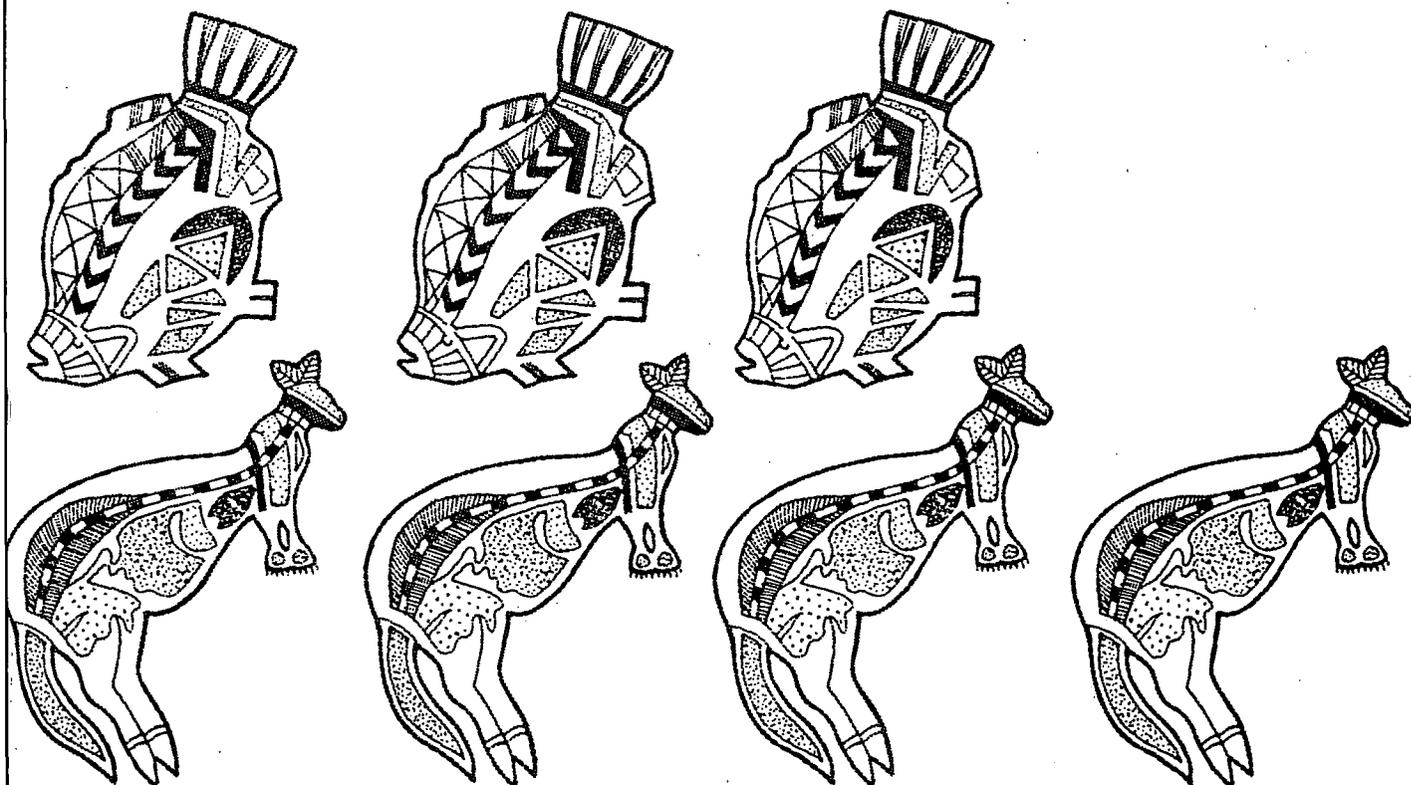




**Australian
Bureau of
Statistics**

**CENSUS 86 - ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER PEOPLE IN
QUEENSLAND**



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**CENSUS 86 — ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
PEOPLE IN QUEENSLAND**

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1. SUMMARY

There were 61,268 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (TSI) people counted in Queensland at the 1986 Census. This represented 2.4 per cent of the total Queensland population and 26.9 per cent of all Aboriginal and TSI people in Australia. Queensland had more Aboriginal and TSI people in the total population than any other State or Territory, although the proportion of Aboriginal and TSI people in the total population was highest in the Northern Territory.

TABLE 1 - PERSONS BY STATE, CENSUSES 1981 AND 1986

State/Territory	Aboriginal and TSI population				Total population		Aboriginal and TSI population as proportion of total 1986 population
	1981		1986		1986		
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Per cent
New South Wales	35,367	22.1	59,011	25.9	5,401,881	34.6	1.1
Victoria	6,057	3.8	12,611	5.5	4,019,478	25.8	0.3
Queensland	44,698	28.0	61,268	26.9	2,587,315	16.6	2.4
South Australia	9,825	6.1	14,291	6.3	1,345,945	8.6	1.1
Western Australia	31,351	19.6	37,789	16.6	1,406,929	9.0	2.7
Tasmania	2,688	1.7	6,716	3.0	436,353	2.8	1.5
Northern Territory	29,088	18.2	34,739	15.3	154,848	1.0	22.4
Australian Capital Territory	823	0.5	1,220	0.5	249,407	1.6	0.5
Australia	159,897	100.0	227,645	100.0	15,602,156	100.0	1.5

Source: Table ASC01 (1981); Table CSD03 - State Totals (1986).

Although Aboriginal and TSI people have been counted in each census since 1911, it was not until the 1971 Census that they were officially included in the Australian population estimates. The 1971 Census was the first census to be conducted after the repeal, in 1967, of Section 127 of the Constitution which required Aboriginal and TSI people to be excluded from the population counts.

In Queensland, the Aboriginal and TSI population increased by 37.1 per cent between the 1981 and 1986 Censuses, compared with an increase of 12.7 per cent for the total State population. On a national basis, the increase in the Aboriginal and TSI population between 1981 and 1986 was 42.4 per cent, also much higher than the increase of 7.0 per cent in the total Australian population.

The apparent large increase in numbers between 1981 and 1986 was not due solely to natural increase. Apart from general improvements in census procedures and a possible greater inclination to identify as being of Aboriginal or TSI origin, specific action was taken in the 1986 Census in order to obtain a count as accurate as possible of this group. This included an awareness campaign on the importance of the census specifically directed towards Aboriginal and TSI people.

The number of Aboriginal and TSI people counted in Queensland in the last four censuses has remained a fairly constant proportion of the number counted in Australia.

TABLE 2 - PERSONS: QUEENSLAND AND AUSTRALIA, CENSUSES 1971, 1976, 1981 AND 1986

Census year	Aboriginals	TSIs	Total Aboriginals/ TSIs	Total population	Aboriginals/TSIs as proportion of total population
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Per cent
	QUEENSLAND				
1971	24,414	7,508	31,922	1,827,065	1.7
1976	31,948	9,396	41,344	2,037,194	2.0
1981	33,966	10,732	44,698	2,295,123	1.9
1986	48,098	13,170	61,268	2,587,315	2.4
AUSTRALIA					
1971	106,290	9,663	115,953	12,755,638	0.9
1976	144,382	16,533	160,915	13,548,448	1.2
1981	144,665	15,232	159,897	14,576,330	1.1
1986	206,104	21,541	227,645	15,602,156	1.5

Source: Census 86 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Queensland (Catalogue No. 2481.0) and Australia (Catalogue No. 2487.0).

2. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

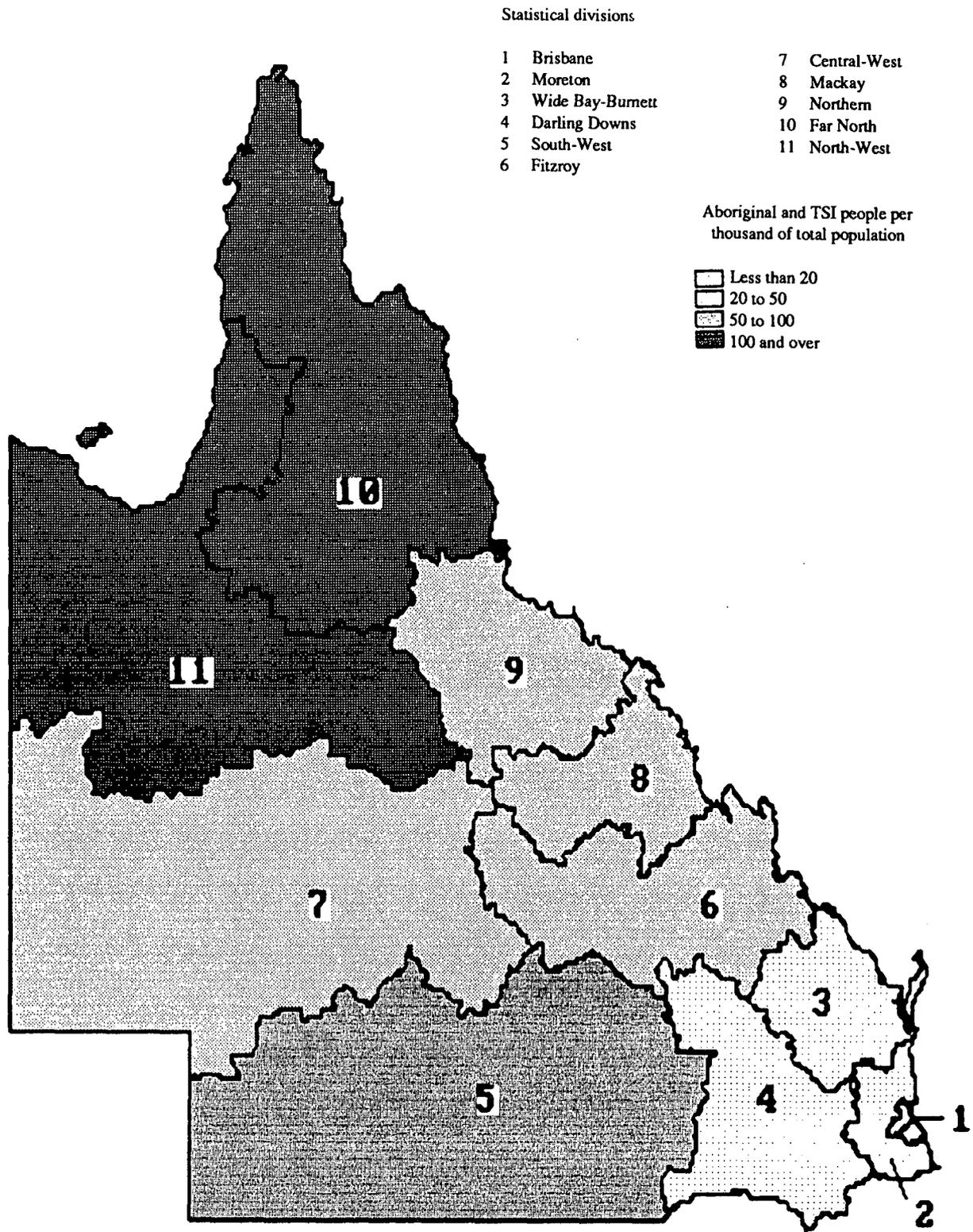
Aboriginal and TSI people were unevenly distributed throughout Queensland at the 1986 Census. Table 3 shows that 31.2 per cent were located in Far North Statistical Division, 18.4 per cent were in Brisbane Statistical Division and 11.8 per cent were counted in Northern Statistical Division. Over half (54.4 per cent) of all Aboriginal and TSI people in Queensland were located in Northern, Far North and North-West Statistical Divisions. By contrast, almost half (44.4 per cent) of the total population of Queensland was located in Brisbane Statistical Division. The next highest proportion of the total population was in Moreton Statistical Division (15.9 per cent).

TABLE 3 - PERSONS IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS AND STATISTICAL SUBDIVISIONS, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Statistical division Statistical subdivision	Aboriginal and TSI population				Total population	Aboriginal and TSI population as proportion of total population
	Aboriginals	TSIs	Total	Proportion	Proportion	
	No.	No.	No.	%	%	%
<i>Brisbane</i>	9,935	1,322	11,257	18.4	44.4	1.0
Brisbane City	5,584	775	6,359	10.4	27.3	0.9
Ipswich City	1,332	103	1,435	2.3	2.8	2.0
Logan City	1,286	234	1,520	2.5	4.5	1.3
Balance	1,733	210	1,943	3.2	9.8	0.8
<i>Moreton</i>	1,918	315	2,233	3.6	15.9	0.5
Gold Coast City	501	110	611	1.0	5.0	0.5
Balance	1,417	205	1,622	2.6	10.9	0.6
<i>Wide Bay-Burnett</i>	3,000	214	3,214	5.2	6.5	1.9
Bundaberg	601	67	668	1.1	1.6	1.6
Balance	2,399	147	2,546	4.2	4.9	2.0
<i>Darling Downs</i>	1,806	111	1,917	3.1	6.7	1.1
<i>South-West</i>	1,831	27	1,858	3.0	1.1	6.5
<i>Fitzroy</i>	4,081	479	4,560	7.4	6.1	2.9
Rockhampton	1,466	224	1,690	2.8	2.3	2.9
Gladstone	473	120	593	1.0	1.2	2.0
Balance	2,142	135	2,277	3.6	2.7	3.2
<i>Central-West</i>	611	16	627	1.0	0.5	4.6
<i>Mackay</i>	1,161	1,060	2,221	3.6	4.0	2.1
Mackay	643	836	1,479	2.4	1.9	3.0
Balance	518	224	742	1.2	2.2	1.3
<i>Northern</i>	5,505	1,699	7,204	11.8	6.6	4.2
Townsville City	3,670	988	4,658	7.6	3.2	5.6
Thuringowa City	400	241	641	1.0	0.9	2.7
Balance	1,435	470	1,905	3.1	2.5	3.0
<i>Far North</i>	11,452	7,669	19,121	31.2	6.5	11.4
Cairns	2,429	1,825	4,254	6.9	2.9	5.7
Balance	9,023	5,844	14,867	24.3	3.6	15.9
<i>North-West</i>	6,771	240	7,011	11.4	1.5	18.3
<i>Off-shore and migratory</i>	27	18	45	0.1	0.1	1.6
Queensland	48,098	13,170	61,268	100.0	100.0	2.4

Source: Table CSC06 - Statistical Divisions and Statistical Subdivisions (1986).

