

3 Demography and socioeconomic

Introduction

Socioeconomic disadvantage is a unique determinant of inequalities in health: evidence for this is presented in Chapter 1.

A range of data variables from the 1996 Population Census are mapped in this chapter to indicate variations in socioeconomic disadvantage at the small area level. The results of the correlation analysis, shown in Chapter 8, provide a measure of the strength of the association at the small area level in the distribution of the population with similar characteristics. The correlation analysis also draws attention to associations between the measures being discussed (eg. high rates of premature deaths of males, high rates of admissions to hospital for circulatory system diseases) and the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage mapped in this and the following chapters.

The next section describes the growth and distribution of the population in the Northern Territory (derived from Hugo 1991), discusses population projections and Indigenous population issues and raises some of the data issues that apply to the variables mapped and described in the remainder of the chapter.

Background

Population and distribution

The Northern Territory is the third largest jurisdiction in Australia, occupying 1,348,021 square kilometres (**Table 3.1**). However, it is sparsely populated, and at the 1996 Census had a population of just 195,101 people, 23.7 per cent of whom were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. In 1996, Darwin had a population of 85,743 people, almost half (43.9 per cent) of the Northern Territory population. The only other significant urban centre, Alice Springs, had a population of 27,092, 13.9 per cent of the total Territory population. In comparison with Darwin and Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek are small urban service centres, with populations of 10,809 and 3,865 respectively. Between them, these four centres comprise almost three quarters (65 per cent) of the Northern Territory's population. Principally, this is a response to the physical environment of the Territory, in which much of the area is suited only to extensive pastoral activity, with mineral exploration, development and extraction activities also important.

Darwin, established in 1869, was called Palmerston until 1911, when control of the Territory transferred from South Australia to the Commonwealth government. From the outset, Darwin's development was slow. It suffered from isolation and limited economic activity in its hinterland to foster a service population in Darwin. Consequently, by 1911 the population of the Northern Territory was a mere 3,310, with 1,379 of whom were located in

Darwin. This population was sustained mainly by the Overland Telegraph Line from Adelaide, some gold exploration and mining, and the development of a pearling industry within the region. During the next 20 years, Darwin's development virtually stagnated, but developments in the 1930s and 1940s caused substantial population growth. Firstly, Darwin developed as a city for air services within the region and between Europe and Australia. Secondly, the Commonwealth government began to develop its presence for both defence and administrative purposes. The suburbs of Fannie Bay, Stuart Park, Winnellie and Parap were developed principally to house Commonwealth public servants stationed in Darwin. Thirdly, the effect of World War Two on Darwin's population was substantial. Consequently, by 1947 its population had grown to 5,208.

This growth continued throughout the 1950s. Growth in the other States during this period was based on an expansion of manufacturing. In contrast, Darwin's growth stemmed from Commonwealth government decisions to provide programs for administration, communications, defence and services directed towards the broad policy goal of northern development. These initiatives encouraged urban development in Millner and Nightcliff, separated from Fannie Bay by the Darwin airport and extensive mangrove swamps to the west. At the 1954 Census, the population of Darwin had increased to 8,071, and the momentum for growth continued through to 1961, when its population was 12,326. However, during the 1960s, growth occurred at a pace not previously experienced. The Territory experienced large inflows of overseas capital into both natural resource development and the pastoral industry, as well as continuing high levels of government investment. Between 1961 and 1971 the population of Darwin increased by nearly three times, to 35,281. This rapid expansion of population was accommodated in new suburbs such as Ludmilla, Coconut Grove, Alawa and Jingili.

During the 1970s, Darwin's urbanisation process was interrupted in 1974 by the devastation of Cyclone Tracy. However, at the 1981 Census, the population had reached 56,478, representing a 60 per cent population increase over the previous decade. The population expansion during this period saw the first stages of the "northern suburbs" developed, including Alawa, Jingili, and other locations around the Casuarina Shopping Square, situated to the east of Nightcliff and some 12 kilometres north of the commercial centre of Darwin.

The granting to the Territory in 1978 of self government provided a further impetus for expansion. By 1986, there were 72,937 persons resident in Darwin, and this increased to 78,401 people

Table 3.1: Population and area, Northern Territory, 1996

Section of Territory	Population:		Area:	
	No.	Per cent	km ²	Per cent
Darwin Statistical Division	85,743	43.9	210	0.0
Rest of Territory	109,358	56.1	1,347,810	100.0
Whole of Territory	195,101	100.0	1,348,021	100.0

Source: ABS special data services

by 1991. Although the annual growth rate during the 1980s of 3.9 per cent was considerably lower than the 6 per cent rate of the 1970s, it was sufficient to encourage urbanisation further eastwards to establish the suburbs of Wulagi, Anula, Marrara and Karama. Further extensions occurred to the north-west of Casuarina in Brinkin and Nakara. These developments absorbed most of the land available for urbanisation within the Darwin Statistical Division, which has an area of 210 square kilometres and is the smallest of all the Australian capital cities (**Table 3.1**). Additional residential development was established at Palmerston, about 20 kilometres by road to the south-east of the main commercial centre of Darwin, where the suburbs of Driver, Woodroffe, Gray and Moulden have been developed since the mid 1980s.

There has been a slowing of population growth during the 1990s. Between 1991 and 1996 the annual population growth rate in Darwin fell to 1.9 per cent, just under half the rate that had been recorded over the 1980s. In large part this has been due to the reduction in the contribution of the Territory government. In a city where the influence of government expenditure is marked, this has had an obvious impact on population growth.

Although a relatively small city, Darwin has been subjected to sufficient urban processes to display patterns of residential and socioeconomic differentiation. However in Darwin, unlike most other capital cities, the pattern is one in which areas of relatively high socioeconomic status are juxtaposed with pockets of relatively low socioeconomic status. This social peculiarity is a product of several phenomena: the size of Darwin, its high level of population turnover and low rates of home ownership, and the widespread availability of dwellings from the Territory housing authority. The juxtaposition of social groups is more distinguishable in the inner suburbs, such as Fannie Bay, Larrakeyah and Parap, than in the more recently established outer suburbs. Generally speaking, Darwin's highest socioeconomic status suburbs include Stuart Park, Fannie Bay and East Point within the older areas, and Brinkin and Nightcliff within the newer areas to the north. Lower socioeconomic areas are located around the southern and western perimeters of the airport, and at Palmerston.

Projected population

Darwin's population is projected to increase by 22.5 per cent, to 105,000 by 2006, and to 130,400 by 2016. At the same time, the population outside of the Darwin Statistical Division is projected to grow by 9.4 per cent to 119,700 between 1996 and 2006, and to be 136,600 by 2016. Population growth in Darwin over the next 20 years is expected to be projected that of any other Australian capital city (ABS 1998).

Data issues

Data quality of Indigenous population counts

As noted in Chapter 2, *Methods*, the data describing the health status and utilisation of health services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are generally of poor quality. It has become clear with the release of results from the 1996 Census that population data are also less than ideal. **Table 3.2** shows the population of Indigenous Australians as recorded at the three most recent Censuses, as well as changes over the ten-year

period from 1986 to 1996. The number of Indigenous people recorded has increased by 125,325 people, from 227,645 at the 1986 Census to 352,970 at the 1996 Census (an increase of 55.1 per cent). Of the total increase, over half (69,051, or 55.1 per cent) occurred in the non-metropolitan areas, an increase for these areas of 44.4 per cent over the ten years. The capital cities, with 26.6 per cent of the population of Indigenous Australians in 1986, showed an apparently stronger growth rate, of 79.0 per cent.

