

# *Community Portrait*

## Hunter

A portrait of the Aboriginal community of Hunter, compared with NSW, from the 2011 and earlier Censuses.

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**Prepared for Aboriginal Affairs, Office of Communities**

Hunter is the region covered by the 2011 Census areas Great Lakes + Muswellbrook + Lake Macquarie + Cessnock + Dungog + Gloucester + Greater Taree + Maitland + Newcastle + Port Stephens + Singleton + Upper Hunter Shire.

## Preface

This report uses data from the Australian Census, held every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), to paint a community profile of the Aboriginal population of Hunter as it was in August 2011, and show how it had changed over the previous decade.

### Who is included?

The people described in this Portrait were the usual residents of Hunter in 2011, even if they completed the Census away from home. They lived here for at least half of 2011. People who were visiting Hunter on Census night are not included. The 2001 data is of the Census-night population, which included visitors but not residents who were away on Census night, so comparisons with 2001 are less accurate.

### Who are Aboriginal?

Aboriginal people, in this Portrait, means all people who, in completing the Census, responded that they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins, or both. Non-Aboriginal people are those who said they did not have these origins.

Note: the Census question asks people about their origins; it does not ask how they identify in their daily lives.

### Are all Aboriginal people counted?

Of course not all Aboriginal people completed the Census and identified their origins: 3.5% of Hunter Census respondents said they had Aboriginal origins, but another 4.1% did not answer this question.

The ABS estimates that, nationally, the Aboriginal 'undercount' was 17%. This means that, on average, the Aboriginal population was about a fifth larger than counted. The undercount in previous Censuses was similar. However, despite such omissions, the Census is a vital source of information about Aboriginal Australians.

### National trends

Nationally, the number of people with Aboriginal origins counted in the Census rose by a fifth (21%) between 2006 and 2011. Almost three-quarters of the increase was from births; the rest was caused by more people identifying Aboriginal origins than previously. This was most pronounced among Babyboomers, Gen X, and their children.

### Sources of data

The data for this report are drawn from the Population Profiles for Hunter and NSW published by the ABS from the 2001, 2006 and 2011 Censuses. The data tables used for this report are in a separate attachment.

	Indigenous Population Profile		Basic Community Profile	
	Hunter	NSW	Hunter	NSW
2011	IP_LGA13320.XLS + IP_LGA15650.XLS + IP_LGA14650.XLS + IP_LGA11720.XLS + IP_LGA12700.XLS + IP_LGA13050.XLS + 20020-IP-Greater Taree (C)-NSW (Local Government Area).xls + 20020-IP-Hunter-NSW (Statistical Division).xls	IP_1.XLS	BCP_LGA17620.XLS + BCP_LGA17000.XLS + BCP_LGA16400.XLS + 20010-BCP-Greater Taree (C)-NSW (Local Government Area).xls + 20010-BCP-Hunter-NSW (Statistical Division).xls	BCP_1.XLS
2006		20020-IP-New South Wales.xls		
2001	IPP_110.xls + IPP_LGA13350.xls	IPP_1.xls		

This report is published from an Excel spreadsheet. Most of the charts are interactive, and can be changed in Excel to compare the characteristics of Hunter's Aboriginal population in 2011 with other communities or previous Censuses.

Note: difference and changes are rounded in the text, but calculated from the unrounded data, so there may seem to be small discrepancies in the data.

Version B of 19 March 2014

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# Aboriginal Snapshot: Hunter, 2011

- ⌘ In the 2011 Census, 23,204 of the 667,067 residents counted in Hunter said that they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins, or both. Of these, 95% were Aboriginal.
  - ⌘ Between 2006 and 2011, the counted Aboriginal population rose by 34% from 17,266; the overall population of Hunter rose by 5%.
  - ⌘ About 12% of the population were under 5 in 2011, accounting for half of the counted population growth between 2006 and 2011.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal community is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a median age of 21 vs 38 years.
  - ⌘ There was a much higher proportion under 18 years old, 44% compared with 22%.
  - ⌘ There was a much lower proportion aged 65 or more, 4% compared with 18%.
- ⌘ Aboriginal households had an average of 3.3 residents in 2011, which was 34% larger than non-Aboriginal households in Hunter.
  - ⌘ Three in ten Aboriginal households were couples with children.
  - ⌘ Almost three in ten were one-parent families.
  - ⌘ 14% of the Aboriginal households were single-person (vs 26% of other households).
- ⌘ Aboriginal households most commonly lived in rented dwellings (52%), with 31% in mortgaged and 14% in fully owned dwellings.
  - ⌘ In all, 45% of Aboriginal households in Hunter were home-owners (with or without a mortgage), which was up by 3% since 2006.
- ⌘ In 2011, the median income\* of Aboriginal adults here was about \$390 a week, which was 25% less than for all adults (\$523).
  - ⌘ The median income gap had changed little since 2006.
- ⌘ 54% of Aboriginal adults were in the labour force, compared with 59% of non-Aboriginal adults in Hunter.
  - ⌘ 16% of this Aboriginal workforce were unemployed, compared with 5% of the non-Aboriginal workforce in Hunter.
- ⌘ One in three Aboriginal residents (8,271 people) were attending an educational institution in 2011.
  - ⌘ 3,014 Aboriginal people had completed Year 12, which was 56% more than in 2006 and 143% more than in 2001.
  - ⌘ Compared with non-Aboriginal residents here of the same age, there were:
    - 15% fewer Aboriginal 20–24 year olds in education;
    - 14% fewer Aboriginal 15–19 year olds in education.
  - ⌘ 41% of Aboriginal adults had some type of post-school qualification, compared with 56% of non-Aboriginal adults in Hunter (5% had a degree or higher, compared with 21%).
- ⌘ 1,561 Aboriginal people (6.7% of the Aboriginal population) reported that they had a severe or profound disability\*.
  - ⌘ Aboriginal people had higher disability rates than average in most age groups.
    - the disability rate for Aboriginal 35–44 year olds was 2.5 times the average for this age group in Hunter.
    - for 45–54 year olds, the Aboriginal rate was 2.5 times the average in Hunter.
  - ⌘ 14% of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) gave assistance to a person with a severe disability.
- ⌘ In 2011, 70% of Hunter's Aboriginal households had an internet connection, which was 23% more than in 2006.

\* Personal income and disability data compare Aboriginal rates with those of the whole population in Hunter, due to the way the ABS reports income and disability data.

## Tracking Aboriginal differences

In the table below, some indicators of community structure and well-being are calculated for Aboriginal people in Hunter. The difference or gap with non-Aboriginal people in Hunter is shown for 2011. Where Census data allows, changes in the Aboriginal rates are tracked over the decade.

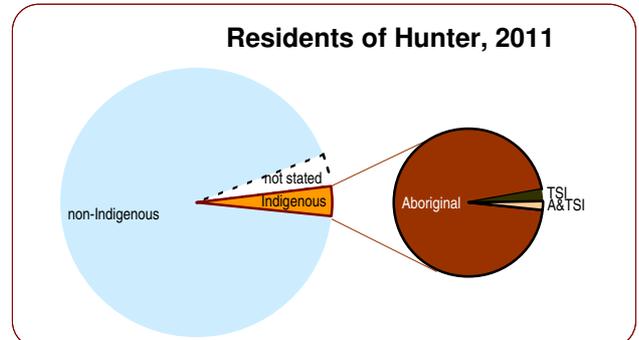
Indicator	Rates in 2011			Change in Aboriginal rate	
	Aboriginal in Hunter	non-Aboriginal in Hunter *	Gap in 2011	2006-2011	2001-2006
				2006-2011	2001-2006
<b>home ownership</b> <small>% of households owning/buying their home</small>	45%	70%	<b>-25%</b>	<b>up 3%</b>	<b>same</b>
<b>household income</b> <small>median weekly income of households</small>	\$1,030	\$1,103	<b>-7%</b>	<b>up 36%</b>	-
<b>workforce participation</b> <small>% of adults 15+ in labour force</small>	54%	59%	<b>-5%</b>	<b>up 1%</b>	<b>up 1%</b>
<b>unemployment</b> <small>% of unemployed in workforce</small>	16%	5%	<b>+10%</b>	<b>dn 4%</b>	<b>dn 7%</b>
<b>employed</b> <small>employed adults as % of population</small>	29%	46%	<b>-17%</b>	<b>up 3%</b>	<b>up 4%</b>
<b>pre-school</b> <small>% of infants under 5 in education</small>	21%	26%	<b>-5%</b>	<b>same</b>	-
<b>teenage education</b> <small>% of 15-19 year-olds in education</small>	58%	72%	<b>-14%</b>	<b>up 7%</b>	<b>dn 4%</b>
<b>children at school</b> <small>% of 5-14 year olds in education</small>	88%	93%	<b>-6%</b>	<b>dn 1%</b>	<b>dn 3%</b>
<b>Year 12 completion</b> <small>% of adults (15+) who have completed 12 years school</small>	23%	37%	<b>-15%</b>	<b>up 4%</b>	<b>up 2%</b>
<b>average schooling</b> <small>average years schooling for adults (aged 15+)</small>	10.1 yrs	10.5 yrs	<b>0.4 yrs</b>	<b>+0.2 yrs</b>	<b>+0.2 yrs</b>
<b>tertiary qualifications</b> <small>% of adults 15+ with a post-school qualification</small>	41%	53%	<b>-12%</b>	<b>up 3%</b>	<b>up 7%</b>
<b>degree</b> <small>% of adults 15+ with a degree or higher qualification</small>	5%	13%	<b>-8%</b>	<b>up 1%</b>	<b>up 1%</b>
<b>postgrad</b> <small>% of adults 15+ with a postgraduate qualification</small>	1%	3%	<b>-3%</b>	<b>up 1%</b>	<b>dn 0%</b>
<b>disability*</b> <small>% of adults with a severe, long-term disability</small>	6.7%	5.9%	<b>+0.8%</b>	<b>up 0.9%</b>	-
<b>median income*</b> <small>median weekly income of adults (15+)</small>	\$390	\$523	<b>-25%</b>	<b>up 33%</b>	-

\* Personal income and disability data compare Aboriginal rates with those of the whole population in Hunter, due to the way the ABS reports income and disability data.

## Aboriginal population & growth

In the 2011 Census, Hunter's Aboriginal population was counted as 23,204 people, of whom 22,153 identified as Aboriginal and 614 as Torres Strait Islander; another 437 identified as both Aboriginal & TSI.

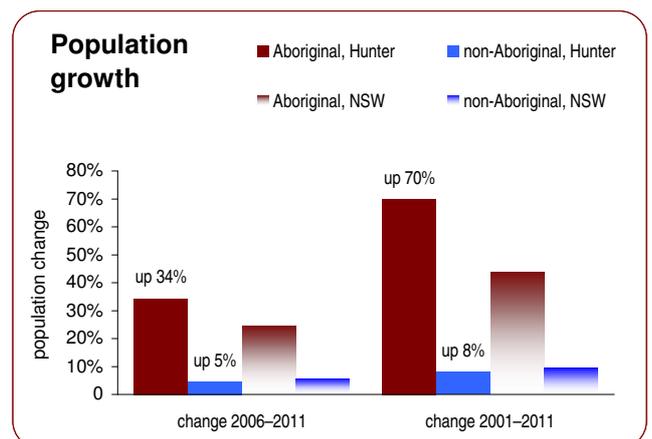
- ⌘ Aboriginal people comprised 3.5% of Hunter's population, which was very similar to NSW (2.5%).  
4.1% of Hunter people did not say whether they had Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origins.
- ⌘ Among the Aboriginal people here, there were 103 females per 100 males.  
There were 104 females per 100 males among non-Aboriginal people.
- ⌘ The ABS estimates that the Census undercounted the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population by 17% nationally, so on average the population is a fifth more than counted.



Between 2006 and 2011, the counted Aboriginal population in Hunter rose by 34% (from 17,266); the total population rose by 5%.

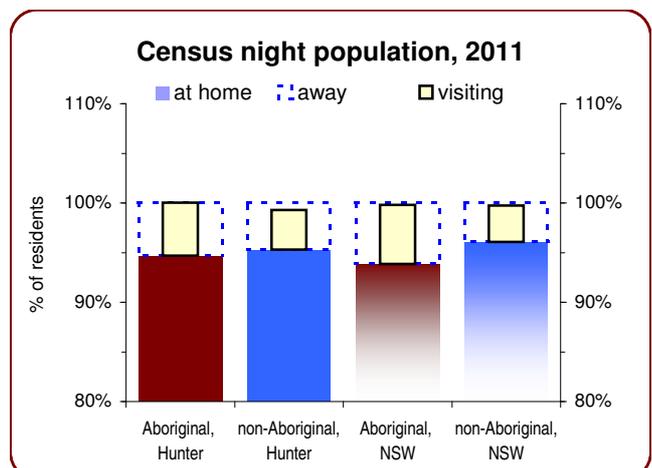
Across Australia, the counted Aboriginal population rose 21%, with almost three-quarters of this growth due to births (infants under 5), and the rest due to more people in most age groups identifying Aboriginal origins in the Census. This continues a trend since 2001.

- ⌘ Between 2001 and 2011, Hunter counted Aboriginal population rose by 70% (from 13,658 in 2001).  
Hunter's non-Aboriginal population rose by 8% over the decade.  
The Aboriginal population counted in NSW rose by 44% over the decade.



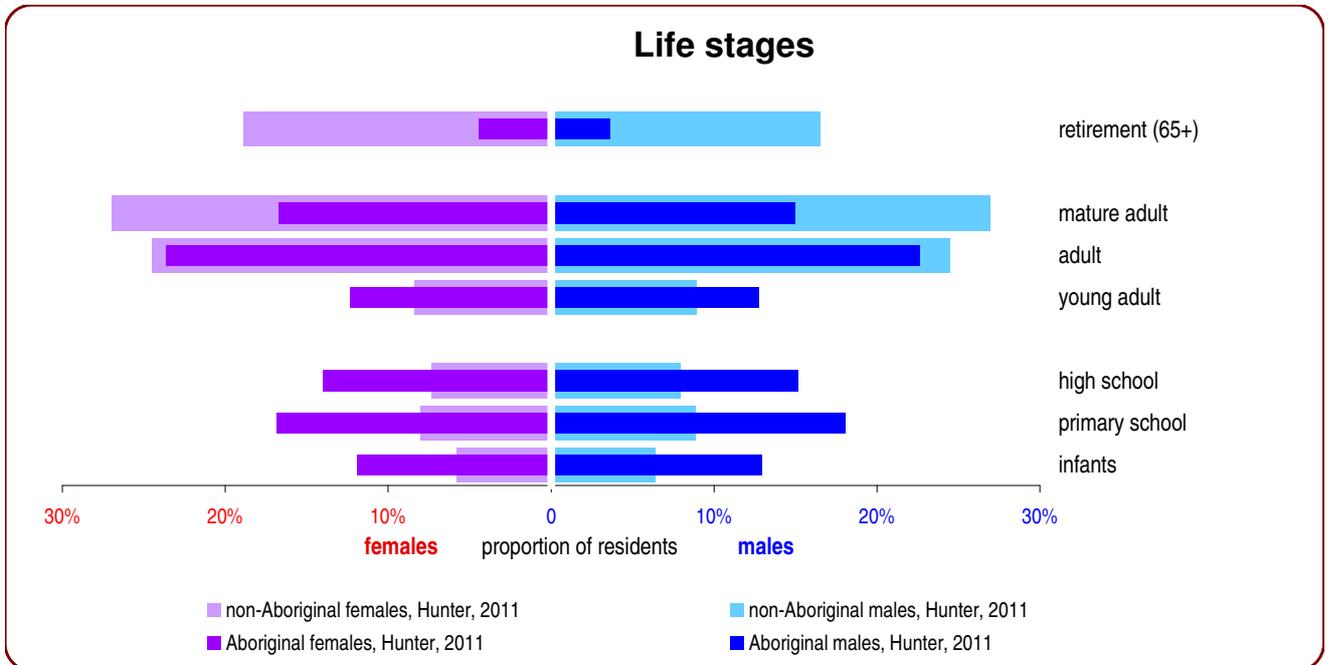
On Census night 2011, 21,961 Aboriginal residents were at home in Hunter (95% of the population), and 1,243 were staying away from home (5%). Offsetting those away were 1,246 Aboriginal people visiting in Hunter, equivalent to 5% of the resident Aboriginal population.