DIAGRAM 1 – ABORIGINAL AND TSI PEOPLE AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY STATISTICAL DIVISION, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



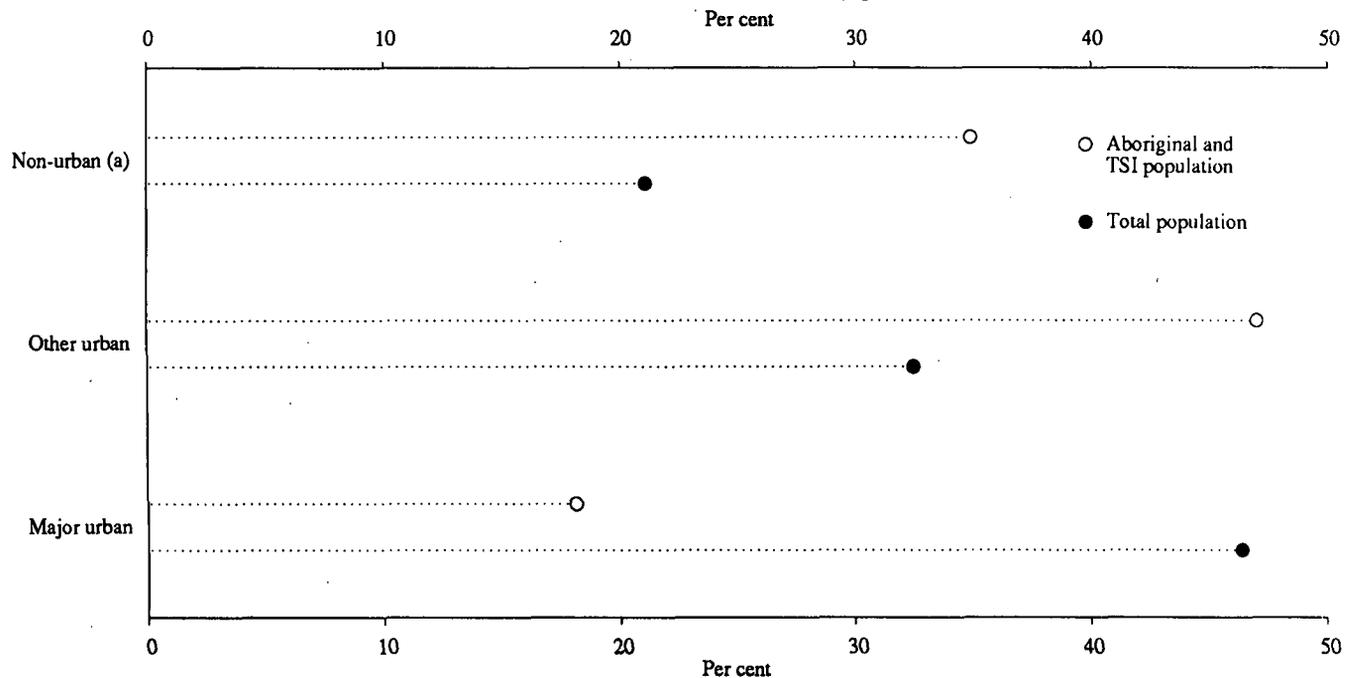
Map produced using CDATA 86

(Census information on Compact Disk)

Source: Table CSC06 – Statistical Divisions (1986).

Whereas 46.4 per cent of Queensland's population was located in urban Brisbane and urban Gold Coast (areas designated as *major urban*), only 18.1 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI people live there. In fact, only 0.9 per cent of people who lived in major urban areas were of Aboriginal or TSI origin.

DIAGRAM 2 - PERSONS: PROPORTION BY SECTION OF STATE, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



(a) Includes 'Off-Shore Areas and Migratory'

Source: Table CSC06 - Section of state (1986)

Growth in the number of Aboriginal and TSI people between 1981 and 1986 was greatest in major urban areas. The estimate of 4,567 more people in 1986 than in 1981 in major urban areas represents an increase of 70.0 per cent, which is almost double the total State increase in the Aboriginal and TSI population of 37.1 per cent. Improvement in census procedures and a greater inclination to identify as being of Aboriginal or TSI origin may not have been uniform throughout Queensland and therefore may account for some of the large percentage increase in major urban areas between 1981 and 1986.

TABLE 4 - PERSONS BY SECTION OF STATE, QUEENSLAND, CENSUSES 1981 AND 1986

Section of State	Aboriginal and TSI population				Total population	
	1981		1986		1981	1986
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Major urban	6,524	14.6	11,091	18.1	47.0	46.4
Other urban	18,317	41.0	28,788	47.0	32.2	32.5
Non-urban (a)	19,857	44.4	21,389	34.9	20.9	21.1
Total	44,698	100.0	61,268	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Including *Off-shore areas and migratory*.

Source: Small Area Summary Data - Section of State (1981); Table CSC06 - Section of State (1986).

Of the total of 61,268 Aboriginal and TSI persons at the 1986 Census, 13,648 or 22.3 per cent were counted in localities in the Torres Strait or in community areas designated by the Queensland Department of Community Services. The largest of these communities were located at Thursday Island, Palm Island near Townsville and Yarrabah, south of Cairns (refer to the map for location of Aboriginal and TSI communities).

TABLE 5 - ABORIGINAL AND TSI PEOPLE IN SELECTED COMMUNITY AREAS AND LOCALITIES, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

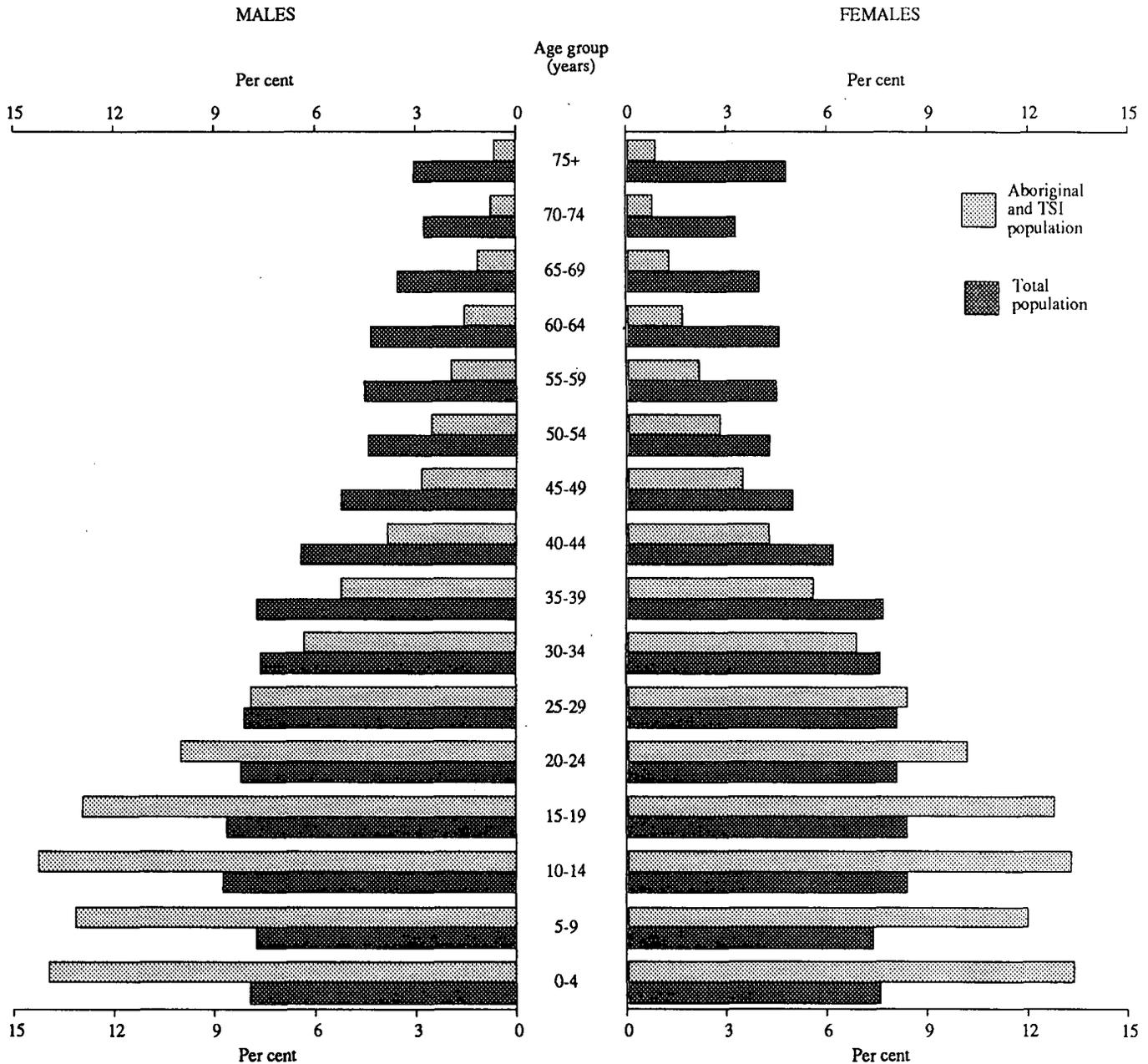
<i>Community area or locality</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Bamaga	398	422	820
Cherbourg	453	490	944
Cowal Creek	114	107	222
Doomadgee	431	377	807
Pompuraaw (Edward River)	179	171	350
Hope Vale	370	308	677
Kowanyama	348	372	720
Lockhart River	195	186	382
Palm Island	808	728	1,536
Weipa	321	299	620
Woorabinda	391	341	732
Wujal Wujal	120	123	245
Yarrabah	725	698	1,424
Torres Strait Islands			
Badu	134	133	267
Coconut (incl. Warrabar)	126	117	244
Darnley	52	44	95
Dauan	56	60	118
Hammond	109	136	245
Mabuiag	94	74	167
Moa	151	114	266
Murray	134	142	276
Sabai (incl. Kaumag)	95	105	200
Talbot (incl. Boigu)	89	98	186
Thursday	866	990	1,858
Yam	61	70	130
Yorke	55	62	117

Source: Table CA0073 (1986).

3. AGE AND SEX

The age profile of the Aboriginal and TSI population was significantly younger than that of the total Queensland population. While persons aged less than 20 years comprised 32.5 per cent of the total population, 53.0 per cent of the Aboriginal and TSI population were in this age group. By contrast, only 28.7 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI people were aged 30 years or more, whereas 51.1 per cent of the total population were in this category. An even greater difference is evident in the 65 and over age group, which accounted for 10.8 per cent of the total population, but only 2.8 per cent of the Aboriginal and TSI population.

DIAGRAM 3 - POPULATION: AGE BY SEX, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



Source - Table CA0029 (1986)

In the total Queensland population females were more numerous than males only in the age groups over 60 years. In contrast Aboriginal and TSI women predominated in all age groups over 20 years. This is clearly illustrated by the masculinity ratios (i.e. number of males per 100 females) shown in Table 6. The total of Aboriginal and TSI women actually outnumbered their male counterparts by 348 whereas in the total Queensland population males outnumbered females.

TABLE 6 - PERSONS BY AGE AND SEX, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Age group (years)	Aboriginal and TSI population				Total population			
	Males	Females	Persons	Masculinity ratio (a)	Males	Females	Persons	Masculinity ratio (a)
0-4	4,266	4,115	8,381	103.7	104,040	98,015	202,055	106.1
5-9	4,014	3,706	7,719	108.3	101,337	95,670	197,005	105.9
10-14	4,350	4,092	8,441	106.3	113,653	107,861	221,514	105.4
15-19	3,975	3,949	7,925	100.7	112,522	108,115	220,636	104.1
20-24	3,066	3,133	6,198	97.9	107,768	104,926	212,693	102.7
25-29	2,441	2,600	5,041	93.9	106,423	105,079	211,503	101.3
30-34	1,942	2,129	4,069	91.2	99,750	98,681	198,430	101.1
35-39	1,625	1,714	3,338	94.8	100,994	99,079	200,074	101.9
40-44	1,195	1,336	2,531	89.4	83,769	79,926	163,696	104.8
45-49	872	1,064	1,937	82.0	68,483	64,024	132,507	107.0
50-54	802	850	1,651	94.4	57,816	55,586	113,402	104.0
55-59	613	688	1,301	89.1	59,229	58,637	117,865	101.0
60-64	489	515	1,003	95.0	57,590	59,323	116,912	97.1
65-69	354	395	750	89.6	46,536	51,417	97,954	90.5
70-74	241	249	489	96.8	35,743	43,064	78,807	83.0
75 +	216	278	494	77.7	39,978	62,286	102,262	64.2
Total	30,460	30,808	61,268	98.9	1,295,630	1,291,684	2,587,315	100.3

(a) Males per 100 females.

