years, 1996 was the first year in which questions were asked about CDEP, and even then, coverage was far from complete. CDEP is included as employment in Table 16 which is the usual way in which it is treated. Third, the values shown in Table 16 as *Any employment* under the heading *% of the Labour Force* can be considered as the complement of unemployment rates. The decision to present employment rates rather than unemployment rates was motivated by a desire to avoid confusion by including a series which has to be interpreted negatively (low values are *good* outcomes) in the midst of other measures interpreted positively. Fourth, the table deals with 20 to 24 year-olds rather than younger persons in order to reduce the confounding effects of study. Again, however, this means that we are dealing with the outcomes of schooling and initial education undertaken in the early 1990s.

Employment levels are subject to the business cycle. This means that direct comparisons of levels of labour market participation and employment for Indigenous people in 1996 with levels in 1991 may not be useful if the years represent different levels of overall economic activity. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on *relative* rates of employment between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups. Even so, it is difficult to interpret any changes as trends.

The discussion of Table 16 begins by examining the variation in employment outcomes within the Indigenous community between males and females and across States and regions. Comparisons are made with values from the 1991 Census principally in order to examine any labour market changes in the context of those for the non-Indigenous population.

Participation in the Labour Force

Participants in the labour force are individuals who either have a job or are looking for work.

Indigenous Comparisons

About three-quarters (75.1%) of male Indigenous Australians participate in the labour market compared with only about half (50.1%) of female Indigenous Australians. For both males and females, labour market participation is substantially higher in capital cities (78.9% and 57.7% respectively) than in other urban areas (74.7% and 48.0% respectively), and in other urban areas than in rural areas (68.0% and 40.4% respectively).

For 20 to 24 year-old male Indigenous Australians, participation rates are higher in Tasmania (85.3%), Victoria (84.1%) and New South Wales (80.3%) and much lower in Western Australia (70.7%) and the Northern Territory (55.4%). Such differences in part reflect the degree of urbanisation of the Indigenous population, but are also apparent for capital cities. Labour market participation is higher in Hobart, Melbourne and Sydney and lower in Adelaide and Perth.

Participation rates for 20 to 24 year-old female Indigenous Australians are higher in Tasmania (66.3%) and Victoria (59.8%) and lower in Western Australia (44.7%) and the Northern Territory (39.8%). As for males, in the capital cities labour market participation is higher in Hobart, Melbourne and Sydney and lower in Adelaide and Perth.

Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Comparisons

Indigenous Australians aged between 20 and 24 years have lower levels of labour market participation than non-Indigenous Australians and the difference is greater for females than for males. For males the difference is about ten percentage points (75.1% of Indigenous Australians compared with 85.8% for other Australians) but for females the difference is more than 25 percentage points (50.1% of Indigenous Australians compared with 76.9% for other Australians). This may in part be associated with the higher birth rates for Indigenous Australians.

For both males and females differences are least in the capital cities and greatest in rural areas. For males in Melbourne and Hobart, for instance, participation rates are slightly higher for Indigenous males, while in Sydney and Brisbane the differences are modest (less than five percentage points). In Adelaide, Perth and Darwin, however, the difference between the labour market participation rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is greater than ten percentage points. The differences for females are relatively high in all the capital cities except Hobart, and are greater than 30 percentage points in Perth.

Changes between 1991 and 1996.

Absolute changes Between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses the level of labour market participation declined marginally for Indigenous males aged 20 to 24 years overall (from 76.4% to 75.1%), in the capital cities (79.4% to 78.9%), and in the non-metropolitan areas (75.2% to 73.6%). The corresponding values for females,

however, increased from 48.2% to 50.1% overall and in both capital cities (57.1% to 57.7%) and in non-metropolitan areas (44.4% to 46.9%).

The change for males was not the same in all States. In South Australia, for instance, participation increased by some six percentage points (more strongly outside Adelaide) and in the Northern Territory by three. Participation was unchanged in New South Wales, but declined in non-metropolitan Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania. For females, increases were strongest in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart and Darwin.

Table 16 Employment, unemployment and labour force participation of 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: by State and Region, 1991 and 1996 - Males

State/		% of Labour Force								% of Population					
Year	Region	CDEP		Employed full-time		Employed part-time		Any employment		Employed full-time		Any employment		In the labour force	
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Australia															
1996	Cap. City	0.5	0.0	51.3	62.5	13.9	19.2	70.1	86.0	40.5	52.3	55.3	71.9	78.9	83.7
	Other Urban	13.8	0.0	39.4	65.4	22.2	13.6	67.5	83.3	29.4	58.2	50.4	74.2	74.7	89.0
	Rural	45.7	0.0	28.9	65.7	45.5	12.7	81.7	83.4	19.6	60.2	55.5	76.4	68.0	91.6
	Ex-Capital City	18.4	0.0	37.9	65.4	25.6	13.6	69.6	83.3	27.9	58.3	51.2	74.3	73.6	89.2
	All Australia	13.1	0.0	41.9	63.7	22.1	17.0	69.8	84.9	31.4	54.6	52.4	72.8	75.1	85.8
1991	Cap. City	---	---	44.0	61.8	7.9	13.3	56.8	81.5	35.0	53.6	45.1	70.7	79.4	86.8
	Ex Capital City	---	---	34.0	64.6	19.9	9.1	60.3	80.1	25.6	58.7	45.4	72.8	75.2	90.9
	All Australia	---	---	37.0	62.7	16.3	11.9	59.3	81.0	28.3	55.2	45.3	71.4	76.4	88.1
NSW															
1996	Sydney	0.0	0.0	58.6	66.6	12.2	17.7	73.8	89.0	48.4	56.1	60.9	75.0	82.6	84.3
	Other Urban	2.2	0.0	39.6	62.8	13.7	14.7	58.0	81.9	31.5	55.1	46.2	71.8	79.7	87.7
	Rural	5.8	0.0	30.3	64.8	25.8	12.1	63.9	82.1	22.5	59.9	47.4	75.9	74.2	92.5
	Ex-Sydney	2.4	0.0	38.9	62.9	14.6	14.6	58.4	81.9	30.8	55.2	46.3	71.9	79.2	87.8
	All NSW	1.6	0.0	45.4	65.1	13.8	16.4	63.5	86.0	36.4	55.8	51.0	73.7	80.3	85.7
1991	Sydney	---	---	50.8	65.1	8.5	12.5	65.8	84.3	41.6	56.7	53.8	73.4	81.8	87.1
	Ex Sydney	---	---	28.9	63.6	11.1	9.3	45.0	79.2	22.9	57.0	35.7	71.0	79.4	89.7
	All NSW	---	---	36.7	64.6	10.2	11.4	52.3	82.6	29.4	56.8	42.0	72.6	80.3	88.0
Vic.															
1996	Melbourne	0.0	0.0	58.8	60.8	11.9	20.0	75.7	84.9	49.1	50.1	63.1	70.0	83.4	82.4
	Other Urban	1.7	0.0	41.9	65.3	16.5	14.0	65.8	83.5	35.4	57.8	55.7	74.0	84.6	88.6
	Rural	0.0	0.0	0.0	64.8	100.0	12.6	100.0	81.6	0.0	58.7	100.0	74.0	100.0	90.7
	Ex-Melbourne	1.6	0.0	41.2	65.3	17.9	14.0	66.4	83.4	34.9	57.9	56.3	74.0	84.8	88.7
	All Vic.	0.8	0.0	49.9	62.2	14.9	18.2	71.0	84.5	42.0	52.4	59.7	71.2	84.1	84.2
1991	Melbourne	---	---	50.9	59.7	7.1	13.8	65.7	79.9	42.9	51.6	55.4	69.0	84.3	86.3
	Ex Melbourne	---	---	34.3	61.8	13.6	9.7	55.7	77.7	29.6	56.1	48.0	70.5	86.3	90.8
	All Vic.	---	---	43.0	60.2	10.2	12.8	60.9	79.4	36.6	52.6	51.9	69.4	85.2	87.4
Qld															
1996	Brisbane	0.0	0.0	47.1	62.3	14.4	18.9	67.2	85.3	38.4	53.5	54.8	73.2	81.4	85.8
	Other Urban	11.5	0.0	44.7	66.0	18.4	13.4	68.0	83.6	34.7	59.4	52.8	75.2	77.6	89.9
	Rural	56.5	0.0	32.5	64.8	47.1	12.6	86.8	82.8	27.6	58.3	73.8	74.5	85.1	90.0
	Ex-Brisbane	19.1	0.0	42.6	66.0	23.3	13.4	71.2	83.6	33.6	59.3	56.1	75.2	78.8	89.9
	All Qld	14.7	0.0	43.6	64.4	21.2	15.8	70.3	84.3	34.6	56.7	55.8	74.3	79.4	88.0
1991	Brisbane	---	---	38.9	63.6	8.1	13.1	52.2	82.9	31.7	56.1	42.5	73.1	81.5	88.2
	Ex Brisbane	---	---	38.7	67.1	21.7	8.7	67.3	82.4	33.0	61.0	57.5	75.0	85.4	91.0
	All Qld	---	---	38.7	65.4	19.0	10.8	64.3	82.6	32.7	58.6	54.4	74.1	84.6	89.6

Table 16 Employment, unemployment and labour force participation of 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: by State and Region, 1991 and 1996 - Males (Continued)

State/ Year	Region	% of Labour Force								% of Population					
		CDEP		Employed full-time		Employed part-time		Any employment		Employed full-time		Any employment		In the labour force	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Indigenous . . .															
SA															
1996	Adelaide	1.0	0.0	36.3	58.1	20.1	19.5	60.6	81.2	26.3	48.8	43.9	68.2	72.4	84.0
	Other Urban	22.0	0.0	31.0	66.7	26.5	13.4	67.9	84.2	24.9	60.8	54.5	76.7	80.2	91.1
	Rural	30.0	0.0	60.0	63.8	10.0	13.9	80.0	82.5	46.2	59.3	61.5	76.7	76.9	93.0
	Ex-Adelaide	22.7	0.0	33.8	66.5	24.9	13.4	69.1	84.0	27.0	60.7	55.2	76.7	79.8	91.2
	All SA	12.4	0.0	35.0	60.3	22.6	17.9	65.0	81.9	26.6	51.7	49.5	70.3	76.1	85.8
1991	Adelaide	---	---	38.7	60.0	6.7	13.6	48.0	79.8	27.2	52.6	33.8	69.9	70.3	87.6
	Ex Adelaide	---	---	27.0	63.6	21.7	9.3	61.0	79.5	18.9	59.2	42.7	74.0	69.9	93.1
	All SA	---	---	32.0	60.8	15.2	12.6	55.4	79.7	22.4	54.1	38.9	70.8	70.1	88.9
WA															
1996	Perth	0.7	0.0	44.9	61.1	14.1	20.0	67.2	85.5	31.3	50.5	46.8	70.6	69.6	82.6
	Other Urban	28.9	0.0	30.6	72.6	38.8	10.0	77.4	87.6	21.5	66.8	54.3	80.6	70.2	92.0
	Rural	49.5	0.0	27.1	73.7	51.9	11.4	85.2	89.7	20.5	69.3	64.4	84.4	75.5	94.1
	Ex-Perth	33.1	0.0	29.9	72.7	41.5	10.1	79.0	87.7	21.3	67.0	56.3	80.8	71.2	92.1
	All WA	23.9	0.0	34.2	65.1	33.7	16.6	75.7	86.2	24.2	55.7	53.5	73.8	70.7	85.6
1991	Perth	---	---	30.2	56.1	7.4	13.5	40.3	76.2	22.2	47.7	29.7	64.8	73.7	85.0
	Ex Perth	---	---	32.1	68.4	21.9	8.1	59.8	83.2	24.1	64.7	44.8	78.7	75.0	94.6
	All WA	---	---	31.6	59.5	17.6	12.1	54.1	78.1	23.5	52.0	40.4	68.3	74.6	87.4
Tas.															
1996	Hobart	0.0	0.0	60.7	55.9	17.9	21.4	78.6	80.6	50.7	44.4	65.7	64.0	83.6	79.5
	Other Urban	0.0	0.0	53.6	62.2	12.6	13.7	71.2	80.7	45.3	54.4	60.1	70.6	84.4	87.5
	Rural	0.0	0.0	66.7	60.4	7.7	16.6	74.4	82.9	66.7	54.5	74.4	74.8	100.0	90.1
	Ex-Hobart	0.0	0.0	55.1	62.1	12.0	13.9	71.6	80.9	47.4	54.4	61.5	70.9	85.9	87.7
	All Tas.	0.0	0.0	56.5	60.1	13.5	16.3	73.3	80.8	48.2	51.1	62.5	68.6	85.3	84.9
1991	Hobart	---	---	50.8	58.0	0.0	14.0	53.3	77.4	44.9	49.2	47.1	65.6	88.4	84.8
	Ex Hobart	---	---	54.7	61.4	7.8	8.7	69.0	76.7	49.0	55.5	61.8	69.5	89.6	90.5
	All Tas.	---	---	53.4	60.0	5.3	10.9	63.9	77.0	47.7	52.8	57.0	67.8	89.2	88.1
NT															
1996	Darwin	4.8	0.0	46.0	67.3	11.6	15.2	66.1	88.1	34.7	59.4	49.8	77.8	75.3	88.3
	Other Urban	41.0	0.0	30.7	79.3	40.4	8.0	78.9	92.1	17.3	73.7	44.5	85.6	56.4	93.0
	Rural	59.2	0.0	14.9	81.3	58.0	12.5	82.4	97.9	6.6	76.5	36.5	92.2	44.3	94.1
	Ex-Darwin	45.6	0.0	26.7	79.4	44.8	8.2	79.8	92.4	14.1	73.9	42.1	86.0	52.8	93.0
	All NT	39.2	0.0	29.7	73.8	39.6	11.5	77.6	90.4	16.5	67.0	43.0	82.1	55.4	90.8
1991	Darwin	---	---	38.9	62.3	14.6	11.6	53.5	81.1	28.5	55.0	39.1	71.6	73.1	88.2
	Ex Darwin	---	---	30.3	73.3	36.3	8.0	72.3	88.3	14.9	66.5	35.7	80.1	49.3	90.7
	All NT	---	---	31.9	67.3	32.3	10.0	68.8	84.4	16.7	60.1	36.1	75.4	52.5	89.3
ACT															
1996	All ACT	0.0	0.0	49.1	57.4	16.4	23.5	70.7	85.7	38.0	47.8	54.7	71.3	77.3	83.2
1991	All ACT	---	---	67.2	64.6	4.5	16.2	76.1	87.5	57.7	55.3	65.4	74.8	85.9	85.5

See Notes to Tables

Table 16 Employment, unemployment and labour force participation of 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: by State and Region, 1991 and 1996 - Females

State/		% of Labour Force						% of Population							
Year	Region	CDEP		Employed full-time		Employed part-time		Any employment		Employed full-time		Any employment		In the labour force	
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Australia															
1996	Cap. City	0.0	0.0	48.6	56.1	21.9	29.2	76.3	89.3	28.1	43.7	44.1	69.5	57.7	77.8
	Other Urban	13.2	0.0	35.8	53.0	32.4	28.8	73.9	85.9	17.2	39.9	35.5	64.7	48.0	75.3
	Rural	44.8	0.0	27.0	52.2	52.1	29.8	84.6	86.3	10.9	38.1	34.2	63.1	40.4	73.1
	Ex-Capital City	17.3	0.0	34.7	53.0	34.9	28.8	75.3	85.9	16.3	39.8	35.3	64.7	46.9	75.2
	All Australia	11.4	0.0	39.4	55.0	30.5	29.1	75.7	88.1	19.8	42.3	37.9	67.8	50.1	76.9
1991	Cap. City	---	---	46.3	58.5	14.5	21.3	68.2	86.0	26.5	46.3	39.0	68.1	57.1	79.2
	Ex Capital City	---	---	30.0	54.8	25.6	21.6	62.9	82.8	13.3	41.0	27.9	61.9	44.4	74.9
	All Australia	---	---	35.9	57.4	21.6	21.4	64.8	85.1	17.3	44.7	31.3	66.2	48.2	77.9
NSW															
1996	Sydney	0.0	0.0	52.2	61.9	21.3	25.6	78.9	91.6	32.7	48.5	49.5	71.8	62.7	78.3
	Other Urban	2.7	0.0	35.8	51.2	26.0	29.6	66.9	85.0	17.3	37.8	32.3	62.7	48.2	73.8
	Rural	3.7	0.0	30.9	50.6	29.6	28.5	64.2	83.7	13.1	36.8	27.2	60.9	42.4	72.8
	Ex-Sydney	2.8	0.0	35.5	51.2	26.2	29.6	66.7	84.9	17.0	37.8	31.9	62.6	47.8	73.8
	All NSW	1.7	0.0	42.0	57.9	24.3	27.1	71.5	89.2	22.2	44.4	37.7	68.3	52.7	76.6
1991	Sydney	---	---	38.1	59.2	15.9	20.4	60.0	86.0	20.0	45.9	31.5	66.7	52.5	77.5
	Ex Sydney	---	---	52.8	61.7	15.7	19.7	75.1	87.9	31.6	49.0	44.9	69.8	59.8	79.4
	All NSW	---	---	27.8	53.6	15.9	22.0	49.4	81.7	13.5	39.4	23.9	60.1	48.4	73.6
Vic.															
1996	Melbourne	0.0	0.0	50.5	53.7	21.8	30.3	80.1	87.9	32.9	42.1	52.2	68.8	65.2	78.3
	Other Urban	0.0	0.0	41.1	52.6	27.2	28.8	74.0	85.4	22.6	40.0	40.7	64.9	55.0	76.0
	Rural	---	0.0	---	48.5	---	32.1	---	85.6	0.0	36.8	0.0	64.9	0.0	75.8
	Ex-Melbourne	0.0	0.0	41.1	52.4	27.2	28.9	74.0	85.4	22.5	39.8	40.4	64.9	54.6	76.0
	All Vic.	0.0	0.0	46.2	53.4	24.3	30.0	77.3	87.2	27.6	41.4	46.2	67.7	59.8	77.7
1991	Melbourne	---	---	48.1	56.5	12.8	21.1	70.2	83.8	29.0	44.9	42.3	66.6	60.4	79.5
	Ex Melbourne	---	---	51.4	56.8	13.8	21.4	75.5	84.4	32.9	45.7	48.3	67.8	64.0	80.4
	All Vic.	---	---	43.8	55.4	11.5	20.1	63.3	81.7	24.6	42.3	35.6	62.3	56.2	76.3
Qld															
1996	Brisbane	0.0	0.0	48.8	55.6	19.3	29.2	72.0	88.6	27.4	43.4	40.4	69.2	56.1	78.1
	Other Urban	10.0	0.0	38.6	54.3	29.6	28.0	72.2	86.4	18.9	41.7	35.5	66.3	49.1	76.7
	Rural	50.5	0.0	31.1	53.9	53.8	28.8	84.9	87.1	14.2	38.0	38.6	61.5	45.5	70.6
	Ex-Brisbane	15.5	0.0	37.5	54.3	32.9	28.0	73.9	86.5	18.3	41.5	35.9	66.1	48.6	76.5
	All Qld	11.5	0.0	40.5	54.9	29.4	28.6	73.4	87.5	20.4	42.4	37.0	67.6	50.4	77.2
1991	Brisbane	---	---	36.6	58.1	22.6	21.4	65.6	85.6	17.9	44.7	32.1	65.9	48.9	77.0
	Ex Brisbane	---	---	42.2	60.0	13.7	21.1	61.8	86.8	25.3	46.9	37.0	67.9	59.9	78.2
	All Qld	---	---	34.7	56.2	25.8	21.7	67.0	84.2	15.9	42.5	30.8	63.7	46.0	75.6