- ⌘ 61 of the visitors were from the same locality (eg. overnighting with neighbours).  
Of the out-of-area visitors, 89% were from New South Wales and 2% were from Queensland, with the rest from other states.
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal residents away from home was similar to 2006.  
The proportion away from home was 1% higher than for non-Aboriginal Hunter residents; it was 1% lower than for Aboriginal residents of NSW.
- ⌘ There were 375 more Aboriginal visitors than in 2006, when there were 871, equal to 5% of the Aboriginal population.



## Life stages

The Aboriginal population of Hunter had a smaller proportion in the working stage of life (15–65 years), compared to the non-Aboriginal population, with a much higher proportion of children under 15 and a much smaller proportion of elders aged 65+.



In Hunter's Aboriginal population in 2011:

- ⌘ Five in ten (52%) were prime-age adults (aged 18–64).
  - 13% were aged 18–24
  - 23% were aged 25–44
  - 16% were aged 45–64

The number of prime-age adults was up 37% from 2006; and up 75% from 2001.
- ⌘ Over four in ten Aboriginal residents (44%) were children under 18.
 

The number of children was up 30% from 2006; and up 59% from 2001.

More children were at the primary school stage (17%) than high school (15%) or infants (12%).
- ⌘ Only 4% of Aboriginal residents were at retirement age (65+ years).
 

However, the number at retirement age had risen by 52% from 2006, and by 176% since 2001.

More details ...

The proportion of prime-age adults was 9% lower than for non-Aboriginal residents (60%).

4% more of the Aboriginal population were young adults (18–24 yrs) but 11% fewer were mature adults (45–64 yrs), compared with the non-Aboriginal population of Hunter.

Prime-age adults made up 52% of the Aboriginal community in NSW; the number this age had risen by 28% from 2006.

The proportion of Aboriginal children here was 22% higher than the average for non-Aboriginal people.

Children were 43% of the Aboriginal community in NSW; the number there was up 19% since 2006.

18% of non-Aboriginal people in Hunter were at retirement age.

Across NSW, 4% of Aboriginal people were at retirement age; their number had risen by 49% since 2006, and by 118% since 2001.

There are seven life stages: infants (aged 0–4); primary school (5–11); high school (12–17); young adults (18–24); adults (25–44); mature adults (45–64); and older people (65+).

# Age profile

Hunter's Aboriginal population has an age profile that is significantly younger than the non-Aboriginal population, with a much lower median age (21 vs 38 years). A much higher proportion of Aboriginal people were children and a much smaller proportion were 65 or older.

For Hunter's Aboriginal population in 2011:

- ⌘ The average age was 26 years in 2011, with half the population aged under 21 years (the median age).  
The largest age groups were 5–9 years (13%), 0–4 years (12%) and 10–14 years (12%), totalling 37% of the population.
- ⌘ The average age was one year higher than in 2006 and 2 years higher than in 2001.  
Proportionally, the biggest increases since 2006 were of 55–59 year-olds (59% more), 60–64 year-olds (59% more) and 50–54 year-olds (52% more).
- ⌘ Only 936 Aboriginal residents here (4.0%) were aged 65+ years, compared with 18% of non-Aboriginal residents.
- ⌘ In the Aboriginal community, there were noticeably more males than females aged 30–34 years, 15–19 years and 0–4 years.

More details ...

The average age was 15 years younger than for the non-Aboriginal residents; the median age was 17 years younger.

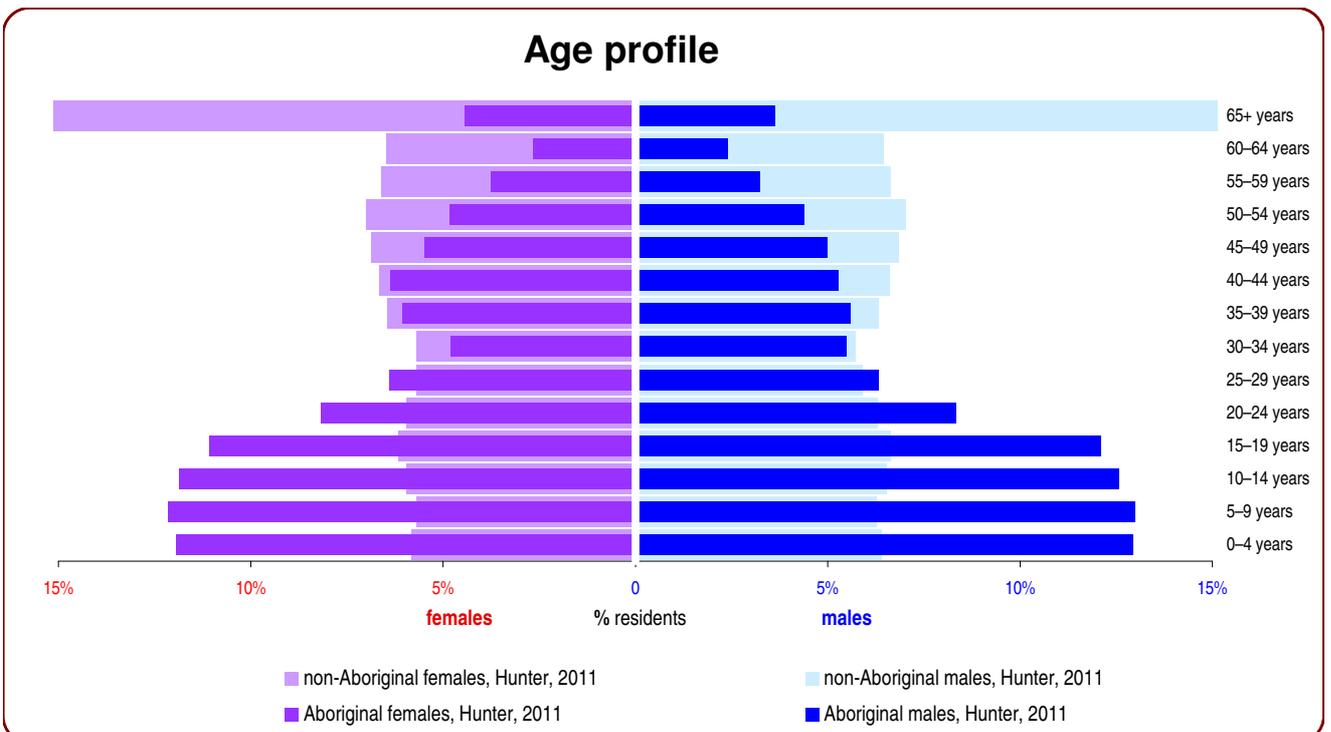
These three age groups made up 18% of the non-Aboriginal population: 6% were 5–9 years, 0–4 years and 10–14 years.

The average age of Aboriginal people in NSW had risen by 2 years since 2006, and risen by 3 years in the decade since 2001.

In the NSW Aboriginal population, these age groups increased by 44% (55–59 year-olds), 59% (60–64 year-olds), and 43% (50–54 year-olds) since 2006.

While the number aged 65+ was 52% higher than in 2006, the percentage of people this age was little changed since 2006, when it was 3.6%.

There were significantly more females than males among those aged 65+ years, 40–44 years and 55–59 years.



The age profile of a community can be drawn like a tree. The length of each branch is proportional to the number of people in an age group. The left side of the tree represents females (purple bars), the right side represents males (blue bars). Higher branches represent older people. In this age tree, the dark branches show the Aboriginal residents of Hunter in 2011, compared with non-Aboriginal, Hunter, 2011, shown by the lighter, background branches.

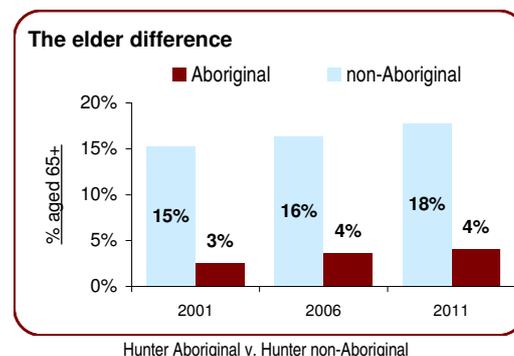
## Population Indicators

% aged 65+ in population

### The elder difference

Commonly, Aboriginal communities have a lower proportion of people aged over 65, due in part to a shorter average life-span. This is an indication of poverty and ill-health. Having fewer elders has many effects on a community and its development.

- ⌘ In 2011, 4% of Hunter's Aboriginal residents were aged 65+, compared with 18% of non-Aboriginal residents here. The difference between the two populations of elders was -14%.
- ⌘ The elder difference had widened by 1% since 2006, after having changed little over the previous 5 years.
- ⌘ The elder difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 11%. It had changed little since 2006 but widened by 1% over the previous 5 years.

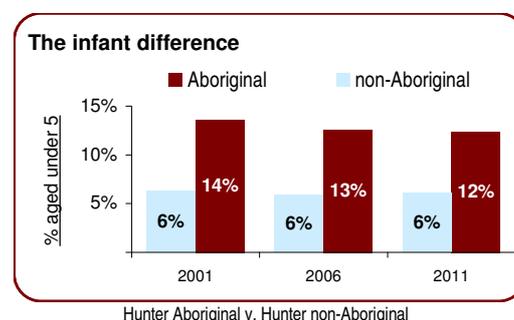


### The infant difference

% aged under 5 in population

Aboriginal communities generally have a higher proportion of young people due to larger families and fewer older people. Very high proportions of infants in the population can be an indication of poverty, and the need for maternal and child support services.

- ⌘ In 2011, 12% of Hunter's Aboriginal residents were infants, compared with 6% of non-Aboriginal residents. The infant difference was +6%.
- ⌘ The infant difference had closed by 1% since 2006, after having changed little over the previous 5 years.
- ⌘ The infant difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 6% and had changed little since 2006. It had closed by 1% over 2001 to 2006.

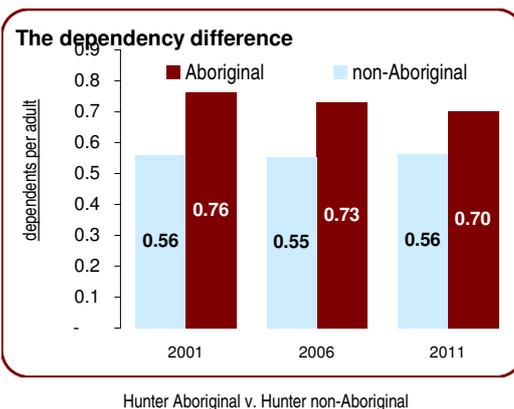


### The dependency difference

ratio of dependents to working age adults

The dependency ratio is the average number of people of dependent age (under 15 or 65+) for each person of working age. The national average is 0.5 dependents per adult. A higher ratio means each person of working age has more dependents to support, on average.

- ⌘ In 2011, the Aboriginal community of Hunter had a dependency ratio of 0.70 dependents per working age adult, compared with 0.56 for the non-Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal dependency ratio was 0.14 higher, with the average Aboriginal adult having 0.14 more dependents to support.
- ⌘ The dependency difference had closed by 0.04 since 2006, after having closed by 0.03 over the previous 5 years.
- ⌘ The dependency difference in NSW was 0.17 and had closed by 0.05 since 2006. It had closed by 0.03 over 2001 to 2006.



# Generations

A generation is all the people born in the same 15-year period. The population in a generation can increase only if more people that age move into the area. However, the number of Aboriginal people in a generation can also increase if more say they have Aboriginal origins, in the Census.

In the Aboriginal population of Hunter in 2011:

⌘ **4.0% were of the Veteran generation, born before 1946, and aged 65 or over in 2011.**

This was 14% lower than for non-Aboriginal residents of Hunter.

The number of Aboriginal Veterans had fallen by 5% since 2006, probably due to deaths, but had increased by 3% since 2001.

The number of Aboriginal Veterans in NSW had fallen by 7% since 2006, and by 14% since 2001.

⌘ **11% were Babyboomers, born between 1946 and 1961, and aged 50–64 in 2011.**

This was 9% lower than for non-Aboriginal.

The number of Babyboomers had increased by 17% since 2006, and by 31% since 2001. This suggests many more identified Aboriginal origins in the 2011 Census.

The number of Aboriginal Babyboomers in NSW had increased by 12% since 2006, and by 14% since 2001.

⌘ **17% were Generation X, born between 1961 and 1976, and aged 35–49 in 2011.**

This was 3% fewer than for non-Aboriginal.

The number in Gen X had increased by 23% since 2006, suggesting that more identified as Aboriginal or moved into Hunter. The number had risen by 37% since 2001.

In NSW, the number of Aboriginal Gen Xs had increased by 14% since 2006, and by 17% since 2001.

⌘ **20% were Generation Y, born between 1976 and 1991, and aged 20–34 in 2011.**

This was 2% larger than for non-Aboriginal.

The number in Gen Y had increased by 6% since 2006, which suggests more moving in or stating Aboriginal origins. Their number was up by 8% over the decade.

Across NSW, the size of the Aboriginal Gen Y had increased by 1% since 2006, but had fallen by 5% since 2001.

