

This brief contains key points extracted from publications that have reported social statistics about the Northern Territory. The summary is not exhaustive and does not interpret information nor in all cases contain qualifiers or contextual information. Readers should check cited publications to assess suitability for the intended use. Care should be taken to ensure that population-based statistics reported for the Northern Territory do not refer to urban areas only. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this document, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.

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Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Summary Results, Australia, 2006

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. No. 4288.0.

This publication presents information from the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey of Australians aged 15 to 74 that assessed prose literacy (e.g. ability to read newspapers), document literacy (e.g. ability to read bus schedules), numeracy and problem solving skills and the ability to understand health related information (e.g. first-aid advice). Prose and document literacy levels are compared to 1996 results.

Note that the survey did not include very remote regions where over 20 per cent of the Territory's population resides.

Key Point:

More people in the Territory were assessed at the lowest prose and document literacy levels, which was in contrast to the national trend of decreased proportions.

In the Territory in 2006:

Prose literacy

- More people (47 per cent) had scores at the two lowest levels of prose literacy than in 1996 (39 per cent).

Document literacy

- More people (47 per cent) had scores in the two lowest levels of document literacy than 1996 (42 per cent).
- Less people (54 per cent) were assessed at the two highest level scores in 2006 than in 1996 (58 per cent).

Health literacy

- A third of people sampled (33 per cent) were assessed at the minimum level needed to understand and use information relating to health issues such as drugs and alcohol, disease prevention and treatment, safety and accident prevention and first aid.

Child Protection Australia 2006-07

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. No. CWS 31.

This report provides information on child protection services collated from states and territories' data collections. Four areas of child protection are reported on; child protection notifications, investigations and substantiations, children on care and protection orders, children in out-of-home care, and intensive family support services.

Key Point:

Northern Territory data shows a marked increase in numbers of child protection notifications, substantiations and rates of children under care, particularly Indigenous children.

At 30 June 2007 in the Territory:

Notifications, investigations and substantiations

- The number of child protection notifications increased by 93 per cent over the last five financial years, compared to a national increase within the same timeframe of 56 per cent.
- Notifications that were substantiated also increased by 29 per cent on 2005-06, and by 90 per cent over the last five years.

- Indigenous children were more than four times as likely to be the subject of substantiations as other children, and nationally, more than five times as likely.

Children on care and protection orders

- The number of children under care and protection orders rose by 65 per cent over the last five years, compared to a national increase within the same timeframe of 33 per cent.
- Most children on care and protection orders lived in some type of family or home-based care (81 per cent), and 65 per cent of these children lived in foster care.
- The rates of children aged 0-17 years per 1000 on care and protection orders remained the same as the previous year, but increased from 4.6 to 7.3 over the last five years. This compares to the national trend over the same timeframe of 4.6 to 6.0.
- Indigenous children's rate of being on care and protection orders (12.1) was three times higher than for other children (4.1).

Children in out-of-home care

- The number of children in out-of-home care increased by 13 per cent in the past year and by 78 per cent over the last five years. These compare to national increases of 12 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.
- There were 6.4 children per 1000 aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care, an increase of 8 per cent the previous year, and an increase of 68 per cent over the last five years. This compares to national rate trends over the same timeframes of 9 per cent and 38 per cent.
- The rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care (10.8) was over three times the rate of other children (3.5).

Community Housing in Australia 2005-06

Source: *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. No. AUS 98.*

This bulletin summarises the main findings from the 2005-06 Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) community housing trial collection of dwelling and organisation administrative data stored in state and territory information systems.

Note that CSHA-funded community housing does not include Indigenous community managed housing.

Key Point:

Community housing comprised less than 2 per cent of the Territory's CSHA-funded social housing which is dominated by public housing (96 per cent). Nationally community housing comprised 8 per cent and public housing 87 per cent of CSHA funded housing.

In the Territory in 2005-06:

- Each of the 20 organisations managed, on average, 4 dwellings, compared to a national average of 28 dwellings for a total of 1115 organisations.
- Most dwellings were three bedroomed, separate houses located in the Territory's outer regional centres and remote areas. Nationally there was a broader mix of dwellings sizes and types and most were located in major cities.

Community Housing 2006-07, Commonwealth State Housing Agreement national data report

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, ABS Cat. No. HOU 172

This report is one of six in a series that reports on housing assistance provided in 2006-07 under the 2003 CSHA from data provided by states and territories under the National Housing Data Agreement. The report presents a summary of 2006-07 community housing data. As the Territory does not survey its community housing providers there is no dwelling management or household information.

