

HOUSEHOLD USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 22 SEP 2004

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Phil Nolen on Canberra (02) 6252 5096.

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents results from the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) and the 2003 Survey of Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities.

The statistics included in this publication present information about access to computers and the Internet in private households and information about the use of computers and the Internet by certain groups of people: persons with a disability aged 15 years or over; people aged 60 years or over; Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over and children aged 5 to 14 years.

Data on household use of information technology has been previously collected by the ABS in the Population Survey Monitor (1998, 1999 and 2000), the Survey of Education, Training and Information Technology (2001) and the General Social Survey (2002).

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY

NATSISS was conducted from August 2002 to April 2003 and collected information from 9,400 Indigenous Australians aged 15 years or over across all states and territories of Australia. The survey included Indigenous persons living in remote and non-remote areas.

SURVEY OF DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS

SDAC was conducted from June to November 2003 and collected information from approximately 14,000 private households across Australia. The sample in the Northern Territory (NT) was reduced to a level such that NT records contribute appropriately to national estimates but cannot support reliable estimates for the NT. This was done to enable a larger NT sample to be used in the General Social Survey conducted by the ABS in 2002. As a result, estimates for NT are not shown separately in Chapters 1, 2 and 3.

SURVEY OF CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

This survey was conducted in April 2003 as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics Monthly Population Survey. The survey collected information from approximately 8,900 children aged 5 to 14 years living in private households throughout Australia.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

MORE INFORMATION ON ABS IT STATISTICS

Information about ABS activities in the field of IT statistics is available from the Information Technology Statistics theme page on the ABS web site. Details of other ABS publications relating to the production and use of information technologies in Australia can be found in paragraph 66 of the Explanatory Notes.

COMMENTS

The ABS welcomes comments and suggestions from users regarding future surveys of IT use by households. These comments should be addressed to the Director, Innovation and Technology National Statistics Centre, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Locked Bag 10 Belconnen, ACT, 2616.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

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CHAPTER **1**

**CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH
COMPUTERS OR INTERNET ACCESS**

ABOUT THE DATA

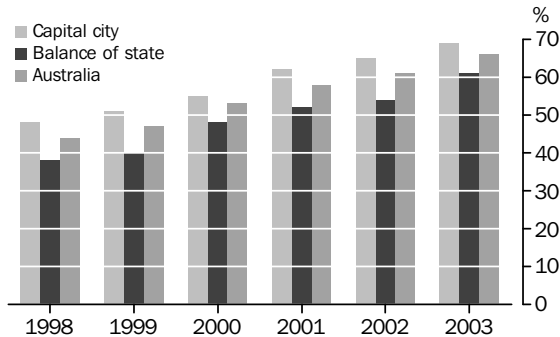
Data presented in this chapter were collected in the Population Survey Monitor (1998, 1999 and 2000), the Survey of Education, Training and Information Technology (2001), the General Social Survey (2002) and the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (2003). In the 2003 data, the sample in the Northern Territory contribute appropriately to national estimates but cannot support reliable estimates for the Northern Territory, therefore, estimates for Northern Territory are not shown for 2003.

CHANGES IN HOME
COMPUTER ACCESS

The percentage of Australian households with access to a computer at home has increased steadily from 44% in 1998 to 66% in 2003. From 2002 to 2003, this has increased by 5 percentage points.

The percentage of households with home computer access continues to be higher for households with children under 15 years of age, households in capital cities, and households in the Australian Capital Territory.

HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO A COMPUTER, by region—1998 to 2003



CHANGES IN HOME
INTERNET ACCESS

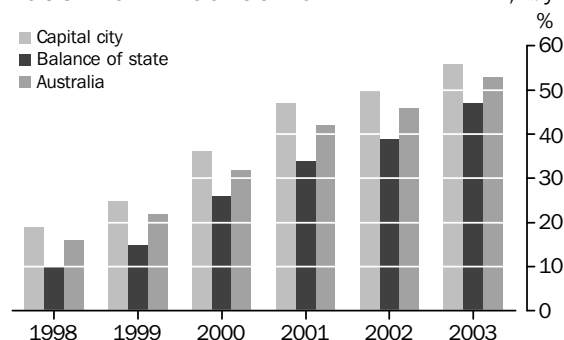
The percentage of Australian households with access to the Internet at home has increased strongly, rising from 16% in 1998 to 53% in 2003. From 2002 to 2003, this has increased by 7 percentage points.

As with home computer access, the percentage of households with Internet access continues to be higher for households with children under 15 years of age, households in capital cities, and households in the Australian Capital Territory. Significant growth in home Internet access from 2002 to 2003 was evident for most household types shown in Table 1.2.

CHANGES IN HOME INTERNET ACCESS

continued

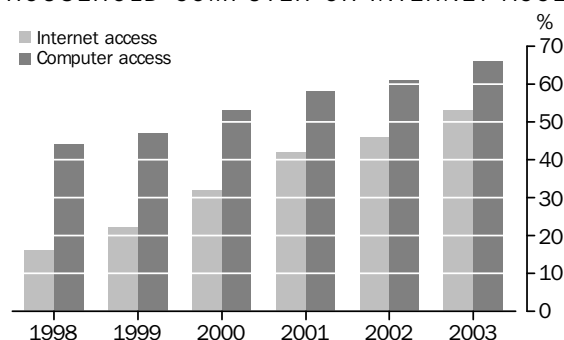
HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, by region—1998 to 2003



COMPARISON OF HOME COMPUTER AND INTERNET ACCESS

Since 1998, the number of households with access to a computer has risen from 3,083,000 to 5,038,000, a rise of 63%. In the same period, the number of household with access to the Internet has risen from 1,098,000 to 4,039,000, a rise of 268%. As a proportion of total households, computer access has risen from 44% to 66%, while Internet access has risen from 16% to 53%, during the period 1998 to 2003.

HOUSEHOLD COMPUTER OR INTERNET ACCESS—1998 to 2003



1.1**HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO A HOME COMPUTER, selected characteristics by period—1998–2003**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ('000)						
Households						
Without children under 15	1 730	1 932	2 255	2 636	2 842	3 179
With children under 15	1 354	1 404	1 548	1 675	1 714	1 860
State or territory						
New South Wales	1 023	1 079	1 244	1 435	1 528	1 653
Victoria	791	867	987	1 108	1 144	1 278
Queensland	562	585	680	776	822	957
South Australia	246	272	299	346	355	390
Western Australia	300	352	397	427	479	512
Tasmania	66	75	84	96	98	111
Northern Territory(a)	20	27	28	28	34	np
Australian Capital Territory	75	79	84	94	96	99
Region						
Capital city	2 126	2 302	2 543	2 928	3 091	3 349
Balance of state	958	1 035	1 260	1 383	1 465	1 689
Total	3 083	3 337	3 803	4 311	4 556	5 038

PROPORTION OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS (%)						
Households						
Without children under 15	36	39	44	51	53	58
With children under 15	63	65	71	77	79	85
State or territory						
New South Wales	44	45	52	59	61	65
Victoria	46	50	56	61	62	68
Queensland	43	44	50	55	57	65
South Australia	41	45	49	56	58	62
Western Australia	44	50	55	58	63	67
Tasmania	36	40	45	50	51	57
Northern Territory(a)	42	55	54	52	62	np
Australian Capital Territory	64	66	70	77	78	80
Region						
Capital city	48	51	55	62	65	69
Balance of state	38	40	48	52	54	61
Total	44	47	53	58	61	66

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Northern Territory estimates for 2003 are included in the total and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

1.2**HOUSEHOLDS WITH HOME INTERNET ACCESS, selected characteristics by period—1998–2003**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ('000)						
Households						
Without children under 15	657	905	1 408	1 936	2 153	2 537
With children under 15	441	633	932	1 178	1 292	1 502
State or territory						
New South Wales	414	514	776	1 088	1 196	1 365
Victoria	255	394	603	780	852	1 019
Queensland	194	269	416	563	602	757
South Australia	75	117	177	229	261	300
Western Australia	101	155	245	300	366	406
Tasmania	19	34	48	59	67	78
Northern Territory(a)	8	14	18	21	26	np
Australian Capital Territory	32	41	56	73	74	82
Region						
Capital city	834	1 151	1 665	2 206	2 398	2 737
Balance of state	264	387	676	908	1 047	1 303
<i>Total</i>	<i>1 098</i>	<i>1 538</i>	<i>2 340</i>	<i>3 114</i>	<i>3 445</i>	<i>4 039</i>

PROPORTION OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS (%)						
Households						
Without children under 15	14	18	28	37	40	47
With children under 15	20	29	43	54	59	68
State or territory						
New South Wales	18	22	32	45	48	54
Victoria	15	23	34	43	46	54
Queensland	15	20	31	40	42	52
South Australia	12	19	29	37	43	48
Western Australia	15	22	34	41	48	53
Tasmania	10	18	25	31	35	41
Northern Territory(a)	16	30	35	38	48	np
Australian Capital Territory	27	34	46	60	60	66
Region						
Capital city	19	25	36	47	50	56
Balance of state	10	15	26	34	39	47
<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>53</i>

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) Northern Territory estimates for 2003 are included in the total and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

CHAPTER 2

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

ABOUT THE DATA

Data presented in this chapter were collected in the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. The sample in the Northern Territory contribute appropriately to national estimates but cannot support reliable estimates for the Northern Territory, therefore, estimates for Northern Territory are not shown separately in this chapter.

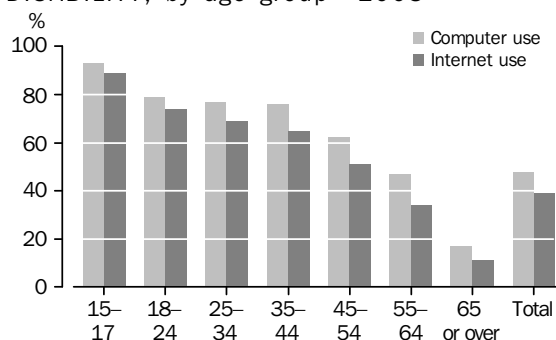
The data relate to people aged 15 years or over with a disability who live in private dwellings, excluding those with only a disfigurement or deformity without any limitations.

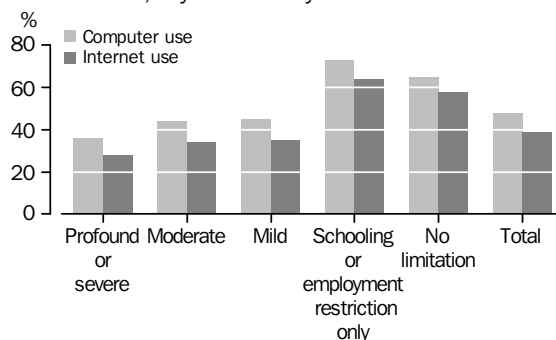
COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

In 2003, just under half (48%) of people aged 15 years or over with a disability, excluding persons with a disfigurement or deformity without any limitations, reported having used a computer in the previous 12 months. For the same period, almost 2 in 5 (39%) had accessed the Internet.

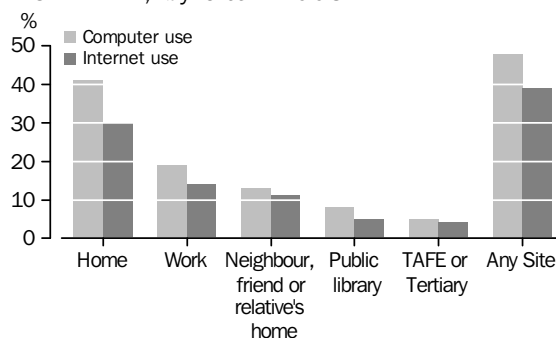
Use of a computer or the Internet was more likely for younger persons with a disability, those with a higher level of educational attainment, those without a core-activity limitation, and those in capital cities. People with a disability living in the Australian Capital Territory were more likely to use a computer or the Internet than those living in other states.