⌘ **36% were Generation Z, born between 1991 and 2006, and aged 5–19 in 2011.**

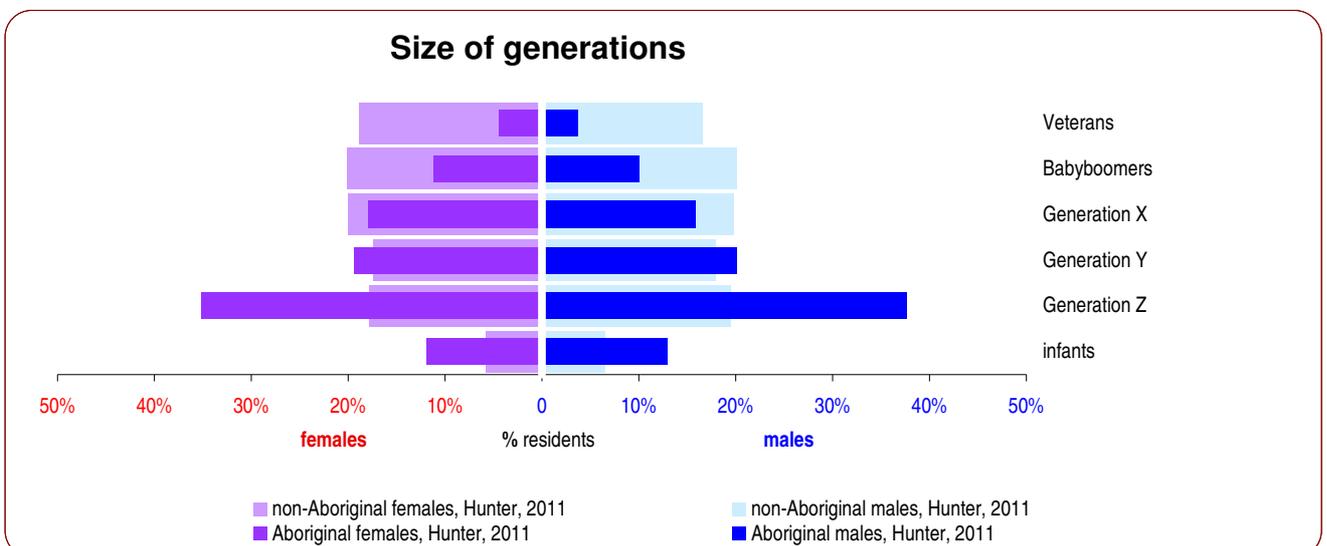
This was 18% larger than for non-Aboriginal.

The number of Aboriginal Gen Z children had risen by 26% since 2006 suggesting many more had Aboriginal origins recorded in the Census.

Across NSW, the size of the Aboriginal Gen Z had risen by 14% since 2006.

⌘ **12% were infants, aged under 5 in 2011. None had been born in 2006.**

The proportion of infants was 6% higher than for non-Aboriginal residents of Hunter.



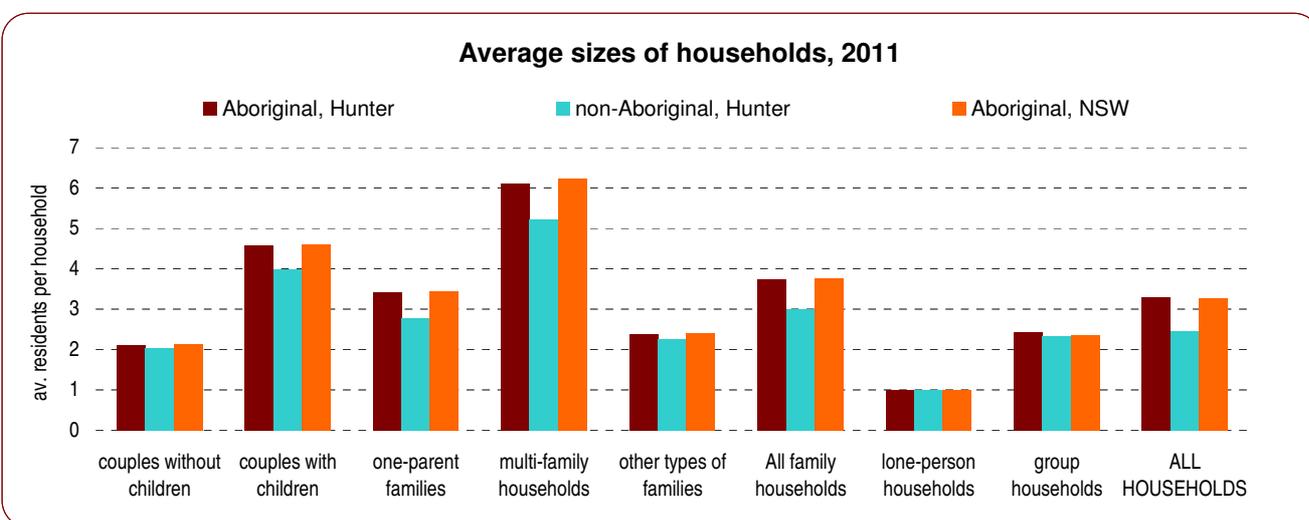
## Households types & sizes

In 2011, the 23,204 Aboriginal residents of Hunter were living in 10,497 households, which was 39% more than in 2006.

The main types of Aboriginal households\* in Hunter in 2011 were:

- ⌘ Three in ten were couples with children (3,356 households, or 32%). 3% higher than non-Aboriginal in Hunter
- ⌘ Almost three in ten were one-parent families (2,781 households, or 26%). 16% more than non-Aboriginal in Hunter
- ⌘ One in six were couples without children (1,726 households, or 16%). 12% less than non-Aboriginal in Hunter
- ⌘ One in seven were one-person households (1,447 households, or 14%). 12% less than non-Aboriginal
- ⌘ There were 433 multi-family households, and 176 other types of households.

\* Aboriginal households have at least one Aboriginal resident; non-Aboriginal households have none.



Aboriginal households had an average of 3.3 residents in 2011, which was little changed since 2006, and little different from 2001.

- ⌘ Aboriginal households in the region were similar to NSW, which averaged 3.3 residents. The average size of the NSW Aboriginal households was little changed since 2006.
- ⌘ The average size of non-Aboriginal households in Hunter was 2.5 residents; Aboriginal households here were 34% larger, on average. The average size of non-Aboriginal households here changed little from 2006.
- ⌘ The larger average size of Aboriginal households is partly a result of fewer Aboriginal people living alone. 14% of the Aboriginal households here were lone persons; 26% of other households were.
- ⌘ Aboriginal couple families averaged 2.6 children, compared with 2.6 for the NSW Aboriginal and 2.0 for Hunter's non-Aboriginal families. The average size of Aboriginal nuclear families here was little changed since 2006, and up by 0.4 from 2001.
- ⌘ Aboriginal one-parent families here averaged 2.4 children, compared with 2.4 in NSW and 1.8 for non-Aboriginal one-parent families here. The average children per one-parent family was little changed since 2006, and up by 0.4 since 2001.
- ⌘ At an average size of 3.3 persons, the 10,497 Aboriginal households here had around 34,431 members, but only 21,647 Aboriginal people were counted in dwellings. The difference is 12,784 people who did not say they were Aboriginal. This suggests that almost four in ten people in Aboriginal households did not say they had Aboriginal origins in the Census.

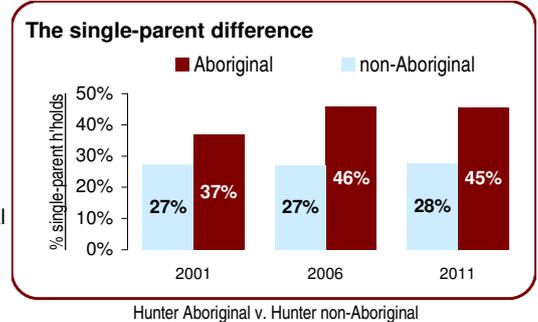
## Household Indicators

### The single-parent difference

% of families with children having one parent

Single-parent families often have low incomes because it is difficult for the parent to work without adequate child care and support. High proportions of one-parent families can indicate a high need for support services.

- ⌘ In 2011, 45% of Hunter's Aboriginal families with children had one parent, compared with 28% of non-Aboriginal families. The difference was +18%.
- ⌘ The single parent difference had closed by 1% since 2006, after having increased by 9% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The single-parent difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 24%. It had closed by 1% since 2006 after having increased by 8% over 2001 to 2006.

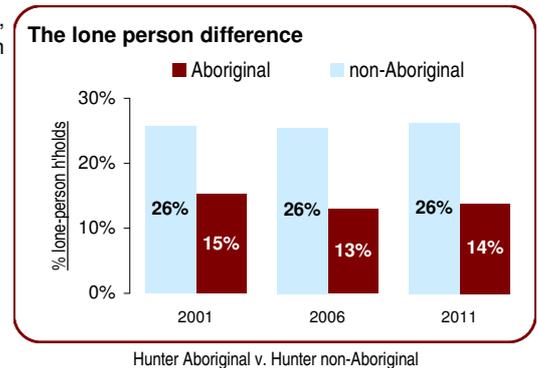


### The lone person difference

% of households with one person

Living alone is about half as common for Aboriginal people as for others, so most communities have a large lone person difference. The difference is influenced locally by the availability of small dwellings.

- ⌘ In 2011, 14% of Hunter's Aboriginal households were lone persons, compared with 26% of non-Aboriginal households. The lone person difference was 12%. This means there were over five Aboriginal people living alone for every ten non-Aboriginal people.
- ⌘ The difference had reduced by 1% since 2006, after having increased by 2% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The lone person difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 9% and had closed by 1% since 2006. It had increased by 2% between 2001 and 2006.

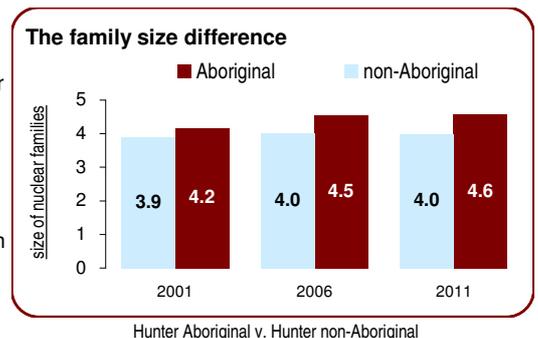


### The family size difference

average size of two-parent families

The family size difference is the gap between the average sizes of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal 'nuclear families' (couples with children). Larger families have to spread their income among more members, so living standards tend to be lower.

- ⌘ In 2011, the average size of Hunter's Aboriginal nuclear families was 4.6 persons (2.6 children), compared with 4.0 persons (2.0 children) for non-Aboriginal families, a difference of 0.6 children per family.
- ⌘ The family size difference had widened by 0.1 since 2006, after having widened by 0.2 for 2001–2006.
- ⌘ The family size difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 0.5 children per family, and had changed little since 2006. It had widened by 0.2 from 2001 to 2006.



## Types of housing

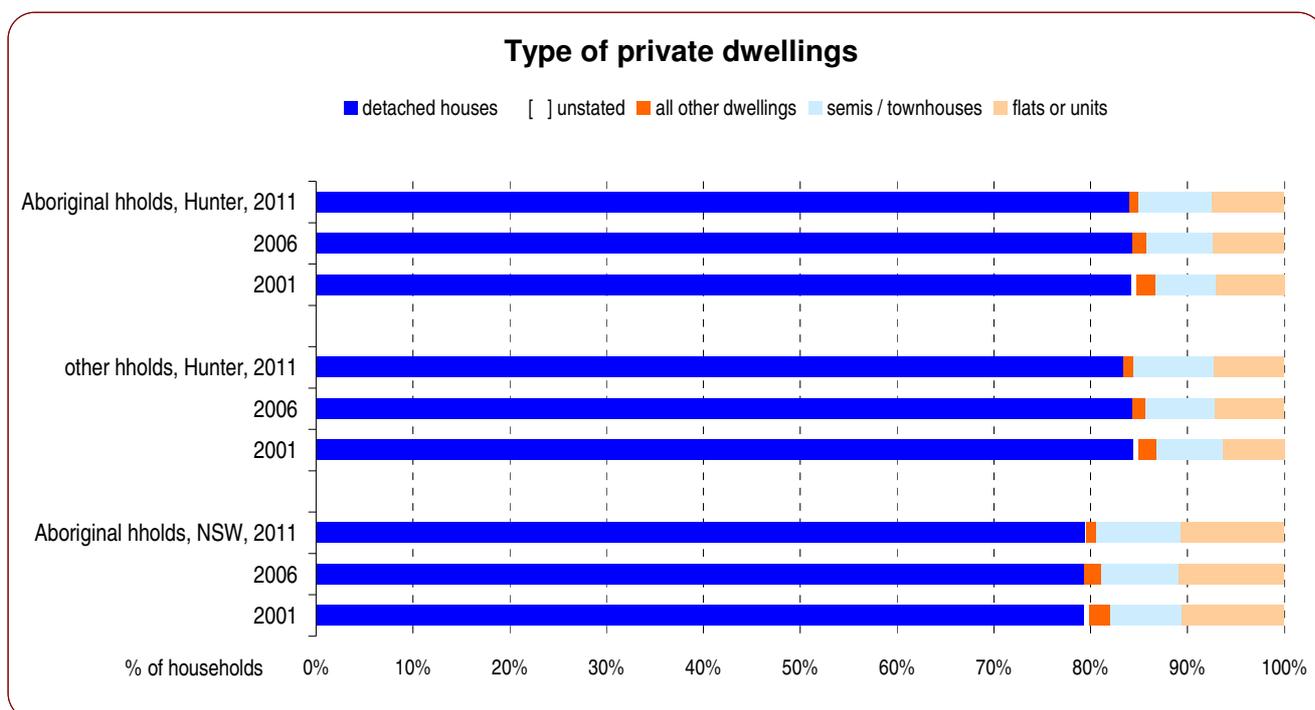
In 2011, most Aboriginal households in Hunter were living in detached houses (84%), with 8% living in semis / townhouses and 7% living in flats or units.

⌘ Compared with other households in Hunter, 1% more Aboriginal households lived in detached houses, and 1% fewer lived in semis / townhouses.

The proportion in detached houses was 5% higher than average for Aboriginal households in NSW. The proportion in flats or units was 3% lower.

⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households living in detached houses here was little changed since 2006 and virtually unchanged since 2001.

The proportion of non-Aboriginal households in detached houses was down by 1% since 2006 and down by 1% since 2001.



312 Aboriginal people in Hunter (1%) were counted living in institutional accommodation (eg, nursing homes, hospitals, boarding houses, correctional centres, barracks or boarding schools) on Census night 2011.

⌘ The Census counted 11,480 people in total in institutional accommodation in Hunter in 2011.

2% of non-Aboriginal residents of Hunter were living in institutions in 2011 (2% in 2006).

⌘ There were 375 Aboriginal people living in institutional accommodation here in 2006, and 296 in 2001.

Of the Aboriginal people in institutional accommodation, 246 were male and 66 were female, a gender ratio of 3.7 males per female.

9 Aboriginal people were reported living in improvised accommodation (eg, shacks, tents or sleeping out) in Hunter on Census night.

⌘ This was down by 5 since 2006.  
There were 3 males and 6 females.

There were 173 non-Aboriginal people in improvised accommodation in Hunter.

## Housing costs & tenure

In 2011, Aboriginal households in Hunter most commonly lived in dwellings that were rented (52% of the households). Another 31% lived in dwellings that were being purchased, and 14% in ones that were fully owned.

⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households that rented, 52%, was 25% higher than for other households here.

