

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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- Sport and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2008** **7**
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- Year Book Australia 2008** **7**
 The Territory has the youngest and the most rapidly ageing population in Australia.

Adoptions Australia 2006-07

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW cat. no. CWS 32, Canberra

This annual report includes data on all finalised adoptions recorded by the state and territory agencies responsible for adoption for the year ending 30 June 2007. It presents the latest available data on the patterns and trends in adoptions in Australia.

Key Point:

The Territory has among the highest rates of adoption in Australia, most of which are intercountry adoptions.

In the Territory in 2006-07:

- While the number of adoptions (11) was the lowest for an Australian jurisdiction, the rate of adoptions (5.2 per 100 000 estimated resident population) was the third highest in the country, and higher than the national rate (2.7).
- The majority of adoptions (10 or 91 per cent) were intercountry adoptions (7 from China), similar to the national proportion of 71 per cent.
- There has been a steady decline in the total number of adoptions since 1968-69, paralleling a national decline. A significant drop in adoptions of Australian children was the primary cause.

Expenditures on Health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2004-05

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW cat. no. HWE 40, Canberra

The report, the fourth in a series, compares health expenditure on Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons across all Australian jurisdictions. It does not provide information about Australian Government and non government health expenditure by jurisdiction. The report advises caution in using the results due to differences in accounting methods and reporting systems across jurisdictions.

Key Point:

In 2004-05, the Territory Government's per capita expenditure on Indigenous health was the highest in Australia. The Territory Government also spent a larger proportion of its total health expenditure on Indigenous health than other jurisdictions.

Table 1 shows that in 2004-05:

- An estimated 58.8 per cent (\$327.3 million) of total Territory Government health expenditure (\$556.8 million) was for Indigenous persons, the highest proportion of all jurisdictions and higher than the national proportion (5.4 per cent).
- The rate of Territory Government expenditure per Indigenous person (\$5461) was the highest of all jurisdictions, and higher than the total national rate of government expenditure (\$3148 per person).

Table 1: State and Territory government's health expenditure, 2004-05

	Total government expenditure (\$ million)			Expenditure per person (\$)		
	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	Indigenous share (%)	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	Ratio
NSW	373.6	9 616.1	3.7	2 618	1 456	1.80
Vic.	81.1	6 584.5	1.2	2 701	1 327	2.04
QLD	344.7	4 199.5	7.6	2 546	1 108	2.30
WA	270.3	2 633.9	9.3	3 844	1 369	2.81
SA	109.6	2 365.3	4.4	4 011	1 567	2.56
Tas.	16.32	598.2	2.6	891	1 285	0.69
ACT	14.4	617.1	2.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
NT	327.3	229.5	58.8	5 461	1 629	3.35
Aust.	1537.1	26 844.1	5.4	3 148	1 361	2.31

Housing Assistance in Australia

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW cat. no. HOU 173, Canberra

This new report brings together data from a range of sources, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics and state and territory Treasury departments, to inform about available housing assistance programs, eligibility criteria, number of individuals or households affected, and expenditure, including funding source.

Key Point:

In the Territory in 2005-06, Commonwealth State Housing Agreement funding was the third highest among all jurisdictions, and First Home Owner Grant payments increased by 13.3 per cent from 2004-05.

In the Territory:

- In 2006-07, fewer households experienced household stress (7.2 per cent for the ACT and NT together; data combined for confidentiality) than nationally (11 per cent).
- At 30 June 2006 more Indigenous households resided in Indigenous community housing (ICH) than public rental housing. The number of Indigenous households in ICH (6807) was the highest in Australia.
- In 2006, the average number of people per ICH dwelling (2.9) was the highest in Australia.
- Between 2004 and 2006, the number of ICH dwellings did not increase (6807 dwellings in 2006), while their number increased nationally (by 475 dwellings).
- In 2005-06, funding for home purchase assistance managed under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement was \$61 million, less than Western Australia and South Australia but higher than the remaining jurisdictions.
- The total paid under the First Home Owner Grant (FHOG) scheme increased by 13.3 per cent from 2004-05 to 2005-06 (Table 2), similar to the national increase (13.6 per cent) over the same period.

Table 2: FHOG scheme, applications paid by state and territory (\$ million)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
2002-03	307	226	219	118	68	22	18	9	836
2003-04	242	201	162	96	58	18	11	8	626
2004-05	249	266	160	125	62	17	14	9	662
2005-06	286	278	187	123	69	19	17	10	751

National Public Health Expenditure Report 2005-06

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, AIHW cat. no. HWE 39, Canberra

This annual report presents the most recent estimates of funding and recurrent expenditure on public health activities for the financial year 2005-06, along with selected time series data back to 1999-2000.