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY, by age group—2003



COMPUTER AND INTERNET
USE *continued*USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY PERSONS WITH A
DISABILITY, by disability—2003USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY PERSONS WITH A
DISABILITY, by region—2003LOCATION OF COMPUTER
AND INTERNET USE

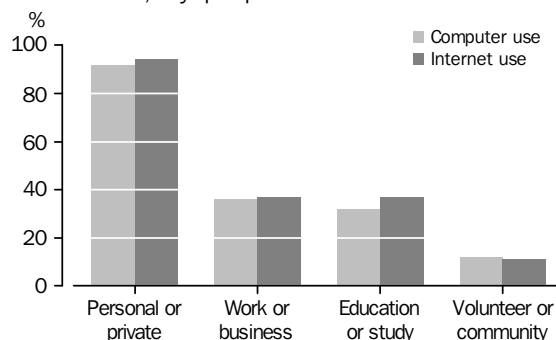
People with a disability were most likely to have used a computer or the Internet at home. The proportion of people with a disability using a computer or the Internet at home was more than twice that at any other site.

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY PERSONS WITH A
DISABILITY, by site—2003PURPOSE OF COMPUTER
AND INTERNET USE AT
HOME

The most common purpose of use for computers or the Internet at home for people with a disability was for personal or private purposes (92% of those using a computer at home and 94% of those using the Internet at home).

PURPOSE OF COMPUTER
AND INTERNET USE AT
HOME *continued*

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET AT HOME BY PERSONS WITH A
DISABILITY, by purpose—2003



INTERNET TRANSACTIONS

The Internet was used to pay bills or transfer funds by 14% of people aged 15 years or over with a disability, while 10% ordered goods or services via the Internet for private purposes.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES
ACCESSED VIA THE
INTERNET

Government services were accessed via the Internet for private purposes by 510,000 people aged 15 years or over with a disability (15%). More than half of the people with a disability who accessed government services via the Internet paid bills electronically (52%). Other services used were obtaining information about employment/unemployment services (25%), lodging tax returns (24%) and obtaining taxation information (17%).

2.1 USE OF COMPUTERS BY PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY(a), selected characteristics by site(b)—2003

	<i>No. of persons aged 15 years or over with a disability</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Work</i>	<i>Neighbour, friend or relative's home</i>	<i>Public library</i>	<i>TAFE or tertiary institution</i>	<i>Used computer at any site</i>
	'000	%	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)							
15–17	78	86	*6	48	26	*7	93
18–24	165	66	31	43	18	28	79
25–34	306	60	37	31	14	12	77
35–44	408	66	36	19	14	9	76
45–54	557	53	33	13	7	6	62
55–64	659	40	16	6	7	2	47
65 years or over	1 148	14	1	3	3	*1	17
Sex							
Male	1 636	42	20	13	7	5	49
Female	1 687	39	18	13	9	6	47
Disability							
Profound or severe core-activity limitation	875	30	9	9	5	4	36
Moderate core-activity limitation	660	37	15	10	6	4	44
Mild core-activity limitation	981	38	17	11	7	4	45
Schooling or employment restriction only	341	61	32	23	15	11	73
No limitation or restriction	466	56	36	22	13	9	65
Labour force status(c)							
Employed	1 113	65	52	23	12	10	78
Not employed	2 210	28	2	8	6	3	33
Level of highest educational attainment(d)							
Bachelor degree or above	354	74	50	23	18	12	82
Advanced diploma or diploma	209	63	34	22	15	9	70
Certificate	722	45	20	13	7	4	53
Year 12	288	60	31	26	14	15	72
Year 10 or Year 11	662	41	16	14	7	5	51
Year 9 or below	1 030	17	3	4	2	*1	21
State or territory(e)							
New South Wales	947	39	18	11	7	5	46
Victoria	843	38	20	13	8	5	46
Queensland	728	43	18	14	8	5	50
South Australia	308	41	18	16	10	7	49
Western Australia	346	43	19	14	8	5	52
Tasmania	99	39	14	11	8	4	47
Australian Capital Territory	38	59	39	25	16	9	68
Region							
Capital city	1 967	42	20	14	9	6	50
Balance of state	1 355	38	17	11	6	5	45
Total	3 322	41	19	13	8	5	48

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Excludes non-restrictive disfigurements or deformities.

(b) More than one site may be nominated.

(c) Labour force status in week before survey.

(d) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(e) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

2.2**USE OF A COMPUTER AT HOME BY PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY(a), selected characteristics by purpose(b)—2003**

	<i>No. of persons aged 15 years or over with a disability who used a home computer</i>	<i>Personal or private purposes</i>	<i>Work or business related purposes</i>	<i>Education or study purposes</i>	<i>Volunteer or community purposes</i>	<i>Other purposes</i>
	'000	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)						
15–17	67	88	*6	79	*3	*6
18–24	109	92	30	43	*2	*7
25–34	185	95	43	37	12	*5
35–44	271	92	49	36	14	7
45–54	294	89	47	29	13	7
55–64	261	93	32	20	13	6
65 years or over	160	94	15	19	13	7
Sex						
Male	688	92	38	31	11	8
Female	660	92	35	33	13	5
Disability						
Profound or severe core-activity limitation	266	90	26	30	13	6
Moderate core-activity limitation	242	91	35	29	11	7
Mild core-activity limitation	372	93	35	27	11	5
Schooling or employment restriction only	209	92	39	39	11	5
No limitation or restriction	260	94	48	39	13	10
Labour force status(c)						
Employed	727	91	59	36	13	7
Not employed	621	94	11	28	10	6
Level of highest educational attainment(d)						
Bachelor degree or above	262	91	60	46	19	10
Advanced diploma or diploma	131	92	49	38	16	*6
Certificate	321	92	37	27	11	5
Year 12	173	93	37	39	10	7
Year 10 or Year 11	275	93	26	23	8	6
Year 9 or below	175	92	8	23	6	*5
State or territory(e)						
New South Wales	373	93	38	33	13	5
Victoria	324	91	42	33	11	9
Queensland	310	93	33	32	10	7
South Australia	126	93	33	36	11	7
Western Australia	149	91	35	28	12	5
Tasmania	38	91	23	25	13	*4
Australian Capital Territory	22	96	45	43	15	*5
Region						
Capital city	831	92	36	33	12	7
Balance of state	516	92	36	30	12	6
Total	1 348	92	36	32	12	7

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Excludes non-restrictive disfigurements or deformities.

(b) More than one purpose may be nominated.

(c) Labour force status in week before survey.

(d) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(e) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

2.3 USE OF THE INTERNET BY PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY(a), selected characteristics by site(b)—2003

	No. of persons aged 15 years or over with a disability	Home	Work	Neighbour, friend or relative's home	Public library	TAFE or tertiary institution	Used the Internet at any site
	'000	%	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)							
15–17	78	64	*5	44	18	*8	89
18–24	165	52	23	34	15	22	74
25–34	306	49	27	28	10	10	69
35–44	408	54	29	15	7	7	65
45–54	557	41	23	10	4	4	51
55–64	659	27	11	5	3	2	34
65 years or over	1 148	9	1	2	1	—	11
Sex							
Male	1 636	32	15	11	5	4	40
Female	1 687	29	13	10	5	4	38
Disability							
Profound or severe core-activity limitation	875	22	7	6	3	2	28
Moderate core-activity limitation	660	26	11	8	3	3	34
Mild core-activity limitation	981	27	12	9	4	3	35
Schooling or employment restriction only	341	50	21	20	11	10	64
No limitation or restriction	466	45	28	19	8	8	58
Labour force status(c)							
Employed	1 113	53	38	20	7	8	68
Not employed	2 210	19	2	6	4	2	25
Level of highest educational attainment(d)							
Bachelor degree or above	354	62	43	19	9	10	75
Advanced diploma or diploma	209	50	27	19	9	9	61
Certificate	722	33	13	10	4	3	42
Year 12	288	49	24	22	9	12	64
Year 10 or Year 11	662	30	10	12	5	3	41
Year 9 or below	1 030	10	1	3	2	—	14
State or territory(e)							
New South Wales	947	30	13	8	4	4	38
Victoria	843	30	15	10	4	4	37
Queensland	728	32	13	12	5	4	41
South Australia	308	29	12	13	6	6	39
Western Australia	346	32	14	11	5	4	42
Tasmania	99	25	10	10	5	*2	36
Australian Capital Territory	38	47	36	22	10	*7	63
Region							
Capital city	1 967	32	15	12	5	5	41
Balance of state	1 355	28	12	9	4	4	36
Total	3 322	30	14	11	5	4	39

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Excludes non-restrictive disfigurements or deformities.

(b) More than one site may be nominated.

(c) Labour force status in week before survey.

(d) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(e) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

2.4**USE OF THE INTERNET AT HOME BY PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY(a), selected characteristics by purpose(b)—2003**

	<i>No. of persons aged 15 years or over with a disability who used Internet at home</i>	<i>Personal or private purposes</i>	<i>Work or business related purposes</i>	<i>Education or study purposes</i>	<i>Volunteer or community purposes</i>
	'000	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)					
15–17	50	91	*4	84	*5
18–24	87	92	30	48	**1
25–34	149	97	44	39	10
35–44	219	93	46	43	14
45–54	230	93	46	33	12
55–64	179	97	32	21	10
65 years or over	98	96	20	24	12
Sex					
Male	523	94	40	37	11
Female	489	95	35	36	11
Disability					
Profound or severe core-activity limitation	192	93	31	34	13
Moderate core-activity limitation	173	95	33	33	10
Mild core-activity limitation	265	94	37	31	11
Schooling or employment restriction only	171	93	38	45	9
No limitation or restriction	211	96	47	43	10
Labour force status(c)					
Employed	594	94	56	40	12
Not employed	418	95	11	32	9
Level of highest educational attainment(d)					
Bachelor degree or above	221	93	61	49	17
Advanced diploma or diploma	104	97	46	42	16
Certificate	235	95	37	30	11
Year 12	140	94	33	43	8
Year 10 or Year 11	202	93	24	29	6
Year 9 or below	104	97	9	26	*4
State or territory(e)					
New South Wales	288	95	39	37	10
Victoria	250	93	42	36	11
Queensland	230	95	33	40	9
South Australia	90	97	37	37	12
Western Australia	110	93	34	30	11
Tasmania	25	94	25	31	18
Australian Capital Territory	18	97	37	46	*16
Region					
Capital city	637	95	37	37	11
Balance of state	375	94	38	36	10
Total	1 012	94	37	37	11

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes non-restrictive disfigurements or deformities.

(b) More than one purpose may be nominated.

(c) Labour force status in week before survey.

(d) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(e) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

2.5

USE OF THE INTERNET BY PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY(a), selected

characteristics by selected Internet transactions—2003

	<i>No. of persons aged 15 years or over with a disability</i>	<i>Paid bills or transferred funds</i>	<i>Accessed government services for private purposes</i>	<i>Ordered goods or services for private purposes</i>
	'000	%	%	%
Age group (years)				
15–17	78	*6	13	*5
18–24	165	23	30	18
25–34	306	32	36	22
35–44	408	27	29	18
45–54	557	21	21	14
55–64	659	11	12	8
65 years or over	1 148	3	3	2
Sex				
Male	1 636	15	17	11
Female	1 687	13	14	9
Disability				
Profound or severe core-activity limitation	875	9	10	6
Moderate core-activity limitation	660	12	12	9
Mild core-activity limitation	981	13	13	8
Schooling or employment restriction only	341	24	28	16
No limitation or restriction	466	24	26	18
Labour force status(b)				
Employed	2 444	11	13	7
Not employed	2 210	6	8	4
Level of highest educational attainment(c)				
Bachelor degree or above	354	37	36	27
Advanced diploma or diploma	209	30	31	24
Certificate	722	15	17	10
Year 12	288	24	27	16
Year 10 or Year 11	662	12	13	7
Year 9 or below	1 030	2	3	2
State or territory(d)				
New South Wales	947	15	16	12
Victoria	843	14	15	9
Queensland	728	13	14	8
South Australia	308	15	16	10
Western Australia	346	15	16	8
Tasmania	99	10	12	9
Australian Capital Territory	14	10	7	4
Region				
Capital city	1 967	16	17	11
Balance of state	1 355	12	13	9
Total	3 322	14	15	10

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Excludes non-restrictive disfigurements or deformities.

(b) Labour force status in week before survey.