Note that CSHA-funded community housing does not include Indigenous community managed housing.

Key Point:

Most community housing was located in outer regional or remote areas (95 per cent), while two-thirds of national community housing was located in major cities.

In the Territory at 30 June 2007:

- Community housing providers (24) comprised about 2 per cent of the national total and managed less than 1 per cent of the total number of rental units.
- A one hundred per cent occupancy rate was achieved for the 92 rental units.

Criminal Courts, Australia, 2006-07

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. No. 4513.0.

This publication presents statistics about defendants dealt with by the criminal jurisdiction of the Higher (Supreme and Intermediate), Magistrates' and Children's Courts of Australia for 2006-07, based on administrative records held by relevant agencies in each state and territory.

Key Point:

More defendants were found guilty than national averages and Territory defendants were more likely to receive custodial sentences.

In the Territory in 2006-07:

Higher Court

- Most defendants finalised were male (91 per cent), compared to 87 per cent nationally.
- Most defendants were proven guilty (89 per cent) and received a custodial sentence (85 per cent). Nationally, 79 per cent of defendants were proven guilty, and 82 per cent received a custodial sentence.
- Fewer defendants received non-custodial sentences (15 per cent) than nationally (18 per cent).
- About half of defendants adjudicated were charged with sexual assault or acts intended to cause injury (45 per cent), compared to 36 per cent nationally.

Magistrates' Court

- Most defendants finalised were male (79 per cent), similar to the national proportion (77 per cent).
- Most defendants were proven guilty (86 per cent) and received a non-custodial sentence (68 per cent). Nationally the same proportion were proven guilty, but more received a non-custodial sentence (91 per cent).

- Road traffic and motor vehicle regulatory offences accounted for the highest proportion of defendants adjudicated (38 per cent), similar to the national proportion (43 per cent). Intention to cause injury accounted for the next highest proportion of defendants adjudicated (19 per cent).

Children's Court

- Most defendants finalised were male (90 per cent), more than the national proportion (77 per cent).
- Most defendants were proven guilty (73 per cent) and received a non-custodial sentence of fines, good behaviour bonds, community supervision or work orders (71 per cent). Nationally 76 per cent were proven guilty and 92 per cent received a non-custodial sentence.
- Three offences accounted for about half of defendants adjudicated (48 per cent); unlawful entry with intent (27 per cent), road traffic offences (21 per cent) and intention to cause injury (18 per cent).

Employer's Use and View of the VET System

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), Australian Vocational Education and Training Statistics.

This publication presents information on ways in which employers' use the vocational education and training (VET) system and unaccredited training to meet their skill needs.

Key Point:

Most employers who used the VET system maintained high levels of satisfaction with training.

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- Most employers rated the skill level of their employees as adequate (61 per cent).
- Most employers (60 per cent) experienced some or a lot of difficulty in recruitment. Nationally, 44 per cent of employers experienced some level of difficulty in recruitment.
- About half of the employers were engaged through the VET system (53 per cent), either having apprentices and trainees (33 per cent), or providing nationally recognised training (29 per cent).
- The levels of satisfaction of employers with training as a way of meeting skill needs for apprentices/ trainees remained similar (84 per cent in 2005 to 83 per cent in 2007).
- Most employers expected their usage of apprentices/ trainees to stay the same in the next three years (60 per cent), while 31 per cent expected an increase.

Medical Labour Force 2005

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW Cat. No. HWL 41.

This report provides information on medical practitioners by demographic and labour force characteristics derived from the 2005 AIHW Medical Labour Force Survey.

Estimates for the Territory are derived from the 2004 Medical Labour Force Survey, weighted to 2005 benchmark figures, however with a low estimated 'response rate', and therefore should be used cautiously.

Key Point:

Between 2001 and 2005 the estimated number of employed practitioners increased from 647 to 719, however the number of primary care clinicians (GPs) dropped from 259 to 238.

In the Territory:

- The highest proportion of registered medical practitioners was employed in medicine (93 per cent compared to 89 per cent nationally).
- The average age of practitioners remained the lowest (41 in both 2001 and 2005), nationally (46 in 2001 and 45 in 2005).
- In 2005, most employed practitioners worked in the public sector (70 per cent) for an average of 38 hours a week. This compared to a national average of hours worked by publicly employed practitioners of 35 hours a week.

