

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

In Australia, the parlous state of wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has been documented for decades.<sup>72</sup> Key social and economic measures in areas such as life expectancy, poverty, employment, housing ownership, education, justice and health show that these populations are at substantially higher risk of poorer wellbeing and social exclusion compared with non-Indigenous Australians, and represent the most disadvantaged groups in our society. This situation is the result of the inter-generational impact of colonisation, dispossession of lands, lost and stolen generations and the attempted decimation of the cultures and languages of the peoples inhabiting Australia before 1770.<sup>73, 74</sup> Therefore, for there to be a start to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing and 'closing the gap', a process of genuine reconciliation, which acknowledges the past in light of the present, needs to be embraced across all sectors of society, accompanied by changes in attitudes, practices and the sharing of power.<sup>75,76</sup>

Most indicators of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing, such as those included in the atlas, tend to reflect a 'deficit' model, highlighting problems and the extent of disadvantage experienced over a lifetime, and between generations. While there is an imperative to illustrate the unmet need for appropriate resources and services, this approach overlooks the strengths, capabilities and passion that the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples demonstrate in caring for their family and community, their environment, and their land; and fails to represent the holistic nature of Indigenous cultures, histories and understandings.<sup>77,78</sup> A positive concept of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing can be drawn from the following definition, which notes that achieving wellbeing is an attribute of communities, as well as of the individuals within a community; and it identifies cultural wellbeing, along with physical, social, spiritual and emotional wellbeing, as equally important:

*'Not just the physical wellbeing of the individual but the social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of the whole community. This is the whole-of-life view and it also includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life'.<sup>79</sup>*

Thus, a community's capabilities are fundamental to enhancing individual and collective wellbeing, preserving cultural knowledge, engaging in social and economic development, and in resolving local issues. Unfortunately, indicators that might illustrate these capabilities are not yet available in a form needed for mapping.

A number of indicators of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' wellbeing are the focus of government attention, such as life expectancy, infant and child mortality, access to early childhood education, educational attainment and employment. There is a strong thread of interdependence between them, and the nature of the inter-relationships is complex.<sup>80</sup> For example, post-secondary educational attainment is linked to year 10 and 12 retention and attainment.<sup>81</sup> In turn, these are related to household income, education and employment, levels of racism and discrimination, and so forth. None of these policy areas in isolation will achieve the priority outcomes mentioned above but, together, they may have the capacity to start to address the existing intergenerational cycle of disadvantage for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose needs are not being met; and to support the health and wellbeing of the members of these populations who are doing well.

The indicators listed in **bold** type are included in this sub-section. The remaining indicators listed below, and other indicators which are relevant, can be found online at [www.adelaide.edu.au/phidu/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/phidu/).

- Indigenous population: number of people
- **Indigenous population: % of total population**
- Indigenous participation in preschool and primary education
- **Indigenous participation in secondary education**
- **Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy**
- **Indigenous median age at death**
- **Non-Indigenous median age at death (as a comparator)**

## Indigenous population, capital cities

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are disadvantaged across all domains of wellbeing compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts.<sup>7</sup> Nationally, the majority of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations live in cities and towns, but around one-quarter resides in areas classified as 'Remote' or 'Very Remote' in relation to having 'very little or very restricted access to goods and services and opportunities for social interaction'. Only 2% of the non-Indigenous population live in Remote or Very Remote areas.*

**Indicator definition:** The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (based on people identifying as such in the 2011 Census), as a proportion of the total population. Note: The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population are also referred to in the text as 'Indigenous' (people, population, women, etc.).

**Table 26: Indigenous population, by capital city, 2011**

Per cent								
Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Total
1.2	0.4	2.0	1.3	1.6	3.3	9.2	1.4	1.3

### Capital cities

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the capital cities is low, with the exception of Darwin, where they comprise 9.2% of the population.

Areas in **Sydney** with relatively large Indigenous populations are generally located in outer areas, in the outer north, the outer west and the south-west. SLAs with the highest proportions were Blacktown - South-West (4.6%), Wyong - North-East (4.0%) and - South and West (3.3%), Campbelltown - South (3.6%) and - North (2.9%), and Penrith - East (3.3%) and - West (2.7%).

Reflecting the overall low proportion in **Melbourne**, the Indigenous population comprised low proportions at the SLA level. The exception was Yarra Ranges - North, with 2.2% of its population estimated to be Indigenous. Preston had the largest Indigenous population, of 841 people (1.0%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprised high proportions of the population in a number of areas in **Brisbane**, in three main clusters of SLAs. The highest proportions were in Redland Balance (7.5%), Darra-Sumner/Wacol (6.6%), Ipswich - West (4.7%), Loganlea and Stretton-Karawatha/Kingston (both 4.5%), Marsden, Ipswich Central and Caboolture - Central (all 4.3%), Murarrie (4.2%) and Deception Bay (4.0%).

In **Adelaide**, the highest proportions of this population group lived in three main areas: in the outer north, in Playford - West Central (4.3%) and - Elizabeth (4.1%; and the largest number), and Salisbury - Inner North (2.3%) and - Central (2.0%); the north-west, in all five of the Port Adelaide Enfield SLAs, ranging from 3.3% in - Port, to 2.0% in - East, and Charles Sturt - North-East (2.0%); and the outer south, in Onkaparinga - North Coast (2.7%) and - Hackham (2.2%).

In **Perth**, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were generally in middle and outer suburban SLAs, in Kwinana (3.9%), Swan (3.0%, the largest number of Indigenous people), Belmont (3.0%), Armadale (2.8%), Mundaring and Bassendean (both 2.7%), and Gosnells (2.5%).

In **Hobart**, the proportions were relatively high in all of the SLAs (other than in Hobart - Inner and - Remainder), with Brighton (7.5%), and Glenorchy (the largest number) and Derwent Valley - Part A both 4.2%. Clarence, with 2.9%, had the second largest number.

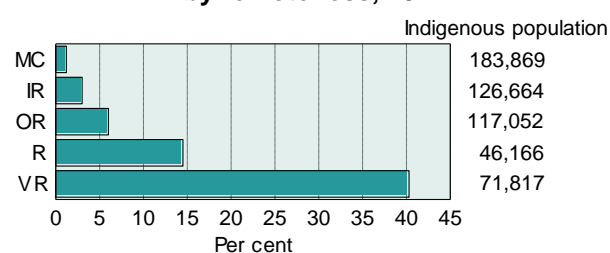
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders comprised relatively high proportions of the population in SLAs in **Darwin**, ranging from 6.6% in Darwin South West, to the highest proportion, of 12.6%, in Palmerston (and the largest number). Darwin North East had the second highest proportion, with 11.1%.

In **Canberra**, the highest proportions of this population group were generally in SLAs in outer areas of the city, including Eastern Fringe (6.0%), and Tuggeranong North West, Tuggeranong South, and Kambah (all 2.2%).

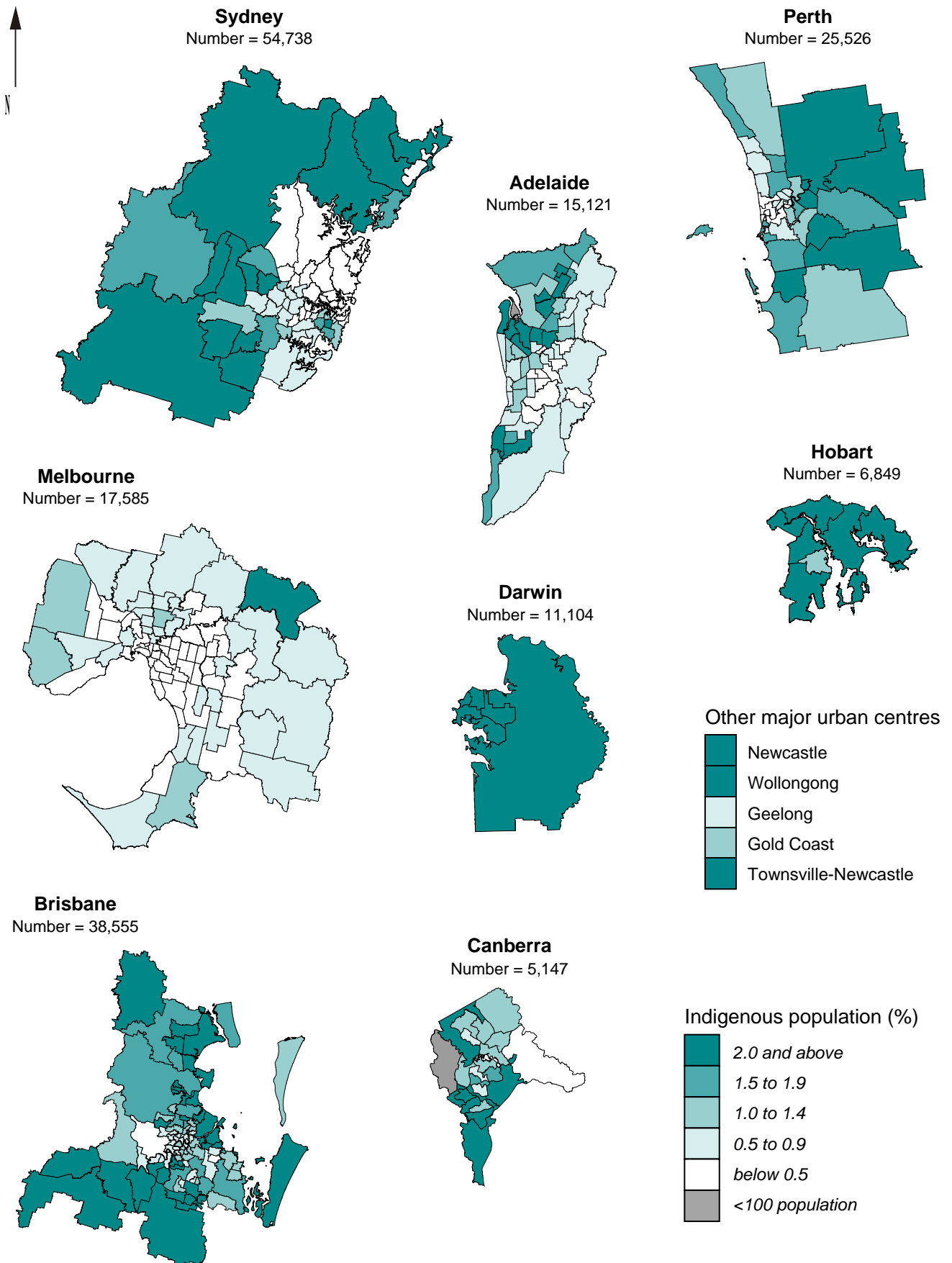
### Remoteness

There is a clear gradient, and a substantial differential, in the distribution by remoteness of the Indigenous population (as a proportion of the total Australian population), from a low of 1.2% in the Major Cities areas to 14.5% in the Remote and 40.3% in the Very Remote areas.