Table 16 Employment, unemployment and labour force participation of 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: by State and Region, 1991 and 1996 - Females (Continued)

State/ Year	Region	% of Labour Force						% of Population							
		CDEP		Employed full-time		Employed part-time		Any employment		Employed full-time		Any employment		In the labour force	
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
SA															
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	0.0	0.0	34.8	49.0	27.0	34.0	68.7	86.9	17.6	37.6	34.7	66.8	50.5	76.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	20.9	0.0	35.6	50.2	41.2	31.7	83.6	86.1	18.4	38.5	43.1	65.9	51.6	76.6
	<i>Rural</i>	0.0	0.0	16.7	48.5	50.0	34.7	66.7	86.1	7.9	36.2	31.6	64.3	47.4	74.7
	<i>Ex-Adelaide</i>	19.0	0.0	33.8	50.1	42.1	31.9	82.1	86.1	17.3	38.3	42.0	65.8	51.2	76.4
	<i>All SA</i>	8.7	0.0	34.4	49.2	33.9	33.5	74.8	86.7	17.5	37.8	38.0	66.6	50.8	76.8
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	---	---	29.1	53.9	18.8	24.5	66.5	84.9	14.6	42.4	33.4	66.7	50.3	78.6
	<i>Ex Adelaide</i>	---	---	36.1	54.6	14.6	24.5	62.9	85.4	18.4	43.4	32.1	67.9	51.0	79.5
	<i>All SA</i>	---	---	22.9	51.3	22.5	24.4	69.7	82.7	11.4	38.6	34.6	62.3	49.7	75.3
WA															
1996	<i>Perth</i>	0.0	0.0	44.9	54.0	19.2	31.0	69.3	89.1	19.3	40.8	29.7	67.2	42.8	75.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	30.2	0.0	30.9	57.3	42.7	27.0	84.2	88.8	14.3	43.6	38.9	67.6	46.2	76.1
	<i>Rural</i>	63.1	0.0	19.4	59.0	66.0	29.6	91.3	92.8	8.2	43.4	38.5	68.3	42.2	73.6
	<i>Ex-Perth</i>	35.4	0.0	29.1	57.4	46.4	27.2	85.3	89.1	13.2	43.6	38.8	67.6	45.5	75.9
	<i>All WA</i>	24.6	0.0	33.9	55.0	38.1	29.9	80.4	89.1	15.2	41.6	35.9	67.3	44.7	75.6
1991	<i>Perth</i>	---	---	27.0	55.5	24.1	22.3	58.4	84.1	11.2	42.1	24.2	63.9	41.4	75.9
	<i>Ex Perth</i>	---	---	37.5	55.3	9.8	22.2	56.0	83.8	17.6	42.3	26.3	64.1	47.0	76.4
	<i>All WA</i>	---	---	21.5	56.2	31.8	22.6	59.7	85.2	8.4	41.7	23.2	63.2	38.9	74.2
Tas.															
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	0.0	0.0	49.6	51.5	36.5	33.3	86.1	88.1	36.5	38.1	63.5	65.1	73.7	73.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	0.0	0.0	46.2	52.1	31.1	28.4	78.6	85.3	28.5	37.0	48.4	60.5	61.7	71.0
	<i>Rural</i>	0.0	0.0	70.0	50.5	30.0	30.0	100.0	83.9	58.3	35.8	83.3	59.5	83.3	70.9
	<i>Ex-Hobart</i>	0.0	0.0	48.9	52.0	31.0	28.5	81.0	85.2	31.0	36.9	51.4	60.5	63.5	71.0
	<i>All Tas.</i>	0.0	0.0	49.1	51.8	32.6	30.2	82.5	86.2	32.5	37.3	54.7	62.1	66.3	72.0
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	---	---	45.9	53.8	23.1	22.2	72.7	82.5	27.0	39.7	42.8	60.8	58.9	73.8
	<i>Ex Hobart</i>	---	---	45.6	55.7	23.3	23.1	68.9	85.1	27.3	41.9	41.3	64.0	60.0	75.2
	<i>All Tas.</i>	---	---	46.1	52.2	23.0	21.4	75.0	80.3	26.8	37.9	43.7	58.3	58.2	72.6
NT															
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	0.0	0.0	48.3	56.3	18.2	29.3	79.0	91.2	28.9	46.4	47.3	75.2	59.8	82.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	39.2	0.0	26.8	65.6	44.7	21.3	79.5	92.3	10.6	54.4	31.4	76.5	39.5	82.9
	<i>Rural</i>	56.1	0.0	19.8	77.9	55.7	16.8	88.2	97.3	6.5	63.3	29.0	79.1	32.9	81.3
	<i>Ex-Darwin</i>	44.0	0.0	24.8	66.2	47.8	21.1	82.0	92.5	9.3	54.9	30.6	76.7	37.3	82.8
	<i>All NT</i>	36.9	0.0	28.6	61.3	43.0	25.1	81.5	91.9	11.4	50.7	32.4	75.9	39.8	82.6
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	---	---	30.0	58.8	36.4	20.1	72.6	86.9	11.6	46.3	28.1	68.5	38.7	78.8
	<i>Ex Darwin</i>	---	---	43.1	56.0	16.8	20.7	64.5	84.5	23.9	44.0	35.7	66.4	55.3	78.6
	<i>All NT</i>	---	---	26.1	62.5	42.3	19.3	75.0	90.1	9.3	49.4	26.6	71.2	35.5	79.0
ACT															
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	0.0	0.0	51.4	51.7	25.2	33.9	87.9	90.2	34.4	40.7	58.8	71.1	66.9	78.7
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	---	---	66.0	59.0	11.3	24.0	88.7	90.0	42.2	47.1	56.6	71.8	63.9	79.9

See Notes to Tables

Table 16 Employment, unemployment and labour force participation of 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: by State and Region, 1991 and 1996 - Persons

State/		% of Labour Force								% of Population					
Year	Region	CDEP		Employed full-time		Employed part-time		Any employment		Employed full-time		Any employment		In the labour force	
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Australia															
1996	Cap. City	0.3	0.0	50.1	59.4	17.5	24.0	72.9	87.6	33.9	48.0	49.4	70.7	67.8	80.7
	Other Urban	13.5	0.0	38.0	59.8	26.3	20.4	70.1	84.5	23.1	49.3	42.8	69.6	61.0	82.3
	Rural	45.4	0.0	28.2	59.8	47.9	20.2	82.8	84.7	15.3	49.3	44.9	69.8	54.2	82.4
	Ex-Capital City	18.0	0.0	36.6	59.8	29.3	20.4	71.9	84.5	21.9	49.3	43.1	69.6	59.9	82.4
	All Australia	12.4	0.0	40.9	59.6	25.6	22.7	72.2	86.4	25.4	48.5	44.9	70.3	62.2	81.3
1991	Cap. City	---	---	45.1	60.2	10.9	17.1	61.9	83.7	30.5	49.9	41.8	69.4	67.6	83.0
	Ex Capital City	---	---	32.5	60.3	22.1	14.6	61.3	81.3	19.3	50.1	36.4	67.5	59.4	83.1
	All Australia	---	---	36.6	60.2	18.4	16.3	61.5	82.9	22.6	50.0	38.0	68.8	61.8	83.0
NSW															
1996	Sydney	0.0	0.0	55.6	64.3	16.5	21.6	76.2	90.3	40.0	52.2	54.8	73.4	71.9	81.3
	Other Urban	2.4	0.0	38.1	57.7	18.6	21.3	61.6	83.3	24.0	46.6	38.8	67.3	63.1	80.9
	Rural	5.1	0.0	30.5	58.5	27.1	19.3	64.0	82.8	18.0	48.4	37.8	68.4	59.0	82.6
	Ex-Sydney	2.6	0.0	37.5	57.7	19.2	21.3	61.7	83.2	23.6	46.7	38.8	67.4	62.8	81.0
	All NSW	1.7	0.0	44.0	61.7	18.2	21.4	66.9	87.5	28.9	50.1	44.0	71.0	65.8	81.1
1991	Sydney	---	---	37.2	62.1	12.5	15.5	55.4	84.1	24.6	51.4	36.6	69.7	66.0	82.8
	Ex Sydney	---	---	51.7	63.5	11.7	15.9	69.9	86.0	36.4	52.9	49.2	71.6	70.3	83.2
	All NSW	---	---	28.5	59.2	13.0	14.8	46.7	80.3	18.1	48.5	29.7	65.7	63.7	81.9
Vic.															
1996	Melbourne	0.0	0.0	55.0	57.3	16.4	25.1	77.7	86.4	40.7	46.0	57.5	69.4	73.9	80.3
	Other Urban	1.0	0.0	41.6	59.6	21.0	20.7	69.3	84.3	28.6	49.1	47.7	69.5	68.9	82.5
	Rural	0.0	0.0	0.0	57.7	100.0	21.1	100.0	83.3	0.0	48.2	66.7	69.6	66.7	83.5
	Ex-Melbourne	0.9	0.0	41.2	59.5	21.8	20.7	69.6	84.3	28.4	49.1	47.9	69.5	68.9	82.5
	All Vic.	0.5	0.0	48.3	58.0	19.0	23.8	73.8	85.8	34.5	46.9	52.7	69.4	71.4	80.9
1991	Melbourne	---	---	45.2	58.4	11.3	16.7	65.0	81.5	32.6	48.8	46.8	68.0	72.1	83.4
	Ex Melbourne	---	---	51.1	58.3	10.2	17.5	70.2	82.1	37.6	48.6	51.6	68.4	73.5	83.4
	All Vic.	---	---	38.3	58.9	12.7	14.3	58.9	79.5	27.0	49.3	41.4	66.5	70.4	83.7
Qld															
1996	Brisbane	0.0	0.0	47.8	59.1	16.5	23.9	69.3	86.9	32.7	48.4	47.3	71.2	68.3	81.9
	Other Urban	10.9	0.0	42.2	60.7	22.9	20.1	69.7	84.9	26.6	50.6	43.9	70.8	63.0	83.4
	Rural	54.5	0.0	32.0	60.0	49.4	19.7	86.1	84.7	21.0	48.2	56.6	68.0	65.8	80.3
	Ex-Brisbane	17.7	0.0	40.6	60.7	27.0	20.0	72.2	84.9	25.8	50.5	45.8	70.7	63.5	83.3
	All Qld	13.4	0.0	42.4	59.9	24.4	21.8	71.5	85.8	27.4	49.5	46.2	70.9	64.6	82.6
1991	Brisbane	---	---	37.9	62.1	20.4	15.7	64.8	84.0	25.2	51.7	43.1	70.0	66.5	83.3
	Ex Brisbane	---	---	40.3	61.9	10.5	16.9	56.4	84.8	28.4	51.5	39.7	70.5	70.4	83.2
	All Qld	---	---	37.2	62.3	23.2	14.5	67.2	83.2	24.4	52.0	44.0	69.5	65.5	83.5

Table 16 Employment, unemployment and labour force participation of 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: by State and Region, 1991 and 1996 - Persons (Continued)

State/ Year	Region	% of Labour Force						% of Population							
		CDEP		Employed full-time		Employed part-time		Any employment		Employed full-time		Any employment		In the labour force	
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
SA															
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	0.6	0.0	35.6	53.7	23.1	26.4	64.2	83.9	21.7	43.2	39.0	67.5	60.8	80.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	21.6	0.0	32.8	59.5	32.1	21.3	73.9	85.0	21.7	50.1	48.9	71.5	66.2	84.1
	<i>Rural</i>	18.8	0.0	43.8	57.0	25.0	23.1	75.0	84.1	27.3	47.8	46.8	70.6	62.3	83.9
	<i>Ex-Adelaide</i>	21.3	0.0	33.8	59.3	31.4	21.5	74.0	85.0	22.2	49.9	48.7	71.5	65.8	84.1
	<i>All SA</i>	10.9	0.0	34.7	55.1	27.3	25.2	69.1	84.2	21.9	44.8	43.6	68.5	63.2	81.3
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	---	---	30.7	57.6	16.9	18.1	60.5	82.1	18.3	48.3	36.0	68.8	59.5	83.8
	<i>Ex Adelaide</i>	---	---	37.4	57.4	10.5	18.8	55.1	82.5	22.3	48.0	32.8	68.9	59.6	83.6
	<i>All SA</i>	---	---	25.2	58.4	22.0	15.7	64.8	80.9	15.0	49.3	38.5	68.4	59.4	84.6
WA															
1996	<i>Perth</i>	0.4	0.0	44.9	57.7	16.2	25.2	68.1	87.2	24.9	45.6	37.7	68.9	55.4	79.0
	<i>Other Urban</i>	29.4	0.0	30.7	66.2	40.4	17.2	80.1	88.1	17.9	56.0	46.6	74.5	58.1	84.6
	<i>Rural</i>	54.0	0.0	24.6	67.1	56.5	19.5	87.2	91.1	14.8	56.2	52.3	76.2	60.0	83.7
	<i>Ex-Perth</i>	34.0	0.0	29.6	66.3	43.4	17.3	81.4	88.3	17.3	56.0	47.6	74.6	58.5	84.5
	<i>All WA</i>	24.1	0.0	34.1	60.4	35.4	22.7	77.5	87.5	19.6	48.7	44.6	70.6	57.5	80.7
1991	<i>Perth</i>	---	---	29.9	57.7	20.0	16.8	55.7	80.9	17.2	47.1	32.0	66.1	57.5	81.8
	<i>Ex Perth</i>	---	---	33.2	55.7	8.4	17.7	46.8	79.8	19.8	45.0	27.9	64.4	59.7	80.7
	<i>All WA</i>	---	---	28.4	63.4	25.4	14.0	59.8	84.0	16.0	53.9	33.8	71.5	56.5	85.1
Tas.															
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	0.0	0.0	55.1	53.7	27.3	27.2	82.4	84.3	43.1	41.2	64.5	64.6	78.3	76.7
	<i>Other Urban</i>	0.0	0.0	50.4	57.6	20.7	20.4	74.4	82.8	36.6	45.6	54.0	65.5	72.6	79.2
	<i>Rural</i>	0.0	0.0	68.1	56.3	17.4	22.2	85.5	83.3	62.7	45.6	78.7	67.5	92.0	81.0
	<i>Ex-Hobart</i>	0.0	0.0	52.4	57.6	20.4	20.5	75.7	82.8	38.9	45.6	56.3	65.7	74.4	79.3
	<i>All Tas.</i>	0.0	0.0	53.1	56.3	22.2	22.7	77.5	83.3	40.0	44.1	58.4	65.3	75.4	78.4
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	---	---	50.5	57.2	12.2	16.0	67.4	79.5	37.5	46.3	50.1	64.3	74.3	80.9
	<i>Ex Hobart</i>	---	---	48.6	56.9	9.9	18.3	59.9	81.1	35.8	45.5	44.1	64.8	73.6	80.0
	<i>All Tas.</i>	---	---	51.5	57.4	13.4	14.3	71.2	78.3	38.4	46.8	53.2	64.0	74.7	81.7
NT															
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	2.7	0.0	47.0	62.0	14.5	22.0	71.7	89.6	31.8	52.9	48.6	76.5	67.8	85.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	40.3	0.0	29.1	73.1	42.1	14.0	79.1	92.2	14.0	64.4	38.0	81.2	48.0	88.1
	<i>Rural</i>	57.8	0.0	17.1	79.8	57.0	14.4	85.0	97.7	6.6	70.2	32.5	86.0	38.3	88.0
	<i>Ex-Darwin</i>	45.0	0.0	25.9	73.5	46.1	14.0	80.7	92.5	11.6	64.7	36.3	81.5	44.9	88.1
	<i>All NT</i>	38.2	0.0	29.3	68.0	41.0	17.8	79.3	91.1	13.9	59.0	37.6	79.1	47.5	86.8
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	---	---	31.0	63.3	34.2	14.7	70.5	85.6	14.0	53.3	31.8	72.0	45.1	84.1
	<i>Ex Darwin</i>	---	---	41.1	59.3	15.7	15.9	59.2	82.7	25.8	49.5	37.1	69.0	62.7	83.4
	<i>All NT</i>	---	---	28.4	68.4	39.0	13.1	73.5	89.1	11.9	58.1	30.9	75.7	42.0	85.0
ACT															
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	0.0	0.0	50.2	54.6	20.6	28.6	78.9	87.9	36.1	44.2	56.8	71.2	71.9	81.0
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	---	---	66.7	61.9	7.5	20.0	81.7	88.7	49.7	51.2	60.9	73.3	74.5	82.7

See Notes to Tables

Relative changes Between 1991 and 1996 the labour market participation of male non-Indigenous Australians declined by 2.3 percentage points compared with 1.3 percentage points for the Indigenous population -- movements that suggest a slight net relative improvement for male Indigenous Australians. This aggregate change combines a metropolitan and non-metropolitan effect which moved in different directions. The improvement for male Indigenous Australians was considerably stronger in capital cities while in non-metropolitan areas the relative position of male Indigenous Australians worsened slightly.

The increase of 1.9 percentage points in the participation rate for female Indigenous Australians was in the context of a decline of 1.0 percentage points for non-Indigenous females, indicating a slightly stronger improvement for Indigenous females. In percentage point terms, the Indigenous - non-Indigenous difference fell from 29.7 in 1991 to 26.8 in 1996. The improvement was experienced by female Indigenous Australians in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

The relative labour market participation of male Indigenous Australians increased in New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Victoria but declined in other States. Similarly there was an increase in the relative labour market participation of female Indigenous Australians in all States except South Australia where there was little relative change.

Employment rates

The term *employment rate* is being used for the percentage of persons in the labour force who are employed. The term *employment ratio* will be used to describe the percentage of persons in the population who are employed. This section deals with employment rates.

The Indigenous Population

The employment rate for all male 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous Australians was 69.8% (and hence the unemployment rate was 30.2%). Employment rates were higher by at least 10 percentage points in rural than other areas -- most likely because of CDEP-based employment (47.5%). Interestingly, despite a reasonable level of CDEP-based employment in other urban areas (13.8%), overall employment (67.5%) is still lower in other urban areas than in capital cities (70.1%). The regional pattern for full-time employment, however, is the reverse -- it is substantially higher in urban areas (51.3%) than in other-urban (39.4%) or rural areas (28.9%).

The situation for female 20 to 24 year-old Indigenous Australians is similar. The employment rate is higher than for males (75.7%). As for males, employment rates were higher in rural than in other areas -- most likely because of CDEP-based employment (44.8%). Again, despite higher CDEP-based employment in other urban areas (13.2%) than in capital cities (0.0%), overall employment is still lower

in other urban areas (73.9%) than in capital cities (76.3%). On the other hand, full-time employment is substantially higher in capital cities (48.6%) than in other urban (35.8%) or rural areas (27.0%).

Employment rates for males were highest in the Northern Territory (77.6%) and Western Australia (75.7%) and lowest in New South Wales (63.5%) and South Australia (65.0%). Consistent with the pattern observed previously, however, the pattern is almost (apart from South Australia) the reverse for full-time employment -- New South Wales (45.4%), Victoria (49.9%), Queensland (43.6%) and Tasmania (56.5%) have relatively high rates of full-time employment while the Northern Territory (29.7%), Western Australia (35.0%) and South Australia (35.0%) have the lowest.

Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Comparisons.

Table 16 shows that for 20 to 24 year-old males, Indigenous Australians have lower employment rates (69.8%) than other Australians (84.9%) and lower rates of full-time employment (41.9% compared with 63.7%). Differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment rates are least in rural areas but the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous full-time employment rates are least in capital cities.