Patterns of Internet Access in Australia

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. No. 8146.0.55.001

This publication presents an analysis of 2006 Census socio-economic data and access to the Internet in Australian cities and regional households. Thematic maps showing Internet connectivity down to Census Collection District level are included.

Key Point:

Fewer dwellings had access to the Internet and significantly less had Broadband access in regional and remote areas. Three Statistical Local Areas (SLA) in the Territory had the lowest percentages of dwellings with access. The SLA of Nhulunbuy was the exception, with 88 per cent of dwellings having Internet access and 68 per cent of dwellings having Broadband access.

In the Territory in August 2006:

- Lower proportions of dwellings had access to the Internet (57 per cent) and Broadband (63 per cent) than the national averages of 63 per cent with Internet access and 40 per cent with Broadband.
- The two lowest rates of Internet connectivity were in SLAs where at least 85 per cent of the population were Indigenous (Watiyaawanu CGC and Marngarr CGC). Both areas also had zero rates of Broadband connectivity.
- Two SLAs (Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp and Litchfield Shire) had the lowest rates of Broadband connectivity (13 per cent and 15 per cent respectively) in Darwin.
- The Indigenous Region (closely based on ATSI Region boundaries) of Apatula had the lowest levels of Internet (2 per cent) and Broadband (1 per cent) connectivity (Table 1).

Table 1: Internet access by proportion of Indigenous people by place of enumeration, Indigenous Region

	Any Internet	Broadband
Darwin	39	22
Alice Springs	24	14
Jabiru	4	2
Katherine	7	3
Apatula	2	1
Nhulunbuy	4	2
Tennant Creek	9	6

Source: ABS Cat. no. 8146.0.55.001

Public Rental Housing 2006-07, Commonwealth State Housing Agreement national data report

Source: *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, ABS Cat. No. HOU 170*

This report is one of six in a series that reports on housing assistance provided in 2006-07 under the 2003 CSHA from data provided by states and territories under the National Housing Data Agreement. The report provides information on people seeking and receiving public rental housing assistance and the dwellings managed by state and territory housing authorities.

Key Point:

More than a third of the 5121 public rental households were Indigenous (35 per cent) compared to 7 per cent of national public rental households.

In the Territory at 30 June 2007:

- Most households receiving a rental rebate (86 per cent) paid 20 per cent or less of their income in rent (68 per cent), 31 per cent of households paid more than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent of their income, and 1 per cent paid less than 20 per cent of their income in rent.
- The average weekly rental subsidy was \$100 compared to \$86 nationally.
- Fewer public housing applicants waiting for housing were classified as being in 'greatest need' (5 per cent) than nationally (7 per cent).
- More than half of 644 new public housing tenants were Indigenous (56 per cent), compared to 14 per cent of 26,824 national new households.
- Two thirds of new public rental households were classified as having special needs (66 per cent), compared to 58 per cent nationally.
- Most public housing was located in outer regional or remote areas (96 per cent). No public housing was located in major cities, where most national public housing was located (72 per cent).
- About 3 per cent of public rental dwellings were untenable or underdoing major redevelopment and the remaining were tenable, compared to 1 per cent of untenable or dwellings being redeveloped nationally.

Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia, Jul 2006 to Jun 2007

Source: *Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS Cat. No. 6238.0*

This publication presents information analysed from the 2006-07 Multi-Purpose Household Survey about the retirement status and retirement intentions of people aged 45 years and over. Information includes retirement trends, factors which influence retirement decisions and income arrangements that retirees and potential retirees have made prior to retirement.

Note that the survey did not include very remote regions where over 20 per cent of the Territory's population resides.

Key Point:

More people in the Territory aged 45 years and over were in the labour force (71 per cent) than nationally (54 per cent), and fewer had retired from the labour force (22 per cent compared to 42 per cent nationally).

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- More men aged 45 years and over were in the labour force than women (70 per cent and 65 per cent respectively), and more women than men had retired from the labour force (26 per cent and 15 per cent respectively). Nationally, 59 per cent of men and 48 per cent of women over 45 were in the labour force and 47 percent of women and 37 per cent of men had retired from the labour force.
- Most people aged 45 and over in the labour force intend to retire sometime in the future (78 per cent), similar to nationally (80 per cent).
- The average age at which people intended to retire was 65 years (67 years for men and 64 years for women). This was slightly later than the national average of 63 years (64 years for men and 62 years for women).