**Figure 17: Indigenous population, by remoteness, 2011**



Map 25: Indigenous population, major urban centres, 2011  
 per cent by Statistical Local Area/ Statistical Local Area group



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data from ABS Census 2011

## Indigenous population, Australia

**Notes:** See comments on previous text page for details of this indicator. 'Non-metropolitan' refers to the area of the State or Territory outside of the capital city. 'Total' refers to the whole State or Territory.

**Table 27: Indigenous population, by State/ Territory, Australia, 2011**

*Per cent*

Area	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
Non-metropolitan	4.7	1.4	4.9	3.6	7.5	4.5	50.9	..	4.8
Total	2.5	0.7	3.6	1.9	3.1	4.0	26.8	1.5	2.5

### Non-metropolitan areas

There are wide variations in the proportion of the population who are Indigenous in the areas outside of the capital cities; by far the highest proportion was recorded in the Northern Territory, with half of its population identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or both in the 2011 Census (50.9%). Proportions in the non-metropolitan areas of the States ranged from 1.4% in Victoria to 7.5% in Western Australia.

Indigenous people comprised very high proportions of the population in a band of SLAs across much of inland **New South Wales**, including Brewarrina (59.0%), Central Darling (38.3%), Bourke (30.2%), Coonamble (29.3%) and Walgett (28.1%). The largest numbers of this population group (with 2,500 or more people) were in Dubbo, Tamworth, Kempsey, Moree Plains, Wagga Wagga and Greater Taree.

The majority of SLAs in the non-metropolitan areas of **Victoria** had less than 2% of their population who were Indigenous. Areas with the highest proportions were located in the north of the State (including Swan Hill - Robinvale (7.9%) and - Central (4.3%), Greater Shepparton - Part A and Mildura - Part A (both 3.8%), and Campaspe - Echuca (3.7%)); as well as in the east of the State, including the East Gippsland SLAs of - Orbost (4.9%) and - Bairnsdale (3.2%).

The extent of distribution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the non-metropolitan areas of **Queensland** is not evident from the scale of this map, with many of the highest proportions in small communities, in particular on Cape York and in the Torres Strait, with proportions of over 95% of the population in the small communities of Yorke, Poruma, Dauan, Cherbourg, Yarrabah, Mabuiag, Injino, Kubin and Napranum. As noted elsewhere, the online atlas and datasheets allow a better examination of these data. Other areas, with as high as one third of the population being Indigenous, are more evident on the map, and cover a broad area from Cape York to the southern State border. The largest numbers were in regional centres, including Cairns, Rockhampton, Mackay and Mount Isa.

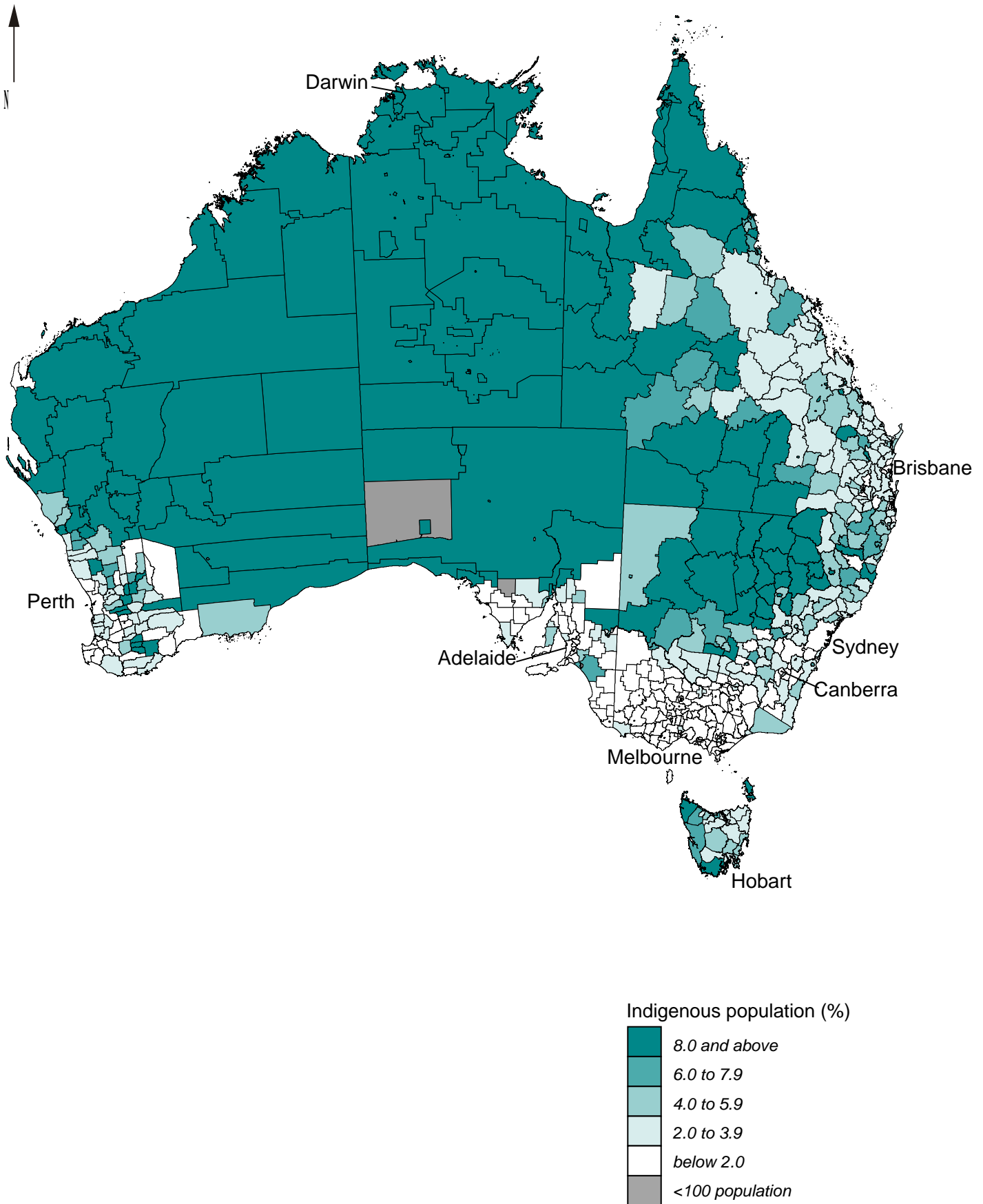
In non-metropolitan **South Australia**, the Aboriginal population was highly represented in the far north of the State (86.2% in Anangu Pitjantjatjara, and the second largest number, after Port Augusta (16.9%), and 18.4% in Unincorporated Flinders Ranges); on the west coast (49.8% in Unincorporated West Coast and 24.9% in Ceduna); and in Unincorporated Riverland (50.0%), as well as in the upper south-east of the state. The rest of the State was characterised by low proportions.

Indigenous people comprised relatively high proportions of the population across much of **Western Australia**, in particular in Ngaanyatjarraku (84.5%), Halls Creek (76.3%), Menzies (66.2%), Upper Gascoyne (56.6%), Derby-West Kimberley (48.1%), Mount Magnet (36.0%), Wyndham-East Kimberley (34.8%) and Meekatharra (32.8%). A number of communities in the south-west had proportions of 8% and higher, although many SLAs in this part of the State also had very low proportions. The largest numbers were in the far north of the State, in Broome, Kimberley and Halls Creek.

In **Tasmania**, Indigenous people formed the highest proportions of the population in the SLAs of Flinders (16.4%) in the Bass Strait; in the north-west, in Circular Head (11.7%); and in the south, in Huon Valley (8.6%). The largest numbers of this population group were in the northern areas of Launceston - Part B and Devonport, and in Huon Valley in the south.

Only two SLAs in the **Northern Territory**, outside of Darwin, were estimated to have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations below 10%: these were Cox Peninsula with 4.0%; and Nhulunbuy with 6.1%. The highest proportions, all over 85%, were recorded in the Indigenous communities of Belyuen, Thamarrurr, Angurugu, Marngarr, East Arnhem - Balance, Tiwi Islands, Kunbarllanjnja and West Arnhem. East Arnhem - Balance, West Arnhem, Tiwi Islands, Sandover, Katherine, Thamarrurr and Tanami all had populations of more than 2,000 Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

Map 26: Indigenous population, Australia, 2011  
 per cent by Statistical Local Area/ Statistical Local Area group



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data from ABS Census 2011

## Indigenous participation in secondary education, capital cities

*Increasing rates of educational attainment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the education system are key strategies to improve socioeconomic and health outcomes. Capacity to engage with and learn at school is linked to individual life experience and influenced by family, community, cultural, school and social contexts.<sup>82</sup> Lower participation is hampered by poor school access (in some remote areas), inability to afford education, and other community expectations affecting the ability of families to get children to school.<sup>83</sup>*

**Indicator definition:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 16 years in full-time secondary school education, as a proportion of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 years. The area mapped is the Indigenous Area (IA) as the number of cases at the SLA level is generally too small to be reliable. However, even for IAs, and removing IAs with populations below ten Indigenous persons aged 16 years, the numbers are small; and the data are subject to perturbation by the ABS, designed to protect confidentiality.

**Table 28: Indigenous participation in full-time secondary education at age 16, by capital city, 2011**

Per cent									
Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Total	
70.1	74.4	74.7	77.5	50.9	59.6	71.2	92.8	69.0	

### Capital cities

Canberra had the highest rate of full-time participation in secondary education of Indigenous young people at 16 years of age (92.8%). Participation rates in the remainder of the capital cities were between 70 to 80 per cent, apart from in Perth (50.9%, the lowest) and Hobart (59.6%).

In 2011, Indigenous young people's participation in full-time secondary education was below 50% in the **Sydney** Indigenous Areas (IAs) of Hawkesbury; a number of Blacktown IAs, including - Bidwell, - Blackett/Emerton, - Dharruk/Hebersham, - Inner West, - Lethbridge Park/Tregear, - Mount Druitt/Whalan and - Shalvey; as well as in Campbelltown - Airds, - Central and - South West. Participation rates were over 80% in a number of IAs to the north and south of the inner city, and in the west, in the Blue Mountains IAs.