The pattern is similar for females. Indigenous Australians have lower employment rates (75.7%) than other Australians (88.1%) and lower rates of full-time employment (39.4% compared with 55.0%). As for males, the relative disadvantage in terms of employment of female Indigenous Australians is least in rural areas, but greatest in terms of full-time employment.

There are some large differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment rates among the capital cities. For males there is relatively little difference in Hobart, ten percentage points in Melbourne, and about twenty percentage points in the other capitals. Similarly for rates of full-time employment -- the differences are more than 20 percentage points in Darwin and Adelaide. For females, differences in employment rates are highest in Darwin and Perth and least in Hobart and Melbourne.

Changes between 1991 and 1996.

For both males and females aged 20 to 24 the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment rates and full-time employment rates declined between 1991 and 1996. For males, Indigenous employment rates increased by 10.5 percentage points between 1991 and 1996 while the employment rate for non-Indigenous Australians increased by only 3.9 percentage points -- the gap narrowed from 21.7 points to 15.1 points. Hence the difference was reduced by about a quarter. In the same period, Indigenous full-time employment rates increased by 4.9 points while non-Indigenous rates increased by 1.0 points. Again,

the initial difference in 1991 of 25.7 points was reduced to 21.8 points -- a reduction of nearly 20%.

For females, the Indigenous employment rate increased by 10.9 percentage points between 1991 and 1996 while the employment rate for non-Indigenous Australians increased by only 3.0 percentage points. The gap narrowed from 20.3 to 12.4 points. Hence the difference was reduced by nearly 40%. At the same time, Indigenous full-time employment rates increased by 3.5 points while non-Indigenous rates declined by 2.4 points. The difference in 1991 of 21.5 points was reduced to 15.6 points -- again a reduction of about 20%.

These reductions in the inequality of the labour market outcomes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for both males and females occurred in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

Employment ratios

The employment ratio is simply the product of labour market participation and employment rates. Rather than presenting a full discussion of these ratios, this section is restricted simply to changes in the relative employment ratios. Since the preceding sections have suggested that both relative labour market participation and employment rates have improved between 1991 and 1996, employment ratios should also have improved -- and this is the case.

For males, the employment ratio increased by 7.1 percentage points for Indigenous Australians, while the employment ratio for non-Indigenous Australians increased by only 1.4 percentage points. The initial difference of 26.1 points in 1991 is reduced to 20.4 points in 1996 -- a reduction of about a fifth.

Changes in full-time employment ratios for males also reduced the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates. Indigenous rates increased by 3.1 points between 1991 and 1996 while non-Indigenous rates declined by 0.6 points. The initial difference of 26.9 points in 1991 was reduced to 23.2 points in 1996 -- a little over a tenth of the employment disadvantage experienced by male Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds disappeared over these five years.

For females, the employment ratio increased by 6.6 percentage points for Indigenous 20 to 24 year-olds and only 1.6 percentage points for non-Indigenous Australians. Hence the initial difference of 34.9 points in 1991 was reduced to 29.9 points by 1996 -- 14.3% of the initial disadvantage was removed.

The difference between full-time employment ratios for Indigenous and non-Indigenous females was also reduced. Indigenous rates increased by 2.5 points between 1991 and 1996 while non-Indigenous rates declined by 2.4 points. The initial difference of 27.4 points was reduced to 22.5 points. Again there is evidence

of movements towards greater equity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians -- although very substantial differences remain.

LABOUR MARKET ASSISTANCE

The Commonwealth Government provides several forms of labour market assistance designed to provide access to employment or further training for people who are unemployed or marginally attached to the labour force. The analysis in this section reflects DEETYA Labour Market Assistance arrangements as they existed prior to the introduction of employment services reforms, the Job Network, in May 1998. Under the new arrangements competing employment services providers can choose to use wage subsidies, or other forms of intervention, to assist eligible job seekers (including CDEP participants). It is a matter for employment services providers to determine what assistance may be appropriate for particular individuals.

DEETYA continues to provide financial incentives to employers offering entry level training (ELT) job opportunities. Assistance based on individuals' Job Network eligibility is in addition to this. Targets are set for the participation of Indigenous people in the Intensive Assistance stream of the Job Network, effectively guaranteeing that their share of the former program assistance arrangements is maintained.

Indigenous people were eligible for assistance under all of DEETYA's labour market assistance programs. A targeted program for Indigenous people, the Training for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders Programme (TAP), was also available. Around two-thirds of all employment program assistance to Indigenous job seekers was provided under the so-called mainstream programs. TAP provided additional flexibility in the level of subsidy and in assistance mix arrangements. It was aimed at meeting the special needs of particular Indigenous individuals, rather than as a parallel to mainstream programs for use as a first line response to assisting Indigenous people. Usage of the program was focused on ELT placements from 1995 onwards, aiming at improved employment outcomes. In 1996-97 nearly three quarters of all ELT Indigenous placements were under TAP assistance.

This is an historical examination of Labour Market Assistance as it was structured in 1995-96 and 1996-97. This examination is, however, valuable in providing a point of comparison with new arrangements. This section provides summary information on the participation of Indigenous Australians in three broad forms of assistance and the outcomes of that participation. Three types of assistance are distinguished:

- *Wage subsidy assistance* such as Job Start in which the Commonwealth subsidised the wages of job seekers for a given period. Elements of the National Training Wage and the Training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Program provide this form of assistance.
- *Entry level training assistance* principally consists of traineeships. The needs of Indigenous people were addressed through components of the National

Training Wage and the Training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Program.

- *Other assistance* which included the New Employment Incentives Scheme, Training for Employment, Job Train, Job Clubs, Job Search Assistance, Special Intervention Program, Landcare Environment Action Program, Accredited Training for Youth, Training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Program, Labour Adjustment Programs, Job Skills, New Work Opportunities, and Special Employer Support.

Information about these programs is presented for:

- Participation and completion; and
- Labour market and educational outcomes.

Participation

Table 17 provides information which address the question of whether Indigenous youth participated equitably in DEETYA's programs of labour market assistance. The purpose of the assistance was, more or less, to address the needs of the unemployed to find employment or to assist the school to work transition. A benchmark for the needs of Indigenous Australians might be the percentage of the unemployed who were Indigenous. The first column in Table 17 shows that nationally 4.8% of unemployed 15 to 19 year-olds were Indigenous Australians. The second column (in italics) shows that 4.6% of 15 to 19 year-old participants who benefited from wage-subsidy assistance were Indigenous. Indigenous youth were therefore (very marginally) under-represented among recipients of this form of assistance.

The interpretation that Indigenous 15 to 19 year-olds were under-represented depends on the validity of the benchmark. There are at least two issues in this regard. The benchmark does not take into account the (usually) substantially higher percentages of Indigenous Australians who are not in the labour force and who are therefore more likely to be hidden unemployed. Hence the benchmark may under-estimate the needs of Indigenous youth to find work compared with the non-Indigenous Australians.

The benchmark may be less valid if the purpose of the assistance was not solely related to helping the unemployed to find work. For instance, entry level training programs may be more a way of providing general training positions for school leavers than a program to assist the unemployed. Nevertheless, at some stage or other all Indigenous Australians were school leavers. It is arguable therefore that Indigenous Australians should benefit from these forms of assistance to an extent consistent with their need to find work -- that is, consistent with the benchmark suggested here.

The usual caution on mixing data sources with different methodologies. Given that, however, Table 17 shows that:

- *For wage-subsidy assistance, Indigenous youth were (marginally) under-represented compared with their employment levels.* The table shows a slight difference between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Indigenous Australians in capital cities were slightly more successful in accessing these forms of assistance than Indigenous Australians in non-metropolitan areas (compared with their respective benchmarks). Females were also marginally less likely than males to receive assistance even allowing for the lower proportion of female unemployed who were Indigenous.

- *For entry-level training programs, Indigenous youth (7.3%) were well represented among participants compared with the percentage of unemployed persons who are Indigenous (4.8%). This was true in both the capital cities and in non-metropolitan areas and for males and females.*
- *For other labour market assistance, Indigenous youth (6.3%) were well represented among participants compared with the percentage of unemployed persons who are Indigenous (4.8%). Again this was true for both capital cities and other areas and for male and female Indigenous youth.*
- *For programs of labour market assistance overall, Indigenous youth (6.2%) were well represented among participants compared with the percentage of unemployed persons who are Indigenous (4.8%). As might be expected given the pattern for the components, the overall level of participation of Indigenous youth was higher in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas and for males and females.*

Completion

Table 17 also shows the extent to which participants finished the program when expected (that is, completed the program) for wage-subsidy, entry-level training, other training, and all training assistance.

Interpretation of completion values is a little uncertain. Participants can leave the programs either because they have lost interest or because they have found more attractive employment or because they have chosen another life path. It would be unwise to equate non-completion with failure for some programs. For some forms of assistance such as entry level training, however, completion is likely to be more important than for other forms.

This section focuses simply on the values in the columns under the heading *Completions*, that is, the percentages of Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants who completed the program. Tables 17 shows that:

- *For wage subsidy assistance, there was very little difference in completion rates between Indigenous (50.2%) and non-Indigenous (50.5%) Australians nationally. This was true for both males and females. There was some regional variation -- Indigenous youth were more likely to complete than non-Indigenous youth in non-metropolitan areas, but the pattern was reversed in the capital cities, particularly for males. Although there is some variation among the States, estimates are often based on relatively small numbers of Indigenous Australians and therefore should be treated with caution.*
- *For entry level training, Indigenous Australians (40.5%) have substantially lower completion rates than other Australians (56.1%). There are some exceptions to this pattern among the States -- Victoria and South Australia for both males and females. Again, however, these estimates are based on relatively few cases.*
- *For all other labour market assistance, Indigenous Australians (83.6%) have marginally lower completion rates than non-Indigenous Australians (87.5%). Again*

this finding is repeated more or less for males and females within regions and States. There are several instances where the difference is larger -- males in Victoria and Queensland -- but given the relatively smaller numbers of Indigenous youth in some of these categories, it would be surprising if there were not some fluctuation between categories.

**Table 17 Participation in, and Completion of, Labour Market Assistance Programs:
15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Region
State and Sex: 1996-97**

<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	Unemp -loyed %	<i>Wage subsidies</i>					<i>Entry level training</i>				
		Indig- enous %	<i>Completions</i> %		<i>Number</i> <i>commencing</i>		Indig- enous %	<i>Completions</i> %		<i>Number</i> <i>commencing</i>	
			Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Males											
<i>Australia</i>	5.0	4.8	47.8	49.1	689	13803	7.9	39.2	54.8	980	11492
<i>Metropolitan</i>	2.9	3.3	39.1	46.7	286	8430	4.1	40.2	53.0	252	5888
<i>Non-Met.</i>	7.0	7.0	54.1	52.9	403	5373	11.5	38.8	56.7	728	5604
<i>NSW/ACT</i>	5.1	5.1	50.7	48.2	210	3880	6.9	37.1	55.7	263	3571
<i>Vic.</i>	1.5	1.6	37.3	50.0	52	3155	2.9	47.8	55.3	82	2722
<i>Qld</i>	6.7	5.5	39.1	48.7	159	2754	8.8	39.0	48.2	232	2396
<i>SA</i>	3.0	1.6	50.0	50.6	32	1972	5.9	55.8	63.4	71	1133
<i>WA</i>	6.6	7.2	48.3	46.1	121	1557	15.8	36.7	55.9	190	1011
<i>Tas.</i>	6.8	8.5	37.5	60.1	39	419	7.6	43.5	62.4	48	584
<i>NT</i>	44.4	53.5	68.0	37.1	76	66	41.2	24.3	51.4	93	133
Females											
<i>Australia</i>	4.7	4.3	53.8	52.4	438	9706	6.8	41.7	57.3	857	11678
<i>Metropolitan</i>	2.8	2.9	49.7	52.1	171	5671	4.0	42.2	56.0	263	6286
<i>Non-Met.</i>	6.7	6.2	56.4	52.7	267	4035	9.9	41.5	58.9	594	5392
<i>NSW/ACT</i>	5.0	4.8	51.3	52.4	121	2388	4.8	38.0	56.3	223	4430
<i>Vic.</i>	1.3	2.1	52.1	54.7	49	2317	3.1	54.3	59.2	76	2387
<i>Qld</i>	6.2	5.2	46.7	48.3	124	2269	7.5	36.1	49.6	201	2467
<i>SA</i>	3.4	2.0	65.4	55.1	26	1256	8.4	64.5	76.1	72	788
<i>WA</i>	5.7	5.8	58.8	49.8	68	1107	12.9	44.6	59.0	148	1003
<i>Tas.</i>	7.2	5.1	35.3	64.3	17	319	8.7	46.2	64.0	50	526
<i>NT</i>	38.9	39.8	81.8	50.0	33	50	47.5	27.5	67.4	87	96
Persons											
<i>Australia</i>	4.8	4.6	50.2	50.5	1127	23509	7.3	40.5	56.1	1837	23170
<i>Metropolitan</i>	2.9	3.1	43.1	48.9	457	14101	4.1	41.3	54.6	515	12174
<i>Non-Met.</i>	6.9	6.6	55.0	52.8	670	9408	10.7	40.2	57.8	1322	10996
<i>NSW/ACT</i>	5.1	5.0	50.9	49.8	331	6268	5.7	37.6	56.1	486	8001
<i>Vic.</i>	1.4	1.8	44.4	52.0	101	5472	3.0	51.1	57.2	158	5109
<i>Qld</i>	6.5	5.3	42.4	48.5	283	5023	8.2	37.5	48.9	433	4863
<i>SA</i>	3.2	1.8	56.9	52.4	58	3228	6.9	60.5	69.9	143	1921
<i>WA</i>	6.1	6.6	52.1	47.6	189	2664	14.4	40.2	57.5	338	2014
<i>Tas.</i>	7.0	7.1	36.7	62.0	56	738	8.1	45.2	63.3	98	1110
<i>NT</i>	41.9	48.4	72.2	42.7	109	116	44.0	26.0	58.6	180	229

See Notes to Tables

**Table 17 Participation in, and Completion of, Labour Market Assistance Programs:
15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Region
State and Sex: 1996-97 (cont)**

<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	Unemp -loyed %	<i>Other assistance</i>					<i>All forms of assistance</i>				
		Indig- enous %	<i>Completions</i> %		<i>Number</i> <i>commencing</i>		Indig- enous %	<i>Completions</i> %		<i>Number</i> <i>commencing</i>	
			Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Males											
<i>Australia</i>	5.0	7.0	81.1	85.4	1885	25120	6.6	65.2	69.5	3554	50415
<i>Metropolitan</i>	2.9	4.8	81.7	83.9	627	12487	4.2	63.5	66.2	1165	26805
<i>Non-Met.</i>	7.0	9.1	80.8	87.0	1258	12633	9.2	66.1	73.3	2389	23610
<i>NSW/ACT</i>	5.1	7.1	83.6	89.5	593	7816	6.5	67.5	71.8	1066	15267
<i>Vic.</i>	1.5	2.6	77.2	85.2	127	4768	2.4	60.5	68.1	261	10645
<i>Qld</i>	6.7	6.9	74.9	84.1	385	5165	7.0	59.2	67.8	776	10315
<i>SA</i>	3.0	4.3	91.3	87.7	133	2994	3.7	76.3	72.2	236	6099
<i>WA</i>	6.6	9.7	75.8	74.4	315	2930	10.2	60.8	63.4	626	5498
<i>Tas.</i>	6.8	8.1	82.2	86.1	103	1167	8.1	67.3	76.9	190	2170
<i>NT</i>	44.4	45.5	88.1	88.9	229	274	45.7	72.0	72.6	398	473
Females											
<i>Australia</i>	4.7	5.7	86.5	89.4	1557	25769	5.7	69.5	74.6	2852	47153
<i>Metropolitan</i>	2.8	3.9	88.1	88.4	535	13325	3.7	70.3	72.9	969	25282
<i>Non-Met.</i>	6.7	7.6	85.7	90.6	1022	12444	7.9	69.1	76.5	1883	21871
<i>NSW/ACT</i>	5.0	5.8	89.5	92.5	517	8420	5.3	71.6	76.2	861	15238
<i>Vic.</i>	1.3	1.9	89.0	90.3	101	5157	2.2	69.7	74.9	226	9861
<i>Qld</i>	6.2	7.0	83.0	87.4	385	5127	6.7	65.5	70.3	710	9863
<i>SA</i>	3.4	3.8	91.2	93.2	105	2695	4.1	78.9	80.5	203	4739
<i>WA</i>	5.7	7.2	79.8	79.7	240	3104	8.0	67.4	70.0	456	5214
<i>Tas.</i>	7.2	6.1	82.5	88.4	64	991	6.7	63.9	78.3	131	1836
<i>NT</i>	38.9	35.0	93.0	92.5	145	269	39.0	71.0	82.0	265	415
Persons											
<i>Australia</i>	4.8	6.3	83.6	87.5	3442	50889	6.2	67.2	72.0	6406	97568
<i>Metropolitan</i>	2.9	4.3	84.7	86.2	1162	25812	3.9	66.6	69.5	2134	52087
<i>Non-Met.</i>	6.9	8.3	83.0	88.8	2280	25077	8.6	67.5	74.9	4272	45481
<i>NSW/ACT</i>	5.1	6.4	86.4	91.1	1110	16236	5.9	69.4	74.0	1927	30505
<i>Vic.</i>	1.4	2.2	82.5	87.9	228	9925	2.3	64.9	71.4	487	20506
<i>Qld</i>	6.5	7.0	78.9	85.8	770	10292	6.9	62.3	69.1	1486	20178
<i>SA</i>	3.2	4.0	91.3	90.3	238	5689	3.9	77.6	76.0	439	10838
<i>WA</i>	6.1	8.4	77.6	77.1	555	6034	9.2	63.6	66.6	1082	10712
<i>Tas.</i>	7.0	7.2	82.3	87.1	167	2158	7.4	65.8	77.6	321	4006
<i>NT</i>	41.9	40.8	90.0	90.7	374	543	42.7	71.6	77.1	663	888

See Notes to Tables

Outcomes

Participants who are assisted by DEETYA were sent a post-program evaluation form some three months after their assistance ceased. They were asked about their current participation in education and the labour market. Tables 18 to 21 show these outcomes for wage subsidy, entry level training, other labour market assistance and for all forms of labour market assistance respectively. These tables are based on cessations from 1 April 1996 to 31 March 1997 and are hence not the same cohort of participants as the commencements covered by Table 17. These outcomes also exclude persons who went on to further assistance.

Clearly these data are subject to systematic non-response which is likely to favour better labour market outcomes and which may serve to suppress differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Study

Participation is an outcome considered independently of any labour market outcomes. A participant could be studying and working or studying and not working. There are the following findings:

- *For wage subsidy assistance there is little difference between Indigenous (10.6%) and non-Indigenous (10.7%) young people in their post-program participation in education.* There is again, however, a marked difference in this relationship for participants in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. In capital cities Indigenous Australians (16.0%) were more likely than non-Indigenous Australians (10.4%) to be participating in education -- and the converse in non-metropolitan areas.
- *For entry-level training, Indigenous youth (16.4%) are less likely than non-Indigenous youth (19.6%) to participate in education after completing their course.* There is again, however, a difference in this relationship for participants in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. In capital cities there is little difference (21.1% for Indigenous youth and 20.2% for non-Indigenous youth) but the differences are correspondingly greater in non-Metropolitan areas (14.0% compared with 19.0%).
- *For other labour market assistance there is little difference between the post-program participation of Indigenous (13.0%) and non-Indigenous Australians (14.8%) in education.* There is again, however, a marked difference in this relationship for participants in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Much of this difference can be attributed to the substantially lower level of post-program educational participation of young Indigenous males in capital cities.