Source: Table CA0029 (1986).

4. MARITAL STATUS

Over half (57.0 per cent) of the Aboriginal and TSI population aged 15 years and over were never married as at the 1986 Census and almost one-third (29.6 per cent) were married. This is virtually the opposite of the relative proportions within the total population, where 28.1 per cent were in the *never married* category and 58.0 per cent were *married*.

Some Aboriginal and TSI people who were tribally married may have recorded their marital status as *never married*. However, people who indicated on the census form that they were tribally married were included in the *married* category in the 1986 Census tables.

TABLE 7 - PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: PROPORTION OF POPULATION BY MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986 (per cent)

Marital status	Age group (years)						Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	
ABORIGINAL AND TSI POPULATION							
Never married	91.6	53.9	29.1	19.8	17.0	16.3	57.0
Married	7.0	35.8	50.6	52.8	47.4	37.2	29.6
Separated	1.0	5.7	9.1	10.6	9.2	4.6	5.1
Divorced	0.2	3.8	7.4	6.3	3.6	1.7	3.1
Widowed	0.2	0.7	3.7	10.5	22.9	40.1	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
TOTAL POPULATION							
Never married	85.1	25.3	8.0	6.4	6.3	7.0	28.1
Married	13.5	65.5	78.8	79.1	75.4	55.6	58.0
Separated	0.9	3.9	4.3	3.6	2.6	1.7	2.8
Divorced	0.4	4.9	8.0	7.8	5.7	2.9	4.7
Widowed	0.1	0.3	0.9	3.2	9.9	32.8	6.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Tables CA0053, CSD08 (1986).

5. LANGUAGE USAGE

Most (83.6 per cent) of the Aboriginal and TSI population aged 5 years and over spoke English at home. Less than 1.0 per cent did not speak any English at all.

The proportion of Aboriginal and TSI people who spoke only English at home was significantly higher in South and Central Queensland than in other areas of the State. On the other hand, almost 90 per cent of the Aboriginal and TSI population who spoke English and used another language at home were located in North and Far North Queensland.

The high proportion of Aboriginal and TSI people in Far North Queensland who spoke English and used another language at home was largely attributable to the language usage pattern of TSI people and the relatively large number of TSI people in this region. Of the total number of Aboriginal and TSI people in Far North Queensland who spoke English but used another language at home (5,281 persons), almost two-thirds (64.3 per cent) were TSI people. In Far North Queensland, 40.1 per cent of the Aboriginal and TSI population were TSI people, whereas the equivalent figure for the whole State was 21.5 per cent.

TABLE 8 - USE OF ENGLISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES BY THE ABORIGINAL AND TSI POPULATION (a), QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Language usage	Geographic area								Total Queensland (f)	
	South Queensland (b)		Central Queensland (c)		North Queensland (d)		Far North Queensland (e)			
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Speaks English only	16,723	95.4	6,072	95.2	10,737	87.1	10,676	64.3	44,239	83.6
Speaks English and uses other languages	583	3.3	217	3.4	1,279	10.4	5,281	31.8	7,374	13.9
Does not speak English	20	0.1	—	—	15	0.1	117	0.7	149	0.3
Not known (g)	212	1.2	91	1.4	299	2.4	522	3.1	1,126	2.1
Total	17,538	100.0	6,380	100.0	12,330	100.0	16,596	100.0	52,888	100.0

(a) Aged 5 years and over. (b) Comprises Brisbane, Moreton, Wide Bay-Burnett, Darling Downs and South-West Statistical Divisions. (c) Comprises Mackay, Fitzroy and Central-West Statistical Divisions. (d) Comprises Northern and North-West Statistical Divisions. (e) Comprises the Far North Statistical Division including Torres Strait Islands. (f) Including off-shore areas and migratory. (g) Including those who did not state their proficiency in the English language and those who did not answer the 'language' question on the census form.

Source: Table CA0054 (1986).

6. FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

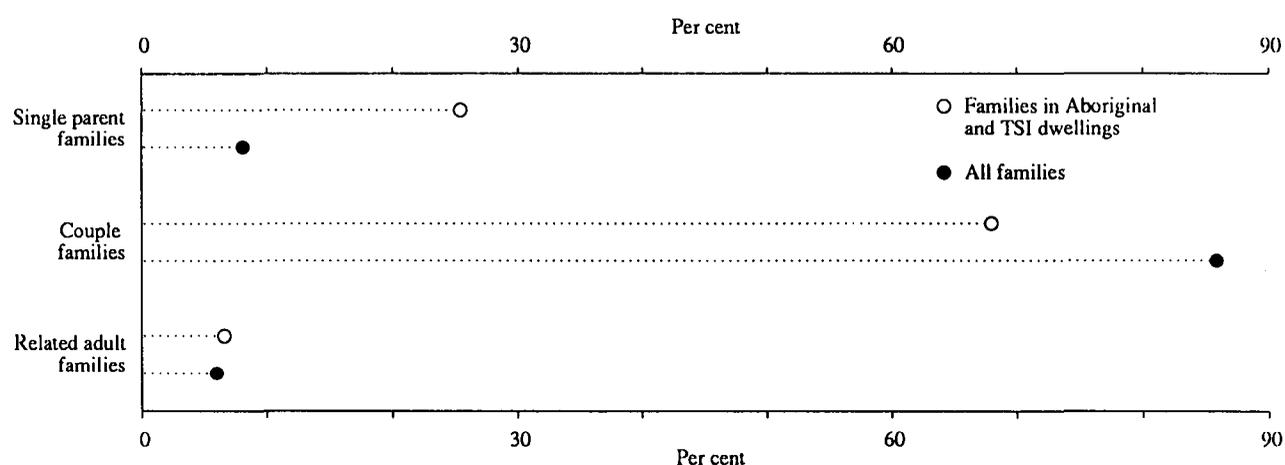
There were 14,167 Aboriginal and TSI families identified in the 1986 Census. While most of these families comprised Aboriginal and TSI people only, a small number included people who were not Aboriginals or TSIs.

About two-thirds of Aboriginal and TSI families lived in urban areas. Comparisons between urban and non-urban areas of the family composition of Aboriginal and TSI families revealed only small differences.

Significant differences existed between the family composition of all Queensland families and that of Aboriginal and TSI families. Couple families accounted for 68.0 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI families, while single parent families constituted 25.4 per cent of the total. By contrast, in the total population couple families constituted 85.9 per cent of all families and single parent families only 8.1 per cent.

Extended family arrangements were more prevalent in Aboriginal and TSI families than in the total population. Those single parent families and couple families in which dependent children and adult family members were present represented 26.7 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI families but only 10.9 per cent of all families in the State, and couple families without dependent children or adult family members comprised a much smaller proportion of Aboriginal and TSI families (11.7 per cent) than of all families (31.8 per cent).

DIAGRAM 4 - FAMILY COMPOSITION, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



Source: Tables CA0045, CX0072 (1986)

TABLE 9 - FAMILIES: FAMILY COMPOSITION BY MAJOR SECTION OF STATE, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Family composition	Families in Aboriginal and TSI dwellings						Total families	
	Urban		Non-urban		Total		Number	Per cent
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent		
Single parent family								
With dependent children	1,524	16.0	722	15.6	2,246	15.9	42,214	6.1
With dependent children and adult family members	873	9.1	481	10.4	1,354	9.6	13,526	2.0
Total single parent families	2,397	25.1	1,203	26.1	3,600	25.4	55,740	8.1
Couple family								
Couple only	1,157	12.1	502	10.9	1,659	11.7	218,986	31.8
With dependent children	3,393	35.5	1,452	31.4	4,845	34.2	242,953	35.3
With adult family members	456	4.8	244	5.3	700	4.9	68,361	9.9
With dependent children and adult family members	1,524	16.0	902	19.5	2,426	17.1	61,367	8.9
Total couple families	6,530	68.4	3,100	67.1	9,630	68.0	591,667	85.9
Related adult families	623	6.5	315	6.8	938	6.6	41,673	6.0
Total families	9,550	100.0	4,617	100.0	14,167	100.0	689,076	100.0

Source: Tables CA0045, CX0072 (1986).

Aboriginal and TSI households consisted mostly of only one family. Aboriginal and TSI households which comprised two or more families represented 10.6 per cent of all Aboriginal and TSI households while, in the total population, only 2.2 per cent of households consisted of two or more families.

Households other than family households (group households and lone person households), comprised 7.4 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI households. This is significantly lower than the equivalent figure of 22.2 per cent of all households.

There were no group households among the Aboriginal and TSI population because it is customary for Aboriginal and TSI people to consider other members of their household as relatives.

TABLE 10 - HOUSEHOLDS IN OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Household type	Aboriginal and TSI households (a)		Total households	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Households of				
One family	11,061	82.0	651,080	75.6
Two or more families	1,432	10.6	18,629	2.2
Group households	—	—	38,266	4.4
Lone person households	997	7.4	152,840	17.8
Total	13,490	100.0	860,815	100.0

(a) Refers to those occupied private dwellings where the reference person and/or spouse of a primary family unit was reported as Aboriginal or TSI.

Source: Tables CA0068, CSC045 (1986).

Aboriginal and TSI families had an average size of 4.1 persons. Almost one-third (31.6 per cent) of those were extended families (i.e. adult family members were present) and had an average size of 5.6 persons.

Table 11 shows that Aboriginal and TSI families were larger than families in the total Queensland population in all categories of family composition in which dependent children and/or adult family members were included.

TABLE 11 - FAMILY COMPOSITION BY NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND PERSONS IN FAMILIES, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

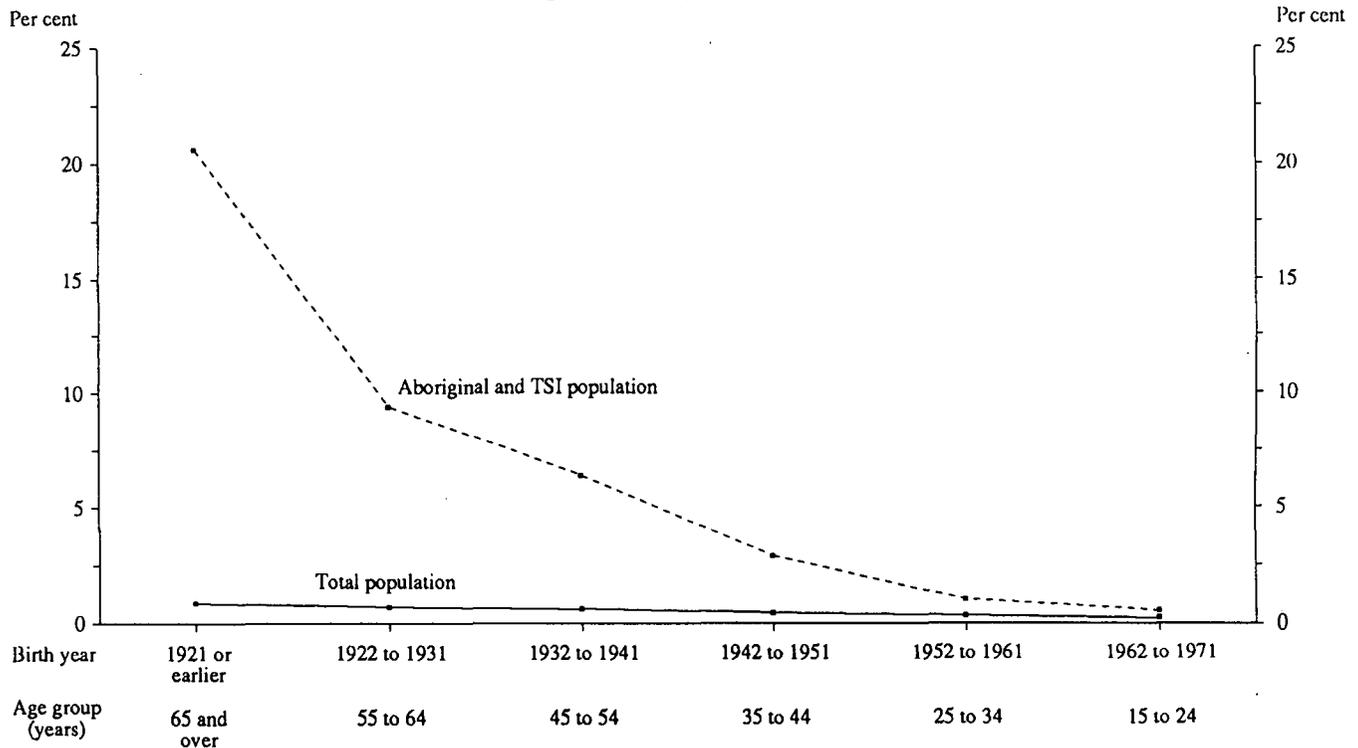
Family composition	Aboriginal and TSI families			All families		
	Number of families	Number of persons	Average family size	Number of families	Number of persons	Average family size
Single parent family						
With dependent children	2,259	6,735	3.0	42,215	112,061	2.7
With dependent children and adult family members	1,353	7,137	5.3	13,525	52,845	3.9
Total single parent families	3,612	13,872	3.8	55,740	164,906	3.0
Couple family						
Couple only	1,661	3,276	2.0	218,985	431,572	2.0
With dependent children	4,829	21,282	4.4	242,952	985,355	4.1
With adult family members	705	2,586	3.7	68,360	228,520	3.3
With dependent children and adult family members	2,425	15,160	6.3	61,367	306,295	5.0
Total couple families	9,620	42,304	4.4	591,664	1,951,742	3.3
Related adult families	947	2,605	2.8	41,673	94,069	2.3
Total families	14,167	58,781	4.1	689,076	2,210,717	3.2

Source: Tables CA0067, CX0007, Census 86 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings: Queensland (Catalogue No. 2481.0).

7. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Diagram 5 shows the great improvement in the educational attainment of Aboriginal and TSI people in Queensland. Almost all Aboriginal and TSI people aged 15 to 24 years have had some schooling, whereas 20.6 per cent of those aged 65 years and over had not attended school at all. By contrast, only 0.9 per cent of persons aged 65 years and over in the total population had not attended school.

DIAGRAM 5 - PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO HAD NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL BY AGE GROUP, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



Source - Tables CA0056, CX0020 (1986)

The majority (84.5 per cent) of Aboriginal and TSI people aged 15 years and over left school before 17 years of age, as shown in Table 12. Apparent retention rates for secondary school students are now higher than in the past, for both the Aboriginal and TSI and total populations.

TABLE 12 - AGE LEFT SCHOOL, PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Age group (years)	Aboriginal and TSI population				Total population			
	Age left school				Age left school			
	Less than 17 years		17 years or over		Less than 17 years		17 years or over	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
15-24	8,276	77.7	2,373	22.3	214,298	64.5	118,118	35.5
25-34	6,749	81.5	1,536	18.5	267,146	67.7	127,520	32.3
35-44	4,707	92.6	377	7.4	268,127	77.1	79,779	22.9
45-54	2,771	94.9	150	5.1	200,138	85.5	34,057	14.5
55-64	1,640	94.7	92	5.3	197,353	89.1	24,044	10.9
65 and over	937	92.0	82	8.0	223,657	89.9	25,027	10.1
Total (a)	25,088	84.5	4,612	15.5	1,370,727	77.0	408,546	23.0

(a) Excluding not stated, still at school and did not attend school.

Source: Tables CA0056, CX0020 (1986).

Participation in education by Aboriginal and TSI people was lower than for the total Queensland population in all age groups above 15 years, which is the age at which attendance at an educational institution ceases to be compulsory in Queensland. The greatest difference occurred in the 15 to 24 years age group, when most people undertake post-secondary school education.

TABLE 13 - EDUCATION PARTICIPATION RATES (a), QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986
(per cent)

Age group (years)	Aboriginal and TSI population	Total population
5-9	93.1	85.9
10-14	95.8	91.1
15-24	20.8	30.1
25-34	3.5	6.1
35 and over	1.5	1.9
Total	9.4	22.0

(a) Total number of students in each age group expressed as percentage of the total population in that age group.

Source: Tables CA0029, CA0039, CA0074, CX0004 (1986).

Over three-quarters (76.8 per cent) of Aboriginal and TSI people aged 15 years and over stated that they held no qualifications. Very few (0.8 per cent) stated that they held tertiary qualifications. However, the level of qualifications was higher for those Aboriginal and TSI people who were employed. A total of 1.7 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI people in the employed labour force possessed tertiary qualifications, and 8.9 per cent held certificates compared with 4.5 per cent for the total Aboriginal and TSI population aged 15 years and over with certificate qualifications.

The educational profile of the total Queensland population was significantly different from that of the Aboriginal and TSI population. People with tertiary qualifications comprised 7.3 per cent of the total population aged 15 years and over, while those with other qualifications represented 16.8 per cent of the total.

Statistics in Table 14 should be interpreted cautiously because of the relatively high percentage of responses in the *inadequately described* and *not stated* categories.

TABLE 14 - EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Educational qualification	Aboriginal and TSI population				Total population			
	Employed labour force		Total population aged 15 years and over		Employed labour force		Total population aged 15 years and over	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Tertiary qualification	203	1.7	296	0.8	109,962	10.7	143,604	7.3
Trade certificate	709	5.9	968	2.6	156,039	15.2	209,591	10.7
Other certificate	366	3.0	682	1.9	78,590	7.6	121,357	6.2
Inadequately described (a)	541	4.5	963	2.6	48,000	4.7	79,493	4.0
No qualifications	8,731	72.4	28,209	76.8	578,328	56.2	1,233,559	62.7
Not stated	1,510	12.5	5,608	15.3	58,580	5.7	179,134	9.1
Total	12,064	100.0	36,727	100.0	1,029,497	100.0	1,966,741	100.0

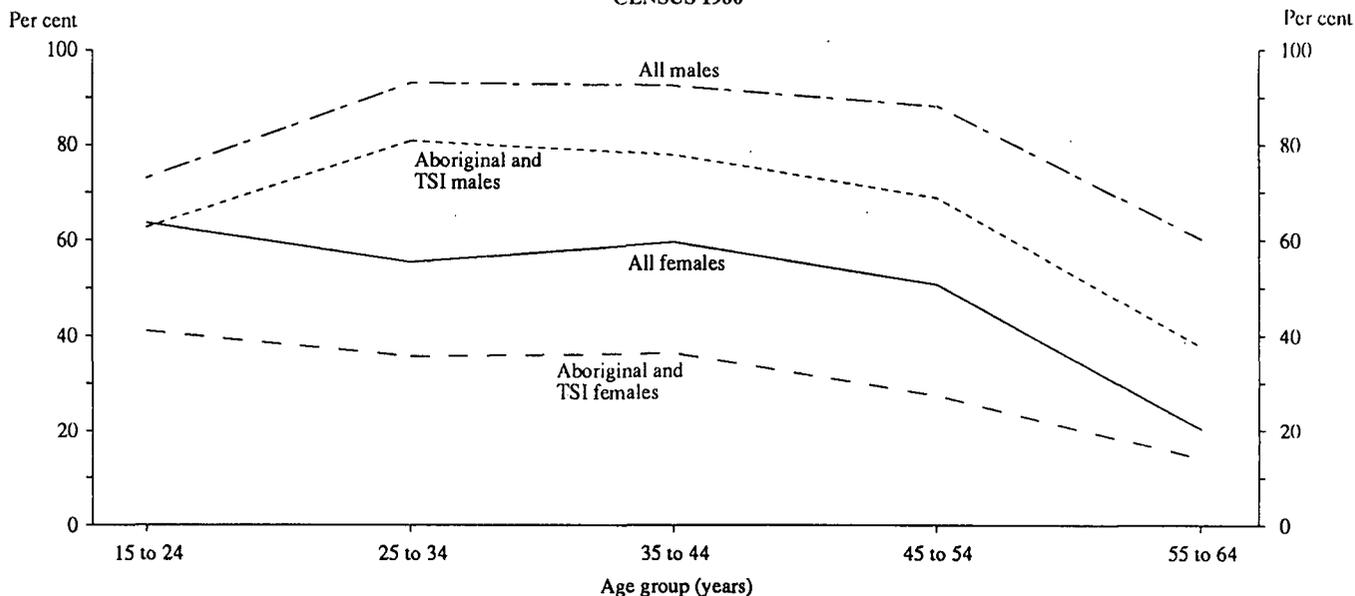
(a) Including *not classifiable*.

Source: Tables CA0057, CA0064, CX0015 (1986).

8. EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The age profile of labour force participation for the Aboriginal and TSI population is similar to that of the total population. Labour force participation rates were lowest for males amongst the youngest and oldest in the working age population. Female participation rates declined in older age groups and also in the predominant child-bearing ages.

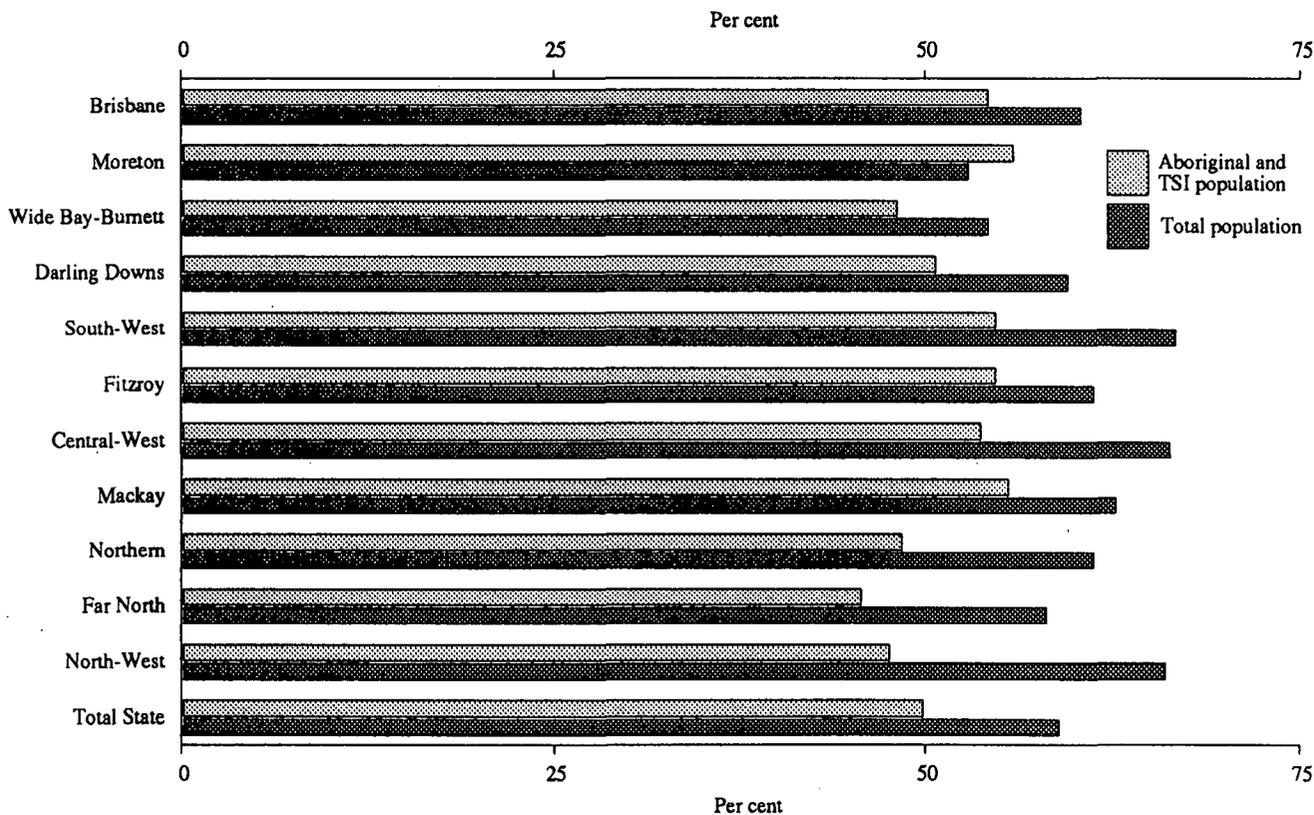
DIAGRAM 6 - PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES BY AGE AND SEX, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



Source: Tables CA0040, CSD037 (1986)

Labour force participation rates in the Aboriginal and TSI population were lower than those for the total population in all areas other than Moreton Statistical Division. The lowest rate was in Far North Statistical Division, which contained almost one-third of the Aboriginal and TSI population in Queensland.

DIAGRAM 7 - LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES BY STATISTICAL DIVISION, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



Source: Tables CA0055, CSD037 (1986)

Over 12,000 Aboriginal and TSI people were employed in 1986 and almost half (49.8 per cent) were less than 30 years old. In the total population, slightly more than one-third (37.0 per cent) were in this age group.

Table 15 shows that employed females in both the Aboriginal and TSI and total populations had a younger age profile than their employed male counterparts. In addition, the age profile of employed Aboriginal and TSI males was younger than that of employed males in the total Queensland population.

TABLE 15 – EMPLOYED POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986
(per cent)

Age group (years)	Aboriginal and TSI population		Total population	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
15–19	12.8	17.1	7.7	11.9
20–24	18.8	20.3	12.7	16.2
25–34	30.3	28.2	27.1	25.7
35–44	21.0	20.5	24.9	25.0
45–54	11.5	10.5	16.2	14.4
55–64	4.9	3.2	10.0	5.8
65 and over	0.6	0.3	1.5	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Tables CA0040, CSD037 (1986).

The unemployment rate for Aboriginal and TSI people in the labour force at 34.0 per cent was significantly higher than the equivalent figure for the total Queensland labour force (11.1 per cent). In fact as shown in Table 16, unemployment rates in all age groups are considerably higher for the Aboriginal and TSI labour force than for the total labour force. For both the Aboriginal and TSI and total populations, unemployment rates were highest in the 15 to 24 years age group. Unemployment rates for both males and females declined gradually with age up to age 54.