In **Melbourne**, the highest rates of Indigenous participation in secondary school were in the inner IAs of Maribyrnong/Moonee Valley and Melbourne/ Port Phillip, and in the outer IAs of Whittlesea, North-Eastern Suburbs, Yarra Ranges, Frankston and Wyndham. The lowest rates were in Melton, Greater Dandenong and Hume.

IAs in **Brisbane** with the highest rates of Indigenous full-time educational participation at age 16 included the inner Brisbane City IAs of - Eastern Inner, - Eastern Outer, - Northern Outer, - North-Western Inner and - Southern Outer, and the southern IAs of Redland, Kingston and Woodridge. Low rates were recorded for Indigenous young people in Inala, Marsden and Beaudesert/Boonah, also located in the south.

At least 80% of Indigenous young people aged 16 years in **Adelaide** were participating in secondary education in West Adelaide, Marion,

Unley/Burnside/Mitcham, Port Adelaide Enfield and Charles Sturt. There were no IAs in Adelaide with participation rates below 60%.

A number of IAs in **Perth** had rates below 50%, including Melville, Cockburn, Gosnells, Rockingham, Bayswater, Armadale, Canning and Stirling. Participation rates were highest in South Perth and Joondalup, with 80% or more Indigenous 16 year olds in full-time secondary education.

Participation in full-time secondary education of 16 year old Indigenous students in **Hobart** was lowest in Glenorchy and Hobart, and highest in Clarence.

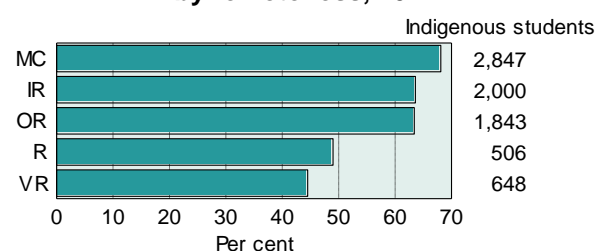
In **Darwin**, participation in full-time secondary education of 16 year old Indigenous students varied from below 50% in Palmerston - Remainder, Moulden and Litchfield, to over 80% in Marrara/Winnellie/Berrimah, Karama, Moil/Wagaman and Driver/Woodroffe.

In **Canberra**, participation rates for the three Indigenous Areas were all over 80%.

### Remoteness

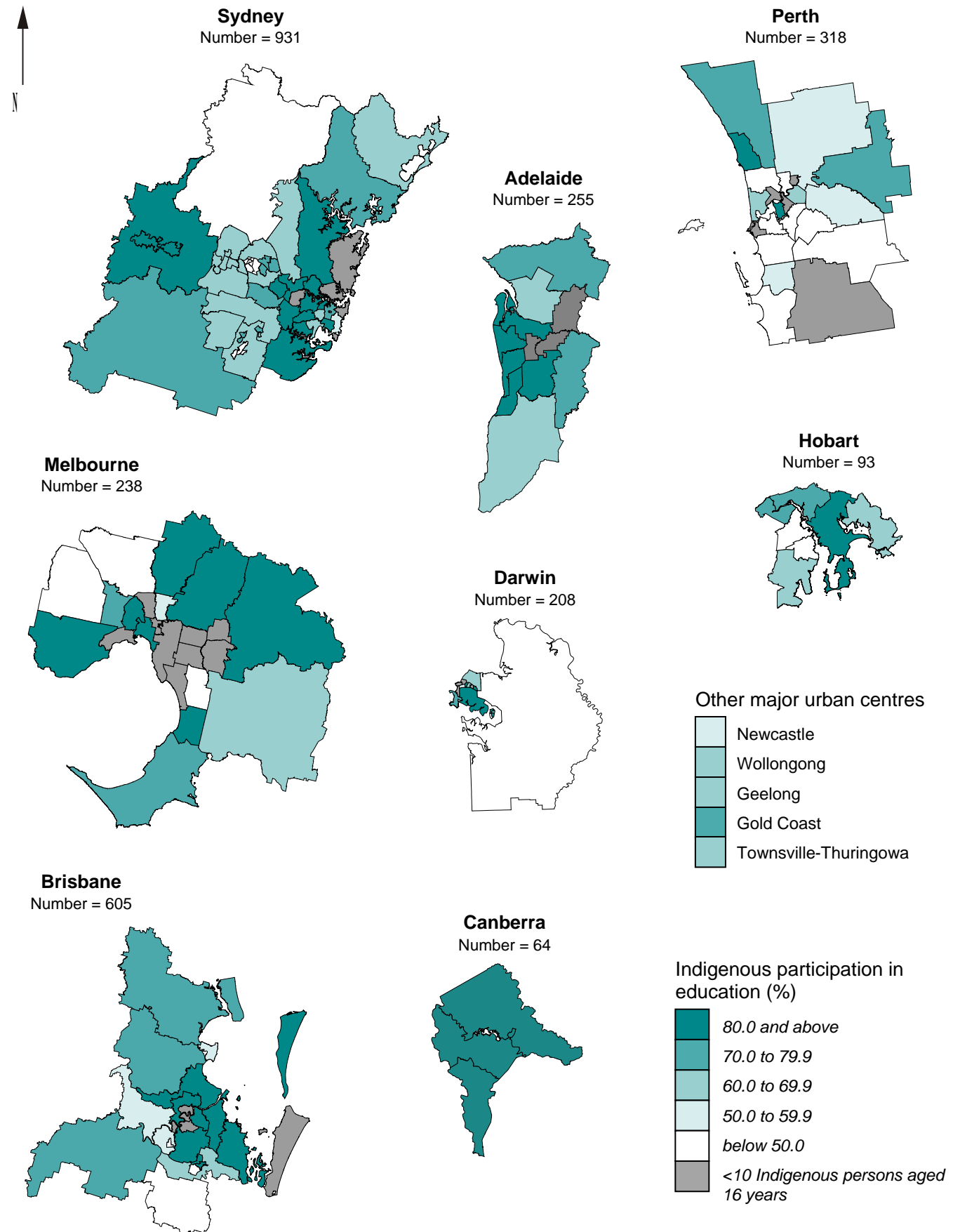
Around two thirds of Indigenous young people aged 16 years living in the first three remoteness classes were participating in secondary education full-time in 2011; participation rates then decreased, to 44.5% in the Very Remote areas.

**Figure 18: Indigenous participation in full-time secondary education at age 16, by remoteness, 2011**



# Map 27: Indigenous participation in full-time secondary education at age 16, major urban centres, 2011

per cent by Indigenous Area



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data from ABS 2011 Census

## Indigenous participation in secondary education, Australia

**Notes:** See comments on previous text page for details of this indicator. 'Non-metropolitan' refers to the area of the State or Territory outside of the capital city. 'Total' refers to the whole State or Territory.

**Table 29: Indigenous participation in full-time secondary education at age 16, by State/ Territory, Australia, 2011**

*Per cent*

Area	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
Non-metropolitan	63.0	64.6	60.3	69.6	46.2	57.6	44.4	..	58.4
Total	65.1	68.8	63.6	73.7	48.1	58.3	50.4	92.8	61.7

### Non-metropolitan areas

The lowest participation rates for Indigenous young people at age 16 engaged in full-time secondary education in the non-metropolitan areas were recorded in the Northern Territory (44.4%) and Western Australia (46.2%). Non-metropolitan South Australia (69.6%) had the highest rate, with rates above 60% also recorded in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

At least 80% of the Indigenous population aged 16 years living in non-metropolitan **New South Wales** in the Indigenous Areas (IAs) of Blayney/Cabonne, Byron, Narrandera, Central Murray/Lower Murrumbidgee, Cowra, Gloucester/Dungog, Guyra, Tweed - Remainder, Upper Hunter Shire, Lithgow/Oberon and Tumut were participating in secondary education on a full-time basis. The IAs of Bourke, Gundagai/Junee/Harden, Moree Plains, Albury, Brewarinna, Young, Wellington, Newcastle, Mid-Western Regional, Broken Hill and Dubbo recorded the lowest rates (of less than 50%).

Campaspe, Latrobe, Swan Hill, Wellington, Ballarat and Warrnambool recorded the highest participation rates (of 80% or more) in the non-metropolitan areas of **Victoria**, with the lowest rates along the northern border in the IAs of East Gippsland, Mildura and Greater Shepparton.

High rates of educational participation in the non-metropolitan areas of **Queensland** were recorded in the IAs of Cairns - Barron, - City and - Western Suburbs, Darling Downs South-East, Esk/Kilcoy, Livingstone, Weipa, South Wide Bay, Herberton, Atherton/Eachem, Charters Towers, Burnett and Caloundra. In addition to areas with no Indigenous young people participating (Mornington, Pormpuraaw and Woorabinda), the lowest participation rates (of less than 40%) were recorded in Aurukun, Murgon, Yarrabah, Doomadgee, Cherbourg, Palm Island, Gatton, Cloncurry/McKinlay, Umagico and Balonne. The next lowest participation rates (of 40% to less than 50%) included the IAs of South-West Queensland, Paroo, South Central Queensland, Emerald, Hope Vale, Maryborough, Mackay,

Kowanyama, Cardwell, Warwick and Hervey Bay.

Rates in the non-metropolitan areas of **South Australia** were generally higher than those in the other States and Territories, with participation rates of Aboriginal young people aged 16 in secondary education recorded in the lowest range only for Port Augusta (43.2%). The next lowest rates were in Port Lincoln (52.4%), Murray Bridge (63.0%) and Whyalla (66.7%). The highest rates were recorded in the IAs of Mid-North and Yorke.

Throughout **Western Australia**, participation in secondary education of 16 year old Indigenous people was low, with the Indigenous Area of Northam recording no such students. Fewer than 40% of Indigenous young people in Kununurra, Ngaanyatjarraku (excl. Warburton), East Pilbara, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Fitzroy River, Port Hedland, Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Halls Creek Town and Mandurah were participating in full-time secondary education. Low rates (of 40% to less than 50%) were also recorded in Meekatharra, Karratha, Roebourne (excl. Karratha), Moore, Carnarvon, Katanning and Albany. Greenough recorded a participation rate of above 80%.