Labour market participation

There are five labour market outcomes listed in Tables 18 to 21 -- full-time employment, part-time employment, any employment, unemployment and not participating in the labour force. The results of all four tables can be summarised

by noting that Indigenous youth were less likely than non-Indigenous youth to have a full-time job three months after completion of their program -- regardless of the form of assistance and that ELT produced higher rates of full-time employment than other forms of assistance for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants.

Table 18 Outcomes from Labour Market Programs for 15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Region and State, 1996-97: Wage Subsidy Programs

<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	<i>Study</i>		<i>Full-time employed</i>		<i>Part-time employed</i>		<i>Total employed</i>		<i>Unemp-loyed</i>		<i>Not in the labour force</i>	
	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Males												
<i>Australia %</i>	11.5	10.7	30.4	41.9	12.6	11.5	43.0	53.4	54.4	43.1	2.6	3.5
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	16.8	10.4	37.9	41.3	9.5	11.7	47.4	53.0	49.5	43.3	3.2	3.7
<i>Non-Met. %</i>	8.6	11.1	26.3	42.7	14.3	11.3	40.6	54.0	57.1	42.7	2.3	3.3
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	12.9	15.6	28.2	38.7	20.0	12.4	48.2	51.2	47.1	45.8	4.7	3.0
<i>VIC %</i>	13.0	11.0	21.7	44.6	0.0	9.7	21.7	54.3	78.3	41.4	0.0	4.3
<i>Qld %</i>	8.9	5.5	31.6	39.5	7.6	13.3	39.2	52.8	58.2	44.7	2.5	2.5
<i>SA %</i>	31.3	8.3	31.3	44.4	12.5	11.3	43.8	55.7	56.3	41.1	0.0	3.2
<i>WA %</i>	10.0	12.6	30.0	42.3	6.7	10.0	36.7	52.3	63.3	42.2	0.0	5.5
<i>Tas. %</i>	5.0	7.3	50.0	49.4	20.0	12.4	70.0	61.8	30.0	35.4	0.0	2.8
<i>NT %</i>	5.9	11.5	23.5	38.5	17.6	11.5	41.2	50.0	52.9	42.3	5.9	7.7
Females												
<i>Australia %</i>	9.6	10.6	26.3	33.4	15.9	24.4	42.2	57.9	49.8	38.3	8.0	3.8
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	15.1	10.4	21.5	35.5	10.8	20.6	32.3	56.1	55.9	40.0	11.8	3.8
<i>Non-Metro. %</i>	6.3	10.8	29.1	30.7	19.0	29.5	48.1	60.1	46.2	36.1	5.7	3.8
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	9.9	11.2	29.6	36.5	7.0	22.6	36.6	59.1	56.3	36.5	7.0	4.4
<i>VIC %</i>	8.0	9.3	12.0	36.7	12.0	19.4	24.0	56.0	68.0	40.9	8.0	3.0
<i>Qld %</i>	5.9	10.5	25.9	29.8	25.9	25.3	51.8	55.1	37.6	40.5	10.6	4.4
<i>SA %</i>	15.4	12.6	7.7	26.7	30.8	35.2	38.5	61.9	53.8	35.7	7.7	2.5
<i>WA %</i>	21.7	10.5	17.4	35.1	0.0	23.1	17.4	58.2	73.9	37.0	8.7	4.8
<i>Tas. %</i>	5.9	8.0	23.5	36.0	29.4	28.0	52.9	64.0	41.2	31.3	5.9	4.7
<i>NT %</i>	11.8	9.5	64.7	19.0	5.9	28.6	70.6	47.6	29.4	47.6	0.0	4.8
Persons												
<i>Australia %</i>	10.6	10.7	28.4	38.1	14.2	17.3	42.6	55.4	52.2	40.9	5.2	3.7
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	16.0	10.4	29.8	38.7	10.1	15.6	39.9	54.4	52.7	41.9	7.4	3.8
<i>Non-Met. %</i>	7.5	11.0	27.6	37.1	16.5	19.7	44.1	56.8	52.0	39.6	3.9	3.6
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	11.5	13.7	28.8	37.8	14.1	16.7	42.9	54.5	51.3	41.9	5.8	3.6
<i>VIC %</i>	10.4	10.2	16.7	40.9	6.3	14.2	22.9	55.1	72.9	41.2	4.2	3.7
<i>Qld %</i>	7.3	7.8	28.7	35.0	17.1	18.9	45.7	53.9	47.6	42.7	6.7	3.4
<i>SA %</i>	24.1	10.2	20.7	36.4	20.7	22.1	41.4	58.5	55.2	38.6	3.4	2.9
<i>WA %</i>	15.1	11.6	24.5	39.1	3.8	15.9	28.3	55.0	67.9	39.8	3.8	5.2
<i>Tas. %</i>	5.4	7.6	37.8	43.3	24.3	19.5	62.2	62.8	35.1	33.5	2.7	3.7
<i>NT %</i>	8.8	10.6	44.1	29.8	11.8	19.1	55.9	48.9	41.2	44.7	2.9	6.4

See Notes to Tables

Table 19 Outcomes from Labour Market Programs for 15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Region and State, 1996-97: Entry-Level Training Programs

<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	<i>Study</i>		<i>Full-time employed</i>		<i>Part-time employed</i>		<i>Total employed</i>		<i>Unemployed</i>		<i>Not in the labour force</i>	
	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Males												
<i>Australia %</i>	16.4	20.9	37.3	54.6	7.5	11.0	44.8	65.7	50.7	30.9	4.5	3.4
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	26.8	22.6	41.5	53.8	4.9	12.1	46.3	65.8	51.2	30.4	2.4	3.7
<i>Non-Met. %</i>	11.8	19.2	35.5	55.5	8.6	10.0	44.1	65.5	50.5	31.4	5.4	3.1
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	11.8	19.2	32.4	59.1	8.1	11.1	40.5	70.1	54.1	26.2	5.4	3.7
<i>VIC %</i>	22.2	21.9	55.6	53.6	0.0	11.9	55.6	65.6	33.3	30.7	11.1	3.7
<i>Qld %</i>	11.6	10.3	37.2	49.0	9.3	11.5	46.5	60.5	51.2	37.3	2.3	2.2
<i>SA %</i>	7.7	18.3	53.8	52.2	0.0	11.3	53.8	63.5	46.2	32.2	0.0	4.3
<i>WA %</i>	33.3	13.8	25.0	52.7	8.3	9.6	33.3	62.3	58.3	33.5	8.3	4.2
<i>Tas. %</i>	18.2	25.0	54.5	60.6	18.2	4.8	72.7	65.4	27.3	31.7	0.0	2.9
<i>NT %</i>	0.0	0.0	11.1	50.0	0.0	6.3	11.1	56.3	77.8	37.5	11.1	6.3
Females												
<i>Australia %</i>	16.3	18.7	36.2	53.0	17.9	17.1	54.1	70.1	36.2	26.4	9.7	3.5
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	17.6	18.6	42.6	55.4	13.2	15.4	55.9	70.8	32.4	25.8	11.8	3.4
<i>Non-Met. %</i>	15.6	18.8	32.8	50.4	20.3	19.0	53.1	69.4	38.3	27.0	8.6	3.6
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	14.5	23.3	32.3	54.7	17.7	16.9	50.0	71.6	41.9	24.3	8.1	4.1
<i>VIC %</i>	27.3	17.3	45.5	52.0	36.4	15.2	81.8	67.2	18.2	29.7	0.0	3.0
<i>Qld %</i>	8.5	13.9	38.0	47.3	12.7	17.7	50.7	64.9	36.6	31.5	12.7	3.5
<i>SA %</i>	27.3	13.6	27.3	59.2	27.3	22.8	54.5	82.0	45.5	16.5	0.0	1.5
<i>WA %</i>	30.8	14.6	23.1	61.5	7.7	15.6	30.8	77.1	46.2	19.8	23.1	3.1
<i>Tas. %</i>	31.3	13.5	43.8	53.4	18.8	19.6	62.5	73.0	31.3	25.2	6.3	1.8
<i>NT %</i>	16.7	38.9	50.0	33.3	33.3	22.2	83.3	55.6	8.3	38.9	8.3	5.6
Persons												
<i>Australia %</i>	16.4	19.6	36.7	53.7	13.6	14.6	50.3	68.3	42.1	28.3	7.6	3.5
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	21.1	20.2	42.2	54.7	10.1	14.0	52.3	68.7	39.4	27.7	8.3	3.5
<i>Non-Met. %</i>	14.0	19.0	33.9	52.6	15.4	15.2	49.3	67.8	43.4	28.9	7.2	3.4
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	17.2	25.2	32.3	56.3	14.1	14.7	46.5	71.0	46.5	25.0	7.1	4.0
<i>VIC %</i>	25.0	19.6	50.0	52.8	20.0	13.6	70.0	66.4	25.0	30.2	5.0	3.4
<i>Qld %</i>	9.6	12.4	37.7	48.0	11.4	15.1	49.1	63.1	42.1	34.0	8.8	3.0
<i>SA %</i>	16.7	15.3	41.7	56.7	12.5	18.7	54.2	75.4	45.8	22.1	0.0	2.5
<i>WA %</i>	32.0	14.2	24.0	57.4	8.0	12.8	32.0	70.2	52.0	26.2	16.0	3.6
<i>Tas. %</i>	25.9	18.0	48.1	56.2	18.5	13.9	66.7	70.0	29.6	27.7	3.7	2.2
<i>NT %</i>	9.5	20.6	33.3	41.2	19.0	14.7	52.4	55.9	38.1	38.2	9.5	5.9

See Notes to Tables

Table 20 Outcomes from Labour Market Programs for 15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Region and State, 1996-97: Other Programs

<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	<i>Study</i>		<i>Full-time employed</i>		<i>Part-time employed</i>		<i>Total employed</i>		<i>Unemployed</i>		<i>Not in the labour force</i>	
	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>
Males												
<i>Australia %</i>	11.5	13.7	10.6	16.2	9.9	11.7	20.5	27.9	73.5	66.2	6.0	5.9
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	6.7	15.1	14.7	17.0	6.7	12.2	21.3	29.2	73.3	63.9	5.3	6.9
<i>Non-Met. %</i>	13.4	12.5	9.1	15.4	11.1	11.3	20.2	26.7	73.6	68.3	6.3	5.0
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	16.0	15.5	10.5	15.5	7.7	11.7	18.2	27.2	77.3	66.8	4.4	6.0
<i>VIC %</i>	11.4	16.2	5.7	15.3	8.6	10.1	14.3	25.4	82.9	67.6	2.9	7.0
<i>Qld %</i>	7.6	10.7	11.8	17.2	6.3	13.0	18.1	30.2	72.9	64.5	9.0	5.3
<i>SA %</i>	14.0	13.2	11.6	14.3	14.0	12.5	25.6	26.8	69.8	67.5	4.7	5.7
<i>WA %</i>	10.0	11.3	11.7	22.1	8.3	12.2	20.0	34.3	78.3	60.1	1.7	5.6
<i>Tas. %</i>	2.6	9.9	13.2	13.2	15.8	10.8	28.9	24.0	68.4	72.9	2.6	3.1
<i>NT %</i>	13.0	16.0	6.5	18.0	23.9	22.0	30.4	40.0	54.3	50.0	15.2	10.0
Females												
<i>Australia %</i>	14.8	15.8	5.6	11.7	15.5	19.4	21.1	31.1	70.6	61.6	8.3	7.3
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	14.9	16.0	9.6	14.3	15.8	18.3	25.4	32.6	65.8	59.7	8.8	7.7
<i>Non-Met %</i>	14.8	15.6	4.1	9.1	15.4	20.5	19.5	29.6	72.3	63.5	8.2	6.9
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	18.3	19.7	3.7	11.7	12.2	18.1	15.9	29.7	75.6	62.5	8.5	7.7
<i>VIC %</i>	14.3	14.3	14.3	11.1	10.7	18.1	25.0	29.1	71.4	63.9	3.6	6.9
<i>Qld %</i>	10.1	12.9	5.5	12.5	15.6	22.1	21.1	34.6	73.4	59.1	5.5	6.3
<i>SA %</i>	10.7	15.0	3.6	9.4	28.6	20.5	32.1	29.9	50.0	63.8	17.9	6.3
<i>WA %</i>	10.7	16.8	8.9	15.2	17.9	19.6	26.8	34.8	69.6	54.6	3.6	10.6
<i>Tas. %</i>	5.0	12.0	10.0	7.9	20.0	20.0	30.0	27.9	65.0	67.4	5.0	4.8
<i>NT %</i>	33.3	11.5	0.0	17.9	18.5	21.8	18.5	39.7	55.6	47.4	25.9	12.8
Persons												
<i>Australia %</i>	13.0	14.8	8.4	13.9	12.4	15.6	20.7	29.5	72.2	63.9	7.0	6.6
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	10.2	15.6	12.5	15.6	10.6	15.4	23.1	31.0	70.1	61.7	6.8	7.3
<i>Non-Met %</i>	14.0	14.0	6.9	12.3	13.0	15.8	19.9	28.1	73.0	66.0	7.1	5.9
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	17.1	17.6	7.2	13.6	9.9	14.8	17.1	28.5	76.5	64.7	6.4	6.9
<i>VIC %</i>	12.7	15.2	9.5	13.1	9.5	14.2	19.0	27.3	77.8	65.7	3.2	6.9
<i>Qld %</i>	8.7	11.8	9.1	14.9	10.3	17.6	19.4	32.4	73.1	61.8	7.5	5.8
<i>SA %</i>	12.7	14.1	8.5	12.0	19.7	16.3	28.2	28.3	62.0	65.7	9.9	6.0
<i>WA %</i>	10.3	14.2	10.3	18.4	12.9	16.1	23.3	34.6	74.1	57.1	2.6	8.3
<i>Tas. %</i>	3.4	10.9	12.1	10.6	17.2	15.3	29.3	25.9	67.2	70.2	3.4	3.9
<i>NT %</i>	20.5	13.3	4.1	18.0	21.9	21.9	26.0	39.8	54.8	48.4	19.2	11.7

See Notes to Tables

**Table 21 Outcomes from Labour Market Programs for 15 to 19 Year-old Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Region and State, 1996-97:
All Programs**

<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	<i>Study</i>		<i>Full-time employed</i>		<i>Part-time employed</i>		<i>Total employed</i>		<i>Unemployed</i>		<i>Not in the labour force</i>	
	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
Males												
<i>Australia %</i>	12.2	13.8	20.0	29.5	10.3	11.6	30.3	41.1	64.9	54.1	4.8	4.8
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	12.9	14.5	26.2	30.7	7.3	12.0	33.6	42.7	62.2	52.0	4.2	5.3
<i>Non-Met. %</i>	11.9	13.1	17.3	28.3	11.6	11.1	28.9	39.4	66.0	56.3	5.1	4.3
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	15.8	17.6	18.2	28.9	11.2	11.8	29.4	40.7	66.0	54.5	4.6	4.8
<i>VIC %</i>	13.4	15.5	17.9	30.6	4.5	10.3	22.4	40.9	74.6	53.5	3.0	5.6
<i>Qld %</i>	8.6	9.1	21.8	28.7	7.1	12.9	28.9	41.6	65.0	54.4	6.0	4.0
<i>SA %</i>	16.7	11.6	23.6	27.9	11.1	12.0	34.7	39.9	62.5	55.4	2.8	4.7
<i>WA %</i>	12.7	12.0	18.6	33.0	7.8	11.1	26.5	44.1	71.6	50.4	2.0	5.4
<i>Tas. %</i>	5.8	11.3	30.4	27.4	17.4	10.4	47.8	37.8	50.7	59.2	1.4	3.0
<i>NT %</i>	9.7	12.0	11.1	29.3	19.4	16.3	30.6	45.7	56.9	45.7	12.5	8.7
Females												
<i>Australia %</i>	13.7	15.1	18.3	25.1	16.2	20.3	34.5	45.3	57.0	49.0	8.5	5.7
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	15.6	15.0	21.8	28.0	13.5	18.4	35.3	46.4	54.2	47.8	10.5	5.8
<i>Non-Met. %</i>	12.7	15.1	16.7	21.9	17.4	22.3	34.1	44.2	58.3	50.2	7.6	5.5
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	15.5	19.1	15.8	28.0	12.1	18.6	27.9	46.6	64.0	47.3	8.1	6.1
<i>VIC %</i>	14.1	13.4	18.8	24.6	15.6	18.0	34.4	42.6	60.9	52.2	4.7	5.2
<i>Qld %</i>	8.3	12.5	20.8	23.9	18.1	22.0	38.9	45.9	52.1	48.8	9.1	5.2
<i>SA %</i>	15.4	14.1	9.6	20.3	28.8	25.7	38.5	46.0	50.0	49.5	11.5	4.5
<i>WA %</i>	16.3	14.5	13.0	26.6	12.0	20.3	25.0	46.9	67.4	45.2	7.6	7.9
<i>Tas. %</i>	13.2	11.5	24.5	22.5	22.6	21.5	47.2	43.9	47.2	51.9	5.7	4.1
<i>NT %</i>	23.2	15.4	30.4	20.5	17.9	23.1	48.2	43.6	37.5	46.2	14.3	10.3
Persons												
<i>Australia %</i>	12.9	14.4	19.2	27.3	13.1	15.9	32.3	43.2	61.1	51.5	6.6	5.2
<i>Metropolitan %</i>	14.3	14.7	24.1	29.3	10.3	15.2	34.4	44.5	58.3	49.9	7.3	5.6
<i>Non-Met. %</i>	12.3	14.1	17.0	25.1	14.3	16.7	31.4	41.8	62.3	53.3	6.3	4.9
<i>NSW/ACT %</i>	15.7	18.4	17.0	28.4	11.7	15.2	28.7	43.7	65.0	50.8	6.3	5.5
<i>VIC %</i>	13.7	14.5	18.3	27.6	9.9	14.1	28.2	41.7	67.9	52.8	3.8	5.4
<i>Qld %</i>	8.5	10.8	21.3	26.3	12.6	17.5	33.9	43.8	58.6	51.6	7.5	4.6
<i>SA %</i>	16.1	12.8	17.7	24.2	18.5	18.6	36.3	42.8	57.3	52.6	6.5	4.6
<i>WA %</i>	14.4	13.3	16.0	29.8	9.8	15.7	25.8	45.5	69.6	47.8	4.6	6.7
<i>Tas. %</i>	9.0	11.4	27.9	24.9	19.7	15.9	47.5	40.9	49.2	55.6	3.3	3.6
<i>NT %</i>	15.6	13.9	19.5	24.4	18.8	20.1	38.3	44.5	48.4	45.9	13.3	9.6

See Notes to Tables

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

There is a strong literature, in Australia and internationally, which links education to improved employment outcomes. Previous sections showed that young Indigenous Australians had substantially lower levels of educational attainment and lower levels of employment. This section explores the extent of any link between educational attainment and employment.

There are two tables in this section, both of which have the same structure. Tables 22a, 22b and 22c show, for 20 to 24 year-old males, females and persons respectively, unemployment rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with different levels of educational attainment. These tables are collectively referred to as Table 22. Consistent with previous sections, national values are presented as well as values for State, region and region within State.

