

Population health profile of the North & West Queensland Division of General Practice

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The data in this report are designed to be used for needs assessment and planning purposes: while they are based on the best available data and analytic processes, data available by postcode or Statistical Local Area, as used in this report, cannot be precisely translated to Division. Division totals in the report should, therefore, be seen as estimates. Interpretation of differences between data in this profile and similar data from other sources needs to be undertaken with care, as such differences may be due to the use of different methodology to produce the data.

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Population health profile of the *North & West Queensland Division of General Practice*

Introduction

This profile has been designed to provide a description of the population of North & West Queensland Division of General Practice, and aspects of their health. Its purpose is to provide information to support a population health approach, which aims to improve the health of the entire population and to reduce health inequalities among population groups: a more detailed discussion of a population health approach is provided in the supporting information, page 16.

Contents

The profile includes a number of tables, maps and graphs to profile population health in the Division and provides comparisons with other areas (eg. country Queensland and Australia) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders elsewhere in Australia. Specific topics covered for the North & West Queensland Division include:

- a socio-demographic profile (pages 2-6);
- GP workforce data (page 8);
- immunisation rates (page 8); and
- rates of premature death (page 9).

Key indicators

Location:	Queensland	
Division number:	416	
Population‡:	No.	%
Indigenous:	15,244	
<25	8,606	56.5%
65+	485	3.2%
Non-Indigenous:	100,286	
<25	34,418	34.3%
65+	11,617	11.6%
Disadvantage score¹:	955	
GP services per head of population:		
Division‡	3.2	
Australia	4.7	
Population per FTE GP:		
Division‡	1,958	
Australia	1,403	
Premature death rate²:		
Division‡	363.8	
Australia	290.4	

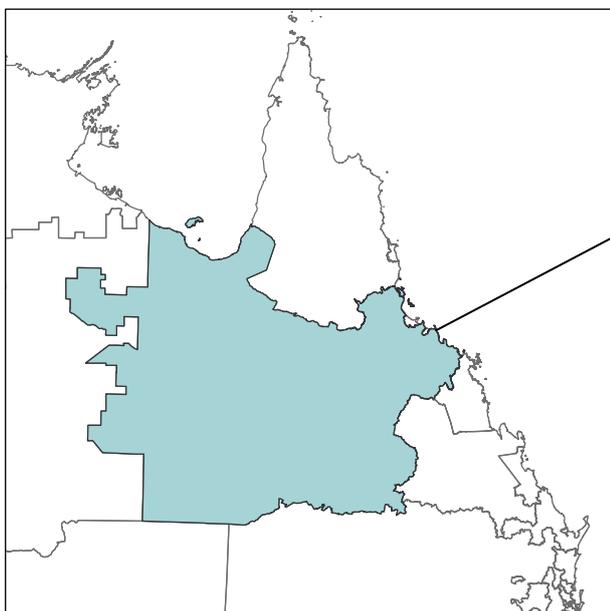
¹ Numbers below 1000 (the index score for Australia) indicate the Division is relatively disadvantaged

² Deaths at ages 0 to 74 years per 100,000 population

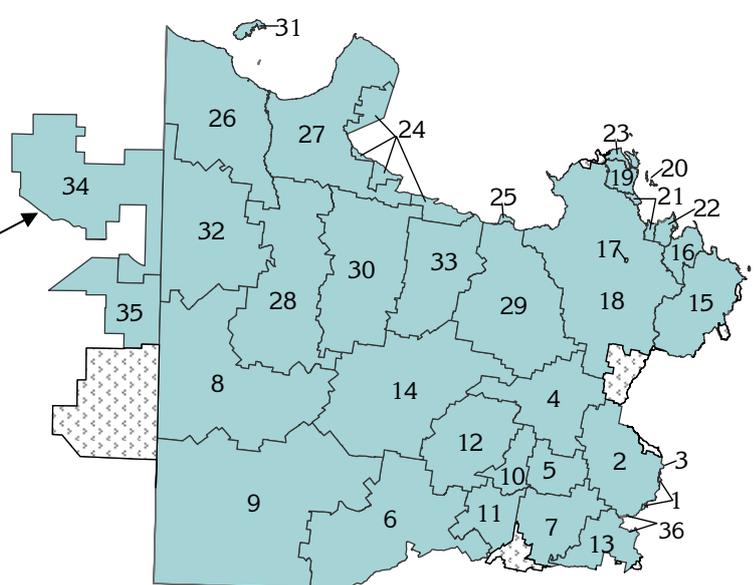
‡ See note “Data converters and mapping” re calculation of Division Total

North and West Queensland Division of General Practice

Queensland Divisions of General Practice



North and West Queensland DGP by SLA



* Map legend: see page 7

Socio-demographic profile

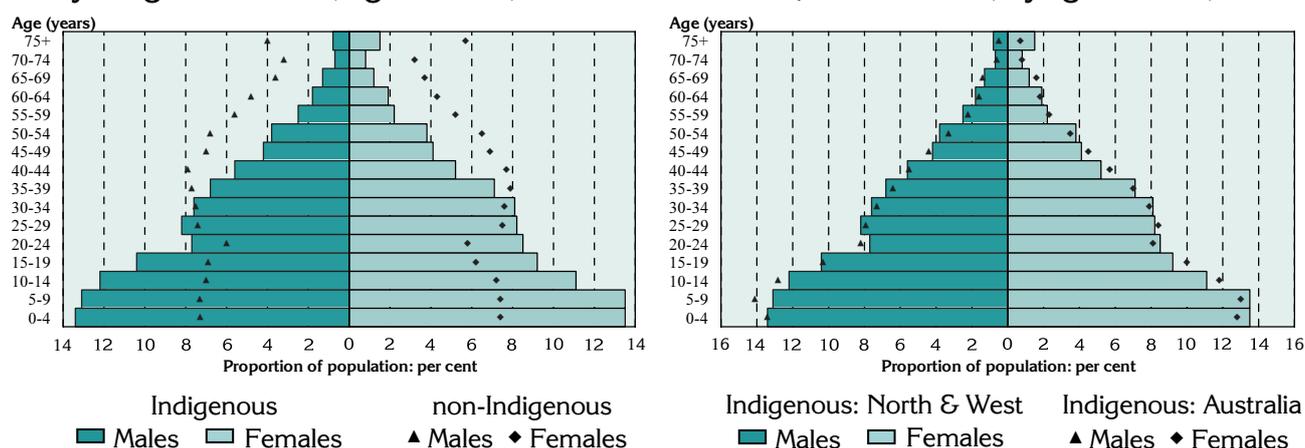
Population

The population figures used here have been adjusted to take account of the estimated under-counting at the 2001 Census of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The North and West Queensland Division had a population of 112,637 at the 2001 Census. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprised 14.0% of the population of the Division, and had a markedly younger age structure than for the non-Indigenous population in the Division. The bars in the chart for the 0 to 4 years age group clearly show the effect of high Indigenous birth rates in the Division; this gives the chart a triangular shape, other than at the oldest ages, where the proportions increase (Figure 1). The very marked drop in the proportion of the Indigenous population between each age group suggests extremely high death rates are occurring from the youngest age group through to 74 years of age.

The profile for the non-Indigenous population (shown by the shapes) is quite different and shows the impact of a lower birth rate and, from 15 to 24 years of age, possible out-migration for further education and employment opportunities, with smaller reductions in the population from age 40 through to the 65 to 69 year age group: the marked increase at the oldest ages (particular noticeable for females) is suggestive of the non-Indigenous population moving into the Division from other areas to retire.

