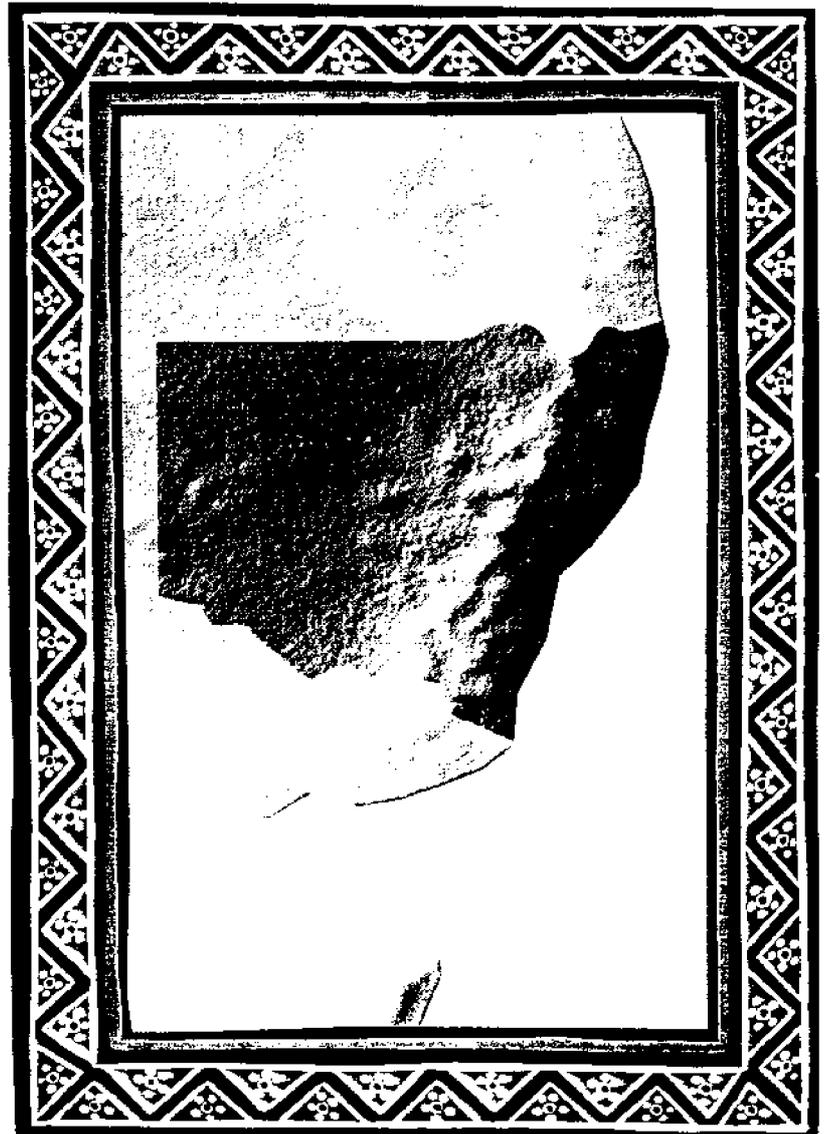


1994

4190.1



# National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey NEW SOUTH WALES





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**NEW ISSUE**

**1994 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
SURVEY**

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

**W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**CATALOGUE NO. 4190.1**

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### INQUIRIES

- *for further information about statistics in this publication, and the availability of related statistics, contact Tony Barnes at the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (NCATSI) in Darwin on (08) 8943 2190.*
  - *for information about ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.*
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## PREFACE

*National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: New South Wales* is one of a series of seven statistical publications, one for each State and the Northern Territory, which present results from the first nationwide survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people conducted in 1994. The purpose of these publications is to provide detailed information at the State and Territory level about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They provide a range of information to assist State and Northern Territory governments and non-government agencies to plan programs and services to meet the needs of Indigenous people.

The survey was conducted as a part of the government's response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. It was the paucity of statistical information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population which led to recommendation 49 of the Royal Commission:

That proposals for a special national survey covering a range of social, demographic, health and economic characteristics of the Aboriginal population with full Aboriginal participation at all levels be supported.

In response to this recommendation, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from April to July 1994. Initial results of this survey were published in *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings* (4190.0). Publications of *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: ATSI Regional Statistics* (4190.00.001-036), a thematic publication on *Australia's Indigenous Youth* (4197.0) and *Employment Outcomes for Australia's Indigenous Peoples* (4199.0) have been released this year. Other thematic publications on Australia's Indigenous peoples housing, health and law and justice will be released during 1996.

The content of this series of publications is similar to the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings* (4190.0). They contain a range of statistics relating to family and culture; health; housing; education and training; employment and income; and law and justice. The publications in this series are presented in a common format to allow information for different States and the Northern Territory to be compared easily with each other and with the national results presented in *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings* (4190.0).

W. McLennan  
Australian Statistician

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The success of the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey would not have been possible without the contributions of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in the final survey and the earlier survey trials;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interviewers who collected the information throughout Australia;
- Members of the Survey Advisory Committee and Technical Reference Groups who provided detailed advice on the survey content and methodology; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, government departments and other organisations which assisted the ABS and advisory groups to design the survey and lay the groundwork for a successful data collection.

## FAMILY AND CULTURE

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a statistical summary of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and cultures and covers the following topics:

- family characteristics;
- separation from families;
- childcare;
- cultural activities;
- identification with clan, tribal or language group;
- role of elders;
- homelands; and
- language.

### FAMILIES

Families form an important unit within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander societies and as such the survey has collected information on types of families and their characteristics. Families included in this survey were those in which one or more members of the family had identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

In 54% of families, all family members were Indigenous (60% nationally), while 46% had both Indigenous and non-Indigenous members (40% nationally).

Couple families with children constituted 51% of families (53% nationally), one-parent families 29% (29% nationally) and couple families without children 16% (15% nationally).

In one-parent families, 83% of parents were not employed. For couple families 36% had neither partner employed.

#### Separation from families

About 8% of persons aged 25 years and over reported being taken away from their natural family by a mission, the government, or welfare.

#### Child-care

The majority of families (83%) with children aged 12 years and under did not use formal child-care. Approximately 49% had their children looked after by family or friends while 34% looked after their children themselves.

### CULTURE

Information relating to participation in Indigenous cultural activities, use of Indigenous languages, the extent to which people identify with clan, tribal or language groups and recognition of and access to homelands, is used in this survey to give an indication of the level of cultural identity and maintenance.

#### Cultural activities

Over the past year, 67% (72% nationally), of people attended at least one Indigenous cultural activity. Some 45% (54% nationally), attended a funeral, 44% festivals and carnivals (43% nationally), 10% ceremonies (21% nationally), and 28% (22% nationally), were involved with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisations.

Some 10% of persons could not attend one or more cultural activities and the main reasons they could not attend were: no transport, 3%; not enough money, 3%; too far away, 2% and work commitments, 2%.

Nearly a third (30%) of persons 13 years and over said they had a place to meet for cultural activities.

Identification with clan, tribal or language group

An estimated 48% of persons aged 13 years and over (60% nationally) said they identified with a clan, tribal or language group, with a greater proportion identifying in the 25–44 year age group (50%) and amongst residents of other urban areas (52%).

Role of elders

Of the persons aged 13 years and over, 82% said that the role of the elders was important, and this general level was consistent across all age groups and different geographic areas.

Homelands

For the purposes of this survey, homelands refers to an area of land to which people have ancestral and/or cultural links, and the results show that, of people aged 13 years and over, approximately 68% (75% nationally) recognised an area as their homelands with 33% currently living there. In Sydney, recognition of homelands was high (71%), however, a lower proportion of people were currently living on their homelands (21%).

Language

Of persons 13 years and over, 96% reported that they spoke English as their main language. Some 8% reported having difficulty with English and 66% of those experiencing difficulty would have used an interpreter service if one were available.

TABLE 1. FAMILY AND CULTURE: STATES, NORTHERN TERRITORY  
AND NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIK REGIONS, 1994

	Families			Persons aged 13 years and over				Persons aged 5 years and over		
	One parent families	Couple families with children	Total	Identifies with a clan	Sees elders as being important	Recognises homelands	Attended cultural activities	Total	Speaks an Indigenous language	Total
		per cent			( <sup>'000</sup> )		per cent		( <sup>'000</sup> )	
<b>AUSTRALIA(b)</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>197.5</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>258.7</b>
New South Wales	28.9	51.2	23.9	47.8	82.3	68.6	67.1	52.0	2.7	68.6
Victoria	30.3	48.6	6.3	45.1	80.5	70.6	60.5	12.6	**2.4	16.2
Queensland	26.6	56.3	22.1	57.2	81.9	75.0	72.3	52.1	15.1	67.7
South Australia	38.3	46.1	5.2	67.9	87.6	80.4	75.4	11.9	23.4	15.8
Western Australia	30.1	54.3	12.2	63.7	86.3	75.4	80.7	30.2	20.9	40.1
Tasmania	18.6	54.9	4.0	17.7	66.5	39.9	31.5	6.6	**1.0	8.7
Northern Territory	26.8	53.9	10.5	92.0	94.7	93.8	84.5	30.9	74.1	40.1
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIK REGIONS</b>										
Queanbeyan	32.2	52.2	2.1	50.2	74.5	69.6	57.2	4.6	**1.1	5.6
Bourke	27.2	52.8	1.7	57.1	86.2	70.9	76.0	4.9	6.5	6.4
Coffs harbour	31.6	52.7	5.4	60.3	92.1	81.7	80.8	11.8	2.4	15.6
Sydney	26.5	50.8	7.8	41.9	82.8	70.1	62.8	15.6	**3.0	20.4
Tamworth	32.6	47.4	2.6	38.5	75.1	70.0	65.4	6.7	**1.4	8.9
Wagga Wagga	28.6	48.7	4.8	45.2	76.5	46.4	61.7	9.8	**2.0	13.2

(a) Total includes couple families without children and families of other related individuals. (b) Includes ACT and Jervis Bay.

TABLE 2. ALL FAMILIES : FAMILY TYPE BY ABORIGINALITY OF FAMILY MEMBERS  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

Family type	Family members				Total	
	Indigenous only		Indigenous and non-indigenous		( <sup>'000</sup> )	per cent
	( <sup>'000</sup> )	per cent	( <sup>'000</sup> )	per cent		
One parent family	5.4	42.3	1.5	13.5	6.9	28.9
Couple family without children	1.6	12.4	2.1	19.2	3.7	15.5
Couple family with children	4.9	38.0	7.4	66.5	12.2	51.2
Other related individuals only	0.9	7.3	** 0.1	** 0.8	1.0	4.3
<b>All families</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

TABLE 3. ONE PARENT AND COUPLE FAMILIES : FAMILY TYPE BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARTNERS AND MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Family type	Labour Force Status				Main Source of Income				Total
	Both partners employed	One partner(a) employed	Neither partner employed(b)	Not stated	Earned income	Government payments	Nil income	Not stated	
One parent family	..	1.1	5.7	** 0.2	1.2	4.5	** 0.2	1.0	6.9
Couple family	4.3	4.5	5.8	1.4	7.1	5.4	** 0.2	3.2	16.0
<b>All one parent and couple families</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>** 0.5</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>22.9</b>

(a) Includes sole parents in one parent families. (b) Includes partners who are unemployed or not in the labour force.

TABLE 4. ALL PERSONS: WHETHER TAKEN AWAY FROM NATURAL FAMILY BY AGE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

Whether taken away from natural family	0-14	15-24	25-44	45 and over	Total
	— per cent —				
Taken away	** 1.2	3.9	8.7	6.9	4.6
Not taken away	98.6	94.7	87.0	89.4	93.4
No answer	** 0.2	** 1.4	4.2	** 3.7	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total (<sup>'000</sup>)</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>80.5</b>

TABLE 5. PERSONS AGED 12 YEARS AND UNDER AND THEIR FAMILIES : CURRENT CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS BY AGE AND FAMILIES  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

Current child care arrangements	Children (Age)			Families	Families (per cent)
	0-4	5-12	Total		
	— '000 —				
Formal care only/or with family/friends	1.8	1.0	2.8	2.1	13.8
Family/friends private arrangements only	6.1	8.5	14.6	7.4	49.0
Does not use child care	4.1	7.1	11.2	5.2	34.3
Not stated	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.5	** 3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TABLE 6. PERSONS 13 YEARS AND OVER: WHETHER ATTENDED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AND TYPE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITY ATTENDED BY PART OF STATE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Cultural activities attended</i>	<i>Part of State</i>			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>			
	— per cent —					
Persons who attended(a)	64.9	71.2	55.7	68.2	66.0	67.1
Funerals	29.7	53.0	48.3	43.4	46.4	44.9
Ceremonies	11.0	10.6	** 6.7	9.3	11.1	10.2
Festivals and carnivals	51.8	45.4	21.0	44.6	43.9	44.2
Involved with organisations	27.7	29.9	21.6	25.5	30.6	28.1
Persons who did not attend	34.8	28.6	44.3	31.6	33.7	32.7
Not stated	** 0.3	** 0.2	** 0.0	** 0.2	** 0.3	** 0.2
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>52.0</b>

(a) Persons may have attended more than one cultural activity.

**TABLE 7. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER: WHETHER COULD ATTEND ALL CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AND REASONS COULD NOT ATTEND BY PART OF STATE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Part of State</i>			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>			
	— per cent —					
Persons who could not attend(a)	11.7	10.3	** 4.3	11.0	8.9	9.9
Not enough money	3.9	3.1	** 3.0	3.6	3.1	3.3
Too far away	** 2.1	** 1.9	** 0.0	** 1.2	2.2	1.7
No transport	4.5	2.5	** 1.1	4.1	** 1.8	2.9
Other reasons and not stated	6.1	6.4	** 2.0	6.8	4.6	5.7
Persons who could attend	86.8	88.2	82.7	86.4	87.7	87.1
Don't know/not stated	** 1.5	** 1.5	13.0	2.7	3.4	3.0
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>52.0</b>

(a) Persons may have given more than one reason for not being able to attend.

**TABLE 8. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER: SELECTED CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS BY PART OF STATE AND AGE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

Selected cultural characteristics	Part of State			Age group (years)		Total
	Capital city	Other urban	Rural	13-24	25 and over	
	— per cent —					
<b>Whether has a place to meet for cultural activities</b>						
Has a place	27.3	34.5	18.9	30.0	30.2	30.1
Does not have a place	65.0	46.3	61.3	55.5	53.5	54.2
Don't know/Not stated/Not applicable	7.8	19.2	19.7	14.4	16.3	15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether identifies with clan tribal or language group</b>						
Identifies	45.4	52.1	35.7	45.6	49.1	47.8
Does not identify	46.1	37.0	44.6	43.7	39.3	40.9
Don't know / Not stated	8.5	10.9	19.7	10.8	11.6	11.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Importance of elders</b>						
Role of elders is important	85.1	82.8	73.1	82.0	82.5	82.3
Role of elders is not important	4.4	6.6	** 6.9	6.6	5.5	5.9
Don't know/Not stated	10.5	10.6	20.0	11.5	12.0	11.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Recognition of homelands</b>						
Recognises area						
Living there now	21.1	36.9	45.6	31.3	34.0	33.0
Not living there now	50.3	30.5	19.1	27.7	39.9	35.3
Does not recognise area	28.5	31.9	35.1	40.5	25.7	31.2
Not stated	** 0.2	** 0.7	** 0.2	** 0.5	** 0.5	** 0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>52.0</b>

**TABLE 9. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER: MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN AND WHETHER HAS DIFFICULTY WITH ENGLISH  
BY PART OF STATE AND AGE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	Part of State			Age group (years)		Total
	Capital city	Other urban	Rural	13-24	25 and over	
	— per cent —					
<b>Main language</b>						
English	98.3	93.6	99.5	96.1	95.7	95.9
Aboriginal English	** 0.0	** 0.1	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.1	** 0.1
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language	** 0.0	** 0.4	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.4	** 0.2
Not stated	** 1.7	5.8	** 0.5	3.9	3.8	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether has difficulty with English</b>						
Would use an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander interpreter service	6.8	4.2	** 5.3	4.7	5.4	5.2
Would not use an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander interpreter service	** 2.7	2.5	** 3.9	** 1.3	3.6	2.7
Does not have difficulty with English	90.5	93.4	90.8	94.0	91.0	92.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>52.0</b>

## HEALTH

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a statistical summary of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and covers the following areas:

- health status;
- disability;
- access and attitudes to health services;
- health risk factors; and
- attitudes to health.

### HEALTH STATUS

An indication of an individual's health status can be drawn from information about illness experienced and the individual's own assessment of their health.

#### Recent illness

An estimated 42% of males (40% nationally) and 45% of females (42% nationally) stated they had experienced a recent illness, i.e. during the two weeks before interview.

Diseases of the respiratory system were the most commonly reported recent illness, being reported by 37% of males and 36% of females.

#### Health actions

An estimated 44% (44% nationally) of people stated they took a health action in the two weeks prior to the survey. The most common actions taken by these persons were:

- used medication, 77%;
- consulted a doctor, 44%;
- reduced daily activities, 33%;
- visited emergency/outpatients clinic, 11%; and
- consulted an Aboriginal health worker, 5%.