(c) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(d) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

2.6 GOVERNMENT SERVICES ACCESSED VIA THE INTERNET FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES BY PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY(a), selected characteristics by selected government services—2003

	Accessed government services for private purposes	ELECTRONIC LODGEMENT OF		INFORMATION OR SERVICES FOR	
		Bill payments e.g. rates and car registration	Tax returns	Employment or unemployment	Taxation
	'000	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)					
15–17	10	**6	*19	55	**6
18–24	49	33	27	50	8
25–34	109	51	23	30	19
35–44	119	58	29	25	16
45–54	115	60	23	19	20
55–64	77	51	23	17	19
65 years or over	30	51	*14	—	*15
Sex					
Male	277	50	25	25	20
Female	233	54	23	25	13
Disability					
Profound or severe core-activity limitation	83	58	23	25	16
Moderate core-activity limitation	82	57	25	22	18
Mild core-activity limitation	126	52	24	24	19
Schooling or employment restriction only	96	44	23	34	14
No limitation or restriction	122	51	26	20	18
Labour force status(b)					
Employed	339	56	28	23	19
Not employed	171	44	17	30	13
Level of highest educational attainment(c)					
Bachelor degree or above	129	52	26	22	21
Advanced Diploma / Diploma	64	61	28	18	21
Certificate	121	51	19	24	18
Year 12	79	49	29	32	16
Year 10 or Year 11	87	49	24	30	11
Year 9 or below	27	51	*20	*19	*7
State or territory(d)					
New South Wales	153	49	25	22	18
Victoria	124	56	24	27	18
Queensland	103	48	21	26	17
South Australia	50	58	26	27	14
Western Australia	55	50	28	27	18
Tasmania	12	48	22	31	*12
Australian Capital Territory	11	71	23	*17	*17
Region					
Capital city	328	53	25	25	17
Balance of state	182	50	23	25	17
Total	510	52	24	25	17

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Excludes non-restrictive disfigurements or deformities.

(b) Labour force status in week before survey.

(c) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(d) Northern Territory estimates are included in the totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

CHAPTER 3

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER

ABOUT THE DATA

Data presented in this chapter were collected in the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. The sample in the Northern Territory contribute appropriately to national estimates but cannot support reliable estimates for the Northern Territory, therefore, estimates for Northern Territory are not shown separately in this chapter.

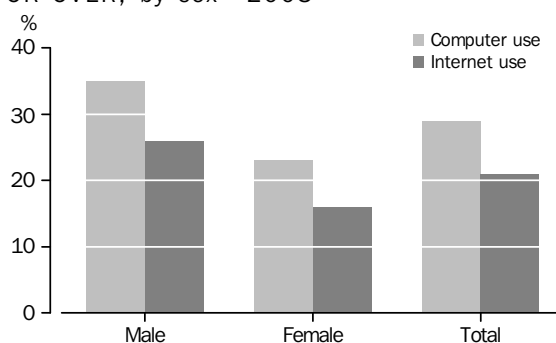
The data included in this chapter relate to people aged 60 years or over who live in private dwellings.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

In 2003, 29% of people aged 60 years or over living in private households in Australia reported having used a computer in the last 12 months. The Internet was used by less people aged 60 years or over, with 21% reporting using the Internet during the same period.

Use of a computer or the Internet was more likely for males, those without a disability, those who were employed, those with a bachelor degree or higher and those living in capital cities. Older people living in the Australian Capital Territory were more likely to have used a computer or the Internet than those living in other states.

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, by sex—2003



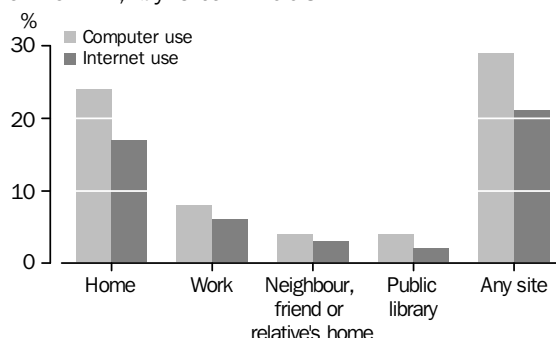
USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, by region—2003



LOCATION OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

People aged 60 years or more were most likely to use a computer or the Internet at home. It was approximately three times more likely older people would use a computer or the Internet at home than at work.

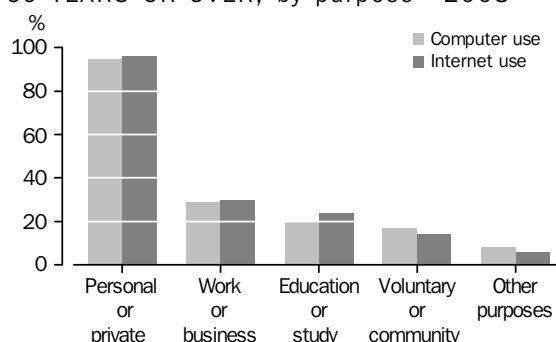
USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, by site—2003



PURPOSE OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE AT HOME

The main purpose of computer and Internet use at home by people aged 60 years or more was for personal or private purposes (95% of those using a computer at home and 96% of those using the Internet at home).

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET AT HOME BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, by purpose—2003



INTERNET TRANSACTIONS

The Internet was used to pay bills or transfer funds by 7% of people aged 60 years or over and 5% of older people ordered goods or services for private purposes via the Internet.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES ACCESSED VIA THE INTERNET

During 2003, approximately 187,000 people aged 60 years or over (6%) accessed government services via the Internet. More than half of those older people who accessed government services via the Internet paid bills electronically (57%). Other services accessed were obtaining information about taxation (21%), submitting tax returns (20%) and obtaining information about pensions or other benefits (16%).

3.1 USE OF COMPUTERS BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, selected characteristics by site(a)—2003

	No. persons aged 60 years or over	Home	Work	Neighbour, friend or relative's home	Public library	Used computer at any site
	'000	%	%	%	%	%
Sex						
Male	1 442	30	11	5	5	35
Female	1 618	19	5	4	3	23
Disability status						
Has a disability	1 477	18	4	3	3	22
Does not have a disability	1 583	30	12	5	4	35
Labour force status(b)						
Employed	566	47	38	8	6	58
Not employed	2 494	19	1	3	3	22
Level of highest educational attainment(c)						
Bachelor degree or above	302	58	26	13	14	64
Advanced diploma or diploma	218	46	16	8	7	51
Certificate	614	30	9	5	4	36
Year 12 or below	1 867	15	4	*2	*2	18
State or territory(d)						
New South Wales	1 021	24	8	4	3	28
Victoria	771	21	8	3	4	25
Queensland	578	26	7	5	4	30
South Australia	273	25	7	6	4	29
Western Australia	284	30	8	6	4	34
Tasmania	86	22	5	*4	5	28
Australian Capital Territory	39	46	16	12	*9	51
Region						
Capital city	1 823	26	10	5	4	31
Balance of state	1 238	21	6	4	3	25
Total	3 060	24	8	4	4	29

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) More than one site may be nominated.

(b) Labour force status in week before survey.

(c) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(d) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

3.2 USE OF A COMPUTER AT HOME BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, selected characteristics by purpose(a)—2003

	<i>No. persons aged 60 years or over who used a computer at home</i>	<i>Personal or private purposes</i>	<i>Work or business related purposes</i>	<i>Educational or study purposes</i>	<i>Voluntary or community purposes</i>	<i>Other purposes</i>
	'000	%	%	%	%	%
Sex						
Male	437	94	35	22	17	9
Female	305	95	21	16	17	7
Disability status						
Has a disability	271	95	19	19	15	7
Does not have a disability	471	95	35	20	18	9
Labour force status(b)						
Employed	266	93	65	26	19	11
Not employed	476	96	9	16	16	7
Level of highest educational attainment(c)						
Bachelor degree or above	174	95	43	32	23	10
Advanced diploma or diploma	100	96	38	27	20	*9
Certificate	181	93	23	17	13	7
Year 12 or below	277	95	21	11	14	8
State or territory(d)						
New South Wales	241	93	32	20	17	8
Victoria	158	93	34	18	17	9
Queensland	148	97	21	21	16	9
South Australia	68	95	29	20	22	10
Western Australia	86	97	27	16	12	8
Tasmania	19	95	19	*14	25	*7
Australian Capital Territory	18	98	32	30	18	*6
Region						
Capital city	483	95	31	20	17	9
Balance of state	259	94	26	19	17	8
Total	742	95	29	20	17	8

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) More than one purpose may be nominated.

(b) Labour force status in week before survey.

(c) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(d) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

3.3 USE OF THE INTERNET BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, selected characteristics by site(a)—2003

	No. persons aged 60 years or over	Home	Work	Neighbour, friend or relative's home	Public library	Used Internet at any site
	'000	%	%	%	%	%
Sex						
Male	1 442	22	8	4	2	26
Female	1 618	12	3	3	1	16
Disability status						
Has a disability	1 477	12	2	3	2	15
Does not have a disability	1 583	22	9	4	2	26
Labour force status(b)						
Employed	566	38	28	6	2	47
Not employed	2 494	12	1	3	2	15
Level of highest educational attainment(c)						
Bachelor degree or above	302	46	21	11	7	55
Advanced diploma or diploma	218	35	13	6	*3	42
Certificate	614	19	7	4	2	24
Year 12 or below	1 867	9	2	2	*1	12
State or territory(d)						
New South Wales	1 021	18	6	3	*1	21
Victoria	771	13	6	3	2	16
Queensland	578	17	5	4	3	22
South Australia	273	17	6	3	*1	21
Western Australia	284	21	7	5	*2	24
Tasmania	86	15	*4	*3	*2	19
Australian Capital Territory	39	38	12	12	*4	47
Region						
Capital city	1 823	19	7	4	2	23
Balance of state	1 238	14	4	3	1	17
Total	3 060	17	6	3	2	21

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) More than one site may be nominated.

(b) Labour force status in week before survey.

(c) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(d) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

3.4

USE OF THE INTERNET AT HOME BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER,

selected characteristics by purpose(a)—2003

	<i>No. persons aged 60 years or over who used Internet at home</i>	<i>Personal or private purposes</i>	<i>Work or business related purposes</i>	<i>Educational or study purposes</i>	<i>Voluntary or community purposes</i>	<i>Other purposes</i>
	'000	%	%	%	%	%
Sex						
Male	312	96	37	26	14	6
Female	202	98	20	19	13	6
Disability status						
Has a disability	172	97	22	23	13	7
Does not have a disability	342	96	34	24	14	6
Labour force status(b)						
Employed	213	94	59	27	14	7
Not employed	301	98	10	21	14	5
Level of highest educational attainment(c)						
Bachelor degree or above	140	97	42	35	18	*6
Advanced diploma or diploma	77	98	39	31	16	*8
Certificate	115	95	24	17	9	*7
Year 12 or below	175	96	21	15	11	*5
State or territory(d)						
New South Wales	180	97	33	24	13	7
Victoria	104	97	33	20	13	*6
Queensland	97	99	24	27	11	*6
South Australia	46	94	31	27	21	*6
Western Australia	59	91	29	20	12	*5
Tasmania	13	94	22	18	29	*6
Australian Capital Territory	15	97	33	32	*13	*4
Region						
Capital city	345	97	32	23	14	6
Balance of state	170	95	28	25	14	7
Total	514	96	30	24	14	6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) More than one purpose may be nominated.

(b) Labour force status in week before survey.

(c) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(d) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

3.5 USE OF THE INTERNET BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, selected characteristics by selected Internet transactions—2003

	<i>No. persons aged 60 years or over</i>	<i>Paid bills or transferred funds</i>	<i>Accessed government services for private purposes</i>	<i>Ordered goods or services for private purposes</i>
	'000	%	%	%
.....				
Sex				
Male	1 442	10	9	7
Female	1 618	4	3	3
Disability status				
Has a disability	1 477	4	4	3
Does not have a disability	1 583	10	8	7
Labour force status(a)				
Employed	566	18	15	14
Not employed	2 494	4	4	3
Level of highest educational attainment(b)				
Bachelor degree or above	302	21	18	17
Advanced diploma or diploma	218	16	16	11
Certificate	614	8	7	4
Year 12 or below	1 867	3	3	2
State or territory(c)				
New South Wales	1 021	8	7	5
Victoria	771	6	4	4
Queensland	578	6	6	5
South Australia	273	6	6	4
Western Australia	284	8	7	5
Tasmania	86	6	5	4
Australian Capital Territory	39	17	19	13
Region				
Capital city	1 823	8	7	6
Balance of state	1 238	5	5	4
Total	3 060	7	6	5

(a) Labour force status in week before survey.