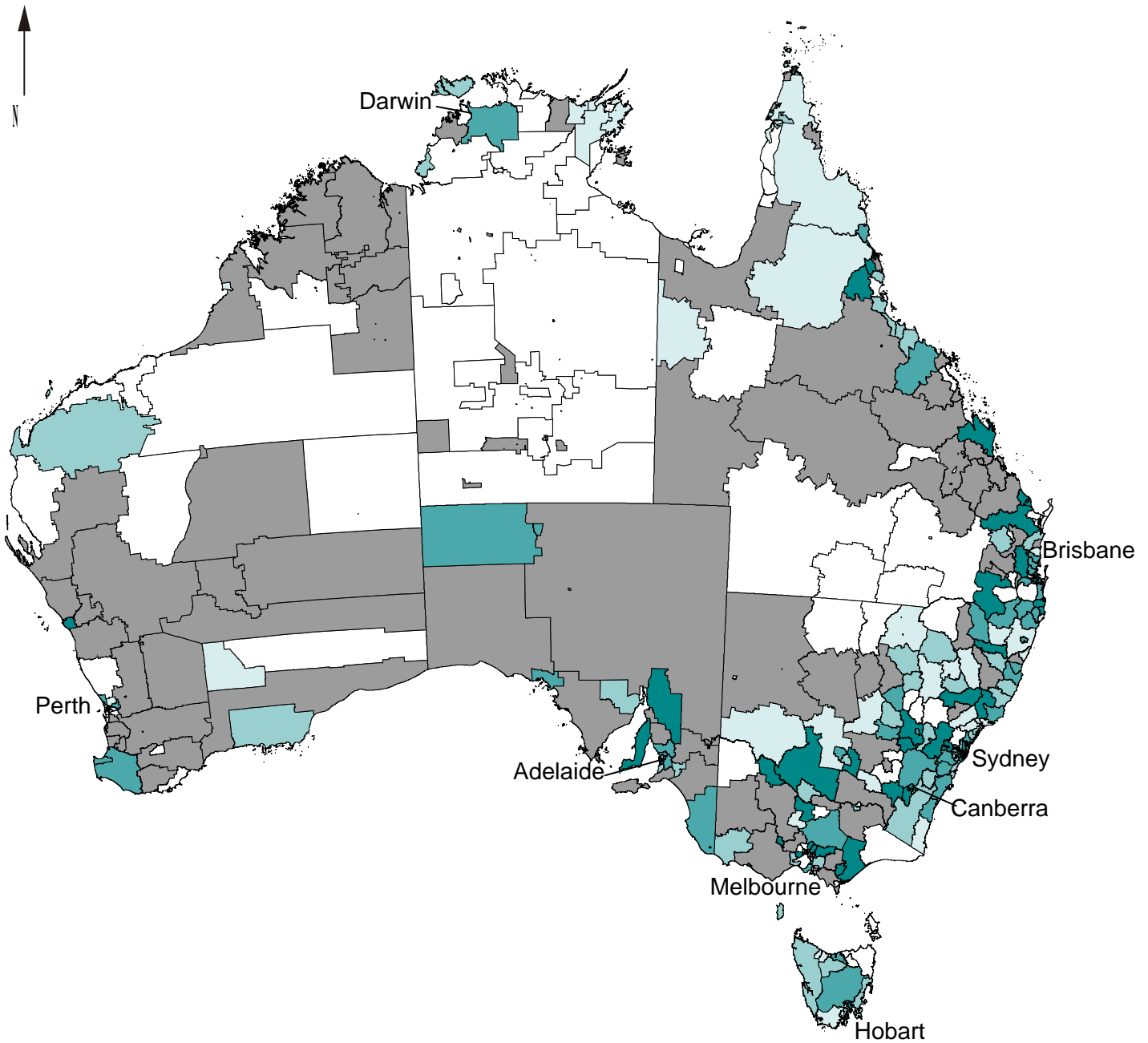
Participation rates in the non-metropolitan areas of **Tasmania** were below 50% in Glenorchy and Hobart. The highest rates were recorded in Central Tasmania (72.7%) and West Tamar/Latrobe (72.0%).

Only three Indigenous Areas in the non-metropolitan areas of the **Northern Territory** recorded more than 60% of Indigenous 16 year old young people participating in secondary education on a full-time basis: these areas were Kakadu/Marrakai (77.9%), Thamarrurr (65.2%) and Tiwi Islands (64.6%). As can be seen from the map, participation rates were relatively low across the remaining Indigenous Areas. The lowest of these, with less than 30% participation, included the IAs of Petermann/Simpson, Tanami, Yuendumu, Anjatjere, Lajamanu, Sandover, Urapuntja Outstation, Ingerkerke Outstation/Iwupataa.

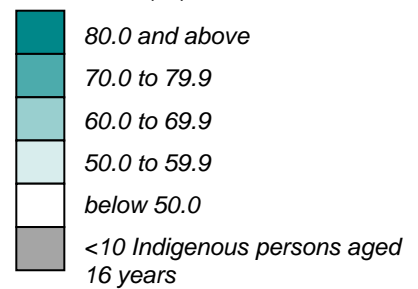


# Map 28: Indigenous participation in full-time secondary education at age 16, Australia, 2011

per cent by Indigenous Area



Indigenous participation in education (%)



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data from ABS 2011 Census

## Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy, capital cities

*Smoking during pregnancy doubles the risk of low birth weight and significantly increases the risk of perinatal mortality, SIDS, asthma and other adverse pregnancy outcomes.<sup>84</sup> Smoking prevalence remains disproportionately high among pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, especially teenaged mothers.<sup>84,85</sup> Having a smoking partner, an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander partner, and high levels of stress, are associated with an increased risk of smoking during pregnancy.<sup>86</sup> Smoking cessation interventions within this population need to focus on the social environment, and the influences of social networks and partners on the smoking behaviour of individuals.<sup>86</sup>*

**Indicator definition:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who reported smoking during a pregnancy, as a proportion of the number of pregnancies (Aboriginal women), over the time period (three years).

Note: The area mapped is the Indigenous Area (IA) as the number of cases at the SLA level is generally too small to produce reliable results. As IAs do not in all cases match the ABS boundaries on which the capital cities are based, the 'capital city' totals in the table below approximate the true figures for these areas.

**Table 30: Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy, by capital city, 2006 to 2008**

Per cent

Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra*	Total <sup>#</sup>
42.6	n.a.	n.a.	55.1	50.0	57.1	45.1	46.6	47.5

\* The figures for Canberra are for the years 2005 to 2007.

<sup>#</sup> The 'Total' excludes data for Melbourne and Brisbane.

### Capital cities

At the capital city level, rates of smoking during their pregnancy, as reported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, were all high, and varied from 42.6% in Sydney to 57.1% in Hobart. Readers should be aware that many of the areas that were not mapped (with fewer than five Indigenous women reporting smoking during their pregnancy) were also likely to have low rates.

There were relatively low rates across **Sydney**, with the exception of a number of Indigenous Areas in the inner west. These were the Indigenous Areas (IAs) of Blacktown - Shalvey (85.7%, with the highest rate in Australia), Blacktown - Blackett/Emerton (66.7%) and Blacktown - Doonside/ Woodcroft (65.7%); the Penrith SLAs of - West (64.3%) and - Central (63.5%); and Campbelltown - North-West (63.2%). In addition to IAs with small numbers (which were not mapped; and some of which are on the north shore), less than 25% of Indigenous women in Wollondilly, Inner Western Sydney, Canterbury and Rockdale reported smoking during their pregnancy.

Data for **Melbourne** and **Brisbane** were not available.

The northern IAs of Salisbury (60.7%) and Playford/ Gawler (57.5%) recorded the highest proportions of Aboriginal women smoking during pregnancy in **Adelaide**. High rates were also recorded in the inner city, in Adelaide/ Prospect/Walkerville (57.1%), and in the southern IA of Onkaparinga (56.0%). The lowest

smoking rates were recorded in West Adelaide, and Tea Tree Gully.

In **Perth**, 60% or more Indigenous women reported smoking during pregnancy in Armadale (62.3%), Victoria Park (60.5%) and Kwinana (60.0%), with rates of over 50 % in several other IAs. Low rates were recorded in some inner city, middle and outer areas, the lowest of which were in Melville, Joondalup and Wanneroo.

At least 50% of Indigenous women smoked during their pregnancy in each of the IAs in **Hobart**. The highest proportions were recorded in Brighton (the second highest capital city rate) and Clarence (61.7%), with the lowest in Kingborough and Glenorchy.

Darwin/Inner Suburbs and several IAs in the north-west of **Darwin** had rates below 40%, with the lowest of these in Anula/Wulagi, Alawa/ Brinkin/Nakara and Malak. More than half of the Indigenous women in the Indigenous Areas of Millner/Jingili, Marrara/Winnellie/ Berrimah, Driver/Woodroffe, and Nightcliff/Rapid Creek reported smoking during pregnancy.