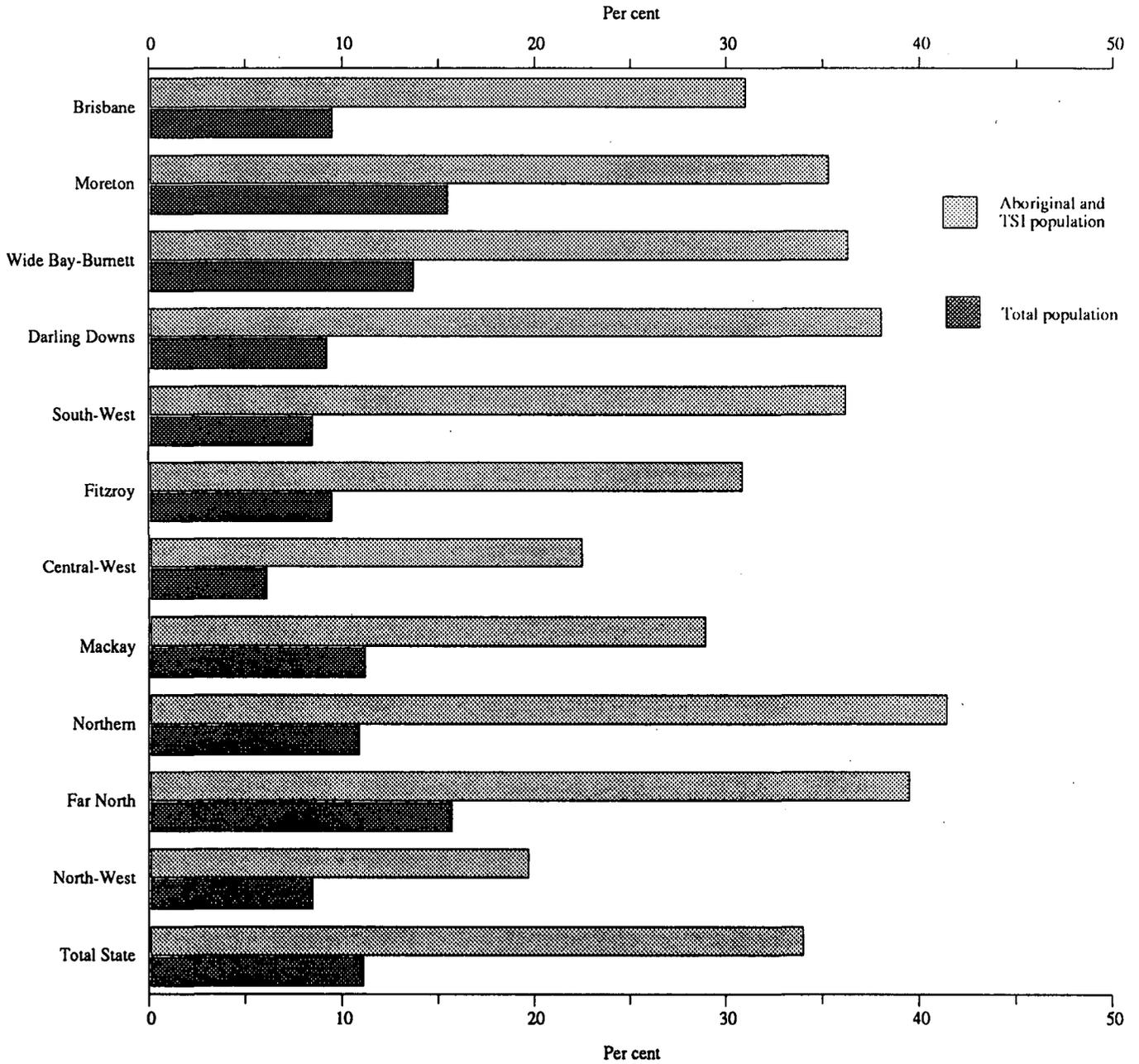
TABLE 16 – UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY AGE AND SEX, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986
(per cent)

Age group (years)	Aboriginal and TSI population		Total population	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
15–24	42.9	47.2	19.0	18.7
25–34	31.8	31.3	9.9	10.8
35–44	23.7	24.2	7.0	8.0
45–54	20.4	18.3	7.4	6.9
55–64	29.3	20.0	9.5	5.0
65 and over	32.4	53.3	4.4	6.7
Total	32.9	36.0	10.8	11.6

Source: Tables CSD037, CA0040 (1986).

Aboriginal and TSI unemployment was significantly higher than unemployment in the total population in all statistical divisions.

DIAGRAM 8 - UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY STATISTICAL DIVISION, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



Source: Tables CA0055, CSD037 (1986)

9. OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY

Almost half (46.2 per cent) of all employed males in the Aboriginal and TSI labour force were employed in labouring and related occupations such as factory hands, trades assistants and cleaners. The second most prevalent occupation group for employed Aboriginal and TSI males was 'tradespersons' with 18.0 per cent of all employed males. Over one-quarter (27.4 per cent) of employed Aboriginal and TSI females were employed in labouring and related occupations, but a larger proportion (31.7 per cent) were employed in clerical occupations.

Compared with the total Queensland population, Aboriginal and TSI people were more than twice as likely to be employed as labourers and related workers. Of all employed persons in the Aboriginal and TSI labour force, 39.8 per cent were classified to this group, compared with 15.7 per cent of all employed persons in the total population. By contrast, 3.9 per cent of the Aboriginal and TSI labour force was employed in professional occupations, while the equivalent figure for the total labour force was 9.9 per cent.

Concentration of Aboriginal and TSI workers in unskilled and semi-skilled occupations is a reflection of the comparatively small proportion of the Aboriginal and TSI labour force with educational qualifications beyond secondary level.

TABLE 17 - EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION GROUPS, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Occupation group	Aboriginal and TSI population				Total population			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Managers and administrators	202	2.5	92	2.2	94,179	14.8	34,053	8.7
Professionals	218	2.7	247	6.0	61,048	9.6	41,161	10.5
Para-professionals	326	4.1	246	6.0	37,629	5.9	26,857	6.9
Tradespersons	1,433	18.0	246	6.0	146,065	22.9	15,708	4.0
Clerks	354	4.4	1,300	31.7	43,835	6.9	121,618	31.0
Sales and personal services	205	2.6	604	14.7	53,435	8.4	82,701	21.1
Plant and machine operators	1,130	14.2	74	1.8	75,328	11.8	8,193	2.1
Labourers and related workers	3,680	46.2	1,122	27.4	110,053	17.3	51,921	13.2
Inadequately described	215	2.7	73	1.8	9,527	1.5	4,623	1.2
Not stated	198	2.5	98	2.4	6,342	1.0	5,221	1.3
Total	7,962	100.0	4,102	100.0	637,441	100.0	392,056	100.0

Source: Table CA0062, Census 86 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings (Catalogue No. 2481.0).

Over one-quarter of employed Aboriginal and TSI people were engaged in *community services* such as health, welfare and education. The other major industry group employing Aboriginal and TSI people was *public administration and defence* (13.7 per cent). These two industry groups together accounted for 41.2 per cent of all Aboriginal and TSI employment.

A significantly larger proportion of employed Aboriginal and TSI females (43.6 per cent) than of employed Aboriginal and TSI males (19.2 per cent) were employed in *community services*. The proportions of females and males in the total Queensland labour force employed in these industries, 27.4 per cent and 9.6 per cent, respectively, were significantly lower.

Comparisons of the masculinity ratios for the Aboriginal and TSI and total labour force reveal similarities in most industries, with the exception of *agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting* and *transport and storage*. In these industries, masculinity ratios for the Aboriginal and TSI labour force were much higher than for the total labour force.

TABLE 18 – EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY GROUPS, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Industry group	Aboriginal and TSI population					Total population				
	Males	Females	Persons	Per cent	Masculinity ratio (a)	Males	Females	Persons	Per cent	Masculinity ratio (a)
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	714	97	811	6.7	736.1	54,664	23,999	78,663	7.6	227.8
Mining	324	28	352	2.9	1,157.1	19,264	1,765	21,029	2.0	1,091.4
Manufacturing	714	238	952	7.9	300.0	91,831	27,801	119,632	11.6	330.3
Electricity, gas and water	80	8	88	0.7	1,000.0	13,687	1,833	15,520	1.5	746.7
Construction	550	65	615	5.1	846.2	64,848	10,317	75,165	7.3	628.6
Wholesale and retail trade	559	454	1,013	8.4	123.1	114,335	90,506	204,841	19.9	126.3
Transport and storage	1,057	85	1,142	9.5	1,243.5	53,743	10,262	64,005	6.2	523.7
Communication	135	56	191	1.6	241.1	17,239	5,806	23,045	2.2	296.9
Finance, property and business services	166	174	340	2.8	95.4	49,154	43,325	92,479	9.0	113.5
Public administration and defence	1,205	450	1,655	13.7	267.8	45,176	17,019	62,195	6.0	265.4
Community services	1,529	1,790	3,319	27.5	85.4	61,337	107,528	168,865	16.4	57.0
Recreation, personal and other services	232	350	582	4.8	66.3	29,618	38,438	68,056	6.6	77.1
Non-classifiable	74	24	98	0.8	308.3	6,296	2,518	8,814	0.9	250.0
Not stated	621	282	903	7.5	220.2	16,249	10,939	27,188	2.6	148.5
Total	7,962	4,102	12,064	100.0	194.1	637,441	392,056	1,029,497	100.0	162.6

(a) Males per 100 females.

Source: Tables CA0062, CSC027 (1986).

A much higher proportion of Aboriginal and TSI people were employed in the public sector (47.2 per cent) than was the case for the total population (25.1 per cent). Also, the proportion of the Aboriginal and TSI labour force employed by each level of government within the public sector was higher than that for the total labour force. Some caution is advised in interpreting the table below because of the relatively high proportion of *not stated* responses within the Aboriginal and TSI population.

TABLE 19 – EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY SECTOR, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Industry sector	Aboriginal and TSI population		Total population	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Australian government	1,011	8.4	68,140	6.6
State government	3,458	28.7	163,457	15.9
Local government	1,225	10.2	26,424	2.6
Private sector	5,486	45.5	752,665	73.1
Not stated	880	7.3	18,811	1.8
Total	12,064	100.0	1,029,497	100.0

Source: Tables CA0044, CSC029 (1986).

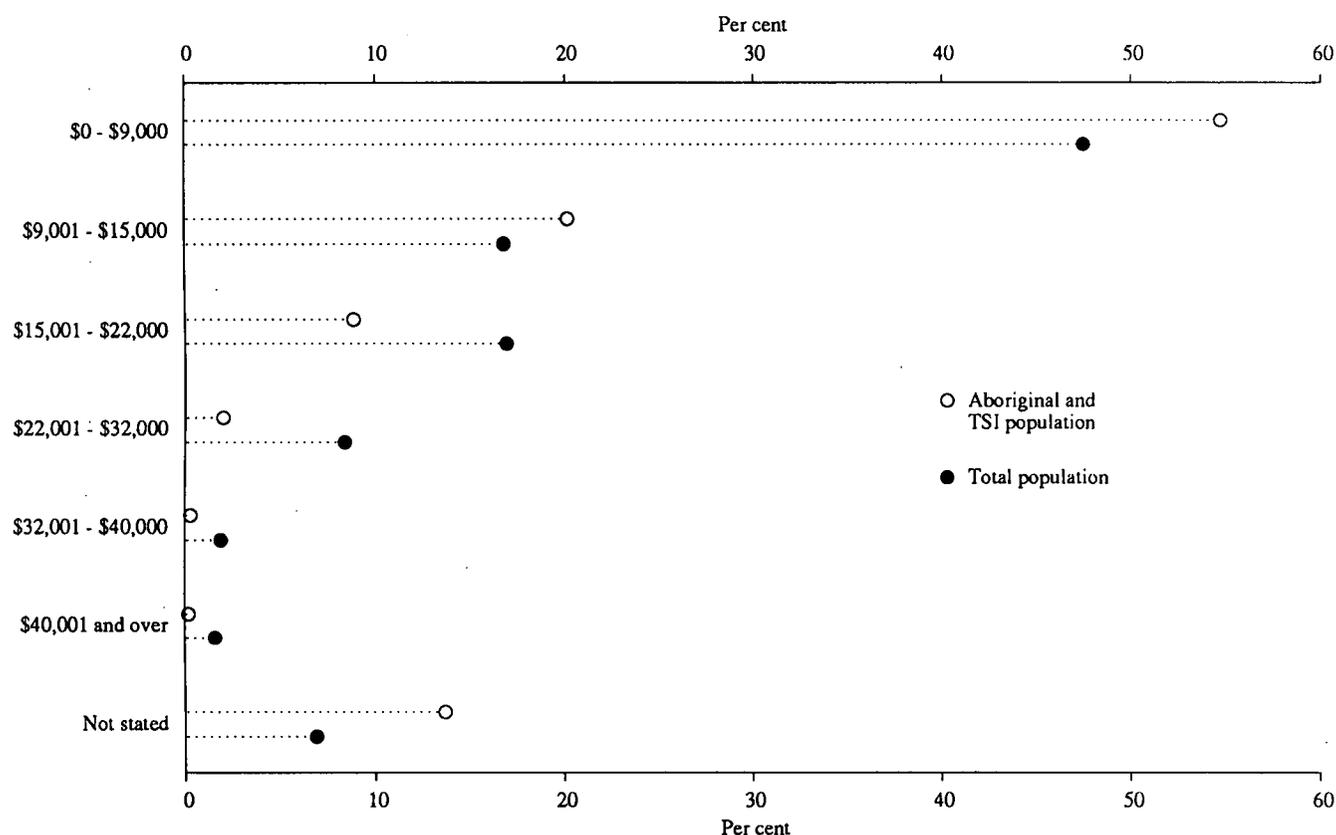
10. INCOME

NOTE: Income statistics should be interpreted with caution because of the relatively high proportion of 'not stated' responses to the income question. This proportion was 13.7 per cent for Aboriginal and TSI people aged 15 years and over, twice that for the total population.

For persons aged 15 years and over, the median reported individual annual income of Aboriginal and TSI people was \$7,100 compared with \$8,820 for the total Queensland population.