The interpretation of values in Table 22 is fairly direct, if wordy. The first value in Table 22a is 46.9% -- which means that 46.9% of male Indigenous Australians aged 20 to 24 years who left school at age 15 or younger and lived in a capital city, were unemployed. The next value is 28.2%, which is the corresponding estimate for non-Indigenous males.

Tables 23a, 23b and 23c repeat this presentation for full-time employment ratios, that is the percentage of the population in full-time employment. These tables are referred to collectively as Table 23. The use of employment ratios takes into account different levels of labour market participation as well as employment rates for those in the labour market. Restricting the employment of interest to full-time work focuses on the major desirable labour market outcome. The interpretation of values in Table 23 corresponds to the interpretation of values in Table 22, except that the values are percentages of persons in full-time employment.

There is a major caveat on the values presented in Tables 22 and 23. Percentages are based on the number of persons with a given qualification. As established earlier, there are relatively few Indigenous Australians with post-secondary qualifications. Hence the estimates are in some cases based on very few individuals. The problem is more acute for Table 22 which excludes persons not in the labour force. Although estimates are provided for States and regions within States, the discussion in this section will be restricted to national values for males, females and persons. Even national values for rural areas are a problem due to small numbers. Values for the four larger States -- New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory -- are probably defensible, particularly for Table 23.

Educational Attainment and Unemployment

The Indigenous Population

Indigenous Australians with higher levels of educational attainment have lower unemployment rates. The relationship is one of consistent decline of

unemployment with higher levels of education -- 36.0% for those who left school at age 15 or younger, 27.4% for persons who left school at age 16 or older, 22.2% for persons with a basic vocational qualification, 16.8% for those with a skilled vocational qualification, 16.6% for those with a diploma, and 12.0% for bachelor degree graduates. This relationship is large by any criterion.

Table 22a Unemployment Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Males

State/ Year	Region	Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual		Diploma		Degree	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>													
Australia													
1996	Cap. City	46.9	28.2	28.1	15.5	31.7	15.8	13.4	7.2	12.9	10.9	18.8	8.0
	Other Urban	38.4	29.9	32.4	18.5	33.3	17.9	18.4	8.3	24.6	10.9	17.9	7.8
	Rural	22.5	27.4	16.8	18.7	---	12.6	10.2	7.0	---	12.1	---	7.9
	Ex-Capital City	35.6	29.7	30.1	18.5	32.0	17.7	17.8	8.2	23.4	10.9	17.1	7.8
	All Australia	38.3	29.0	29.5	16.6	31.9	16.6	16.2	7.7	17.9	10.9	18.1	8.0
1991	Cap. City	63.0	33.6	35.0	18.4	45.0	16.9	22.4	12.2	27.3	13.0	40.0	10.9
	Ex Capital City	44.6	31.7	38.4	20.5	35.0	17.7	23.8	11.7	16.7	10.2	---	9.9
	All Australia	49.5	32.8	37.4	19.1	38.8	17.2	23.2	12.0	20.7	12.2	28.6	10.7
NSW													
1996	Sydney	44.6	24.9	25.5	12.7	36.4	11.0	9.6	5.3	---	7.9	10.3	6.2
	Other Urban	61.2	36.0	40.4	20.4	42.9	19.7	21.6	8.8	33.3	11.1	23.7	9.5
	Rural	38.9	32.6	38.0	21.3	---	5.2	---	7.9	---	12.7	---	2.9
	Ex-Sydney	58.5	35.9	40.3	20.4	40.0	19.3	21.1	8.8	33.3	11.1	23.7	9.3
	All NSW	54.3	30.4	35.5	15.8	38.8	14.6	16.7	7.0	16.7	8.9	17.9	7.0
1991	Sydney	55.7	30.9	28.4	16.1	12.5	14.4	19.0	9.3	---	10.3	100.0	8.7
	Ex Sydney	66.0	37.6	53.3	21.7	58.6	20.2	29.8	10.9	---	11.6	---	10.0
	All NSW	62.5	33.7	44.4	17.9	37.7	16.4	25.3	9.9	---	10.7	100.0	9.0
Vic.													
1996	Melbourne	38.6	30.1	19.5	16.7	33.3	17.6	22.2	7.6	37.5	14.0	25.0	9.1
	Other Urban	48.4	34.2	37.8	18.3	---	17.8	10.6	7.4	33.3	13.6	---	8.6
	Rural	---	37.0	---	19.6	---	27.0	---	8.3	---	12.0	---	12.0
	Ex-Melbourne	48.4	34.3	36.6	18.3	---	18.2	10.6	7.4	33.3	13.5	---	8.8
	All Vic.	44.6	31.8	27.8	17.2	12.5	17.8	16.3	7.5	36.0	13.9	25.0	9.0
1991	Melbourne	44.9	36.2	29.2	20.3	100.0	16.1	12.5	14.5	100.0	15.9	50.0	12.7
	Ex Melbourne	59.8	41.2	35.1	22.8	---	18.2	29.3	14.0	---	12.2	---	13.5
	All Vic.	53.8	37.8	31.8	20.9	66.7	16.6	20.2	14.4	100.0	15.2	50.0	12.8
Qld													
1996	Brisbane	47.1	28.4	31.2	15.6	42.9	19.1	17.1	7.9	---	10.1	25.0	8.7
	Other Urban	37.7	26.7	32.3	17.8	35.9	18.1	17.0	9.1	31.6	10.0	17.6	7.4
	Rural	14.4	27.4	13.4	18.8	---	12.8	---	5.6	---	15.5	---	7.9
	Ex-Brisbane	33.2	26.7	28.9	17.8	35.9	17.9	16.1	8.9	31.6	10.1	15.0	7.4
	All Qld	36.2	27.3	29.4	16.8	38.3	18.5	16.3	8.5	16.2	10.1	20.5	8.2
1991	Brisbane	68.6	29.4	36.7	16.4	66.7	20.5	27.6	10.1	33.3	11.4	---	10.4
	Ex Brisbane	36.0	25.2	31.7	17.8	34.3	16.2	19.5	11.2	20.0	8.2	---	9.7
	All Qld	42.4	26.9	32.6	17.1	45.3	18.1	22.5	10.7	23.1	9.9	---	10.2

Table 22a Unemployment Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Males (continued)

State/ Year	Region	<i>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</i>											
		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Basic Voc.</i>		<i>Skilled</i>		<i>Diploma</i>		<i>Degree</i>	
		<i>15-</i>	<i>16+</i>	<i>Qual.</i>	<i>Voc. Qual</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	
SA													
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	51.9	36.5	35.7	20.0	25.0	19.9	---	10.1	100.0	14.0	100.0	9.6
	<i>Other Urban</i>	36.7	30.9	30.7	17.4	28.6	14.7	20.0	7.4	---	3.6	---	4.8
	<i>Rural</i>	50.0	28.6	16.7	20.0	---	22.6	---	5.2	---	---	---	13.6
	<i>Ex-Adelaide</i>	37.5	30.7	29.2	17.6	28.6	15.3	14.3	7.2	---	3.4	---	5.2
	<i>All SA</i>	43.6	34.6	32.6	19.4	27.3	18.6	8.3	9.2	100.0	12.2	50.0	8.8
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	71.8	36.1	40.7	19.8	100.0	18.5	15.8	12.2	---	14.0	---	12.6
	<i>Ex Adelaide</i>	37.7	31.3	40.6	20.8	50.0	16.4	19.0	11.3	---	8.1	---	5.9
	<i>All SA</i>	52.2	34.5	40.6	20.0	66.7	17.9	17.5	12.0	---	13.2	---	11.6
WA													
1996	<i>Perth</i>	52.3	25.2	27.7	15.0	---	17.2	16.7	8.8	---	13.3	---	8.3
	<i>Other Urban</i>	25.8	22.3	19.3	12.8	100.0	13.6	23.4	7.2	---	8.8	---	4.0
	<i>Rural</i>	18.0	17.9	9.6	9.9	---	---	25.0	6.3	---	---	---	8.2
	<i>Ex-Perth</i>	24.2	22.0	17.5	12.6	100.0	12.8	23.9	7.1	---	8.5	---	4.3
	<i>All WA</i>	30.6	23.8	20.6	14.3	40.0	15.6	21.5	8.1	---	12.1	---	7.3
1991	<i>Perth</i>	72.5	37.4	46.7	22.3	---	24.7	43.5	18.5	---	18.8	---	13.6
	<i>Ex Perth</i>	44.5	25.8	35.6	16.1	50.0	15.4	35.6	11.2	---	9.1	---	6.5
	<i>All WA</i>	52.3	33.5	38.7	20.8	33.3	21.8	39.6	16.1	---	16.6	---	12.2
Tas.													
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	25.0	26.8	21.5	22.1	---	20.9	10.7	7.1	---	15.2	100.0	13.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	42.7	27.7	26.7	23.1	---	20.8	20.0	7.1	---	14.7	---	8.1
	<i>Rural</i>	50.0	20.8	36.8	19.7	---	16.7	---	6.4	---	33.3	---	12.5
	<i>Ex-Hobart</i>	43.2	27.2	27.8	22.9	---	20.4	16.9	7.1	---	15.5	---	8.4
	<i>All Tas.</i>	40.2	27.1	26.1	22.6	---	20.6	15.2	7.1	---	15.4	50.0	11.1
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	68.2	39.6	45.8	24.0	50.0	8.5	15.8	11.7	---	2.6	---	11.9
	<i>Ex Hobart</i>	45.5	33.9	33.1	25.4	---	18.0	11.1	12.0	---	12.1	---	12.2
	<i>All Tas.</i>	51.9	35.7	37.7	24.8	25.0	13.9	12.3	11.9	---	8.0	---	12.0
NT													
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	41.9	23.0	35.7	13.2	100.0	10.0	11.5	7.9	---	5.9	---	7.7
	<i>Other Urban</i>	18.7	13.4	23.8	9.4	20.0	6.5	10.0	4.6	---	5.2	---	1.9
	<i>Rural</i>	24.3	---	12.8	---	---	---	---	12.0	---	---	---	---
	<i>Ex-Darwin</i>	20.3	12.7	21.0	8.8	20.0	6.1	10.0	4.9	---	5.0	---	1.8
	<i>All NT</i>	21.9	16.5	23.6	11.0	33.3	7.9	10.7	6.1	---	5.5	---	5.1
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	53.8	35.9	46.4	18.7	---	10.5	14.3	11.9	---	19.8	---	9.8
	<i>Ex Darwin</i>	31.0	21.8	28.2	11.0	---	8.3	10.0	7.6	---	11.3	---	6.7
	<i>All NT</i>	33.6	28.3	32.0	15.5	---	9.5	11.8	9.9	---	15.3	---	8.3
ACT													
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	64.7	33.6	29.9	16.1	---	14.5	---	9.4	---	8.4	---	6.7
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	25.0	29.4	28.3	13.4	---	14.1	---	6.1	---	6.8	---	5.9

See Notes to Tables

Table 22b Unemployment Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Females

State/ Year	Region	<i>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</i>											
		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Basic Voc.</i>		<i>Skilled</i>		<i>Diploma</i>		<i>Degree</i>	
		<i>15-</i>		<i>16+</i>		<i>Qual.</i>		<i>Voc. Qual</i>					
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>													
Australia													
1996	<i>Cap. City</i>	42.4	21.7	22.5	12.0	18.0	9.7	17.1	9.5	14.4	7.6	6.9	5.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	30.8	24.2	26.7	15.3	15.8	13.4	23.1	11.1	17.3	9.7	12.5	5.9
	<i>Rural</i>	14.5	22.8	16.5	16.0	50.0	9.7	---	9.5	16.7	10.5	---	2.8
	<i>Ex-Capital City</i>	27.9	24.2	25.4	15.3	16.6	13.3	20.8	11.0	17.2	9.7	11.1	5.7
	<i>All Australia</i>	31.7	22.9	24.5	13.2	17.2	11.1	19.3	10.2	16.1	8.3	8.7	5.5
1991	<i>Cap. City</i>	47.4	22.6	28.8	14.1	18.2	11.5	18.5	11.6	16.7	7.7	10.2	9.0
	<i>Ex Capital City</i>	44.1	25.8	36.0	17.7	28.4	15.4	23.5	11.1	10.3	7.7	14.0	8.2
	<i>All Australia</i>	45.1	23.9	33.4	15.1	24.0	12.7	21.1	11.4	13.2	7.7	11.8	8.8
NSW													
1996	<i>Sydney</i>	44.7	18.8	18.7	9.8	17.5	7.0	18.2	7.4	11.3	5.4	---	4.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	53.7	28.4	32.3	16.4	16.2	12.6	25.8	12.2	19.7	9.5	15.4	7.1
	<i>Rural</i>	21.1	28.6	46.8	18.0	100.0	12.5	---	14.8	---	9.0	---	5.9
	<i>Ex-Sydney</i>	50.9	28.4	33.1	16.5	19.5	12.6	24.6	12.3	18.1	9.4	14.3	7.1
	<i>All NSW</i>	48.6	23.3	27.5	12.4	18.7	9.2	22.5	9.5	15.2	6.8	7.0	4.9
1991	<i>Sydney</i>	41.6	20.4	21.0	12.7	28.8	9.1	9.4	9.2	11.1	6.8	15.0	7.0
	<i>Ex Sydney</i>	67.2	29.1	48.9	18.7	25.4	15.0	37.9	9.9	14.3	8.7	20.0	10.2
	<i>All NSW</i>	57.4	23.8	37.6	14.5	26.9	11.0	23.0	9.4	12.5	7.3	17.1	7.7
Vic.													
1996	<i>Melbourne</i>	30.2	29.0	23.9	13.6	12.0	12.0	---	11.6	---	9.5	---	6.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	31.6	30.3	23.8	15.8	---	15.8	20.0	10.0	40.9	10.7	50.0	6.3
	<i>Rural</i>	---	25.6	---	17.1	---	11.6	---	5.7	---	13.9	---	2.0
	<i>Ex-Melbourne</i>	31.6	30.1	23.8	15.9	---	15.6	20.0	9.8	40.9	10.8	50.0	6.2
	<i>All Vic.</i>	30.9	29.4	23.9	14.2	7.7	13.2	12.5	11.0	29.0	9.9	13.3	6.1
1991	<i>Melbourne</i>	44.2	30.4	21.5	15.4	16.7	13.6	---	14.2	25.0	9.3	---	10.2
	<i>Ex Melbourne</i>	62.2	35.7	33.9	18.1	---	16.7	33.3	11.2	25.0	9.0	---	9.3
	<i>All Vic.</i>	53.4	31.9	26.4	16.0	10.0	14.3	20.0	13.4	25.0	9.2	---	10.0
Qld													
1996	<i>Brisbane</i>	48.0	21.2	27.9	12.5	18.4	11.6	16.7	10.4	23.1	8.4	11.8	5.7
	<i>Other Urban</i>	33.7	22.5	28.9	14.4	22.5	15.4	37.9	12.2	11.5	9.7	6.3	5.2
	<i>Rural</i>	16.7	22.3	14.4	14.9	---	7.8	---	11.2	25.0	6.5	---	3.2
	<i>Ex-Brisbane</i>	30.5	22.5	26.9	14.5	22.5	15.2	31.4	12.1	14.1	9.6	6.3	5.1
	<i>All Qld</i>	34.4	22.0	27.1	13.5	21.4	13.6	26.4	11.5	16.7	9.0	9.1	5.4
1991	<i>Brisbane</i>	45.8	18.2	36.7	13.7	25.0	12.6	18.8	10.4	25.0	6.2	20.0	9.2
	<i>Ex Brisbane</i>	38.4	20.9	32.2	16.4	36.4	16.3	13.6	13.2	---	6.9	18.8	7.6
	<i>All Qld</i>	40.6	19.6	33.3	15.0	33.9	14.6	15.8	11.9	6.3	6.5	19.4	8.6

Table 22b Unemployment Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Females (continued)

State/ Year	Region	<i>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</i>											
		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Basic Voc.</i>		<i>Skilled</i>		<i>Diploma</i>		<i>Degree</i>	
		<i>15-</i>		<i>16+</i>		<i>Qual.</i>		<i>Voc. Qual</i>					
<i>Ind. Not</i>		<i>Ind. Not</i>		<i>Ind. Not</i>		<i>Ind. Not</i>		<i>Ind. Not</i>		<i>Ind. Not</i>			
Indigenous . . .													
SA													
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	50.0	25.0	25.5	14.2	40.0	11.5	33.3	11.3	25.0	9.4	40.0	7.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	23.8	25.8	18.6	15.4	---	11.4	---	7.9	---	12.4	---	4.2
	<i>Rural</i>	100.0	32.8	20.0	14.7	---	5.7	---	7.5	---	24.0	---	---
	<i>Ex-Adelaide</i>	28.9	26.5	18.8	15.4	---	11.0	---	7.9	---	13.2	---	3.9
	<i>All SA</i>	38.0	25.4	22.5	14.5	18.2	11.4	25.0	10.3	16.7	10.1	28.6	6.5
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	52.2	24.6	35.8	14.2	---	12.6	---	10.2	---	6.2	---	11.7
	<i>Ex Adelaide</i>	32.3	29.1	29.8	17.2	50.0	16.8	---	11.2	100.0	5.2	---	5.3
	<i>All SA</i>	38.8	25.7	33.3	14.9	28.6	13.4	---	10.4	50.0	6.0	---	10.8
WA													
1996	<i>Perth</i>	43.9	18.5	30.1	11.7	23.1	10.1	25.0	9.6	15.8	8.5	---	6.2
	<i>Other Urban</i>	19.1	18.6	15.9	11.9	---	11.3	---	9.5	---	7.8	---	3.4
	<i>Rural</i>	13.6	10.6	5.4	11.7	---	6.1	---	---	---	4.5	---	---
	<i>Ex-Perth</i>	18.1	18.1	14.3	11.9	---	11.0	---	9.0	---	7.6	---	3.0
	<i>All WA</i>	23.9	18.3	19.1	11.7	9.1	10.4	12.5	9.4	11.5	8.3	---	5.3
1991	<i>Perth</i>	61.8	22.2	41.5	15.9	---	14.4	40.0	15.2	50.0	10.8	---	11.0
	<i>Ex Perth</i>	45.2	22.7	38.2	15.1	55.0	12.7	20.0	11.4	---	6.3	---	4.5
	<i>All WA</i>	50.0	22.3	39.4	15.7	28.2	14.1	30.0	14.1	20.0	9.6	---	9.5
Tas.													
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	33.3	19.1	12.9	12.4	---	8.8	---	3.6	---	11.0	---	8.3
	<i>Other Urban</i>	25.3	17.3	23.3	16.4	20.0	11.2	---	9.3	---	10.6	---	8.1
	<i>Rural</i>	---	17.9	---	17.8	---	7.7	---	---	---	40.0	---	6.5
	<i>Ex-Hobart</i>	22.1	17.3	22.1	16.5	20.0	10.9	---	9.0	---	11.9	---	8.0
	<i>All Tas.</i>	24.1	17.8	18.8	15.0	14.3	10.2	---	7.3	---	11.6	---	8.1
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	43.5	20.6	34.6	15.2	---	15.6	---	7.8	---	4.1	---	9.9
	<i>Ex Hobart</i>	35.4	24.7	25.6	21.0	---	12.7	---	11.2	---	9.0	---	4.8
	<i>All Tas.</i>	38.0	23.3	29.1	18.3	---	13.9	---	9.7	---	6.6	---	7.4
NT													
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	33.3	12.0	19.3	9.2	16.7	8.8	---	8.8	---	12.4	---	5.2
	<i>Other Urban</i>	18.8	14.7	22.2	8.8	18.8	5.0	---	3.9	---	4.8	---	3.8
	<i>Rural</i>	11.1	33.3	12.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	<i>Ex-Darwin</i>	16.5	15.5	19.5	8.4	15.8	4.9	---	3.8	---	4.5	---	3.5
	<i>All NT</i>	18.3	14.2	19.5	8.8	16.2	6.9	---	6.0	---	8.2	---	4.4
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	54.3	21.5	31.3	14.7	30.0	14.1	---	20.0	---	12.6	---	10.5
	<i>Ex Darwin</i>	28.4	11.6	24.7	10.3	---	12.9	---	2.9	---	6.2	---	7.7
	<i>All NT</i>	32.0	16.8	26.4	12.9	13.6	13.5	---	12.3	---	9.3	---	9.3
ACT													
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	25.0	20.0	10.6	11.3	---	8.9	33.3	7.7	---	7.3	---	5.7
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	---	17.7	10.3	11.0	---	7.3	50.0	8.2	---	7.2	---	5.2