At the State/Territory level, the apparent growth rate of Indigenous population growth was highest in the Australian Capital Territory (137.6 per cent) and Tasmania (106.6 per cent), and lowest in the Northern Territory (33.2 per cent) and Western Australia (34.4 per cent). Queensland moved from having the largest population of Indigenous Australians in 1986 (with 61,268) to second largest, with 95,518 (after New South Wales with 101,485) in 1996. Sydney remained the capital city with the largest population of Indigenous people over the ten years to 1996. The major urban centres of Geelong and Newcastle/Wollongong had the largest increases, of 359.7 per cent and 134.2 per cent, respectively.

Such increases are not explained by the relatively higher fertility rates among Indigenous people, nor are they explained by a decline in mortality of Indigenous Australians. Rather, it appears that Australian's have been increasingly prepared to identify themselves as Indigenous on the Census form. The question remains as to what per cent of the actual population of Indigenous Australians these current levels of identification represent.

ABS SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage

At each Census since the 1986 Census, the ABS have produced a number of indexes which measure different aspects of the socioeconomic conditions of the populations of geographic areas (ABS 1998). These summary measures, the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), combine into one index a range of information relating to the social and economic characteristics of the populations in small areas.

One of these indexes, the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD), summarises the information available from variables related to education, occupation, income, family structure, race (the proportion of Indigenous people), ethnicity (poor proficiency in use of the English language) and housing. The index reflects the extent of disadvantage represented by, for example, the proportion of low income families, of those with relatively low educational attainment and of high unemployment, in the area being examined. The variables are, therefore, similar to those presented in the remainder of this chapter. While the index number is a useful measure of socioeconomic disadvantage, users should realise its limitations. For example, while it represents the results of a particular set of statistical analyses on a set of variables from the 1996 Census, changing the variables could change the particular index values calculated (although the relativities between the areas for these variables are, in general, likely to remain). It also has a wide range of uses, such as in the allocation of resources or as a shorthand

Table 3.2: Population of Indigenous Australians

Area	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
1986									
Capital City	18,589	6,173	11,257	5,825	10,087	2,136	5,536	1,056	60,659
Other Major Urban Centres	4,515	392	6,515	..	..	..	..	..	11,422
Rest of State/Territory	35,907	6,046	44,101	8,466	27,702	4,580	29,203	164	155,564
Whole State/Territory	59,011	12,611	61,268	14,291	37,789	6,716	34,739	1,220	227,645
1991									
Capital City	22,600	7,956	13,456	6,948	11,744	3,026	6,179	1,588	73,497
Other Major Urban Centres	6,641	625	7,462	..	..	..	..	..	14,728
Rest of State/Territory	40,778	8,154	49,977	9,284	30,035	5,859	33,731	187	177,234
Whole State/Territory	70,019	16,735	70,124	16,232	41,779	8,885	39,910	1,775	265,459
1996									
Capital City	34,438	10,725	21,887	9,387	17,198	4,705	7,368	2,896	108,604
Other Major Urban Centres	10,573	1,802	9,233	..	..	..	..	..	20,608
Rest of State/Territory	56,474	9,947	65,462	11,057	33,595	9,168	38,909	3	224,615
Whole State/Territory	101,485	22,474	95,518	20,444	50,793	13,873	46,277	2,899	352,970
percentage change									
Capital city									
1986 to 1991	21.6	28.9	19.5	19.3	16.4	41.7	11.6	50.4	21.2
1991 to 1996	52.4	34.8	62.7	35.1	46.4	55.5	19.2	82.4	47.8
1986 to 1996	85.3	73.7	94.4	61.2	70.5	120.3	33.1	174.2	79.0
Other major urban centre									
1986 to 1991	47.1	59.4	14.5	..	..	..	..	..	28.9
1991 to 1996	59.2	188.3	23.7	..	..	..	..	..	39.9
1986 to 1996	134.2	359.7	41.7	..	..	..	..	..	80.4
Rest of State/Territory									
1986 to 1991	13.6	34.9	13.3	9.7	8.4	27.9	15.5	..	13.9
1991 to 1996	38.5	22.0	31.0	19.1	11.9	56.5	15.4	..	26.7
1986 to 1996	57.3	64.5	48.4	30.6	21.3	100.2	33.2	..	44.4
Whole State/Territory									
1986 to 1991	18.7	32.7	14.5	13.6	10.6	32.3	14.9	45.5	16.6
1991 to 1996	44.9	64.3	36.2	25.9	21.6	56.1	16.0	63.3	33.0
1986 to 1996	72.0	78.2	55.9	43.1	34.4	106.6	33.2	137.6	55.1

Source: Calculated from unpublished data supplied by ABS special data services

description of populations living in an area, but it is not a universal answer to all such needs.

The IRSD is calculated at the smallest geographic level for which data are available from population Censuses – the Census Collection District – and was then calculated for the larger areas in the atlas (Statistical Local Areas, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Divisions and States and Territories) by weighting the scores for these smaller units by their population.

The IRSD is calculated to show the relativity of areas to the Australian average for the particular set of variables which comprise it. The average score is set at 1000. In this atlas, data mapped at the SLA level have been re-weighted so that the Northern Territory is the average, with a Territory score of 1000. The text draws attention to the use of the two averages. Areas with relatively less disadvantaged populations (ie. those of higher socioeconomic status) have an index number of above 1000 and those with relatively greater disadvantage (ie. of lower socioeconomic status) have an index number of less than 1000. It is unfortunate that an IRSD uses high index scores to indicate advantage, when it would be intuitively expected that high index scores would indicate disadvantage, as implied by the name of

the index. The text and maps for the IRSD are on pages 76 to 79.

In the discussion in the text, statistically significant *inverse correlations* between the IRSD and other variables indicate a positive association between the distributions of those variables and the disadvantaged population at the SLA level. Statistically significant *positive correlations* indicate an association between the particular variable(s) and areas comprising relatively advantaged populations. This is a difficult concept to grasp, so an example may assist. In the case of the variable for unskilled and semi-skilled workers in Darwin (page 38), there is an inverse correlation (-0.74) with the IRSD. Thus, at the SLA level in Darwin there is a strong *negative* association between high proportions of unskilled and semi-skilled workers and high SEIFA index scores. This can be restated as there being a strong *positive* association with socioeconomic disadvantage (ie. low index scores).

Age-sex standardisation

Age-sex standardisation was used to adjust the data mapped for the variable for early school leavers (**Maps 3.14** and **3.15**).

It is straight forward to calculate from the Census the percentage of each SLAs adult population, leaving school at the age of 15 or less, but a significant part of the variation between SLAs in this measure is caused by the age structure. A person aged 70 is less likely to have stayed at school past the age of 15 than a person aged 20, simply because of the changes over the past 55 years in the education system. Age-sex standardisation measures variations in educational participation in a way unaffected by age structure. For each SLA, a theoretical expected number of adult residents who left school at the age 15 or less has been calculated, assuming that each 5 year age group in its population

had the same educational participation record as that age group in the Queensland population as a whole. This expected number is then compared with the actual number, to establish whether the number of people who did not continue at school beyond 15 is significantly greater or less than one would expect given the area's age structure. A similar analysis compares the level of participation for each State/Territory and capital city, with Australia as the standard.

Data definitions

The variables mapped and details of the way in which they have been defined are shown in **Table 3.3**.