The proportion living in rented dwellings was down by 3% since 2006; and 2% lower than in 2001.

The median weekly rent paid by Aboriginal households here was \$231. It was \$158 in 2006 and in 2001.

⌘ The proportion living in dwellings that were being bought (31%) was 3% lower than for non-Aboriginal households here.

The proportion living in mortgaged dwellings was up by 3% since 2006; and 7% higher than in 2001.

The median monthly mortgage paid by Aboriginal households in Hunter in 2011 was \$1660. It was \$1278 in 2006 and for 2001.

⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings (14%) was 23% lower than for non-Aboriginal households here.

The proportion living in fully owned dwellings was unchanged since 2006; and 4% lower than in 2001.

Among Aboriginal households, the proportion renting in Hunter was 5% lower than the rate in NSW.

26% of other households here were renting, up by 1% since 2006, and up by 3% since 2001.

The median weekly rent paid by non-Aboriginal households in Hunter was \$252. It was \$178 in 2006 and in 2001.

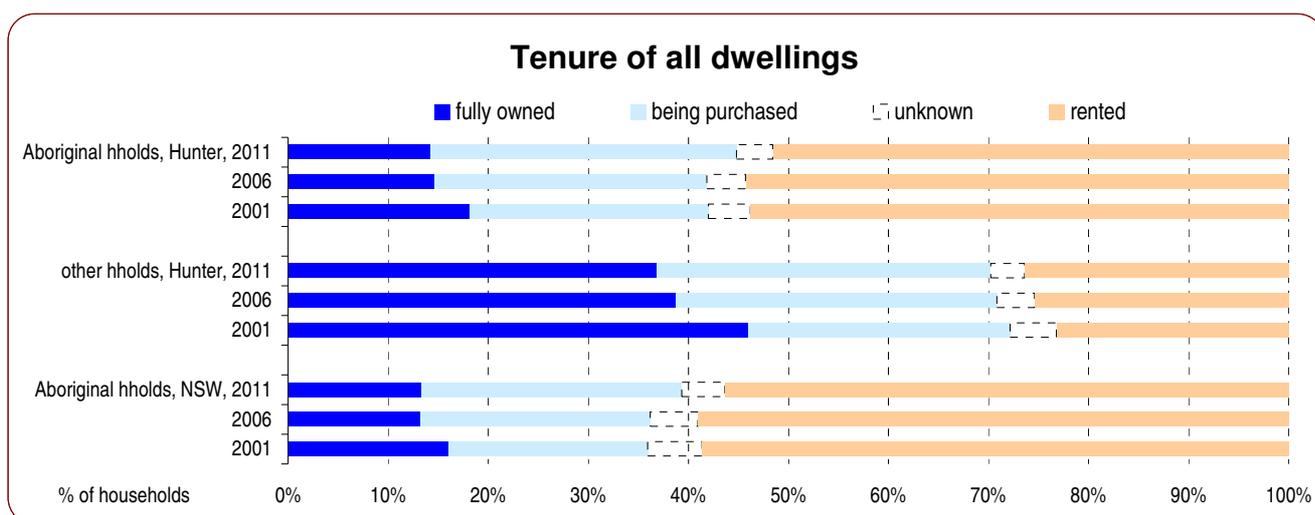
In NSW, 33% of Aboriginal households were home-buyers with a mortgage.

33% of the non-Aboriginal households had a mortgage in Hunter, up by 1% since 2006, and up by 10% since 2001.

The median mortgage paid by other households in Hunter was \$1,695. It was \$1,286 in 2006 and for 2001.

The proportion of Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings in Hunter was very close to the average in NSW.

The proportion of non-Aboriginal households in fully owned dwellings in Hunter was down by 2% since 2006, and down by 9% since 2001.



Of 5,409 Aboriginal rental households, 45% were managed by real estate agents and 30% were managed by public housing.

⌘ 1,643 Aboriginal households lived in public housing (16% of all households).

The number of Aboriginal households in public housing had risen by 346 since 2006.

4% of the non-Aboriginal households lived in public housing.

The number of non-Aboriginal households in public housing in Hunter fell by 132 since 2006.

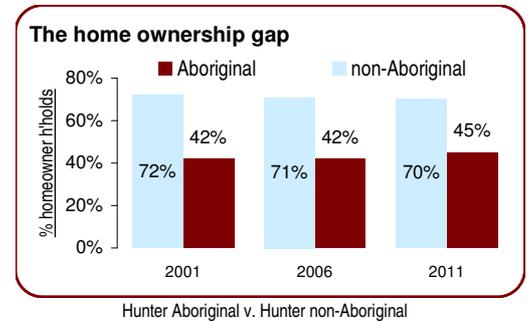
## Housing Gap Indicators

### The home ownership gap

% of households owning/buying their home

Ownership of a home is a principal way that Australians accumulate wealth and ensure secure accommodation. A significantly lower level of home ownership is generally a strong indicator of disadvantage.

- ⌘ In 2011, 45% of Hunter's Aboriginal households were either buying or owned their home, compared with 70% of non-Aboriginal households, a home ownership gap of -25%.
- ⌘ The ownership gap had closed by 4% since 2006, after having closed by 1% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The ownership gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 28% and had closed by 3% since 2006. It had closed by 2% between 2001 and 2006.

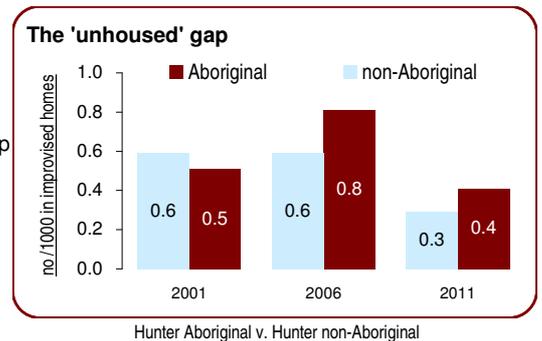


### The 'unhoused' gap

rate per 1000 of people in improvised housing

An indicator of homelessness in the Census is the count of people living in improvised housing (eg, shacks, tents or sleeping out). High proportions of residents without proper housing indicates poverty or a transient population.

- ⌘ In 2011, 0.4 in every thousand Aboriginal residents in Hunter lived in improvised housing; 0.3 per 1000 non-Aboriginal residents did. The unhoused gap was +0.1 per 1000.
- ⌘ The unhoused gap had closed by 0.1 per 1000 since 2006. The gap had widened by 0.3 per 1000 over the previous 5 years.
- ⌘ The unhoused gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 0.1 per 1000, and had closed by 1.2 per 1000 since 2006. It had widened by 0.1 per 1000 over 2001 to 2006.



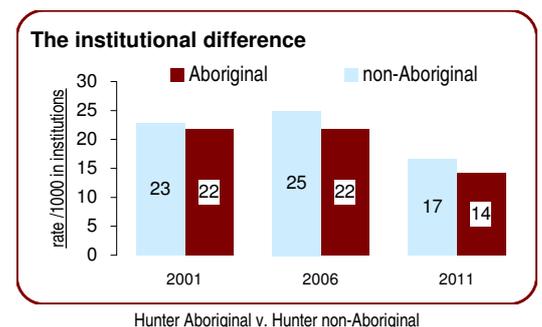
This category includes sheds, tents, humpies and other improvised dwellings, occupied on Census night. It also includes people sleeping on park benches or in other 'rough' accommodation (the traditional definition of homeless people). The unhoused rate fell by two-thirds nationally for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people between 2006 and 2011.

### The institutional difference

rate per 1000 of residents in non-private dwellings

The proportion of people in institutional accommodation can indicate that a community has a particular character, but local knowledge is needed to identify the nature of these institutions. They include hotels, boarding houses, nursing homes, correctional centres, barracks and hospitals.

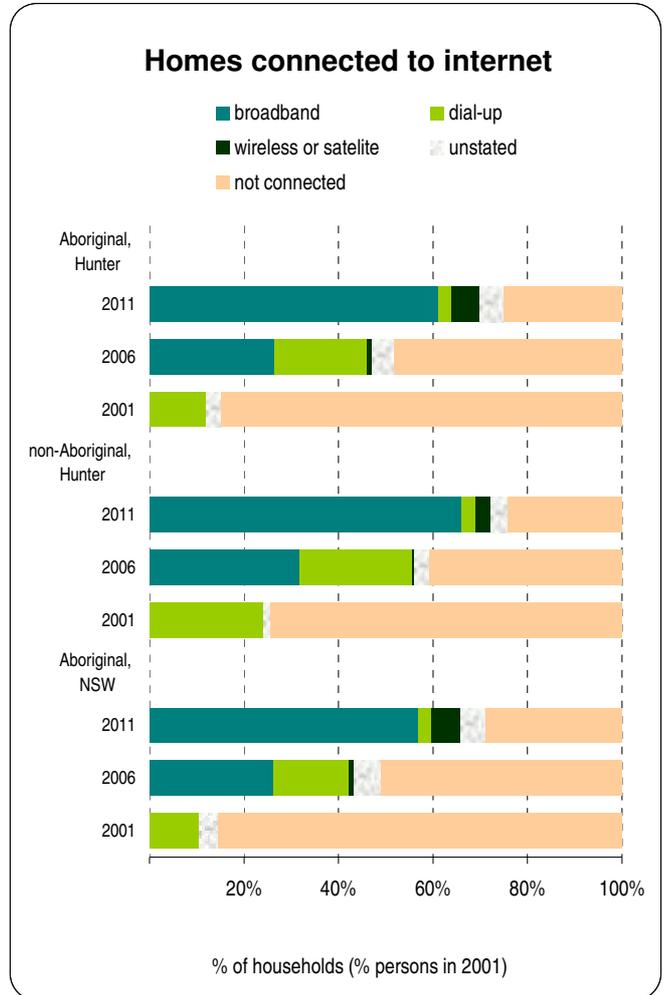
- ⌘ In 2011, 14 in every 1000 Aboriginal residents in Hunter were in institutional housing, compared with 17 per 1000 non-Aboriginal residents. The institutional difference was -2 per 1000.
- ⌘ The institutional gap had changed little since 2006, after having widened by 2 per 1000 over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The institutional difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 9 per 1000 and had changed little since 2006. It had widened by 3 per 1000 between 2001 and 2006.



## Internet @ home

In 2011, 70% Aboriginal households in Hunter had an internet connection while 25% did not (2,630 households). 5% did not answer the question.

- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households connected to the internet was 4% higher here than in NSW (66% connected), but 2% lower than non-Aboriginal households in Hunter (72% connected).
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households with internet was up by 23% since 2006. The proportion was up by 23% for Aboriginal households in NSW. It was up by 16% for non-Aboriginal households in Hunter (it was already 56% in 2006).  
  
In 2001, 12% of Hunter's Aboriginal people used the internet at home, compared with 11% of Aboriginal people in NSW and 24% of non-Aboriginal people in Hunter.
- ⌘ 61% of Hunter's Aboriginal households had a broadband connection; 3% had a slower dial-up connection. 66% of non-Aboriginal households in Hunter and 57% of Aboriginal households in NSW had broadband.
- ⌘ The proportion of Aboriginal households in Hunter with broadband was up by 35% since 2006. It was up by 34% among non-Aboriginal households in Hunter and up by 31% for Aboriginal households in NSW.

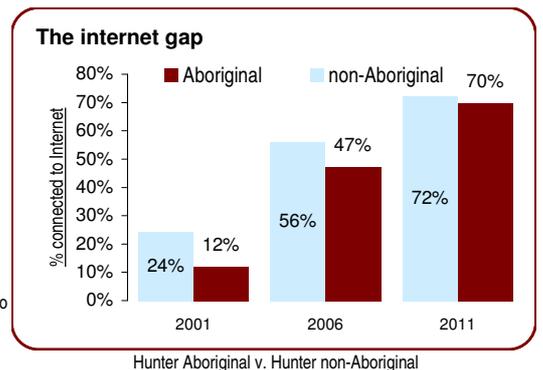


## The internet gap

The internet is becoming increasingly important as a source of communication and information, and is becoming an essential service. A lower level of internet connections indicates 'digital disadvantage'.

- ⌘ In 2011, 70% of Hunter's Aboriginal households had an internet connection, compared with 72% of non-Aboriginal households, an internet gap of -2%.
- ⌘ The internet gap had closed by 7% since 2006, after having closed by 3% over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The internet gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 11% and had narrowed by 8% since 2006. It changed little between 2001 and 2006.  
  
In 2001, the Census counted persons who used the internet at home, not dwellings connected to the internet, as in 2006 and 2011.

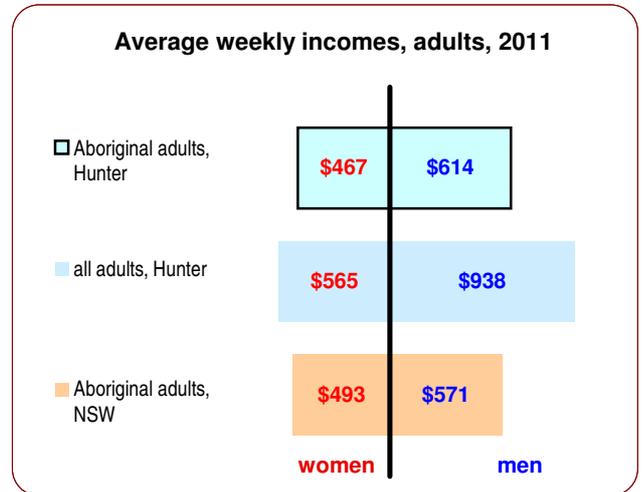
% of households with an Internet connection



## Individual incomes

In 2011, the average income weekly of Aboriginal adults (aged 15+) in Hunter was about \$537, which was very close to Aboriginal adults in NSW (\$530), but 28% less than the average of all adults in Hunter (\$746).

- ⌘ Aboriginal men in Hunter averaged \$614 a week (65% of the overall male average). Aboriginal women here averaged \$467 a week (83% of the overall female average).
- ⌘ The average weekly income of Aboriginal men was \$43 higher in Hunter than in NSW. The average weekly income of Aboriginal women here was \$25 lower than in NSW.
- ⌘ Half of the Aboriginal adults received under \$390 a week (the median income).