Figure 1: Population in North & West Qld DGP‡, by Indigenous status, age and sex, 2001 **Figure 2: Indigenous population in North & West Qld DGP‡ and Australia, by age and sex, 2001**



‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

The profile of the Indigenous population in the Division is similar to that for Indigenous people across Australia (Figure 2). The major differences are that the Division had:

- a higher proportion of female children aged 0 to 9 years;
- lower proportions of male children aged 5 to 14 years and young males aged 15 to 24 years; and
- at the older ages – similar proportions, for both males and for females.

Table 1 provides the data on which the charts in Figures 1 and 2 are based. The data highlight the differences in the age distribution of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations in the North & West Queensland Division of General Practice and Australia.

Table 1: Population by Indigenous status and age*, North & West Queensland DGP‡ and Australia, 2001

Age group (years)	North & West Queensland DGP‡				Australia			
	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-14	5,916	38.8	21,916	21.9	178,622	39.0	3,807,808	20.1
15-24	2,690	17.6	12,502	12.5	83,942	18.3	2,570,934	13.6
25-44	4,309	28.3	30,589	30.5	128,474	28.0	5,715,858	30.2
45-64	1,845	12.1	23,662	23.6	54,206	11.8	4,435,376	23.4
65-74	311	2.0	6,823	6.8	10,249	2.2	1,310,587	6.9
75+	175	1.1	4,794	4.8	2,768	0.6	1,111,844	5.9
Total	15,244	100.0	100,286	100.0	458,261	100.0	18,952,407	100.0

* Experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ABS 2001

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

Just less than one quarter (24.1%) of the Indigenous population in North & West Queensland DGP lived in Mount Isa Statistical Local Area (SLA: see page 20), with one sixth (14.3%) living in Hinchinbrook - Palm Island SLA, and one tenth in Carpentaria SLA (Table 2). Indigenous people comprised smaller proportions of the population the remaining SLAs. SLAs in this Division are equivalent to Local Government Areas.

Table 2: Population by Indigenous status*, SLAs in North & West Queensland DGP‡, 2001

Statistical Local Area	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Mount Isa	3,667	24.1	17,482	17.4	21,149	18.3
Hinchinbrook - Palm Island	2,176	14.3	137	0.1	2,313	2.0
Carpentaria	1,492	9.8	825	0.8	2,317	2.0
Burke	1,280	8.4	421	0.4	1,701	1.5
Cloncurry	1,004	6.6	2,823	2.8	3,827	3.3
Bowen	835	5.4	11,574	11.9	12,409	11.0
Charters Towers	827	5.4	7,924	7.9	8,751	7.6
Burdekin	826	5.4	16,659	16.6	17,485	15.1
Hinchinbrook excl. Palm Island	707	4.6	11,703	11.7	12,410	10.7
Tennant Creek	360	2.4	37	0.0	397	0.3
Flinders	198	1.3	1,892	1.9	2,090	1.8
Boulia	177	1.2	400	0.4	577	0.5
Cardwell	160	1.1	1,886	1.9	2,046	1.8
Other	1,535	10.1	26,524	26.4	28,059	24.3
Total	15,244	100.0	100,286	100.0	115,531	100.0

* Experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ABS 2001

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

At 30 June 2004 the Estimated Resident Population of the Division was 115,631.

Socioeconomic status and Indigenous status

The indicators presented in this section describe geographic variations in the distribution of the population for a number of key socioeconomic influences, which impact on the health and wellbeing of populations. Where data are available, comparisons are made between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

At the 2001 Census, 14.0% of the population of the North & West Queensland DGP was estimated to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, a substantially higher proportion than the Australian average of 2.4%. (Figure 3 and Table 3).

The proportion of single parent families in the Division (25.8%) was consistent with the rate for the Indigenous population in country Queensland (26.6%), but more than three times the rate of the Division's non-Indigenous population (7.9%).

Just under half of Indigenous of Indigenous 16 year olds living in the Division (46.7%) were involved in full-time secondary school education, notably less than the Indigenous participation rate in country Queensland¹ (56.8%), and substantially below the rate for the Division's non-Indigenous population (71.9%).

A higher proportion of the Indigenous population lived in dwellings rented from the State housing authority (17.3%) compared to the Indigenous rate in country Queensland (16.0%), and seven times the rate of the Division's non-Indigenous population (2.4%). The proportion of the population (Indigenous and non-Indigenous combined) in the Division receiving rent assistance from Centrelink (13.5%) was lower than for country Queensland (21.3%).

The proportion of the Division's Indigenous population reported using a computer at home (8.4%) was notably smaller than the rate for the Indigenous population in country Queensland (14.5%), and one quarter the rate for the Division's non-Indigenous population (32.7%). The rate of home Internet use by the Indigenous population in the Division (2.7%) was less than half that of the Indigenous population in country Queensland (6.1%), and substantially below the rate for the Division's non-Indigenous population (18.9%).

Table 3: Socio-demographic indicators, North & West Queensland DGP, country Queensland and Australia, 2001*

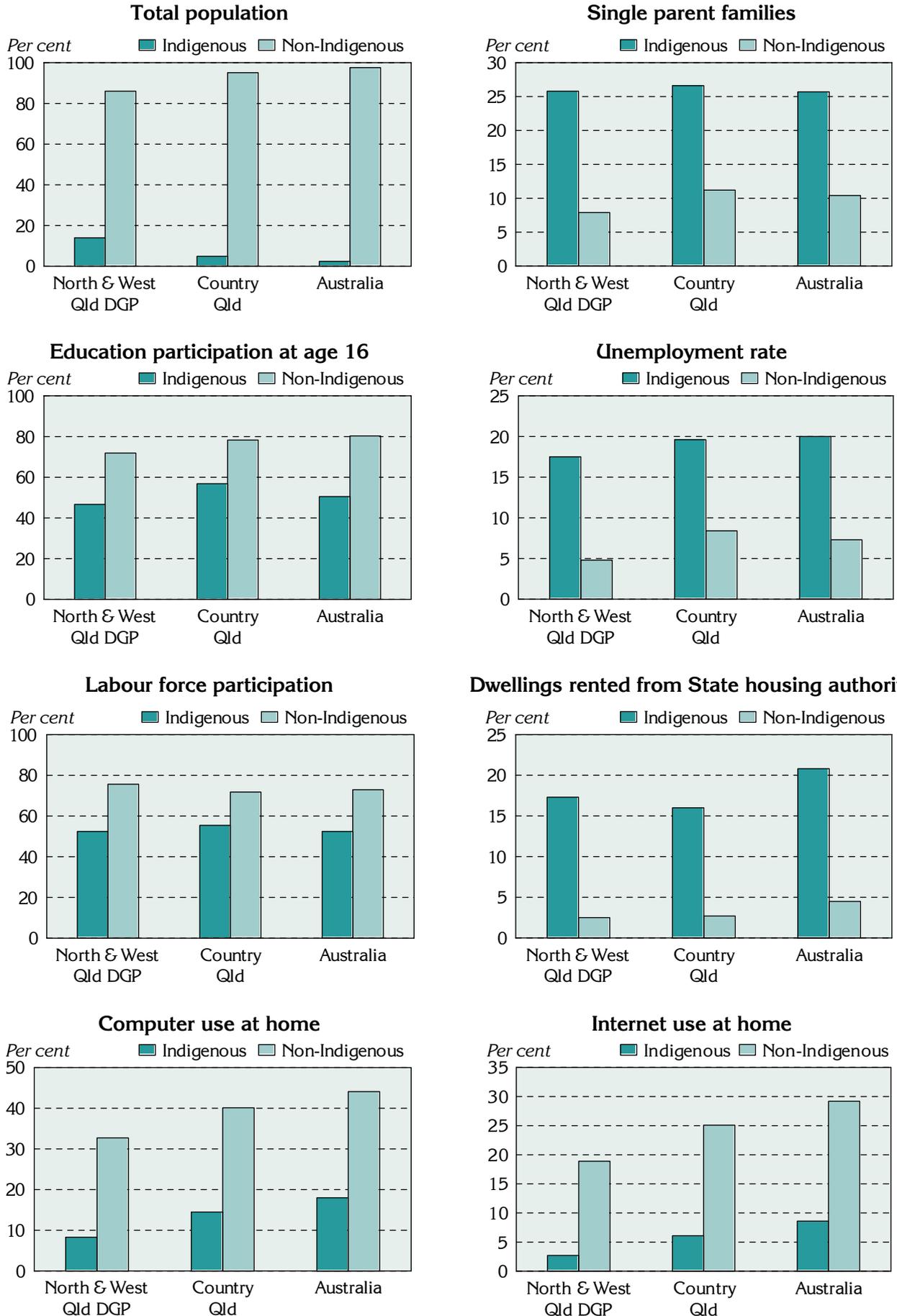
Indicator	North & West Qld DGP		Country Queensland		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Population						
- Indigenous	15,244	14.0	96,267	4.9	458,261	2.4
- Non-Indigenous	100,286	86.0	1,882,257	95.1	18,952,407	97.6
Single parent families						
- Indigenous	762	25.8	5,495	26.6	26,57	25.8
- Non-Indigenous	1,897	7.9	54,430	11.2	503,382	10.4
Full-time secondary school education at age 16						
- Indigenous	131	46.7	1,041	56.8	5,997	50.5
- Non-Indigenous	910	71.9	20,143	78.3	327,055	80.3
Dwellings rented from State housing authority						
- Indigenous	545	17.3	3,642	16.0	23,974	20.8
- Non-Indigenous	786	2.5	17,056	2.7	284,502	4.5
People who used a computer at home						
- Indigenous	1,125	8.3	12,423	14.5	73,636	18.0
- Non-Indigenous	31,710	32.7	724,438	40.1	7,761,390	44.1
People who used the Internet at home						
- Indigenous	362	2.7	5,261	6.1	35,384	8.6
- Non-Indigenous	18,306	18.9	453,756	25.1	5,135,445	29.2
Households receiving rent assistance	4,154	13.5	145,862	21.3	1,006,599	15.0