Key Point:

In 2005-06, there was a decrease in public health expenditure in the Territory and nationally.

In the Territory in 2005-06:

- Territory and total government expenditure on public health decreased. This followed an increase in expenditure from 2003-04 to 2004-05. Over both time periods, per cent change in Territory expenditure was greater than per cent change in total government expenditure (Table 3).
- Public health expenditure per person remained the highest of all jurisdictions, \$285 compared to \$312 in 2004-05, and \$71 per person nationally for both years.
- Almost half of the NT Department of Health and Community Services' expenditure (in current prices) was on:
 1. communicable disease control (\$14.7 million or 27 per cent of total), down from 2004-05 (\$17.8 million or 33 per cent); and
 2. organised immunisation (\$12.3 million or 22 per cent), up from 2004-05 (\$10.3 million or 19 per cent).

Nationally, the highest expenditures in 2005-06 were on organised immunisation (\$321 million or 22 per cent), selected health promotion (\$252 million or 17 per cent) and communicable disease control (\$248 million or 17 per cent).

Table 3: Public health expenditure, constant prices, total government and NT Government

	Expenditure (\$ million)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Australian Government	1308.9	1440.1	1406.8
Northern Territory	45.7	54.7	52.8
	Percentage change (%)		
	2003-4 to 2004-5	2004-5 to 2005-6	
Australian Government	10.0	-2.3	
Northern Territory	19.7	-3.5	

National Report on Schooling in Australia: Preliminary Paper, 2006

Source: Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA)

This annual publication presents results of benchmark testing conducted during 2006 in which achievement of students in years 3, 5 and 7 was measured against the national benchmarks for reading, writing and numeracy. Results for the performance of Indigenous students by geolocation (metropolitan, provincial, remote, very remote) were reported for the first time.

Note: For MAP testing there is also a significant issue with enrolled students who are absent on the day of testing. Absent students in remote areas impact Indigenous literacy and numeracy results. While these results are already comparatively poor, they may also be overestimated.

Key Point:

A smaller proportion of Territory students achieved benchmark results than their national counterparts.

In the Territory in 2006:

- Participation rates in the assessment process were among the lowest in Australia (with a range of 87 per cent - 98 per cent).
- Of those tested, less students achieved benchmark results than nationally (Table 4).
- A smaller proportion of Indigenous students achieved benchmark results in comparison with non-Indigenous students, and the gap between them was greater in the Territory than nationally (Table 4).

Table 4: Percentage of students achieving benchmarks for the NT and Australia

	Northern Territory		Australia	
	All students (%)	Indigenous (%)	All students (%)	Indigenous (%)
Year 3				
Reading	71	40	93	80
Writing	67	34	94	78
Numeracy	85	66	93	76
Year 5				
Reading	75	40	88	66
Writing	66	30	94	77
Numeracy	70	33	90	66
Year 7				
Reading	72	39	89	63
Writing	62	26	92	74
Numeracy	67	30	80	48

Report on Government Services 2008

Source: Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP), Productivity Commission, Canberra

This annual report examines the performance of government across the range of core functions: education, health, law and order, housing, welfare and early childhood. It provides data to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of government services as well as to compare outcomes between Australian states and territories.

Key Point:

In 2006-07, Territory Government expenditure on the justice system and child protection services increased. In 2005-06, Territory Government expenditure per full time equivalent student (FTE) was the highest in Australia.

In the Territory:

- In 2005-06 real recurrent expenditures of \$16 647 per government school FTE student and \$9545 per non-government school FTE student were the highest in Australia, and were higher than national expenditures of \$11 243 and \$6287 respectively.
- In 2006, the participation rate of 15-64 year olds in VET courses was the highest in Australia (13 per cent and 8 per cent nationally). Indigenous participation in VET

courses was higher than non-Indigenous participation (26 per cent compared with 8 per cent for all people aged 15-64 years).

- In 2006-07, the availability rates of GPs in urban areas (53.7 per 100 000 population) and rural areas (44.3 per 100 000 population) were the lowest in the country, and lower than the national rates of 89.4 and 78 per 100 000 respectively.
- The real recurrent expenditure on the justice system grew by 3.2 per cent over the period 2002-03 to 2006-07 compared with national growth of 1.5 per cent.
- In 2005, the rate of victims of personal crimes, property crimes, homicide, assault and break in/attempted break in were the highest in the country. Recidivism rates increased from 37.1 per cent in 2002-03 to 44.6 per cent in 2006-07, while national rates decreased from 39.1 per cent to 37.5 per cent over the same period.
- Real recurrent expenditure on child protection and out of home services rose from about \$235 per child aged 0-17 years in 2002-03 to \$451 in 2006-07.
- In 2007, the proportion of children in out-of-home care placed with relatives/kin was the lowest in the country (14.6 per cent, compared to a national rate of 43.9 per cent).
- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous community housing needing replacement (10.2 per cent) was the highest in the country.