#### Health conditions

The most commonly stated health conditions were asthma and ear or hearing problems, reported by 18% and 12% of the population respectively. Some 6% of people reported heart problems and 3% reported being diabetic.

#### Self-assessed health status

The majority (86%) of people considered themselves to be in good, very good or excellent health, with only 14% of the population describing their health as fair or poor health. Patterns were similar for males and females.

### DISABILITY

Of persons aged five years and over some 3% of persons stated they had a severe or profound handicap resulting from a condition or disability, which had lasted or was expected to last for six months or more.

The proportion of the population reporting a handicap generally increased with age, with 11% of the 45 years and over age group reporting a severe or profound handicap. The data covered in this section on disability is not displayed in a table.

## ACCESS AND ATTITUDES TO HEALTH SERVICES

Distance to the nearest health facilities and availability of services provide a measure of the level of access Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to services such as, hospitals, community health centre, Aboriginal medical services and doctors. Information on attitudes to health services highlights people's satisfaction with local health services.

**Distance** An estimated 88% (81% nationally) of households were located within 10 km of the nearest community health centre.

The majority (77%) of households also lived within 10 km of the nearest hospital and 88% of households lived within 10 km away from community health centre.

Fewer people lived close to Aboriginal medical services and detoxification centres. An estimated 34% and 37% of households respectively lived within 10 km from the nearest service.

As expected, in rural areas more people live further from health facilities, with 53% of households living within 10 km of the nearest hospital and 32% over 10 km away.

**Availability** Overall the availability of health professionals and services on a permanent basis within 25 km of where people lived was relatively high for:

- doctors, 88%;
- nurses, 87%;
- Aboriginal health workers, 61%;
- baby health services, 88%.

However, in rural areas, availability of health professionals was lower:

- doctors, 44%;
- nurses, 47%;
- Aboriginal health workers, 26%;
- baby health services, 48%.

**Attitudes to health services** An estimated 77% of people aged 13 years and over thought that it was important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be involved in the provision of their health care. For the same population, 82% said they were happy or sometimes happy with the local health services provided.

## HEALTH RISK FACTORS

Health risk factors relate to lifestyle, diet and community practices which may impact on the overall health of the individual. The main features of the health risk factors measured in this survey are outlined below.

**Food security** For persons aged 15 years and over some 26% worried or sometimes worried about going without food.

Information on the period since a person last drank alcohol is an indication of the frequency of individual consumption. The following estimates relate to alcohol and tobacco use for persons aged 13 years and over.

Alcohol and tobacco use Some 68% (62% nationally) of persons consumed alcohol within the previous 12 months, with a higher proportion of males (72%) than females (65%) having consumed alcohol. More males (51%) than females (35%) reported having consumed alcohol in the previous week.

Some 74% of the 15–44 year age group had consumed alcohol in the last 12 months.

Approximately 51% of people smoked cigarettes, the 15–44 year age group showing the highest proportion of smokers (57%). Males were more likely to smoke (52%) than females (50%).

Relative weight Persons aged 13 years and over who had their weight and height measurements taken were grouped according to their body mass index (BMI) scores. On this basis:

- 41% were overweight or obese;
- 25% were an acceptable weight;
- 11% were underweight; and
- 24% were not stated.

Diet The following information on relative fat and sugar consumption levels was derived from the amount of specific foods people aged 13 years and over, consumed the previous day.

Nearly a third of the people (30%), had a moderate to high or high fat consumption and a half had moderate to high or high sugar consumption.

There were more males than females in the moderate to high or high consumption categories, for fat (41% compared with 20%) and sugar (54% compared with 46%).

Breastfeeding It was found that of children aged 12 years and under, 60% were breastfed as infants (71% nationally), 63% in rural areas. Some 26% were breastfed for six months or longer.

## ATTITUDES TO HEALTH

Attitudes to health indicates the concerns Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have in their area.

For persons aged 13 years and over, some 60% (59% nationally) of people perceived alcohol to be one of the main health problems in their area. This general view was held across all age groups as well as in Sydney, other urban and rural areas.

Drugs were the second most frequently reported health problem, being perceived as a health problem by 39% of persons.

**TABLE 10. HEALTH : STATES, NORTHERN TERRITORY AND  
NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIIC REGIONS, 1994**

	<i>Persons aged 12 years and under</i>		<i>All persons Experienced illness</i>			<i>Persons aged 13 years and over</i>				
	<i>Was breastfed</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Specified</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Alcohol considered to be main health problem in local area</i>	<i>Happy with local health services</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>Smokers</i>	<i>Total</i>
			<i>Recent</i>	<i>long term</i>						
<b>AUSTRALIA(b)</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>105.7</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>303.3</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>194.4</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>197.5</b>
New South Wales	60.0	28.6	43.6	38.4	80.5	59.9	74.0	51.1	50.8	52.0
Victoria	61.5	6.6	53.9	46.3	19.2	38.4	81.6	12.4	57.1	12.6
Queensland	72.1	27.8	38.0	33.4	79.8	58.6	81.8	51.3	48.4	52.1
South Australia	60.1	6.5	44.0	37.8	18.4	58.4	78.8	11.7	55.7	11.9
Western Australia	76.3	17.0	37.8	31.8	47.3	75.4	78.6	29.5	48.2	30.2
Tasmania	70.8	3.5	48.1	41.6	10.1	26.2	66.1	6.6	45.9	6.6
Northern Territory	89.7	15.2	38.3	26.7	46.0	57.4	87.5	30.4	47.3	30.9
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIIC REGIONS</b>										
Queanbeyan	77.1	2.1	44.8	42.4	6.7	46.1	66.8	4.6	46.4	4.6
Bourke	41.9	2.3	20.1	23.3	7.2	63.6	75.1	4.9	60.7	4.9
Coffs harbour	71.7	7.1	47.7	43.8	18.8	71.4	82.0	11.8	48.9	11.8
Sydney	64.6	8.5	55.1	42.4	24.1	52.4	79.0	15.6	48.6	15.6
Tamworth	63.7	3.5	31.5	29.8	10.2	60.0	53.0	6.7	54.9	6.7
Wagga Wagga	40.2	5.5	37.8	36.4	15.4	62.0	73.2	9.8	47.4	9.8

(a) Total includes couple families without children and families of other related individuals. (b) Includes ACT and Jervis Bay.

**TABLE 11. ALL PERSONS : WHETHER HAVE EXPERIENCED A RECENT ILLNESS AND TYPE OF CONDITION (a) BY AGE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994  
(<sup>'000</sup>)**

	<i>Age group (years)</i>			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>Less than 15</i>	<i>15-44</i>	<i>45 and over</i>			
<b>Have experienced a recent illness condition</b>						
Infectious and parasitic diseases	0.7	** 0.3	** 0.0	0.6	** 0.4	1.0
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	** 0.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	2.1
Mental disorders	** 0.1	1.4	** 0.4	1.1	0.8	1.9
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	1.3	0.8	** 0.5	1.0	1.7	2.7
Diseases of the circulatory system	** 0.0	1.3	3.0	2.0	2.2	4.3
Diseases of the respiratory system	5.5	5.3	2.1	6.4	6.5	12.9
Diseases of the digestive system	1.2	** 0.5	** 0.2	1.0	1.0	2.0
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	1.4	1.0	** 0.3	1.5	1.1	2.6
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	** 0.3	1.3	1.6	1.3	2.0	3.3
Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions	1.3	3.5	1.0	2.5	3.4	5.9
Injury and poisoning	1.7	2.0	** 0.5	2.6	1.6	4.3
Other conditions or unspecified	0.8	1.3	** 0.4	0.6	1.9	2.5
<b>Total persons who experienced recent illness(b)</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>35.1</b>
<b>Total persons who did not experience recent illness</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>45.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>80.5</b>

(a) Condition groups based on chapter headings of the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD9). (b) Columns do not add to 'Total persons who experienced recent illness' because more than one illness may have been reported.

**TABLE 12. ALL PERSONS : WHETHER TOOK A HEALTH RELATED ACTION AND TYPE OF ACTION TAKEN IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS BY AGE AND PART OF STATE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994  
(<sup>'000</sup>)**

	<i>Age group (years)</i>			<i>Part of State</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Less than 15</i>	<i>15 - 44</i>	<i>45 and over</i>	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	
Took an action	12.5	15.9	7.3	14.5	17.1	4.2	35.7
Type of actions taken(a)							
Visited emergency/ outpatients clinic	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.0	2.1	0.7	3.8
Was admitted to hospital	** 0.5	** 0.4	** 0.4	** 0.3	0.8	** 0.2	1.3
Consulted doctor	6.3	6.5	3.0	6.1	7.9	1.8	15.8
Consulted Aboriginal health worker	0.8	** 0.5	0.6	** 0.5	1.1	** 0.3	1.9
Consulted nurse	0.8	0.9	** 0.3	** 0.4	1.3	** 0.3	2.0
Used medication	9.0	11.5	6.9	11.7	12.7	2.9	27.4
Used bush medicine	** 0.3	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	** 0.2	1.9
Reduced daily activities	4.5	5.9	1.4	5.2	5.2	1.5	11.9
Took no action	19.2	22.8	2.8	11.3	27.4	6.1	44.8
<b>Total Persons(b)</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>80.5</b>

(a) Persons may have taken more than one type of action. (b) Includes persons who did not state if they took an action.

**TABLE 13. ALL PERSONS : TYPE OF SPECIFIED CURRENT CONDITION BY AGE THEN SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994  
(<sup>'000</sup>)**

<i>Type of condition(a)</i>	<i>Less than 15</i>	<i>15 - 44</i>	<i>45 and over</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Asthma	6.5	5.5	2.3	6.6	7.7	14.3
Diabetes	** 0.0	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.3	2.5
Heart problems	0.9	1.8	2.1	2.6	2.2	4.8
Chest problems	1.7	3.6	1.0	3.0	3.4	6.4
Skin problems	2.8	2.9	0.6	3.2	3.2	6.3
High blood pressure	** 0.0	2.9	3.9	3.1	3.8	6.9
Ear or hearing problems	4.0	3.6	2.4	5.7	4.3	10.0
Eye problems(b)	** 0.4	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.1	2.1
Kidney problems	** 0.5	1.7	0.8	1.1	1.8	3.0
<b>Total Persons(c)</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>80.5</b>

(a) Figures are comparable with those listed as 'All sufferers' in Detailed Findings 4190.0 (b) Excludes eye problems which can be corrected by glasses. (c) Includes persons who did not have a specified current condition.

**TABLE 14. ALL PERSONS : SELF ASSESSED HEALTH STATUS BY AGE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Self assessed health status</i>	<i>Age group (years)</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>0-14</i>	<i>15-24</i>	<i>25-44</i>	<i>45 and over</i>			
			--- per cent ---				
Excellent	36.2	26.1	13.1	11.3	25.9	23.3	24.6
Very good	38.1	32.8	27.2	14.2	31.3	30.6	31.0
Good	22.8	34.0	37.7	29.5	27.2	33.0	30.1
Fair or poor	3.0	7.1	22.0	43.8	15.3	13.1	14.2
Not stated	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 1.2	** 0.3	** 0.0	** 0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total (<sup>'000</sup>)</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>80.5</b>

TABLE 15. HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS : TYPE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND SERVICES BY PART OF STATE  
BY AVAILABILITY WITHIN 25 KM  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

Type of health professionals and services	Permanent	Visiting	Not available	Total(a)	Total ('000)
CAPITAL CITY					
— per cent —					
Doctor/GP	93.9	6.1	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Nurse	91.5	8.5	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Aboriginal Health Worker	65.4	7.0	24.8	100.0	9.9
Dentist	92.6	** 0.0	** 4.2	100.0	9.9
Mental Health Services	79.8	** 4.0	10.5	100.0	9.9
Health Promotional Services	89.7	6.0	** 4.3	100.0	9.9
Ante-natal Services	98.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Diabetic Services	98.1	** 1.9	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Women's Health Services	98.1	** 1.9	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Baby Health Services	98.1	** 1.9	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic	98.1	** 1.9	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Flying Medical Services	..	** 0.4	80.0	100.0	9.9
OTHER URBAN					
— per cent —					
Doctor/GP	94.0	5.5	** 0.7	100.0	13.7
Nurse	92.9	** 3.8	** 3.3	100.0	13.7
Aboriginal Health Worker	67.5	14.9	17.6	100.0	13.7
Dentist	77.4	8.1	14.6	100.0	13.7
Mental Health Services	66.3	11.4	22.3	100.0	13.7
Health Promotional Services	76.2	13.7	8.6	100.0	13.7
Ante-natal Services	75.8	12.7	11.5	100.0	13.7
Diabetic Services	77.4	10.5	10.8	100.0	13.7
Women's Health Services	74.5	10.6	14.9	100.0	13.7
Baby Health Services	90.3	6.4	** 3.2	100.0	13.7
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic	72.5	11.7	15.8	100.0	13.7
Flying Medical Services	..	19.0	75.2	100.0	13.7
RURAL					
— per cent —					
Doctor/GP	43.5	** 13.4	27.9	100.0	3.4
Nurse	47.4	** 12.0	25.4	100.0	3.4
Aboriginal Health Worker	25.5	22.2	37.0	100.0	3.4
Dentist	37.9	** 9.6	37.2	100.0	3.4
Mental Health Services	26.8	** 5.7	52.2	100.0	3.4
Health Promotional Services	44.8	** 5.7	34.2	100.0	3.4
Ante-natal Services	40.6	** 0.0	44.1	100.0	3.4
Diabetic Services	50.5	** 9.4	24.7	100.0	3.4
Women's Health Services	38.8	20.8	25.2	100.0	3.4
Baby Health Services	47.5	** 15.9	21.3	100.0	3.4
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic	44.8	** 12.2	27.7	100.0	3.4
Flying Medical Services	..	17.9	42.6	100.0	3.4
TOTAL					
— per cent —					
Doctor/GP	87.5	6.7	3.9	100.0	27.0
Nurse	86.6	6.6	4.9	100.0	27.0
Aboriginal Health Worker	61.4	13.0	22.7	100.0	27.0
Dentist	77.9	5.3	13.7	100.0	27.0
Mental Health Services	66.2	8.0	21.8	100.0	27.0
Health Promotional Services	77.2	9.9	10.3	100.0	27.0
Ante-natal Services	79.4	6.4	11.5	100.0	27.0
Diabetic Services	81.5	7.2	8.6	100.0	27.0
Women's Health Services	78.6	8.7	10.7	100.0	27.0
Baby Health Services	87.7	6.0	4.3	100.0	27.0
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic	78.3	8.2	11.5	100.0	27.0
Flying Medical Services	..	12.0	72.8	100.0	27.0

(a) The very small number of 'Not stated' respondents have not been displayed, hence the rows do not always add to 100%.

TABLE 16. HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS : DISTANCE FROM NEAREST HEALTH FACILITIES BY PART OF STATE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

Type of service	0-10 km	11 km and over	Not stated	Total	Total ('000)
CAPITAL CITY					
	— per cent —				
Hospital	80.4	19.6	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Community Health Centre	98.8	** 1.2	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Chemist or Dispensary	98.8	** 1.2	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Birthing Centre	63.9	36.1	** 0.0	100.0	9.9
Detoxification Centre	42.7	55.6	** 1.7	100.0	9.9
Aboriginal Medical Service or Medical Aid Post	47.8	48.3	** 3.8	100.0	9.9
OTHER URBAN					
	— per cent —				
Hospital	78.9	21.1	** 0.0	100.0	13.7
Community Health Centre	90.0	10.0	** 0.0	100.0	13.7
Chemist or Dispensary	91.1	8.9	** 0.0	100.0	13.7
Birthing Centre	56.8	37.2	6.1	100.0	13.7
Detoxification Centre	36.1	57.8	6.1	100.0	13.7
Aboriginal Medical Service or Medical Aid Post	31.9	57.9	10.2	100.0	13.7
RURAL					
	— per cent —				
Hospital	52.7	32.0	** 15.3	100.0	3.4
Community Health Centre	47.0	37.7	** 15.3	100.0	3.4
Chemist or Dispensary	43.4	41.3	** 15.3	100.0	3.4
Birthing Centre	23.3	61.4	** 15.3	100.0	3.4
Detoxification Centre	19.8	64.8	** 15.3	100.0	3.4
Aboriginal Medical Service or Medical Aid Post	** 2.7	82.0	** 15.3	100.0	3.4
TOTAL					
	— per cent —				
Hospital	76.1	21.9	** 1.9	100.0	27.0
Community Health Centre	87.7	10.3	** 1.9	100.0	27.0
Chemist or Dispensary	87.8	10.2	** 1.9	100.0	27.0
Birthing Centre	55.1	39.8	5.0	100.0	27.0
Detoxification Centre	36.4	57.9	5.7	100.0	27.0
Aboriginal Medical Service or Medical Aid Post	34.0	57.5	8.5	100.0	27.0

**TABLE 17. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a): SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS BY WHETHER WORRIES ABOUT GOING WITHOUT FOOD NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Selected characteristics of persons</i>	<i>Worries or sometimes worries</i>	<i>Does not worry</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total ('000)</i>
	— per cent —				
<b>Males</b>	23.4	76.4	** 0.1	100.0	23.2
<b>Females</b>	28.3	71.0	** 0.7	100.0	24.7
<b>Persons</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>** 0.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>47.9</b>
<b>Age group (years)</b>					
15-24	18.9	80.6	** 0.6	100.0	15.7
25-44	30.1	69.6	** 0.3	100.0	22.1
45 and over	27.8	71.7	** 0.5	100.0	10.1
<b>Educational attainment</b>					
Still at school	** 11.4	88.6	** 0.0	100.0	3.7
Below year 10	31.4	67.9	** 0.7	100.0	22.4
Year 10	27.8	72.0	** 0.2	100.0	10.3
Year 12	** 12.1	87.3	** 0.7	100.0	2.5
With post-school educational qualifications	20.0	80.0	** 0.0	100.0	9.1
<b>Part of State</b>					
Capital city	28.8	71.0	** 0.2	100.0	15.7
Other urban	25.3	74.2	** 0.6	100.0	25.7
Rural	21.9	77.9	** 0.2	100.0	6.5
<b>Persons living in households with an annual income of (\$)</b>					
0-16,000	26.6	72.9	** 0.4	100.0	7.1
16,001-25,000	32.5	66.3	** 1.3	100.0	7.1
25,001-40,000	25.3	74.5	** 0.2	100.0	12.9
40,001 or more	19.4	80.5	** 0.1	100.0	11.8
Not stated	29.6	70.0	** 0.4	100.0	9.1
<b>Persons living in households where</b>					
No one working	31.4	68.0	** 0.6	100.0	18.6
One or more working	22.5	77.2	** 0.3	100.0	29.3
<b>Persons living in households with</b>					
No dependant children	24.4	75.6	** 0.0	100.0	18.6
One or more dependant children	26.9	72.4	** 0.7	100.0	29.3

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes.