Note: The 'Total population' data are based on the experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; the remaining data are based on ABS Census data

¹References to 'country Queensland' relate to Queensland excluding the Brisbane Statistical Division

Figure 3: Socio-demographic indicators by Indigenous status, North & West Queensland DGP‡, country Queensland Australia and Australia, 2001

Note the different scales



Note: The 'Total population' figure is based on the experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; the remaining figures are based on ABS Census data

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

North & West Queensland DGP's Indigenous unemployment rate (17.5%) was slightly lower than the Indigenous unemployment rate for country Queensland (19.6%), but more than three times that of the Division's non-Indigenous population (4.8%) (Figure 3 and Table 4). However, when taking into account the proportion of the Indigenous population receiving payments as part of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme (effectively an Aboriginal work-for-the-dole scheme), the 'real' Indigenous unemployment rate of 39.9% was substantially higher, and marginally higher than the 'real' Indigenous unemployment rate of 37.4% in country Queensland.

Table 4: Unemployment and labour force participation, North & West Queensland DGP‡, country Queensland and Australia, 2001

Labour force indicators	North & West Qld DGP‡		Country Qld		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Unemployment rate						
- Indigenous	725	17.5	5,335	19.6	24,930	20.0
- Non-Indigenous	2,356	4.8	71,885	8.4	624,337	7.3
Labour force participation (incl. CDEP as employed)						
- Indigenous	4,139	52.4	27,155	55.4	124,517	52.4
- Non-Indigenous	49,101	75.6	854,115	71.8	8,609,525	72.9
Female labour force participation (incl. CDEP as employed)						
- Indigenous	1,580	43.4	11,395	48.8	52,981	46.6
- Non-Indigenous	17,938	71.8	345,139	69.2	3,564,409	69.8
Indigenous unemployment rate (incl. CDEP)						
- excluding CDEP	725	17.5	5,335	19.6	24,930	20.0
- CDEP	928	22.4	4,822	17.8	17,662	14.2
- Total (including CDEP)	1,653	39.9	10,157	37.4	42,592	34.2

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

The labour force participation in the Division (in this case with those under the CDEP counted as employed) was 52.4%, marginally lower than the rate for the Indigenous population in country Queensland (55.4%), and two thirds that of the Division's non-Indigenous population (75.6%). The female labour force participation rate (43.4%) was also lower than the participation rate for the Indigenous population in country Queensland (48.8%) and less than two-thirds the rate for the Division's non-Indigenous population (71.8%).

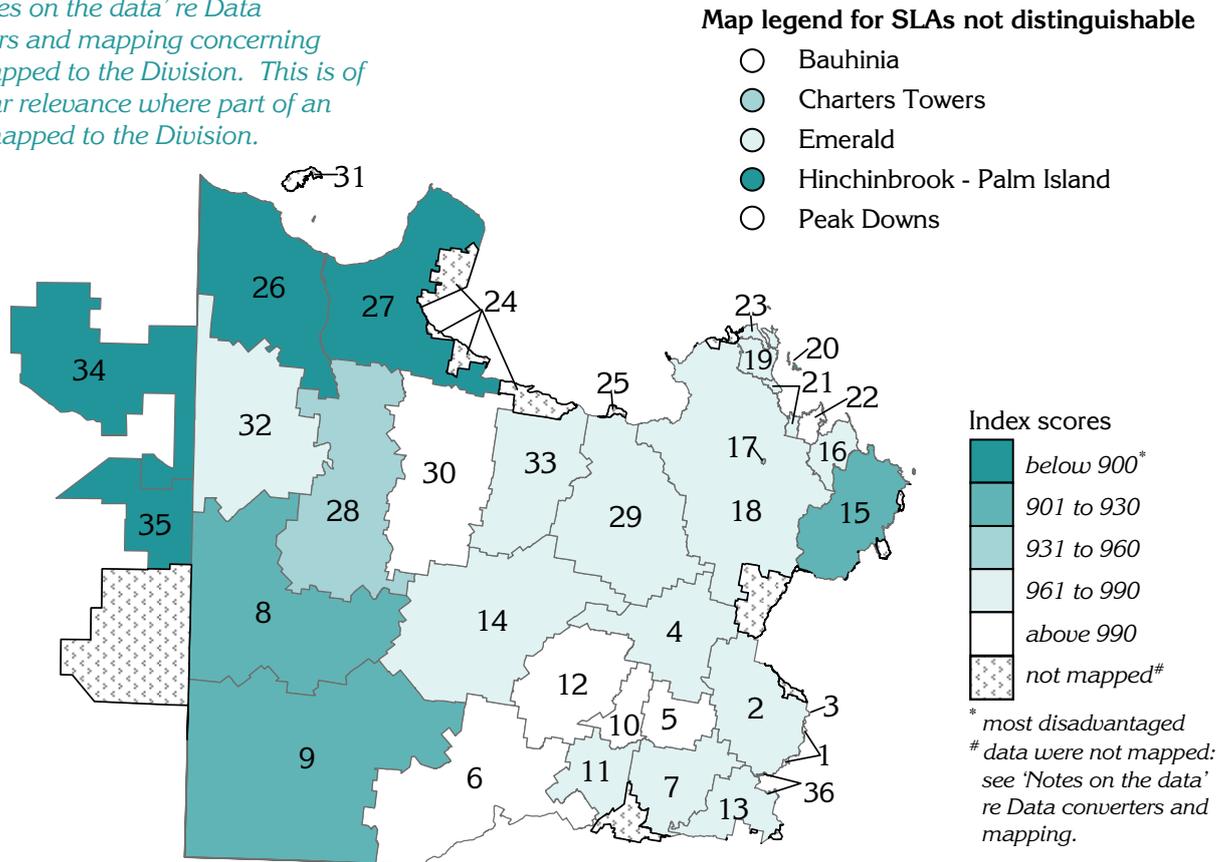
Summary of the socioeconomic ranking of the North & West Queensland DGP

Following the 2001 Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produced four socioeconomic indexes for areas (SEIFA) which describe various aspects of the socioeconomic profile of populations in areas. The scores for these indexes for each Statistical Local Area (SLA) or part SLA in North & West Queensland DGP are shown in the supporting information, Table 12, page 17: SLAs are described on page 20.