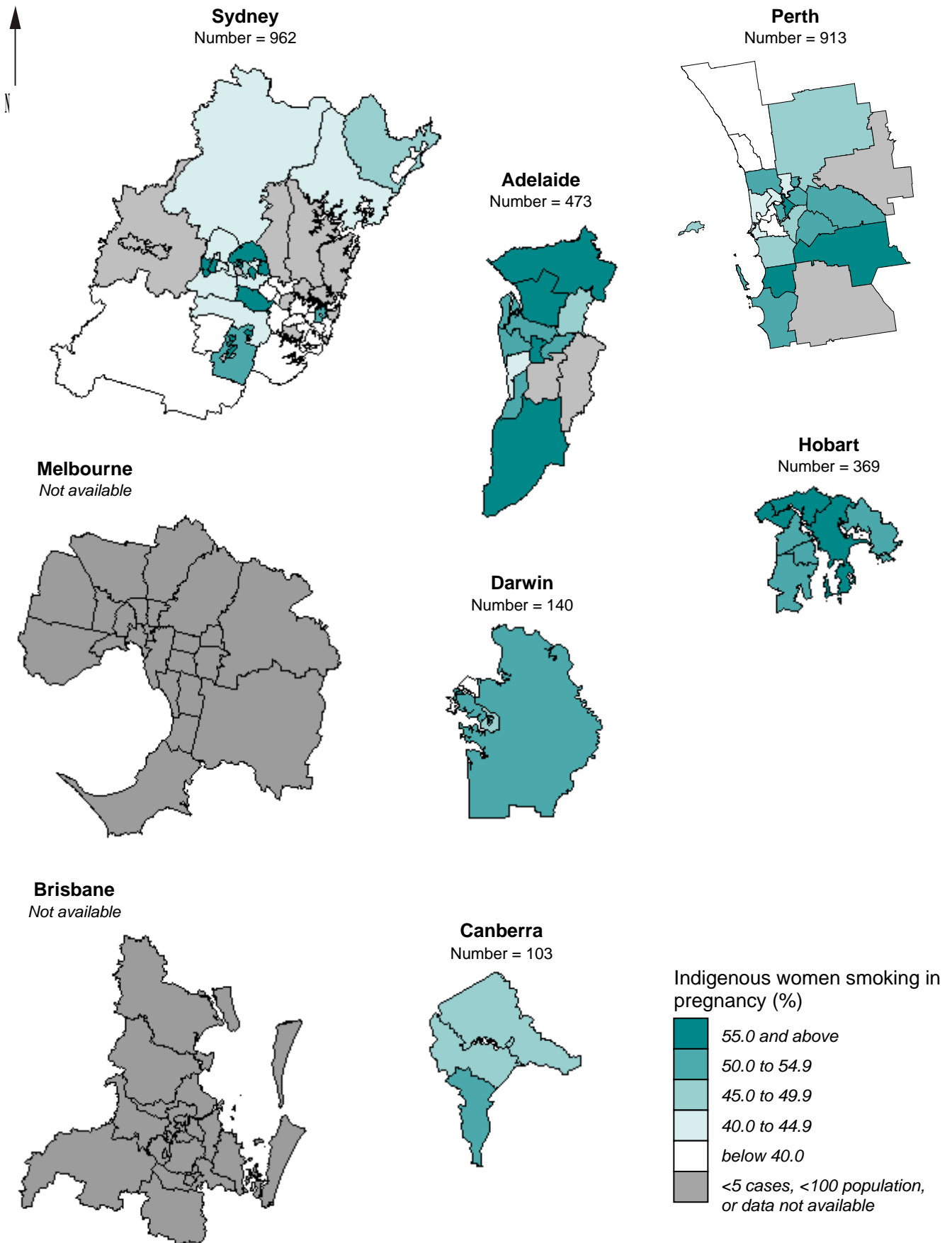
There was little difference in the proportion of Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy across **Canberra**, with 46.1% in Belconnen/ Gungahlin/North Canberra, 46.9% in South Canberra/Weston/Woden, and 50.0% in Tuggeranong/ACT South.

### Remoteness

Data were not available at a geographic level which would allow the calculation of rates by the remoteness classification.

# Map 29: Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy, capital cities, 2006 to 2008

per cent by Indigenous Area



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data supplied by State and Territory health authorities

## Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy, Australia

**Notes:** See comments on previous text page for details of this indicator. 'Non-metropolitan' refers to the area of the State or Territory outside of the capital city. 'Total' refers to the whole State or Territory. The area mapped is the Indigenous Area as the number of cases at the SLA level is generally too small to produce reliable results. As IAs do not in all cases match the ABS boundaries on which the non-metropolitan areas are based, the 'non-metropolitan' totals in the table below approximate the true figures for these areas.

**Table 31: Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy, by State/ Territory, Australia, 2006 to 2008**

<i>Per cent</i>									
Area	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT*	Total <sup>#</sup>
Non-metropolitan	53.8	n.a.	n.a.	59.8	53.6	53.4	45.5	..	52.2
Total	51.2	n.a.	n.a.	57.4	52.5	54.6	44.7	46.6	50.8

\* The figures for the Australian Capital Territory are for the years 2005 to 2007.

<sup>#</sup> The 'Total' excludes data for Victoria and Queensland.

### Non-metropolitan areas

Aboriginal women in the non-metropolitan areas of South Australia reported the highest level of smoking in pregnancy (59.8%), with the lowest (45.5%) in the Northern Territory. Rates in the non-metropolitan areas of the other States were between 53% and 54%.

In **New South Wales**, high rates of Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy were evident throughout much of the State. Proportions above 70% were recorded in the Indigenous Areas (IAs) of Carrathool/Murrumbidgee (80.0%), Kyogle (75.0%), Queanbeyan (75.0%), Tenterfield (73.7%) and Wilcannia (72.7%). The IAs of Liverpool Plains, Coolamon/Temora/Weddin/Bland, Cowra, and Tumut had the lowest proportions, with 40% or fewer Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy.

Data for **Victoria** and **Queensland** were not available.

The IAs of Renmark Paringa (76.9%) and Loxton Waikerie/ Mid Murray/Gerard (69.6%) had the highest proportions of Aboriginal women smoking during pregnancy in country **South Australia**, with other high rates in Port Augusta (66.4%) and Port Pirie City and Districts (65.0%). Smoking rates were generally high across the State, with no area mapped in the lowest range. The lowest proportions (of just below 50%) were recorded in Barossa SSD and Anangu Pitjantjatjara, with 50% of Aboriginal women from Murray Mallee, South-East, Coober Pedy and Mid-North smoking during pregnancy.

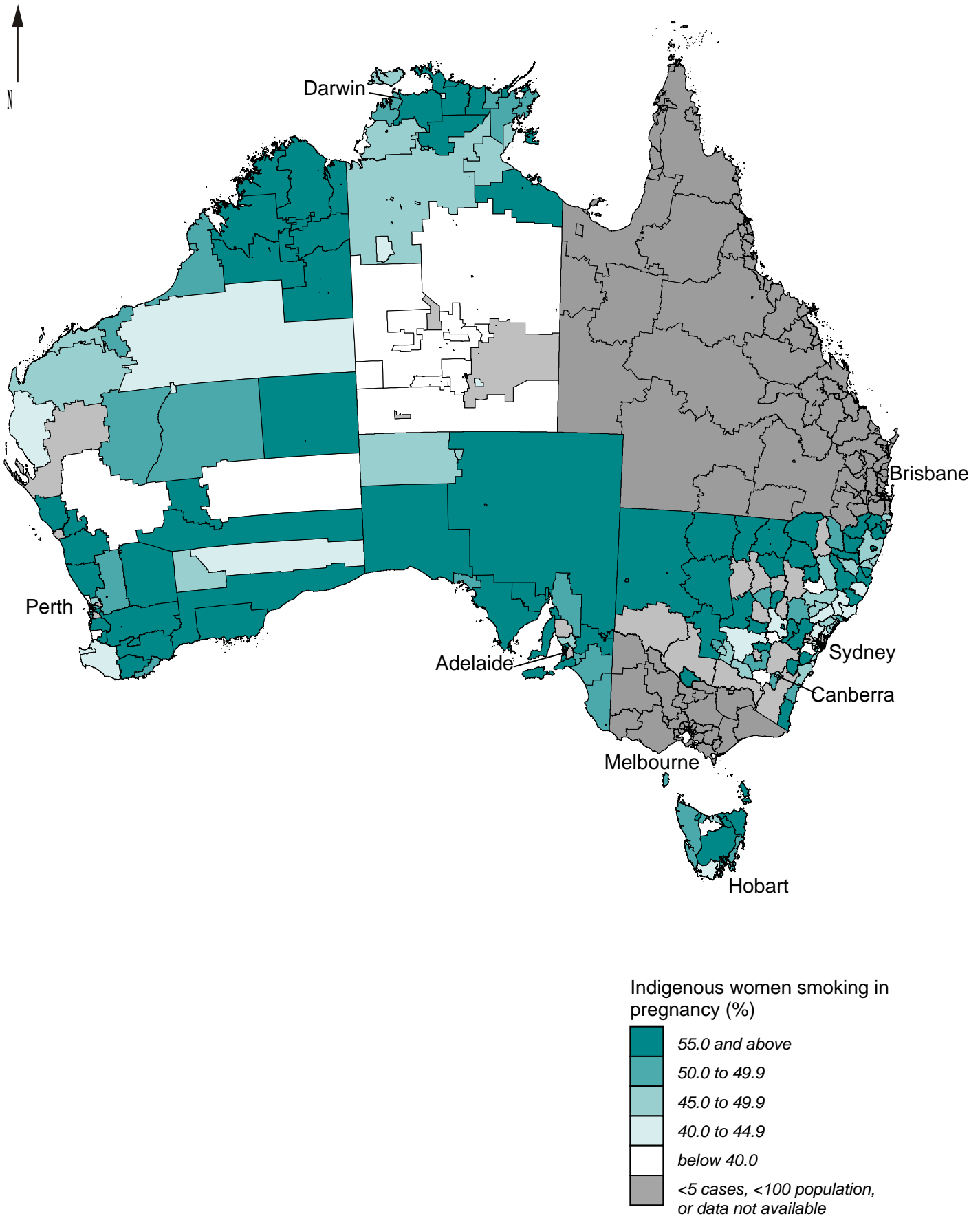
The highest rates of smoking by Indigenous women during pregnancy in Western Australia were in IAs located across the State, with rates above 70% in the IAs of Northern Agricultural (73.7%), Moore (70.6%) and Leonora (70.4%); in the south, in Esperance (71.1%); and in the north, in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing (both 67.1%). Harvey, Carnegie South and Laverton had rates

below 40%, with slightly higher rates in Northam, Busselton, Jigalong and East Pilbara.

The proportions of Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy in the non-metropolitan areas of **Tasmania** ranged from 34.6% in Meander Valley/ Kentish to 70.8% in North-East Tasmania and 69.4% in Central Tasmania. Other rates were between 43 and 47%.

IAs in the southern half of the **Northern Territory** were characterised by lower rates of smoking by Indigenous women during pregnancy (and the lowest of the IAs across Australia), including Tennant Creek Balance (14.9%), Urapuntja Outstation (16.2%) and Ingkerreke Outstation/ Iwupataka (16.2%); and Hermannsburg (Ntaria), Kintore (Walungurru) and Outstations, Tjuwanpa Outstation and Tanami, all reporting rates below 25%. In Angurugu IA, 81.6% of Indigenous women smoked during pregnancy (the highest non-metropolitan rate), with relatively high proportions also recorded in the IAs of Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre (68.4%), Mabunji Outstation/ Mungoorbada Outstation (68.2%) and Nhulunbuy/ Marngarr/ Gumatj and Outstations/ Marthakal Homelands (64.8%).

Map 30: Indigenous women smoking during pregnancy, Australia, 2006 to 2008  
per cent by Indigenous Area



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data supplied by State and Territory health authorities

## Indigenous median age at death, capital cities

In 2009, the median age at death of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males was 52.5 years and of females, 61.3 years.<sup>87</sup> This was much lower than for the non-Indigenous population (78.0 years and 83.9 years respectively). While median age at death values are influenced to some extent by the age structure of a population and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations have a younger age structure than the non-Indigenous population (see 'Note' under the Indicator definition, below), this difference still clearly represents an important health inequity.<sup>87,123</sup> Similar information for the total population follows.