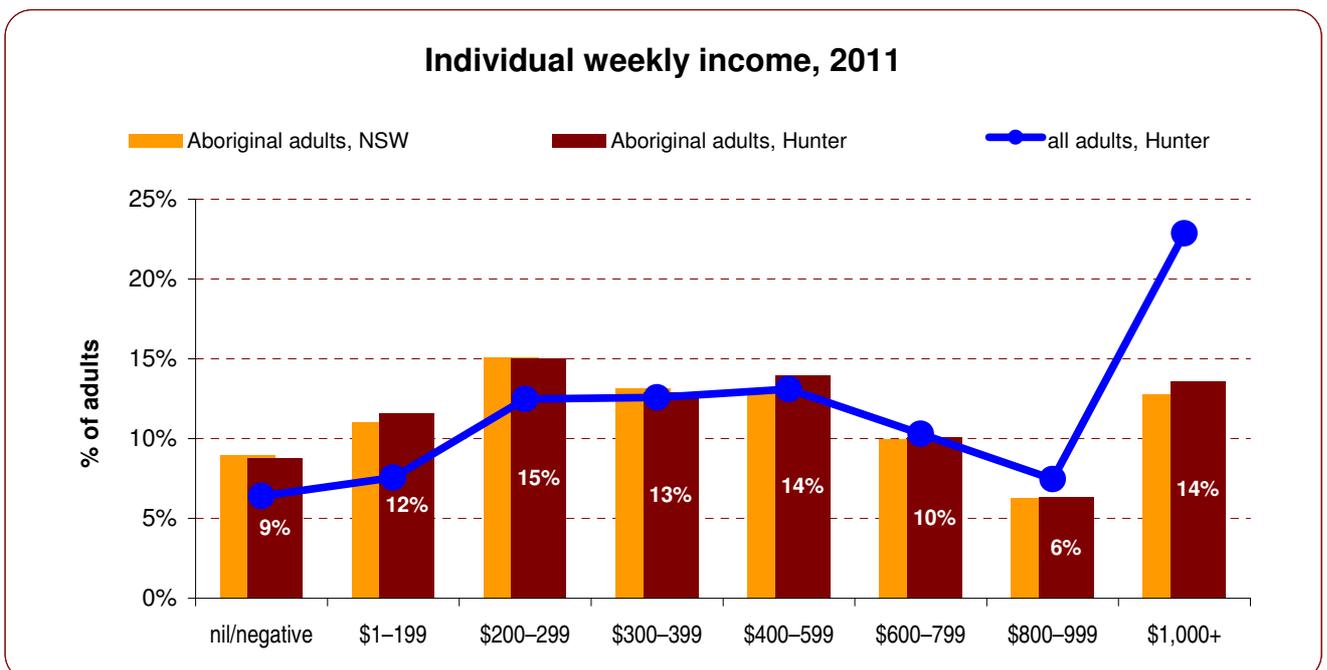
The income distribution pattern among Aboriginal adults in Hunter was similar to that of Aboriginal adults in NSW, and somewhat different from all adults in Hunter.

Compared with Aboriginal adults across NSW:

- ⌘ more Aboriginal adults here were in the \$400–599 and \$1,000+ ranges.
- ⌘ fewer were in the \$300–399 and nil/negative ranges.

Compared with all adults in Hunter:

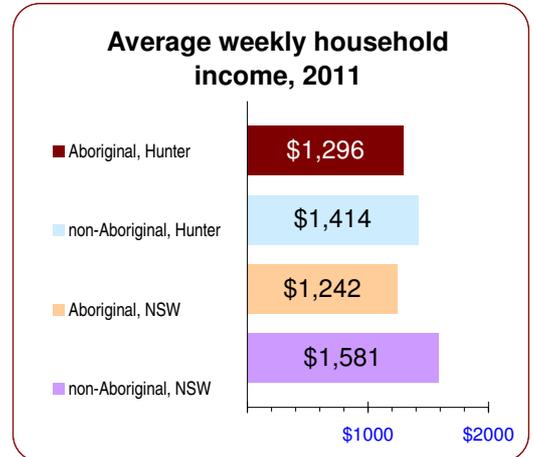
- ⌘ more Aboriginal adults here were in the \$1–199 and \$200–299 ranges, and in the nil/negative range.
- ⌘ fewer were in the \$1,000+ and \$800–999 ranges.



## Household incomes

In 2011, the average income of Hunter's Aboriginal households was about \$1,296 a week. However, household income is a poor indicator of well-being for Aboriginal people because their households generally have more members to support.

- ⌘ The average Aboriginal household income here was similar to average for Aboriginal households in NSW (\$1,242 a week).
- ⌘ It was 8% less than the average of Hunter's non-Aboriginal households, \$1,414 a week.
- ⌘ Half the Aboriginal households received less than \$1,030 a week (the median household income).
- ⌘ Aboriginal households in Hunter had an average size of 3.3 residents, compared with 2.5 for non-Aboriginal households in Hunter. Household incomes thus had to be spread among many more people than in non-Aboriginal households.



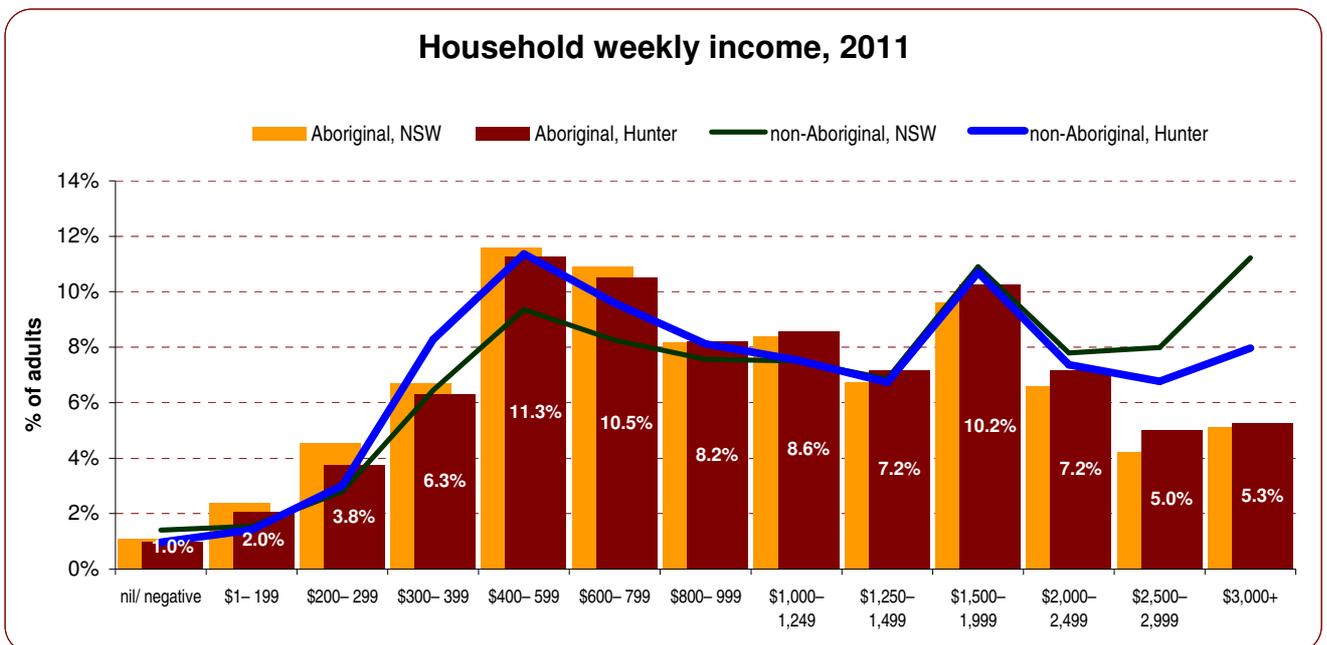
The income distribution pattern among Aboriginal households in Hunter was similar to that seen among NSW's Aboriginal households, and somewhat different from that of all households in Hunter. As the graph below shows:

Compared with Aboriginal households across NSW:

- ⌘ more Aboriginal households here were in the \$2,500–2,999 and \$1,500–1,999 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Aboriginal households here were in the \$200–299 and \$300–399 income ranges, or in the \$600–799 and \$1–199 ranges.

Compared with non-Aboriginal households in Hunter:

- ⌘ more Aboriginal households were in the \$1,000–1,249 and \$600–799 income ranges.
- ⌘ fewer Aboriginal households were in the \$3,000+ and \$300–399 income ranges.



## Income Gap Indicators

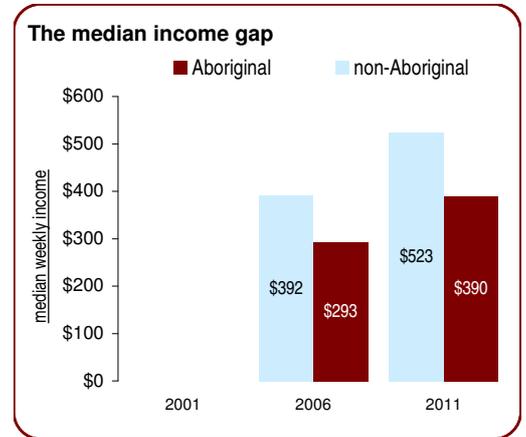
### The median income gap

median weekly income of adults (15+)

Income is a vital contributor to well-being. One indicator of disadvantage is a low median income – the amount which half the people earn less than.

- ⌘ In 2011, the median income of Aboriginal adults in Hunter (\$390) was 75% that of non-Aboriginal adults in Hunter (\$523). The median Aboriginal income here was 25% lower than the non-Aboriginal median.
- ⌘ The median income gap had changed little since 2006. No 2001 data.
- ⌘ The median income gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 34% and had narrowed by 2% since 2006. It had increased 7% between 2001 and 2006.\*

\* Note that 2001 medians are taken as the midpoints of ranges (eg, \$700-799), so are less accurate than later Censuses.



Hunter Aboriginal v. Hunter non-Aboriginal

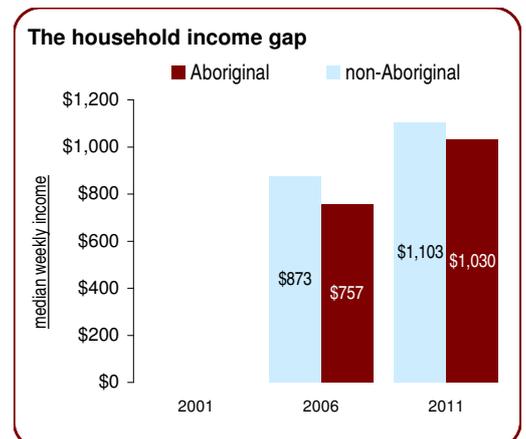
### The household income gap

median weekly income of households

Another indicator of disadvantage is a low median household income; half of all households receive less than this amount. However, Aboriginal households tend to be larger, with more dependents, so household income does not reflect disadvantage as well as individual income.

- ⌘ In 2011, the median income of Aboriginal households in Hunter was \$1,030 compared with \$1,103 for non-Aboriginal households here. The median income here for Aboriginal households was 7% lower than for non-Aboriginal households.
- ⌘ The household income gap had closed by 6% since 2006. No 2001 data.
- ⌘ The household income gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 25% and had closed by 5% since 2006. It had increased 2% between 2001 and 2006.\*

\* Note that 2001 medians are taken as the midpoints of ranges (eg, \$700-799), so are less accurate than later Censuses.



Hunter Aboriginal v. Hunter non-Aboriginal

# Employment

Employment is a prime determinant of a community's income, so it is an important indicator of well-being. In Hunter, 6,693 out of 14,591 Aboriginal adults (15+) were employed in 2011 – 46% of adults.

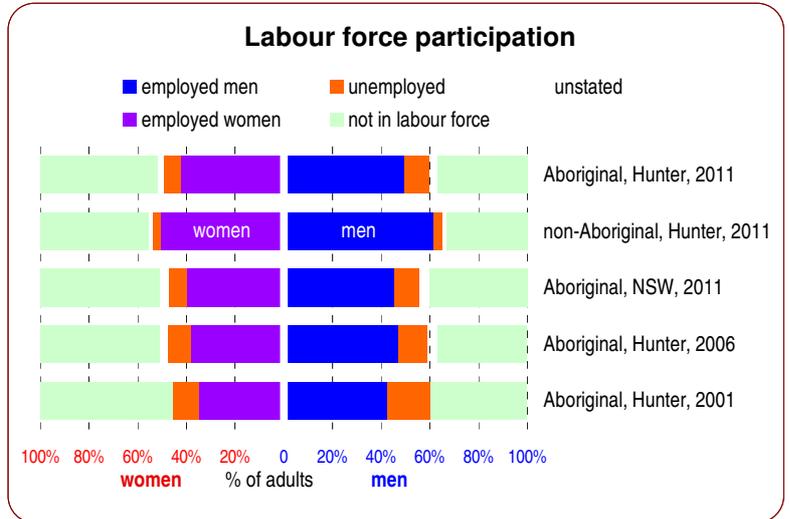
Another 1,234 Aboriginal adults were unemployed (8%), so the average workforce participation rate was 54%.

Aboriginal workforce participation was ...

- ⌘ lower for women (49%) than men (60%).
- ⌘ 5% lower than the average for non-Aboriginal adults here.
- ⌘ 3% higher than the average for Aboriginal adults in NSW.

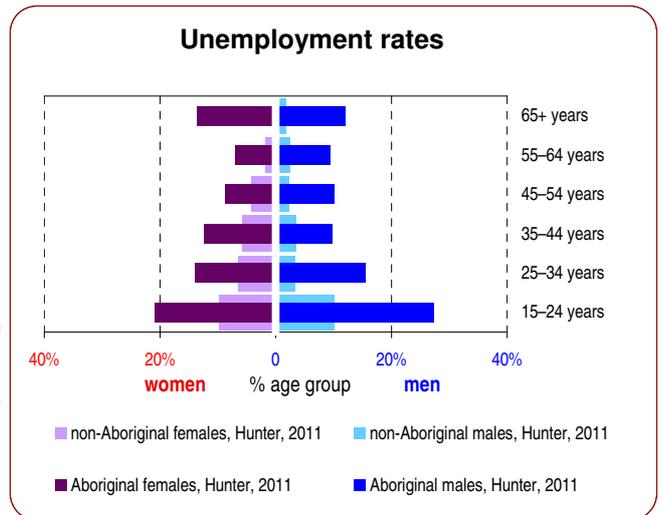
The Aboriginal workforce participation rate in Hunter was 42% higher than 2006 and 89% higher than 2001.

Note: these percentages include unstated responses.

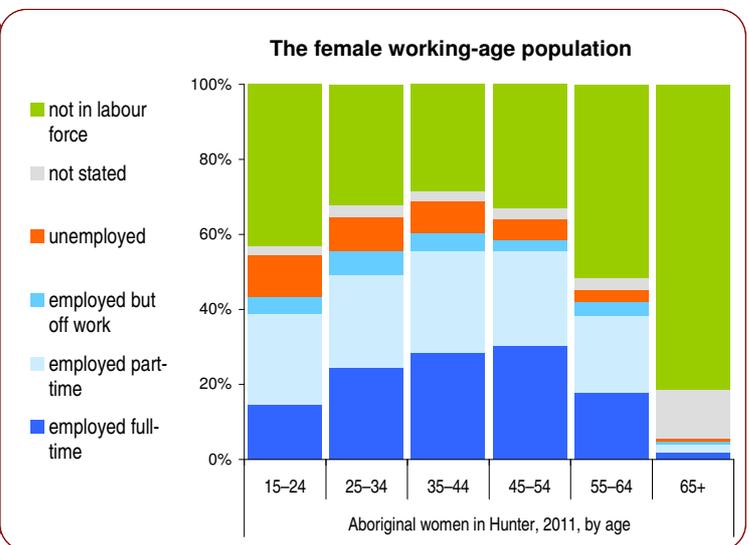
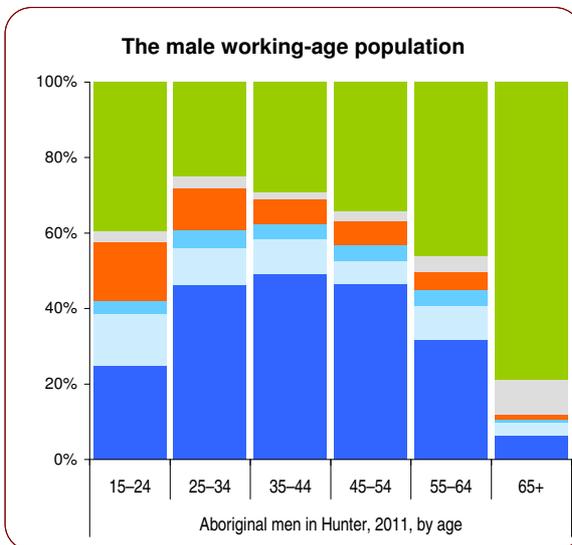


With 1,234 of the Aboriginal labour force unemployed, the Aboriginal unemployment rate was 16%.