See Notes to Tables

Table 22c Unemployment Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Persons

State/ Year	Region	Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual		Diploma		Degree	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>													
Australia													
1996	Cap. City	45.2	25.5	25.5	13.8	22.3	11.6	14.2	7.6	13.8	8.8	11.1	6.5
	Other Urban	35.8	27.7	30.0	17.0	22.0	14.9	19.2	8.8	19.3	10.1	14.4	6.6
	Rural	19.7	25.8	16.7	17.5	25.0	10.6	8.1	7.4	14.3	11.0	---	4.4
	Ex-Capital City	32.9	27.6	28.2	17.1	22.1	14.7	18.3	8.7	18.9	10.1	13.2	6.5
	All Australia	36.0	26.5	27.4	15.0	22.2	12.8	16.8	8.1	16.6	9.3	12.0	6.5
1991	Cap. City	57.0	28.6	32.0	16.3	26.6	12.9	21.7	12.1	19.1	9.3	16.2	9.9
	Ex Capital City	44.4	29.2	37.4	19.2	30.8	16.1	23.8	11.6	12.2	8.4	12.2	8.9
	All Australia	48.0	28.8	35.6	17.2	29.1	13.9	22.9	11.9	15.2	9.0	14.6	9.7
NSW													
1996	Sydney	44.6	22.2	22.2	11.3	22.8	8.2	11.2	5.7	8.5	6.3	4.1	4.9
	Other Urban	58.7	33.0	37.1	18.6	25.9	14.9	22.6	9.4	22.6	10.0	19.5	8.0
	Rural	34.2	31.2	41.0	19.8	50.0	10.7	---	9.0	---	10.0	---	4.9
	Ex-Sydney	56.0	32.9	37.3	18.7	27.0	14.7	21.9	9.4	21.1	10.0	18.8	7.9
	All NSW	52.3	27.4	32.0	14.3	25.4	10.8	17.9	7.4	15.5	7.5	11.8	5.7
1991	Sydney	50.3	25.9	25.0	14.4	23.7	10.3	17.0	9.3	8.8	8.0	26.1	7.8
	Ex Sydney	66.4	33.8	51.5	20.3	35.4	16.3	31.0	10.8	11.1	9.6	20.0	10.1
	All NSW	60.7	29.1	41.5	16.3	30.2	12.2	24.9	9.8	9.8	8.4	23.7	8.2
Vic.													
1996	Melbourne	35.0	29.7	21.6	15.2	17.6	13.8	19.4	8.3	24.0	11.2	6.7	7.2
	Other Urban	43.4	32.9	31.2	17.2	---	16.5	12.3	7.8	38.7	11.7	50.0	7.2
	Rural	---	33.3	---	18.5	---	15.9	---	7.9	---	13.3	---	5.5
	Ex-Melbourne	43.4	32.9	30.7	17.2	---	16.4	12.3	7.8	38.7	11.8	50.0	7.1
	All Vic.	39.7	30.9	25.9	15.8	9.5	14.7	15.7	8.1	32.1	11.3	15.8	7.2
1991	Melbourne	44.6	33.7	25.3	17.8	37.5	14.3	11.1	14.5	40.0	11.2	33.3	11.3
	Ex Melbourne	60.5	39.1	34.5	20.5	---	17.2	30.0	13.6	25.0	9.8	---	11.0
	All Vic.	53.7	35.3	29.2	18.4	23.1	14.9	20.2	14.2	33.3	10.9	25.0	11.2
Qld													
1996	Brisbane	47.4	25.5	29.7	14.1	27.1	14.3	17.0	8.3	13.6	9.0	16.0	6.9
	Other Urban	36.6	25.1	30.8	16.2	26.2	16.3	19.4	9.7	16.9	9.8	9.2	6.0
	Rural	15.0	25.8	13.7	17.0	---	9.7	---	6.6	25.0	10.0	---	4.7
	Ex-Brisbane	32.4	25.1	28.0	16.2	26.2	16.2	18.1	9.5	18.1	9.8	8.8	5.9
	All Qld	35.7	25.2	28.4	15.3	26.5	15.3	17.8	9.1	16.5	9.4	12.6	6.5
1991	Brisbane	59.2	24.1	36.7	15.1	50.0	15.3	26.1	10.1	28.6	7.6	16.7	9.8
	Ex Brisbane	36.7	23.3	31.9	17.2	35.4	16.3	18.7	11.5	9.1	7.3	15.8	8.5
	All Qld	41.9	23.7	32.9	16.1	39.4	15.8	21.5	10.9	13.8	7.5	16.2	9.3

Table 22c Unemployment Rates for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Persons (continued)

State/ Year	Region	<i>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</i>											
		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Basic Voc.</i>		<i>Skilled</i>		<i>Diploma</i>		<i>Degree</i>	
		<i>15-</i>		<i>16+</i>		<i>Qual.</i>		<i>Voc. Qual</i>					
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>													
SA													
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	51.4	32.1	31.2	17.3	33.3	14.2	12.5	10.4	40.0	11.3	50.0	8.0
	<i>Other Urban</i>	32.9	29.1	25.9	16.5	15.4	12.6	16.7	7.5	---	9.0	---	4.4
	<i>Rural</i>	66.7	30.2	18.2	17.6	---	11.9	---	5.7	---	15.0	---	3.0
	<i>Ex-Adelaide</i>	34.9	29.2	25.0	16.6	15.4	12.5	12.5	7.3	---	9.4	---	4.3
	<i>All SA</i>	41.9	31.2	28.3	17.1	22.7	13.8	12.5	9.4	28.6	10.9	33.3	7.4
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	64.5	31.1	38.1	17.1	25.0	14.3	15.8	11.9	---	8.5	---	12.1
	<i>Ex Adelaide</i>	35.2	30.5	36.3	19.1	50.0	16.6	16.7	11.3	100.0	5.7	---	5.6
	<i>All SA</i>	46.4	30.9	37.2	17.5	40.0	14.8	16.3	11.7	50.0	8.0	---	11.2
WA													
1996	<i>Perth</i>	49.5	22.4	28.7	13.4	13.6	12.1	18.8	9.0	12.0	10.3	---	7.0
	<i>Other Urban</i>	23.5	21.0	17.8	12.4	23.1	12.0	19.6	7.5	---	8.2	---	3.6
	<i>Rural</i>	16.5	15.3	8.0	10.7	---	3.6	22.2	5.3	---	3.6	---	2.3
	<i>Ex-Perth</i>	22.1	20.5	16.1	12.3	23.1	11.6	20.5	7.4	---	7.9	---	3.5
	<i>All WA</i>	28.3	21.6	20.0	13.1	18.8	11.9	19.8	8.3	6.4	9.7	---	6.1
1991	<i>Perth</i>	69.2	30.4	44.2	19.1	---	16.9	42.6	17.9	50.0	13.3	---	12.2
	<i>Ex Perth</i>	44.7	24.6	36.7	15.6	53.8	13.7	31.7	11.3	---	7.1	---	5.3
	<i>All WA</i>	51.6	28.6	39.0	18.3	29.2	16.2	37.2	15.8	20.0	11.8	---	10.7
Tas.													
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	29.7	22.9	17.0	17.5	---	13.3	7.5	6.3	---	12.2	50.0	10.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	33.5	22.4	25.3	20.0	16.7	14.6	17.4	7.5	---	12.2	---	8.1
	<i>Rural</i>	16.7	19.5	28.0	18.9	---	10.5	---	5.9	---	37.5	---	8.6
	<i>Ex-Hobart</i>	31.8	22.2	25.5	19.9	14.3	14.2	14.5	7.4	---	13.4	---	8.1
	<i>All Tas.</i>	31.5	22.4	22.9	19.1	10.0	13.9	12.2	7.1	---	12.9	11.1	9.2
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	55.6	29.5	41.1	19.8	20.0	13.4	13.6	11.0	---	3.6	---	10.8
	<i>Ex Hobart</i>	40.8	29.4	30.1	23.4	---	14.4	9.8	11.9	---	10.1	---	7.6
	<i>All Tas.</i>	45.3	29.4	34.2	21.7	10.0	13.9	10.8	11.6	---	7.1	---	9.4
NT													
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	37.5	18.8	29.2	11.2	28.6	9.2	10.3	8.0	---	10.1	---	6.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	18.7	13.9	23.1	9.1	19.4	5.5	9.1	4.5	---	5.0	---	3.1
	<i>Rural</i>	18.6	12.0	12.8	---	---	---	---	9.7	---	---	---	---
	<i>Ex-Darwin</i>	18.7	13.8	20.4	8.6	17.6	5.3	9.1	4.7	---	4.7	---	2.9
	<i>All NT</i>	20.4	15.6	21.9	9.9	21.8	7.2	9.7	6.0	---	7.2	---	4.7
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	54.1	29.0	38.2	16.6	30.0	12.8	12.5	13.2	---	15.0	---	10.3
	<i>Ex Darwin</i>	29.9	17.4	26.5	10.6	---	11.5	10.0	6.9	---	7.9	---	7.3
	<i>All NT</i>	32.9	23.1	29.3	14.2	8.1	12.1	11.1	10.3	---	11.3	---	8.9
ACT													
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	48.3	27.8	21.0	13.9	---	10.9	20.0	8.9	---	7.7	---	6.1
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	14.3	23.8	21.3	12.2	---	9.0	33.3	6.5	---	7.0	---	5.6

See Notes to Tables

Table 23a Full-time Employment Ratios for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Males

State/ Year	Region	Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual		Diploma		Degree	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>													
Australia													
1996	Cap. City	25.1	44.2	40.2	45.2	36.9	56.3	64.4	76.6	55.4	55.2	58.8	61.5
	Other Urban	17.0	45.4	30.7	52.5	33.3	57.0	55.1	76.8	40.8	61.6	65.7	66.9
	Rural	13.4	45.8	20.5	55.3	50.0	65.2	54.2	76.4	100.0	70.9	50.0	70.9
	Ex-Capital City	16.3	45.4	29.1	52.6	33.9	57.3	55.1	76.8	43.0	61.9	64.5	67.0
	All Australia	18.3	44.8	32.4	47.9	35.0	56.7	58.4	76.7	49.4	57.3	61.2	62.8
1991	Cap. City	20.9	47.2	40.8	49.9	45.5	61.9	58.5	72.6	59.1	60.7	50.0	60.0
	Ex Capital City	18.3	49.8	27.2	55.5	45.6	62.2	57.0	73.7	64.3	65.3	100.0	66.5
	All Australia	18.9	48.3	31.2	51.6	45.6	62.0	57.7	73.0	62.5	62.0	62.5	61.2
NSW													
1996	Sydney	32.1	44.0	44.6	48.1	56.0	62.5	80.9	78.4	83.3	62.9	62.5	66.3
	Other Urban	15.4	39.2	31.6	48.5	29.4	54.1	55.2	76.1	42.9	60.5	68.4	61.2
	Rural	24.7	43.1	17.7	51.9	---	79.0	100.0	78.1	---	75.6	---	73.4
	Ex-Sydney	16.4	39.4	30.5	48.6	27.8	54.8	56.3	76.2	42.9	60.9	68.4	61.5
	All NSW	20.9	41.7	35.0	48.3	36.7	59.1	65.4	77.3	61.5	62.3	65.7	65.1
1991	Sydney	26.0	49.3	48.3	52.1	75.0	65.9	63.0	75.5	100.0	65.0	---	64.9
	Ex Sydney	12.3	44.2	25.1	53.0	31.0	60.9	54.7	75.2	66.7	63.0	---	65.5
	All NSW	17.0	47.2	33.0	52.4	50.9	64.1	58.1	75.4	81.3	64.5	---	65.0
Vic.													
1996	Melbourne	30.1	41.9	48.4	43.1	66.7	53.8	63.5	76.4	52.6	51.0	75.0	60.1
	Other Urban	19.5	42.1	37.6	52.2	20.0	55.1	58.0	78.4	25.0	56.5	---	65.7
	Rural	---	34.3	---	55.2	---	64.9	---	75.5	---	62.5	---	71.9
	Ex-Melbourne	19.5	41.7	36.6	52.3	20.0	55.4	58.0	78.2	25.0	56.7	---	65.9
	All Vic.	23.9	41.8	42.8	45.7	37.5	54.3	60.6	77.1	41.9	52.3	75.0	61.1
1991	Melbourne	37.6	44.4	44.1	48.9	---	63.5	64.7	70.3	---	57.8	50.0	58.1
	Ex Melbourne	16.3	41.5	37.3	53.5	---	58.5	45.5	71.3	---	64.8	---	62.8
	All Vic.	24.8	43.5	41.3	49.9	---	62.2	55.8	70.6	---	59.2	50.0	58.7
Qld													
1996	Brisbane	29.1	47.5	37.9	47.4	12.5	54.0	58.2	77.0	68.2	55.1	44.4	60.3
	Other Urban	24.5	49.7	35.0	54.7	29.6	57.3	57.0	75.4	25.0	62.5	64.7	67.5
	Rural	22.8	48.2	28.6	54.3	---	70.0	25.0	73.6	---	61.5	100.0	64.6
	Ex-Brisbane	24.2	49.6	33.9	54.7	29.6	57.7	55.5	75.4	25.0	62.5	70.0	67.4
	All Qld	25.2	48.8	34.8	51.2	24.4	56.0	56.2	76.0	44.0	58.9	55.3	63.0
1991	Brisbane	19.5	51.6	38.1	52.7	33.3	59.6	46.1	75.2	33.3	61.1	100.0	58.3
	Ex Brisbane	27.3	56.5	33.3	58.1	40.0	65.8	56.2	73.9	63.6	66.9	100.0	64.1
	All Qld	25.8	54.4	34.2	55.3	37.7	63.0	52.3	74.4	57.1	64.0	100.0	60.3

Table 23a Full-time Employment Ratios for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Males (continued)

State/ Year	Region	<i>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</i>											
		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Basic Voc.</i>		<i>Skilled</i>		<i>Diploma</i>		<i>Degree</i>	
		<i>15-</i>	<i>16+</i>	<i>Qual.</i>	<i>Voc. Qual</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>		<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>Not</i>
SA													
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	11.8	37.5	31.5	43.4	50.0	51.4	57.1	73.5	---	54.1	---	54.3
	<i>Other Urban</i>	13.8	40.6	29.4	56.7	42.9	64.1	20.0	78.0	---	76.3	---	75.7
	<i>Rural</i>	50.0	45.8	55.6	54.9	---	44.1	---	74.7	---	80.0	---	86.4
	<i>Ex-Adelaide</i>	15.4	41.0	32.5	56.6	42.9	62.6	14.3	77.7	---	76.6	---	76.1
	<i>All SA</i>	13.7	38.6	32.0	46.5	45.5	54.5	35.7	74.8	---	57.7	---	57.7
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	11.1	44.4	35.8	49.9	---	59.0	72.7	72.4	---	60.6	---	52.8
	<i>Ex Adelaide</i>	9.0	46.0	25.3	57.8	33.3	62.9	58.3	75.4	---	72.1	---	76.6
	<i>All SA</i>	9.8	44.9	30.3	51.5	20.0	60.0	65.2	73.1	---	62.2	---	56.0
WA													
1996	<i>Perth</i>	17.5	49.8	35.1	43.4	20.0	52.1	43.8	73.1	100.0	42.4	75.0	60.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	13.9	52.6	24.3	63.4	---	62.8	50.9	78.9	75.0	71.9	100.0	83.2
	<i>Rural</i>	10.1	53.6	23.1	70.8	---	64.9	50.0	78.2	100.0	100.0	---	77.9
	<i>Ex-Perth</i>	13.1	52.7	24.1	63.8	---	62.9	50.6	78.8	80.0	72.8	100.0	82.8
	<i>All WA</i>	14.2	51.0	27.6	49.1	14.3	55.8	48.0	75.5	85.7	48.7	80.0	65.4
1991	<i>Perth</i>	13.4	45.0	28.9	42.9	50.0	49.5	39.7	65.7	---	50.2	---	57.9
	<i>Ex Perth</i>	20.0	55.7	27.6	64.1	---	59.6	54.2	73.8	---	68.6	---	79.0
	<i>All WA</i>	18.2	48.6	28.0	47.6	25.0	52.5	46.2	68.3	---	54.0	---	61.6
Tas.													
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	27.3	40.2	53.1	37.5	100.0	48.9	61.3	78.0	---	43.4	---	47.6
	<i>Other Urban</i>	27.3	46.0	47.4	47.0	33.3	53.6	65.0	77.6	---	54.5	100.0	61.8
	<i>Rural</i>	50.0	46.6	47.4	48.3	100.0	50.0	100.0	80.0	---	66.7	---	55.6
	<i>Ex-Hobart</i>	28.6	46.1	47.4	47.1	50.0	53.4	70.4	77.8	---	54.9	100.0	61.4
	<i>All Tas.</i>	28.3	44.6	49.0	43.6	60.0	51.8	67.6	77.8	---	51.0	50.0	54.2
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	31.8	39.3	42.4	45.8	50.0	70.9	84.2	74.3	---	66.1	---	42.1
	<i>Ex Hobart</i>	39.3	47.8	43.8	51.7	100.0	63.8	68.4	71.6	---	63.2	100.0	63.2
	<i>All Tas.</i>	37.3	45.0	43.2	48.9	75.0	66.8	72.4	72.6	---	64.5	100.0	50.2
NT													
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	32.6	46.9	32.9	53.7	---	62.6	48.3	75.8	---	60.5	100.0	66.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	10.5	58.0	18.6	70.3	66.7	87.0	42.9	81.8	100.0	87.6	50.0	79.5
	<i>Rural</i>	4.5	52.6	8.4	79.8	---	50.0	---	71.0	---	100.0	---	70.0
	<i>Ex-Darwin</i>	8.5	57.7	15.5	70.9	66.7	84.7	42.9	81.3	100.0	88.0	33.3	79.0
	<i>All NT</i>	9.8	53.6	17.9	62.0	40.0	74.1	45.1	79.2	50.0	74.9	50.0	71.9
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	15.0	44.6	30.0	53.8	---	59.3	75.0	69.1	---	49.1	---	54.8
	<i>Ex Darwin</i>	11.0	58.9	14.4	66.7	100.0	68.9	72.7	73.2	---	60.0	---	63.9
	<i>All NT</i>	11.3	52.2	16.9	59.0	100.0	63.6	73.7	71.0	---	55.0	---	59.1
ACT													
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	13.6	35.0	38.0	41.5	100.0	57.8	50.0	75.5	---	52.6	70.0	58.2
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	75.0	52.8	50.0	50.3	---	64.9	100.0	78.0	100.0	66.8	100.0	68.9

See Notes to Tables

Table 23b Full-time Employment Ratios for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Females