(b) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(c) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

3.6

**GOVERNMENT SERVICES ACCESSED VIA THE INTERNET FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES
BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR OVER, selected characteristics by selected
government services—2003**

	<i>No. persons aged 60 years or over who accessed government services via the Internet for private purposes</i>	<i>ELECTRONIC LODGEMENT OF</i>		<i>INFORMATION OR SERVICES FOR</i>	
		<i>Bill payments e.g. rates and car registration</i>	<i>Tax returns</i>	<i>Taxation</i>	<i>Pensions or other benefits</i>
	'000	%	%	%	%
Sex					
Male	131	58	20	25	15
Female	56	56	21	12	17
Disability status					
Has a disability	60	51	21	17	18
Does not have a disability	127	61	20	23	15
Labour force status(a)					
Employed	86	60	26	27	7
Not employed	102	55	16	16	23
Level of highest educational attainment(b)					
Bachelor degree or above	55	59	24	30	12
Advanced diploma or diploma	34	55	29	20	8
Certificate	45	56	*15	22	19
Year 12 or below	51	58	*16	*10	24
State or territory(c)					
New South Wales	72	60	23	27	13
Victoria	33	57	*9	15	20
Queensland	35	47	*18	20	18
South Australia	16	67	*27	*23	*16
Western Australia	19	55	*25	*14	*22
Tasmania	5	57	*25	**3	*12
Australian Capital Territory	7	64	*28	*22	**3
Region					
Capital city	129	60	21	21	13
Balance of state	58	52	19	20	24
Total	187	57	20	21	16

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Labour force status in week before survey.

(b) Excludes those who never attended school and where level was not determined.

(c) Northern Territory estimates are included in totals and other classifications but cannot be shown separately.

CHAPTER 4

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS

ABOUT THE DATA

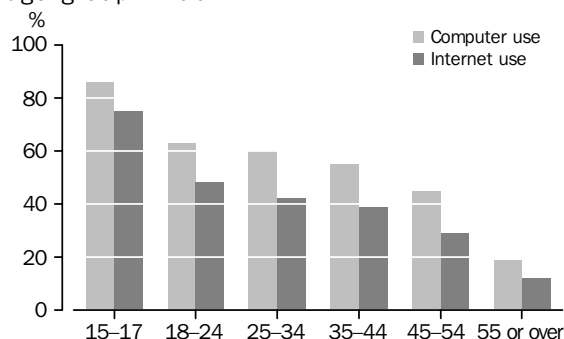
Data presented in this chapter were collected in the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey. The data relate to Indigenous people aged 15 years or over who live in private dwellings.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

In 2002, 56% of Indigenous people aged 15 years or over reported they had used a computer in the last 12 months and 41% reported they had used the Internet in the last 12 months.

Indigenous people who were most likely to have used a computer or the Internet were those aged 15 to 17 years, those who were employed, those with a bachelor degree or higher, those in the Australian Capital Territory and those in non-remote areas. Indigenous people in non-remote areas were almost twice as likely to have used a computer or the Internet than those in remote areas.

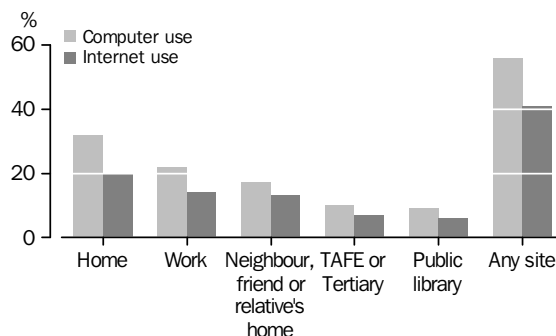
USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, by age group—2002



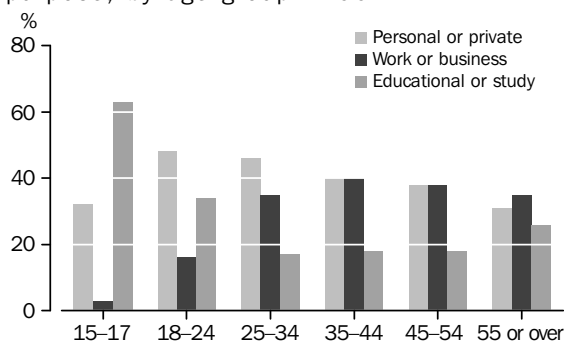
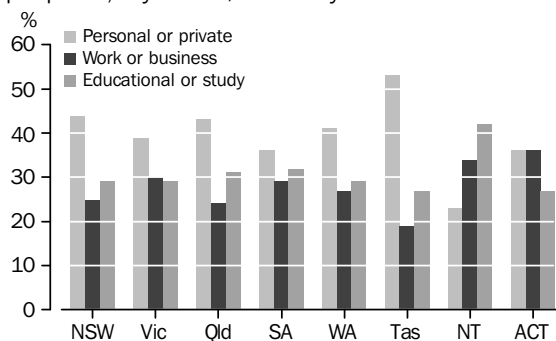
LOCATION OF COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

Overall, Indigenous people were most likely to have used a computer at home. However, those who were employed, those with an advanced diploma or diploma, those living in the Northern Territory and those in remote areas, were more likely to have used a computer at work than anywhere else.

As for computer use, overall, Indigenous people were most likely to have used the Internet at home. However, those with a bachelor degree or higher, those living in the Northern Territory and those in remote areas were most likely to have used the Internet at work.

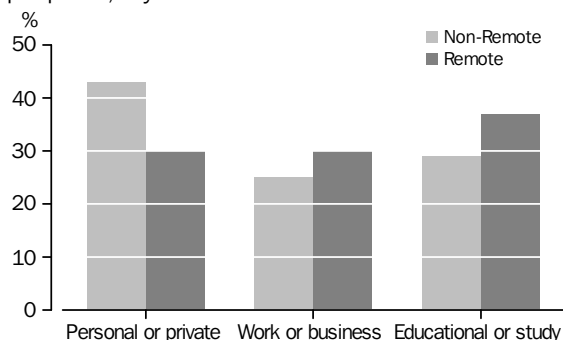
LOCATION OF COMPUTER
AND INTERNET USE*continued*USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, by
site—2002PURPOSE OF INTERNET
USE

The purpose of Internet use was collected for all Indigenous people who used the Internet, not just those using the Internet at home. The main purpose of Internet use reported by the 116,000 Indigenous people using the Internet was personal or private purposes (41%). Education or study was the next most likely use of the Internet (30%), followed by work or business (26%). However the main purpose for using the Internet varied across the Indigenous population. Those aged 55 years or more and those with an advanced diploma or diploma or above reported work or business purposes as the main use of the Internet. Those aged 15 to 17 years, those not employed, those living in the Northern Territory and those in remote areas reported educational or study purposes as the main purpose for using the Internet.

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, by
purpose, by age group—2002USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, by
purpose, by state/territory—2002

PURPOSE OF INTERNET
USE *continued*

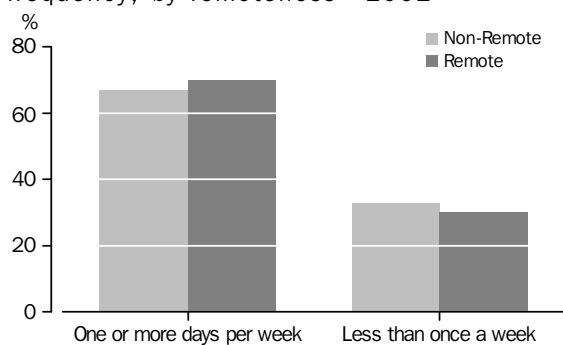
USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, by purpose, by remoteness—2002



FREQUENCY OF INTERNET
USE

Overall, the frequency of Internet use by Indigenous persons was at least once a week. The highest proportion of Internet use at least once a week was reported by those with a bachelor degree or higher and those living in the Australian Capital Territory.

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, by frequency, by remoteness—2002



4.1 USE OF COMPUTERS BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, selected characteristics by site(a)—2002

	No. Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	Home	Work	Neighbour, friend or relative's house	TAFE/Tertiary institution	Public library	Any site
	'000	%	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)							
15–17	31	45	7	33	12	19	86
18–24	52	32	22	27	21	14	63
25–34	71	33	29	20	9	7	60
35–44	58	35	28	13	9	8	55
45–54	38	29	21	6	7	*4	45
55 or over	32	13	9	*3	*3	*2	19
Sex							
Males	135	30	20	16	9	6	53
Females	147	33	23	19	12	11	58
Labour force status(b)							
Employed	130	42	43	20	11	9	67
Not employed	152	23	4	15	10	9	46
Level of highest educational attainment							
Bachelor degree or higher	9	78	78	38	30	*20	91
Advanced diploma or diploma	7	53	58	30	18	*22	80
Certificate	54	43	33	23	14	11	73
Year 12	28	44	38	31	19	14	73
Year 10 or Year 11	81	32	18	16	9	9	59
Year 9 or below(c)	99	16	6	9	5	4	33
State or territory							
New South Wales	84	39	24	22	12	11	61
Victoria	17	41	27	26	13	13	66
Queensland	76	32	20	17	10	9	58
South Australia	16	34	25	20	14	12	60
Western Australia	40	26	20	14	10	7	50
Tasmania	11	50	24	25	11	15	70
Northern Territory	36	8	16	3	4	*2	31
Australian Capital Territory	3	63	48	35	21	17	83
Remoteness							
Non-Remote	205	40	24	23	13	11	63
Remote	77	9	16	3	5	2	34
Total	282	32	22	17	10	9	56

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(b) Labour force status in week before survey.

(c) Includes those who never attended school.

(a) More than one site may be nominated.

4.2 USE OF THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, selected characteristics by site(a)—2002

	No. Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over	Home	Work	Neighbour, friend or relative's house	TAFE/Tertiary institution	Public library	Any site
	'000	%	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)							
15–17	31	27	*3	27	9	13	75
18–24	52	21	12	22	17	11	48
25–34	71	21	18	14	6	4	42
35–44	58	23	20	10	5	5	39
45–54	38	20	13	*3	*5	*2	29
55 or over	32	5	5	*1	*2	**1	12
Sex							
Males	135	20	13	13	7	4	39
Females	147	20	14	14	7	7	42
Labour force status(b)							
Employed	130	29	27	16	8	6	52
Not employed	152	12	2	11	7	5	31
Level of highest educational attainment							
Bachelor degree or higher	9	65	70	28	*15	*11	86
Advanced diploma or diploma	7	40	40	*24	*17	*16	66
Certificate	54	27	20	19	9	6	54
Year 12	28	33	24	26	18	*10	59
Year 10 or Year 11	81	20	10	12	6	6	43
Year 9 or below(c)	99	8	3	5	4	3	22
State or territory							
New South Wales	84	27	15	17	10	7	48
Victoria	17	28	17	20	8	7	53
Queensland	76	20	13	13	8	6	41
South Australia	16	19	14	14	9	8	43
Western Australia	40	13	12	10	5	5	33
Tasmania	11	32	15	19	7	8	54
Northern Territory	36	5	8	*2	2	*1	19
Australian Capital Territory	3	50	40	31	15	12	76
Remoteness							
Non-Remote	205	26	16	17	9	8	48
Remote	77	5	8	2	2	1	22
Total	282	20	14	13	7	6	41

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) More than one site may be nominated.

(b) Labour force status in week before survey.

(c) Includes those who never attended school.