Table 3.3: Details of demographic and socioeconomic variables mapped

Topic and variable name	Numerator	Denominator
Age distribution		
children aged 0 to 4	All children aged from 0 to 4 years	Total population
people aged 65 and over	All people aged 65 years & over	Total population
Families		
single parent families	Single parent families with dependent children [under 15 yrs]	All families
low income families ¹	Families with income less than \$21,000 p.a. [\$400 per week]	All families with an income
high income families ²	Families with income of \$52,000 or more p.a. [\$1,000 per week]	All families with an income
Labour force		
unskilled and semi-skilled workers	Intermediate production & transport workers; labourers & related workers	Total employed labour force
high status occupations ²	Managers and administrators; professionals	Total employed labour force
unemployed people	People with labour force status as unemployed	Total labour force
female labour force participation	All females aged 20 to 54 years in the labour force	All females aged 20 to 54 years
Educational participation and achievement		
early school leavers ³	People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school	Population aged 15 years & over
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	Total population
People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries		
resident for 5 years or more	Number born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident for 5 years or more	Total population
resident for less than 5 years	Number born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident for less than 5 years	Total population
proficiency in English	People aged 5 years and over and born in predominantly non-English speaking countries who speak English 'not well' or 'not at all'	Population aged 5 years and over
Housing		
housing authority rented dwellings	Occupied private dwellings rented from the State/Territory housing authority	All occupied private dwellings
dwellings with no motor vehicle	Occupied private dwellings with no motor vehicles garaged or parked there on Census night	All occupied private dwellings

¹When interpreting the figures for low income families in the text in this chapter, it should be noted that the indicators of low income used in the comparisons (\$12,000 per annum or less in 1986 and less than \$21,000 per annum in 1996) do not equate to equivalent incomes and have thus not been adjusted based on changes to buying power. Rather, they are based on categories of income available from the Census and denote comparability of income in 1986, 1991 and 1996 based on the levels of incomes of recipients of the sole parents allowance and unemployment allowances.

²These variables were not mapped but are included in the correlation analyses.

³This variable was adjusted using age-sex standardisation: a description of this process is in the text above.

Source: Compiled from project sources

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Children aged 0 to 4 years, 1996

Capital city comparison

Children are major users of health services, especially in the first years of life. Children living in families of lower socioeconomic status are more likely to have poorer health status and generally make more use of primary and secondary health services than those who are better off. Their distribution at a local area level is therefore an indicator of likely health service demand and the need for preventative programs.

Children aged from 0 to 4 years comprised 7.1 per cent of Australia's total population at the 1996 Census, and 6.9 per cent of the population of the capital cities (**Table 3.4**). In the last three Censuses, the proportion of young children in **Adelaide**, the capital city with the highest proportion of population at older ages and the lowest Total Fertility Rate (see **Chapter 5**), was the lowest of all these cities. The percentages for most of the other capitals equated to or were slightly above the average. In contrast **Darwin**, with 8.1 per cent, had a considerably higher proportion of children aged from 0 to 4 years.

The proportion of the total population aged from 0 to 4 years in Australia's capital cities decreased marginally in the ten years to 1996, from 7.3 per cent in 1986 to 7.2 per cent in 1991 and 6.9 per cent in 1996.

Table 3.4: Proportion of population aged 0 to 4 years, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	7.0	6.9	7.1	6.4	6.8	6.9	8.1	7.3	6.9
1986	7.3	7.0	7.5	6.9	7.6	7.8	9.0	8.3	7.3

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

The number of children aged from 0 to 4 years in **Darwin** increased from 6,566 in 1986 to 6,667 in 1991 and 6,952 in 1996. This slight growth contrasted with the decline in proportions of the population at those ages from 9.0 per cent in 1986 to 8.5 per cent in 1991 and to 8.1 per cent in 1996.

Map 3.1a shows that the highest proportions of 0 to 4 year old children in **Darwin** were clustered in the developing, Palmerston suburbs in the south-east of the city. These suburbs were represented by the SLAs of Moulden (14.3 per cent), Woodroffe (14.2 per cent), Gray (12.9 per cent), and Driver (12.5 per cent). A high proportion of 0 to 4 year old children was also recorded in City-Remainder (11.5 per cent). Other SLAs with proportions above the **Darwin** average of 8.1 per cent tended to be grouped together in the northern suburbs. These included the SLAs of Karama (9.8 per cent), Wulagi (9.6 per cent) and Anula (9.2 per cent).

The lowest proportions of 0 to 4 year old children were found in East Arm (1.7 per cent and representing only 6 children), City-Inner (1.9 per cent), The Gardens (2.2 per cent) and Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp (3.2 per cent). Generally, the older, established inner suburbs had low proportions of young children while having the highest proportions and numbers of people aged 65 and over. A comparison of **Maps 3.1a and 3.3a** shows this contrast in the distribution of the very young and the elderly across **Darwin** in general.

The largest numbers of 0 to 4 year olds were in Karama (514 children), Moulden (493 children), Leanyer (432 children), Gray (423 children) and Woodroffe (414 children). There was a correlation between high numbers and high proportions of 0 to 4 year olds.

The pattern of distribution of 0 to 4 year old children in **Darwin** remained similar in 1996 to what it was in 1986. Most SLAs that had high percentages in 1986 also had high percentages in 1996. While all but a few SLAs recorded a decline in proportions, several had notable increases in numbers of 0 to 4 year old children. These were the southern, developing suburbs of Driver, Gray, Moulden and Woodroffe. Although they still maintained low percentages, the older, inner city SLAs of Ludmilla, Stuart Park and Larrakeyah recorded slight increases in both the proportion and number of 0 to 4 year old children.

There was a weak association evident in the correlation analysis at the SLA level with indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. The strongest of these were the correlations with the variables for public rental housing (0.43) and single parent families (0.42). There were inverse correlations of meaningful significance with the variables for people aged 65 and over (-0.57) and managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.66).

