

This fact sheet includes selected measures from the strategic framework of indicators in the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report.



WHAT IS LIFE LIKE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN REMOTE AREAS?

Overall outcomes in remote areas

Indigenous people in remote areas are disadvantaged in housing, access to services and job opportunities.

Housing overcrowding is much higher for Indigenous people in remote areas and they often have to travel long distances to access health, education and other services.

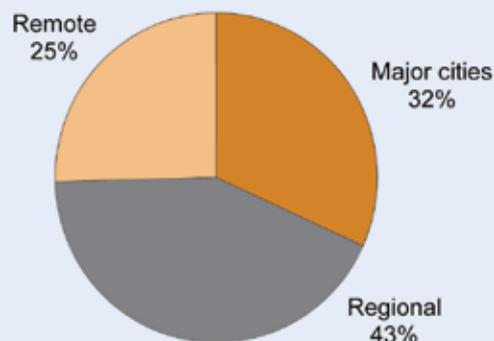
However, Indigenous people in remote areas have greater ownership of land.

Control of land can provide a range of economic, cultural and social benefits to Indigenous people.

Where do Indigenous people live?

25 per cent of Indigenous people live in remote areas ... and 32 per cent live in major cities.

Only 2 per cent of non-Indigenous people live in remote areas — and nearly 70 per cent live in major cities



What is remoteness?

Remoteness reflects the distance people have to travel to obtain services. In this fact sheet:

Remote includes both remote and very remote areas
— *Remote* includes places like Alice Springs and Esperance
— *Very remote* includes places like Tennant Creek and Coober Pedy.

Regional includes both inner and outer regional areas
— *Inner regional* includes places like Hobart, Noosa and Tamworth
— *Outer regional* includes places like Darwin, Cairns and Whyalla.

Major cities includes most capital cities and many other large cities
— *Major cities* includes places like Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

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Education and training

Learning outcomes for Indigenous students are much lower than for all students in remote areas.

Across years 3, 5, 7 and 9, reading, writing and numeracy outcomes for Indigenous students in remote areas were lower than those for all students in 2008.

Indigenous people in remote areas are much less likely than non-Indigenous people to have completed year 12 ...

In 2006, 22 per cent of Indigenous 19 year olds in remote areas had completed year 12, compared to 57 per cent of non-Indigenous 19 year olds.

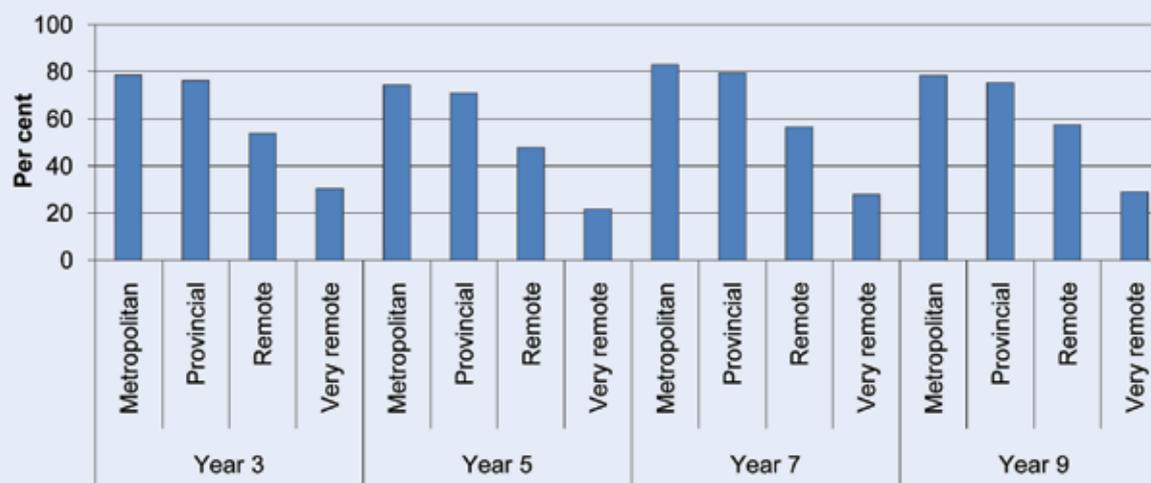
... and are less likely to have tertiary qualifications.

11 per cent of Indigenous people aged 20–64 years in remote areas had a qualification of certificate III or higher, compared to 41 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

Some schools are helping Indigenous students stay at school, with increasing numbers obtaining tertiary qualifications.

School programs are encouraging Indigenous secondary students to remain at school longer, and other programs are providing opportunities for Indigenous people to attain trade skills.