**TABLE 18. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER : NUMBER OF CIGARETTES SMOKED DAILY AND PERIOD SINCE LAST DRANK ALCOHOL BY AGE AND SEX NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Number of cigarettes smoked daily and period since last drank alcohol</i>	<i>Age group (years)</i>			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>13-14(a)</i>	<i>15-44</i>	<i>45 and over</i>			
— per cent —						
<b>Number of cigarettes smoked daily</b>						
1-10	** 10.2	18.0	8.7	14.8	16.6	15.7
11 or more	** 2.2	37.9	30.4	36.6	32.0	34.3
Not stated	** 0.0	** 0.7	** 1.3	** 0.6	** 1.0	** 0.8
<b>Total smokers</b>	<b>** 12.4</b>	<b>56.6</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>50.8</b>
<b>Period since last drank alcohol</b>						
One week or less ago	** 1.0	45.4	45.3	50.9	34.6	42.7
More than 1 week to less than 12 mths ago	** 3.9	28.6	21.7	21.4	30.0	25.7
<b>Total drinkers</b>	<b>** 4.9</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>68.4</b>
<b>Total persons aged 13 years and over ('000)</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>52.0</b>

(a) This age group is included to maintain comparability between tables however all figures in it should be treated as unreliable.

**TABLE 19. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER (a): PERCEIVED HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE PROBLEMS IN LOCAL AREA BY PART OF STATE AND AGE NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Perceived health and substance use problems</i>	<i>Part of State</i>			<i>Age group (years)</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>13-24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>	
	— per cent —					
<b>Health problems (b)</b>						
Alcohol problems	52.0	65.6	56.2	61.1	59.2	59.9
Drugs	30.6	44.1	35.6	42.2	36.5	38.6
Other substances	4.0	3.8	** 5.2	3.5	4.3	4.0
Diabetes	13.1	19.5	17.7	8.4	22.3	17.2
Heart problems	6.0	12.6	8.8	5.1	12.8	10.0
Diet/nutrition	13.3	11.9	14.1	8.7	15.0	12.7
Skin problems	3.5	3.9	** 4.6	** 1.6	5.2	3.9
Other	8.4	3.3	** 2.4	3.2	5.8	4.8
Don't know/not stated	37.0	26.0	30.4	33.7	28.1	30.2
<b>Substance use problems (b)</b>						
Alcohol	66.7	86.0	70.3	79.0	76.8	77.6
Marijuana	46.3	75.3	65.1	71.5	60.4	64.5
Other drugs	33.9	28.3	13.6	25.4	29.7	28.1
Petrol sniffing	4.8	15.0	** 5.4	12.9	8.9	10.4
Glue sniffing	4.4	7.3	** 4.0	6.6	5.5	5.9
Other dangerous substances	4.2	12.9	12.8	9.8	10.2	10.0
Not stated	** 0.3	** 0.4	** 1.9	** 0.6	** 0.5	** 0.5
<b>Total (*000)</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>51.1</b>

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes. (b) Persons may have given more than one answer.

TABLE 20. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS BY RELATIVE FAT AND SUGAR CONSUMPTION  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

Characteristics of persons	Fat Consumption				Sugar Consumption				Total ('000)		
	Low	Low to moderate	Moderate to high	High	Low	Low to moderate	Moderate to high	High			
Males	12.9	45.8	30.9	10.1	16.7	29.0	35.3	18.7	** 0.3	100.0	25.6
Females	19.2	60.8	16.0	3.5	22.1	31.1	37.4	9.0	** 0.4	100.0	26.3
Persons	16.1	53.4	23.4	6.7	19.4	30.0	36.4	13.8	** 0.3	100.0	52.0
Age group (years)											
13-14	** 7.8	42.0	40.8	** 6.5	** 5.3	25.9	56.4	** 9.6	** 2.9	100.0	3.2
15-24	14.8	45.1	30.2	9.9	11.9	23.7	43.8	20.4	** 0.2	100.0	16.2
25-44	15.9	56.9	20.5	6.4	18.7	32.9	34.5	13.7	** 0.1	100.0	22.5
45 and over	21.5	62.5	13.5	** 2.4	37.5	35.1	22.6	** 4.7	** 0.2	100.0	10.1
Educational attainment											
Still at school	10.8	41.4	39.0	** 7.5	8.4	24.7	56.7	8.5	** 1.7	100.0	6.8
Below year 10	17.1	60.7	18.9	3.1	26.1	34.1	29.6	10.1	** 0.2	100.0	23.2
Year 10	17.0	46.4	27.6	8.4	9.6	28.1	38.3	23.9	** 0.0	100.0	10.4
Year 12	** 10.0	68.9	** 13.3	** 7.2	** 15.3	** 22.0	42.8	** 19.2	** 0.7	100.0	2.5
With post-school educational qualifications	18.3	47.4	21.0	13.2	23.0	28.0	34.8	14.2	** 0.0	100.0	9.2
Relative weight											
Underweight	12.0	58.3	27.1	** 2.6	** 8.8	27.7	54.5	** 9.0	** 0.0	100.0	5.5
Acceptable weight	17.4	44.2	28.5	9.8	17.0	25.4	39.5	17.9	** 0.3	100.0	12.9
Overweight	16.0	54.8	21.5	7.7	22.1	32.7	34.5	10.5	** 0.1	100.0	11.9
Obese	13.4	57.7	21.8	6.9	22.2	27.9	32.3	17.4	** 0.2	100.0	9.4
Not stated	18.9	56.2	19.3	** 4.3	22.0	35.0	30.1	12.1	** 0.9	100.0	12.3
Part of State											
Capital city	15.7	49.9	21.8	12.3	15.9	24.4	42.8	16.5	** 0.4	100.0	16.6
Other urban	15.8	53.9	25.7	4.1	22.2	30.7	34.3	12.6	** 0.2	100.0	28.5
Rural	18.4	59.6	17.3	** 4.2	16.5	40.9	29.6	12.2	** 0.7	100.0	6.8
Persons living in households with an annual income of (\$)											
0-25,000	14.5	60.5	19.5	5.3	18.2	33.6	34.1	13.9	** 0.2	100.0	15.0
25,001 or more	14.1	50.2	28.1	7.3	16.1	29.3	39.8	14.5	** 0.4	100.0	26.3
Not stated/not applicable	23.4	51.3	17.1	7.4	29.6	26.9	31.3	11.9	** 0.4	100.0	10.6
Whether smokes											
Smokes	15.6	51.4	25.2	7.6	17.5	29.2	35.9	17.4	** 0.1	100.0	26.4
Doesn't smoke	16.8	55.7	21.6	5.9	21.6	31.0	37.1	10.2	** 0.2	100.0	25.5
Not stated	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 100.0	** 100.0	** 0.1

TABLE 21. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER (a): ATTITUDES TO LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES BY AGE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

<i>Attitudes to local health services</i>	<i>Age group (years)</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>13-24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>			
	— per cent —				
<b>Importance of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander involvement in health services</b>					
Important	77.8	76.4	75.0	78.7	76.9
Not important	11.4	14.1	14.6	11.7	13.1
Don't know/not stated	10.9	9.5	10.4	9.6	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether happy with local health services</b>					
Happy or sometimes happy	84.1	80.7	81.0	82.8	81.9
Not happy	5.6	9.1	7.4	8.3	7.8
No contact with health services/Not stated	10.3	10.2	11.6	8.9	10.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Problems with local health services(b)</b>					
No problems with services	77.0	70.5	75.5	70.5	72.9
Problems with services	11.3	17.2	11.3	18.5	15.0
Other/don't use/don't know/not stated	11.8	13.0	14.1	11.1	12.6
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>51.1</b>

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes. (b) Columns do not add to 100% because more than one answer may be given.

TABLE 22. PERSONS AGED 12 YEARS AND UNDER : WHETHER BREASTFED AND DURATION BY SELECTED HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

<i>Whether breastfed</i>	<i>Part of State</i>		<i>Annual household income</i>				<i>Person living in households where</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>\$25,000 and under</i>	<i>More than \$25,000</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>No one working</i>	<i>One or more working</i>	
	— per cent —								
Was breastfed									
Less than 6 months	38.7	29.8	20.2	38.0	29.4	19.0	37.3	24.7	31.4
6 months or more	24.0	24.6	39.4	25.6	27.5	23.6	21.0	32.2	26.2
Currently breastfeeding	** 1.8	** 1.9	** 3.3	** 2.6	** 1.8	** 1.4	** 1.8	** 2.3	2.1
Not stated	** 0.0	** 0.5	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.6	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.6	** 0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>60.0</b>
Was not breastfed	35.5	41.1	34.5	33.6	38.4	53.0	39.1	37.8	38.5
Don't know/not stated	** 0.0	** 2.2	** 2.7	** 0.2	** 2.4	** 2.9	** 0.9	** 2.4	** 1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>28.6</b>

## HOUSING

### INTRODUCTION

Information on housing provides an insight into the living conditions of people and it has a considerable bearing on other aspects of people's lives, such as health. Of all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households, 98% were living in private dwellings and 2% in special dwellings (e.g. boarding schools and hostels). Just under 2% of all private dwellings were improvised homes.

Nature of occupancy The majority of private dwellings were rented (67%), while 29% were being purchased or were owned by a usual resident(s) of the household.

Just over half, (57%) of rented dwellings were rented for less than \$77 per week. In rural areas more dwellings were rented for less than \$77 per week (88%), than in other urban areas (57%) and Sydney (48%).

Satisfaction with dwelling Approximately 72% of renters reported that the dwelling satisfied the needs of the household. In comparison, more purchasers and owners (93%) were satisfied.

Problems with dwelling Households which expressed dissatisfaction with their dwelling gave a number of reasons for their dissatisfaction and these are listed below:

- needs repair, 56%;
- not enough bedrooms, 52%;
- not enough living area, 47%;
- needs better insulation or ventilation, 30%; and
- inadequate bathing facilities, 27%.

The absence or failure of basic services, such as, running water, electricity and sewerage, are other important aspect of housing. The main findings in this area are listed below.

For all private dwellings:

- 97% had running water connected;
- 98% had electricity or gas connected; and,
- 98% had a toilet.

The majority (94%) of private dwellings had garbage collected and were serviced by a sealed road (87%). In rural areas, a smaller proportion had garbage collected (64%) and were located on a sealed road (53%).

Size of dwelling For private dwellings, the average number of persons living in each household was 3.6 and the majority of dwellings (61%) comprised three bedrooms. In rural areas, the average number of persons living in each household was 3.6.

TABLE 23. HOUSING : STATES, NORTHERN TERRITORY AND NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIK REGIONS, 1994

<i>Households in private dwellings</i>							
	<i>Running water connected</i>	<i>Electricity/gas connected</i>	<i>Garbage collected</i>	<i>Dwelling situated on sealed road</i>	<i>Satisfied with current dwelling</i>	<i>Renters</i>	<i>Total</i>
	— per cent —						( <i>'000</i> )
<b>AUSTRALIA(a)</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>81.6</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>86.4</b>
New South Wales	96.9	98.0	93.9	87.0	76.9	66.7	27.0
Victoria	99.8	99.8	94.1	90.6	84.0	62.6	6.7
Queensland	95.6	96.4	94.8	82.5	83.2	72.2	21.4
South Australia	99.2	97.7	94.9	86.0	82.3	79.1	5.3
Western Australia	93.9	93.4	96.7	72.2	73.0	73.0	12.3
Tasmania	98.8	99.6	72.3	83.4	90.6	46.3	4.4
Northern Territory	91.2	90.4	88.0	63.6	52.3	72.2	8.3
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIK REGIONS</b>							
Queanbeyan	94.6	94.6	88.1	59.7	83.0	80.9	2.8
Bourke	92.9	94.6	97.3	84.4	68.9	72.7	1.6
Coffs Harbour	97.0	97.3	90.4	88.2	75.5	66.3	5.5
Sydney	98.8	98.7	95.7	96.5	70.2	64.8	9.7
Tamworth	95.2	99.0	92.4	81.4	88.2	75.3	3.3
Wagga Wagga	97.1	99.8	98.1	87.1	85.3	57.7	5.0

(a) Includes ACT and Jervis Bay.

TABLE 24. HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS : SATISFACTION WITH DWELLING AND PROBLEMS BY NATURE OF OCCUPANCY  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

	<i>Renters</i>	<i>Purchasers/owners</i>	<i>Other/not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
	— per cent —			
<b>Whether dwelling satisfies the needs of the household</b>				
Satisfied	71.6	92.6	** 50.5	76.9
Not satisfied	28.3	7.4	** 13.8	21.6
Not stated	** 0.1	** 0.0	** 35.7	** 1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Problems with dwelling (a)(b)</b>				
Needs repair	16.2	—	—	12.1
Inadequate bathing facilities	7.3	—	—	5.8
Needs better insulation/ventilation	9.0	—	—	6.4
Not enough bedrooms	14.7	—	—	11.2
Not enough living area	13.1	—	—	10.2
Other/not stated	4.7	—	—	3.9
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>27.0</b>

(a) Columns do not add to total 'not satisfied' because more than one answer may be given. (b) Cells containing symbol '-' suppressed due to very low response rates

**TABLE 25. HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS : NUMBER OF BEDROOMS IN DWELLING BY PART OF STATE BY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Number of bedrooms in dwelling</i>	<i>Average number of persons per household</i>	<i>Households ('000)</i>
<b>CAPITAL CITY</b>		
0-1 bedrooms	1.5	0.6
2 bedrooms	3.1	1.3
3 bedrooms	3.1	5.6
4 or more bedrooms	4.7	1.9
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<b>OTHER URBAN</b>		
0-1 bedrooms	1.3	** 0.3
2 bedrooms	3.2	1.9
3 bedrooms	3.7	9.6
4 or more bedrooms	5.3	1.7
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>13.7</b>
<b>RURAL</b>		
0-1 bedrooms	2.2	** 0.3
2 bedrooms	2.2	0.9
3 bedrooms	3.9	1.4
4 or more bedrooms	5.2	0.7
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		
0-1 bedrooms	1.7	1.1
2 bedrooms	2.9	4.1
3 bedrooms	3.5	16.6
4 or more bedrooms	5.0	4.3
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>27.0</b>

(a) Includes number of bedrooms not stated.

**TABLE 26. HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS : DWELLING CHARACTERISTICS  
BY PART OF STATE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Dwelling characteristics</i>	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Total</i>
	— per cent —			
<b>Number of toilets</b>				
No toilet	** 0.0	** 1.1	** 2.4	** 0.8
One toilet	75.4	85.2	77.7	80.7
Two or more toilets	23.7	13.0	** 14.0	17.0
Not stated	** 0.9	** 0.8	** 5.8	** 1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether dwelling has bathroom/shower</b>				
Yes	97.2	95.4	85.6	94.8
No/Not stated	** 2.8	4.6	** 14.4	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether running water connected</b>				
Running water connected	98.8	97.8	88.2	96.9
No running water connected	** 0.3	** 1.1	** 5.3	** 1.3
Not stated	** 0.9	** 1.2	** 6.5	** 1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether dwelling has electricity/gas connected</b>				
Yes	98.7	99.2	91.5	98.0
No	** 0.0	** 0.1	** 2.7	** 0.4
Not stated	** 1.3	** 0.8	** 5.8	** 1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Other services</b>				
Garbage collected	95.8	99.9	64.0	93.9
Dwelling situated on a sealed road	98.5	87.3	52.8	87.0
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>

TABLE 27. RENTED PRIVATE DWELLINGS : WEEKLY RENT BY PART OF STATE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Total</i>
	-- per cent --			
<b>Weekly rent (\$)</b>				
0-47	19.2	14.8	48.6	20.1
48-77	28.9	42.5	39.4	37.1
78-107	10.1	19.1	** 4.4	14.2
108 and over	41.9	23.4	** 7.5	28.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>18.0</b>

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a statistical summary on the education and training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and includes the following:

- schooling;
- attitudes to schooling;
- educational attainment and training;
- current study and further study; and
- access to educational institutions.