4.3**USE OF THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, selected characteristics by main purpose—2002**

	No. Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over who used the Internet	Personal or private purposes	Work or business purposes	Educational or study purposes
	'000	%	%	%
Age group (years)				
15–17	23	32	**3	63
18–24	25	48	16	34
25–34	30	46	35	17
35–44	23	40	40	18
45–54	11	38	38	18
55 or over	4	*31	*35	*26
Sex				
Males	53	44	26	27
Females	62	39	26	33
Labour force status(a)				
Employed	68	41	38	19
Not employed	48	42	8	46
Level of highest educational attainment				
Bachelor degree or higher	8	*14	66	*17
Advanced diploma or diploma	5	*23	52	*23
Certificate	29	52	28	16
Year 12	17	41	22	36
Year 10 or Year 11	35	46	19	33
Year 9 or below(b)	22	36	14	47
State or territory				
New South Wales	41	44	25	29
Victoria	9	39	30	29
Queensland	31	43	24	31
South Australia	7	36	29	32
Western Australia	13	41	27	29
Tasmania	6	53	19	27
Northern Territory	7	23	34	42
Australian Capital Territory	2	36	36	27
Remoteness				
Non-Remote	99	43	25	29
Remote	17	30	30	37
Total	116	41	26	30

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Labour force status in week before survey.

(b) Includes those who never attended school.

4.4 USE OF THE INTERNET BY INDIGENOUS PERSONS, selected characteristics by frequency—2002

	No. <i>Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over who used the Internet</i>	One or more days per week	Less than once a week
	'000	%	%
Age group (years)			
15–17	23	77	23
18–24	25	58	41
25–34	30	65	35
35–44	23	66	34
45–54	11	75	25
55 or over	4	66	*34
Sex			
Males	53	68	32
Females	62	67	33
Labour force status(a)			
Employed	68	70	29
Not employed	48	63	37
Level of highest educational attainment			
Bachelor degree or higher	8	89	11
Advanced diploma or diploma	5	70	30
Certificate	29	62	37
Year 12	17	72	28
Year 10 or Year 11	35	63	37
Year 9 or below(b)	22	68	32
State or territory			
New South Wales	41	63	37
Victoria	9	68	32
Queensland	31	70	30
South Australia	7	64	36
Western Australia	13	68	32
Tasmania	6	70	29
Northern Territory	7	77	23
Australian Capital Territory	2	81	19
Remoteness			
Non-Remote	99	67	33
Remote	17	70	30
Total	116	67	33

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Labour force status in week before survey.

(b) Includes those who never attended school.

CHAPTER 5

USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY CHILDREN

ABOUT THE DATA

Data presented in this chapter were collected in the 2003 Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities survey. The data relate to children aged 5 to 14 years who live in private dwellings.

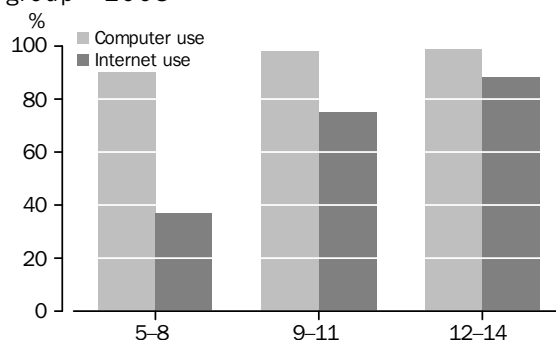
COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE

Most children aged 5 to 14 years (95%) used a computer in the 12 months to April 2003 during or outside of school hours. Children were most likely to have used a computer at school (89%), followed by home (82%), someone else's home (40%) and a public library (11%).

In the 12 months to April 2003, the Internet was accessed by 64% of children aged 5 to 14 years. Children were most likely to have used the Internet at home (51%), followed by school (45%), someone else's home (16%) and a public library (4%). Children in South Australia and Tasmania were slightly more likely to have used the Internet at school than at home.

Computer usage increased with age from 90% for 5 to 8 year olds to 99% for children aged 12 to 14 years. The same proportion of males and females used a computer in the 12 months to April 2003. Children in capital cities and in other areas of states and territories were equally likely to have used a computer.

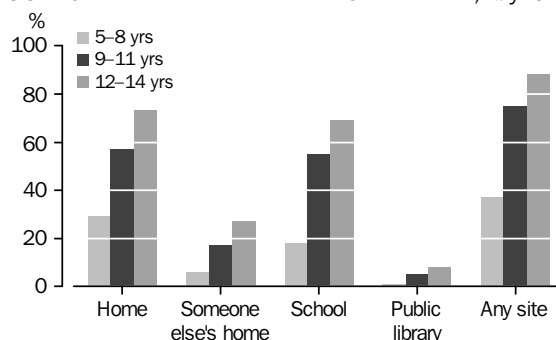
USE OF COMPUTERS OR THE INTERNET BY CHILDREN, by age group—2003



As with computers, Internet usage increased with age from 37% of 5 to 8 year olds to 88% for 12 to 14 year olds. Females (66%) were slightly more likely to have used the Internet than males (62%). Children in capital cities were also slightly more likely to have used the Internet than children in other areas of states and territories.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET
USE *continued*

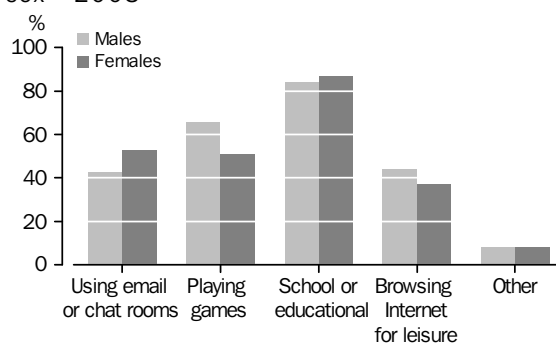
USE OF THE INTERNET BY CHILDREN, by site by age group—2003

COMPUTER AND INTERNET
ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Overall, females (87%) were more likely than males (81%) to use a computer at home for school or educational activities while males were most likely to use a computer at home to play games (89%). The activities for which children used a home computer varied with age. Children aged 5 to 8 years were most likely to have used a home computer to play games (91%) while children aged 9 to 14 years were most likely to have used a home computer for school or educational activities.

As for computers, the activities for which children used the Internet at home varied with age. The most common activities for children aged 5 to 8 years were playing games (68%) and school or educational activities (65%). Children aged 12 to 14 years used the Internet at home for school or educational activities (94%) and for email or chat rooms (67%).

USE OF THE INTERNET AT HOME BY CHILDREN, by activity by sex—2003

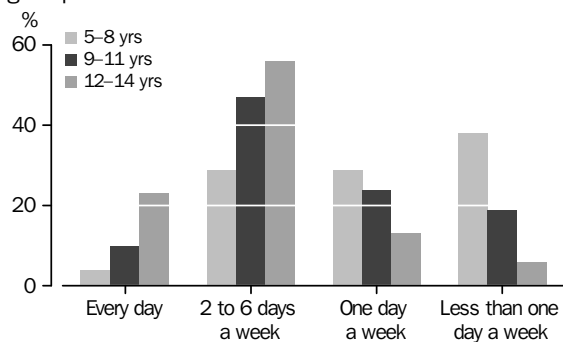
FREQUENCY OF
COMPUTER AND INTERNET
USE AT HOME

During the year to April 2003, most of the children who used a computer at home did so more than once a week (74%), with 19% of children using a computer at home, using it every day. Children aged 12 to 14 years were twice as likely to use a home computer every day than younger children.

During the year to April 2003, more than half the children who used the Internet at home did so more than once a week (61%) and 14% used the Internet daily. As for computers, children aged 12 to 14 years were likely to use the Internet at home more frequently than younger children.

FREQUENCY OF
COMPUTER AND INTERNET
USE AT HOME *continued*

USE OF THE INTERNET AT HOME BY CHILDREN, by frequency, by age group—2003



5.1 USE OF COMPUTERS BY CHILDREN, selected characteristics by site(a)—2003 ...

	No. children aged 5 to 14 years	Home	Someone else's home	School	Public library	Other places	Used a computer at any site
	'000	%	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)							
5–8	1 043	72	31	81	5	4	90
9–11	806	86	42	94	14	4	98
12–14	799	90	49	96	18	6	99
Sex							
Males	1 358	81	41	89	11	4	95
Females	1 290	82	38	90	12	4	95
Country of birth							
Born in Australia	2 482	82	40	90	11	4	95
Born overseas							
Born in main English speaking countries	73	84	38	92	15	*2	96
Born in other countries	93	83	22	84	19	*3	93
Family type							
One parent families(b)	567	68	42	89	12	4	94
Couple families(c)	2 080	85	39	90	11	4	95
Birthplace of parents							
One-parent families							
Parent born in Australia	439	69	44	90	11	5	95
Parent born in other main English-speaking countries	59	69	48	93	15	*6	97
Parent born in other countries	69	66	20	76	12	*3	86
Couple families							
Both parents born in Australia	1 273	86	43	91	11	5	96
Both parents born in other main English-speaking countries	100	86	40	93	11	*3	97
Both parents born in other countries	256	77	21	80	12	*2	89
Other	426	87	39	90	10	4	96
Employment status of parents							
One-parent families							
Parent employed	272	79	50	93	14	7	98
Parent not employed	295	58	34	86	10	3	91
Couple families							
Both parents employed	1 283	90	42	91	12	5	97
One parent employed	633	81	36	89	10	4	95
Neither parent employed	139	64	26	78	10	*2	86
State or territory of usual residence							
New South Wales	881	83	37	86	12	4	94
Victoria	647	82	40	91	10	4	97
Queensland	525	80	41	89	12	5	95
South Australia	195	82	46	94	13	4	96
Western Australia	268	82	44	93	12	5	96
Tasmania	66	76	47	91	12	5	97
Northern Territory	23	79	20	84	14	*4	93
Australian Capital Territory	43	87	37	89	9	*3	95
Area of usual residence							
Capital city	1 622	83	39	89	11	4	95
Balance of state	1 026	80	40	90	12	5	95
Total(d)	2 648	82	40	89	11	4	95

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) More than one site may be nominated.

(b) Includes children whose parent's country of birth and employment status were not stated.

(c) Includes children who had at least one of their parent's country of birth and employment status not stated.

(d) Includes children whose family type and/or birthplace of parents and/or employment status of parents were not stated.

5.2 USE OF A COMPUTER AT HOME BY CHILDREN, selected characteristics by selected activities(a)—2003

	No. children aged 5 to 14 years using a computer at home	Internet based, including email	Playing games	School or educational	Other
	'000	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)					
5–8	753	25	91	70	10
9–11	692	52	86	89	13
12–14	720	69	76	94	17
Sex					
Males	1 102	46	89	81	11
Females	1 064	51	79	87	15
Country of birth					
Born in Australia	2 027	48	85	84	13
Born overseas					
Born in main English speaking countries	61	59	83	87	12
Born in other countries	77	59	80	89	14
Family type					
One parent families(b)	388	43	83	81	13
Couple families(c)	1 777	50	85	85	13
Birthplace of parents					
One-parent families					
Parent born in Australia	301	42	84	80	13
Parent born in other main English-speaking countries	41	46	87	87	*10
Parent born in other countries	46	43	73	86	*11
Couple families					
Both parents born in Australia	1 100	49	86	84	14
Both parents born in other main English-speaking countries	86	58	82	84	9
Both parents born in other countries	196	49	80	89	11
Other	372	50	85	83	12
Employment status of parents					
One-parent families					
Parent employed	216	47	82	82	14
Parent not employed	172	37	85	80	11
Couple families					
Both parents employed	1 152	53	84	85	13
One parent employed	513	45	86	84	14
Neither parent employed	90	36	86	84	11
State or territory of usual residence					
New South Wales	730	49	83	85	12
Victoria	531	47	84	83	12
Queensland	418	49	85	84	15
South Australia	160	48	87	82	13
Western Australia	221	50	85	85	16
Tasmania	50	47	87	80	16
Northern Territory	18	44	86	84	*8
Australian Capital Territory	37	43	87	85	9
Area of usual residence					
Capital city	1 348	51	84	85	13
Balance of state	817	44	86	82	13
Total(d)	2 165	48	84	84	13

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) More than one activity may be nominated.

(b) Includes children whose parent's country of birth and employment status were not stated.

(c) Includes children who had at least one of their parent's country of birth and employment status not stated.

(d) Includes children whose family type and/or birthplace of parents and/or employment status of parents were not stated.