Indigenous students who achieved the national minimal standard for reading, 2008



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Housing

Indigenous people in remote areas are less likely to own their own homes ...

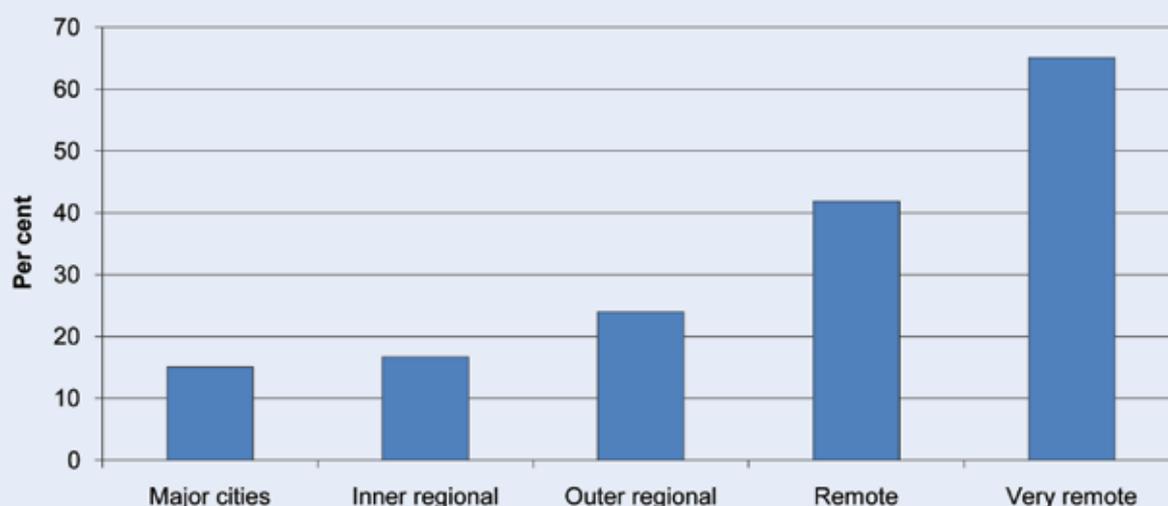
In 2006, 5 per cent of Indigenous adults in very remote areas, and 20 per cent in remote areas lived in houses owned or being bought by a member of the household. This compares to 35 per cent in major cities, 35 per cent in inner regional areas and 32 per cent in outer regional areas.

The proportion of Indigenous people in remote areas living in houses owned or being bought by a member of the household increased between 2001 and 2006.

... and housing overcrowding is worse in remote areas.

Almost two thirds of Indigenous people in very remote areas lived in overcrowded housing, in 2006.

Indigenous people in overcrowded housing, 2006



Communities in remote areas are less likely to have schools and health services.

In 2006, 93 000 people lived in 1187 discrete Indigenous communities:

- 94 per cent of these communities were in remote and very remote areas.
- 245 communities (21 per cent) had a primary school, and 40 (3 per cent) had a secondary school that provided year 12.
- 107 communities (41 000 people) had an Aboriginal primary health care centre. 10 communities had a hospital. 755 communities (52 000 people) were 100 km or more from the nearest hospital.

(Discrete Indigenous communities are places with mostly Indigenous people with community managed housing and infrastructure.)

People in remote areas have more problems communicating with service providers.

Indigenous people in remote areas are five times more likely than Indigenous people in non-remote areas to have difficulty either understanding or being understood by service providers.

2009

Information in this fact sheet is from *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, published by the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision. The report can be found on the Review website: www.pc.gov.au/gsp. Printed copies of the report are available from Canprint Communications (ph: 1300 889 873 or email: sales@infoservices.com.au). For further information contact the Secretariat: (03) 9653 2100, gsp@pc.gov.au.

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Economic participation

Fewer Indigenous than non-Indigenous people in remote areas were working ...

Around 47 per cent of Indigenous people aged 15–64 years in remote areas in 2006 were working, compared to 81 per cent of non-Indigenous people.

... but people in remote areas are much more likely to be on CDEP.

In 2006, 45 per cent of those employed in remote areas were employed on Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP), an employment program for Indigenous people which provides an alternative to unemployment benefits.

Indigenous owned or controlled land, 2008



Most Indigenous owned or controlled land is in remote areas.

99 per cent of Indigenous owned land is in very remote areas of Australia. Indigenous people gain a range of cultural, social and economic benefits from owning or controlling land. Benefits vary, but can include:

- access to sites of cultural significance
- customary activities such as hunting, fishing and gathering
- mining royalties
- commercial business
- payments for land management and ecological services.

2009

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