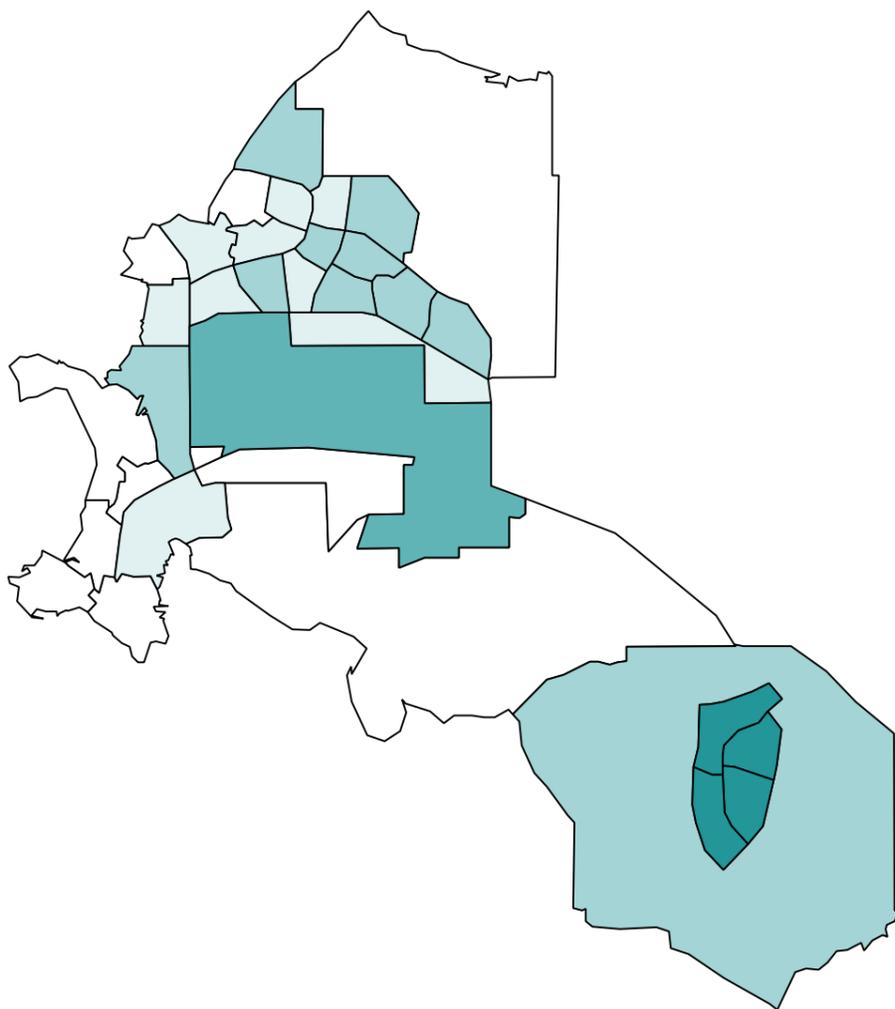
Postcode-based areas

Map 3.1b shows the suburbs of **Darwin** grouped into approximate postcodes: this approach was taken to enable comparisons to be made with data in the following chapters that were only available by postcode. The highest proportion of 0 to 4 year old children was 13.0 per cent in the Palmerston suburbs. The four SLAs with the highest proportions in **Darwin** were found in this developing area. Darwin: North East also had an above-average proportion of 8.8 per cent. Darwin: South West recorded the lowest proportion of 5.6 per cent and Darwin: North West recorded 7.2 per cent.

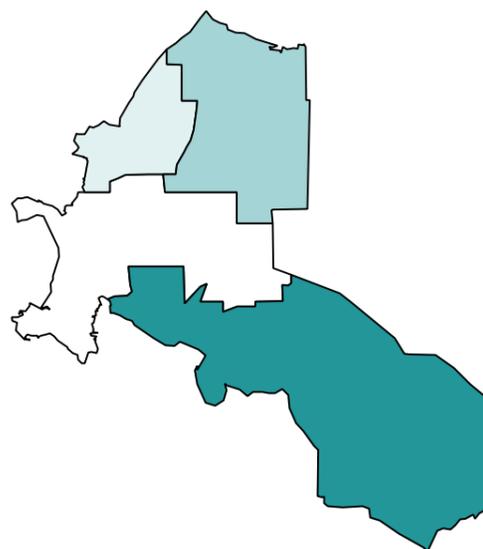
Map 3.1
Children aged 0 to 4 years, Darwin, 1996
as a percentage of the total population in each area



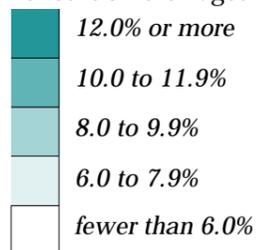
Map 3.1a: SLA Map



Map 3.1b: Postcode Map*



Per cent children aged 0 to 4 years



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Children aged 0 to 4 years, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The proportions of children aged from 0 to 4 years in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia (the areas designated *Rest of State/Territory* in the table) were higher than in the capital cities. The average nationwide percentage for the *Rest of State/Territory* areas was 7.5 per cent (**Table 3.5**). At the *Whole of State/Territory* level South Australia had the lowest proportion (6.7 per cent) and the Northern Territory had the highest (8.6 per cent), with the other States having percentages near the average.

Comparisons between the 1986, 1991 and 1996 Censuses indicate a consistent reduction in the proportions of children aged from 0 to 4 years during the past decade. This trend of declining numbers of children over time is apparent across all of the States and Territories, and is particularly significant in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas, where the average declined from 8.4 per cent to 7.5 per cent between 1986 and 1996.

Table 3.5: Proportion of population aged 0 to 4 years, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	7.0	6.9	7.1	6.4	6.8	6.9	8.1	7.3 ²	6.9
Other major urban centres ³	7.2	6.9	6.4	..	..	..	..	..	6.8
Rest of State/Territory	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	8.0	7.6	9.0	— ⁴	7.5
Whole of State/Territory	7.1	7.0	7.1	6.7	7.2	7.3	8.6	7.2	7.1
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.3	9.2	8.3	10.2	— ⁴	8.4

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

In 1986 there were 8,381 children aged from 0 to 4 years in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory, representing 10.2 per cent of the total population. By 1991, the number had risen to 9,892 but the proportion had fallen slightly to 10.1 per cent. By 1996, the number had fallen to 9,808 and the proportion of young children had fallen again to 9.0 per cent. Despite this decline, in 1996 children within this age group still comprised a higher proportion of the population in non-metropolitan Northern Territory than in **Darwin**.

The non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of children aged from 0 to 4 years of all States and Territories. As the correlations show, there was a significant correlation (0.68) between the distribution of children aged from 0 to 4 years and Indigenous people. A contribution to this high proportion is likely to be the higher Total Fertility Rate among the Indigenous population.

The spatial distribution of children aged from 0 to 4 years varied across the Territory as presented in **Map 3.2**. Proportions in individual rural SLAs varied from 4.3 per cent in Petermann to 12.4 per cent in Sandover-Balance. The highest proportions of children aged from 0 to 4 years were in the SLAs of Sandover-Balance (12.4 per cent), East Arnhem-Balance (12.0 per cent), Gulf and West Arnhem (both with 12.1 per cent). These areas were also amongst those with high proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The SLAs with the lowest proportions of young children were Petermann (4.3 per cent), Litchfield [Part A] (4.7 per cent), South Alligator (5.0 per cent) and Cox-Finiss (5.6 per cent). The suburbs of Stuart and Heavitree in Alice Springs had low percentages, of 4.9 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively. The SLAs of Cox-Finiss, Litchfield [Part A] and South Alligator also had the lowest numbers, with 47, 57, and 81 children respectively.