Schools 2007

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS cat. no. 4221.0, Canberra

This annual publication presents information about government and non-government schools, students and staff collected by the National Schools Statistics Collection (NSSC).

Note: As with most Northern Territory statistics, it is important to consider Indigenous and non-Indigenous results separately, which this report does not present. It is likely that non-Indigenous achievement is similar to national achievement and that a low Territory achievement overall is a reflection of low comparative achievement for Indigenous students.

Key Point:

In 2007, the proportions of primary school students and part-time students in Territory schools were higher than national proportions. The apparent retention rate of full-time students from Year 7/8 to Year 12 (62 per cent) was higher than previous years, but was the lowest in Australia.

In the Territory in 2007:

- There were 185 schools (149 government and 36 non-government), an increase of 7 per cent (12 schools, 5 government, 7 non-government) from 1997, different from the 0.3 per cent decline (28 schools) in the national total over the same period.
- Primary school students accounted for 67.5 per cent of total students, higher than the national proportion of 58 per cent.
- The proportion of part-time students was the second highest in Australia (2.2 per cent), and higher than the national proportion (0.7 per cent).
- 40 per cent (15 318 students) of all students were Indigenous, up from 35 per cent (12 604) in 1997.
- The number of full time equivalent (FTE) male teaching staff in primary schools decreased by 5 per cent (17 teachers) relative to 1997, different from the 2 per cent increase (448 teachers) nationally over the same period.

- The apparent retention rate of full-time students from Year 7/8 to Year 12 (62 per cent) was the lowest in Australia, and lower than the national rate of 74 per cent, but significantly better than the Territory's retention rate in 1997 (42 per cent).

Sport and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2008

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS cat no. 4156.0, Canberra

This publication presents a statistical overview of sports and physical recreation in Australia, using the latest information available from a diverse range of ABS collections. It is the fourth update since March 2006, and changes on the previous edition include new data on participation in sports and physical recreation by adults and organised sport by children, and data on attendance at sport events. *The results should be used with caution as they refer to mainly urban areas in the Territory.*

Key Point:

Relative to other jurisdictions, the Territory recorded proportionally the lowest participation in sports and physical recreation by adults (58 per cent), the second highest participation in organised sport outside school hours by children (67 per cent) and the highest attendance rate at sports events by adults (50 per cent).

In the Territory during the 12 months prior to interview in 2005-06:

- The proportion of adults aged 15 years and over who participated in sports and physical recreation (58 per cent) was the lowest in Australia, lower than the national rate of 66 per cent.
- The proportion of children aged 5-14 years who participated in organised sport outside of school hours (67 per cent) was the second highest in Australia, higher than the national proportion of 64 per cent.
- The attendance rate of adults aged 15 years and over at sports events (50 per cent) was the highest in Australia, higher than the national rate (44 per cent) and the six states capital city rate (43 per cent).

Year Book Australia 2008

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABS cat. no. 1301.0, Canberra

This annual publication provides a comprehensive statistical picture of the economy and social conditions in Australia. Sourced from ABS censuses and surveys as well as contributions by other organisations, statistical data is complemented by analyses of social, political, economic and environmental issues.

Key Point:

The Territory has the youngest and the most rapidly ageing population in Australia.

In the Territory:

- Population growth caused an increase in the Territory's share of Australia's total population from 0.2 per cent in 1956 to 1 per cent in 2006. This proportion is projected to increase to 1.2 per cent by 2051.
- In 2006, the population median age (30.9 years) was the lowest in the country, lower than the national median age (36.6 years).
- From 2005 to 2006, the increase in proportion of people aged 65 years or more in the total population was the highest in the country at 7 per cent, larger than the national increase of 2.1 per cent.

- In 2005-06, the proportion of households with one or more spare bedrooms was 64 per cent in Darwin, the lowest among all capital cities, and lower than the 77 per cent across all capital cities.
- From 2005 to 2006, the number of Indigenous preschool enrolments decreased by 4.3 per cent (to 1477), compared to a 2.8 per cent increase nationally.