Aboriginal and TSI people were more likely (74.9 per cent) than were the total population (64.3 per cent) to earn \$15,000 or less a year. In the total population, 25.3 per cent had incomes between \$15,001 and \$32,000 a year, but only 10.9 per cent of the Aboriginal and TSI population had incomes in this range. Only 0.5 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI people earned more than \$32,000 a year, but 3.5 per cent of the total population had annual incomes in this range.

DIAGRAM 9 - PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL INCOME, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



Source: Tables CSD035, CA0058 (1986)

For those persons in the 15 to 24 years and 65 years and over age groups, there was little difference between the proportions of the Aboriginal and TSI and total populations who earned \$15,000 or less annually. Many people in these age groups either have not yet entered the labour force or have retired from it and therefore have limited opportunities for earning income.

In the main income earning age groups between 25 and 64 years, almost three-quarters (72.7 per cent) of Aboriginal and TSI people earned \$15,000 or less annually whereas less than 1 per cent earned more than \$32,000 each year. By contrast, just over one-half (55.7 per cent) of the total population in these age groups had annual incomes of less than \$15,001 and 5.2 per cent had incomes exceeding \$32,000.

TABLE 20 – PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: INDIVIDUAL INCOME BY AGE, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986
(per cent)

Income	Age group (years)				Total
	15–24	25–44	45–64	65 and over	
ABORIGINAL AND TSI POPULATION					
\$0–\$15,000	77.0	71.5	75.9	84.0	74.9
\$15,001–\$32,000	5.8	16.5	11.6	2.1	10.9
\$32,001 and over	0.2	0.8	0.5	—	0.5
Not stated	17.1	11.2	12.0	13.8	13.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
TOTAL POPULATION					
\$0–\$15,000	74.7	51.5	62.5	86.4	64.3
\$15,001–\$32,000	16.2	37.0	26.2	5.1	25.3
\$32,001 and over	0.4	5.3	5.0	1.0	3.5
Not stated	8.7	6.2	6.3	7.6	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Tables CA0058, CX0014 (1986).

Over one-half (58.4 per cent) of employed Aboriginal and TSI males earned \$15,000 or less annually, whereas only one-third (33.2 per cent) of all employed males had incomes in this range. Only 1.6 per cent of employed Aboriginal and TSI males, compared with 9.2 per cent of all employed males, earned more than \$32,000 annually.

The low incomes of employed Aboriginal males were related to the unskilled and semi-skilled occupations in which many were employed – occupations which are usually relatively poorly paid.

Differences in the income distribution of the employed labour force between the Aboriginal and TSI and total population were not as marked for employed females as for employed males. Employed Aboriginal and TSI females who earned \$15,000 or less annually comprised 73.7 per cent of the total, whereas all employed females in this income range comprised 64.6 per cent of the total. Employed males in the Aboriginal and TSI population who earned \$15,000 or less annually comprised 58.4 per cent of the total, whereas the equivalent figure for employed males in the total population was 33.2 per cent.

The income distribution of the unemployed showed more contrast between males and females than between the Aboriginal and TSI and total labour force. For example, unemployed males who earned between \$9,001 and \$22,000 annually comprised 23.0 per cent of all unemployed males and 17.7 per cent of all unemployed Aboriginal and TSI males. Unemployed females in this income range comprised 6.1 per cent of all unemployed females and 7.7 per cent of all unemployed Aboriginal and TSI females. To some extent, differences between males and females in the income distribution of the unemployed can be explained in terms of additional payments made to unemployed married males who supported dependants.

TABLE 21 - PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER IN THE LABOUR FORCE: INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL INCOME, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986 (per cent)

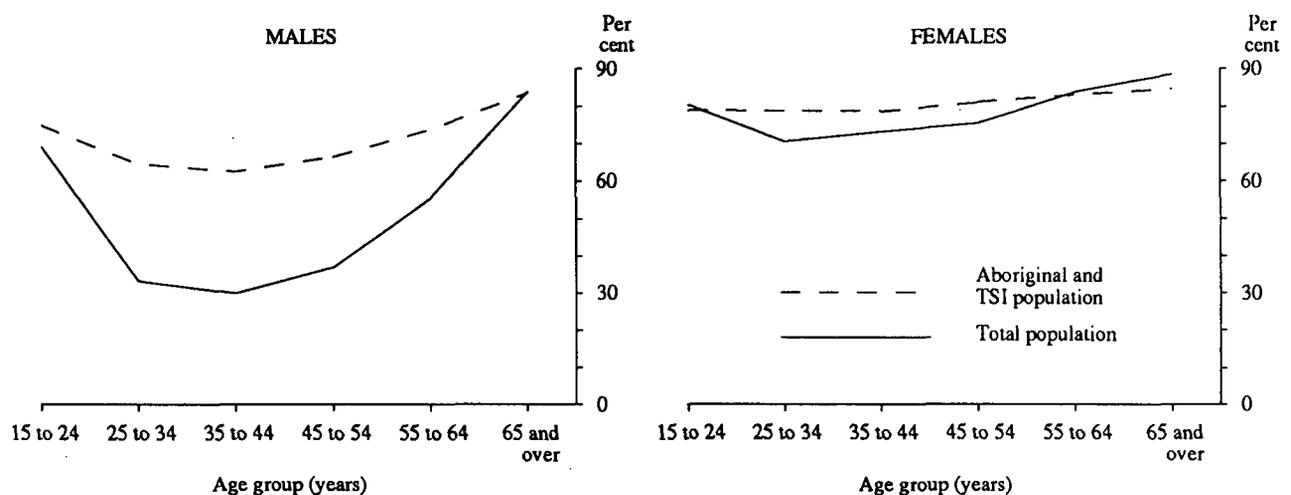
Income	Aboriginal and TSI population			Total population		
	Employed	Unemployed	Total in labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Total in labour force
MALES						
\$0-\$9,000	16.6	74.3	35.6	12.0	71.4	18.4
\$9,001-\$15,000	41.8	15.9	33.2	21.2	19.5	21.0
\$15,001-\$22,000	27.4	1.8	19.0	34.5	3.5	31.2
\$22,001-\$32,000	6.7	0.4	4.7	19.9	0.8	17.8
\$32,001-\$40,000	1.0	—	0.7	5.1	0.2	4.6
\$40,001 and over	0.6	—	0.4	4.0	0.1	3.6
Not stated	5.8	7.6	6.4	3.2	4.5	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
FEMALES						
\$0-\$9,000	31.4	82.1	49.6	33.9	86.9	40.0
\$9,001-\$15,000	42.3	6.9	29.6	30.7	5.1	27.7
\$15,001-\$22,000	17.7	0.8	11.6	22.7	1.0	20.2
\$22,001-\$32,000	2.8	—	1.8	7.8	0.2	6.9
\$32,001-\$40,000	0.4	—	0.3	0.9	—	0.8
\$40,001 and over	0.1	—	0.1	0.7	—	0.6
Not stated	5.1	10.2	7.0	3.4	6.8	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Tables CA0055, CX0016 (1986).

Higher proportions of females than males earned \$15,000 or less annually in all age groups of both the Aboriginal and TSI and total populations. The most significant differences between the earnings of Aboriginal and TSI males and those of all males occurred in the age groups between 25 and 54 years. These are also the age groups in which male labour force participation rates were highest.

Over four-fifths of all males and females in the retired population (aged 65 years or more) earned \$15,000 or less annually. Differences in the proportion of the Aboriginal and TSI and total retired populations in this income range were minimal.

DIAGRAM 10 - PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: PROPORTIONS WITH ANNUAL INCOME OF \$15,000 OR LESS BY AGE AND SEX, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



Source - Tables CA0058, CX0014 (1986)

The proportion of Aboriginal and TSI families with an annual income of \$15,000 or less was 34.6 per cent, compared with 26.6 per cent for the total population. Only 11.5 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI families earned over \$32,000 annually, whereas 24.6 per cent of all families had incomes in this range.

In some relatively large Aboriginal and TSI families, there would have been a larger number of family members in the employed labour force, but this factor was not strong enough to offset higher levels of unemployment amongst Aboriginal and TSI people and the higher proportion of Aboriginal and TSI people in lower paid occupations. The median income of Aboriginal and TSI families (\$16,789) was lower than that of all families (\$21,932).

TABLE 22 - ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Income	Aboriginal and TSI population		Total population	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
\$0-\$9,000	1,934	13.7	46,868	6.8
\$9,001-\$15,000	2,960	20.9	136,219	19.8
\$15,001-\$22,000	2,611	18.4	117,356	17.0
\$22,001-\$32,000	1,992	14.1	128,534	18.7
\$32,001-\$40,000	847	6.0	73,801	10.7
\$40,001 and over	778	5.5	95,797	13.9
Not stated	2,674	18.9	71,388	10.4
Spouse temporarily absent	370	2.6	19,114	2.8
Total	14,167	100.0	689,076	100.0

Source: Tables CA0066, CSD035 (1986).

Single parent families in the Aboriginal and TSI community represented one-quarter (25.4 per cent) of all Aboriginal and TSI families. Additionally, single parent families with a dependent child or children constituted 69.2 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI families with annual income of \$9,000 or less.

In the Aboriginal and TSI community, most couple families received higher incomes than single parent families. Almost one-third (31.6 per cent) of couple families received incomes of \$22,001 or more annually, compared with 9.6 per cent of single parent families. However, there were more family members present in couple families which contained an average of 4.4 persons compared with an average of 3.8 persons in single parent families.

TABLE 23 - ABORIGINAL AND TSI FAMILIES: ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME BY FAMILY COMPOSITION, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Annual family income	Family composition						Related adults	Total
	Single parent families		Couple families					
	Parent and dependent child(ren) only	Parent, dependent child(ren) and adult(s)	Couple only	Couple and dependent child(ren) only	Couple and adult family members	Couple, dependent child(ren) and adult(s)		
\$0-\$9,000	1,244	95	156	250	20	55	113	1,934
\$9,001-\$15,000	531	287	451	1,233	78	154	224	2,959
\$15,001-\$22,000	149	287	298	1,182	116	372	204	2,610
\$22,001-\$32,000	20	200	283	723	136	481	149	1,992
\$32,001-\$40,000	5	58	164	256	61	261	42	847
\$40,001 and over	1	62	70	175	110	321	38	779
Not stated	296	365	193	830	151	676	165	2,673
Spouse temporarily absent	—	—	44	193	28	103	—	370
Total	2,246	1,354	1,659	4,845	700	2,426	938	14,167

Source: Table CA0045 (1986).

Over one-third of all families in both the Aboriginal and TSI and total populations are couple families with one or more dependent children. However, the incomes of most Aboriginal and TSI couple families were lower than those of couple families in the total population. The median income of Aboriginal and TSI couple families with dependent children only was \$17,536 while the equivalent figure for all families of this type was \$23,672. Taking account of family size, this represents a per capita income of \$3,979 for these Aboriginal and TSI families and \$5,837 for these families in the total population.

TABLE 24 – COUPLE FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILD(REN) ONLY: ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Annual family income	Aboriginal and TSI families		Total population	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
\$0-\$9,000	250	5.2	7,175	3.0
\$9,001-\$15,000	1,233	25.4	32,426	13.3
\$15,001-\$22,000	1,182	24.4	53,660	22.1
\$22,001-\$32,000	723	14.9	57,070	23.5
\$32,001-\$40,000	256	5.3	26,727	11.0
\$40,001 and over	175	3.6	28,536	11.7
Not stated	830	17.1	28,877	11.9
Spouse temporarily absent	193	4.0	8,481	3.5
Total	4,845	100.0	242,952	100.0

Source: Tables CA0045, CSD025 (1986).

11. HOUSING

Most households in both the Aboriginal and TSI and total populations occupied separate houses and there are only minor differences in the proportions occupying other types of dwellings. For example, 1.0 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI households occupied improvised dwellings compared with 0.2 per cent for the total population.