The North & West Queensland DGP area's SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) score from the 2001 Census is 955, 4.5% below the average score for Australia (1000) and below that for country Queensland (978); this highlights the relatively low socioeconomic status profile of the Division's population. Variations in the IRSD within the Division are shown at the SLA level (Map 1).

Map 1: Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by SLA, North & West Queensland DGP, 2001

See 'Notes on the data' re Data converters and mapping concerning SLAs mapped to the Division. This is of particular relevance where part of an SLA is mapped to the Division.



Alphabetical key to Statistical Local Areas, North & West Queensland DGP, 2001

Aramac	4	Flinders	29
Barcaldine	5	Hinchinbrook excl. Palm Island	19
Barcoo	6	Hinchinbrook - Palm Island	20
Blackall	7	Ilfracombe	10
Bauhinia	36	Isisford	11
Boulia	8	Jericho	2
Bowen	15	Longreach	12
Burdekin	16	McKinlay	30
Burke	26	Mornington	31
Cardwell	23	Mount Isa	32
Carpentaria	27	Peak Downs	3
Charters Towers	17	Richmond	33
Cloncurry	28	Tableland	34
Croydon	24	Tambo	13
Dalrymple	18	Tennant Creek - Balance	35
Diamantina	9	Thuringowa - Part B	21
Emerald	1	Townsville - Part B	22
Etheridge	25	Winton	14

General medical practitioner (GP) supply

A total of 59.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) GPs and 73.5 full-workload equivalent (FWE²) GPs worked in the Division in 2003/04 (Table 5). Of the FWE GPs, 20.9% were female, and 25.8% were over 55 years of age (compared to 26.7% and 25.2%, respectively, for Queensland).

Apart from the day-time population, the rates of population per FTE GP varied, depending on the population measure used, from a high of 2,027 people per GP (calculated on the 1 August 2001 Census count – all people counted in the Division on Census night, including visitors from Australia and overseas), to a low of 1,887 people per GP (calculated on the 1 August 2001 Usual Resident Population (URP) – usual residents of the Division counted in Australia on Census night). The rates of population per FWE GP were lower, ranging from 1,516 (calculated on the URP) to 1,628 (calculated on the Census count). When calculated on the estimated day-time population, the rates of population in the Division were 3.6% above those calculated on the URP.

Based on the ERP, the rates of population per GP in North & West Queensland DGP were notably higher than the rates for Queensland and Australia, indicating a much lower level of provision of GP services.

Table 5: Population per GP in North & West Queensland DGP, Queensland and Australia, 2003/04

Population measure	Population	GPs		Population per GP	
		FTE	FWE	FTE	FWE
North & West Queensland DGP					
Census count (adjusted)*	119,611	59.0	73.5	2,027	1,628
Usual Resident Population (URP) (adjusted)*	111,365	..	..	1,887	1,516
Estimated Resident Population (ERP)	115,558	..	..	1,958	1,573
Day-time population (estimated on URP)* ‡	115,344	..	..	1,955	1,570
Queensland (ERP)	3,841,538	2,739	3,256	1,403	1,180
Australia (ERP)	19,989,303	14,246	16,872	1,403	1,185

* The Census count, Usual Resident Population and Day-time population were adjusted to reflect population change between 2001 and 2003/04, as measured by the ERP

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

Immunisation

Data from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register show that 94.7% of children in the Division in 2002 were fully immunised at age one, consistent with the Australian proportion of 94.2%. Immunisation by provider type for children between the ages of 0 to 6 is shown in Table 6. Over one third (37.4%) were immunised by a general practitioner, with one quarter of immunisations (23.8%) provided at a local government council. A further 15.5% were immunised at a public hospital, and 11.1% at a community health centre or by a community health worker.

Table 6: Childhood immunisation at ages 0 to 6 by provider type, North & West Queensland DGP and Australia, 2003/04

Provider	North & West Qld	Australia
	%	%
General practitioners	37.4	70.0
Local government council	23.8	16.6
Community health centre/ worker	11.1	9.8
Public hospital	15.5	2.1
Aboriginal health service/ worker	6.6	0.9
Other*	5.5	0.6
Total: Per cent	100.0	100.0
Number	25,932	3,843,610

* Includes immunisations in/ by State Health Departments, RFDS and private hospitals

² The FWE value is calculated for each GP location by dividing the GP's total Medicare billing (Schedule fee value of services provided during the reference period) by the mean billing of full-time doctors in that derived major speciality for the reference period. Thus, a GP earning 20% more than the mean billing of full-time doctors is shown as 1.2 FWE: this differs from full-time equivalent (FTE) counts, where the FTE value of any GP cannot exceed 1.0

Premature mortality

Deaths at ages below 75 years are used as an indicator of health status, as they largely reflect premature deaths, given the current levels of life expectancy in Australia.

The 'all causes' death rate in the Division at ages 0 to 74 years (336.8 deaths per 100,000 population) is higher than for country Queensland (278.5) and for Australia (290.4): the rates have been age standardised to allow for comparisons between areas, regardless of differences in age profiles between the Division and Australia.