**Indicator definition:** The age at which exactly half the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths registered in the period 2003 to 2007 were deaths of people above that age and half were deaths below that age. The area mapped is the Statistical Subdivision (SSD), as the number of deaths at the Statistical Local Area level is too small to be reliable.

Notes: Areas with fewer than 20 deaths over this five-year period have not been mapped. In addition to general issues to do with the quality of statistics for the Indigenous population, the ABS advises that the median age at death 'may also be affected by differences in identification by age'.<sup>87</sup> For more information on data quality issues for this indicator, refer to Appendix A.

**Table 32: Indigenous median age at death, by capital city, 2003 to 2007**

Age (years)								
Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Total*
63.0	n.a.	56.0	51.0	56.0	n.a.	52.0	n.a.	57.0

\* 'Total' excludes data for Melbourne, Hobart and Canberra

### Capital cities

The variation in Indigenous median age at death between the capital cities has been calculated at twelve years, with the lowest median age (poorest outcome) recorded in Adelaide (51.0 years) and Darwin (52.0 years) and the highest in Sydney (63.0 years). Comparable figures for the non-Indigenous population are 81.0 years (Adelaide), 80.0 years (Sydney) and 67.0 years (Darwin). Readers should be aware that the lower median ages (poorer outcomes) are mapped in the darker shades.

In **Sydney**, the Indigenous median age at death was lowest in Blacktown (57.0 years), Inner Sydney (59.0 years) and Outer South Western Sydney (60.0 years). The highest median ages were calculated for a number of areas, from Central Northern Sydney (71.0 years) north to Gosford-Wyong, and to the south of the city.

Reliable data were not available for **Melbourne**.

In **Brisbane**, Indigenous median ages at death were markedly lower, with the lowest recorded in Pine Rivers Shire (43.0 years) and Redcliffe City (49.0 years). Median ages below 55 were also recorded for Southeast Outer Brisbane, Northwest Inner Brisbane, Logan City and Ipswich City. The highest median ages were recorded in Redland Shire (67.5 years), Caboolture Shire (66.0 years) and Southeast Inner Brisbane (61.5 years).

Relatively low Indigenous median ages at death were calculated for all four SSDs in **Adelaide**. The median ages were 48.5 years in Southern Adelaide, 51.0 years in Western Adelaide, 52.0

years in Northern Adelaide and 57.5 years in Eastern Adelaide.

The Indigenous median ages at death in **Perth** were also relatively low, in South East Metropolitan (54.0 years), East Metropolitan (55.0), South West Metropolitan (56.0) and North Metropolitan (57.0). The exception was the Central Metropolitan SSD, with a median age of 62.0 years.

Reliable data were not available for **Hobart**.

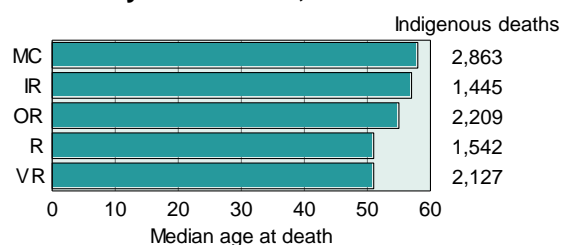
The median age at death was estimated to be low in all three SSDs in Darwin, at 50.0 years in Palmerston-East Arm, 52.5 years in Darwin City and 53.0 years in Litchfield Shire.

Reliable data were not available for **Canberra**.

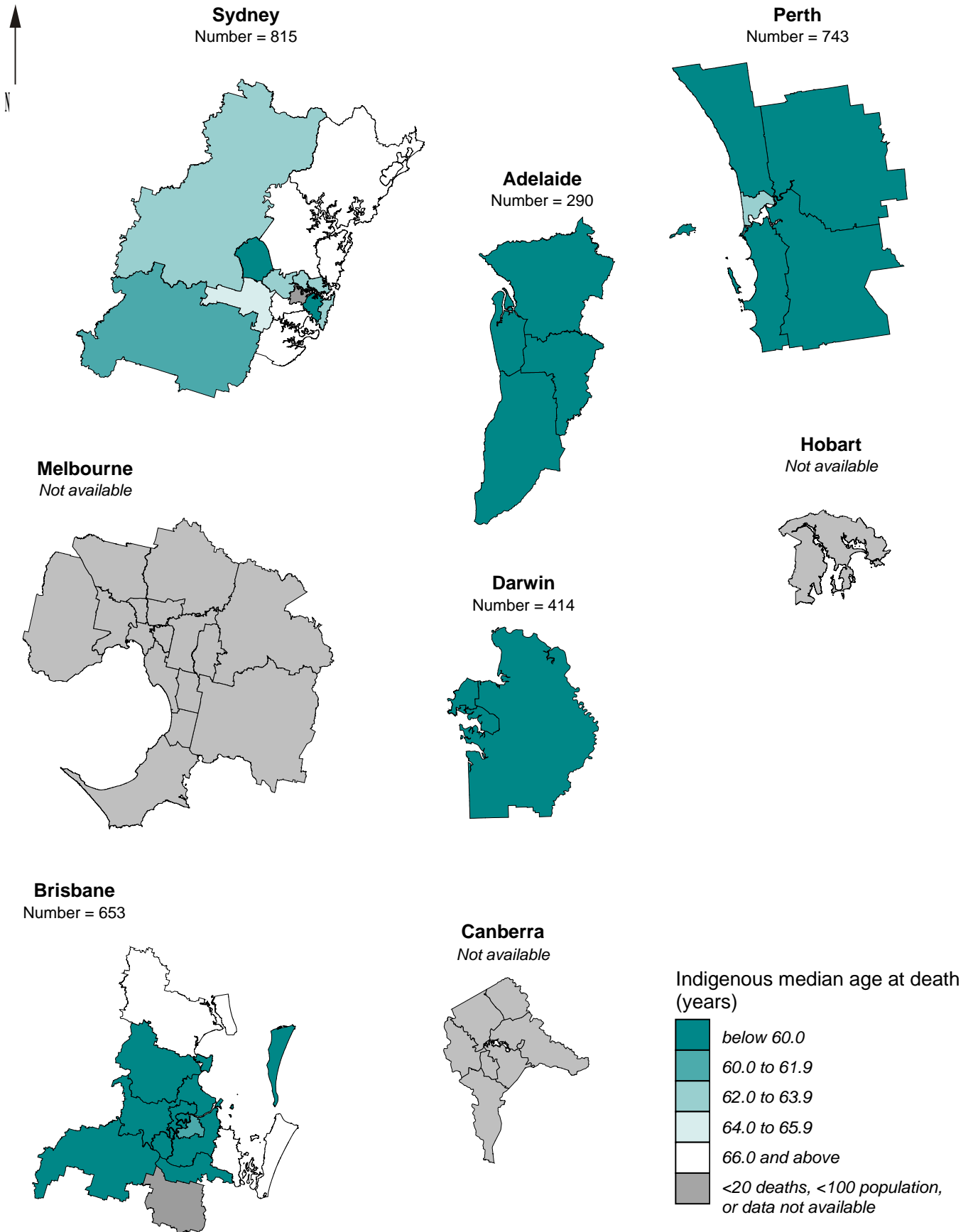
### Remoteness

The median age at death for the Indigenous population (excluding Melbourne, Hobart and Canberra) decreases over the remoteness classes, from 58.0 years in the Major Cities class 51.0 years in both the Remote and Very Remote areas. The next indicator shows the comparable figures for the non-Indigenous population to be markedly higher, at 80.0 years in the Major Cities and 74.0 years in the Very Remote areas.

**Figure 19: Indigenous median age at death, by remoteness, 2003 to 2007**



Map 31: Indigenous median age at death, capital cities, 2003 to 2007  
 median age at death by Statistical Subdivision



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data supplied by ABS on behalf of State and Territory Registrars of Deaths

## Indigenous median age at death, Australia

**Notes:** See comments on previous text page for details of this indicator. ‘Non-metropolitan’ refers to the area of the State or Territory outside of the capital city. ‘Total’ refers to the whole State or Territory. Areas with fewer than 20 deaths over this five-year period have not been mapped.

**Table 33: Indigenous median age at death, by State/ Territory, Australia, 2003 to 2007**

Area	Age (years)								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total*
Non-metropolitan	59.0	n.a.	56.0	49.0	54.0	n.a.	49.0	n.a.	54.0
Total	60.0	n.a.	56.0	50.0	55.0	n.a.	49.0	n.a.	55.0

\* ‘Total’ excludes data for Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory

### Non-metropolitan

The difference in the Indigenous median age at death between the non-metropolitan areas has been calculated at ten years, with the lowest median age (indicating the poorest outcome) calculated for the non-metropolitan areas of South Australia and the Northern Territory (both 49.0 years) and the highest for New South Wales (59.0 years). The median ages at death in the non-metropolitan areas were lower than those in the capital cities, apart from in Queensland where it was the same.

Comparable figures for the non-Indigenous population are 80.0 years (SA), 69.0 years (NT) and 80.0 years (NSW). The low median age calculated from these official statistics for the non-Indigenous population of the Northern Territory (outside of Darwin), suggests that some Indigenous deaths may not be being correctly identified and, therefore lowering the non-Indigenous median. A similar possibility exists in relation to the data for Darwin, shown on the previous pages. It is not known if this is the case, nor what impact this might have on the Indigenous median age at death.

Indigenous median ages at death in non-metropolitan **New South Wales** were higher than in the other States, although still notably lower in comparison with the non-Indigenous population. The lowest median age at death was recorded for Richmond-Tweed SD Balance (50.0 years). Other areas with median ages below 55.0 years and more than 20 deaths) were Lower South Coast (50.5 years), Far West (52.5 years), Coffs Harbour (53.0 years), Dubbo (53.5 years) and Murray-Darling (54.0 years). Almost one-third of the SSDs in non-metropolitan New South Wales recorded median ages in the highest range mapped (62.0 years and above), with the majority of these spanning an area from the Queensland to the Victorian borders, inland from the coast, and around Sydney.

Reliable data were not available for non-metropolitan **Victoria**.

In **Queensland**, Indigenous the lowest median ages at death were calculated for Townsville City Part A (50.0 years), North West (50.0 years), Northern Statistical Division Balance (51.0 years), Sunshine Coast SD Balance (53.0 years) and Mackay City Part A (54.0 years): a median age of 46.0 years was calculated for Gladstone, although with 17 deaths over this five-year period it has not been mapped. The highest median ages were recorded for the SSDs of Gold Coast West (65.0 years) and East (62.5 years), Central West (62.5 years) and Lower West Moreton (62.5 years).