### SCHOOLING

Participation rates at school, type of school, Indigenous content in curricula and involvement of Indigenous teachers are all important characteristics of the education of young Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

School participation rates declined significantly with age. For 14 year olds the participation rate was 97%, while for 17 year olds the rate had fallen to 35% (31% nationally). Females had a higher participation rate than males.

The majority (92%) of primary and secondary school students attended government schools (87% nationally), while 7% attended non-government schools (12% nationally).

Nearly half (47%) of all students were taught about Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultures at school. In addition, 9% were taught Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages.

A third (33%) of all students were taught by an Indigenous teacher, education worker or a community member.

#### Attitudes to schooling

Approximately 42% of people with children at school would have preferred to send them to an Aboriginal community controlled school. However, 42% preferred not to send the children to this type of school, 16% didn't know or did not state a response.

Of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over, who had left school, 20% had obtained a post-school educational qualification.

There was very little variation in level of attainment between the sexes. Approximately 21% of males and 20% of females had obtained post-school qualification.

#### Educational attainment

A higher proportion of persons with post-school qualifications (51%) were employed than persons without qualifications, (33%). Similarly, persons with post-school qualifications were more likely to earn a higher income than persons without post-school qualifications. Some 31% of persons with post-school qualifications earned more than \$25,000 per annum, compared to 9% of people without post-school qualifications.

#### Current post-school study

An estimated 3,500 persons aged 15 years and who, had left school were currently participating in post-school education. Some 41% were attending University or other higher educational institution, 36% were attending TAFE

colleges and 23% other institutions. Other institutions comprise: employers; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations; and business, secretarial and computer colleges.

## TRAINING

Of 45,200 persons aged 15 years and over who had left school, an estimated 5,600 (12%) had undertaken training courses in the last 12 months (9% nationally). Approximately 61% of these people undertook training courses of 9 weeks or more duration (61% nationally).

### Further study and training

An estimated 54% of people aged 15 years and over, who had left school, wanted to do further study or training. Some of these people felt they would have problems attending courses and some difficulties were:

- lack of transport/travel, 7%;
- financial problems, 8%; and
- lack of child care, 7%.

### Access to educational institutions

Distance has been used as a guide to the level of access Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to educational institutions.

The majority of households were within 10 km of the nearest preschool (97%), primary school (97%), and secondary school providing classes up to year 10 (88%). However, the level of access to secondary schools providing classes up to year 12, TAFE colleges and universities was lower:

- 85% were within 10 km of the nearest secondary school providing classes up to year 12, while 14% were over 10 km;
- 65% were within 10 km of the nearest TAFE college while 33% were over 10 km;
- 19% were within 10 km of the nearest university while 79% were over 10 km.

The level of access to all educational institutions was lower in rural areas than in Sydney and other urban areas, particularly for secondary schools, TAFE colleges and universities. For households in rural areas:

- 45% of households were over 10 km from the nearest secondary school providing classes up to year 12;
- 70% were over 10 km from the nearest TAFE; and
- 85% were over 10 km from the nearest university.

TABLE 28. EDUCATION : STATES, NORTHERN TERRITORY  
AND NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIIC REGIONS, 1994

Area	Persons aged 3-5 years(a)		Persons aged 5-18 years		Persons aged 15 years and over who have left school		Persons with children attending primary or secondary school		
	Attending pre-school	Total	Attending school	Total	With post-school qualification	Total	Happy with children's education	Would prefer children to attend Aboriginal controlled school	Total
	per cent	('000)	per cent	('000)	per cent	('000)	per cent		('000)
<b>AUSTRALIA(b)</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>100.3</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>171.5</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>60.8</b>
New South Wales	38.9	8.3	86.8	26.4	20.3	45.2	77.3	42.0	14.8
Victoria	**37.0	1.5	83.7	5.9	23.8	11.1	74.9	42.3	3.8
Queensland	38.9	7.2	80.8	26.6	16.2	44.4	90.8	31.4	16.2
South Australia	42.4	1.7	82.4	6.0	23.1	10.6	80.0	23.4	4.3
Western Australia	41.2	4.2	79.4	16.1	12.8	26.8	89.9	24.6	9.5
Tasmania	44.8	0.8	81.3	3.5	23.1	5.6	76.0	27.0	1.8
Northern Territory	43.1	4.3	75.8	15.5	8.8	26.7	94.8	33.4	10.0
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIIC REGIONS</b>									
Queanbeyan	36.2	0.7	76.0	2.1	16.4	3.9	76.6	33.6	1.2
Bourke	35.5	0.6	78.0	2.8	13.2	4.2	77.9	72.1	1.5
Coffs harbour	52.4	2.4	89.0	6.5	27.3	9.7	82.7	37.0	3.2
Sydney	33.7	2.3	89.8	7.0	24.7	14.0	78.6	37.8	4.5
Tamworth	49.0	0.7	93.1	3.3	18.0	5.7	70.1	28.2	2.1
Wagga Wagga	29.3	1.8	85.3	4.9	16.0	8.8	75.2	49.5	2.8

(a) Excludes persons attending school. (b) Includes ACT and Jervis Bay.

TABLE 29. PERSONS AGED 13 TO 18 YEARS : AGE BY SCHOOL PARTICIPATION RATE(a) BY SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994  
(per cent)

Age (years)	Males	Females	Persons
13	100	100	100
14	95	100	97
15	91	92	92
16	37	69	53
17	21	46	35
18	** 0.0	20	6

(a) The school participation rate measures the number of school students of a particular age expressed as a proportion of the estimated resident population of the same age and sex.

**TABLE 30. SCHOOL STUDENTS : CHARACTERISTICS OF SCHOOLING BY TYPE OF SCHOOL ATTENDED  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Characteristics of schooling</i>	<i>Government</i>	<i>Non-Government</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>
	— per cent —		
<b>Level of school attending</b>			
Primary school	62.6	62.8	62.6
Secondary school	33.1	34.6	33.2
Combined Primary/Secondary school	4.3	** 2.5	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether taught about Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultures at school</b>			
Taught about culture	47.5	39.2	46.9
Not taught about culture	52.2	60.8	52.8
Not stated	** 0.3	** 0.0	** 0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether taught Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages at school</b>			
Taught language	9.6	** 2.4	9.0
Not taught language	83.8	92.3	84.4
Don't know/not stated	6.6	** 5.2	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether taught by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander teacher/education worker/community member</b>			
Yes	33.9	** 26.0	33.4
No	59.9	62.7	60.0
Don't know/not stated	6.1	** 11.2	6.5
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>23.3</b>

(a) The column 'Don't know/Not stated' has not been displayed due to high standard error, however the figures in this column do include these items.

**TABLE 31. PERSONS WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL : ATTITUDES TO SCHOOLING CHILDREN ARE RECEIVING  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Attitudes to children's schooling</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	— per cent —
<b>Whether happy with education children are receiving at school</b>	
Happy with education	77.3
Not happy with education	14.4
Don't know/not stated	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether made to feel welcome at children's school</b>	
Feels welcome	75.8
Sometimes feels/does not feel welcome or don't know	17.8
Does not go to the school	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether involved in decision making at children's school</b>	
Involved	36.2
Not involved	63.7
Not stated	** 0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether preferred to send children to Aboriginal community controlled school</b>	
Would have preferred	42.0
Would not have preferred	41.8
Already attends	** 0.6
Don't know/not stated	15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>14.8</b>

**TABLE 32. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO HAVE LEFT SCHOOL : SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>With post-school educational qualifications</i>	<i>Without post-school educational qualifications</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total (<sup>'000</sup>)</i>
	— per cent —			
Males	21.1	78.9	100.0	22.6
Females	19.6	80.4	100.0	22.6
Persons	20.3	79.7	100.0	45.2
<b>Age group (years)</b>				
15-24	16.3	83.7	100.0	12.6
25-44	24.5	75.5	100.0	22.5
45 and over	16.0	84.0	100.0	10.1
<b>Part of state</b>				
Capital city	23.9	76.1	100.0	14.8
Other urban	20.2	79.8	100.0	24.7
Rural	11.9	88.1	100.0	5.7
<b>Labour force status</b>				
Employed				
Non-CDEP	34.3	65.7	100.0	13.0
CDEP(c)	** 11.4	88.6	100.0	2.1
Unemployed	17.3	82.7	100.0	12.7
Not in labour force	13.6	86.4	100.0	16.5
Not applicable	** 6.5	93.5	100.0	0.9
<b>Annual personal income (\$)</b>				
0-12,000	14.3	85.7	100.0	23.9
12,001-25,000	18.6	81.4	100.0	13.3
25,001 or more	46.2	53.8	100.0	6.1
Not stated/not applicable	** 25.3	74.7	100.0	1.9

(c) Community Development Employment Projects.

**TABLE 33. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO HAVE LEFT SCHOOL : WHETHER WANTS TO DO FURTHER STUDY OR TRAINING BY MAIN DIFFICULTY BY SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	— per cent —		
<b>Wants to do further study or training</b>			
Main difficulty			
No childcare available	** 1.8	11.3	6.5
Lack of transport/travel	9.1	4.4	6.8
Lack of pre-requisites or English proficiency	8.6	7.2	7.9
No courses available	5.0	3.5	4.2
Other difficulty	17.9	14.7	16.3
No difficulty	10.1	13.0	11.5
Not stated	** 0.2	** 0.1	** 0.2
Total	52.9	54.1	53.5
<b>Does not want to do further study or training</b>	47.1	45.7	46.4
<b>Not stated</b>	** 0.0	** 0.2	** 0.1
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Total (<sup>'000</sup>)</b>	22.6	22.6	45.2

TABLE 34. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO HAVE LEFT SCHOOL AND ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING FOR A QUALIFICATION : TYPE OF INSTITUTION ATTENDING AND PART OF STATE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

	<i>Persons</i>
	— per cent —
<b>Institution providing course</b>	
University(a)	41.3
TAFE	35.6
Other / Not stated	23.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	— ('000) —
<b>Part of State</b>	
Capital city	1.8
Other urban	1.3
Rural	** 0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Sex</b>	
Males	1.6
Females	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.5</b>

(a) Includes other higher educational institutions.

TABLE 35. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO HAVE LEFT SCHOOL AND WHO ATTENDED A TRAINING COURSE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS: DETAILS OF MAIN TRAINING COURSE ATTENDED  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994

<i>Details of main training course</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	— per cent —
<b>Provider of course</b>	
TAFE / Employer	48.4
Other / Not stated	51.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether completed</b>	
Completed	63.5
Didn't complete, still studying, or not stated	36.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Length of course</b>	
Less than 9 weeks	38.1
9 weeks or more	60.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>5.6</b>

**TABLE 36. HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS : DISTANCE FROM NEAREST EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION BY PART OF STATE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Distance in kms to nearest institution</i>	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Total</i>
	— per cent —			
<b>Distance to nearest pre-school</b>				
0-10 km	100.0	99.3	78.3	96.9
Over 10 km	** 0.0	** 0.7	21.7	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Distance to nearest primary school</b>				
0-10 km	100.0	100.0	78.3	97.2
Over 10 km	** 0.0	** 0.0	21.7	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Distance to nearest secondary school-year 10</b>				
0-10 km	93.8	95.6	43.1	88.3
Over 10 km	** 3.1	4.4	38.9	8.3
Not stated	** 3.0	** 0.0	18.0	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Distance to nearest secondary school-year 12</b>				
0-10 km	94.1	88.9	40.1	84.6
Over 10 km	5.9	11.1	44.6	13.5
Not stated	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 15.3	** 1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Distance to nearest TAFE college</b>				
0-10 km	79.2	66.4	** 14.5	64.5
Over 10 km	20.8	32.3	70.2	32.9
Not stated	** 0.0	** 1.3	** 15.3	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Distance to nearest University</b>				
0-10 km	35.9	12.4	** 0.0	19.4
Over 10 km	64.1	87.6	84.7	78.6
Not stated	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 15.3	** 1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>

## EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the main findings on employment and income including:

- labour force status;
- jobs and cultural obligation;
- difficulties finding a job;
- voluntary work; and
- level and source of income.

### EMPLOYMENT

The importance of work (paid or unpaid) is a feature of adult life. A person's labour force status can often be linked to education and income and may impact on their socio-economic well-being.

#### Labour force status

The total number of people in the labour force is estimated at 28,500 persons (15,500 employed and 13,000 unemployed). The labour force participation rate is 60% for persons aged 15 years and over, 58% nationally. There was a sizeable difference in the participation rate for males, 75% (72% nationally) and females, 45% (44% nationally).

The overall unemployment rate was 46%, (38% nationally) with very little difference between males 44% and females 49%. The unemployment rate is greatest in the 20–24 age group (53%) and also very high in the 25–44 age group (49%) and in the 15–19 age group (46%). Females generally have a higher unemployment rate than males. Except for the 45 and over age group where males have a rate of 24% and females 14%.

#### Nature of jobs

Some 26% of persons were not able to meet their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultural obligations because of work commitments.

Of the 15,500 employed persons, 35% worked for a public sector organisation while 62% were employed in the private sector. Approximately 9% worked for the Commonwealth Government, and 21% for the State Government. In the private sector, 11% worked for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community organisation.

Over the 12 months prior to interview 19,400 persons aged 15 and over, had at least one job. More than half (54%) worked for the full 12 months.

#### Unemployment

Of the 13,000 unemployed persons, 42% had been out of work and looking for work for less than 12 months and 56% for 12 months or longer. Most unemployed persons (79%) were looking for full-time employment.

#### Persons not in the labour force

Of the 19,400 persons not in the labour force, that is, who were not working and not looking for work, 33% wanted a job: as did 44% of persons aged 25–44; 43% of those in Sydney; 31% in other urban areas; and 23% in rural areas.

Voluntary work      Around 11,400 persons, or 24% of persons aged 15 years and over, were engaged in voluntary work (27% nationally). More than a third of the volunteers (34%) did 6 or more hours of voluntary work per week.

## INCOME

Information on the level and source of income assists in understanding financial well-being. Regular income, regardless of source, is the main means by which individuals and households finance consumption. For persons aged 15 years and over, the main findings on income follow.

Personal income      An estimated 57% (59% nationally) received an annual income of \$12,000 or less, while 13% received more than \$25,000 (11% nationally).

Government payments were the main source of income for 57% of persons, non-CDEP earned income for 26% and CDEP earned income for 4%. An estimated 11% of persons stated they had no income.

The mean annual income was \$14,721 (\$16,129 for males and \$13,333 for females). The highest mean annual income was accrued by persons in non-CDEP employment (\$25,112) followed by CDEP employment (\$13,299) and government payments (\$10,076).

Of the estimated 32,300 persons who received government payments:

- 41% received family payments;
- 33% received Newstart or Jobsearch; and
- 19% received a sole parent pension (of whom 90% were female).

Household income      Incomplete or no income information was obtained for 18% of households. The annual income of around 23% (20% nationally) of private dwelling households was determined to have an annual household income of \$16,000 or less; 39% (40% nationally) had an income between \$16,001 and \$40,000; and 19% (22% nationally) had a determined income of over \$40,000.

Household income and the proportion of households with incomplete income information generally increased with household size.

**TABLE 37. EMPLOYMENT : STATES, NORTHERN TERRITORY AND  
NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIIC REGIONS, 1994**

	<i>Persons aged 15 years and over in the labour force</i>				<i>Persons aged 15 years and over</i>		
	<i>Employed</i>	<i>Unemployed</i>	<i>Unemployed for 12 months or more</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>Not in labour force</i>	<i>Parti- cipation rate</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>
<b>AUSTRALIA(b)</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>105.2</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>181.5</b>
New South Wales	54.4	45.6	25.8	28.5	40.5	59.5	47.9
Victoria	61.9	38.1	14.0	7.5	35.6	64.4	11.6
Queensland	66.9	33.1	13.2	28.2	41.1	58.9	47.8
South Australia	55.4	44.6	26.2	6.2	43.9	56.1	11.1
Western Australia	63.4	36.6	19.0	15.9	42.0	58.0	27.5
Tasmania	71.5	28.5	13.1	3.8	37.4	62.6	6.1
Northern Territory	63.4	36.6	18.4	13.9	50.3	49.7	28.0
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIIC REGIONS</b>							
Queanbeyan	57.3	42.7	27.0	3.1	29.2	70.8	4.3
Bourke	57.9	42.1	17.6	2.6	41.7	58.3	4.4
Coffs harbour	48.8	51.2	28.4	6.5	40.8	59.2	10.9
Sydney	67.5	32.5	16.8	9.6	35.5	64.5	15.0
Tamworth	46.5	53.5	36.1	3.4	44.6	55.4	6.2
Wagga Wagga	44.5	55.5	30.8	5.3	43.6	56.4	9.3

(a) Total for Australia, States and Northern Territory excludes persons in prison. (b) Includes ACT and Jervis Bay.

