

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

As the First Peoples of Australia, the sovereignty over which was never ceded, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have inherent rights, including the right to self-determination. These rights are enshrined in binding international treaties, and reaffirmed in the



United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Acknowledging, respecting and protecting these rights is vital in addressing the injustices of colonialism, past and present.

In Australia there are approximately

984,000

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.*

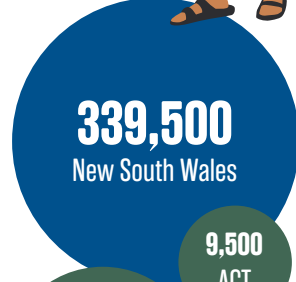


This represents 3.8% of the total population.¹

*It is important to note that First Nations people are undercounted in census data, so this number may be higher.²



The Northern Territory has the highest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people relative to total population size at 30.8%.⁴



38%
live in major cities

44%
live in inner/outer regional areas

17%
live in remote and/or very remote areas⁵



Three-quarters of the total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population live in **NSW, QLD, and WA.**

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain strong connections to culture, language, and traditional lands, and contribute significantly to the environmental management, economic development, and cultural identity of Australia.



74%

recognise an area as a homeland or traditional country
91% in remote areas
71% in non-remote areas⁶



24%

live on their homeland
43% in remote areas
20% in non-remote areas⁷

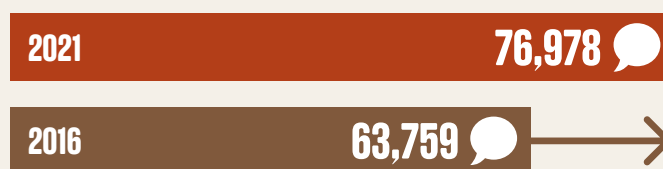


distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages spoken at the time of colonisation.

of these languages are in use today.

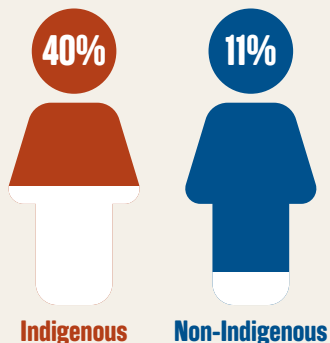
are spoken fluently by all generations within a community.⁸

People who reported speaking an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander language are on the rise.⁹



The ongoing colonisation of Australia has negatively affected many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. This is important to note when considering experiences of disadvantage, discrimination, and hardship.

40% live without two or more essentials for a decent standard of living, such as housing, clean water, and food. Compared to 11% of non-Indigenous people born in Australia.¹⁰

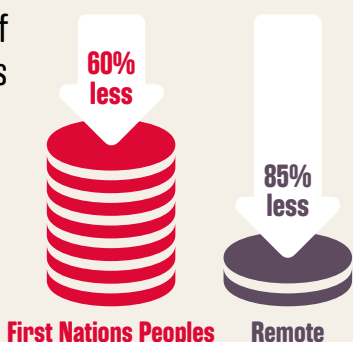


57% aged 20 years and over have a year 12 certificate or higher qualification.¹²

Make up 0.7% of senior leadership across Australian employers.¹³

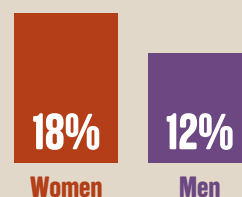


The median income of First Nations peoples is 60% less than non-Indigenous peoples. This gap stretches to 85% in remote areas.¹¹



15% aged 15 and over provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability.

Indigenous women are more likely to provide unpaid care than Indigenous men.¹⁴



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