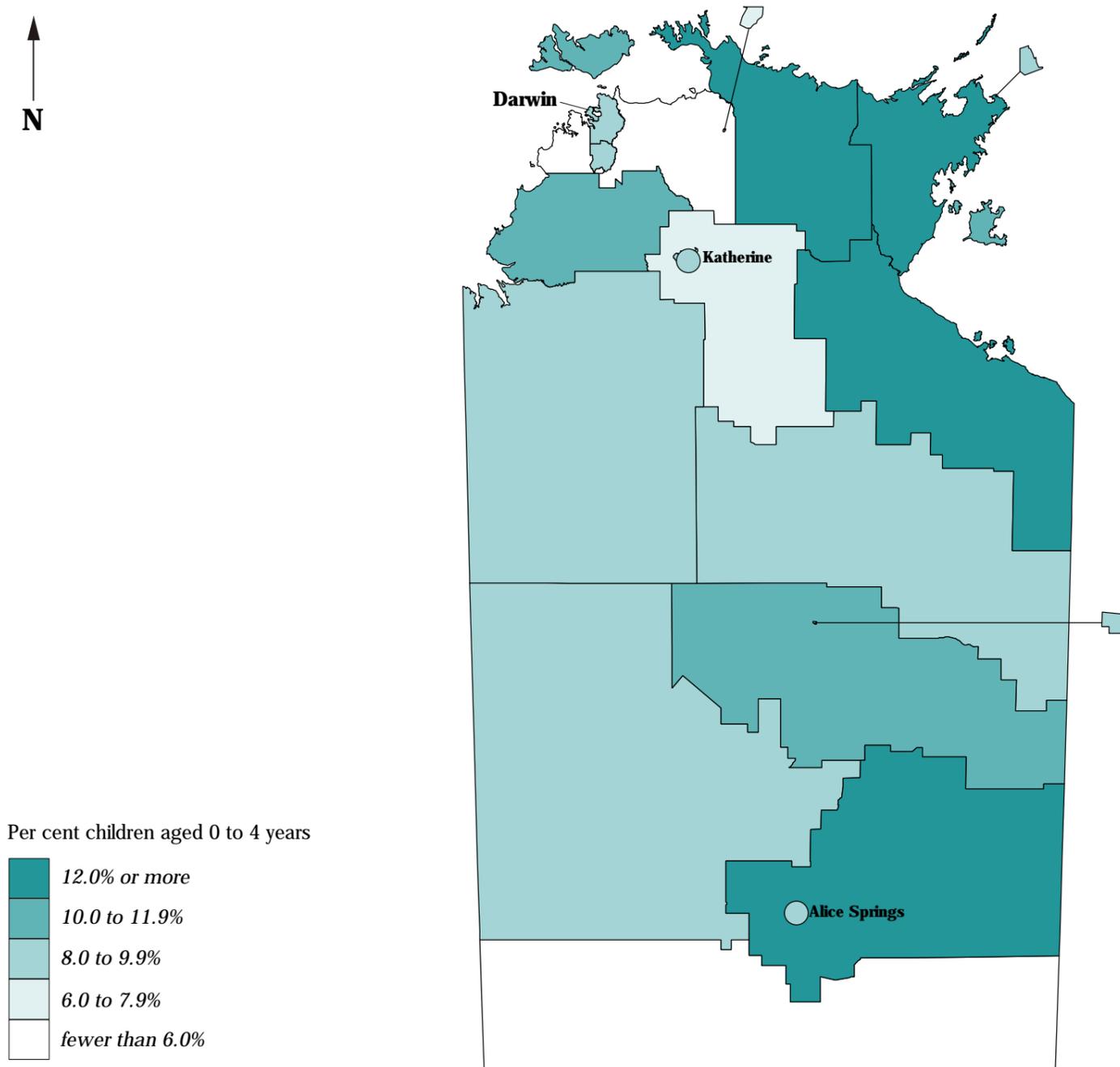
The largest number of young children was in the town of Alice Springs, a total of 2,182 children (8.1 per cent of the town's population); the suburb of Larapinta accounted for the majority of these with 845 children. The next largest numbers were in the SLAs of Litchfield [Part B] (1,122 children), Katherine (996), East Arnhem-Balance (708), and Tanami (644).

There were positive correlations with a number of indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage at the SLA level. Correlations of meaningful significance were recorded with the variables for Indigenous Australians (0.68), single parent families (0.62) and households without a motor vehicle (0.52). There were weak associations with the variables for low income families (0.39) and early school leavers (0.47). The inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.58) indicated a positive association at the SLA level between high proportions of 0 to 4 year olds and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 3.2

Children aged 0 to 4 years, Northern Territory, 1996

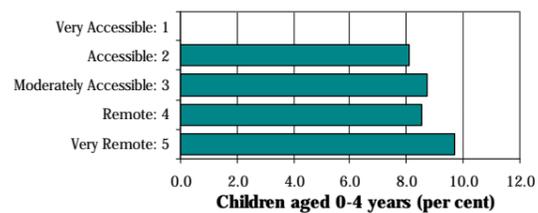
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The highest proportion (and second largest number) of children aged from 0 to 4 years live in the most remote areas of the Northern Territory (9.7 per cent of the population in the Very Remote ARIA category, reflecting the higher Total Fertility Rate of Indigenous women). The lowest proportion is in the Accessible areas (8.1 per cent), with slightly higher proportions in the Moderately Accessible (8.7 per cent) and Remote (8.5 per cent, largely reflecting the populations in the towns outside of Darwin) categories. The numbers of children are largest in the most accessible areas (7,009 children), although there are substantial numbers in the two most remote categories.

7,009
1,301
3,812
4,638
Children

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People aged 65 years and over, 1996

Capital city comparison

Australia is an ageing society, brought about in part by reduced mortality rates at older ages, a trend that has become especially evident over the past two to three decades. Increased morbidity is often associated with reduced mortality, and the incidence of an older population is likely to indicate areas where increased health services will be required.

People aged 65 years and over comprised 12.1 per cent of the Australian population at the 1996 Census, with a slightly smaller proportion in the capital cities (11.6 per cent) (Table 3.6). This latter proportion compares to percentages of 10.9 per cent in 1991 and 10.4 per cent in 1986, reflecting the general ageing of the population, a trend expected to continue well into the next century (ABS, 1998). Importantly, this rising proportion of older people represents an increase of 275,655 people aged 65 years and over between 1986 and 1996.

At the 1996 Census, 5.0 per cent of **Darwin's** population was aged 65 years or over. This was considerably lower than proportions recorded in all other Australian capital cities, which had values approximating the *All capitals* average of 11.6 per cent. **Canberra** had a relatively low proportion of 7.1 per cent and **Adelaide** had the oldest population with 14.1 per cent of its people being aged 65 years and over.

Table 3.6: Proportion of population aged 65 years and over, capital cities

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	11.8	11.5	11.0	14.1	10.8	12.5	5.0	7.1	11.6
1986	10.8	10.2	10.5	12.0	10.0	10.9	3.3	5.2	10.4

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

Darwin's population has aged steadily over the ten years from 1986 and 1996. At the 1986 Census, 3.3 per cent of the population was aged 65 years and over. By 1991, both the proportion and the number had increased, to 4.5 per cent and 3,490 people. Further growth by 1996 saw the percentage increase to 5.0 per cent and the number increase to 4,309. Growth in the proportion of older people can be partly attributed to the increased representation of those aged 80 years and over (Table 3.8, page 28). However, despite these increases over time, **Darwin** has Australia's youngest city population. This is likely to reflect the tendency for older people to leave **Darwin** after retirement from the work force. Table 3.8 also shows that, unlike the experience of other capital cities, **Darwin's** older population was almost evenly divided between females (49.9 per cent) and males (50.1 per cent). Elderly females were more highly represented in the city as opposed to non-metropolitan areas.

The highest proportion of people aged 65 and over in any individual SLA was in Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp (14.6 per cent). However, this represented just 124 people in an SLA of relatively low population density. From Map 3.3a it can be seen that, generally, the highest concentrations of people aged 65 and over in **Darwin** were in the older, established coastal areas of the inner city. High proportions were resident in The Gardens (13.0 per cent), City-Inner (11.1 per cent), Parap (9.2 per cent) Coconut Grove (8.5 per cent) and Fannie Bay (8.3 per cent).

With the exception of Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp, the pattern of the highest proportions of people aged 65 and over in the established, coastal suburbs has continued the trend already present in 1986.

However, there has been a decline in the increase in percentages in suburbs such as City-Inner and The Gardens, which had proportions of 8.0 per cent and 7.9 per cent respectively in 1986.