5.3 USE OF A COMPUTER AT HOME BY CHILDREN, selected characteristics by frequency—2003

	No. children aged 5 to 14 years using a computer at home	Every day	2 to 6 days a week	One day a week	Less than one day a week
	'000	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)					
5–8	753	9	48	27	16
9–11	692	16	60	15	8
12–14	720	33	57	7	3
Sex					
Males	1 102	21	53	17	9
Females	1 064	18	57	16	9
Birthplace of parents					
Born in Australia	2 027	19	55	17	9
Born overseas					
Born in main English speaking countries	61	31	49	13	*7
Born in other countries	77	26	57	13	*4
Family type					
One parent families(a)	388	19	53	16	12
Couple families(b)	1 777	19	55	17	9
Birthplace of parents					
One-parent families					
Parent born in Australia	301	19	54	16	11
Parent born in other main English-speaking countries	41	22	54	13	*11
Parent born in other countries	46	19	50	17	14
Couple families					
Both parents born in Australia	1 100	19	55	17	10
Both parents born in other main English-speaking countries	86	26	52	18	*5
Both parents born in other countries	196	20	59	15	6
Other	372	19	55	17	9
Employment status of parents					
One-parent families					
Parent employed	216	19	54	15	13
Parent not employed	172	20	52	17	10
Couple families					
Both parents employed	1 152	19	55	17	9
One parent employed	513	20	54	17	9
Neither parent employed	90	16	63	15	*5
State or territory of usual residence					
New South Wales	730	19	55	17	9
Victoria	531	20	55	15	10
Queensland	418	19	54	17	8
South Australia	160	15	55	20	10
Western Australia	221	21	54	16	8
Tasmania	50	18	51	19	11
Northern Territory	18	30	54	11	*6
Australian Capital Territory	37	20	58	15	7
Area of usual residence					
Capital city	1 348	20	55	16	9
Balance of state	817	17	55	18	10
Total(c)	2 165	19	55	17	9

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes children whose parent's country of birth and employment status were not stated.

(b) Includes children who had at least one of their parent's country of birth and employment status not stated.

(c) Includes children whose family type and/or birthplace of parents and/or employment status of parents were not stated.

5.4

USE OF THE INTERNET BY CHILDREN, selected characteristics by site(a)—2003

	No. children aged 5 to 14 years	Home	Someone else's home	School	Public library	Other places	Used the Internet at any site
	'000	%	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)							
5–8	1 043	29	6	18	1	1	37
9–11	806	57	17	55	5	2	75
12–14	799	73	27	69	8	4	88
Sex							
Males	1 358	49	15	45	4	2	62
Females	1 290	53	16	45	5	2	66
Country of birth							
Born in Australia	2 482	50	16	45	4	2	64
Born overseas							
Born in main English speaking countries	73	64	14	46	*5	*1	73
Born in other countries	93	60	9	44	8	*2	69
Family type							
One parent families(b)	567	38	19	42	5	3	59
Couple families(c)	2 080	54	15	45	4	2	65
Birthplace of parents							
One-parent families							
Parent born in Australia	439	38	21	44	5	3	59
Parent born in other main English-speaking countries	59	38	22	45	*7	*3	62
Parent born in other countries	69	37	*7	33	*3	**1	51
Couple families							
Both parents born in Australia	1 273	54	16	48	4	2	67
Both parents born in other main English-speaking countries	100	63	12	50	*4	*2	72
Both parents born in other countries	256	49	6	31	6	*2	54
Other	426	56	15	46	4	2	66
Employment status of parents							
One-parent families							
Parent employed	272	48	25	49	6	4	69
Parent not employed	295	28	14	36	5	*1	49
Couple families							
Both parents employed	1 283	60	16	49	4	2	70
One parent employed	633	47	12	40	5	2	60
Neither parent employed	139	29	8	34	4	—	45
State or territory of usual residence							
New South Wales	881	53	14	38	5	2	62
Victoria	647	50	17	49	4	2	65
Queensland	525	49	15	46	4	2	63
South Australia	195	49	15	51	6	2	66
Western Australia	268	52	19	50	4	2	66
Tasmania	66	47	17	53	5	3	69
Northern Territory	23	43	12	39	*3	*2	62
Australian Capital Territory	43	51	14	37	*4	*1	60
Area of usual residence							
Capital city	1 622	54	15	45	4	2	65
Balance of state	1 026	45	16	44	5	2	62
Total(d)	2 648	51	16	45	4	2	64

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) More than one site may be nominated.

(b) Includes children whose parent's country of birth and employment status were not stated.

(c) Includes children who had at least one of their parent's country of birth and employment status not stated.

(d) Includes children whose family type and/or birthplace of parents and/or employment status of parents were not stated.

5.5 USE OF THE INTERNET AT HOME BY CHILDREN, selected characteristics by selected activities(a)—2003

	No. children aged 5 to 14 years using the Internet at home	Using email or chat rooms	Playing games	School or educational	Browsing the Internet for leisure	Other
	'000	%	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)						
5–8	299	23	68	65	24	4
9–11	461	40	60	89	39	7
12–14	582	67	52	94	50	10
Sex						
Males	664	43	66	84	44	8
Females	678	53	51	87	37	8
Country of birth						
Born in Australia	1 239	47	58	86	41	7
Born overseas						
Born in main English speaking countries	47	48	49	83	32	*9
Born in other countries	56	58	64	87	42	12
Family type						
One parent families(b)	215	51	60	84	39	8
Couple families(c)	1 126	47	58	86	41	7
Birthplace of parents						
One-parent families						
Parent born in Australia	167	52	59	83	41	8
Parent born in other main English-speaking countries	23	51	61	93	30	*9
Parent born in other countries	26	44	63	85	30	*12
Couple families						
Both parents born in Australia	684	47	59	86	41	8
Both parents born in other main English-speaking countries	63	52	56	85	38	*6
Both parents born in other countries	124	47	57	88	40	8
Other	241	49	55	85	42	7
Employment status of parents						
One-parent families						
Parent employed	132	51	59	84	39	9
Parent not employed	83	51	60	85	39	7
Couple families						
Both parents employed	774	48	57	87	41	8
One parent employed	297	46	61	85	40	7
Neither parent employed	41	46	62	82	44	*11
State or territory of usual residence						
New South Wales	465	47	55	85	42	6
Victoria	324	45	61	85	43	10
Queensland	257	51	55	86	35	8
South Australia	95	48	64	86	38	7
Western Australia	139	52	60	87	40	7
Tasmania	31	46	62	82	46	7
Northern Territory	10	57	63	78	38	*7
Australian Capital Territory	22	49	58	91	40	9
Area of usual residence						
Capital city	880	48	60	86	40	7
Balance of state	461	48	55	85	41	8
Total(d)	1 342	48	58	86	40	8

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) More than one activity may be nominated.

(b) Includes children whose parent's country of birth and employment status were not stated.

(c) Includes children who had at least one of their parent's country of birth and employment status not stated.

(d) Includes children whose family type and/or birthplace of parents and/or employment status of parents were not stated.

5.6**USE OF THE INTERNET AT HOME BY CHILDREN, selected characteristics by frequency—2003**

	No. children aged 5 to 14 years using the Internet at home	Every day	2 to 6 days a week	One day a week	Less than one day a week
	'000	%	%	%	%
Age group (years)					
5–8	299	4	29	29	38
9–11	461	10	47	24	19
12–14	582	23	56	13	6
Sex					
Males	664	14	47	21	18
Females	678	14	48	20	17
Country of birth					
Born in Australia	1 239	14	47	21	18
Born overseas					
Born in main English speaking countries	47	19	45	22	14
Born in other countries	56	22	56	14	*7
Family type					
One parent families(a)	215	16	49	19	16
Couple families(b)	1 126	14	47	21	18
Birthplace of parents					
One-parent families					
Parent born in Australia	167	17	46	20	16
Parent born in other main English-speaking countries	23	*14	54	*16	*16
Parent born in other countries	26	*10	60	*17	*12
Couple families					
Both parents born in Australia	684	13	45	21	20
Both parents born in other main English-speaking countries	63	18	46	21	15
Both parents born in other countries	124	15	57	19	9
Other	241	15	47	19	18
Employment status of parents					
One-parent families					
Parent employed	132	16	48	18	17
Parent not employed	83	16	50	21	13
Couple families					
Both parents employed	774	14	46	21	18
One parent employed	297	14	47	20	19
Neither parent employed	41	*10	58	20	*9
State or territory of usual residence					
New South Wales	465	16	46	22	16
Victoria	324	14	49	19	17
Queensland	257	13	45	21	20
South Australia	95	13	43	24	19
Western Australia	139	15	52	16	18
Tasmania	31	10	44	20	25
Northern Territory	10	*13	52	*16	*17
Australian Capital Territory	22	14	53	18	14
Area of usual residence					
Capital city	880	15	49	20	16
Balance of state	461	14	44	21	20
Total(c)	1 342	14	47	20	18

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Includes children whose parent's country of birth and employment status were not stated.

(b) Includes children who had at least one of their parent's country of birth and employment status not stated.

(c) Includes children whose family type and/or birthplace of parents and/or employment status of parents were not stated.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication presents results from the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), the 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) and the 2003 Survey of Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities (CPCIA).

2 The statistics included in this publication present information about access to computers and the Internet in private households and information about the use of computers and the Internet by certain groups of people: Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over; persons with a disability aged 15 years or over; people aged 60 years or over and children aged 5 to 14 years.

3 Data on household use of information technology has been previously collected by the ABS in the Population Survey Monitor (1998, 1999 and 2000), Survey of Education, Training and Information Technology (2001) and the General Social Survey (2002).

SDAC

4 The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) was conducted from June to November 2003 and collected information from private and non-private dwellings and selected cared accommodation establishments across Australia.

SCOPE OF SDAC

5 The survey covered people in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, except for those living in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia. The exclusion of these people will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory (NT) where such people account for over 20% of the population. However, estimates have not been produced for the NT (see paragraph 25).

6 The survey included people in both private and non-private dwellings, including people in cared-accommodation establishments but excluding those in gaols and correctional institutions.

7 This publication only includes data relating to people living in private dwellings.

8 The scope of the survey was all persons except:

- visitors to private dwellings;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the Census and estimated resident population figures
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

9 Coverage rules were applied which aimed to ensure that each person in scope was associated with only one dwelling and thus had only one chance of selection.

10 Usual residents of selected private dwellings were included in the survey unless they were away on the night of enumeration, and had been away or were likely to be away for four months or more. This was designed to avoid multiple selection of a person who might be spending time, for instance, in a nursing home, and be eligible for selection there.

11 Visitors to private dwellings were excluded as the expectation was that most would have their chance of selection at their usual residence.

DATA COLLECTION FOR SDAC

12 Different data collection methods were used for the household component and the cared-accommodation component of this survey.

13 The household component covered people in:

- private dwellings such as houses, flats, home units, townhouses, tents and other structures used as private places of residence at the time of the survey
- non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, boarding houses, educational and religious institutions, guest houses, construction camps, short-term caravan parks, youth camps and camping grounds, including staff quarters, and self-care components of retirement villages.

14 Smaller disability group homes (with fewer than six people) were considered to be private dwellings.

15 The cared-accommodation component covered residents of hospitals, nursing homes, hostels and other homes such as children's homes, who had been, or were expected to be, living there or in another health establishment for at least three months.

16 Data for the household component of the survey were collected by trained interviewers, who conducted computer-assisted personal interviews.

17 A series of screening questions were asked of a responsible adult in a selected household to establish whether the household included:

- people with a disability
- people aged 60 years or more
- people who were primary carers for older people and/or people with a disability, living either in the same household or elsewhere, or who provided any care to persons living elsewhere.

18 Where possible, a personal interview was conducted with people identified in any of the above populations. Proxy interviews were conducted for children aged under 15 years, those aged 15-17 years whose parents did not permit them to be personally interviewed, and those with a disability that prevented them from having a personal interview.

19 People with a disability were asked questions relating to help and assistance needed and received for self-care, mobility, communication, cognitive and emotional support, health care, housework, property maintenance, meal preparation, paperwork (reading and writing tasks) and transport activities. They were also asked questions relating to recent computer and Internet use and participation in community activities. Those aged 5-20 years (or their proxies) were asked about schooling restrictions, and those aged 15-64 years about employment restrictions.