State/ Year	Region	<i>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</i>											
		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Basic Voc.</i>		<i>Skilled</i>		<i>Diploma</i>		<i>Degree</i>	
		<i>15-</i>		<i>16+</i>		<i>Qual.</i>		<i>Voc. Qual</i>					
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>													
Australia													
1996	<i>Cap. City</i>	11.6	27.6	28.7	36.6	41.9	57.8	39.0	55.1	50.7	57.6	56.3	60.1
	<i>Other Urban</i>	7.7	23.3	17.6	35.6	39.5	48.5	30.8	50.3	36.3	53.7	52.1	62.1
	<i>Rural</i>	7.0	20.0	11.3	33.8	----	45.6	33.3	47.6	22.2	47.8	80.0	69.6
	<i>Ex-Capital City</i>	7.6	23.1	16.7	35.5	38.5	48.4	31.0	50.2	34.8	53.5	54.8	62.4
	<i>All Australia</i>	8.6	25.5	20.2	36.2	39.8	54.1	34.4	52.9	40.7	56.3	55.6	60.7
1991	<i>Cap. City</i>	12.2	36.2	29.7	44.4	46.6	60.9	56.7	57.4	51.9	62.4	53.8	56.2
	<i>Ex Capital City</i>	7.5	28.3	14.4	39.6	30.9	51.4	27.1	54.4	48.6	59.1	51.0	61.2
	<i>All Australia</i>	8.8	33.0	19.0	42.9	37.4	58.0	40.6	56.4	50.0	61.4	52.6	57.3
NSW													
1996	<i>Sydney</i>	11.3	29.5	34.0	39.5	38.7	63.6	61.5	59.1	51.8	64.5	80.4	66.5
	<i>Other Urban</i>	5.8	20.5	17.3	32.4	33.9	49.0	30.5	50.4	42.7	53.8	44.2	58.3
	<i>Rural</i>	10.9	20.8	16.1	31.9	----	52.4	----	46.6	----	50.2	----	63.6
	<i>Ex-Sydney</i>	6.2	20.5	17.2	32.4	33.0	49.1	28.4	50.3	38.5	53.7	41.8	58.5
	<i>All NSW</i>	7.8	25.2	22.6	36.7	35.3	57.7	38.6	55.2	43.5	60.7	60.4	64.4
1991	<i>Sydney</i>	14.9	38.6	35.7	44.9	38.9	65.0	74.3	61.1	55.6	65.8	70.0	61.8
	<i>Ex Sydney</i>	6.1	26.7	14.5	36.8	30.4	54.2	8.3	57.2	64.3	56.2	33.3	56.4
	<i>All NSW</i>	9.2	33.7	21.8	42.3	34.1	61.5	40.8	59.8	60.0	63.2	52.6	60.7
Vic.													
1996	<i>Melbourne</i>	16.3	24.1	33.8	35.2	41.9	57.1	46.2	55.8	25.0	55.0	50.0	57.7
	<i>Other Urban</i>	7.8	19.2	22.3	35.8	70.0	48.4	50.0	53.5	28.0	52.1	25.0	59.0
	<i>Rural</i>	----	12.4	----	33.6	----	40.5	----	48.9	----	40.7	----	66.1
	<i>Ex-Melbourne</i>	7.8	18.9	22.0	35.7	70.0	48.0	50.0	53.3	28.0	51.6	25.0	59.3
	<i>All Vic.</i>	11.5	22.2	27.8	35.4	52.9	53.9	48.4	54.9	27.0	54.2	43.8	58.0
1991	<i>Melbourne</i>	11.8	32.0	35.9	45.7	66.7	58.9	100.0	56.5	50.0	60.0	100.0	54.2
	<i>Ex Melbourne</i>	10.0	23.3	25.8	42.3	50.0	49.0	50.0	56.4	40.0	59.3	100.0	61.6
	<i>All Vic.</i>	10.8	29.3	31.4	44.9	60.0	56.5	66.7	56.5	44.4	59.9	100.0	55.3
Qld													
1996	<i>Brisbane</i>	11.8	28.1	26.6	37.9	50.0	51.9	36.4	53.3	58.8	55.5	45.9	61.0
	<i>Other Urban</i>	7.2	25.5	19.7	38.1	35.3	45.6	18.6	48.4	25.3	54.0	64.7	64.5
	<i>Rural</i>	8.8	18.5	13.8	35.0	----	45.0	50.0	45.5	50.0	48.1	----	69.4
	<i>Ex-Brisbane</i>	7.5	25.1	18.9	38.0	34.5	45.5	22.4	48.3	28.6	53.9	64.7	64.7
	<i>All Qld</i>	8.4	26.3	20.5	37.9	38.2	48.4	28.0	50.2	36.8	54.7	54.5	62.6
1991	<i>Brisbane</i>	15.2	38.7	27.2	44.9	56.3	57.3	52.6	56.2	75.0	64.2	16.7	55.1
	<i>Ex Brisbane</i>	9.6	32.1	15.6	41.5	27.5	48.6	46.4	52.6	51.1	60.0	52.6	60.5
	<i>All Qld</i>	11.0	35.1	17.7	43.3	32.3	52.7	48.9	54.3	55.9	62.1	35.1	57.1

Table 23b Full-time Employment Ratios for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Females (continued)

State/ Year	Region	Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual		Diploma		Degree	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>													
SA													
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	3.4	21.2	19.6	33.3	32.1	50.5	---	47.8	50.0	51.4	25.0	50.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	8.7	18.6	18.4	34.7	23.1	45.7	33.3	50.1	50.0	52.7	100.0	64.0
	<i>Rural</i>	---	19.8	9.7	32.6	---	38.7	---	53.5	---	42.9	---	66.3
	<i>Ex-Adelaide</i>	8.0	18.7	17.2	34.6	23.1	45.3	33.3	50.4	50.0	52.0	100.0	64.2
	<i>All SA</i>	6.0	20.5	18.6	33.6	27.8	49.2	11.1	48.5	50.0	51.5	40.0	52.9
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	6.3	30.2	22.5	43.0	25.0	56.5	---	57.3	33.3	61.5	66.7	48.0
	<i>Ex Adelaide</i>	9.9	21.7	11.0	38.5	40.0	47.5	50.0	49.4	---	65.0	---	68.8
	<i>All SA</i>	8.5	27.9	17.2	42.1	33.3	54.8	50.0	55.6	20.0	62.2	66.7	50.7
WA													
1996	<i>Perth</i>	9.2	31.5	19.6	35.1	38.5	55.9	31.6	50.8	56.5	47.0	47.1	55.3
	<i>Other Urban</i>	7.7	25.7	15.5	40.3	50.0	53.0	20.0	47.0	43.8	55.5	50.0	72.3
	<i>Rural</i>	4.8	21.3	11.3	36.2	---	38.4	---	48.9	---	60.0	---	79.7
	<i>Ex-Perth</i>	7.1	25.4	14.8	40.1	50.0	52.2	16.7	47.1	36.8	55.8	50.0	73.1
	<i>All WA</i>	7.7	29.1	16.3	36.5	45.0	54.7	24.3	49.5	47.6	49.1	47.8	59.7
1991	<i>Perth</i>	5.0	38.3	20.0	39.6	64.0	57.2	40.0	51.0	33.3	54.3	50.0	51.5
	<i>Ex Perth</i>	5.1	26.9	10.0	40.4	23.1	49.5	---	49.1	66.7	62.0	100.0	71.9
	<i>All WA</i>	5.1	34.9	13.0	39.8	43.1	55.6	20.0	50.5	50.0	56.2	66.7	55.7
Tas.													
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	33.3	33.7	34.3	32.2	50.0	57.9	50.0	55.3	---	46.1	100.0	50.6
	<i>Other Urban</i>	23.9	28.9	24.3	32.6	80.0	54.3	50.0	53.3	100.0	49.3	33.3	62.1
	<i>Rural</i>	40.0	29.9	33.3	32.4	---	43.6	100.0	38.1	---	33.3	100.0	60.7
	<i>Ex-Hobart</i>	25.5	28.9	24.7	32.6	80.0	53.1	60.0	52.5	100.0	48.5	66.7	62.0
	<i>All Tas.</i>	26.9	30.1	27.7	32.5	71.4	54.6	55.6	53.4	66.7	47.6	71.4	56.4
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	14.3	35.3	29.1	41.0	33.3	55.0	50.0	60.1	100.0	68.4	---	46.2
	<i>Ex Hobart</i>	25.3	31.7	26.9	35.8	33.3	52.9	40.0	48.1	---	56.1	---	66.8
	<i>All Tas.</i>	21.2	33.0	27.7	38.2	33.3	53.7	43.8	53.2	50.0	62.0	---	55.7
NT													
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	18.9	31.1	26.3	42.0	66.7	54.5	---	55.7	100.0	44.8	50.0	62.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	6.5	35.0	11.3	51.3	41.7	60.4	50.0	54.1	33.3	72.5	50.0	68.4
	<i>Rural</i>	4.7	16.7	7.1	63.1	---	100.0	---	66.7	---	43.8	100.0	100.0
	<i>Ex-Darwin</i>	5.9	33.8	10.0	51.9	37.0	61.6	50.0	54.8	25.0	70.4	66.7	70.9
	<i>All NT</i>	6.7	32.7	12.0	46.9	48.9	57.9	33.3	55.2	40.0	58.0	60.0	66.6
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	16.9	32.2	26.1	44.5	43.8	57.9	---	41.4	33.3	56.1	---	48.8
	<i>Ex Darwin</i>	6.0	42.4	11.5	47.4	40.0	54.1	---	53.7	---	64.1	50.0	56.1
	<i>All NT</i>	6.9	36.9	14.4	45.7	41.9	56.0	---	47.2	25.0	60.1	50.0	52.1
ACT													
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	---	23.4	37.6	32.8	---	58.0	33.3	54.5	---	52.9	82.4	54.7
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	37.5	34.5	40.8	43.5	50.0	62.8	---	55.2	---	59.4	100.0	62.4

See Notes to Tables

Table 23c Full-time Employment Ratios for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Persons

State/ Year	Region	<i>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</i>											
		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Left school</i>		<i>Basic Voc.</i>		<i>Skilled</i>		<i>Diploma</i>		<i>Degree</i>	
		<i>15-</i>		<i>16+</i>		<i>Qual.</i>		<i>Voc. Qual</i>					
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>													
Australia													
1996	<i>Cap. City</i>	18.1	35.8	34.1	41.0	40.4	57.3	58.2	72.1	52.4	56.7	57.1	60.6
	<i>Other Urban</i>	12.5	34.4	23.7	44.0	37.5	51.2	50.3	71.9	37.5	56.4	56.6	63.8
	<i>Rural</i>	10.3	33.6	15.8	44.3	20.0	51.2	49.4	71.0	30.0	54.5	71.4	70.0
	<i>Ex-Capital City</i>	12.1	34.4	22.5	44.0	37.0	51.2	50.2	71.9	36.8	56.4	57.9	64.1
	<i>All Australia</i>	13.5	35.2	25.9	42.1	38.3	54.9	53.2	72.0	43.2	56.6	57.5	61.5
1991	<i>Cap. City</i>	16.4	41.3	34.6	47.1	46.3	61.2	58.2	69.9	53.4	61.8	53.0	57.9
	<i>Ex Capital City</i>	13.0	38.6	20.2	47.3	35.2	54.5	52.0	70.8	52.9	60.9	56.4	63.4
	<i>All Australia</i>	13.9	40.2	24.5	47.2	39.7	59.1	54.7	70.2	53.1	61.6	54.3	59.0
NSW													
1996	<i>Sydney</i>	20.6	36.4	38.9	43.8	43.0	63.3	77.0	74.6	59.5	63.9	73.5	66.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	10.4	29.6	23.9	40.5	32.5	50.5	49.1	71.6	42.7	55.9	54.4	59.4
	<i>Rural</i>	18.8	32.1	16.9	41.5	----	58.5	50.0	72.2	----	56.9	----	66.9
	<i>Ex-Sydney</i>	11.2	29.7	23.5	40.5	31.4	50.8	49.1	71.6	39.3	55.9	52.7	59.6
	<i>All NSW</i>	14.1	33.2	28.4	42.5	35.7	58.1	59.1	73.2	47.3	61.2	62.5	64.7
1991	<i>Sydney</i>	20.1	43.4	41.5	48.5	47.9	65.1	65.4	72.9	64.7	65.6	53.8	63.2
	<i>Ex Sydney</i>	9.1	34.7	19.4	44.8	30.6	55.8	47.0	72.5	64.9	58.4	33.3	60.2
	<i>All NSW</i>	12.9	39.8	27.0	47.3	38.2	62.1	54.9	72.8	64.8	63.6	45.5	62.6
Vic.													
1996	<i>Melbourne</i>	22.9	33.3	40.5	39.2	47.5	56.0	60.5	72.3	41.9	53.5	56.3	58.7
	<i>Other Urban</i>	13.7	31.6	28.7	44.0	48.6	50.4	56.3	73.9	27.0	53.6	25.0	61.4
	<i>Rural</i>	----	24.6	----	44.6	----	46.4	----	70.4	----	47.1	----	68.1
	<i>Ex-Melbourne</i>	13.7	31.2	28.2	44.0	48.6	50.2	56.3	73.7	27.0	53.4	25.0	61.7
	<i>All Vic.</i>	17.6	32.5	34.5	40.5	48.0	54.0	58.3	72.9	33.8	53.5	50.0	59.2
1991	<i>Melbourne</i>	23.5	38.1	39.6	47.2	50.0	60.0	68.4	67.9	40.0	59.4	66.7	56.0
	<i>Ex Melbourne</i>	13.4	32.4	30.7	47.5	40.0	51.7	46.4	69.1	40.0	60.7	100.0	62.1
	<i>All Vic.</i>	17.8	36.3	35.7	47.3	46.2	58.0	57.5	68.3	40.0	59.7	75.0	56.8
Qld													
1996	<i>Brisbane</i>	20.5	37.7	31.8	42.6	36.8	52.6	52.4	72.1	62.5	55.3	45.5	60.7
	<i>Other Urban</i>	16.4	38.0	26.8	46.3	33.7	49.5	51.4	69.9	25.2	57.1	64.7	65.6
	<i>Rural</i>	16.6	34.9	21.1	43.9	----	53.3	33.3	67.8	50.0	53.2	100.0	67.9
	<i>Ex-Brisbane</i>	16.5	37.9	25.9	46.2	33.2	49.6	50.3	69.8	27.7	57.0	66.2	65.7
	<i>All Qld</i>	17.3	37.8	27.2	44.5	34.1	50.9	50.9	70.7	38.9	56.2	54.7	62.8
1991	<i>Brisbane</i>	17.2	44.6	32.1	48.7	44.1	58.0	47.2	72.0	57.1	63.3	28.6	56.6
	<i>Ex Brisbane</i>	19.3	43.8	23.5	49.6	31.3	54.7	54.6	70.5	56.3	61.9	59.1	62.0
	<i>All Qld</i>	18.8	44.1	25.1	49.2	34.2	56.2	51.8	71.1	56.4	62.7	44.2	58.5

Table 23c Full-time Employment Ratios for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians by Highest Educational Qualification, State and Region, 1991 and 1996: 20 to 24 year-old Persons (continued)

State/ Year	Region	Highest Level of Educational Attainment											
		Left school 15-		Left school 16+		Basic Voc. Qual.		Skilled Voc. Qual		Diploma		Degree	
		Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not	Ind.	Not
<i>Indigenous . . .</i>													
SA													
1996	<i>Adelaide</i>	8.2	29.6	25.1	38.4	37.5	50.8	30.8	67.7	33.3	52.6	22.2	51.9
	<i>Other Urban</i>	11.6	30.5	23.9	45.8	31.9	51.8	25.0	72.6	50.0	61.6	66.7	68.3
	<i>Rural</i>	18.8	33.2	31.0	43.6	----	40.6	----	70.6	----	55.8	----	70.5
	<i>Ex-Adelaide</i>	12.0	30.7	24.8	45.7	31.9	51.0	20.0	72.4	50.0	61.3	66.7	68.4
	<i>All SA</i>	10.3	29.9	25.0	40.1	34.5	50.8	26.1	69.1	37.5	54.1	33.3	54.7
1991	<i>Adelaide</i>	8.8	37.1	27.8	46.4	16.7	57.2	72.7	69.5	33.3	61.2	66.7	50.2
	<i>Ex Adelaide</i>	9.4	34.7	17.6	47.8	37.5	53.0	56.7	71.3	----	66.5	----	72.5
	<i>All SA</i>	9.2	36.4	22.8	46.7	28.6	56.3	63.5	69.9	20.0	62.2	66.7	53.2
WA													
1996	<i>Perth</i>	13.2	40.6	26.8	39.3	31.7	54.8	40.3	68.0	65.5	45.3	58.6	57.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	11.0	39.6	19.5	52.2	42.5	56.1	44.1	73.1	57.1	61.3	66.7	76.7
	<i>Rural</i>	7.7	38.3	17.0	52.9	----	47.3	44.4	73.3	50.0	67.8	----	79.2
	<i>Ex-Perth</i>	10.3	39.5	19.1	52.3	42.5	55.5	44.2	73.1	55.9	61.7	66.7	76.9
	<i>All WA</i>	11.1	40.2	21.5	42.9	37.0	55.1	42.6	70.1	60.3	48.9	60.5	62.0
1991	<i>Perth</i>	9.3	41.5	23.7	41.2	61.3	55.4	39.7	63.0	33.3	53.0	50.0	54.3
	<i>Ex Perth</i>	13.0	41.6	17.5	52.2	18.8	52.9	41.3	70.0	66.7	63.8	100.0	74.8
	<i>All WA</i>	12.0	41.5	19.4	43.6	39.7	54.8	40.4	65.2	50.0	55.5	66.7	58.3
Tas.													
1996	<i>Hobart</i>	30.9	36.6	42.8	34.9	66.7	54.6	58.1	72.7	----	45.2	50.0	49.4
	<i>Other Urban</i>	25.3	35.9	35.4	39.6	62.5	54.1	62.5	73.3	100.0	51.3	50.0	62.0
	<i>Rural</i>	42.9	37.7	42.9	40.8	100.0	45.2	100.0	74.0	----	44.4	100.0	59.0
	<i>Ex-Hobart</i>	26.7	36.0	35.8	39.7	66.7	53.2	68.6	73.3	100.0	51.0	71.4	61.8
	<i>All Tas.</i>	27.5	36.2	37.9	38.0	66.7	53.7	65.1	73.2	66.7	48.8	66.7	55.6
1991	<i>Hobart</i>	19.7	36.9	35.7	43.3	40.0	59.9	76.0	71.8	100.0	67.7	----	44.3
	<i>Ex Hobart</i>	31.3	38.5	35.3	43.5	60.0	56.2	64.2	68.3	----	58.5	100.0	65.4
	<i>All Tas.</i>	27.4	38.0	35.4	43.4	50.0	57.8	67.4	69.6	50.0	62.7	50.0	53.3
NT													
1996	<i>Darwin</i>	25.3	39.7	29.7	47.9	40.0	56.9	43.8	71.7	50.0	50.5	66.7	64.3
	<i>Other Urban</i>	8.5	48.2	14.9	60.4	52.4	68.9	43.8	76.8	50.0	78.2	50.0	72.5
	<i>Rural</i>	4.6	35.1	7.7	72.7	----	75.0	----	70.0	----	55.0	50.0	91.4
	<i>Ex-Darwin</i>	7.2	47.4	12.6	61.1	48.9	69.1	43.8	76.5	40.0	76.8	50.0	73.8
	<i>All NT</i>	8.3	44.4	14.9	54.3	45.3	63.0	43.8	74.6	42.9	64.1	55.6	68.6
1991	<i>Darwin</i>	16.1	37.6	27.6	48.8	43.8	58.4	66.7	64.3	33.3	53.8	----	51.2
	<i>Ex Darwin</i>	8.4	50.9	12.8	56.4	70.0	58.6	72.7	69.9	----	62.6	50.0	59.4
	<i>All NT</i>	9.0	44.2	15.5	51.9	60.9	58.5	70.0	66.9	25.0	58.4	50.0	54.9
ACT													
1996	<i>All ACT</i>	6.5	28.9	37.8	37.4	33.3	57.9	42.9	69.1	----	52.8	77.8	56.2
1991	<i>All ACT</i>	53.6	42.3	45.6	46.9	50.0	63.3	33.3	73.3	100.0	62.1	100.0	65.5

See Notes to Tables

The relationship is somewhat larger in capital cities than in other urban areas, and in other urban areas than in rural areas. The reason for the difference in the strength of the relationship between educational attainment and unemployment is the substantially lower unemployment rates for persons in rural areas without post-school qualifications. CDEP, which is a substantial source of employment in rural areas, may act to reduce the returns to post-compulsory schooling and further education in rural areas.