TABLE 25 – OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS BY STRUCTURE, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

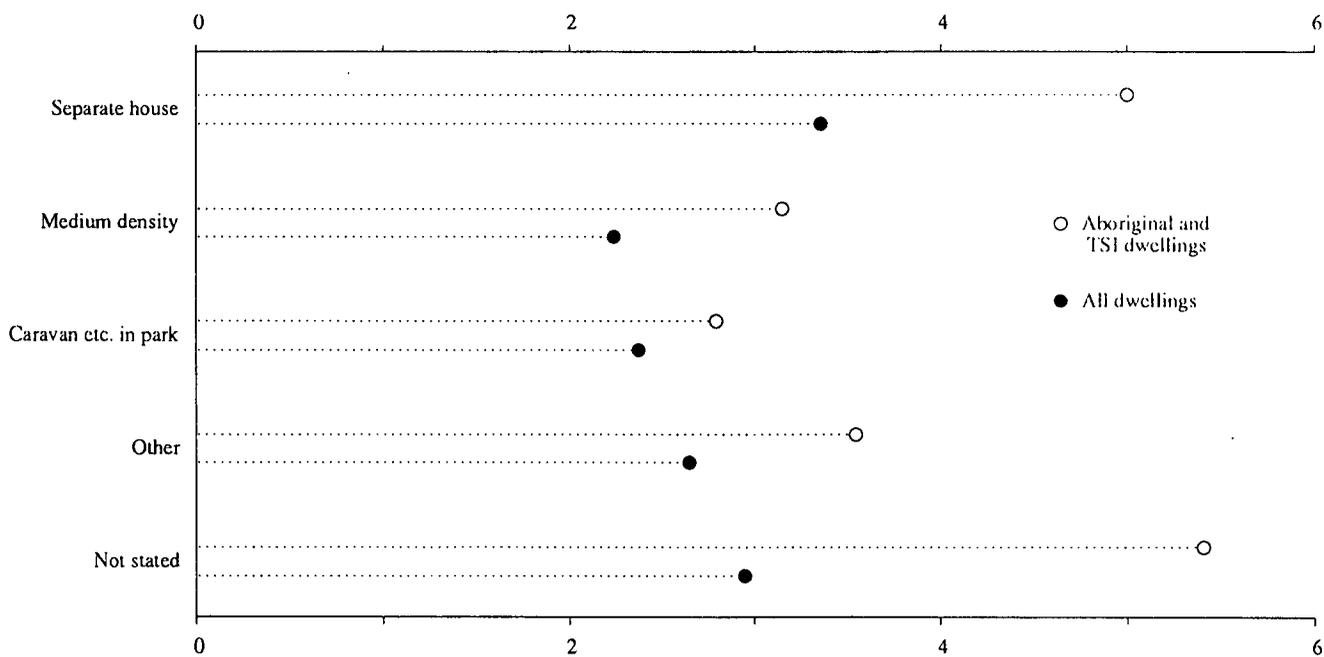
Structure of dwelling	Aboriginal and TSI dwellings (a)		Total dwellings	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Separate house	10,450	77.5	696,861	81.0
Medium density housing	1,712	12.7	114,589	13.3
Caravan etc. in caravan park	371	2.8	27,310	3.2
Other caravans, houseboats etc.	92	0.7	4,925	0.6
Improvised dwelling	139	1.0	2,137	0.2
Other	188	1.4	4,925	0.6
Not stated	538	4.0	10,066	1.2
Total	13,490	100.0	860,813	100.0

(a) Refers to those occupied private dwellings where the reference person and/or spouse of a primary family unit was reported as Aboriginal or TSI.

Source: Tables CA0069, CSC037 (1986).

The median number of occupants of Aboriginal and TSI private dwellings is higher than that of all private dwellings, irrespective of structure. For example, the median number of occupants in separate houses was 5.0 persons for the Aboriginal and TSI population, whereas for the total population the equivalent figure was 3.4 persons.

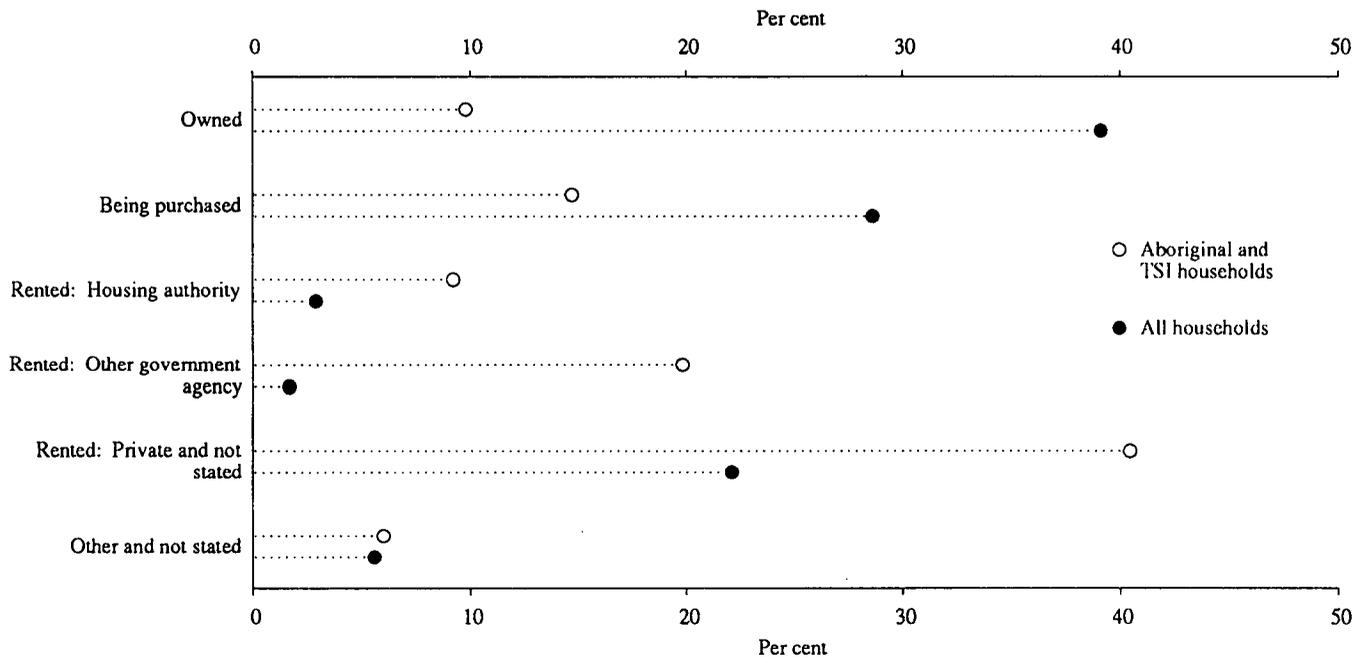
DIAGRAM 11 - MEDIAN NUMBER OF PERSONS PER OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLING BY STRUCTURE OF DWELLING, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



Source: Tables CA0069, CSD064 (1986)

Compared to the total Queensland population, significantly fewer Aboriginal and TSI people owned or were purchasing their own dwellings and correspondingly more lived in rented accommodation. While 67.7 per cent of all households lived in dwellings which were owned or being purchased, 69.5 per cent of Aboriginal and TSI households lived in rented dwellings. The lower level of home ownership by Aboriginal and TSI households than by total households was consistent with the lower median incomes of Aboriginal and TSI people.

DIAGRAM 12 - HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS (a) BY NATURE OF OCCUPANCY, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986



(a) Excluding caravans etc. in caravan parks.

Source: Tables CA0070, CSC038 (1986)

Aboriginal and TSI people were slightly more likely than the total population to have been counted in a non-private dwelling. A higher proportion of Aboriginal and TSI people were enumerated in boarding houses and private hotels, hostels for the homeless, night shelters and refuges, and relatively fewer were enumerated in hotels and motels, nursing homes and homes for the aged than in the total Queensland population.

TABLE 26 - PERSONS IN NON-PRIVATE DWELLINGS, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Non-private dwelling type	Aboriginal and TSI population		Total population	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Hotel and motel	210	7.4	25,216	26.4
Boarding house and private hotel	351	12.4	7,395	7.7
Hospital (not psychiatric)	314	11.1	10,344	10.8
Psychiatric hospital	70	2.5	1,994	2.1
Nursing home	113	4.0	14,336	15.0
Home for the aged	88	3.1	6,469	6.8
Hostel for homeless, night shelter and refuge	216	7.6	637	0.7
Child care and corrective institution	97	3.4	516	0.5
Prison and corrective and detention institution	328	11.6	2,251	2.4
Other	1,049	37.0	26,501	27.7
Total	2,835	100.0	95,659	100.0

Source: Tables CA0072, CX0096 (1986).

The Aboriginal and TSI population constituted 2.4 per cent of Queensland's total population. However, 14.6 per cent of the 2,251 persons in prisons and corrective and detention institutions were Aboriginal or TSI people. For all age groups, a higher proportion of the Aboriginal and TSI population than of the total population was enumerated in prisons and corrective and detention institutions.

TABLE 27 - PERSONS COUNTED IN PRISONS, CORRECTIVE AND DETENTION INSTITUTIONS OR ELSEWHERE BY AGE, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Where counted on census night	Age group (years)										Total	
	0-14		15-24		25-34		35-44		45 and over			
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
ABORIGINAL AND TSI POPULATION												
In prisons and corrective and detention institutions	—	—	150	1.1	109	1.2	54	0.9	11	0.1	328	0.5
Elsewhere	24,544	100.0	13,972	98.9	9,000	98.8	5,815	99.1	7,612	99.9	60,939	99.5
Total	24,544	100.0	14,122	100.0	9,109	100.0	5,869	100.0	7,623	100.0	61,268	100.0
TOTAL POPULATION												
In prisons and corrective and detention institutions	—	—	843	0.2	800	0.2	380	0.1	228	—	2,251	0.1
Elsewhere	620,574	100.0	432,486	99.8	409,132	99.8	363,389	99.9	759,483	100.0	2,585,064	99.9
Total	620,574	100.0	433,329	100.0	409,932	100.0	363,769	100.0	759,711	100.0	2,587,315	100.0

Source: Tables CA0050, CA0072, CX0096, CSD07 (1986).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Scope and Coverage of the 1986 Census

The 1986 Census of Population and Housing aimed to count every person who spent census night in Australia, including persons on vessels in or between Australian ports, or on board long-distance trains, buses or aircraft. All dwellings were counted whether occupied or unoccupied. Visitors to Australia were included regardless of how long ago they arrived or how long they planned to stay. Australian residents out of the country on census night were excluded from the count.

2. Diplomatic personnel and their families are out of scope of the Census, as are diplomatic residences.

Aboriginality

3. In October 1978, the Commonwealth Government adopted the 'working definition' of Aboriginality as, 'An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he/she is associated'.

4. The working definition therefore contains an element of self-perception. The question asked on the 1986 Census of Population and Housing forms was:

9.	Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin ?	4	No
		5	Yes, Aboriginal
	• For persons of mixed origin, indicate the one to which they consider themselves to belong.	6	Yes, Torres Strait Islander

Definitions

5. *Statistical local areas (SLA)* are mainly based on legal local government areas. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

6. *Statistical subdivisions (SSD)* are made up of one or more SLAs and are used as a general purpose regional geographic area.

7. *Statistical divisions (SD)* are composed of one or more SSDs and are designed to be relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic links within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. Capital city SDs are predominantly urban in character and the boundaries are delineated to contain the anticipated urban development of the capital city for a period of at least 20 years.

8. *Section of State.* These are non-contiguous areas with particular urban or rural characteristics. The following sections of State are distinguished:

- (a) *Major urban* are urban centres with a population of 100,000 or more. In Queensland, the urban section of the Brisbane Statistical Division (Urban Brisbane) and the urban area of the Gold Coast Statistical District (excluding the N.S.W. component) are the only centres in this category;
- (b) *Other urban* includes all urban centres with a population of 1,000 to 99,999 and known holiday

resorts of less population if they contain 250 or more dwellings, of which at least 100 are occupied on census night;

- (c) *Locality* includes all population clusters of 200 to 999 persons;
- (d) *Rural balance* is the rural remainder of the State and
- (e) *Off-shore areas and migratory* comprises persons who were enumerated on off-shore oil rigs, drilling platforms and the like, aboard ship in Australian waters or on an overnight journey by train or bus.

9. In this publication localities, rural balance and off-shore areas and migratory are collectively referred to as *non-urban*.

10. *Communities* refers to recognised geographic clusters of Aboriginal and TSI people generally located in the non-urban section of State. (See Technical Notes for location of communities.)

11. *Family.* For census purposes, a family is defined on the basis of blood, marriage, adoption or de facto relationships. To be designated a family, two or more persons must be:

- (i) members (or usual members) of the same household;
- (ii) resident (or usually resident) in a private dwelling or caravan etc. in a caravan park and
- (iii) related.

12. There may be more than one family in a household. Family structures are deduced from responses to the census question which seeks relationship to a reference person (and/or spouse) in each household.

13. *Primary family.* In a one-family household, that family is a primary family. In multiple-family households, one family is the primary family and the others are secondary families. For further information see *The 1986 Census Dictionary* (Catalogue No. 2174.0).

14. *Household.* For census purposes, a household comprises persons in a house, medium density housing, flat/unit, or caravan in a caravan park, living and eating together as a domestic unit. They may also share common facilities, such as a toilet or laundry. Typical household categories are family households (with or without non-family members present), lone person households and group households.

15. A *group household* is defined as a non-family household consisting of two or more unrelated persons. Children under 15 years of age could be present but not be related to any adult (aged 15 years and over) in the household.

16. *Dwelling.* For census purposes, dwellings are classified into:

- (i) private dwellings (occupied or unoccupied);
- (ii) occupied caravans etc. in caravan parks and
- (iii) non-private dwellings.

EXPLANATORY NOTES – continued

17. A *private dwelling* is normally a house, flat, part of a house or even a room, but can also be a house above shops or offices, a boat or a tent if it is standing on its own block of land. A caravan situated on a residential allotment is also classed as a private dwelling. Improvised homes include sheds, tents etc. occupied on a permanent or semi-permanent basis and not in caravan parks.

18. A private dwelling is the premises occupied by a household. Since there may be more than one household within a structure, there may also be more than one dwelling in a structure. The number of households is equal to the number of occupied private dwellings and caravans etc. in caravan parks.

19. *Non-private dwellings* are classified according to their function and include hotels, motels, boarding houses, nursing homes, hospitals, boarding schools, reformatories, prisons, staff quarters, religious and charitable institutions, defence establishments and similar group living quarters and tents, improvised homes etc. which had communal eating facilities. Where the accommodation includes self-contained units (as provided by hotels, homes for the elderly etc.) the units are enumerated as part of the non-private dwelling, not as separate households.

20. In this publication, only those dwellings where an Aboriginal person lived alone or the reference person and/or spouse of the primary family was Aboriginal or TSI were counted as Aboriginal dwellings. For further information see the Technical Notes.

21. *Nature of occupancy* indicates whether households were renting, purchasing or owned the dwelling in which they were enumerated. This applies only to private dwellings and excludes caravans etc. in caravan parks and non-private dwellings.