**TABLE 38. PERSONAL INCOME : STATES, NORTHERN TERRITORY AND NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIIC REGIONS, 1994**

	<i>Main Source of Income</i>						<i>Total(b)</i>
	<i>Earned income Non-CDEP</i>	<i>Earned income CDEP(a)</i>	<i>Government payments</i>	<i>No income</i>	<i>Annual income \$12,000 or less</i>	<i>Annual income over \$25,000</i>	
	— per cent —						
<b>AUSTRALIA(c)</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>181.5</b>
New South Wales	25.9	4.3	56.5	11.1	56.9	13.0	47.9
Victoria	32.1	** 3.2	51.6	13.0	53.3	16.2	11.6
Queensland	24.2	11.6	50.1	11.7	55.8	11.1	47.8
South Australia	21.1	6.3	62.0	7.4	62.3	11.3	11.1
Western Australia	20.0	13.1	56.6	9.1	63.7	9.3	27.5
Tasmania	41.3	** 0.2	47.6	10.3	53.6	14.1	6.1
Northern Territory	16.9	11.3	60.4	10.4	69.7	6.8	28.0
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIIC REGIONS</b>							
Queanbeyan	39.5	** 0.0	50.5	8.8	55.3	13.8	4.3
Bourke	12.7	18.3	56.8	8.8	67.0	5.6	4.4
Coffs Harbour	24.8	** 2.4	61.7	10.6	58.1	10.9	10.9
Sydney	37.6	** 2.5	42.8	13.0	48.8	20.4	15.0
Tamworth	19.5	** 3.2	61.2	14.6	53.5	9.6	6.2
Wagga Wagga	19.5	5.2	66.8	6.9	62.0	13.0	9.3

(a) Community Development Employment Projects. (b) Total for Australia, States and Northern Territory excludes persons in prison, refer to Appendix B. (c) Includes ACT and Jervis Bay.

**TABLE 39. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a) : LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY SEX BY AGE AND PART OF STATE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994  
(<sup>'000</sup>)**

	<i>Age group (years)</i>				<i>Part of State</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-44</i>	<i>45 and over</i>	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	
<b>MALES</b>								
Employed								
Non-CDEP	1.0	1.4	4.2	1.7	3.6	4.1	** 0.6	8.2
CDEP(b)	** 0.5	** 0.3	** 0.5	** 0.2	** 0.4	0.8	** 0.3	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>9.8</b>
Unemployed	1.1	1.4	4.4	0.6	1.8	4.7	1.1	7.6
Unemployment rate (per cent)	42.4	46.0	48.4	24.1	30.5	48.8	56.5	43.6
<b>Total Labour Force</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>17.3</b>
Not in Labour Force	1.4	0.6	1.6	2.3	1.8	3.2	0.9	5.9
Participation rate (per cent)	65.7	83.5	84.9	52.1	76.6	74.7	69.4	74.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>23.2</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>								
Employed								
Non-CDEP	0.7	0.8	2.6	1.0	2.6	2.0	** 0.5	5.2
CDEP(b)	** 0.1	** 0.1	** 0.2	** 0.3	** 0.0	** 0.5	** 0.1	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Unemployed	0.9	1.5	2.8	** 0.2	1.9	3.1	** 0.4	5.4
Unemployment rate (per cent)	52.2	63.2	50.5	13.7	41.3	55.7	41.8	48.6
<b>Total Labour Force</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>11.2</b>
Not in Labour Force	2.2	1.7	5.7	3.9	3.7	7.3	2.6	13.5
Participation rate (per cent)	44.6	58.2	49.5	27.2	55.2	43.6	28.6	45.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>24.7</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>								
Employed								
Non-CDEP	1.7	2.2	6.8	2.7	6.3	6.1	1.1	13.4
CDEP(b)	0.6	** 0.4	0.7	** 0.4	** 0.4	1.3	** 0.4	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>
Unemployed	2.0	2.9	7.3	0.8	3.6	7.8	1.5	13.0
Unemployment rate (per cent)	46.4	53.3	49.2	20.2	35.3	51.4	51.4	45.6
<b>Total Labour Force</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>28.5</b>
Not in Labour Force	3.6	2.3	7.4	6.2	5.4	10.5	3.5	19.4
Participation rate (per cent)	55.1	70.4	66.7	38.9	65.4	59.1	46.6	59.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>47.9</b>

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes. (b) Community Development Employment Projects.

**TABLE 40. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a) : NUMBER OF JOBS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY NUMBER OF MONTHS WORKED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994  
(<sup>000</sup>)**

	<i>Less than 3 months</i>	<i>3 months to less than 6 months</i>	<i>6 months to less than 9 months</i>	<i>9 months to less than 12 months</i>	<i>12 months</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
No jobs	26.9	..	..	..	..	..	26.9
One job	1.6	1.9	1.7	0.9	9.4	** 0.1	15.6
Two or more jobs	** 0.5	0.8	1.3	** 0.1	1.0	** 0.1	3.8
Not stated	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	1.6	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>47.9</b>

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes.

**TABLE 41. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO ARE EMPLOYED : WHETHER WORK ALLOWS CULTURAL OBLIGATIONS TO BE MET BY PART OF STATE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Total</i>
	— per cent —			
All workers				
Can meet obligations	29.7	35.4	45.0	33.9
Cannot meet obligations	26.1	28.5	** 14.0	26.1
Doesn't have cultural obligations	32.4	30.4	** 29.9	31.2
Not stated	11.7	** 5.7	** 11.1	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total (<sup>000</sup>)</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>15.5</b>

**TABLE 42. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO ARE EMPLOYED : SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT BY PART OF STATE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Sector of employment</i>	<i>Part of State</i>			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>			
	— per cent —					
<b>Public Sector</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>** 20.5</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>35.0</b>
<b>Private Sector</b>						
Community	** 5.7	13.4	** 24.9	10.4	12.5	11.2
Other Private	60.7	40.0	54.6	52.2	47.0	50.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>79.5</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>61.5</b>
Not stated	** 0.6	** 6.9	** 0.0	** 4.6	** 1.8	** 3.6
<b>Total (<sup>000</sup>)</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>15.5</b>

**TABLE 43. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED : LENGTH OF TIME UNEMPLOYED BY SEX, AGE AND PART OF STATE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994  
(<sup>'000</sup>)**

	<i>Less than 12 months</i>	<i>12 months or more</i>	<i>Not stated</i>	<i>Total</i>
Males	3.4	4.2	** 0.0	7.6
Females	2.1	3.2	** 0.2	5.4
<b>Age group (years)</b>				
15-24	2.7	2.2	** 0.0	4.9
25-44	2.5	4.6	** 0.2	7.3
45 and over	** 0.3	** 0.5	** 0.0	0.8
<b>Part of state</b>				
Capital city	1.7	1.7	** 0.2	3.6
Other urban	3.3	4.5	** 0.0	7.8
Rural	** 0.5	1.1	** 0.0	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>** 0.2</b>	<b>13.0</b>

**TABLE 44. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED : WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK BY PART OF STATE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Part of State</i>			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>			
	— per cent —					
<b>Whether looking for full-time or part-time work</b>						
Full-time	71.0	82.0	78.4	90.6	61.7	78.5
Part-time	29.0	18.0	** 21.6	9.4	38.3	21.5
Not stated	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TABLE 45. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER WHO ARE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : WHETHER WOULD LIKE A JOB BUT NOT LOOKING FOR WORK BY PART OF STATE, AGE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Part of State</i>			<i>Age group (years)</i>			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>15-24</i>	<i>25-44</i>	<i>45 and over</i>			
	— per cent —								
<b>Would like a job but not looking for work</b>	42.6	30.5	23.1	37.8	43.5	14.5	26.3	35.3	32.6
<b>Would not like a job</b>	40.6	52.8	61.5	38.8	38.3	77.4	54.8	49.2	50.9
<b>Did not state if would like a job</b>	16.8	16.7	** 15.5	23.4	18.1	** 8.1	18.9	15.5	16.5
<b>Total (<sup>'000</sup>)</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>19.4</b>

**TABLE 46. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a) : WHETHER ENGAGED IN VOLUNTARY WORK AND TYPE OF VOLUNTARY WORK UNDERTAKEN  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Total ('000)</i>
Person engaged in voluntary work	11.4
Caring for sick or aged people	1.8
Working for community or sporting organisations	4.3
Working at a school or with youth groups	3.5
Working on committees	4.0
Hunting, fishing or gathering bush food	2.4
Other	1.4
Person not engaged in voluntary work	36.1
Not stated	** 0.4

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes.

**TABLE 47. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a) : SEX, PART OF STATE AND MEAN ANNUAL INCOME BY MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Main source of income</i>						<i>Total</i>	<i>Total ('000)</i>
	<i>Earned income Non-CDEP</i>	<i>Earned income CDEP(b)</i>	<i>Government payments</i>	<i>All income recipients</i>	<i>No income</i>	<i>Not stated</i>		
			— per cent —					
Males	33.0	6.4	49.4	88.9	8.6	2.5	100.0	23.2
Females	19.1	** 2.2	63.2	84.6	13.5	** 2.0	100.0	24.7
Persons	25.9	4.3	56.5	86.7	11.1	2.3	100.0	47.9
<b>Part of State</b>								
Capital city	37.5	** 2.4	44.7	84.6	12.5	** 3.0	100.0	15.7
Other urban	21.7	5.0	62.2	88.9	9.0	** 2.1	100.0	25.7
Rural	14.0	** 5.9	63.0	82.9	16.1	** 1.1	100.0	6.5
<b>Annual personal income (\$)</b>								
0-12,000	5.3	3.4	71.8	80.5	19.5	..	100.0	27.3
12,001-25,000	39.5	7.7	52.8	100.0	..	..	100.0	13.5
25,001 or more	92.3	** 1.2	** 6.5	100.0	..	..	100.0	6.1
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	100.0	100.0	1.1
<b>Mean annual income —</b>			— \$ —					
Males	26,731	13,441	9,394	16,129	..	..	..	..
Females	22,488	12,914	10,576	13,333	..	..	..	..
Persons	25,112	13,299	10,076	14,721	..	..	..	..

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes. (b) Community Development Employment Projects.

**TABLE 48. PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a) : WHETHER RECEIVING GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS BY TYPE OF PAYMENT BY AGE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994  
(<sup>'000</sup>)**

	<i>Age group (years)</i>			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>15-24</i>	<i>25-44</i>	<i>45 and over</i>			
Persons receiving Government payments	9.4	16.4	6.6	13.2	19.1	32.3
Allowances and pensions						
Newstart allowance	2.3	3.7	0.7	4.8	1.9	6.7
Jobsearch allowance	1.6	2.3	** 0.1	2.6	1.4	4.0
Age pension or sickness allowance	** 0.1	** 0.5	2.6	1.0	2.2	3.2
Disability support pension	** 0.1	1.3	2.3	1.9	1.8	3.7
Sole parent pension	1.8	3.9	** 0.5	0.6	5.5	6.1
Other payments(b)						
Family payment	2.9	9.4	1.0	1.7	11.6	13.4
Rent assistance	1.2	3.5	1.6	2.4	3.8	6.2
Other	3.0	1.8	** 0.5	2.0	3.4	5.3
Persons not receiving Government payments	5.9	5.7	3.6	9.7	5.5	15.2
Not stated	** 0.4	** 0.0	** 0.0	** 0.3	** 0.1	** 0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>47.9</b>

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes. (b) Persons may be receiving an allowance or pension in addition to one or more of these payments.

**TABLE 49. HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS : NUMBER OF DEPENDANTS BY WHETHER ANY PERSON WORKING  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Number of dependent children in the household</i>	<i>Number of persons working</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Total (<sup>'000</sup>)</i>
	<i>One or more persons working</i>	<i>No one working</i>		
	— per cent —			
None	61.6	38.4	100.0	10.8
One	67.4	32.6	100.0	6.3
Two	52.8	47.2	100.0	4.3
Three	45.2	54.8	100.0	3.3
Four or more	41.1	58.9	100.0	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>27.0</b>

**TABLE 50. HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS : HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY NUMBER OF USUAL RESIDENTS IN HOUSEHOLD BY PART OF STATE  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Annual household income (\$)</i>	<i>Number of usual residents</i>		<i>Part of State</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>1 to 3</i>	<i>4 or more</i>	<i>Capital city</i>	<i>Other urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	
	— per cent —					
0-12,000	25.2	** 2.2	12.8	12.3	28.4	14.5
12,001-16,000	11.2	6.1	6.6	10.8	** 7.1	8.8
16,001-25,000	17.1	17.7	12.7	20.7	17.8	17.4
25,001-40,000	17.8	26.5	27.4	19.9	** 13.6	21.8
40,001 or more	15.6	23.3	21.0	19.4	** 12.9	19.2
Not stated	13.2	24.2	19.5	17.0	20.2	18.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total (<sup>'000</sup>)</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>

## LAW AND JUSTICE

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the survey results covering the following issues:

- use of legal services;
- arrests;
- personal safety including family violence; and
- attitudes to and relations with police.

#### Use of legal services

During the 12 months before interview, 17% (17% nationally) of persons aged 13 years and over needed to use legal services. Of these, 11% used the Aboriginal Legal Service and 6% used Legal Aid and other legal services. Male needs (21%) were higher than female (14%).

#### Arrests

Nearly a quarter of persons aged 13 years and over (23%) reported having been arrested in the last five years. A higher proportion of males (35%) (32% nationally) than females (10%) (9% nationally) had been arrested. Approximately 27% of persons aged between 15–44 had been arrested in comparison to 11% of persons aged 45 years and over. Some 42% of males and 13% of females aged between 15–44 years had not been arrested.

A greater proportion of persons who had been taken away from their natural families as children, reported being arrested (31%) compared to those who had not been separated from their natural families (22%).

Rates of arrest were higher in other urban areas (25%) and in Sydney (22%) than in rural areas (16%).

There was little difference between arrest rates reported amongst people who had completed differing levels of schooling : varying from 26% for those persons who had left school below year 10 to 23% for those who had completed year 12.

An estimated 38% of unemployed persons and 34% of persons working on CDEP had been arrested. In comparison, 16% of persons who were working in non-CDEP employment or 15% who were not in the labour force reported being arrested.

#### Personal safety

Approximately 15% (13% nationally) of persons aged 13 years and over had been physically attacked or verbally threatened in the 12 months preceding interview. More males (17%) than females (13%) were attacked or verbally threatened. Of persons who had been physically attacked or verbally threatened 38% suffered verbal threats, 33% physical attacks and 29% both.

Of persons physically attacked or verbally threatened in the last incident, 40% reported the incident to the police.

#### Family violence

Approximately 42% (45% nationally) of persons aged 13 years and over perceived family violence to be a common problem in their local area while 23% felt that it was not and 35% did not know. More females (44%) than males (39%) felt that family violence was a common problem.

Persons in Sydney were less sure about whether family violence was a problem, with 45% saying they did not know if it was a problem in their area. Only 29% reported don't know in other urban areas and 34% in rural areas.

#### Relations with police

The survey asked questions relating to incidents of friction with police, including whether a person reported being hassled or physically assaulted by the police in the last year.

A tenth of all persons aged 13 years and over reported being hassled by police during the 12 months prior to being interviewed (10% nationally). Some 16% of males said they were hassled compared to 5% of females .

Approximately 2% of persons aged 13 years and over said they were physically assaulted by the police in the 12 months before interview.

People's assessment of whether relations with the police had improved, stayed the same or worsened over the last five years indicated that 39% felt persons get along with police about the same as five years ago (39% nationally). About one fifth (20%) felt that current police relations are better, 20% worse and 32% did not know. The estimates were similar for both males and females.

Of persons aged 13 years and over 35% thought the police performed well when dealing with crime and (22%) when dealing with violence (37% nationally). A lower proportion expressed satisfaction at police dealings with family violence 26%. The proportion of persons who thought the police did not do a good job in the following areas were:

- dealing with crime, 27%;
- dealing with violence, 24%; and
- dealing with family violence, 20%.

The main reasons for dissatisfaction with police in dealing with crime, violence and family violence were that they were too slow to respond, they did not understand Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or culture and they don't fully investigate. A relatively low proportion of persons thought that lack of police or patrol cars caused them to be dissatisfied with police.

**TABLE 51. LAW AND JUSTICE AND VOTING PATTERNS : STATES, NORTHERN TERRITORY AND NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIK REGIONS, 1994**

	<i>Persons aged 13 years and over</i>				<i>Persons aged 18 years and over</i>			
	<i>Physically attacked or verbally threatened</i>	<i>Needed legal services in last 12 Months</i>	<i>Arrested in last 5 years</i>	<i>Believe that people get on better with police now than 5 years ago</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Voted in Federal election</i>	<i>Voted in ATSIK election</i>	<i>Total</i>
	-- per cent --				( '000)	-- per cent --		( '000)
<b>AUSTRALIA(a)</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>197.5</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>163.8</b>
New South Wales	14.6	17.2	22.5	19.6	52.0	64.2	25.0	43.0
Victoria	25.2	25.3	22.6	21.1	12.6	67.2	29.9	10.6
Queensland	8.8	14.2	14.9	18.7	52.1	70.1	43.3	43.1
South Australia	15.4	22.1	28.5	24.1	11.9	57.7	30.3	10.1
Western Australia	13.5	17.3	25.4	20.6	30.2	60.6	48.2	25.0
Tasmania	13.4	17.4	12.6	15.4	6.6	87.1	20.0	5.4
Northern Territory	10.2	14.7	19.6	30.6	30.9	66.9	59.8	25.5
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES ATSIK REGIONS</b>								
Queanbeyan	7.5	23.9	20.4	21.4	4.6	74.4	38.8	3.5
Bourke	**2.5	11.4	19.6	13.4	4.9	69.5	46.7	3.8
Coffs harbour	21.0	21.6	23.1	18.5	11.8	53.0	24.2	9.3
Sydney	16.0	16.2	18.2	22.9	15.6	78.3	19.6	13.4
Tamworth	12.1	15.7	22.4	14.4	6.7	39.5	21.3	5.6
Wagga Wagga	13.5	8.9	23.9	23.1	9.8	69.6	25.0	8.4

(a) Includes ACT and Jervis Bay.