The relationship between educational attainment and unemployment for males and females separately is similar to the overall results. There are a few differences. Unemployment rates for males for most educational attainments are higher than for females. Skilled vocational qualifications are an exception, and this possibly reflects the strong gender differentiation of apprenticeships. Basic vocational qualifications for males have higher levels of unemployment than schooling past the age of 15.

If the comparison is made with the unemployment levels of those who stayed at school to at least the age of 16, (and here we are referring to relative changes for males and females separately) the change in the probability of unemployment associated with a basic vocational qualification is more favourable for females; with a skilled vocational qualification is more favourable for females; with a diploma is similar for males and females; and for degrees is much more favourable for females -- and this broadly echoes the relative enrolment patterns of the genders.

Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Comparisons

Unemployment rates are higher for Indigenous Australians than for non-Indigenous Australians with the same educational attainment. For most categories of attainment, Indigenous Australians are just under twice as likely to be unemployed as non-Indigenous Australians. The difference is largest for skilled vocational qualifications (a difference in unemployment rates of just over 2 to 1) and smallest for very early school leavers. This pattern is similar for males and for females.

Many of the regional differences exhibit this same pattern -- Indigenous Australians in capital cities have just under twice the unemployment rate of non-Indigenous Australians with the same educational attainments (with a slightly higher difference for skilled vocational qualifications and a slightly lower difference for early school leavers). In rural areas Indigenous early school leavers have lower unemployment rates than non-Indigenous early school leavers and other differences are considerably smaller -- again reflecting the impact of CDEP.

Changes between 1991 and 1996

Absolute Comparisons The striking feature of comparisons of 1991 and 1996 unemployment rates within categories of educational attainment is the reduction in unemployment levels for most categories by about a quarter. The reductions were proportionately least for persons with diplomas and degrees -- hence the returns to higher education and higher level VET courses in terms of a reduced probability of unemployment is lower for Indigenous Australians in 1996 than it was in 1991. This pattern was broadly repeated for the two regional areas, except that for diplomas unemployment rates only increased outside capital cities and for degrees unemployment rates also increased outside capital cities -- again indicating reduced employment returns in non-metropolitan areas to the higher end of educational attainment.

Relative Comparisons The essential shift in relative unemployment rates between 1991 and 1996 has been reductions in Indigenous - non-Indigenous differences at the lower end of educational attainment, marginally increased differences for skilled vocational and diploma qualifications, and increased differences for degrees. These patterns were broadly repeated within the metropolitan and non-metropolitan regions and for males and females separately.

Educational Attainment and the Full-time Employment Ratio

Table 23 shows the number of persons in full-time employment as a percentage of the total populations of 20 to 24 year-olds for Indigenous and non-Indigenous males, females and persons and for categories of region and State. The full-time employment ratio is the sum of the effects of labour market participation, employment, and full-time employment.

The Indigenous Population The full-time employment ratio increases almost uniformly across categories of educational attainment. The exception is that Indigenous persons with Skilled Vocational Qualifications are more likely to have a full-time job than persons with Diplomas -- but diplomas are still associated with higher levels of full-time employment than all other attainments apart from a degree and a skilled vocational qualification. The differences are substantial -- Indigenous Australians with a degree or a skilled vocational qualification are about five times as likely to have a full-time job as a person who left school at age 15 or younger. There are, however, substantial increases in the likelihood of having a full-time job associated with just staying at school longer.

This pattern is more or less repeated for each region. Within educational attainments, the likelihood of having a full-time job is higher in capital cities and other urban areas than in rural areas. The sole exception is the degree category in which having a full-time job is far more likely in rural areas. Full-time employment ratios are higher for males for all categories of attainment. Females with skilled vocational qualifications have a far lower likelihood of being in full-time

employment than males with skilled vocational education qualifications. The result is that for females diplomas are a relatively better qualification in terms of full-time employment.

Indigenous - Non-Indigenous Comparisons

Differences between the full-time employment ratios of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are greatest for the lower levels of educational attainment and least for those with higher educational attainments. For persons who left school at age 15 or younger, non-Indigenous Australians are more than two and a half times more likely to have a full-time job than Indigenous Australians. Compared with Indigenous Australians, non-Indigenous Australians were about 60%, 40%, 35%, 30% and 7% more likely to have a full-time job if they had left school at 16 or older, had a basic vocational qualification, a skilled vocational qualification, a diploma or a degree respectively. Although this pattern is not perfectly preserved with regions, differences are generally smaller in capital cities except for degrees. Again, the pattern is similar for males and females.

Changes between 1991 and 1996

Absolute Comparisons The percentage of Indigenous persons with a full-time job has increased or decreased for most educational attainment categories by only one or two percentage points and it would probably be unwise to make too much of this. The exception is the Diploma category, which declined by about 10 percentage points (from 53.1% in 1991 to 43.2% in 1996). As with unemployment rates, this change was restricted to non-metropolitan areas where the decline was about 16 percentage points. The relatively few males with a Basic Vocational Qualification also had a decline in full-time employment, but this was shared across regions.

Relative Changes Changes in the relative rates of full-time employment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are fairly small except for the two lowest categories which show an improvement in equity and the diploma category which shows a marked increase in the difference, that is, a decline in equity.

NOTES FOR TABLES

Summary Table

1. Results are from tables prepared by the ABS from the 1996 Census.
2. Results may differ from published estimates. Published estimates include corrections for under-enumeration. The prepared tables include some randomisation to preserve confidentiality.
3. Information for persons who did not respond to the Census question on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin have been excluded from the table.
4. Percentages for educational participation, educational attainment and labour force status exclude persons for whom no information was available.
5. Percentages all refer to the total Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations for the given age group.
6. Educational participation for 14-year-olds may reflect ABS census processing protocols rather than reality. These estimates should be treated with considerable scepticism.

Table 1

1. Results are from tables prepared by the ABS from the 1996 Census.
2. Results may differ from published estimates. Published estimates include corrections for under-enumeration. The prepared tables include some randomisation to preserve confidentiality.
3. Information for persons who did not respond to the Census question on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin have been excluded from the table.
4. Capital cities are the capital cities of each of the 8 States and Territories. *Other urban* includes urban centres outside capital cities. An urban centre is a population cluster of 1,000 or more people. Rural includes persons living in localities of between 200 to 999 people. Each urban centre and/or locality (UCL) is bounded (i.e., a boundary for it is clearly defined) and composed of one or more whole collection districts (CDs). UCLs are defined for each Census and are current for the date of the Census. The criteria for bounding UCLs are based on the Linge methodology. For more information and a list of the UCLs, refer to the ABS publication *Statistical Geography Volume 3: Information Paper Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) Urban Centres/Localities, Australia (2909.0)*.

Table 2

1. Results are from the National Schools Statistical Collection for the years 1990-1997. Apparent Year 12 retention utilises data on enrolments prior to Year 12. This was not available for all States for the necessary years. Unavailability of data is indicated by ---- in a cell.
2. Apparent Year 12 retention rates also reflect the effects of inter-State migration, mortality rates, inter-country migration and the accuracy with which students are identified as Indigenous.
3. Rates are based on 'Start of secondary school' enrolments -- Year 7 in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory and Year 8 in the remaining States. To the extent that Indigenous students are less likely to be enrolled at this stage, Year 12 rates will over-estimate Indigenous retention and under-estimate Indigenous - non-Indigenous differences.
4. Rates exclude 'Ungraded enrolments'. Indigenous students are over-represented in this category and hence retention rates over-estimate Indigenous retention and under-estimate the Indigenous - non-Indigenous difference.
5. *Ratios* are of retention rates of Indigenous to non-Indigenous students. Values closer to 1.00 indicate less difference between the two groups, values closer to 0.00 indicate greater difference.

Table 3

1. Results are from the National Schools Statistical Collection for the years 1995-1997.
2. Retention rates greater than 100 (and negative school discontinuation rates) can be attributed to changes in the accuracy of record keeping (possibly associated with transitions to senior secondary schools or movement from area schools, registration for examinations, or application for

ABSTUDY), changes in the willingness of students and parents to identify as Indigenous, inter-State movements (particularly in the case of the ACT).

3. Retention rates in Table 3a are based on Year 8 enrolments and hence over-estimate Indigenous retention to the extent that there is any higher rate of leaving school for Indigenous students prior to Year 8. Retention rates in Table 3b are strictly apparent Year 12 retention in secondary school.
4. Discontinuation rates in Table 3a are based on the average discontinuation rate for students who were in Year 8 in 1991-93. Hence Year 10 discontinuation compares enrolments in Year 10 in 1993-95 with Year 9 enrolments in 1992-94. In Table 3b discontinuation rates are for separate cohorts -- the Year 10 rate compares enrolments in Year 10 in 1997 with enrolments in Year 9 in 1996.

Table 4

1. Results are from tables prepared by the ABS from the 1991 and 1996 Census.
2. Results may differ from published estimates. Published estimates include corrections for under-enumeration. The prepared tables also include some randomisation to preserve confidentiality.
3. Information for persons who did not respond to the Census question on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin or for whom information about school attendance was unavailable have been excluded from the table.
4. Comparisons between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses should be treated with care because of possible improvements in enumeration of Indigenous persons and the extent to which persons identified as Indigenous.
5. *Any Education* includes *Other Education* not shown separately in the table.

Table 5

1. Participation rates consist of two elements -- a numerator which is enrolments from NCVER's AVETMISS data collection of VET enrolments, and a denominator derived from ABS population estimates for Indigenous persons and persons as a whole.
2. The combination of two different data sources, particularly when a match is required on Indigenous status, is prone to error.
3. There was considerable missing information for Indigenous status, age and sex in the AVETMISS collection. Estimates have been adjusted to compensate.
4. AVETMISS data is enrolment data and includes multiple enrolments. Hence the interpretation of these results as person-participation rates is at best approximate.
5. The tendency of Indigenous students to enrol in shorter courses increases the scope for multiple enrolments and may mean result in over-estimates for Indigenous students.
6. State is the State of the institution at which persons are enrolled and may differ from their State of origin.
7. Overseas students have been excluded from the table.
8. Stream 1000 (hobby and leisure) courses are excluded from the table.

Table 6

1. Results are based on enrolment data from NCVER's AVETMISS data collection of VET enrolments.
2. The regional classification does not correspond precisely to ABS classifications and is based on residential postcode.
3. Enrolments by overseas students have been excluded from the tables.
4. Stream 1000 (hobby and leisure) courses are excluded from the table.

Tables 7, 8 and 9

1. Tables were supplied from NCVER's AVETMISS data collection of VET enrolments.
2. Stream 1000 (hobby and leisure) courses and award only enrolments are excluded from the table.

Table 10

1. Participation rates consist of two elements -- a numerator which is enrolments from DEETYA's Higher Education Student Data Collection of university enrolments, and a denominator derived from ABS population estimates for Indigenous persons and persons as a whole.
2. The combination of two different data sources, particularly when a match is required on Indigenous status, is prone to error.
3. There was some missing information for Indigenous status in the HESDC. Estimates have been adjusted to compensate.
4. Overseas students have been excluded from the table.

Tables 11, 12, 13 and 14

1. The tables are based on 1996 first-semester enrolment data from HESDC.
2. The tables exclude persons for whom information about Indigenous status was missing.
3. Overseas students have been excluded from the table.

Table 15

1. Results are from tables prepared by the ABS from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses.
2. Results may differ from published estimates. Published estimates include corrections for under-enumeration. The prepared tables also include some randomisation to preserve confidentiality.
3. Information for persons who did not respond to the Census question on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin or for whom information about educational attainment was missing have been excluded from the table.
4. Comparisons between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses should be treated with care because of possible improvements in enumeration of Indigenous persons and the extent to which persons identified as Indigenous.
5. Comparisons between 1991 and 1996 for the rural-remote regions were difficult because of the randomisation of values in the preparation of the tables (in order to protect the confidentiality of respondents). Hence other urban centres and rural localities have been combined to produce a non-metropolitan (or ex capital city) category to improve the comparability of estimates for 1991 and 1996).
6. Persons who were still at school are not included in the tables.
7. Mean age left school is calculated using *15 or below* as 15 years and *19 or above* as 19 years. Given that it is believed that Indigenous students are more likely to leave school before age 15 than non-Indigenous students, estimates of mean age left school for Indigenous students are likely to be biased upwards and hence the size of the Indigenous - non-Indigenous difference is underestimated.
8. *Ex-Capital City* corresponds to *Other-Urban* and *Rural*. Values are included to facilitate comparison with the 1991 Census for which separate values for other urban and rural were not easily obtainable.
9. Values for New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory exclude Jervis Bay (Wreck Bay) which is treated as part of *Other Territories*.
10. Values for Australia as a whole include *Other Territories*.

Table 16

1. Results are from tables prepared by the ABS from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses.
2. Results may differ from published estimates. Published estimates include corrections for under-enumeration. The prepared tables also include some randomisation to preserve confidentiality.
3. Information for persons who did not respond to the Census question on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin or for whom information about labour market status was missing have been excluded from the table.

4. Comparisons between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses should be treated with care because of possible improvements in enumeration of Indigenous persons and the extent to which persons identified as Indigenous.
5. Full-time work is working 35 hours or more per week. Information on hours worked per week was not available for some persons -- hence full-time and part-time work do not sum to total employment.
6. A small number of individuals classified as *Still at school* were excluded from the table.
7. CDEP is the Community Development Employment Projects scheme administered by ATSIIC. Although shown separately, it is also included as employment and classified as full- or part-time on the basis of the number of hours worked.
8. Caution is required when interpreting values for CDEP employment. Explicit questions regarding involvement in CDEP were not asked universally (particularly in urban centres) and hence estimates are likely to be subject to under-enumeration.
9. *Employment* includes any respondent who indicated that they were in employment. There were some individuals who could not be allocated to CDEP, full-time or part-time employment.
10. *The labour force* includes all respondents who indicated that they were employed or unemployed (including CDEP participants).
11. *The population* includes respondents who were either in the labour force or not in the labour force. It excludes individuals for whom no information was available on their labour force participation.
12. *Ex-Capital City* corresponds to *Other-Urban* and *Rural*. Values are included to facilitate comparison with the 1991 Census for which separate values for other urban and rural were not easily obtainable.
13. Values for New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory exclude Jervis Bay (Wreck Bay) which is treated as part of *Other Territories*.
14. Values for Australia as a whole include *Other Territories*.

Table 17

1. Numbers have been allocated to placement categories according to Assistance-Type indicator values recorded in DEETYA's Program Administration and Statistical System (rather than by the more commonly used program category approach). This differentiates activities under the multiple assistance type programs, TAP - Training for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, and National Training Wage. Traineeships and Apprenticeships are Assistance Types 18 and 19. Wage subsidy placements are recorded as Types 11 and 12.
2. Values for % *Unemployed* were computed from tables prepared by the ABS from the 1996 Census. They show the percentage of unemployed persons who are Indigenous (rather than the per cent of Indigenous persons who were unemployed) and are therefore the same across all three tables. Persons for whom Indigenous status was not recorded were removed from the analysis. This is equivalent to assuming that Indigenous and non-Indigenous are represented among this group in proportion to their representation for those whose status is known. While this is not an entirely satisfactory solution to the problem of missing information, it is perhaps preferable to including those for whom no information is available with the non-Indigenous group (and assuming implicitly that there are no Indigenous persons among this group) or *vice versa*. It is certainly preferable to treating the *no information* group separately, in which case estimates of unemployment for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous are in a strict statistical sense biased downwards.
3. Values for % *Indigenous* are the percentage of commencements who were Indigenous. These are taken from DEETYA administrative records for the various forms of assistance.
4. The percentage of completions is based on participants who either completed or withdrew from the program. Participants who were continuing in the program at the end of the period were not included in the calculation.
5. Many State, and particularly State for male and female, estimates are based on relatively few cases and should be interpreted accordingly.

Tables 18, 19, 20 and 21

1. Numbers have been allocated to placement categories according to Assistance-Type indicator values recorded in DEETYA's Program Administration and Statistical System (rather than by the more commonly used program category approach). This differentiates activities under the multiple assistance type programs, TAP - Training for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, and National Training Wage. Traineeships and Apprenticeships are Assistance Types 18 and 19. Wage subsidy placements are recorded as Types 11 and 12.
2. Tables are for persons who were expected to complete between 1 April 1996 to 31 March 1997 (inclusive) and exclude persons who received further assistance.
3. The cohort represented by these tables is not these same as for Table 17.
4. Estimates are based on a mail survey some 3 months after program completion and are subject to the usual biases of non-response.
5. *Study* is treated separately in the table and is independent of labour force status.

Tables 22 and 23

1. Results are from tables prepared by the ABS from the 1991 and 1996 Censuses.
2. Results may differ from published estimates. Published estimates include corrections for under-enumeration. The prepared tables also include some randomisation to preserve confidentiality.
3. Information for persons who did not respond to the Census question on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin or for whom information about labour market status or educational attainment was missing have been excluded from the table.
4. Comparisons between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses should be treated with care because of possible improvements in enumeration of Indigenous persons and the extent to which persons identified as Indigenous.
5. Full-time work is working 35 hours or more per week. The full-time employment ratio is persons in full-time employment as a percentage of those in employment (including full-time), unemployed or not in the labour force.
6. The unemployment rate is the percentage of persons in the labour force who are unemployed.
7. A small number of individuals classified as *Still at school* were excluded from the table.
8. *Ex-Capital City* corresponds to *Other-Urban* and *Rural*. Values are included to facilitate comparison with the 1991 Census for which separate values for other urban and rural were not easily obtainable.
9. Values for New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory exclude Jervis Bay (Wreck Bay) which is treated as part of *Other Territories*.
10. Values for Australia as a whole include *Other Territories*.

Tables in the Appendix

There are two categories of tables in the Appendix:

NATSIS Tables

Further information on the tables is contained in ABS reports on the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey* -- details are provided in the bibliography.

VET Participation Tables

1. Values in these tables were subject to extensive randomisation of responses. In some instances this appears to be a serious problem for estimates of Indigenous participation in VET. The briefer tables in the full report were not subject to this randomisation and provide more reliable estimates (if less detail).
2. Persons for whom no information was available on their Indigenous status were removed from the analysis.
3. Estimates for Australia include enrolments for whom information on the region was not available.
4. Overseas students were removed from the analysis.
5. The regional classification does not correspond to the ABS UCL classification used elsewhere in this report.