22. *Household members temporarily absent.* Some household members may not have been at the place where they usually live on census night. A new section on the household census form allowed for three such persons to be reported at their place of usual residence. This information was used only to identify usual family relationships for family coding, but only when the reported temporary absentees were spouses or dependent children.

23. *Individual income* relates to the income level of individuals aged 15 years and over.

24. Persons were asked to state their usual gross weekly income, which is the income before tax and other deductions are made.

25. Gross income includes family allowance, pensions, benefits, wages, salary, overtime, dividends, rents received, interest, business or farm income (less operational expenses), superannuation and workers' compensation received.

26. *Family income* is derived by summing the midpoints of the ranges of individual income of the family reference person, his/her spouse and dependent family children aged 15 to 20 years.

27. The income received by dependent family children aged 15 to 20 years was included so that the same conceptual base is used for deriving family income in the Census and in the ABS household surveys. If one or more contributors did not state their individual income(s), then family income was coded to 'not stated', unless the sum of

the midpoints of the income ranges of those persons whose income was stated was greater than \$958 a week. In this case, family income was coded to 'over \$958 a week'. Usual family members temporarily absent on census night could not be included in family income as their income was not asked. A family which had the spouse of the reference person temporarily absent on census night was coded to the family income category 'spouse temporarily absent' unless the combined income of the family members present on census night was greater than \$958 a week. Family income is not applicable to group households, lone person households or persons in non-private dwellings.

28. *Median annual income* is that income above and below which 50 per cent of the population falls.

29. *Labour force status* relates to all persons aged 15 years and over. The three labour force status categories are:

- | | | | |
|-------|--|---|---|
| (i) | employed persons
(i.e. persons in groups
(a), (b) and (c) below) | } | These categories
together make
up the labour
force |
| (ii) | unemployed persons
(persons in group (d)
below) | | |
| (iii) | persons not in the labour force (i.e. persons aged 15 years and over NOT in any of the groups (a) to (d) below). This category includes persons who are retired, pensioners and persons solely engaged in home duties. It also includes bonded trainees (including trainee teachers) and cadets engaged in full-time study at educational institutions even if the institutions at which they studied were run by their employers. | | |

30. For 1986 Census purposes, the labour force includes persons aged 15 years and over who:

- (a) worked for payment or profit, or as an unpaid helper in a family business, during the week prior to census night;
- (b) had a job from which they were on leave or otherwise temporarily absent;
- (c) were on strike or stood down temporarily or
- (d) did not have a job but were actively looking for work.

31. *Qualification* refers to the highest educational qualification obtained since leaving school. It applies to all persons aged 15 years and over.

32. *Apparent retention rates* are measures of the tendencies of students to remain in secondary education from Year 8 to Years 11 and 12. To calculate the apparent retention rate of students in Year 12 in 1988, the number of those students in 1988 is expressed as a proportion of the number of students in Year 8 in 1984 (1984 being the year in which the 1988 Year 12 student would have normally enrolled in Year 8). The retention rate thus derived is called an apparent retention rate because the method of calculation does not explicitly take account of net changes to the school population due to migration, deaths, transfers between government and non-government schools or repeating students.

EXPLANATORY NOTES - continued

Data Quality

33. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of these statistics, it is clearly not possible to eliminate all inaccuracies. Below are listed some ways in which errors arise.

- (a) *Under-enumeration.* Although a great deal of effort is made to count everyone at the Census, some people are invariably missed. A post-enumeration survey is held after the Census, and in 1986 the survey indicated that 1.9 per cent of people were missed from the 1986 Census in Australia (2.7 per cent in Queensland).
- (b) *Partial response.* In those instances where the householder omitted to provide a response to a question, a 'not stated' code was allocated, with the exception of non-response to age, sex and marital status and SLA of usual residence. These variables were imputed using other information on the census form, and specially constructed random tables. The non-response rate for the Aboriginal origin question in 1986 was 1.7 per cent for Australia compared to 3.8 per cent in 1981 and 8.4 per cent in 1976. A brief discussion of non-response to selected census questions is included in the Technical Notes.
- (c) *Respondent error.* Persons filling in a census form may make mistakes or misunderstand a question. During processing, editing procedures designed to detect inconsistent or invalid answers are used to minimise such errors, but no correction is possible for errors which cannot be detected in this way. Thus, some errors made by respondents are in the final output.
- (d) *Processing error.* Errors can arise during the transcription of responses from a census form to computer media. Quality control procedures minimise these errors to insignificance for most uses.
- (e) *Self-identification.* The way in which a person answers a question in a census may be affected by community attitudes at the time of the Census. The ABS can do little to verify the accuracy of answers given.
- (f) *Introduced random error.* The ABS has made slight random adjustments to the 1986 Census data to avoid the inadvertent release of confidential information. Because non-zero cells have been randomly adjusted, the totals shown may be slightly greater or less than the sum of their components and differences may be observed when comparing the same totals in different tables. This introduced error, in addition to possible respondent and processing error, means that no significance should be attached to cells of five or less.

Related Publications and Products

34. The ABS has released a number of standard output products containing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander information from the 1986 Census. These include:

Census 86 - Counts of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders: Australia, States and Territories (Catalogue No. 2499.0)

Census 86 - Selected National Cross-classified Tables (microfiche batch number C86.501)

Census 86 - Aboriginal Communities - Selected Cross-classified Tables (microfiche batch number C86.401)

Census 86 - Statistical Local Areas with 100 or more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders - Selected Cross-classified Tables (microfiche batch number C86.402)

Census 86 - Data Quality - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts (Catalogue No. 2602.0)

This product has yet to be released:

Census 86 - The Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population (monograph) (Catalogue No. 2503.0)

35. Details of Aboriginal and TSI tabulations are contained in the *Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables* (Catalogue No. 2175.0). Users may also request non-standard census outputs from the ABS. For more details see *Census 86 - Special Data Services* (Catalogue No. 2181.0) and *Census 86 - Census Products Price List: Edition 6* (Catalogue No. 2177.0).

36. *The 1986 Census Dictionary* (Catalogue No. 2174.0) contains definitions of terms and explains concepts used in the collection, processing and output phases of the Census.

37. The publications *Census 86 - Aboriginals in South Australia* (Catalogue No. 2201.4) and *Aboriginals in Western Australia* (Catalogue No. 4107.5) contain 1986 Census information for other States on Aboriginal and TSI people. Also *Brisbane... a social atlas* (Catalogue No. 2503.3) shows the distribution of Aboriginal and TSI people in the Brisbane area at the 1986 Census.

38. For a comprehensive treatment of procedural changes relating to Aboriginal enumeration from 1971 to 1981 see ABS Occasional Paper No. 1985/2 *An Evaluation of Census Counts of the Aboriginal Population, 1971, 1976 and 1981 Censuses*.

39. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Catalogue No. 1101.0) and those produced by the Queensland Office are listed in *List of Publications* (Catalogue No. 1101.3). A *Publications Advice* (Catalogue No. 1105.0) is issued on Tuesdays and Fridays which lists publications to be released in the next few days. These publications are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and Other Usages

.. Not applicable.
 — Nil or less than half the final digit shown.
 TSI Torres Strait Islander.

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

TECHNICAL NOTES

Aboriginal and TSI Dwellings and Inhabitants

In the 1986 Census, all persons were asked if they were of Aboriginal or TSI origin. If one or more persons of Aboriginal or TSI origin were counted in an occupied private dwelling or occupied caravan etc. in a caravan park, then the dwelling was assigned an *Aboriginal Dwelling Indicator*. Non-Aboriginal or non-TSI persons may also live in dwellings assigned an Aboriginal Dwelling Indicator. All these dwellings can be further classified as:

- (i) dwellings where the reference person and spouse of the primary family were Aboriginal or TSI (but which may also contain non-Aboriginal or non-TSI persons);
- (ii) dwellings where either the reference person or spouse (if present) of the primary family was Aboriginal or TSI ;
- (iii) dwellings where an Aboriginal or TSI person lived alone;
- (iv) dwellings where neither the reference person nor spouse (if present) of the primary family was Aboriginal or TSI but at least one other person was Aboriginal or TSI or
- (v) dwellings where no-one was of Aboriginal or TSI origin or where there was no answer to the census question on Aboriginal or TSI origin.

Only the first three categories were used to identify Aboriginal and TSI dwellings. Aboriginal and TSI dwellings may contain non-Aboriginal or non-TSI persons. Dwellings in category (iv) above may contain Aboriginal or TSI persons but are not classified as Aboriginal and TSI dwellings.

The table below shows 92 per cent of Aboriginal or TSI persons living in private dwellings were in Aboriginal and TSI dwellings and 86 per cent of persons in Aboriginal and TSI dwellings were of Aboriginal origin.

The 2,481 dwellings in category (iv) were excluded from the definition of an Aboriginal and TSI dwelling. Fifty-nine per cent of the inhabitants of these dwellings were non-Aboriginal, and only 7.7 per cent of Aboriginal or TSI persons enumerated in private dwellings lived in this category of dwelling.

TABLE A - PERSONS AND DWELLINGS (a) BY ABORIGINAL DWELLING INDICATOR, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Aboriginal dwelling indicator	Persons in dwellings				Total	Dwellings
	Aboriginals	TSIs	Non-Aboriginals	Not stated		
ABORIGINAL AND TSI DWELLINGS						
(i) Reference person and spouse of primary family Aboriginal and/or TSI	17,335	5,690	242	102	23,369	3,901
(ii) Either reference person or spouse of primary family Aboriginal or TSI	23,837	6,050	7,809	454	38,150	8,592
(iii) Lone Aboriginal or TSI	815	182	—	—	997	997
Total	41,987	11,922	8,051	556	62,516	13,490
ALL DWELLINGS						
(iv) Reference person and spouse of primary family not Aboriginal or TSI but at least one other person Aboriginal or TSI	3,706	817	6,888	166	11,577	2,481
(v) No Aboriginal or TSI persons or not stated	—	—	2,386,348	31,248	2,417,596	844,482
Total	45,693	12,739	2,401,287	31,970	2,491,689	860,813

(a) Excluding non-private dwellings.

Source: Validation tables VF042, VF064 (1986).

TECHNICAL NOTES – *continued*

Non-response

When completing census forms, some people omitted to provide a response to one or more questions. During census processing, where the non-response was to questions on age, sex, marital status and SLA of usual residence, an answer was imputed from other information on the form or assigned from specially constructed random tables. All other questions with non-response were coded as 'not stated'. Non-response rates by Aboriginal and TSI people to many census questions were relatively high compared with non-response rates for the population as a whole. For some questions, the 'not stated' category constituted the second largest category of response.

Particular care must be taken in interpreting data where the amount of non-response to a question is similar to, or greater than, the size of other categories of response. Care is necessary since persons who did not respond may not constitute a random group and, if their true responses were known, may have altered the relative distribution of the other categories of response.

The following table compares non-response rates for selected questions for the Aboriginal and TSI and total populations of Queensland. Generally questions which recorded the highest non-response rates for the Aboriginal and TSI population also resulted in relatively high non-response rates among the total population and *vice versa*.

TABLE B – NON-RESPONSE RATES: SELECTED CENSUS QUESTIONS, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Census question		Aboriginal and TSI population			Total population		
		Not stated	Total	Not stated as a proportion of total	Not stated	Total	Not stated as a proportion of total
No.	Topic	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%
17,18	Language usage	1,126	52,888	2.1	41,880	2,385,261	1.8
22	Age left school	3,383	36,727	9.2	93,049	1,966,741	4.7
23	Qualifications	5,608	36,727	15.3	179,134	1,966,741	9.1
24	Income	5,038	36,727	13.7	136,590	1,966,741	6.9
26-28	Employment status	1,772	36,727	4.8	38,351	1,966,741	1.9
29,30	Occupation	296	12,064	2.5	11,563	1,029,497	1.1
H3	Nature of occupancy	286	13,199	2.2	32,601	2,435,603	1.3

Aboriginal and TSI non-response was particularly high (i.e. greater than 5 per cent) for questions on age left school, qualifications and income. In the following table, it is evident that for these topics, the levels of non-response were highest for non-urban Aboriginal and TSI persons. Aboriginal and TSI persons aged 65 years and over had high levels of non-response to questions on the age they left school and qualifications, while those aged 15 to 24 years returned high non-response rates on income.

TABLE C – ABORIGINAL AND TSI POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: SELECTED NON-RESPONSE RATES BY SECTION OF STATE AND AGE, QUEENSLAND, CENSUS 1986

Characteristic	Non-response rates by topic		
	Age left school	Qualifications	Income
Section of State			
Major urban	6.3	11.1	9.6
Other urban	8.2	13.3	13.7
Non-urban	12.0	20.0	15.9
Age group (years)			
15-24	6.6	14.9	17.1
25-34	7.9	13.2	11.1
35-44	10.3	15.2	11.5
45-54	11.8	16.5	11.4
55-64	15.2	19.4	12.9
65 and over	20.1	21.3	13.8
Total	9.2	15.3	13.7

Since there may be many complex and inter-related factors operating to produce relatively high levels of non-response to some questions, particularly among the Aboriginal and TSI population, considerable caution should be exercised in interpreting some of the data in this publication.

The 1986 Census publication *Data Quality - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts* (Catalogue No. 2602.0) will provide a more detailed analysis of the quality of the data concerning Aboriginal and TSI people.

TECHNICAL NOTES - *continued*

ABORIGINAL AND TSI COMMUNITIES IN QUEENSLAND