The lowest proportions of people aged 65 and over were in East Arm (with no people at these ages in its population), City-Remainder (1.7 per cent) and Driver (2.2 per cent). Overall, the developing Palmerston suburbs had low proportions of elderly people and the highest proportions of children aged from 0 to 4 years, an indication of the large numbers of young families in this area.

There were correlations of meaningful significance at the SLA level with the variables for managers, administrators, and professionals (0.54) and unemployed people (0.53) and an inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the variable for 0 to 4 year olds (-0.57).

Postcode-based areas

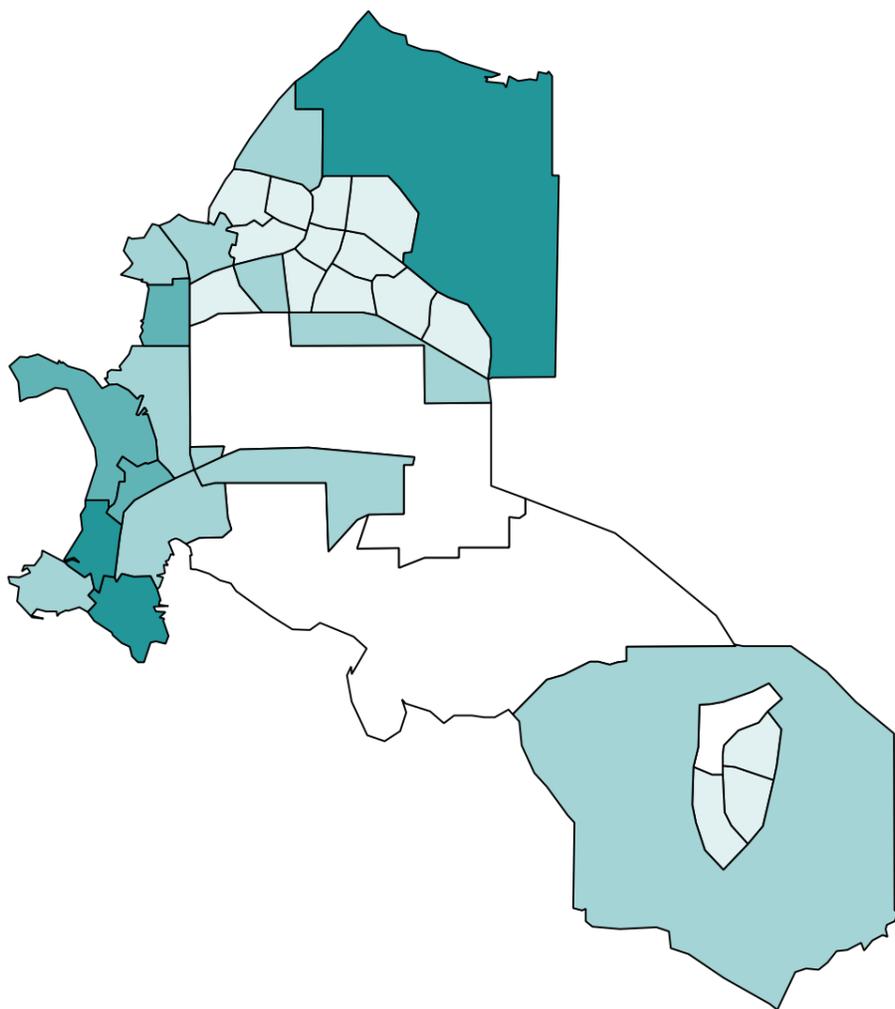
Map 3.3b shows the pattern of distribution of people aged 65 and over, a pattern markedly different to the distribution of children aged from 0 to 4 years. The highest proportion of older people was found in the older suburbs covered by Darwin: South West (7.0 per cent). The lowest proportion, 3.3 per cent, was recorded in the developing southern Palmerston suburbs. Darwin: North West (5.0 per cent) and Darwin: North East (4.2 per cent) had near average proportions.

Map 3.3
People aged 65 years and over, Darwin, 1996

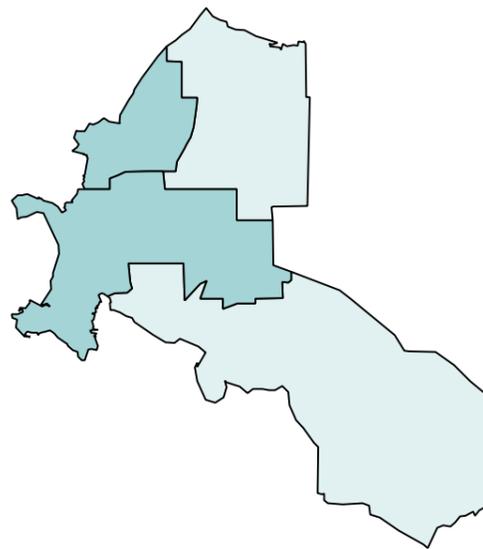
as a percentage of the total population in each area



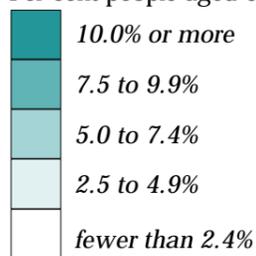
Map 3.3a: SLA Map



Map 3.3b: Postcode Map*



Per cent people aged 65 years and over



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People aged 65 years and over, 1996

State/Territory comparison

New South Wales has the highest proportion of people aged 65 years and over located in areas outside of the capital and other major urban centres. As shown in **Table 3.7**, it has almost three times the level recorded in the Northern Territory, where high fertility levels and high rates of net in-migration of youthful populations work to reduce the proportion of older people in the total population. Despite the attraction of Queensland as a retirement destination for older people, it has lower than the average proportion of people in this age group in all but the *Other major urban centres* category, the latter reflecting the high proportion of older people in the population of **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**. Nation-wide, the most significant increase in the numbers of older people was in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas, with a 36.6 per cent increase between 1986 and 1996.

Table 3.7: Proportion of population aged 65 years and over, State/Territory

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	11.8	11.5	11.0	14.1	10.8	12.5	5.0	7.1 ²	11.6
Other major urban centres ³	13.6	13.6	15.9	..	..	..	..	..	14.5
Rest of State/Territory	14.4	13.3	12.2	13.2	9.7	12.2	4.9	- ⁴	12.8
Whole of State/Territory	12.7	12.0	12.0	13.8	10.5	12.3	4.9	7.1	12.1
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	11.6	11.2	10.3	10.5	7.7	10.5	4.1	- ⁴	10.5

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

There were increases in both the proportions and numbers of people aged 65 years and over in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory between the 1986 and 1996 Censuses. In 1986, people aged 65 years and over comprised 4.1 per cent of the population (3,350 people). This rose to 4.7 per cent (4,592 people) in 1991 and then to 4.9 per cent (5,325 people) in 1996. Part of this increase can be attributed to the increased proportion of the people in the oldest age groups (**Table 3.8**).

Cox-Finniss (7.2 per cent) had the highest proportion of people aged 65 years and over. Although the town of Alice Springs had only 5.6 per cent of its population in this age group, there were high proportions in the suburbs of Heavitree (11.7 per cent) and Stuart (7.7 per cent). The lowest proportions of people aged 65 years and over were in Groote Eylandt (1.6 per cent), East Arnhem-Balance (1.7 per cent), Nhulunbuy (1.9 per cent), Bathurst-Melville (2.2 per cent) and West Arnhem (2.7 per cent). With the exception of Nhulunbuy, these SLAs also had very high proportions of Indigenous people, and the low percentages reflect, at least in part, their lower life expectancy.