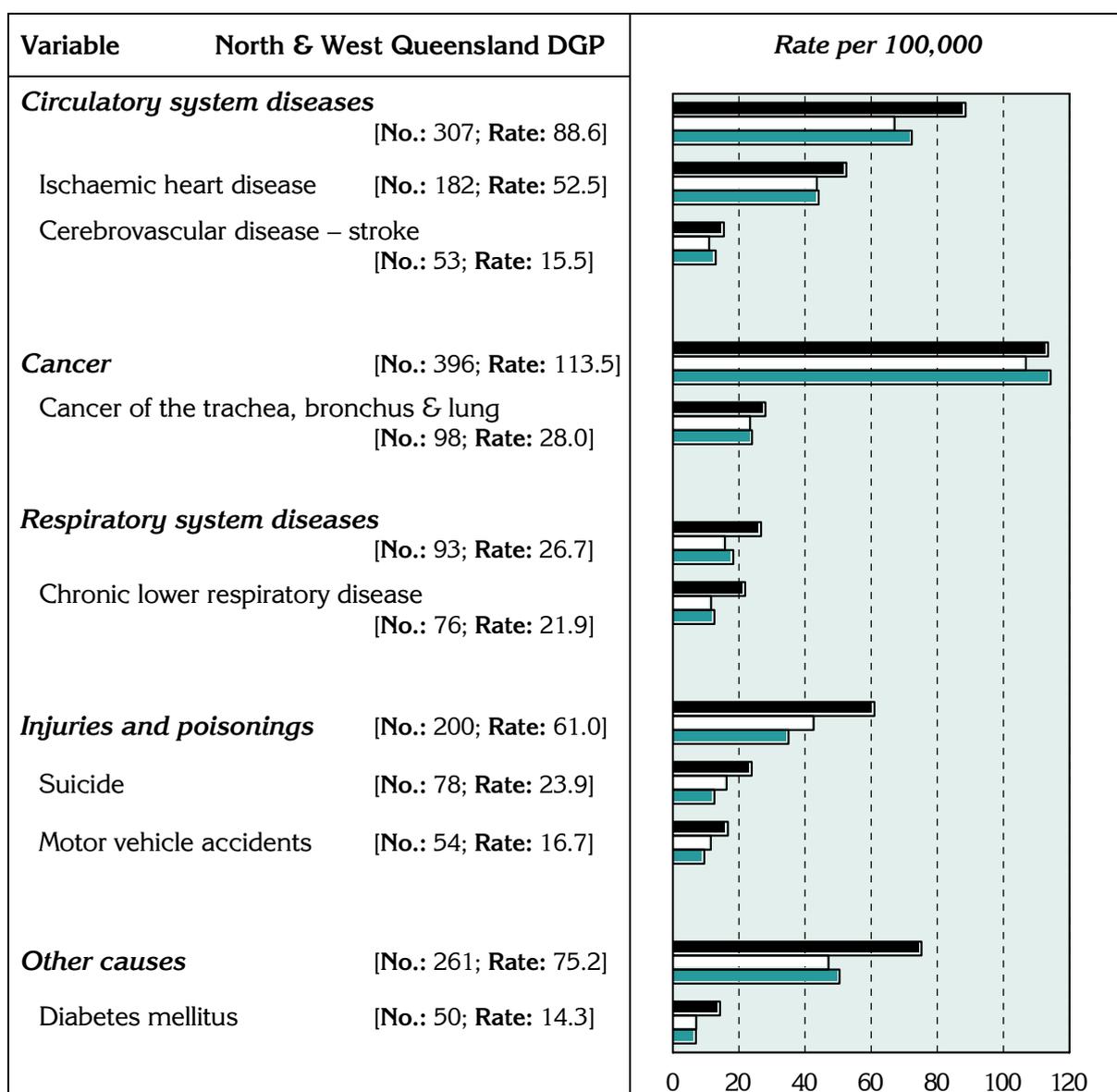
The major causes of premature mortality in the Division, as for country Queensland and Australia as a whole, are cancer and diseases of the circulatory system (Figure 4). With the exception of cancer, death rates in the Division for the major conditions and selected causes (in particular injuries and poisonings, and the 'other causes' group) were higher than those for Australia, and higher than for country Queensland in all cases.

The data on which the following chart is based are in Table 15.

Figure 4: Deaths before 75 years of age, by major condition group and selected cause, North & West Queensland DGP‡, country Queensland and Australia, 2000-02*

Indirectly age standardised rate per 100,000 population

■ North & West Queensland □ Country Qld ■ Australia



* 'No.' is the total number of deaths for the 2000-02 period; 'Rate' is an annual rate, based on the 3-year average

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

Health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in remote areas

Background

For the majority of Divisions, these profiles have included estimates of the prevalence of chronic diseases and risk factors: such estimates are not available for Divisions in the remote areas – see Box.

Given the limited range of data available to describe the health and wellbeing of the population of the North and West Queensland Division, and in particular for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, some data available from the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and the 2001 National Health Survey have been included in this profile. These data provide a description of aspects of the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote areas; in some cases they also allow for a comparison of aspects of the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations and, in others, for a comparison of people living in remote and non-remote areas. More detailed disaggregations than those shown here (eg. for the non-Indigenous population in remote areas) were not available from these surveys.

Remote areas in this context cover 86.4% of Australia's landmass; and, while they comprise just 3.0% of the total population, a large proportion (28.0%) of the Indigenous population live in these areas. The Northern and Western Queensland Division is classed as partly Remote under the ARIA+ remoteness classification (see *Notes on the data*, page 15); under this classification approximately 51.0% of the Division live in areas classed as Remote or Very Remote, with 49.0% living in areas classed as Moderately Accessible or Accessible.

Although these data can provide a guide to average levels of health and wellbeing in the Division, they should not be read to say that Indigenous health and wellbeing in the North and West Queensland DGP is the same as is shown by these data. Clearly, the large area of Australia covered by this term 'remote' is very diverse in nature: it includes a range of population groups, living in a variety of situations, from urban to rural to isolated communities. Other data are available from a variety of sources (including State and Territory health agencies) and those of relevance to Divisions could be included in subsequent editions of the profiles.

Estimates of the prevalence of chronic diseases and risk factors

Estimates of chronic disease and associated risk factors have been made for Divisions largely characterised as urban or regional. These estimates are not available for Divisions in the remote areas of Australia (as defined by DoHA – see Data sources, page 15), as the data on which the estimates were calculated (the 2001 National Health Survey) were not collected in remote areas.

It may, however, be possible to produce these estimates for all Divisions when the 2004-05 Indigenous Health Survey and National Health Survey results become available in 2006, as these surveys covered the remote areas with relatively large sample sizes.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and Health Survey

The data in this section are from the ABS publications 2001 National Health Survey and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Australia, 2002 (or were provided by the ABS as special data extractions from data in this survey). The data are self-reported and are not based on clinical records or physical measures.

Just over half (54.2%) of the Indigenous population in the remote areas of Australia reported speaking an Indigenous language. Those in the lowest income group were almost two and a half times more likely (than those in the three highest income groups) to do so: for ease of reading, these income groups are referred to in the text below as 'low' and 'high'. The difference in this characteristic between people in remote and non-remote areas is over six times (6.3). Note that almost one quarter (23.6%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the remote areas did not have an income defined in the NHS, so were not included in the comparisons by income group.

For almost all of the characteristics in Table 7, the outcome for those where an income was not defined showed poorer health, or greater disadvantage, than those for whom income was available. For example, Indigenous people living in remote areas and for whom an income was not available were 37% more likely (than those reporting an income) to speak an Indigenous language (a rate ratio of 1.37).

The information in Table 7 has been restricted to show the rate (proportion) for the remote areas only, and the rate ratios between income groups and the remote and non-remote areas: the data from which the rate ratios have been calculated are available on the PHIDU web site.

Table 7: Summary characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, by remoteness and income group, Australia, 2002

Characteristic	Remote areas	Low income cf. with high income (RR*)		Remote cf. with non-remote (RR**)
	Per cent	Remote	Non-remote	
Family and culture				
Able to get support in time of crisis from outside household	86.9	0.99	0.93	0.95
At least one stressor experienced in last 12 months	85.5	1.09	1.03	1.06
Speaks an Indigenous language	54.2	2.45	1.69	6.30
Health and disability				
Self-assessed health status				
Excellent/very good	44.2	0.94	0.66	1.00
Fair/poor	20.0	1.25	2.34	0.82
Disability or long term health condition	35.4	1.30	1.64	0.96
Risk behaviour/characteristic				
Current daily smoker	50.4	1.16	1.66	1.05
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption in last 12 months	16.8	0.81	0.97	1.16
Educational attainment				
Has a post-school qualification	18.1	0.36	0.47	0.57
Does not have a post-school qualification				
Completed Year 12	9.0	0.72	0.31	0.83
Completed Year 10 or Year 11	27.8	0.97	1.34	1.01
Completed Year 9 or below, or did not attend	45.1	2.06	3.01	1.51
Total with no post-school qualification	81.9	1.35	1.44	1.20
Employment				
Employed: CDEP				
Non-CDEP	19.2	0.11	0.12	0.48
Total employed	51.7	0.39	0.17	1.17
Unemployed	5.9	4.52	3.38	0.35
Not in the labour force	42.5	3.91	4.99	1.09
Financial stress				
Unable to raise \$2,000 in a week for something important	73.0	2.02	3.55	1.54
Law and justice				
Victim of physical, threatened violence in last 12 months	22.7	0.89	1.82	0.91
Transport access				
Can easily get to the places needed	65.6	0.74	0.71	0.91
Cannot, or often has difficulty, getting to places needed	16.6	3.96	3.31	1.69
Mobility				
Moved dwellings in last 12 months	27.2	0.80	1.26	0.84
Information technology				
Used computer in last 12 months	34.4	0.45	0.63	0.54
Accessed the Internet in last 12 months	21.6	0.37	0.50	0.45

* RR is ratio of the rate for the 20% of the Indigenous population with the lowest income to the rate for the 60% with the highest income

** RR is ratio of the rate for the Indigenous population in the remote areas compared to that in the non-remote areas

Source: ABS 2002 NATSIS, 2002 (unpublished data)

The relevance of the measure of self-reported health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has been questioned. For example, while 20% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the remote areas reported their health to be fair or poor, this was 18% fewer than in the non-remote areas, a finding that would not appear to be supported by other data.