**TABLE 52. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER : WHETHER NEEDED TO USE LEGAL SERVICES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AND TYPE OF LEGAL SERVICE USED BY DISTANCE TO NEAREST ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE BY SEX NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Distance to nearest Aboriginal Legal Service (km)</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>0-50</i>	<i>Over 50</i>			
	-- per cent --				
<b>Need legal services(a)</b>					
Used Aboriginal legal service	17.8	11.7	20.7	13.7	17.2
Used other legal service	10.4	7.7	12.2	9.0	10.6
Did not use legal service	5.9	3.4	6.9	4.8	5.9
Did not need legal services	2.2	** 0.9	2.7	** 0.7	1.7
<b>Did not need legal services</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>82.5</b>
Not stated	** 0.2	** 0.5	** 0.1	** 0.5	** 0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>52.0</b>

(a) Persons may have used more than one type of legal service.

**TABLE 53. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER : SELECTED PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS BY WHETHER ARRESTED IN  
LAST 5 YEARS  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Not arrested</i>	<i>Arrested</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total ('000)</i>
	— per cent —			
<b>Males-Age group (years)</b>				
13-14	93.8	** 6.2	100.0	1.6
15-24	56.7	43.3	100.0	8.2
25-44	59.4	40.6	100.0	11.1
45 and over	81.3	18.7	100.0	4.7
Total	64.7	35.3	100.0	25.6
<b>Females-Age group (years)</b>				
13-14	97.1	** 2.9	100.0	1.6
15-24	84.3	15.7	100.0	8.0
25-44	90.4	9.6	100.0	11.4
45 and over	95.2	** 4.8	100.0	5.4
Total	89.9	10.1	100.0	26.3
<b>Persons-Age group (years)</b>				
13-14	95.5	** 4.5	100.0	3.2
15-24	70.3	29.7	100.0	16.2
25-44	75.1	24.9	100.0	22.5
45 and over	88.7	11.3	100.0	10.1
Total	77.5	22.5	100.0	52.0
<b>Part of State</b>				
Capital city	78.5	21.5	100.0	16.6
Other urban	75.4	24.6	100.0	28.5
Rural	83.9	16.1	100.0	6.8
<b>Whether taken away from natural family as a child</b>				
Taken away as a child	69.5	30.5	100.0	3.4
Not taken away as a child	78.2	21.8	100.0	47.0
No answer/not stated	73.1	** 26.9	100.0	1.6
<b>Whether recognises homelands</b>				
Recognises homelands	75.2	24.8	100.0	35.7
Does not recognise homelands	82.4	17.6	100.0	16.2
Not stated	** 100.0	** 0.0	** 100.0	** 0.1
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Still at school	95.8	** 4.2	100.0	6.8
Below year 10	74.2	25.8	100.0	23.2
Year 10	72.4	27.6	100.0	10.4
Year 12	76.6	23.4	100.0	2.5
With post-school educational qualifications	78.4	21.6	100.0	9.2
<b>Whether working</b>				
Employed				
Non-CDEP	84.1	15.9	100.0	13.4
CDEP(a)	66.4	33.6	100.0	2.1
Unemployed	62.0	38.0	100.0	13.0
Not in Labour Force	85.1	14.9	100.0	19.4
Not applicable	75.0	25.0	100.0	4.1

(a) Community Development Employment Projects.

**TABLE 54. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER : WHETHER PHYSICALLY ATTACKED OR VERBALLY THREATENED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	— per cent —			
Verbally threatened or physically attacked				
Verbally threatened only	5.6		5.5	5.6
Physically attacked only	6.4		3.2	4.8
Verbally threatened and physically attacked	4.5		4.0	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.5</b>		<b>12.7</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Not verbally threatened or physically attacked	83.5		87.3	85.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>25.6</b>		<b>26.3</b>	<b>52.0</b>

**TABLE 55. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER WHO WERE PHYSICALLY ATTACKED OR VERBALLY THREATENED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS : WHETHER LAST INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO POLICE BY AGE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Age group (years)</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons(b)</i>
	<i>13-24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>			
	— per cent —				
<b>Whether last physical attack reported(a)</b>					
Not reported	—	—	—	—	46.1
Reported	—	—	—	—	48.1
<b>Total last incident was a physical attack ('000)</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Whether last verbal attack reported(a)</b>					
Not reported	—	—	—	—	64.2
Reported	—	—	—	—	32.3
<b>Total last incident was a verbal threat ('000)</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>

(a) Cells containing symbol '—' suppressed due to very low response rates (b) The very small number of 'Not stated' responses have not been displayed, hence the column does not always add to 100%.

**TABLE 56. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER(a) : WHETHER FAMILY VIOLENCE IS A COMMON PROBLEM IN THE LOCAL AREA BY PART OF STATE BY SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Part of state</i>								
	<i>Capital city</i>		<i>Other urban</i>		<i>Rural</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Persons</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
	— per cent —								
Family violence is a problem	24.1	26.9	45.5	53.7	47.0	47.4	38.8	44.0	41.5
Family violence is not a problem	30.7	27.3	22.2	19.5	19.0	18.0	24.5	21.9	23.2
Don't know/not stated	45.2	45.8	32.4	26.8	34.0	34.6	36.7	34.2	35.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>51.1</b>

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes.

**TABLE 57. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER : WHETHER HASSLED OR PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED BY POLICE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	— per cent —			
<b>Whether hassled by the police in the last year</b>				
Hassled by the police	15.6		4.5	10.0
Not hassled by the police	83.3		94.8	89.1
Not stated	** 1.1		** 0.6	** 0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Whether physically assaulted by police in last year</b>				
Assaulted by the police	3.3		** 1.1	2.2
Not assaulted by the police	96.5		98.5	97.5
Not stated	** 0.2		** 0.3	** 0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>25.6</b>		<b>26.3</b>	<b>52.0</b>

**TABLE 58. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER : PERCEPTION OF CURRENT RELATIONS WITH POLICE COMPARED TO 5 YEARS AGO BY AGE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

	<i>Age group (years)</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>13-24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>			
	— per cent —				
<b>Whether Aboriginal and Torres Straft Islander people get along with the police better now than 5 years ago</b>					
Better	18.1	20.5	22.6	16.7	19.6
About the same	39.6	38.2	37.9	39.5	38.7
Worse	19.0	19.8	21.2	17.8	19.5
Don't know/not stated	23.2	21.6	18.3	26.0	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>52.0</b>

**TABLE 59. PERSONS AGED 13 YEARS AND OVER(a) : WHETHER POLICE DO A GOOD JOB DEALING WITH CRIME, VIOLENCE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AND REASONS POLICE DON'T DO A GOOD JOB BY AGE AND SEX  
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1994**

<i>Whether police do a good job</i>	<i>Age group (years)</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	<i>13-24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>			
	— per cent —				
<b>Dealing with crime</b>					
Police do a good job	34.1	35.1	35.0	34.5	34.7
Police sometimes do a good job	18.0	15.9	18.4	15.1	16.7
Police don't do a good job(b)	26.3	27.4	26.4	27.6	27.0
Too slow to respond	12.0	10.1	9.3	12.3	10.8
Don't respond at all	5.2	5.8	5.2	6.0	5.6
Don't fully investigate	9.1	6.8	7.5	7.8	7.6
Not enough police or patrol cars	** 1.4	3.2	2.7	2.5	2.6
Don't understand people or culture	7.9	6.8	6.1	8.2	7.2
Other reasons/not stated	7.5	7.0	7.3	7.0	7.2
Don't know/not stated	21.5	21.6	20.2	22.8	21.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Dealing with violence</b>					
Police do a good job	31.1	32.8	33.5	30.9	32.2
Police sometimes do a good job	18.1	14.3	15.3	16.1	15.7
Police don't do a good job(b)	24.2	23.4	25.3	22.2	23.7
Too slow to respond	9.3	9.5	9.8	9.0	9.4
Don't respond at all	5.3	6.8	7.6	4.9	6.2
Don't fully investigate	8.6	6.6	7.2	7.5	7.3
Not enough police or patrol cars	** 1.5	2.0	** 1.8	** 1.8	1.8
Don't understand culture	9.7	7.1	8.5	7.5	8.0
Other reasons/not stated	7.5	5.5	5.1	7.3	6.3
Don't know/not stated	26.5	29.4	25.9	30.7	28.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Dealing with family violence</b>					
Police do a good job	25.7	26.0	27.2	24.7	25.9
Police sometimes do a good job	14.7	11.9	12.8	13.0	12.9
Police don't do a good job(b)	19.8	20.3	19.3	20.9	20.1
Too slow to respond	7.3	7.8	6.5	8.7	7.6
Don't respond at all	4.4	4.2	3.0	5.5	4.3
Don't fully investigate	8.2	5.9	5.6	7.8	6.8
Not enough police or patrol cars	** 0.9	** 0.6	** 0.6	** 0.9	** 0.7
Don't understand culture	6.5	6.6	7.5	5.7	6.5
Other reasons/not stated	5.4	5.4	4.7	6.1	5.4
Don't know/not stated	39.8	41.8	40.7	41.4	41.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total ('000)</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>51.1</b>

(a) Excludes persons in prisons, refer to Explanatory notes. (b) Persons may have given more than one answer

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents one of the first national surveys of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and includes estimates of the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. In these notes all numerical details refer to the whole of Australia.

### SCOPE

#### Persons

**2** The survey sample was selected from all people identifying as Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders who live in Australia. Non-Indigenous people usually residing in households with Indigenous people were included so that information for families and households would be complete. Solely non-Indigenous households were excluded from the survey.

#### Dwellings

**3** The survey included both private and special dwellings and where possible, people not living in a dwelling (campers-out). Private dwellings include houses, flats, home units, garages, tents and improvised houses. Special dwellings are prisons, educational institutions, nursing homes, caravan parks, hostels, staff quarters, etc.

#### Geographical area

**4** The survey encompassed remote, rural and urban areas and included all States and Territories.

### COVERAGE

**5** Rules were applied to ensure each person within the scope of the survey had only one chance of selection. The reference period for determining coverage was the current calendar month, i.e. the month in which interviews were conducted in the area. A person was interviewed at their usual residence unless they were away from the selected dwelling for the full calendar month. Persons away from their usual residence for the full calendar month had their chance of selection as a visitor at another dwelling.

**6** Visitors and campers-out with no specific place of residence were interviewed where found.

### SURVEY DESIGN

**7** The estimates contained in this publication are based on information obtained from a sample of approximately 5,000 dwellings throughout Australia which comprised about 6.6% (17,500 persons) of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, as reported in the 1991 Census of Population and Housing. Households were selected at random using a multistage sample design stratified by the 35 ATSI Regions and Torres Strait area. This design ensured the sample was nationally representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in different circumstances across the country.

**8** A sample of prisoners was included in the survey to ensure that estimates at the State, Northern Territory and national levels reflect the characteristics and attitudes of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including those in prison. The sample was not designed to produce separate estimates for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prison population itself. A clustered sample of male and female prisoners in 15 establishments, distributed across all States and the Northern

Territory, was selected in a way that conformed with the above aims, and was consistent with the costs and operational constraints of conducting the survey.

**9** It was not possible to select a prison sample that enabled prisoners to be included in statistics for ATSI Regions. The prison sample was clustered in each State and the Northern Territory, and so prisoners are over represented in some ATSI Regions and under represented or not represented at all in others. To produce regional estimates on this basis would distort regional characteristics particularly in those regions in which the prison sample was selected. This problem was overcome by not using the additional prisoner sample when compiling the regional estimates, although regional estimates still reflect the total demographic population estimates used to benchmark the survey. As a consequence of this, there are small differences between the summation of ATSI regional data to State and Northern Territory or national levels compared with the State and Northern Territory and national estimates contained in the publication tables.

More details on the techniques used in selecting the sample and compiling the estimates are given in the section Technical Notes on Sample Design and Variability.

## METHODOLOGY

**10** Based on 1991 Population Census data, a scientifically selected sample of 694 Census collection districts was chosen. To ensure that the sample properly took into account where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lived in 1994, ABS utilised its workforce of survey interviewers who conduct regular household surveys of the full Australian population. These interviewers approached approximately 135,500 private and special dwellings in the selected urban and rural Census collection districts, to find approximately 6,700 dwellings where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were currently living. A random sample of these dwellings was selected for inclusion in the survey. In some parts of Australia, particularly remote areas, the sample was able to be selected directly, without first finding dwellings where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were living.

**11** The survey data was collected by trained Indigenous interviewers from the selected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through personal interviews during the period April–July 1994. For children under 13 years of age, information was obtained from an adult responsible for the child. Persons aged 13–17 years were interviewed with the consent of the parent or guardian. Non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over, living in the selected dwellings, were also interviewed and asked a reduced range of questions pertaining to employment status and income, so that information for families and households would be complete.

**12** Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations assisted in the recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interviewers. The interviewers were provided with a comprehensive one-week training course and were supported throughout the survey by ABS State Survey Managers.

**13** The survey content covers both attitudinal and factual data which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the ABS, through a widespread consultation process, worked out to be the most important information to collect in the survey. An important outcome of the consultation process is that the information collected in the survey and the methods used to collect it took account of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural values and priorities.

The consultation process involved a number of interlinking steps which are summarised below.

**14** A Survey Advisory Committee (SAC) was established and chaired by an ATSI Commissioner with representatives from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, State and Commonwealth government departments and research groups. The SAC gave ABS advice on data Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would be asked to provide and on the way the survey would be conducted.

**15** Five Technical Reference Groups (TRGs) were set up with members having expertise in particular topic areas. The main role of the TRGs was to provide advice to the SAC and the ABS on data priorities and collection methodology, within the respective topic areas. A TRG was formed for the following areas: family and culture; health; education and training; income and employment.

The majority of members of the groups were Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. Less formal groups also provided advice on law and justice and on housing issues.

**16** In December 1992, the ABS wrote to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations that had an interest in the survey, to explain that it was to be conducted and to ask for advice about the information that it should collect and how it should be collected.

**17** Discussion with ATSI and its Board, together with widespread discussions with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations, continued during the entire survey development period. Papers on the draft and final survey content were broadly circulated and, when required, were followed up with organisations to further explain the issues and understand the organisation's views.

**18** Three newsletters were distributed to approximately 2,000 people and organisations and two survey videos were widely distributed through the Broadcasting to Remote Aboriginal Communities System (BRACS) network. A third video was produced by the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) and was used to publicise the survey.

**19** Content of the survey was also shaped by feedback from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and people during testing and from the results of the testing itself. A series of survey tests were conducted in November/December 1992, April, July and September 1993 with the final

test in November/December 1993. Testing was conducted in capital cities through to remote communities. Questions that were not generally acceptable to the people interviewed during testing were excluded from the final survey. In this way it was assured that the survey questions would be understood and acceptable to the vast majority of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who took part in the survey.

The data collected is listed below under the broad topic areas. A more detailed listing of all data items is available from the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics.

**20 Family and culture includes data on:**

- household composition;
- families;
- age and sex;
- fertility;
- child-care;
- cultural activities undertaken;
- homelands; and
- languages spoken.

**21 Health includes data on:**

- recent illness;
- health actions;
- specific illness conditions;
- disability;
- access and attitudes to health services;
- food security;
- relative weight;
- fat and sugar consumption;
- breastfeeding;
- alcohol and tobacco use; and
- attitudes to health.

**22 Housing includes data on:**

- type of dwelling;
- type of landlord;
- housing costs; and
- provision and failure of basic services.

**23** Education and training includes data on:

- schooling being undertaken;
- attitudes to school;
- age and year left school;
- educational attainment;
- current post-school study;
- training undertaken in the last year;
- further study and training; and
- access to educational institutions.

**24** Employment and income includes data on:

- labour force status;
- nature of jobs;
- unemployment;
- voluntary work;
- level of income; and
- source of income.

**25** Law and justice includes data on:

- access to and use of legal services;
- victims of crime;
- attitudes to family violence;
- attitudes to policing;
- experiences with the justice system; and
- voting patterns.

## INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

**26** Every care was taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. The survey was extensively tested and used a culturally appropriate methodology, including the recruitment and training of a panel of Indigenous interviewers to collect the survey data (refer to Methodology, paragraphs 10–12, in these notes for details). There remains, however, factors which affect the reliability of the results to some extent and for which no specific adjustments can be made. For instance, the estimates are based on a sample, and so they are subject to sampling variability. More details on the techniques used in selecting the sample and compiling the estimates are given in the Technical Notes on Sample Design and Variability.

**27** Inaccuracies may also arise from errors in responses. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors, and may occur in any enumeration whether it be a full count or a sample. The following factors should be considered when interpreting these estimates.

- Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents, and hence may differ from that which might be obtained from other sources or via other methodologies. Responses may be effected by imperfect recall or different understandings of some of the questions asked in parts of the survey. Lack of uniformity in interviewing ability and experience is also a potential source of error together with impressions made upon respondents by the interviewer's personal characteristics such as age, sex and appearance.
- Some attitudinal information was collected from respondents. Examples include: relations with the police; the role of elders; the extent to which people are happy with their children's education; self-assessed health status; whether people are happy with their local health service; whether people feel that family violence is a common problem in their area and whether people feel that the dwelling they live in meets their needs. Responses may have been influenced by the circumstances of the interview itself such as the presence of another family member. They may also have reflected momentary or short-term views due to some recent event, rather than the usual feelings or circumstances. Indeed, attitudes are continually evolving. As a result, some caution should be used in interpreting these data as necessarily indicative of general or usual perceptions.
- Further, a general caution is made concerning people's desire to conform or provide responses they feel are expected rather than those that more accurately fit the question. Through the development and adoption of a culturally appropriate survey methodology, every effort has been made to minimise such bias.

The influence of all of the above factors can be seen in different parts of the survey results and the following paragraphs draw attention to some specific areas.

#### Family and culture

**28** The classification of family types was undertaken from the relationship information collected from all persons living in the selected households. The coding was undertaken according to the standard ABS family classification, which does not always align with the traditional family composition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households. Because it was known that respondents in different parts of Australia would provide a mixture of traditional and non-traditional relationship information, it was decided for comparability reasons that Indigenous interviewers should record relationships in a form consistent with the standard ABS family classification.

**29** Derived information on the number of single-parent families may have been influenced by a lower than expected number of males aged between 20–30 years interviewed in the survey. Interviewer comments suggest that there was sometimes an inclination for this group not to identify as family members in de facto relationships. As a result, these persons were not included in the survey and the estimated number of single-parent families may be higher than would be expected had all males

in this age group taken part in this survey and identified their family relationship.

**30** Some difficulties were experienced in collecting sufficient information to identify all multi-family households, resulting in some undercount of this household type. Difficulties mainly stemmed from misinterpretation of questions and a low response to the questions necessary to establish relationships. The difficulties were mainly experienced in large households and confined primarily to the more rural and remote areas.

**31** There is evidence to suggest that people visiting selected households for periods longer than a few weeks were included in the survey as usual residents of those households rather than visitors. No specific time period was defined to delineate a usual resident from a visitor, the distinction was based on the respondent's perception. Testing had indicated that the application of a time period to distinguish usual residents from visitors would be too arbitrary because of mobility between dwellings and in many instances the association with multiple usual residences. The extent to which visitors reported themselves as usual residents cannot be quantified. However, in comparison to the 1991 Population Census this survey shows a higher number of the family type 'other related individuals' and a lower proportion of visitors, indicating that some visitors reported themselves as usual members of the household.

**32** Respondents were asked a series of questions on cultural issues including whether they had gone to any Indigenous cultural activities such as ceremonies, funerals and festivals in the last year, and whether they had a place to meet for cultural activities. Because of traditional sensitivities associated with some of these questions a level of under-reporting is expected to have occurred. Debriefings with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interviewers indicate that there was probably a higher level of non-response or mis-reporting to these and other cultural questions in the rural and remote communities than there was in the urban areas. The effect on survey estimates cannot be quantified.

#### Health

**33** Self-reported information on medical conditions was not medically verified, and was not necessarily based on diagnoses by medical practitioners or medical records kept by respondents. Some people may be unaware of minor or major conditions, or may have conditions that have not been diagnosed. It is also probable that in some instances conditions which respondents were unwilling to talk about at an interview were not reported.

**34** Obtaining correct terminology or sufficient information to describe different health conditions was sometimes a difficulty experienced by interviewers. Although this survey adopted a health action approach to recent conditions similar to that used in the 1989-90 National Health Survey (NHS), caution should be adopted when making comparisons of different medical conditions because of the greater emphasis on prompting to elicit all health actions and conditions in the NHS. In a survey focusing on health, it was possible to give more emphasis to prompting than it was

in this survey where the interview time that could be devoted to health was limited.

**35** Similarly, definitional differences exist between this survey and the NHS and must be taken into account when comparisons are being made. An example is long-term eye problems which are defined in the NHS to include all eye conditions lasting six months or more, irrespective of whether the condition(s) can be corrected by glasses. In the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, the definition of long-term eye problems excludes conditions that can be corrected by glasses. It is recommended that users familiarise themselves with the concepts and definitions used in the NHS (*1989-90 National Health Survey Summary of Results, Australia* (4364.0) and *1989-90 National Health Survey, Users' Guide* (4363.0)) before undertaking comparisons.

**36** Information on self-assessed health status should be used to complement, rather than as a substitute for, more objective measures on recent and/or long-term illness. Self-assessment may be influenced by many extraneous factors and its subjectivity is compounded by the variation in reference points used by individuals when assessing or comparing their health. Similar problems are experienced when collecting information from the broader Australian population. Information of this type complements measures of ill-health in the analysis of health-related actions and demand for health services. A person's self-assessed health status also has an influence on lifestyle behaviours such as smoking, diet and exercise.

**37** Some under-reporting of the quantity of cigarette smoking and whether people worry about going without food is expected to have occurred. Reasons may include social pressures, guilt/embarrassment (particularly in cases where other household members were present at the interview) and recall problems. Similar problems are experienced when collecting like information from the broader Australian population. The extent to which under-reporting has occurred and the effect on accuracy of survey estimates is not known.

**38** Dietary information was collected using a simplified fat and sugar index questionnaire and a 24 hour recall methodology. An independent test was undertaken by the Nutrition Program, University of Queensland, in November/December 1993 which verified the validity of this approach. Some under-reporting of some food types may still have occurred because of recall problems, embarrassment or misunderstanding. Also, responses to the diet questions may have sometimes been influenced by the day of interview because in some areas the consumption of different food types varies considerably depending on such things as the weather, arrival of supplies in the community and the number of days since 'pay day'. Responses may, therefore, not always reflect the individuals' overall consumption pattern or level.

#### Housing

**39** In comparison to the 1991 Population Census, housing type information from this survey shows a lower than expected number of improvised dwellings and a higher proportion of 'other dwelling types' in some ATSI Regions. Possible explanations for these variations are: the

selection of a disproportionately small number of improvised dwellings in the survey's sample caused by the overall small number of communities with improvised dwellings; some level of inconsistency in the classification of dwellings; seasonal factors associated with mobility; and the increased activity in building Aboriginal housing in some areas since the last Census. The impact of these factors is not, however, quantifiable.

#### Education and training

**40** Respondents, when unsure, were sometimes able to refer to their records to provide the full name of the courses they had completed in order that level of qualification could be coded during processing. In cases where full details were unavailable, coding of qualifications was undertaken using the limited amount of information recorded. This is likely to have had some effect on the accuracy of level of qualifications, including a relatively large number of qualifications categorised as 'inadequately described'.

#### Employment and income

**41** Survey estimates of the number of employed persons working in CDEP jobs are lower than the number of CDEP jobs quoted for the same period by ATSIIC. Information collected on whether or not a job was CDEP was not able to be independently verified in the field by the survey interviewers. Respondents were first asked if they had a job last week. Only if they answered 'yes' to that question were they then asked whether it was a CDEP job. It may be that some people on CDEP were not aware of this or may have answered 'no' to having a job because they did not look upon working on CDEP as a job.

**42** Labour force definitions adopted in this survey align with the standard ABS definitions of employed, unemployed and not in the labour force. During the development of this survey it was recognised that these definitions do not adequately recognise many traditional life style activities such as hunting and gathering and unpaid community work as 'employment'. Under the standard definitions, persons involved in such unpaid activities would be classified to either unemployed or not in the labour force even though in the eyes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people such activities are clearly work important to families and/or communities. It was an important objective that this survey deliver information that would enable the comparison of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the broader Australian population and for this reason it was decided that the standard definition of labour force status be adopted. In recognition of the important unpaid work some people undertake within their communities a question on 'voluntary work' was included in this survey.

**43** In comparison to the 1991 Population Census this survey has estimated a higher unemployment rate. Investigations undertaken on the data indicate the possible primary reasons for the difference to be the inclusion of an additional question in the NATSIS relating to CES registration.

- In the NATSIS and the Population Census, respondents not working were asked if they had been looking for work at any time in the four weeks prior to interview/Census night. The Census question gives examples of recognised activities that constitute actively looking for

work, one of which is being registered with the CES. Actively looking and being available to start work classifies a respondent to unemployed. Should both conditions not hold, the respondent is classified to not in the labour force.

- In the NATSIS, some respondents answered 'no' to looking for work; even though they were registered with the CES. This misinterpretation leads to a lowering of the unemployment rate because more respondents are classified to not in the labour force rather than unemployed. In recognition of this problem and the relatively high number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people registered with the CES, it was decided that it was necessary to add a specific question on CES registration. This enabled the survey to capture those respondents who answered 'no' to looking for work to also have the opportunity to report whether or not they were registered with the CES. To illustrate the effect this extra question has had on survey results, in comparison with the 1991 Population Census unemployment rate of 30.8% the NATSIS rate is 38.2% and 31.3% if the effect of the CES question is removed.

**44** The survey collected income information only on wages and salaries, business income and government payments. Testing showed that this was a reasonable proxy for total income as relatively few Indigenous people receive other types of income such as investment income. Limitation on the length of the interview made it impracticable to pursue other sources of income.

**45** Although some respondents referred to their records, in many cases the answers to the questions on income were based on memory. As a consequence, some mis-reporting of the gross amounts received and income sources may be expected because of imperfect recall, misunderstanding or a reluctance to reveal the actual amount. Similar problems occur when collecting similar information from the broader Australian population. During processing, any incomes reported on a net basis were 'grossed up' through the application of an algorithm that took account of reported income levels and the appropriate Australian Taxation Office's tax scales.

Law and justice

**46** Because of the sensitivities associated with issues such as personal safety and family violence some under-reporting is expected to have occurred. Similar problems occur when collecting sensitive information from the broader Australian population. The extent to which under-reporting has occurred and the effect on accuracy of survey estimates is not known.

Demographic  
structure of population

**47** There are clear differences in the age structures of the Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations (1991 Population Census results show 40% of Indigenous persons are aged less than 15 years in comparison to 22% for the non-Indigenous population). When making comparisons of survey results with the broader Australian population this factor must be kept in mind because of the effect age distribution has on such things as health conditions and the level of profound or severe disabilities, and many other statistics.

**48** Some collection difficulties were experienced by interviewers when obtaining age details. These difficulties were more prevalent in the rural/remote areas and experienced more with older people in selected households. In such situations, estimates of age were obtained. These reporting difficulties flow through to the survey demographic estimates and it is recommended that in preference, users refer to the demographically estimated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population details contained in the section Population Estimates and Benchmarks.

Prisoners

**49** Included in the survey was a sample of male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners. Because of their incarceration, prisoners were asked a subset of the questions asked of all other people selected in the survey. Excluded were questions to do with labour force status and income; diet; questions relating to their local area, for example the level of contentment with local health services; and questions relating to their children's education.

**50** As a consequence, some table populations contain prisoners and others do not, and small differences in population totals can be observed between tables of otherwise like populations.

SYMBOLS

**51** The following symbols, where shown in a column of figures or elsewhere in tables, mean:

.. not applicable

\*\* subject to high sampling variability (see Technical Notes on Sample Design and Variability).

All figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between the sums of the components items and totals.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**52** *1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Detailed Findings* (4190.0)

*1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: ATSI Regional Statistics* (4196.0.00.001- 036)

*1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Australia's Indigenous Youth* (4197.0)

*Employment Outcomes for Australia's Indigenous Peoples* (4199.0)

*1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Housing Characteristics and Conditions* (4187.0)

*1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: Health of Indigenous Australian's* (4395.0)

*1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey: A Social Atlas* (4155.0)

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics At a Glance* (4195.1- 7)

INQUIRES ABOUT THESE STATISTICS

**53** For further information about Indigenous statistics and related publications:

National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics,  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

GPO Box 3796

DARWIN NT 0801

Phone: (08) 8943 2192

Fax: (08) 8941 0715

## TECHNICAL NOTES ON SAMPLE DESIGN AND VARIABILITY

### AIMS OF THE SAMPLE DESIGN

The aim of the sample was to produce estimates with relative standard errors (see below) no higher than 3.5% at the Australian level, 10% at State level and 16% at ATSI regional level, for characteristics held by 10% of the total Aboriginal population. For instance, an estimate of 10% for, say, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people suffering from ear or hearing problems across Australia, was expected to have a relative standard error of 3.5%.

### SAMPLE DESIGN

The required sample size was calculated by determining that needed to measure a characteristic that is spread randomly throughout the Indigenous population, then inflating this by 20% to take account of an assumed clustering of characteristics within this population by area.

The sample design was a multistage stratified sample. Each census collection district (CD) in Australia was assigned a measure of size derived from the 1991 Population Census, being the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enumerated in the CD at the time of the 1991 Population Census. Each of the CDs was placed in a stratum defined by ATSI Region, its section of State and whether it was a large CD or small CD. The distinction between these last two groups varied across regions according to the distributions of population reported at the time of the 1991 Population Census.

### SAMPLE SELECTION

Selection of the sample was undertaken in several stages. For the strata consisting of large CDs, a selection of CDs was chosen with probability proportional to size. This meant that it was more likely for a CD with a large Indigenous population to be included in the sample than a CD with a smaller population.

For small CDs, the situation was more complex. There are many CDs with very few Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and they could not be excluded from the sample design because they represented particular kinds of people — including well scattered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in urban areas. To ensure that a sufficient number of small CDs were represented in the sample, a sample selection scheme for strata consisting of this CD type was designed to reflect both the size of small CDs and the cost of enumerating them. This resulted in small CDs being selected with equal probability, with the modifications that CDs with a size of zero had their probabilities of selection reduced to one-fifth of their value in the initial optimum design, and CDs with a size of one or two had their probabilities reduced by a half. Additionally, the sample selection was modified to ensure that all ATSI Regions had a minimum of five CDs selected in the first stage of the sample.

For large CDs a second stage of selection entailed selecting a random subsample of Indigenous households within each selected CD. For the small CDs, all the Indigenous households in them were selected in the survey.

The final stage of selection involved enumerating all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within selected households.

## ESTIMATION PROCEDURE

Estimates of numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with particular characteristics were derived from the survey by using a complex ratio estimation procedure which ensures that the survey estimates conform to both an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex at capital city/balance of State level, and an independently estimated distribution of the population across the 35 ATSI Regions and the Torres Strait area. The method of ensuring conformity between the survey estimates and these independent estimates is called benchmarking. Benchmarking improves consistency between different surveys, and reduces non-sampling error, by incorporating external information at a broad level. (Refer to the section on Population Estimates and Benchmarks for an explanation of how these 'benchmark' population estimates were compiled).

Estimates for groupings of people (e.g. households and families) were derived from the survey by using a complex procedure that formed an average measure of the contributions of the individual members of the group.

## RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

This measure accounted for different age and sex characteristics amongst the members of the group. Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. The sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants from a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that the sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all the dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate. The relative standard error is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and thus avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate. Standard errors and relative standard errors were calculated based on a range of estimates, due to the large number of estimates involved. While these measures of variability are applicable to most estimates, they may be less appropriate for characteristics which are highly clustered geographically, examples include CDEP participation and improvised dwellings. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents, errors made in the collection such as recording and coding data, and errors made in processing the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling error and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. It is not possible to quantify non-sampling error, but every effort is made to reduce it to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures. In practice,

the potential for non-sampling error adds to the uncertainty of the estimates caused by sampling variability.

Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of the estimates in this publication. Standard error of estimates of numbers of each of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, families and households can be obtained from tables A and B.

An example of the calculation and the use of standard errors in relation to estimates of persons, families and households is as follows. In Australia the estimated number of persons aged 13 years and over who spoke an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language as their main language, was 28,045 (14% of 197,500). Since this estimate is between 20,000 and 30,000, the standard error for Australia will be between 553 and 628 in the standard error table A and can be approximated as 613. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 27,431 to 28,659 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 26,818 to 29,272.

The size of the standard error of an estimate of a number of persons increases with the level of the estimate, so that the larger the estimate the larger is the standard error. However, it should be noted that the larger the sample estimate the smaller will be the standard error in percentage terms. Thus, larger sample estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates.