- ⌘ This rate was much higher than the 5% rate among non-Aboriginal adults in Hunter.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal unemployment rate was 17% for men and 14% for women.
- ⌘ The Aboriginal unemployment rate was 4% lower than in 2006, and 11% lower than in 2001.
- ⌘ Unemployment was highest among those aged 15–24 years (24%) and 25–34 years (15%); lowest among those aged 55–64 years (8%) and 45–54 years (9%).



These graphs shows how employment patterns vary between men and women.



## Workforce Gap Indicators

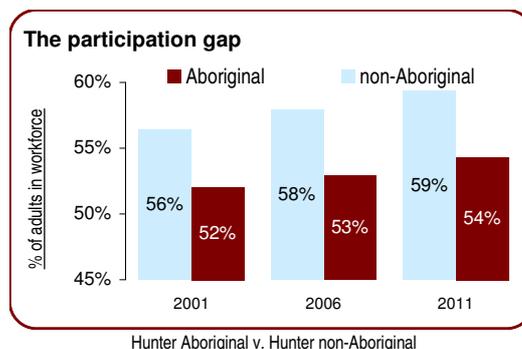
### The participation gap

% of adults 15+ in labour force

Employment in the workforce is the main way that people gain income and independence. When the proportion of adults in the workforce is low, communities become more dependent on income support, and poverty increases.

- ⌘ In 2011, the proportion of Aboriginal adults (15+) of Hunter in the workforce was 54%; the proportion of non-Aboriginal adults in the workforce was 59%; the participation gap was -5%.
- ⌘ The participation gap had changed little since 2006, after having widened by 1% over the previous 5 years.
- ⌘ The participation gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 11% and had changed little since 2006. It had widened by 1% between 2001 and 2006.

Note: these percentages exclude unstated responses.

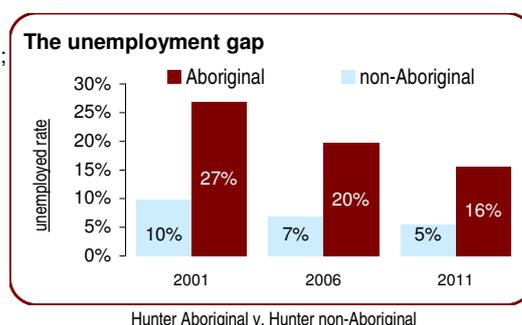


### The unemployment gap

% of unemployed in workforce

High unemployment indicates an absence of jobs in occupations for which local people have had training. High unemployment rates have many damaging effects on those unemployed and their community.

- ⌘ In 2011, 16% of the Aboriginal workforce in Hunter were unemployed; 5% of the non-Aboriginal workforce were unemployed; the unemployed gap was +10%.
- ⌘ The unemployed gap had closed by 3% since 2006, after having closed by 4% over the previous 5 years.
- ⌘ The unemployed gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 11% and had closed by 3% since 2006. It had narrowed by 2% between 2001 and 2006.

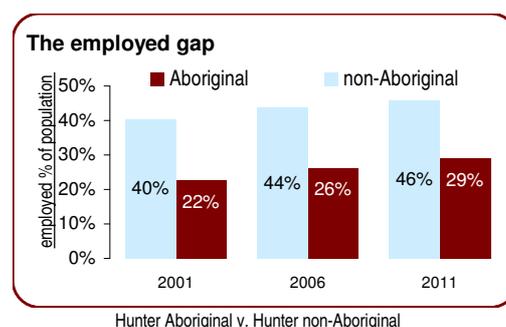


### The employed gap

employed adults as % of population

A useful indicator of the financial strength of a community is the proportion of population who are employed. A lower proportion means that, on average, each employed person has more people to support.

- ⌘ In 2011, 29% of the Aboriginal population of Hunter were employed; 46% of the non-Aboriginal workforce were employed; the employed gap was 17%.
- ⌘ The employed gap had closed by 1% since 2006, after having changed little over the previous 5 years.
- ⌘ The employed gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 21% and had closed by 1% since 2006. It had changed little between 2001 and 2006.



## Educational participation by age

Having high proportions of people in education is a good indicator of positive individual and community development. In Hunter, one in three Aboriginal residents (8,271 people) were attending an educational institution in 2011.

Aboriginal participation in education varied with age:

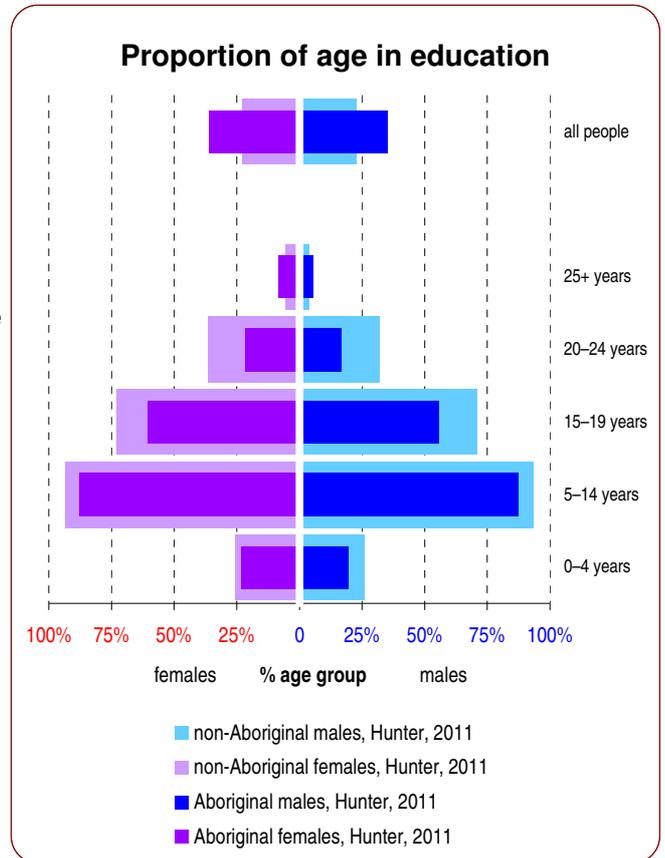
- 87% of 5–14 year olds
- 58% of 15–19 year olds
- 21% of 0–4 year olds
- 19% of 20–24 year olds
- 7% of 25+ year olds

Because the Aboriginal population has much higher proportions at school age, their overall participation rate in education, 36%, is much higher than the non-Aboriginal rate, 23%. However, relative to non-Aboriginal people of the same age, there were, in education:

- 2% more Aboriginal 25+ year olds
- 5% fewer Aboriginal 0–4 year olds
- 6% fewer Aboriginal 5–14 year olds
- 14% fewer Aboriginal 15–19 year olds
- 15% fewer Aboriginal 20–24 year olds

Overall, Hunter's Aboriginal population had 107 females per 100 males in education. This varied with age. Of those in education, there were:

- 1.1 females per male among 0–4 year olds
- 1.0 males per female among 5–14 year olds
- 1.0 females per male among 15–19 year olds
- 1.3 females per male among 20–24 year olds
- 1.8 females per male among 25+ year olds



Since 2006, overall participation in education by Aboriginal people in Hunter had remained stable, but this masks changes among the age groups.

- The proportion of 0–4 year olds in education was steady since 2006, with no 2001 data.
- The proportion of 5–14 year olds in education was down by 1% since 2006, and down by 3% since 2001.
- The proportion of 15–19 year olds in education was up by 7% since 2006, and up by 3% since 2001.
- The proportion of 20–24 year olds in education was steady since 2006, with no 2001 data.
- The proportion of 25+ year olds in education was steady since 2006, with no 2001 data.

## Current education

In the 2011 Census, a total of 6,819 Aboriginal children and teenagers in Hunter were attending school, with 723 in pre-school, 3,582 in primary school, and 2,514 in high school.

The number of Aboriginal pre-schoolers was up by 183 or 34% since 2006 and up by 85% since 2001.

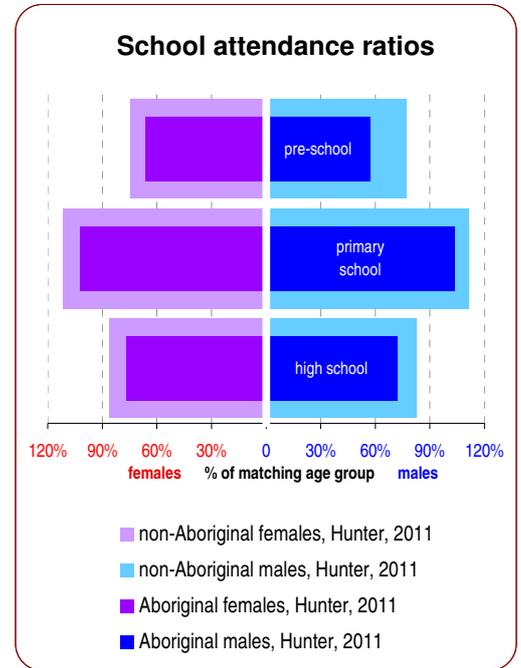
- ⌘ The 723 Aboriginal pre-schoolers equalled 61% of the number aged 4–5.
- ⌘ Aboriginal pre-schoolers in NSW equalled 63% of 4–5 year olds. Non-Aboriginal pre-schoolers in Hunter represented 76% of the age group.

The number of Aboriginal primary students was up by 728 or 26% since 2006 and up by 45% since 2001.

- ⌘ Aboriginal primary students were 103% of the number aged 6–11.
- ⌘ This rate was 1% lower than the Aboriginal rate in NSW and 9% lower than for non-Aboriginal children in Hunter.

The number of Aboriginal secondary students was up by 733 or 41% since 2006 and up by 81% since 2001.

- ⌘ Aboriginal secondary students were 74% of the number aged 12–17.
- ⌘ This rate was 10% lower than the rate for non-Aboriginal secondary students here; it was similar to Aboriginal students in NSW.



1,288 Aboriginal residents of Hunter were attending post-school education in 2011. This was 379 more than in 2006. There were 363 more than in 2001.

389 Aboriginal 15–24 year-olds were enrolled in TAFE in 2011 (8% of the number this age); 39% attended full-time.

- ⌘ 9% of Aboriginal 15–24 year-olds in NSW attended TAFE, with 41% full-time.
- ⌘ 9% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year-olds in Hunter attended TAFE, with 30% full-time.

287 Aboriginal 15–24 year-olds here attended university or other tertiary education (6% of the number this age); 87% were full-time.

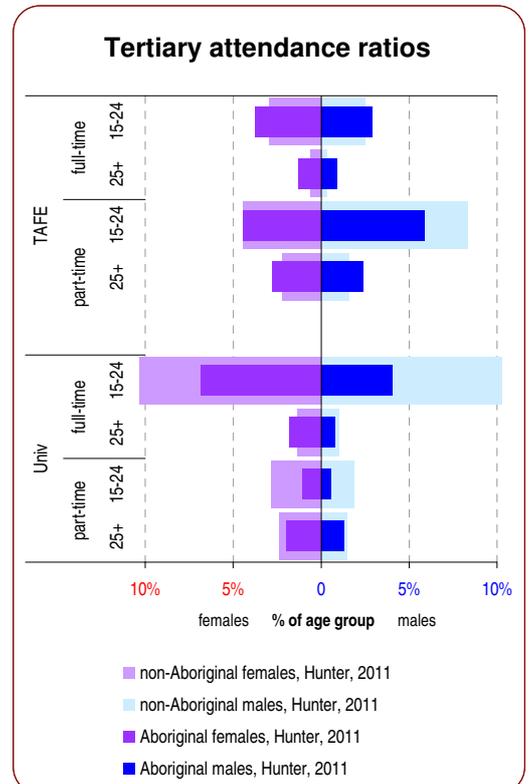
- ⌘ 5% of Aboriginal 15–24 year-olds in NSW were at uni, with 85% full-time.
- ⌘ 16% of non-Aboriginal 15–24 year-olds in Hunter were at uni, with 86% full-time.

There were 334 Aboriginal residents aged 25+ attending TAFE in 2011 (4% of those aged 25–64), with 30% full-time.

- ⌘ 4% of Aboriginal 25–64 year-olds in NSW attended TAFE, with 32% full-time.
- ⌘ 2% of non-Aboriginal 25–64 year-olds in Hunter attended TAFE, with 19% full-time.

266 Aboriginal residents aged 25+ were attending uni or other tertiary education in 2011 (3% of the 25–64 year-olds), with 44% full-time.

- ⌘ 3% of Aboriginal 25–64 year-olds in NSW were at uni, with 45% full-time.
- ⌘ 3% of non-Aboriginal 25–64 year-olds in Hunter were at uni, with 38% full-time.



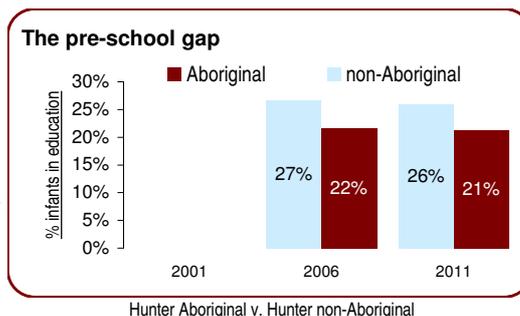
## Education Attendance Indicators

### The pre-school gap

% of infants under 5 in education

Early childhood education is an important contributor to success in school and later education, and makes paid work more feasible for parents. A useful Census indicator is the proportion of infants (under 5) in education (ie, pre-school). Across Australia, pre-school rates for Aboriginal infants (18%) and non-Aboriginal infants (20%) were not that different.

- ⌘ In 2011, 21% of Aboriginal infants were in education in Hunter, compared with 26% of non-Aboriginal infants. The pre-school gap was -5%.
- ⌘ The pre-school gap had changed little since 2006 (there were no 2001 numbers).
- ⌘ The pre-school rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW were 23% and 25% in 2011, a gap of -2%. This gap had closed by 2% since 2006.