Despite this result, there is a variation within the remote areas, with low income Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 25% more likely than those with a high income to report their health as fair, or poor (a rate ratio of 1.25).

In the remote areas, disability and smoking (reported by 35.4% and 50.4%, respectively) show a relationship with disadvantage (higher rates in low, compared with high, income groups), but risky/high risk levels of alcohol consumption over the previous 12 months do not. However, reported rates of alcohol consumption at high-risk levels (reported by 16.8%) are 16% higher in remote than in non-remote areas.

Similarly, there is a clear association for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people between high levels of educational attainment and income. For example, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the low income group were more likely to report having no post-school qualifications (ie. no qualification beyond secondary school) (35% higher for low income than high income groups); and those in remote areas 20% higher compared with those in non-remote areas.

Not surprisingly, the employment rate (including CDEP) is extremely strongly related to income levels, with 61% fewer in the low income group having employment (a rate ratio of 39%) in remote areas: conversely, four and a half times the number in the low income group are unemployed, compared with the high income group. Similarly striking differentials apply in the non-remote areas.

The impact of disadvantage among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote areas is evident in a number of the remaining variables, with almost three quarters (73.0%) unable to raise \$2,000 in a week for something important, two thirds (65.6%) reporting difficulty with transport and high proportions reporting lack of access to a computer and the Internet.

Reporting by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of selected long-term conditions (Table 8) is generally higher in remote than non-remote areas; the differentials for a number of conditions are even larger between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. The impacts on the Indigenous community of diabetes and circulatory problems/ diseases are examples of these differences. The situation is similar for health-related actions, with the notable exception of doctor consultations, which are 11% lower in remote areas than non-remote areas for the Indigenous population; however, the Indigenous population across Australia as a whole reported more doctor consultations than did the non-Indigenous population.

Table 8: Summary health characteristics, by Indigenous status and remoteness, Australia, 2001

Age standardised rates (as per cent)

Health characteristic	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous	RR**
	Remote	Non-remote	RR*	Total	
Selected long-term conditions					
Diabetes	16	9	1.78	3	3.67
Eye/sight problems	38	49	0.78	51	0.90
Ear/hearing problems	17	18	0.94	14	1.29
Circulatory problems/diseases	24	18	1.33 [#]	17 [#]	1.12 [#]
Asthma	15	18	0.83	12	1.42
Back problems	21	22	0.95 [#]	21 [#]	1.05
No long-term condition	29	20	1.45 [#]	22 [#]	1.00
Health-related actions¹					
Admitted to hospital	21	19	1.11	12	1.67
Visited casualty/outpatients	9	5	1.80	3	2.00
Doctor consultation (GP and/or specialist)	24	27	0.89 [#]	24 [#]	1.13
Dental consultation	7	5	1.40 [#]	6 [#]	0.83
Consultation with other health professional	27	16	1.69	13	1.38
Day(s) away from work/study	11	9	1.22 [#]	10 [#]	1.00

* RR is ratio of % in remote to % in non-remote for the Indigenous population

** RR is ratio of % Indigenous to % non-Indigenous

[#] Difference between total Indigenous and non-Indigenous data is not statistically significant

¹ Hospital admissions relate to the 12 months prior to interview. All other health-related actions relate to the two weeks prior to interview

Source: ABS 2001 NHS Cat. No. 4714.0, Table 1

Details of the immunisation status of adult Australians are not available from administrative sources (as are children's immunisations) so self-reported data again provide the only picture of the characteristics of the population groups who are immunised against various conditions (Table 9). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote areas were 67% more likely than those living in non-remote areas to have reported having a vaccination for influenza in last 12 months; and overall (the Indigenous population living in remote and non-remote areas) were 9% more likely to have had this vaccination than the non-Indigenous population. The ratio of the rates for those reporting having a vaccination for pneumonia in last 12 months were substantially stronger, being 2.53 (more than two and a half times higher for Indigenous population in remote areas) and 1.79 (79% higher for Indigenous compared with non-Indigenous).

Table 9: Immunisation status of people aged 50 years and over, by Indigenous status and remoteness, Australia, 2001

Per cent

Immunisation status	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous	
	Remote	Non-remote	Total	RR*	Total	RR**
Influenza						
Had vaccination for influenza in last 12 months	75	45	51	1.67	47	1.09
Had vaccination for influenza but not in last 12 mths	na	11	10	..	11	1.10
Never had vaccination for influenza	16 [#]	43	37	0.37	41	0.90
Pneumonia						
Had vaccination for pneumonia in last 5 years	48	19	25	2.53	14	1.79
Had vaccination for pneumonia but not in last 5 years	na	4 [#]	3 [#]	..	1	..
Never had vaccination for pneumonia	38	75	67	0.51	84	0.80

* RR is ratio of % in remote to % in non-remote for the Indigenous population

** RR is ratio of % Indigenous to % non-Indigenous

[#] estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

Source: ABS 2001 NHS Cat. No. 4714.0, Table 19

The limited range of health information available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women living in remote areas shows that they are more likely (than Indigenous women in non-remote areas) to have breastfed their child (77% and 59%, respectively) (and also more likely than the non-Indigenous population (53%)). Lower proportions also reported not having children (Table 10).

Indigenous women are more likely to have had a Pap smear test. However, Indigenous women who reported having a Pap smear test were more likely to be living in remote than in non-remote areas (17% higher).

Table 10: Summary women's health characteristics, by Indigenous status and remoteness, Australia, 2001

Age standardised rates (as per cent)

Women's health characteristics	Indigenous				Non-Indigenous	
	Remote	Non-remote	Total	RR*	Total	RR**
Mammograms (aged 40 years and over)						
Has regular mammograms	36 [#]	45	43	0.80	46	0.93
Never had a mammogram	41	20	25	2.05	25	1.00
Pap Smear test						
Has regular Pap smear tests	56	48	50	1.17	55	0.91
Never had a Pap smear test	19	8	11	2.38	12	0.92
Breastfeeding history						
Children breastfed	77	59	63	1.31	53	1.19
Children not breastfed	4 [#]	12	11	0.33	9	1.22
Has not had children	13	15	14	0.87	29	0.48

* RR is ratio of % in remote to % in non-remote for the Indigenous population

** RR is ratio of % Indigenous to % non-Indigenous

[#] estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

Source: ABS 2001 NHS Cat. No. 4714.0, Table 22

Notes on the data

Data sources and limitations

General

References to 'country Queensland' relate to Queensland, excluding Brisbane Statistical Division.

Remote areas

The Department of Health and Ageing have developed a classification of remoteness (ARIA+), subsequently amended by the ABS, which includes five area classes - Highly Accessible, Accessible, Moderately Accessible, Remote and Very Remote (a sixth category, Migratory, applies to Census data). Areas in the Remote and Very Remote classes were excluded from the 2001 National Health Survey.