The median age at death was lower in the non-metropolitan areas of **South Australia**, ranging from 55.5 years in Flinders Ranges. Other SSDs with median ages below 50.0 years included the Murray Mallee, Far North and Riverland. Lincoln had a median age at death of 40 years, although with only 18 deaths, it has not been mapped.

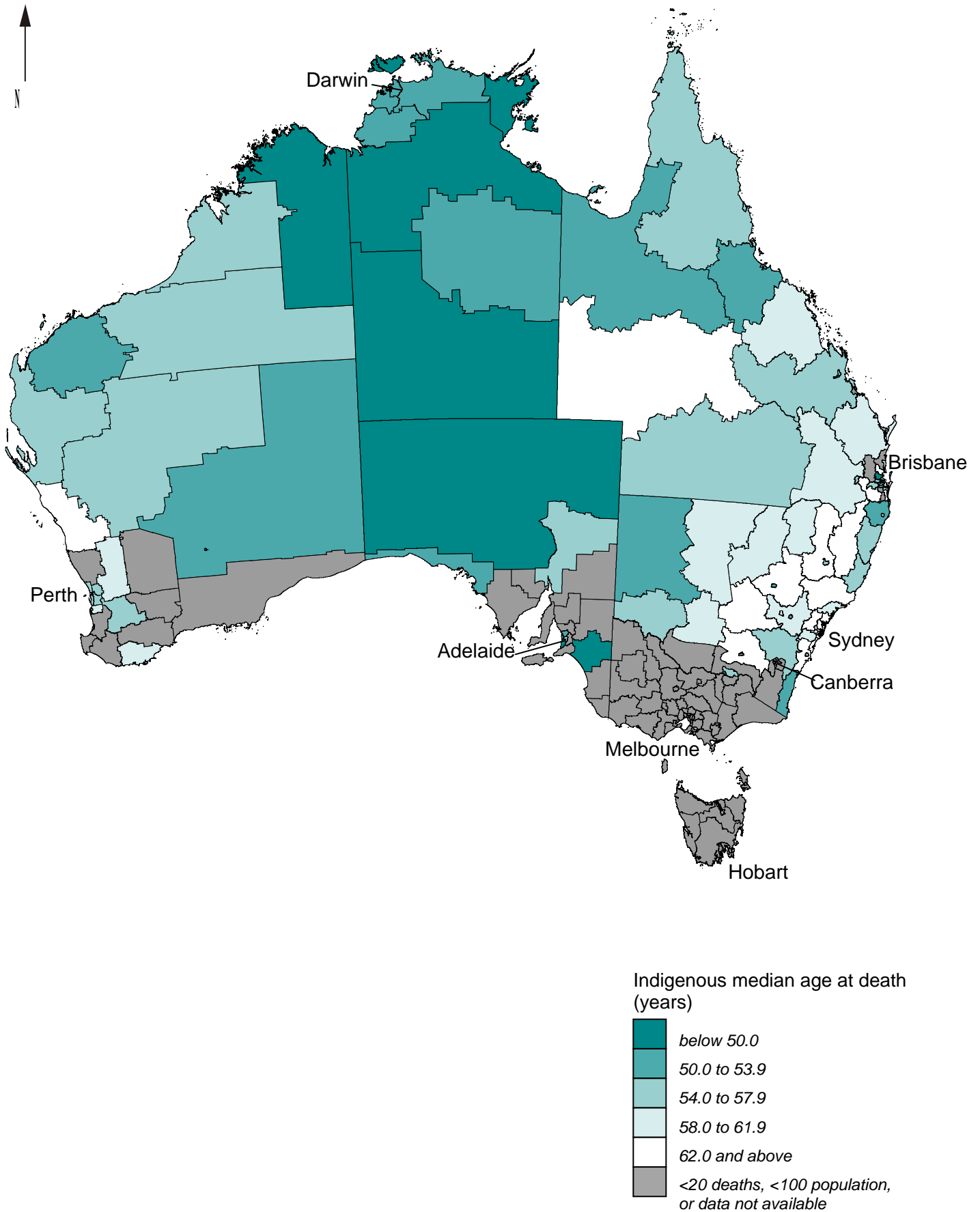
In the non-metropolitan areas of **Western Australia**, the lowest Indigenous median ages at death were calculated for Kalgoorlie/Boulder City Part A and Ord (both 48.0 years). Median ages at death below 55.0 years were also recorded for Champion, Bunbury, Fortescue, Johnston, Lefroy, Pallinup and De Grey. The highest median age at death was recorded in the SSD of Greenough River (63.0 years); Vasse and Preston had similar median ages, but with 19 and 18 deaths, respectively, have not been mapped.

Reliable data were not available for non-metropolitan **Tasmania**.

In the non-metropolitan areas of **Northern Territory**, the Indigenous median age at death was comparatively lower than in the States. There was also little variation across the SSDs, with median ages below 50.0 years recorded for East Arnhem (47.0 years), Central Northern Territory (48.0 years), and Bathurst-Melville and Lower Top End NT (both 49.0 years); and 50.0 years or above in Daly (51.0 years), Barkly and Finnis (both 50.5 years), and Alligator (50.0 years).



Map 32: Indigenous median age at death, Australia, 2003 to 2007  
 median age at death by Statistical Subdivision



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data supplied by ABS on behalf of State and Territory Registrars of Deaths

## Non-Indigenous median age at death, capital cities

Although not an indicator in this Priority Area, the median age at death of the non-Indigenous population is shown for comparison with the information for the Indigenous population, shown above. In 2009, the median age at death of the non-Indigenous population was 77.8 years for males and 83.9 years for females.<sup>87</sup>

**Indicator definition:** The age at which exactly half the non-Indigenous deaths registered in the period 2003 to 2007 were deaths of people above that age and half were deaths below that age. To enable comparison with the Indigenous median age at death mapped above, the area mapped for this indicator is also the Statistical Subdivision (SSD).

**Table 34: Non-Indigenous median age at death, by capital city, 2003 to 2007**

Age (years)									
Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Total	
80.0	n.a.	80.0	81.0	80.0	n.a.	67.0	n.a.	80.0	

\* 'Total' excludes data for Melbourne, Hobart and Canberra

### Capital cities

There was a 14 year difference in the median age at death between the Australian capital cities, with the lowest median age calculated for Darwin (67.0 years, the poorest outcome under this measure), and the highest for Adelaide (81.0 years, the best outcome).

In **Sydney**, the non-Indigenous median age at death were calculated at below 80 years for the western and south-western SSDs of Blacktown (76.0 years), Fairfield-Liverpool and Outer South Western Sydney (both 77.0 years), Outer Western Sydney (78.0 years) and Canterbury-Bankstown (79 years); with 78.0 years also in Inner Sydney. The highest median ages were calculated for the inner northern areas of Northern Beaches (83.0 years), Lower Northern Sydney and Central Northern Sydney (both 82.0 years).

As reliable data were not available for the Indigenous populations in **Melbourne**, data for the non-Indigenous population have not been mapped.

In **Brisbane**, SSDs with the lowest non-Indigenous median ages at death were located in the outer north and outer south, with the lowest median age calculated for Beaudesert Shire Part A (71.0 years). Other SSDs with median ages below 79.0 included Logan City (74.0 years), Pine Rivers Shire (77.0 years), Caboolture Shire (78.0 years) and Ipswich City (78.0 years). The highest median ages were in Inner Brisbane, Northwest Inner Brisbane and Northwest Outer Brisbane (all 81.0 years).

The median age at death in **Adelaide** was calculated at 78.0 years for the SSD of Northern Adelaide, with 80.0 years for Western Adelaide, 81 years for Southern Adelaide and 83.0 years for Eastern Adelaide.

Areas in **Perth** with a median age at death below 80.0 years for the non-Indigenous population were East, North and South West Metropolitan SSDs (all 79.0 years). The highest median age was recorded for the Central Metropolitan (83.0 years) with 80.0 years in South East Metropolitan.

As reliable data were not available for the Indigenous population in **Hobart**, data for the non-Indigenous population have not been mapped.

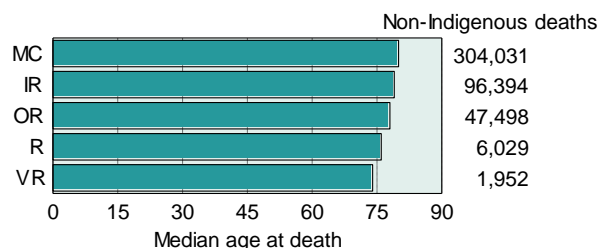
The non-Indigenous median age at death for **Darwin** was by far the lowest of the capital cities, with 62.0 years in Litchfield Shire SSD, 66.0 years in Palmerston-East Arm and 68.0 years in Darwin City.

As reliable data were not available for the Indigenous population in **Canberra**, data for the non-Indigenous population have not been mapped.