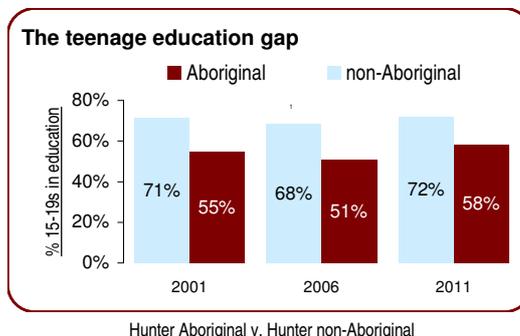


### The teenage education gap

% of 15–19 year-olds in education

Education of older teenagers is vital for their employment future, so low levels of participation in education indicates disadvantage. An important Census educational indicator is the proportion of 15–19 year-olds in education.

- ⌘ In 2011, 58% of Hunter Aboriginal teenagers aged 15–19 were in education, compared with 72% of non-Aboriginal teenagers. The teenage education gap was -14%.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap had closed by 4% since 2006, after widening by 1% from 2001 to 2006.
- ⌘ The teenage education gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 19% and had narrowed by 5% since 2006. It widened by 2% over 2001 to 2006.

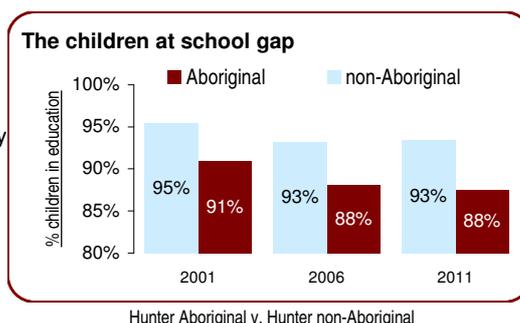


### The children at school gap

% of 5–14 year olds in education

School is compulsory for children under 15, so the proportion of children aged 5–14 at school should be around 93%, allowing for some not having started school and some unable to attend. Low schooling rates suggests truancy and/or underage school leavers.

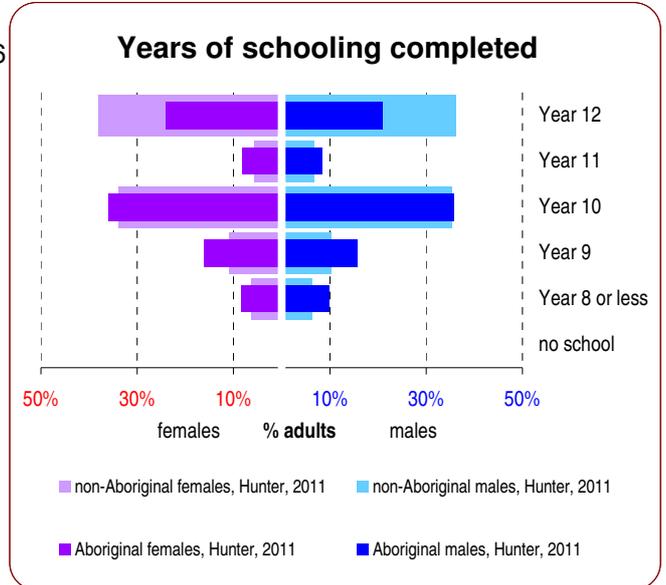
- ⌘ In 2011, 88% of Hunter Aboriginal children aged 5–14 were in education, and 93% of non-Aboriginal teenagers were. The schooling gap was -6%.
- ⌘ The schooling gap had widened by 1% since 2006 after widening by 1% between 2001 and 2006.
- ⌘ The schooling gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 7% and had changed little since 2006. It widened by 2% over 2001 to 2006.



## Schooling levels

In 2011, Aboriginal adults (15+) in Hunter had completed an average of 10.0 years of school, compared with 10.5 for non-Aboriginal adults. In NSW, Aboriginal adults averaged 10.0 years schooling.

- ⌘ 3,014 Aboriginal adults had completed Year 12, which was 56% more than in 2006 and 143% more than in 2001.  
The proportion of Aboriginal adults who had completed Year 12 was 23%, which was 15% lower than that of non-Aboriginal adults.  
24% of Aboriginal adults across NSW had completed Year 12.
- ⌘ 67% of Aboriginal adults in Hunter had completed at least Year 10, which was 3% more than for Aboriginal adults in NSW.
- ⌘ 1,288 Aboriginal adults (10%) had completed less than 9 years of school.



The average schooling period of Hunter's Aboriginal adults had risen by 2 months since 2006, and was up by 5 months since 2001.

The main positive influences since 2006 were a 56% increase in the number who had finished Year 12 and a stability in the number who had finished school at Year 8 or less.

For Aboriginal adults in Hunter, average schooling:

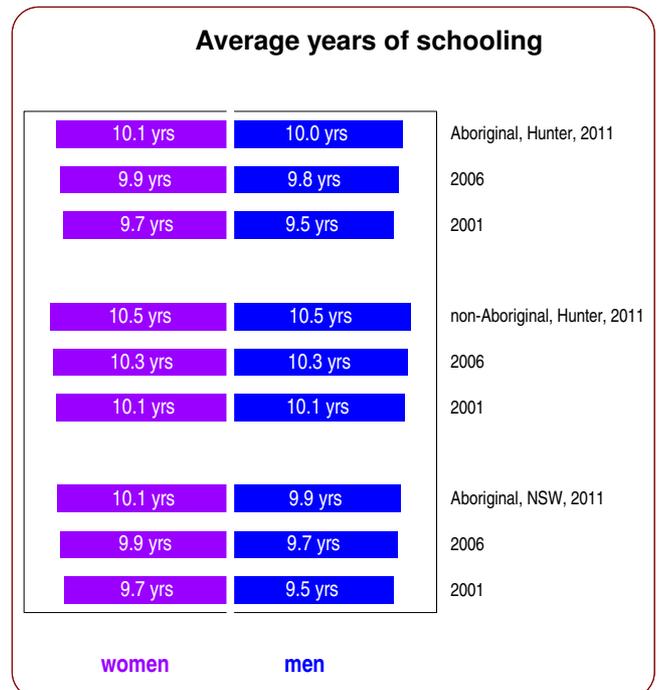
- ⌘ for men had risen by 3 months since 2006, and risen by 6 months since 2001.
- ⌘ for women had risen by 2 months since 2006, and risen by 5 months since 2001.

For non-Aboriginal adults, average schooling:

- ⌘ for men had risen by 2 months since 2006, and risen by 4 months since 2001.
- ⌘ for women had risen by 2 months since 2006, and risen by 5 months since 2001.

The average schooling of Aboriginal adults in NSW:

- ⌘ for men had risen by 3 months since 2006, and risen by 5 months since 2001.
- ⌘ for women had risen by 2 months since 2006, and risen by 5 months since 2001.



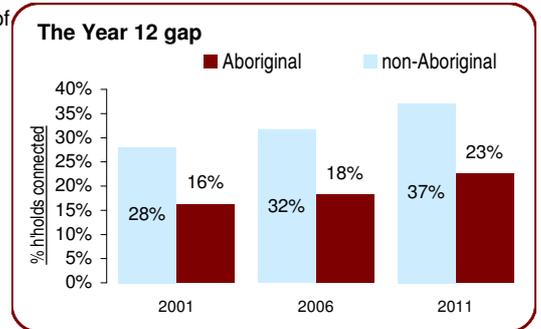
## Education Achievement Indicators

### The Year 12 gap

% of adults (15+) who have completed 12 years school

The proportion of adults who have completed 12 years of school is an important indicator of a community's educational resources. Half of all Australian adults have completed 12 years of school. Lower rates indicate a disadvantaged community.

- ⌘ In 2011, 23% of Hunter Aboriginal adults had completed 12 years of school, compared with 37% of non-Aboriginal adults. The Year 12 gap was 15%.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap had widened by 2% since 2006 after widening by 1% from 2001 to 2006.
- ⌘ The Year 12 gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 29% and had widened by 3% since 2006. It widened by 2% between 2001 and 2006.



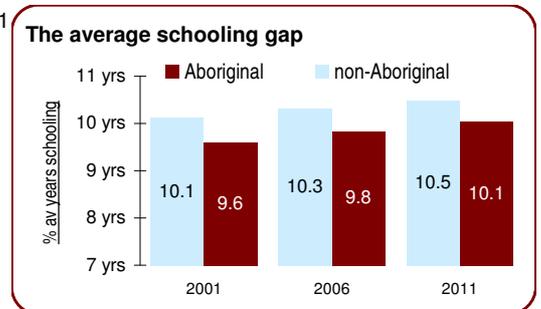
Hunter Aboriginal v. Hunter non-Aboriginal

### The average schooling gap

average years schooling for adults (aged 15+)

The average years schooling of adults is an indicator of a community's educational resources. Nationally, the average has been creeping up to 10 years 10 months. A local average under 10½ years shows disadvantage.

- ⌘ In 2011, Hunter Aboriginal adults had completed an average of 10.1 years of school, compared with 10.5 years for non-Aboriginal adults. The average schooling gap was 0.4 years (5 months).
- ⌘ The average schooling gap had changed little since 2006, after barely changing over the previous five years.
- ⌘ The average schooling gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 10 months. It had changed little since 2006, after having changed little between 2001 and 2006.



Hunter Aboriginal v. Hunter non-Aboriginal

## Tertiary qualifications

The type and extent of post-school qualifications has a major influence on the earning capacities of a community. In the 2011 Census, 5,997 Aboriginal adults in Hunter reported having tertiary educational qualifications, which was 41% of the number aged 15+.

By comparison, 41% of Aboriginal adults in NSW and 53% of non-Aboriginal adults in Hunter had a tertiary qualification.

719 Aboriginal adults in Hunter had a degree (5%), with 127 having a postgraduate degree.

- In NSW, 5% of the Aboriginal residents had a degree.
- 13% of the non-Aboriginal residents of Hunter had a degree.

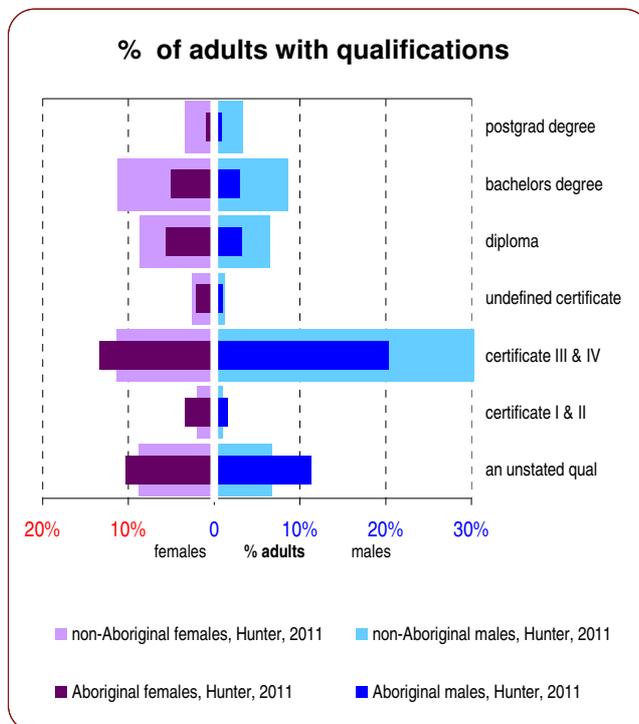
The main types of qualifications held by Aboriginal adults here were:

- Certificate III & IV, held by 2,447 people (17%);
- An unstated qual, by 1,574 people (11%);
- Diploma, by 655 people (4%).

While the number of Aboriginal adults in Hunter rose by 38% from 2006 to 2011, the number with qualifications rose by 48%. There were:

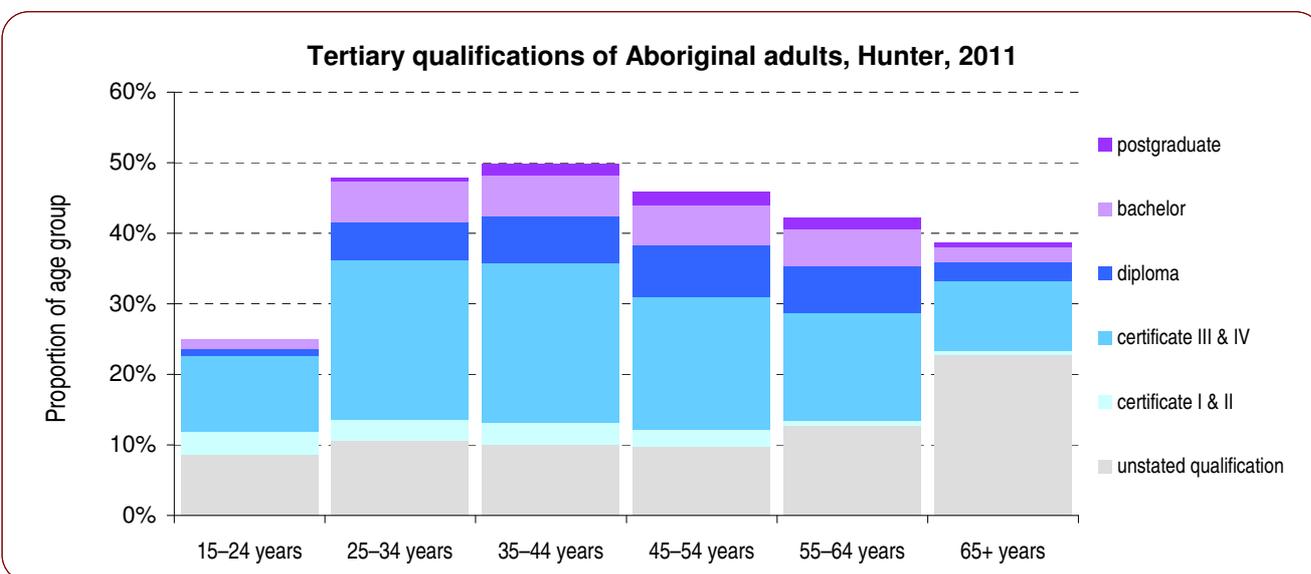
- 987 more with a certificate III & IV;
- 280 more with a diploma;
- 245 more with a bachelors degree.

Over the decade from 2001, the number of Aboriginal adults in Hunter with qualifications increased by 139%, while the adult population increased by 80%. There were 1,308 more with a certificate and 401 more with a bachelor degree qualification.



Over this decade, the number of Aboriginal adults in NSW with qualifications increased by 107%. There were 33944% more with a and 145% more with a certificate.

The chart below shows how the level of qualifications varies with age. Generally, those aged 25 to 34 have the most higher qualifications, while older people tend to have more unstated qualifications.



The chart is interactive in the Excel version. The gender, Aboriginal status and Census year can be altered.