The distribution of older people was more highly concentrated in urban locations (**Map 3.4**). With the largest numbers recorded in the towns of Alice Springs (1,520 people aged 65 years and over) and Katherine (600 people). Populations exceeding 200 were also found only in the SLAs of Litchfield [Part B] (664 people), Petermann (334), Tanami (235) and Tennant Creek (204).

Inverse correlations of meaningful significance were recorded at the SLA level with the variables for children aged 0 to 4 years (-0.68), dwellings without a motor vehicle (-0.54) and the Indigenous population (-0.54). These results, together with the weak correlation with the IRSD (0.42), indicate the existence of an association between high proportions of people aged 65 years and over and high socioeconomic status.

Table 3.8: Structure of population aged 65 years or more, Northern Territory, 1986 and 1996

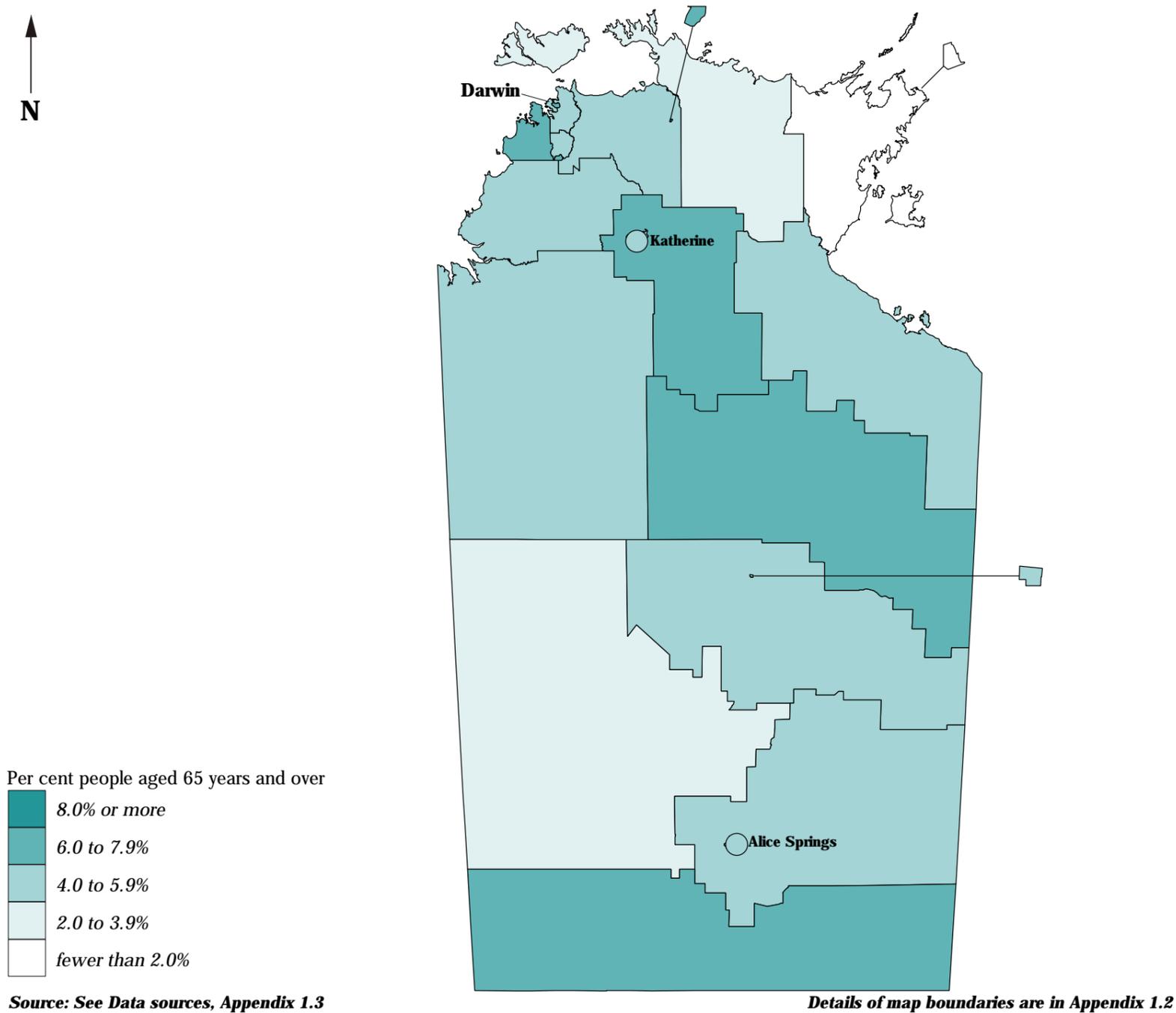
Age group (years)	<i>Per cent</i>							
	People aged 65 years or more				Increase 1986 to 1996		Proportion of females, 1996	
	1986		1996		Darwin	Rest of Territory	Darwin	Rest of Territory
	Darwin	Rest of Territory	Darwin	Rest of Territory	Darwin	Rest of Territory	Darwin	Rest of Territory
65 to 69	45.5	49.3	42.9	48.1	67.4	55.2	44.9	42.9
70 to 74	28.3	28.4	28.3	26.8	77.4	49.8	50.4	49.0
75 to 79	15.5	13.5	15.8	14.1	80.9	67.0	56.2	54.3
80 to 84	6.7	5.4	8.4	6.5	122.1	91.2	54.4	55.5
85 +	4.0	3.5	4.5	4.5	100.0	106.0	64.3	60.3
Total 65+	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	77.3	59.0	49.9	47.7

Source: ABS 1986 Census 21 page format Table CO7; 1996 Census Basic Community Profile Table B03

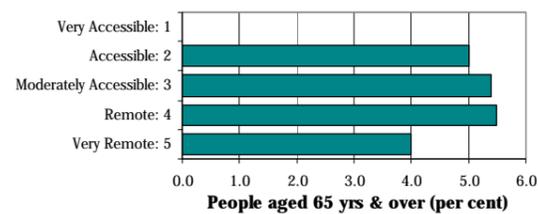
Map 3.4

People aged 65 years and over, Northern Territory, 1996

as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over increases across the first three ARIA categories, from 5.0 per cent in the Accessible to 5.4 per cent in the Moderately Accessible and 5.5 per cent in the Remote areas (with the second largest number, largely reflecting the populations in the towns outside of Darwin). There is a notably (27.3 per cent) lower proportion in the Very Remote areas (4.0 per cent). These results indicate the value that older people place on access to health, welfare and other services, which are largely located in the more accessible areas, as well as the shorter life expectancy of the predominant, Indigenous, population in the most remote areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Single parent families, 1996

Capital city comparison

Single parent families are defined as all single parent families with dependent children aged less than 15 years; the proportion of single parent families is derived as the percentage of all families. Throughout Australia, the majority of single parent families are characterised by poverty and hardship, have poor health and are major users of public health services. Details of their location are, therefore, of importance to public policy makers and those providing health, education, welfare, housing and transport services.

At the 1996 Census, the proportion of single parent families in Australia's capital cities was 9.7 per cent (**Table 3.9**), varying from 9.1 per cent in **Melbourne**, to 13.8 per cent in **Darwin**.