Data sources

Table 11 details the data sources for the material presented in this profile.

Table 11: Data sources

Section	Source
Key indicators	
GP services per head of population	GP services data supplied by Department of Health and Ageing, 2003/04 Population data: Estimated Resident Population, ABS, mean of 30 June 2003 and 30 June 2004 populations
Socio-demographic profile	
Figures 1 and 2 ; Tables 1 and 2	Experimental estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ABS 2001 (unpublished)
Figure 3, Tables 3 and 4	Data were extracted by postal area from the ABS Population Census 2001, except for the following indicators: - <i>Total population</i> – Experimental estimates, ABS 2001 (unpublished) - <i>Full-time secondary education participation at age 16</i> – Census 2001 (unpublished) - <i>Households receiving rent assistance</i> – Centrelink, December Quarter 2001 (unpublished)
Map 1; Table 12	ABS SEIFA package, Census 2001
General medical practitioner (GP) supply	
Table 5	GP data supplied by Department of Health and Ageing, 2003/04 Population estimates used in calculating the population per GP rates are the: - Census count ¹ , ABS Population Census 2001, scaled to 2003/04 - Usual Resident Population ² , ABS Population Census 2001, scaled to 2003/04 - Day-time population: calculated from journey to work data, ABS Population Census (JRP) 2001 (unpublished); and 2001 Census JRP, scaled to 2003/04 - Estimated Resident Population, ABS, June 2003/2004
Immunisation	
Text comment: 1 year olds	National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, 2002
Table 6	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register, Health Insurance Commission, 2003/04 (unpublished)
Premature mortality	
Figure 4; Table 15	ABS Deaths, 2000 to 2002 (unpublished)
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey and Health Survey	
Table 7	ABS 2002 NATSIS, 2002 (unpublished)
Tables 8, 9 and 10	ABS 2001 NHS Cat. No. 4714.0 – Tables 1, 19 and 22

¹ *Census count* - those counted in the Division on Census night, including tourists, business people and other visitors

² *Usual Resident Population* - those who usually live there and who were in Australia at the time and would have provided details in the Census at the address where they were counted

Premature deaths

Details of deaths by SLA were purchased from the ABS. The raw numbers were then age-standardised, by the indirect method, to control for the effects of differences in the age profiles of areas.

[Conversion to Division of data available by postcode](#)

The allocation of postcodes to Divisions was undertaken using information from the Department of Health and Ageing's web site, which shows the proportion of a postcode in a Division (Table 13).

[Conversion to Division of data available by SLA](#)

(marked in this profile as ‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division total)

Where the data presented in these profiles were only available by SLA they have been converted to Division of General Practice areas using a concordance based on data at the 2001 Census. A copy of the concordance is included in the Population data: A Guide for Divisions of General Practice: it is also available from the Divisions' data area on PHIDU web site.

In brief, the concordance splits the data (eg number of deaths) for each SLA across one or more Divisions. The proportion of an SLA's data that is allocated to each Division was calculated from (a) CD level Census 2001 data that splits SLAs across approximations to postcodes (referred to as postal areas) and (b) data on the DoHA website that splits postcodes across Divisions. This concordance can be adjusted to meet any new configuration of Division boundaries based on the 2001 Collection Districts, or combinations thereof.

The estimated population of each SLA in this Division is shown in Table 14.

[Mapping](#)

In some Divisions the maps may include a very small part of an SLA which has not been allocated any population, or either has a population of less than 100 or has less than 1% of the SLA's total population: these areas are mapped with a pattern.

Supporting information

This and other information is also available at www.publichealth.gov.au.

A definition of population health

Population health, in the context of general practice, has been defined¹ as:

"The prevention of illness, injury and disability, reduction in the burden of illness and rehabilitation of those with a chronic disease. This recognises the social, cultural and political determinants of health. This is achieved through the organised and systematic responses to improve, protect and restore the health of populations and individuals. This includes both opportunistic and planned interventions in the general practice setting."

The key determinants of health are social support networks, employment and working conditions, social environments, physical environments, geographical isolation, personal health practices, healthy child development, ageing and disability, biology and genetic endowment, health services, gender and culture.

In the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context this means that a population health approach to health services will assist in ensuring "that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy a healthy life equal to that of the general population, that is enshrined by a strong living culture, dignity and justice".² This recognises the importance of achieving improvements to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and respects the particular health issues facing Indigenous people.

¹ "The role of general practice in population health – A Joint Consensus Statement of the General Practice Partnership Advisory Council and the National Public Health Partnership Group" (Joint Advisory Group on General Practice and Population Health 2001)

² As defined in the Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

SEIFA scores

Following the 2001 Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produced four socioeconomic indexes for areas (SEIFA). The indexes describe various aspects of the socioeconomic make-up of populations in areas, using data collected in the 2001 Census. The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (labelled 'Disadvantage' in Table 12) includes all variables that either reflect or measure disadvantage. The Index of Advantage/Disadvantage is used to rank areas in terms of both advantage and disadvantage: any information on advantaged persons in an area will offset information on disadvantaged persons in the area. The Index of Economic Resources and the Index of Education and Occupation were targeted towards specific aspects of advantage/disadvantage.

For further information on the composition and calculation of these indexes see the ABS Information Paper ABS Cat No. 2039.0 available on the ABS web site www.abs.gov.au. Scores for these indexes for each SLA or part SLA in North & West Queensland DGP are shown in Table 12.

In using this table, users should note that the index score shown for SLAs with less than 100 per cent in the Division represents the score for the whole SLA, and not just the part shown. However, SLAs with small proportions may have little influence on the average index score for the Division which has been based on the postcodes in the Division.

Table 12: SEIFA scores by SLA, North & West Queensland DGP, 2001

SLA code	SLA name (& per cent of SLA in the Division)	Index score			
		Disadvantage	Advantage	Economic Resources	Education & Occupation
30150	Aramac (100.0)	979	929	947	905
30350	<i>Banana</i> (3.1)	985	963	989	927
30400	Barcaldine (100.0)	997	960	946	960
30450	Barcoo (87.0)	997	963	966	942
30500	Bauhinia (5.3)	1007	975	989	942
30750	Blackall (100.0)	982	931	931	924
30900	Boulia (100.0)	910	939	990	883
30950	Bowen (100.0)	921	893	932	872
31900	Burdekin (94.5)	977	931	948	910
31950	Burke (100.0)	777	902	949	883
32078	<i>Cairns - Part B</i> (2.0)	872	892	911	885
32200	Cardwell (19.2)	961	924	938	922
32250	Carpentaria (58.8)	882	928	956	919
32300	Charters Towers (100.0)	960	954	968	945
32450	Cloncurry (100.0)	944	984	1013	945
32501	<i>Cook (excluding Weipa)</i> (3.1)	867	908	900	931
32700	Dalrymple (100.0)	971	926	952	896
32750	Diamantina (100.0)	921	976	984	952
32800	<i>Douglas</i> (1.6)	1036	1016	1005	1029
32850	<i>Duarina</i> (5.1)	920	972	1046	889
33000	Emerald (1.9)	991	988	1032	941
33151	<i>Fitzroy - Part A</i> (15.0)	959	929	946	922
33154	<i>Fitzroy - Part B</i> (13.9)	983	930	941	916
33200	Flinders (100.0)	967	937	947	921
33801	Hinchinbrook excl. Palm Is (100.0)	977	915	908	919
33804	Hinchinbrook - Palm Island (100.0)	709	846	844	881
33850	Ilfracombe (100.0)	1000	959	961	944
34050	Isisford (100.0)	982	922	930	894
34100	Jericho (60.1)	961	912	903	907
34550	<i>Livingstone</i> (4.6)	992	962	948	973
34700	Longreach (100.0)	1015	993	1002	979
34800	McKinlay (100.0)	997	959	977	922
35300	Mount Isa (100.0)	965	1004	1072	940
35850	Peak Downs (7.3)	1015	1015	1066	935
36300	Richmond (100.0)	981	942	944	935
36650	Tambo (89.8)	973	958	989	919
36831	Thuringowa - Part B (15.9)	985	946	967	926
37084	Townsville - Part B (100.0)	1000	970	978	950
37400	Winton (100.0)	963	929	927	916
73409	Tableland (13.8)	803	870	873	889
74009	Tennant Creek - Balance (21.2)	681	855	846	880