20 People aged 60 years or more without a disability were asked questions about need for, and receipt of, help for housework, home maintenance, meal preparation, paperwork (reading and writing tasks) and transport activities. They were also asked questions relating to recent computer and Internet use and participation in community activities.

21 Primary carers of a person with a disability or older person were asked about the assistance they provided, the assistance they could call on, and their employment experience. They were also asked to complete a self-enumeration form which collected information about their attitudes to, and experience of, their caring role. This form was completed by the carer during the interview.

22 Basic demographic and socio-economic information was collected for all other people. Most of this information was provided by a responsible adult in the household, rather than each person themselves.

SAMPLE SIZE FOR SDAC

23 Multi-stage sampling techniques were used to select the sample for the survey. After sample loss, the household sample included approximately 14,000 private dwellings and 300 non-private dwelling units, while the cared accommodation sample included approximately 550 establishments.

24 After exclusions due to scope and coverage, the final sample comprised 36,241 people for the household component and 5,145 people for the cared accommodation component.

25 The sample in the NT was reduced to a level such that NT records contribute appropriately to national estimates but cannot support reliable estimates for the NT. This was done to enable a larger NT sample to be used in the General Social Survey conducted by the ABS in 2002. As a result, estimates for NT are not shown separately in this publication.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE NATSISS

26 The survey included Indigenous persons aged 15 years or over who were usual residents of private dwellings in Australia. The estimated resident Indigenous population at 31 December 2002, excluding those living in non-private dwellings was 466,802, of whom 282,205 (60.5%) were aged 15 years or over.

27 The 2002 NATSISS was conducted in non-remote and remote areas in all states and territories of Australia.

28 The survey excluded visitors to private dwellings. Those visitors who were a usual resident of another dwelling in scope of the survey had a chance of being selected in the survey at that dwelling or, if not selected, would have been represented by similar persons who were selected in the survey.

29 Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were also excluded. At 31 December 2002, there were an estimated 19,320 Indigenous persons (4%) living in non-private dwellings throughout Australia.

NATSISS SURVEY DESIGN

30 The 2002 NATSISS was designed to provide reliable estimates at the national level and for each state and territory. The sample was therefore spread across the states and territories in order to produce estimates that have a relative standard error (RSE) of no greater than 20% for characteristics that are relatively common in the Indigenous population, say that at least 10% of the population would possess.

31 In addition, the Torres Strait Islander population was over-sampled in order to produce data for the Torres Strait Area and the remainder of Queensland.

32 The design of the 2002 NATSISS incorporated a sample of discrete Indigenous communities (including any out-stations associated with them) and a sample of dwellings in areas not covered by the discrete Indigenous community sample, referred to here as the 'non-community' sample. The samples for community areas and non-community areas were designed separately with each involving a multistage sampling process. In Western Australia (WA), South Australia (SA), Queensland (Qld) and the Northern Territory (NT), the sample design was different in community and non-community areas. In the remaining states and territories, however, the sample design was the same throughout, and corresponds to the method used in non-community areas in WA, SA, Qld and the NT.

33 The community sample was obtained from a random selection of discrete Indigenous communities and out-stations using a specially developed Indigenous Community Frame (ICF). The ICF was constructed using both 2001 Census counts and information collected in the 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs survey (CHINS). Most communities in the ICF were in remote (or very remote) areas. Within selected communities and out-stations a random selection of dwellings was made. Within

NATSISS SURVEY DESIGN

continued

selected dwellings, up to three Indigenous persons (15 years or over) were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

34 Dwellings in non-community areas were selected using a stratified multistage area sample. A sample of Census Collection Districts (CDs) was randomly selected with the likelihood of a CD's selection based on the number of dwellings containing Indigenous persons in the area as at the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. A random selection of dwellings within selected CDs was then screened to assess their usual residents' Indigenous status. Where a dwelling contained one or more Indigenous usual residents aged 15 years or over, up to three Indigenous persons (aged 15 years or over) were randomly selected to participate in the survey.

35 In non-community areas, a significantly lower than expected number of households containing Indigenous usual residents were found after initial screening for Indigenous residents by asking any responsible adult in the household. Additional CDs were selected in NSW, Vic., SA and the ACT. Selected dwellings in these CDs were surveyed in a 'top-up' enumeration period from February 2003 to April 2003. The lower than expected number of households identified as containing Indigenous residents may have been due to mobility (persons moving from the CD in which they were enumerated in the Census), and/or non-identification of Indigenous usual residents.

36 After screening about 233,000 households in non-community areas, approximately 2.5% were identified as having an Indigenous usual resident aged 15 years or over, and around 80% of these households then responded to the survey. This response rate does not take into account the 12% of households that were unable to be contacted to establish the Indigenous status of the occupants. In communities, 78% of in-scope households were fully responding, with a further 16% of households yielding some information.

DATA COLLECTION FOR
NATSISS

37 Data collection was undertaken by trained ABS interviewers. Respondents were interviewed personally, with the exception of persons who were too sick or otherwise unable to respond, and those aged 15–17 years for whom consent to interview personally could not be obtained from a parent or guardian. Information about the dwelling, the financial situation of the household, and income for those who had not been selected was collected from a nominated household spokesperson (see Glossary). A total of 9,400 Indigenous persons, or about 1 in 30 of the total Indigenous population aged 15 years or over, from across Australia, responded to the 2002 NATSISS.

38 There were a number of differences between the data collection methods used in communities in remote areas in WA, SA, Qld and the NT, and those used in other geographic areas. In the former, the standard household survey approaches were modified as a result of pre-testing, to take account of language and cultural issues. While question wording and collection methodology were modified in these remote areas, most underlying concepts remained the same across all areas.

39 In discrete communities, and more generally in remote areas, interviews were conducted using a paper questionnaire. In communities, the interviewers were accompanied, wherever possible, by local Indigenous facilitators, who assisted in the conduct and completion of the interviews. The Indigenous facilitators explained the purpose of the survey to respondents, introduced the interviewers, assisted in identifying the usual residents of a household and in locating residents who were not at home, and assisted respondents in understanding questions where necessary.

40 In addition, Community Information Forms (CIFs) were used to collect a limited amount of community level information from the Council Office, such as availability of services and facilities within the community. Well-known community events were identified to assist with defining time frames within the survey.

DATA COLLECTION FOR
NATSISS *continued*

41 Interviews conducted in non-community, non-remote areas predominantly used a Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) questionnaire. CAI involves the use of a notebook computer to record, store, manipulate and transmit the data collected during interviews.

CPCLA

42 The Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey (CPCLA) was conducted throughout Australia in April 2003 as a supplementary survey to the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

43 The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

SCOPE OF CPCLA

44 The scope of the survey included all children aged 5–14 years who were usual residents of private dwellings except:

- children in households where at least one person aged 15 years and over was a member in the Australian permanent defence forces
- children of certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from censuses and surveys
- children of overseas residents in Australia
- children of members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia.

45 This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded children living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these children will only have a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such children account for 22% of the total number of children in the population.

COVERAGE OF CPCLA

46 The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in April 2003. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each child is associated with only one dwelling, and hence had only one chance of selection in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

CPCLA DATA COLLECTION

47 Information was collected through interviews conducted over a two-week period during April 2003. Data collected on the frequency of participation related to the previous 12 months.

48 Information was collected from any responsible adult in the household who was asked to respond on behalf of the children in the household. About 80% of the interviews were conducted by telephone with the remainder being face-to-face interviews.

49 In each selected household, information on cultural and leisure activities was sought for a maximum of three children. In total, information was collected about the activities of 8,900 children living in the selected households. In the households with four or more children aged 5–14 years, three children were randomly selected for the survey. For the additional children in these households, selected demographic information only was collected.

WEIGHTING, BENCHMARKING
AND ESTIMATION*Weighting*

50 Weighting is the process of adjusting sample survey data to infer results for the total population (whether that be persons or households). To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit e.g. a person or a household. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

Weighting continued

51 The first step in calculating weights for each person or household is to assign an initial weight, which is equal to the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. For example, if the probability of a person being selected in the survey was 1 in 600, then the person would have an initial weight of 600 (that is, they represent 600 people).

Benchmarking

52 The initial weights were calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks' (for example, age and sex population estimates). Weights calibrated against population benchmarks compensate for over or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons or households in a survey and ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independent estimates of the population rather than to the distribution of persons or households within the sample.

53 The NATSISS was benchmarked to the Indigenous estimated resident population aged 15 years or over living in private dwellings in each state and territory, at 31 December 2002 based on results from the 2001 ABS Census of Population and Housing.

54 The SDAC was benchmarked to the estimated resident population living in non-sparsely settled areas at 30 June 2003 based on results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

55 The estimates in this publication do not (and are not intended to) match estimates for the total Indigenous resident population or estimates of the total Australian resident population (which include persons and households living in non-private dwellings, such as hotels and boarding houses) derived from the 2001 Census or obtained from other sources.

Estimation

56 Survey estimates of counts of persons or households are obtained by summing the weights of persons or households with the characteristic of interest.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

57 The estimates provided in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling error

58 Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of persons, and the value that would have been produced if all persons in scope of the survey had been included. For more information refer to the Technical Note.

Non-sampling error

59 Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census. Sources of non-sample error include non-response, errors in reporting by respondents or recording of answers by interviewers, and errors in coding and processing data.

60 Non-response occurs when people cannot or will not cooperate, or cannot be contacted. Non-response can affect the reliability of results and can introduce a bias. The magnitude of any bias depends upon the level of non-response and the extent of the difference between the characteristics of those people who responded to the survey and those who did not.

61 The following methods were adopted to reduce the level and impact of non-response:

- face-to-face interviews with respondents
- the use of interviewers who could speak languages other than English, where necessary
- follow-up of respondents if there was initially no response
- weighting to population benchmarks.

Non-sampling error continued

62 As the 2002 NATSISS did not achieve the expected rate of response from screening in non-community areas, there was increased risk of bias in the resultant sample which may not have been adequately compensated for in the weighting of survey results. However, based on analysis of comparable Census characteristics, non-response appears fairly evenly distributed across the analysis variables, indicating that the likelihood of bias in the resulting estimates is small.

63 Every effort was made to reduce other non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design and testing of the questionnaire, training of interviewers and data entry staff, and extensive editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing.

64 Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. All interviews were conducted by trained ABS officers. Interviewers were required to demonstrate an awareness of the social and cultural issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities, and an ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with Indigenous organisations and people. Extensive reference material was developed for use in the field enumeration and intensive training was provided to interviewers in both classroom and on-the-job environments.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

65 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated. Without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

66 Other ABS publications on the production and use of information technology and telecommunication goods and services in Australia are:

Business Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2002-2003 (Cat. no. 8129.0)

Government Use of Information Technology, 2002-03 (Cat. no. 8119.0)

Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2001-02 (Cat. no. 8146.0)

Information Technology, Australia 2002-2003 (Cat. no. 8126.0)

Internet Activity, Australia, March 2004 (Cat. no. 8153.0)

Use of Information Technology on Farms, June 2002-03 (Cat. no. 8150.0)

ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

67 As well as statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to Phil Nolen, Canberra, (02) 6252 5096 or the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

ABBREVIATIONS

68 Abbreviations used in this publication:

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
CIF	Community Information Forms
CPCLA	Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities
CD	Collection District
GSS	General Social Survey
ICF	Indigenous Community Frame
IT	information technology
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
PSM	Population Survey Monitor
na	not available
RSE	relative standard error
SE	standard error
SETIT	Survey of Education, Training and Information Technology
SDAC	Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers
TAFE	Tertiary and Further Education

RELIABILITY OF THE
ESTIMATES

1 As the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of households and persons, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all households and persons in Australia had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of households and persons was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the figure that would have been obtained if all households had been included in the survey, and about 19 chances in 20 that the difference will be less than two SEs.

2 Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

3 In the tables in this publication, only estimates (numbers and percentages) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with larger RSEs have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **2.1) to indicate that they are considered too unreliable for general use.

4 To assist readers of this publication to ascertain the approximate levels of reliability of estimates throughout this publication, a table of SEs and RSEs for certain estimates of population counts for NATSISS, SDAC and CPCLA appear at the end of this Technical Note. These values do not give a precise measure of the SEs or RSEs for a particular estimate but will provide an indication of their magnitude.