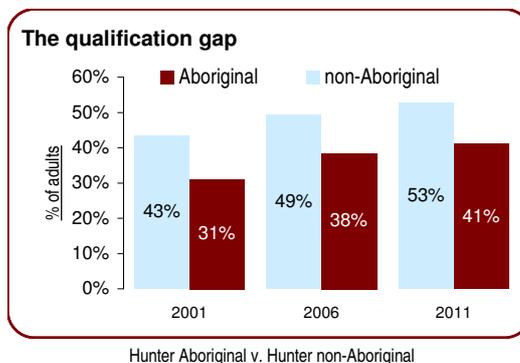
## Higher Education Indicators

### The qualification gap

Post-school qualifications are becoming essential for many occupations, so the proportion of adults with qualifications of any type is a broad indicator of a community's earning capacity.

- ⌘ In 2011, 41% of Hunter Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a post-school qualification, compared with 53% of non-Aboriginal adults. The qualification education gap was -12%.
- ⌘ The qualification gap had widened by 1% since 2006, after closing by 1% for 2001 to 2006.
- ⌘ The qualification gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 15% and had widened by 1% since 2006. It narrowed by 3% over 2001 to 2006.

% of adults 15+ with a post-school qualification

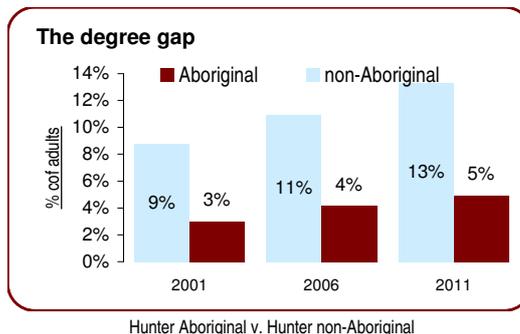


### The degree gap

Most higher skilled and better paid jobs these days require a university degree or equivalent for entry, so the proportion of adults with a degree or higher indicates the community's capacity to gain these jobs

- ⌘ In 2011, 5% of Hunter Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a degree or higher qualification, compared with 13% of non-Aboriginal adults. The degree education gap was -8%.
- ⌘ The degree gap had widened by 1% since 2006, after widening by 1% from 2001 to 2006.
- ⌘ The degree gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 16% and had widened by 3% since 2006. It widened by 2% over 2001 to 2006.

% of adults 15+ with a degree or higher qualification

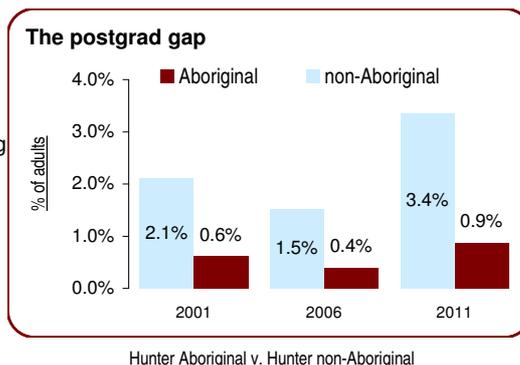


### The postgrad gap

Increasingly, getting promoted in many industries requires a post-graduate qualification, but the number of Aboriginal people with post-grad degrees has been limited by few having had the undergraduate qualification needed for entry into post-grad courses.

- ⌘ In 2011, 0.9% of Hunter Aboriginal adults aged 15+ had a post-graduate qualification, compared with +3.4% of non-Aboriginal adults. The postgrad gap was -2.5%.
- ⌘ The postgrad gap had widened by 1.4% since 2006; the gap closing by 0.4% for 2001 to 2006.
- ⌘ The postgrad gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal in NSW was 4.9% and had widened by 2.1% since 2006. It widened by 0.9% over 2001 to 2006.

% of adults 15+ with a postgraduate qualification



## Disability levels

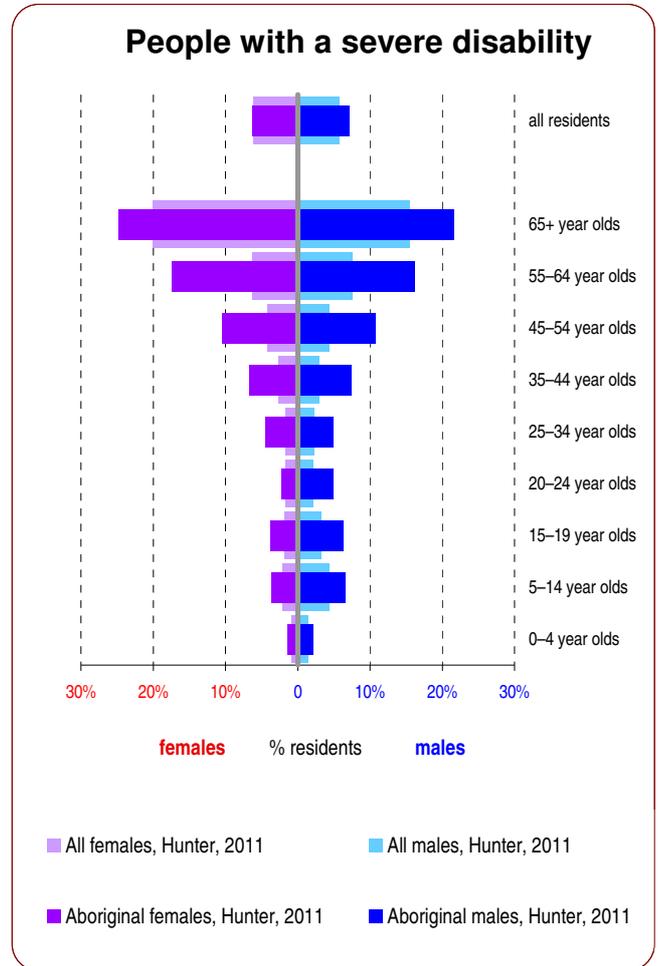
In 2011 in Hunter, 1,561 Aboriginal residents reported having a long-term severe disability; 6.7% of the population. Among all Hunter's residents, 5.9% reported a disability.

People with a long-term severe disability are those needing help or assistance with either self-care, mobility or communication, because of a disability, long-term health condition or old age. This data compares Aboriginal people with the total population.

- ⌘ Disability rates tend to rise with age. In 2011, they peaked among Aboriginal 65+ year olds (23%) and 55–64 year olds (17%).  
Among younger Aboriginal residents, disability rates were highest among 5–14 year olds at 5% and 15–19 year olds at 5%.

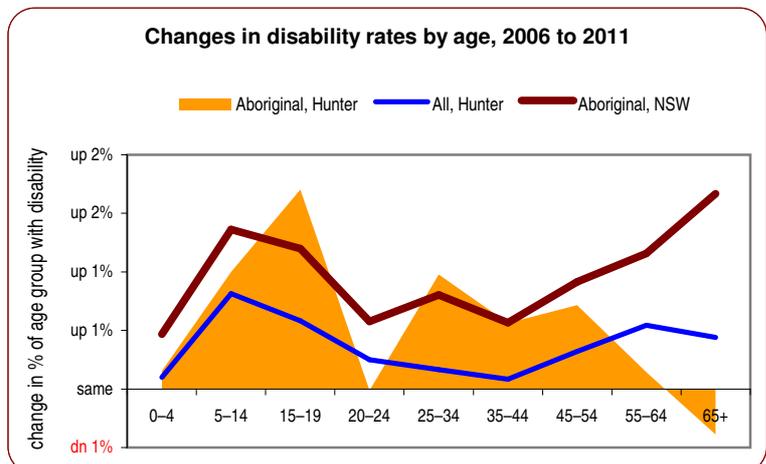
Because Aboriginal populations tend to have few people in the oldest age groups, when disability rates are much higher, their overall disability rate can seem low. This can mask much higher rates in some age groups.

- ⌘ Here, the overall Aboriginal disability rate was 1.1 times that in the overall population, 6.7% compared with 5.9%. However:
  - among 35–44 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (7%) was 2.5 times the overall rate (2.8%);
  - among 45–54 year olds, the Aboriginal disability rate (11%) was 2.5 times that of all residents (4.3%).
- ⌘ Aboriginal disability rates were much higher for men than women, 7.2% to 6.3%. Among all residents, they were lower for men than women, 5.7% to 6.2%.
  - There were 1.5 females per male among 65+ year olds with a disability, and 1.3 females per male among 55–64 year olds.
  - On the other hand, there were 2.2 males per female among 20–24 year olds with a disability. There were 1.8 males per female among 5–14 year olds



From 2006 to 2011, overall disability rates among Aboriginal residents rose from 5.8% to 6.7%.

- ⌘ Among Aboriginal people in NSW, disability rates rose from 5.0% to 6.2%.  
  
Among all Hunter residents, disability rates rose 0.6%, and were 5.4% in 2011.
- ⌘ In Hunter, the greatest change in Aboriginal disability rates was the increase among those aged 15–19, from 3% in 2006 to 5% in 2011.
  - Disability rates also rose among 5–14 year olds and 25–34 year olds.
  - Disability rates fell most among those aged 65+ and 20–24 years.



## Disability care given

In the 2011 Census, 2,087 Aboriginal adults in Hunter, 14% of the adult population, reported that they gave assistance to a person with a severe or profound disability. There were at that time 1,561 Aboriginal residents who reported a severe or profound disability.

⌘ Across the age groups, the proportion of Aboriginal people caring for another with a disability ranged from 20% of 55–64 year-olds and 20% of 45–54 year-olds to 8% of 15–19 year-olds.

⌘ Women are more often carers than men. In the Aboriginal community here, there were 1.7 females per male among carers.

Female carers were most common among 25–34 year olds with 1.9 females per male caring, and among 35–44 year-olds year olds, with 1.8 females per male caring.

Male carers were less common than women across all age groups.

⌘ The 14% carer rate among Aboriginal residents was higher than the average for all adults in Hunter (13%).

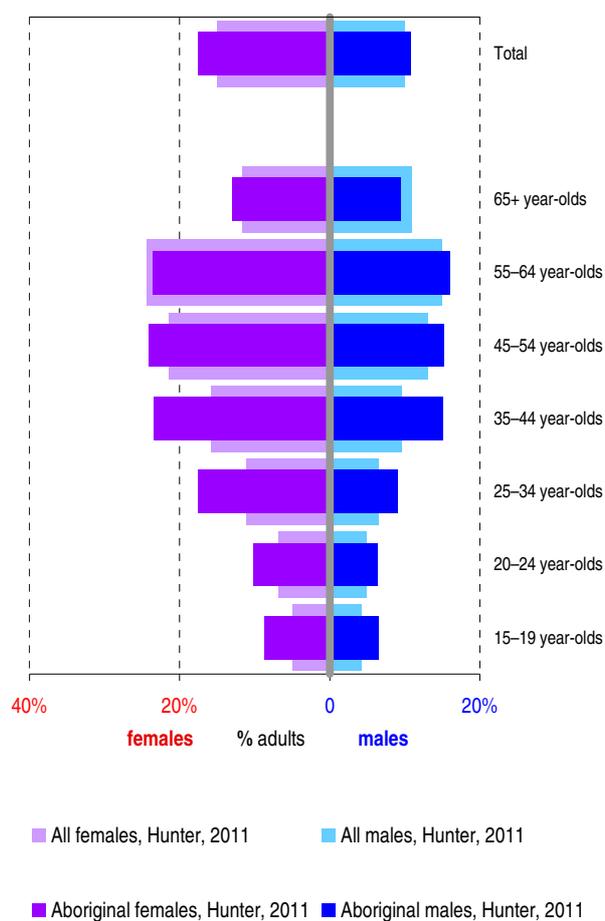
Among 15–19 year-olds, the proportion of Aboriginal carers was 1.6 times the average.

Among 35–44 year-olds, Aboriginal carers were 1.5 times more common.

⌘ In NSW, 14% of Aboriginal adults were caring for a person with a disability.

The Aboriginal community in Hunter had 3% more carers aged 55–64, compared with the NSW Aboriginal community, but 1% fewer among those aged 20–24.

**Caring for people with disabilities**



Since 2006, overall caring rates among Aboriginal adults here have risen from 13% to 14%.

⌘ Among Aboriginal adults in NSW, caring rates rose by 1%.

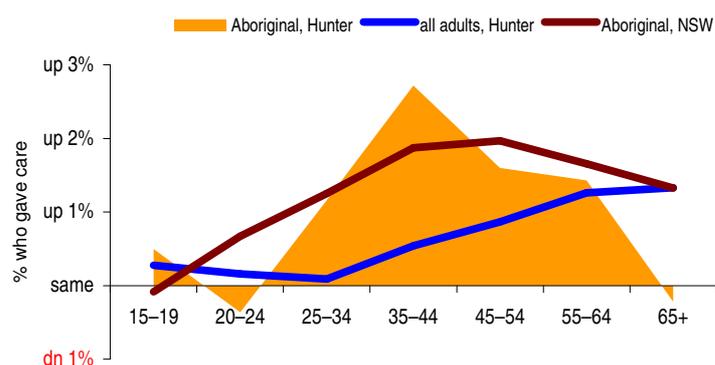
Among all Hunter adults, caring rates rose by 1%.

⌘ In Hunter, Aboriginal caring rates increased most for 35–44 year-olds, from 17% in 2006 to 20% in 2011.

Caring rates also rose 2% for 45–54 year-olds and 1% for 55–64 year-olds.

Caring rates fell least for those aged 20–24 year-olds (steady).

**Changes in caring rates, by age, 2006–2011**



## Disability Gap Indicators

### The disability gap

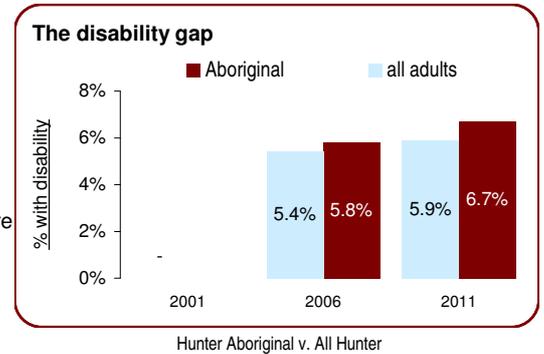
% of adults with a severe, long-term disability

Disability rates provide a useful indicator of a community's health and need for support services. Nationally, disability rates among Aboriginal people are about 25% higher than overall rates, across most age groups.

⌘ In 2011, 6.7% of Hunter Aboriginal residents had a severe, long-term disability, compared with 5.9% for all residents. The disability gap was +1%. The Aboriginal disability rate was 1.1 times the overall rate.

⌘ The disability gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal had widened by 0.4% from 2006.

In the Census count, people with disabilities are those with a severe or profound disability lasting more than six months, who required help with daily activities, self-care or communicating. Data on disability was not collected in the 2001 Census.



### The carer difference

% of adults caring for a person with a disability

The proportion of people providing assistance to a person with a severe disability is probably more a reflection of the number of people with disabilities than of people's caring nature. Aboriginal people have higher disability rates and larger families, so often have proportionally more carers than the general population.

⌘ In 2011, 14% of Hunter Aboriginal adults (15+) provided assistance to a person with a severe disability, compared with 13% of all adults. The carer difference was +2% (rounded).

⌘ The carer difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal had widened by 1.0% from 2006.

Data was not collected in the 2001 Census.