* Proportions are approximate and are known to be incorrect in some cases, due to errors in the concordance used to allocate CDs to form postal areas. In addition, in a small number of cases, part(s) of an SLA can be allocated to another Division, sometimes several hundred kilometres away. Although adjustments have not been made to the concordance to correct these errors, the affected SLAs are highlighted in the table (shown in bold italic typeface)

Note: Scores are not shown for SLAs in the Division with estimated populations of less than 100 or with less than 1% of the SLA's total population (refer to Table 14)

Statistical geography of the North & West Queensland DGP

The North & West Queensland DGP covers 821,127 square kilometres, based on 2001 SLA data.

The postcodes in the Division (as per the Department of Health and Ageing website) are shown below (Table 13).

Table 13: Postcodes in North & West Queensland DGP, 2004

Postcode	Per cent of postcode population in the Division*	Postcode	Per cent of postcode population in the Division*	Postcode	Per cent of postcode population in the Division*
4472	100	4732	100	4822	100
4478	100	4733	100	4823	100
4481	100	4735	100	4824	100
4482	100	4736	100	4825	100
4702	15	4804	100	4828	100
4724	100	4805	100	4829	100
4725	100	4806	100	4830	100
4726	100	4807	100	4849	100
4727	100	4808	100	4850	100
4728	100	4816	100	4871	4
4730	100	4820	100	4890	100
4731	100	4821	100	4891	100

* Proportions are approximate

Source: Department of Health and Ageing web site (accessed online version as at February 2005):

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/health-pcd-programs-divisions-divspc.htm>

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) are defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to produce areas for the presentation and analysis of data. In this Division, some Local Government Areas (LGAs) have been split into SLAs. For example, Fitzroy comprises two SLAs, Part A and Part B (both of which are all in the Division). These SLAs and all or part of the other SLAs listed in Table 14, comprise the Division.

Table 14: SLAs in North & West Queensland DGP by 2001 boundaries

SLA code	SLA name	Per cent of the SLA's population in the Division*	Estimated SLA population (2004) in the Division
30150	Aramac	100.0	713
30250	Aurukun	4.0	#
30350	Banana	3.1	441
30400	Barcaldine	100.0	1,695
30450	Barcoo	87.0	404
30500	Bauhinia	5.3	118
30750	Blackall	100.0	1,662
30900	Bouli	100.0	554
30950	Bowen	100.0	12,586
31900	Burdekin	94.5	17,630
31950	Burke	100.0	1,724
32074	Cairns - Trinity	0.1	#
32078	Cairns - Part B	2.0	145
32200	Cardwell	19.2	2,159
32250	Carpentaria	58.8	2,417
32300	Charters Towers	100.0	8,846
32450	Cloncurry	100.0	3,842
32501	Cook (excl. Weipa)	3.1	216
32600	Croydon	4.0	#
32700	Dalrymple	100.0	3,490
32750	Diamantina	100.0	306
32800	Douglas	1.6	190
32850	Duarina	5.1	391
33000	Emerald	1.9	261
33100	Etheridge	4.0	#
33151	Fitzroy - Part A	15.0	660
33154	Fitzroy - Part B	13.9	818
33200	Flinders	100.0	2,036
33801	Hinchinbrook excl. Palm Island	100.0	12,226
33804	Hinchinbrook - Palm Island	100.0	2,378
33850	Ilfracombe	100.0	368
34050	Isisford	100.0	301
34100	Jericho	60.1	663
34150	Johnstone	0.6	123
34550	Livingstone	4.6	1,289
34700	Longreach	100.0	4,015
34800	McKinlay	100.0	1,040
34850	Mareeba	0.4	#
35250	Mornington	4.0	#
35300	Mount Isa	100.0	20,695
35350	Mount Morgan	1.9	#
35850	Peak Downs	7.3	231
36300	Richmond	100.0	1,147
36350	Rockhampton	0.0	#
36650	Tambo	89.8	569
36831	Thuringowa - Part B	15.9	1,198
37084	Townsville - Part B	100.0	3,666
37400	Winton	100.0	1,545
73409	Tableland	13.8	138
74009	Tennant Creek - Balance	21.2	398

* Proportions are approximate and are known to be incorrect in some cases, due to errors in the concordance used to allocate CDs to form postal areas. In addition, in a small number of cases, part(s) of an SLA can be allocated to another Division, sometimes several hundred kilometres away. Although adjustments have not been made to the concordance to correct these errors, the affected SLAs are highlighted in the table (shown in bold italic typeface)

Not shown as the total population is less than 100

Supporting data

The data used in Figure 4 to illustrate the rates of premature mortality in the Division are shown below in Table 15.

Table 15: Deaths before 75 years of age by major condition group and selected cause, North & West Queensland DGP‡, country Queensland and Australia, 2000-02*

Indirectly age standardised rate per 100,000 population

Variable	North & West Queensland DGP		Country Queensland		Australia	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Circulatory system diseases	307	88.6	4,146	67.1	38,357	72.3
Ischaemic heart disease	182	52.5	2,705	43.6	23,364	44.1
Cerebrovascular disease – stroke	53	15.5	681	11.0	6,920	13.0
Cancer	396	113.5	6,591	106.8	60,603	114.3
Cancer of the trachea, bronchus & lung	98	28.0	1,460	23.4	12,715	24.0
Respiratory system diseases	93	26.7	984	15.8	9,726	18.3
Chronic lower respiratory disease	76	21.9	725	11.6	6,657	12.6
Injuries and poisonings	200	61.0	2,377	42.6	18,573	35.0
Suicide	78	23.9	907	16.3	6,706	12.6
Motor vehicle accidents	54	16.7	635	11.5	5,014	9.5
Other causes	261	75.2	2,829	47.1	26,735	50.4
Diabetes mellitus	50	14.3	442	7.1	3,734	7.0

* 'No.' is the total number of deaths for the 2000-02 period; 'Rate' is an annual rate, based on the 3-year average

‡ See note under 'Data converters and mapping' re calculation of Division totals

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Funding for these profiles was provided by the Population Health Division of the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). Assistance, by way of comment on the profiles and assistance in obtaining some datasets, has also been received from the Primary Care Division of the DoHA, the ABS and the ACIR.

Further developments and updates

Subject to agreement and funding, a number of developments could be undertaken:

- Details of hospitalisations potentially avoidable through ambulatory care interventions are currently being prepared and will be forwarded to Divisions (and posted on the PHIDU web site) when they are available. Other enhancements will be considered as appropriate datasets become available.

The profiles could be updated as the data are updated. For example:

- Population estimates, avoidable hospitalisations, immunisation and GP activity and workforce data – annually;
- Chronic disease estimates – three-yearly;
- Census data – five-yearly.

Any developments would be informed by consultation, including with Divisions.

PHIDU contact details

For general comments, data issues or enquiries re information on the web site, please contact PHIDU:

Phone: 08-8303 6236 or e-mail: PHIDU@publichealth.gov.au