USING STANDARD ERRORS
FOR POPULATION ESTIMATES

5 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of children is as follows. From table 5.5 an estimated 664,000 males aged 5–14 years accessed the Internet at home in the 12 months ending April 2003. Since this estimate is between 500,000 and 1,000,000, the SE for Australia will lie between 10,700 and 14,150 and can be approximated by interpolation to be 11,800.

6 Therefore, there are about 2 chances in 3 that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 652,200 and 675,800 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 640,400 and 687,600.

PROPORTIONS AND
PERCENTAGES

7 Proportions and participation rates formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

DIFFERENCES

8 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

9 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

STANDARD ERRORS AND RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS

STANDARD ERRORS OF DISABILITY AND 60 YEARS OR OVER PERSONS ESTIMATES—2003

								AUSTRALIA	
Size of estimate	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Standard error	Relative standard error
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
500	490	400	420	340	370	300	300	450	90
1,000	760	650	660	540	580	450	450	690	69
1,500	980	850	850	690	740	570	570	870	58
2,000	1 170	1 030	1 020	820	890	670	670	1 030	51
2,500	1 340	1 190	1 160	930	1 010	750	750	1 170	47
3,000	1 490	1 330	1 290	1 040	1 120	830	830	1 300	43
3,500	1 630	1 460	1 420	1 130	1 230	900	900	1 420	41
4,000	1 760	1 590	1 530	1 220	1 330	960	960	1 530	38
4,500	1 890	1 700	1 640	1 310	1 420	1 020	1 010	1 630	36
5,000	2 010	1 810	1 740	1 390	1 500	1 070	1 070	1 730	35
6,000	2 230	2 020	1 930	1 530	1 660	1 170	1 160	1 920	32
8,000	2 620	2 380	2 260	1 790	1 950	1 350	1 330	2 250	28
10,000	2 970	2 700	2 550	2 020	2 190	1 490	1 460	2 540	25
20,000	4 330	3 910	3 670	2 870	3 130	2 020	1 940	3 680	18
30,000	5 360	4 800	4 500	3 500	3 820	2 380	2 250	4 560	15
40,000	6 210	5 520	5 180	4 010	4 380	2 660	2 490	5 290	13
50,000	6 950	6 130	5 760	4 440	4 860	2 890	2 680	5 930	12
100,000	9 760	8 370	7 910	6 030	6 620	3 670	3 290	8 390	8
200,000	13 500	11 130	10 640	8 010	8 830	4 530	3 910	11 750	6
300,000	16 200	12 990	12 540	9 380	10 360	5 060	4 270	14 250	5
400,000	18 380	14 410	14 040	10 430	11 540	5 450	4 500	16 290	4
500,000	20 230	15 580	15 280	11 310	12 350	5 760	4 680	18 060	4
1,000,000	26 960	19 490	19 630	14 330	15 940	—	—	24 690	3
2,000,000	35 380	23 760	24 700	—	—	—	—	33 420	2
5,000,000	49 450	—	—	—	—	—	—	49 050	1
10,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64 800	1
20,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84 600	—

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

ESTIMATES WITH RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%, number of disability and aged 60 years or over persons—2003

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
Size of estimate	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Estimates with RSEs of 25%	14 668	11 833	10 468	6 288	7 540	3 677	3 675	10 350
Estimates with RSEs of 50%	2 949	2 949	2 172	1 200	1 471	772	786	2 139

STANDARD ERRORS AND
RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS
continued

STANDARD ERRORS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS ESTIMATES—2002

AUSTRALIA				
Size of estimate	Remote	Non-remote	Standard error	Relative standard error
	no.	no.	no.	%
200	110	110	100	52
500	180	210	200	41
1,000	260	340	320	32
1,500	320	440	420	28
2,000	380	520	500	25
2,500	420	590	570	23
3,000	470	660	630	21
3,500	510	720	690	20
4,000	540	770	740	19
4,500	580	820	790	18
5,000	610	870	840	17
7,000	730	1 020	1 000	14
10,000	870	1 210	1 190	12
15,000	1 080	1 450	1 430	10
20,000	1 250	1 630	1 630	8
30,000	1 550	1 910	1 930	6
40,000	1 800	2 120	2 150	5
50,000	2 020	2 280	2 340	5
75,000	2 500	2 590	2 690	4
100,000	—	2 800	2 950	3
150,000	—	3 110	3 330	2
200,000	—	3 320	3 600	2
250,000	—	—	3 800	1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

ESTIMATES WITH RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%,
number of Indigenous persons—2002

	Remote	Non-remote	Aust.
Size of estimate	no.	no.	no.
Estimates with RSEs of 25%	1 110	2 220	2 000
Estimates with RSEs of 50%	260	280	240

STANDARD ERRORS AND
RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS
continued

STANDARD ERRORS OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 5–14 YEARS
ESTIMATES—2003

								AUSTRALIA	
Size of estimate	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Standard error	Relative standard error
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
300	400	340	350	270	260	180	180	300	100
500	500	440	450	340	330	240	240	400	80
700	590	520	520	390	400	280	280	480	69
1,000	700	630	610	460	470	340	320	580	58
1,500	850	760	730	560	580	400	390	720	48
2,000	970	880	840	630	670	460	440	830	42
2,500	1 100	1 000	900	700	750	500	500	950	38
3,000	1 200	1 050	1 000	750	800	550	500	1 000	33
3,500	1 250	1 150	1 100	800	850	600	550	1 100	31
4,000	1 350	1 200	1 150	850	900	600	600	1 200	30
5,000	1 500	1 350	1 250	950	1 000	650	650	1 350	27
7,000	1 750	1 600	1 500	1 100	1 200	750	750	1 550	22
10,000	2 050	1 850	1 750	1 300	1 400	850	850	1 850	19
15,000	2 500	2 200	2 100	1 500	1 650	1 000	1 000	2 250	15
20,000	2 850	2 500	2 400	1 700	1 850	1 100	1 100	2 600	13
30,000	3 400	3 000	2 900	2 050	2 200	1 200	1 300	3 150	11
40,000	3 900	3 350	3 300	2 300	2 500	1 300	1 450	3 600	9
50,000	4 300	3 700	3 650	2 500	2 700	1 400	1 600	4 000	8
100,000	5 850	4 900	5 000	3 350	3 550	1 650	—	5 400	5
150,000	7 050	5 700	6 050	3 950	4 150	—	—	6 450	4
200,000	8 000	6 350	6 900	4 450	4 600	—	—	7 300	4
300,000	9 550	7 400	8 350	5 250	5 300	—	—	8 700	3
500,000	12 000	8 950	10 600	6 400	6 300	—	—	10 700	2
1,000,000	16 250	11 400	14 600	—	—	—	—	14 150	1
2,000,000	22 000	—	—	—	—	—	—	18 500	1
5,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26 000	1
10,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

ESTIMATES WITH RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%,
number of children aged 5–14 years—2003

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Size of estimate	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
Estimates with RSEs of 25%	6 952	5 792	5 137	3 051	3 433	1 716	1 790	1 593	5 627
Estimates with RSEs of 50%	1 897	1 554	1 438	870	900	459	453	446	1 361

GLOSSARY

Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)	The ASCED is a new national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian education system, that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. From 2001, ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ). The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education. See <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001</i> (cat.no.1272.0).
Aboriginal person	An Aboriginal person is someone who identifies or is identified as being of Aboriginal origin. May also include persons identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. See also Indigenous.
Age	This is the reported age of a person on their last birthday.
Child	A child is a person of any age who is a natural, step or foster son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and who does not have a child or partner of his/her own usually resident in the household.
Computer use	This refers to use of a computer in the 12 months prior to interview.
Core-activity limitation	<p>Four levels of core-activity limitation are determined based on whether a person needs help, has difficulty, or uses aids or equipment with any of the core activities (communication, mobility or self care). A person's overall level of core-activity limitation is determined by their highest level of restriction in these activities.</p> <p>The four levels of limitation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ profound: the person is unable to do, or always needs help with, a core-activity task ■ severe: the person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ sometimes needs help with a core-activity task ■ has difficulty understanding or being understood by family or friends or ■ can communicate more easily using sign language or other non-spoken forms of communication. ■ moderate: the person needs no help but has difficulty with a core-activity task ■ mild: the person needs no help and has no difficulty with any of the core-activity tasks, but <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ uses aids and equipment ■ cannot easily walk 200 metres ■ cannot walk up and down stairs without a handrail ■ cannot easily bend to pick up an object from the floor ■ cannot use public transport ■ can use public transport but needs help or supervision or ■ needs no help or supervision but has difficulty using public transport.
Disability	<p>In the context of health experience, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) defines disability as an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions. It denotes the negative aspects of the interaction between an individual (with a health condition) and that individual's contextual factors (environment and personal factors).</p> <p>In the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers a person has a disability if they have a limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ loss of sight (not corrected by glasses or contact lenses)

Disability <i>continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ loss of hearing where communication is restricted, or an aid to assist with, or substitute for, hearing is used ■ speech difficulties ■ shortness of breath or breathing difficulties causing restriction ■ chronic or recurrent pain or discomfort causing restriction ■ blackouts, fits, or loss of consciousness ■ difficulty learning or understanding ■ incomplete use of arms or fingers ■ difficulty gripping or holding things ■ incomplete use of feet or legs ■ nervous or emotional condition causing restriction ■ restriction in physical activities or in doing physical work ■ disfigurement or deformity ■ mental illness or condition requiring help or supervision ■ long-term effects of head injury, stroke or other brain damage causing restriction ■ receiving treatment or medication for any other long-term conditions or ailments and still restricted ■ any other long-term conditions resulting in a restriction.
Educational attainment	This is the highest level of education attained. Includes both primary and secondary school and non-school qualifications.
Employed	Employed persons are those who had a job or business, or who undertook work without pay in a family business, in the week prior to the survey for a minimum of one hour per week. Includes persons who were absent from a job or business. Includes Community Development Employment Program participants.
Employment restriction	<p>An employment restriction is determined for persons with one or more disabilities if, because of their disability, they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ are permanently unable to work ■ are restricted in the type of work they can, or could, do ■ need, or would need, at least one day a week off work on average ■ are restricted in the number of hours they can, or could, work ■ require, or would require, an employer to provide special equipment, modify the work environment or make special arrangements ■ requires assistance from a disability job placement program or agency ■ need, or would need, to be given ongoing assistance or supervision or ■ would find it difficult to change jobs or get a better job. <p>This information was collected for persons aged 15-64 years with one or more disabilities, living in households.</p>
Household	A household consists of a person living alone, or two or more related or unrelated persons who live and eat together in private residential accommodation.
Indigenous	This refers to people who identified themselves, or were identified by another household member, as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Internet use	This refers to use of the Internet in the 12 months prior to interview. It includes access via mobile phones, set-top boxes connected to either an analogue or digital television, and games machines.
Limitation	A person has a limitation if they have difficulty doing a particular activity, needs assistance from another person or uses an aid.
Nominated household spokesperson	This is the person nominated as most able to provide information about the household as a whole.

Non-remote	Refers to geographical areas within the 'Major cities of Australia', 'Inner regional Australia' and 'Outer regional Australia' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. These categories are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre. For more information on the ASGC, see <i>Statistical Geography Volume 1, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). See also Remote.
Older person	Older person, in this publication, refers to a person aged 60 years or more. Information on the need for and receipt of assistance for housework, meal preparation, paperwork, property maintenance and transport, and on community participation, is available from the survey for all persons aged 60 years and over, regardless of whether they have a disability.
Private dwelling	A private dwelling is the premises occupied by a household. This includes houses, flats, home units, garages, tents and improvised dwellings and excludes hostels, hospitals and prisons.
Remote	Refers to geographical areas within the 'Remote' and 'Very Remote' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. These categories are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre. For more information on the ASGC, see <i>Statistical Geography Volume 1, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). See also Non-remote.
Schooling restriction	A schooling restriction is determined for persons aged 5-20 years who have one or more disabilities if, because of their disability, they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ are unable to attend school ■ attend a special school ■ attend special classes at an ordinary school ■ need at least one day a week off school on average or ■ have difficulty at school.

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ISSN 1329 4067

RRP \$25.00