As the standard errors in tables A and B show, very small estimates are subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable purposes. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with relative standard error of 25% or less, and percentages based on such estimates, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with larger relative standard errors have been included and are preceded by two asterisks if it is greater than 25% (e.g. \*\*2.5), indicating they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

TABLE A. STANDARD ERRORS FOR PERSONS, FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS AUSTRALIA, STATES AND NORTHERN TERRITORY

Size of estimate	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Aust.	Relative standard error, Aust. %
50	42	38	39	34	30	20	34	37	74.2
100	63	61	65	54	48	29	53	55	54.7
200	91	92	103	80	74	42	80	79	39.6
300	109	112	132	96	93	53	100	97	32.4
500	135	138	175	116	123	70	130	125	25.0
700	152	156	208	128	146	84	153	147	20.9
1 000	171	173	247	138	173	101	179	173	17.3
1 500	191	190	295	145	207	126	213	207	13.8
2 000	205	199	332	148	234	148	238	234	11.7
2 500	215	205	361	149	256	167	258	256	10.3
3 000	222	209	385	160	275	184	275	276	9.2
4 000	233	212	423	180	306	215	303	310	7.7
5 000	240	213	453	198	331	243	325	338	6.8
7 000	248	246	497	227	370	292	358	384	5.5
10 000	253	287	541	263	413	..	393	436	4.4
15 000	255	..	586	..	461	..	431	502	3.3
20 000	277	..	614	..	495	..	456	553	2.8
30 000	313	..	646	..	542	..	489	628	2.1
50 000	364	..	672	..	..	..	..	732	1.5
70 000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	804	1.1
100 000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	884	0.9
150 000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	979	0.7

TABLE B. STANDARD ERRORS FOR PERSONS, FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS, NEW SOUTH WALES ATSC REGIONS

Size of estimate	Queanbeyan	Bourke	Coffs Harbour	Sydney	Tamworth	Wagga Wagga
50	32	27	30	42	39	32
100	42	34	42	72	48	54
200	52	42	60	109	60	78
300	58	48	73	131	67	93
500	64	56	95	157	78	109
700	68	62	112	171	87	116
1 000	71	70	135	181	96	121
1 500	73	79	165	186	109	122
2 000	74	86	191	213	118	135
2 500	74	93	213	236	126	146
3 000	77	98	234	256	134	156
4 000	82	107	270	293	145	173
5 000	86	115	302	325	155	187
7 000	..	..	357	380	172	210
10 000	..	..	428	448	..	238
15 000	..	..	..	541	..	..

## POPULATION ESTIMATES AND BENCHMARKS

A sample survey cannot produce more accurate estimates of the size of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population than the quinquennial Census of Population and Housing. The best projection of current population size can be derived from 1991 Census figures by using demographic techniques to improve and update them. ABS derived such projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and used them as 'benchmarks' (refer to the section Technical Notes on Sample Design and Variability for details) when compiling the estimates for this survey.

This means that the tables in this publication which cover the full Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population add to 303,261 persons, the ABS projection of the size of the population at 30 June 1994.

Compiling projections of  
the Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander  
populations, 30 June  
1994

A series of experimental estimates of the Indigenous population, by sex and age, States and Territories of Australia was published by the ABS in November 1994 in *Experimental Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, June 1986 to June 1991* (3230.0) and in May 1996, *Experimental Projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population, June 1991 to June 2001* (3231.0). These experimental estimates were based on the 1991 Census of Population and Housing and life tables of the Indigenous population prepared by Dr Alan Gray of the Australian National University. The publication also detailed the method of estimation used to derive these estimates.

These estimates are referred to as 'experimental' in that the standard approach to population estimation is not possible because satisfactory data on births, deaths and internal migration are not generally available. As a result a method based on the use of life tables is used. The estimates are also affected by changes in the propensity of people to identify as being of Indigenous origin.

The method of estimation was canvassed with major users of Indigenous population statistics and comments taken into account in the compilation of these estimates.

The 30 June 1991 experimental estimates were then updated to provide benchmarks for this survey as at 30 June 1994 using the cohort-component method which applied assumptions for each sex by single year of age regarding future mortality and migration. Assumed age specific fertility rates were applied to the female populations of child-bearing ages to provide the new cohort of births. This procedure was repeated for each year in the projection period for each part of State (capital city/rest of State) for each State and the Northern Territory, and for the Australian Capital Territory as a whole.

The 30 June 1991 experimental estimates were originally calculated at the State and Territory level only. These were split to the part of State level, by age and sex, according to 1991 Indigenous population Census counts, based on usual residence adjusted for sex ratio anomalies. The benchmarks were also adjusted to ensure that the totals for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders at the ATSI regional level were in the same proportion to each other within each capital city and rest of State as they were in 1991 Census statistics.

## Projection assumptions

*Fertility* Estimates of fertility of the Indigenous population were published in *Australian Social Trends, 1994* (4102.0). These estimates of fertility for the financial years 1988–89 to 1990–91 were adjusted, by age, to accord with the experimental estimates. The average of the adjusted age-specific fertility rates for these three financial years were assumed to apply to Indigenous women of child-bearing ages over the three financial years of the projection period (1991–92, 1992–93 and 1993–94). Account was taken of births of Indigenous children to non-Indigenous mothers.

*Mortality* Life tables of the Indigenous population for the intercensal periods 1981–86 and 1986–91 for each State and Territory have been calculated by Alan Gray of the Australian National University. The mid points of these two intercensal periods (1983–84 and 1988–89) were established, and the average annual rates of change of the age specific mortality rates were calculated between these two points. These rates of change, which reflect an overall improvement in mortality over the 1981–86 to 1986–91 intercensal periods, were assumed to apply for the three financial years of the projection period.

*Migration* The method of estimation used to derive the experimental estimates of the Indigenous population June 1986 to June 1991 assumed no internal or overseas migration of the Indigenous population. Analysis of 1991 Census data also shows insignificant migration across parts of States. Accordingly, all net migration flows were assumed to be zero for these projections.

The resulting benchmarks which were used to compile the estimates from this survey are shown in the Explanatory Notes.

These benchmarks can be used by analysts who wish to understand the influence demographic characteristics of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population have on the statistics in this publication.

The ABS did not compile similar benchmarks at the ATSI regional level. Estimates of the regional demographic characteristics are available from the survey itself. Analysts who require this information should contact the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics in Darwin (see page iii for details).

TABLE C. PROJECTIONS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
POPULATION, 30 JUNE 1994

Age (years)	New South Wales			Australia(a)
	Capital city	Balance of State	Total	
MALES				
0-4	2 034	4 160	6 194	22 844
5-9	1 536	3 806	5 342	20 229
10-14	1 381	3 250	4 631	17 755
15-19	1 222	2 880	4 102	15 826
20-24	1 478	2 751	4 229	16 103
25-29	1 206	2 476	3 682	14 038
30-34	1 060	2 096	3 156	11 777
35-39	824	1 662	2 486	9 268
40-44	680	1 266	1 946	7 171
45-49	500	958	1 458	5 135
50-54	341	734	1 075	3 900
55-59	260	548	808	2 797
60-64	165	400	565	2 185
65-69	103	256	359	1 461
70-74	61	158	219	919
75 and above	64	146	210	998
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 914</b>	<b>27 550</b>	<b>40 464</b>	<b>152 406</b>
FEMALES				
0-4	1 921	3 915	5 836	21 680
5-9	1 500	3 659	5 159	19 317
10-14	1 329	3 004	4 333	16 796
15-19	1 231	2 712	3 943	15 078
20-24	1 425	2 653	4 078	15 448
25-29	1 178	2 420	3 598	13 793
30-34	1 055	2 086	3 141	11 805
35-39	835	1 685	2 520	9 472
40-44	719	1 339	2 058	7 683
45-49	544	1 045	1 589	5 604
50-54	376	746	1 122	4 113
55-59	275	583	858	3 132
60-64	219	432	651	2 545
65-69	149	317	466	1 796
70-74	87	187	274	1 161
75 and above	121	224	345	1 431
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 965</b>	<b>27 009</b>	<b>39 974</b>	<b>150 855</b>
PERSONS				
0-4	3 955	8 076	12 031	44 524
5-9	3 036	7 465	10 501	39 546
10-14	2 709	6 254	8 963	34 552
15-19	2 454	5 592	8 046	30 904
20-24	2 903	5 403	8 306	31 551
25-29	2 384	4 897	7 281	27 831
30-34	2 116	4 183	6 299	23 582
35-39	1 658	3 347	5 005	18 740
40-44	1 398	2 605	4 003	14 854
45-49	1 044	2 003	3 047	10 739
50-54	717	1 480	2 197	8 013
55-59	535	1 132	1 667	5 929
60-64	384	832	1 216	4 730
65-69	252	573	825	3 257
70-74	148	346	494	2 080
75 and above	185	370	555	2 429
<b>Total</b>	<b>26 879</b>	<b>54 558</b>	<b>80 437</b>	<b>303 261</b>

(a) includes the ACT

## GLOSSARY

<b>Aboriginal</b>	A person who identifies themselves to be of Aboriginal origin. In ABS collections this is ascertained by asking the question 'Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?' In the NATSIS, persons aged 13 years and over were asked directly, whereas persons aged 12 years and under were identified by a responsible adult in the household, usually a parent.
<b>Aboriginal community controlled school</b>	Where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make decisions on the curricula, teachers employed, school budget and school policy.
<b>Aboriginal English</b>	Includes Broken English, Pidgin English and Kriol/Creoles.
<b>Aboriginal independent school</b>	A school run solely by Aboriginal people, who make decisions on school policy, staffing, curricula and school budget.
<b>Aboriginal legal services</b>	Established to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with legal matters.
<b>Aboriginality</b>	Where a person identifies as being of Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal origin. Persons 12 years and under were identified by a responsible adult in the household, usually a parent.
<b>Actions taken</b>	Refers to specific actions persons took with regard to their health in the two weeks prior to interview.
<b>Actively looking for work</b>	Includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement for a job; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service noticeboards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.
<b>Adult</b>	Person aged 15 years or more.
<b>ATSIC Regions and Torres Strait Area</b>	Refers to 36 defined geographic areas, each represented by an ATSIC Regional Council or the Torres Strait Regional Authority.
<b>Attack</b>	Where a person has suffered physical force from another person(s), for example, pushed, hit, kicked or speared.
<b>Arrested</b>	Where a person has been arrested and taken into custody/remand by the police.
<b>CDEP</b>	See Community Development Employment Projects.
<b>Clan, tribal or language group</b>	Refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups within Australia.
<b>Combined primary and secondary school</b>	A school which teaches students at both primary and secondary levels.
<b>Community Development Employment Projects</b>	The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme, operates through grants from ATSIC to Indigenous community organisations to enable individuals to undertake community managed activities in return for wages.

<b>Couple-only family</b>	Two persons who are in a registered or de facto marriage without children present in the household.
<b>Crime</b>	Includes crimes relating to drugs, thefts, vandalism as well as violence.
<b>Cultural activities</b>	Includes funerals, ceremonies, Indigenous festivals and carnivals and involvement with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander organisations.
<b>Cultural obligations</b>	Refers to attending Indigenous cultural activities such as funerals, ceremonies and festivals and extended family responsibilities.
<b>Earned income</b>	Income derived from wages and salaries, or from own business, trade or profession.
<b>Education worker</b>	A person who assists a teacher during class lessons and may give some lessons such as story telling.
<b>Employed persons</b>	Persons aged 15 years and over who in the week prior to the interview worked for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and self-employed persons).
<b>Full-time employment</b>	Employed persons who worked 35 hours or more a week.
<b>Family</b>	Two or more persons who live in the same household and are related to each other by blood, marriage (including de facto marriage), fostering or adoption. For the purpose of this survey, one or more members of the family had identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
<b>Family violence</b>	Includes verbal threats, intimidation, fear of physical attacks and actual physical attacks, occurring between family members within a household.
<b>Formal child-care</b>	Refers to regulated care such as preschool/kindergarten before and after-school care program, long day care centres, family day care and other formal care.
<b>Government payments</b>	Includes Newstart allowance, Jobsearch, age pension, sickness allowance, disability support pension, sole parent pension, family payments, rent assistance, ABSTUDY and other government payments.
<b>Homelands</b>	An area of land to which Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people have ancestral and/or cultural links.
<b>Household</b>	Consists of a person living alone, or two or more related or unrelated persons who live and eat together in private residential accommodation. For the purpose of this survey, one or more members of the household had identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
<b>Household income</b>	Refers to the total gross income from wages and salaries and government payments of all persons 15 years and over who usually live in the household. The total household income was not calculated if usual residents of the household were missing at the time of the interview.
<b>Indigenous</b>	Persons 13 years and over, who identified themselves to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. Persons 12 years and under were identified by a responsible adult in the household, usually a parent.
<b>Indigenous language</b>	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. Excludes Aboriginal English and Kriol/Creoles.

<b>Labour force</b>	Persons aged 15 years and over who were either employed or unemployed.
<b>Labour force status</b>	A classification of persons 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force.
<b>Language spoken</b>	A person was considered to be able to speak a language (such as an Aboriginal language) if they could hold a conversation in that language.
<b>Last year</b>	12 month period prior to interview.
<b>Legal Aid Commission</b>	Available to all Australians who meet certain income requirements and is commonly referred to as 'Legal Aid'.
<b>Long-term condition</b>	Condition (illness, injury, or disability) which had lasted for six months or more.
<b>Main language</b>	Refers to the language the person is most comfortable with or speaks most fluently.
<b>Making decisions at the school</b>	Includes involvement in the Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness Program (ASSPA) and Parents and Citizens (P&C) school meetings where decisions about fund raising and maintenance of the school are made.
<b>Non-family household</b>	A one-person household or a household consisting of two or more unrelated people.
<b>Not in the labour force</b>	Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed or unemployed as defined.
<b>One-parent family</b>	Family that consists of one parent and that parent's children plus all other people in the household related to them, provided those people do not have a spouse or child of their own.
<b>Other government landlord</b>	Refers to dwellings owned by the Commonwealth Government, and State, Territory and local governments other than housing authorities and employer provided housing.
<b>Other legal services</b>	Includes private solicitors and barristers.
<b>Perceived health problems</b>	A respondents' opinions of the main health problems confronting people in their local area.
<b>Personal income</b>	Refers to the gross income a person received at the time of interview in the form of wages and salaries and government payments.
<b>Post-school study</b>	Attendance at a course at the time of the survey to gain a qualification.
<b>Private landlord</b>	All privately owned dwellings rented directly or through a real estate agent.
<b>Private dwelling</b>	The premises occupied by a household and includes houses, flats, home units, garages, tents and improvised houses. It excludes hostels, hospitals, prisons and so on.
<b>Private sector</b>	Non-government organisations. The private sector has been split into 'Community organisations' and 'Other private'. Community organisations are those private organisations that have been declared to be eligible for ATSIC funding.

<b>Public sector</b>	Includes all government authorities, departments, agencies and authorities created by the Commonwealth Parliament or State and Territory Parliaments. Also covered are organisations such as the Northern or Central Land Councils which were created by Commonwealth legislation and the New South Wales Land Council which was created by New South Wales legislation.
<b>Recent illness</b>	Conditions (illness, injury or disability) experienced in the two weeks prior to interview. It may include long-term conditions experienced in the period.
<b>Relative fat and sugar</b>	Amount of selected food types consumed the day prior to interview, have been used to rate a person's level of fat and sugar consumption.
<b>Relative weight</b>	Weight and height measurements taken during interview have been used to derive a person's body mass. The body mass index equals a person's weight in kilograms divided by the square of the person's height in metres. The categories used are consistent with recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council.
<b>School participation</b>	The number of enrolled school students of a particular age, expressed as a proportion of the population of the same age.
<b>Self-assessed health status</b>	Refers to the overall level of health as reported by respondents 13 years and over. For persons 12 years and under, information was provided by the child's parent or a responsible adult member of the household.
<b>Specific long-term condition</b>	Where a person had one of the following conditions which had lasted for six months or more: asthma, diabetes, heart problems, chest problems, skin problems, high blood pressure, ear or hearing problems, eye or sight problems not corrected by glasses and/or kidney problems.
<b>State housing (landlord)</b>	Refers to dwellings owned by State or Territory housing authorities.
<b>Take away from natural family</b>	People who have been removed from their natural family as a child as part of a government policy. 'Family' may include parents and siblings and extended family members such as aunts, uncles and grandparents. Excludes people who were removed from their family for less than six months.
<b>Taught Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages</b>	Students who are taught to speak, read or write an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language.
<b>Taught about Indigenous culture</b>	Includes subjects which give an understanding of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultures, e.g. history and language.
<b>Taught by a community member</b>	Where community members teach at least once in a month or on 10 or more occasions over the school year.
<b>Torres Strait Islander</b>	Persons 13 years and over, who identified themselves to be of Torres Strait Islander origin. Persons 12 years and under were identified by a responsible adult in the household, usually a parent.
<b>Training course</b>	Includes courses which are planned to develop skills or assist in learning about a subject. Excludes courses leading to an educational qualification and on-the-job training.
<b>Type of landlord</b>	Refers to the legal entity to which rent is paid.

<b>Unemployed persons</b>	Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the week prior to interview, and who had actively looked for work at any time during the four weeks prior to interview, and who were available to start work in the last week.
<b>Usual residents</b>	Persons who live in a particular private dwelling and regard it as their own or main home.
<b>Verbal threats</b>	Any verbal abuse to a person where no weapon was seen and no physical violence occurred. It includes verbal threats to harm the respondent or his/her property.
<b>Violence</b>	Refers to violence in the community, that is streets, hotels, schools, etc. It includes fights, bashing, rape, murder or any act which involves violence.
<b>Voluntary work</b>	Includes any unpaid community work such as caring for sick or aged people, working for community or sporting organisations, working at a school or with youth groups, working on committees and hunting, fishing or gathering bush food.
<b>Year 10 Certificates</b>	Completion of a Year 10 Certificate, Aboriginal Access Course or equivalent.
<b>Year 12 Certificates</b>	Completion of a Year 12 Certificate, General Certificate of Education or equivalent.





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