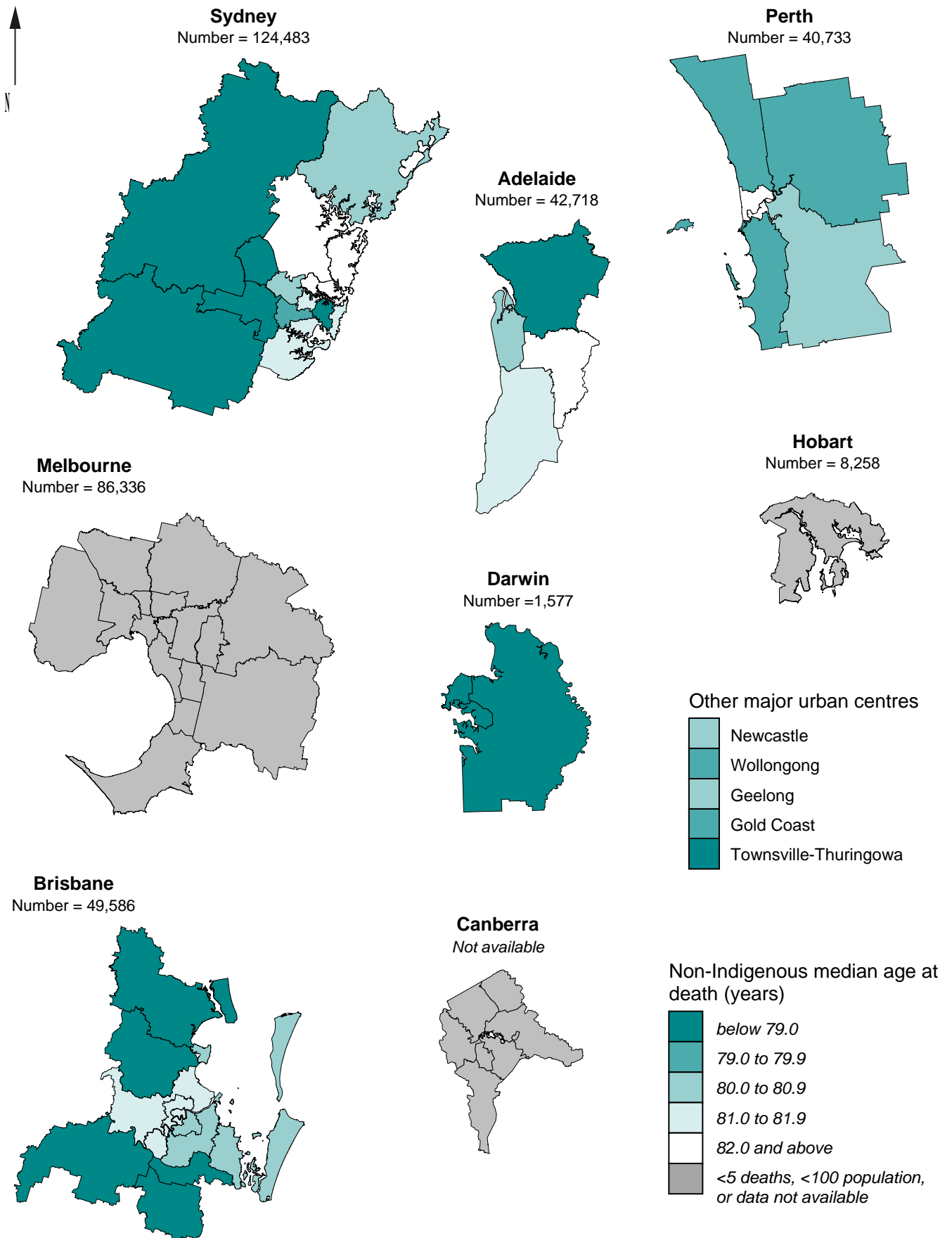
### Remoteness

The non-Indigenous median age at death (excluding Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory) decreases over the remoteness classes, from a median age at death of 80.0 years in the Major Cities to a median age at death of 74.0 years in the Very Remote areas.

**Figure 20: Non-Indigenous median age at death, by remoteness, 2003 to 2007**



Map 33: Non-Indigenous median age at death, major urban centres, 2003 to 2007  
 median age at death by Statistical Subdivision



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data supplied by ABS on behalf of State and Territory Registrars of Deaths

## Non-Indigenous median age at death, Australia

**Notes:** See comments on previous text page for details of this indicator. 'Non-metropolitan' refers to the area of the State or Territory outside of the capital city. 'Total' refers to the whole State or Territory.

**Table 35: Non-Indigenous median age at death, by State/ Territory, Australia, 2003 to 2007**

Age (years)									
Area	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total*
Non-metropolitan	80.0	n.a.	79.0	80.0	78.0	n.a.	69.0	n.a.	79.0
Total	80.0	n.a.	79.0	80.0	79.0	n.a.	67.0	n.a.	80.0

\* 'Total' excludes data for Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory

### Non-metropolitan areas

The lowest median age at death was recorded for the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory (69.0 years), some eleven years below that in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia (all 80.0 years). The median age was slightly lower in the majority of the non-metropolitan areas of each State and Territory than in the capital cities, apart from in New South Wales and Victoria (where the age was the same) and the Northern Territory (where it was two years higher).

The difference in the median ages at death between the more heavily populated and the rural and remote areas is clear in the map, even for these large geographical areas.

In the non-metropolitan areas of **New South Wales**, the lowest non-Indigenous median ages at death were in the far north and west of the State in Macquarie-Barwon, Upper Darling and Murray-Darling, as well as south of Sydney in Queanbeyan (all 77.0 years). The highest median ages were recorded for Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and Orange (all 81.0 years).

As reliable data were not available for the Indigenous populations in **Victoria**, data for the non-Indigenous population have not been mapped.

A number of SSDs in non-metropolitan **Queensland** recorded median ages at death in the lowest range mapped (below 78.0 years) including the North West (74.0 years), Sunshine Coast Statistical Division (SD) Balance, Gold Coast North, Fitzroy SD Balance, Mackay SD Balance, Upper West Moreton, Gladstone and Cairns City Part A. There were no SSDs in the non-metropolitan areas of the State with median ages in the highest range mapped (81.0 years and above). Gold Coast East, Gold Coast West, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba all recorded a median age at death of 80.0 years.

In non-metropolitan **South Australia**, the non-Indigenous median age at death was substantially lower in the northern-most SSD, the Far North, at 69.0 years. The next lowest median

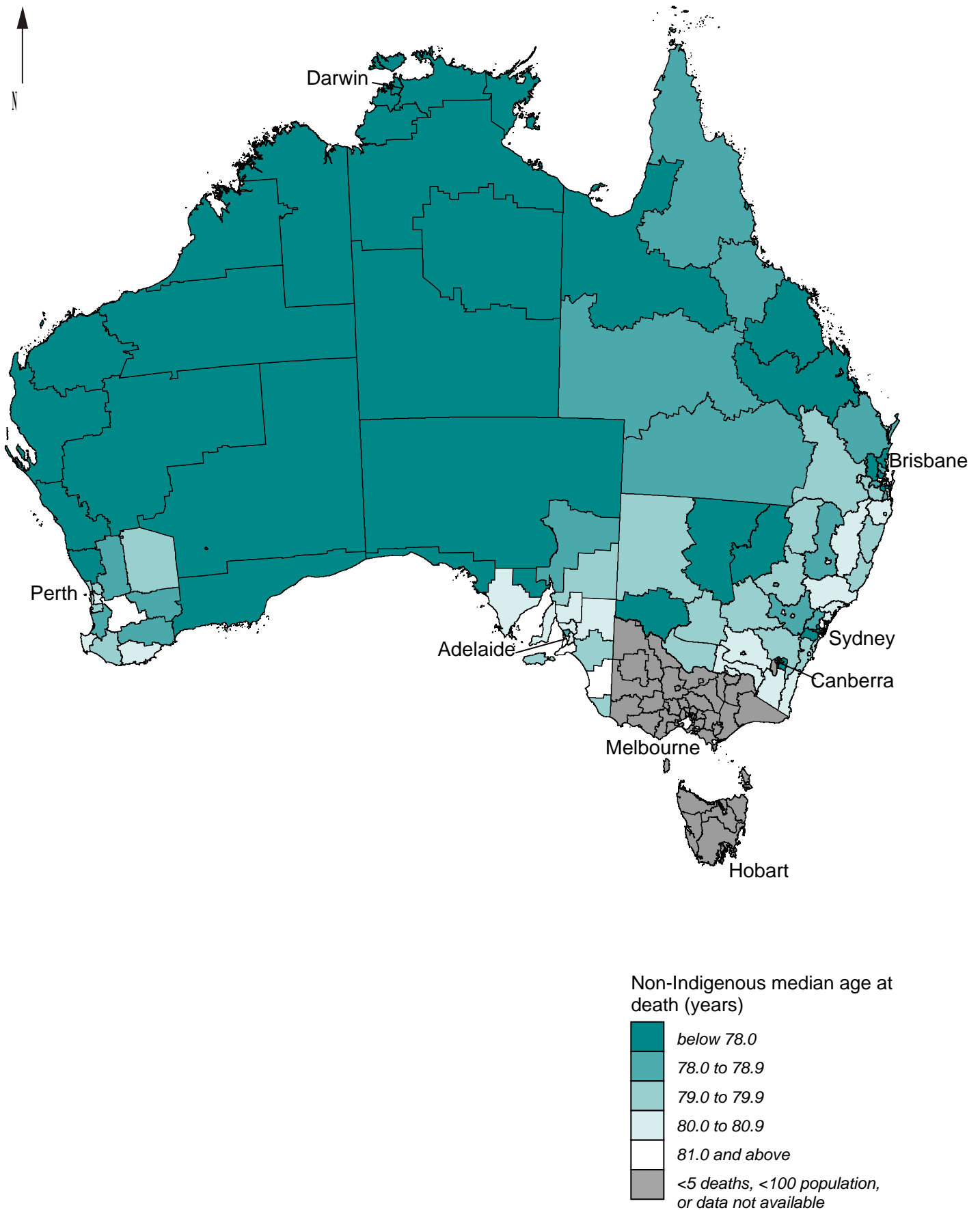
ages were in the far west and north of the State, in West Coast and Whyalla (both 77.0 years). Flinders Ranges, Kangaroo Island, Murray Mallee, Lower South East and Pirie SSDs also had median ages at death below 80.0 years for their non-Indigenous populations. The highest median ages at death were in the Upper South East (82.0 years) Fleurieu (81.0 years) SSDs.

SSDs with median ages at death in the lowest range mapped (below 78.0 years) covered the majority of **Western Australia**, with higher median ages evident only in the south-west of the State. In addition, some of these areas had the lowest median ages calculated for the non-Indigenous population, with ages below 70.0 years recorded for the SSDs of Fortescue (the lowest in Australia, at 60.0 years), Lefroy (63.0 years, and second lowest in Australia), Ord and Fitzroy (both 67.0 years), and De Grey (68.0 years). Again, this in part related to poor identification of Indigenous deaths. The highest median age at death was calculated for Hotham (81.0 years), followed by Bunbury, Vasse and King (all 80.0 years).

As reliable data were not available for the Indigenous populations in **Tasmania**, data for the non-Indigenous population have not been mapped.

All of the SSDs in the non-metropolitan areas of the **Northern Territory** recorded median ages at death below 77.0 years. Areas with a median age at death below 70.0 years included Finnis (64.0 years), Barkly (65.0 years), East Arnhem (68.0 years) and the Lower Top End NT (69.0 years). The highest median ages at death were calculated for Alligator and Bathurst-Melville (both 76.0 years).

Map 34: Non-Indigenous median age at death, Australia, 2003 to 2007  
 median age at death by Statistical Subdivision



Source: Compiled in PHIDU based on data supplied by ABS on behalf of State and Territory Registrars of Deaths

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