The increase in the number of single parent families has been one of the most important demographic trends in Australia in recent years. In the ten years from 1986, the proportion of single parent families in Australia as a whole and in each capital city increased substantially. For Australia, the increase was from 324,171 in 1986 (7.8 per cent of all families) to 460,618 single parent families (9.9 per cent of all families) in 1996. The largest increase was recorded in **Hobart**, where proportions for this variable increased from 9.3 per cent in 1986, to 12.1 per cent in 1996. **Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Darwin** and **Canberra** all recorded increases of more than two percentage points in this ten year period. Whilst **Sydney** recorded a lower increase than the other major cities, it had the largest number of these families at both the 1986 and 1996 Censuses: the largest increase in the number of single parent families occurred in **Melbourne**.

Table 3.9: Single parent families, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	9.3	9.1	10.5	10.4	10.1	12.1	13.8	11.5	9.7
1986	7.8	6.9	8.3	8.0	9.1	9.3	11.1	9.2	7.9

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

At the 1986 Census, there were 1,996 single parent families in **Darwin** (11.1 per cent of all families). By 1991, the number and proportion had grown to 2,467 families and 14.3 per cent respectively. Although the proportion had fallen to 13.8 per cent by 1996, the number had increased further to 2,641.

The highest concentrations of single parent families were generally found in two localities (**Map 3.5a**). One was in the older, eastern suburbs of The Narrows (23.3 per cent), Coconut Grove (21.2 per cent) and Millner (20.1 per cent). The other was in the developing Palmerston suburbs of Moulden (25.2 per cent) and Gray (22.3 per cent). Other high proportions of single parent families were found in Malak (17.4 per cent), Karama (16.2 per cent) and Alawa (16.1 per cent) in the north, and Woodroffe (16.0 per cent) in the south of **Darwin**. Nearly all these SLAs have high proportions of public rental housing, reflecting the important role of public housing in accommodating welfare-dependent groups. This is emphasised in **Table 3.11** (overleaf).

The lowest proportions of single parent families were in East Arm (0.0 per cent), City-Remainder (3.2 per cent), Marrara (6.0 per cent), Brinkin (7.0 per cent) and Larrakeyah (7.1 per cent). These SLAs also featured little, if any, public rental housing.

The largest numbers of single parent families were in the SLAs of Moulden (231 families), Karama (208 families), Gray (181 families) and Malak and Leanyer (both with 151 families).

Generally, the pattern of distribution of single parent families in **Darwin** in 1996 was similar to 1986, particularly in the inner city and northern suburbs. However, there has been a considerable increase in the concentration of single parent families in the Moulden, Gray and Woodroffe cluster. These southern suburbs have experienced a substantial housing development in recent years, both in dwellings being purchased and public rental housing.

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for low income families (0.91) and public rental housing (0.86), and of meaningful significance with unemployed people (0.50). There was also an inverse correlation with the variable for high income families (-0.50). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.51), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of single parent families and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Postcode-based areas

The highest proportion of single parent families was in the Palmerston suburbs (19.1 per cent) (**Map 3.5b**). The lowest proportion was in Darwin: South West (10.5 per cent). Darwin: North West and Darwin: North East both had proportions of 13.6 per cent.

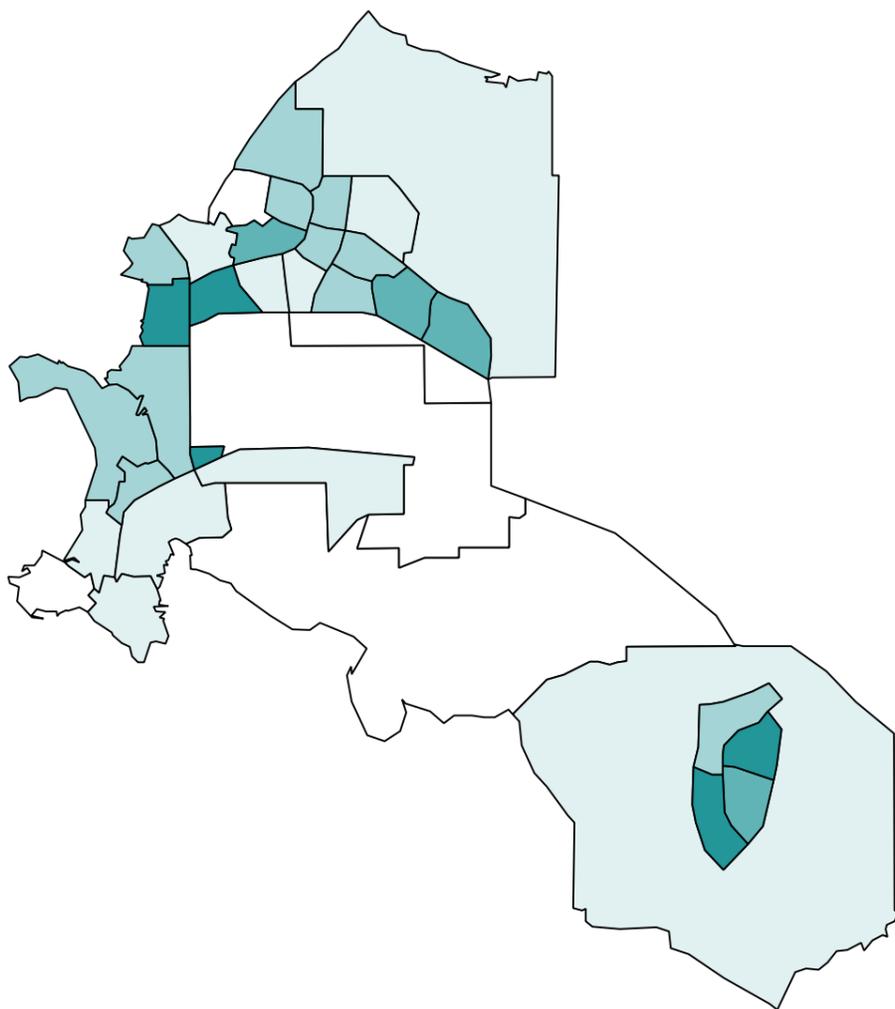
Map 3.5

Single parent families, Darwin, 1996

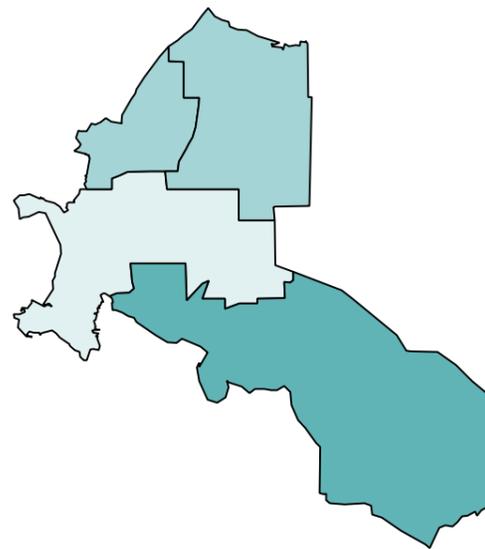
as a percentage of the total population in each area



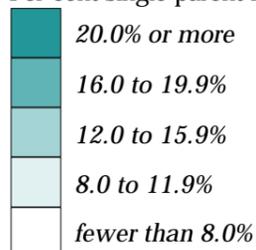
Map 3.5a: SLA Map



Map 3.5b: Postcode Map*



Per cent single parent families



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Single parent families, 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, 10.0 per cent of all families outside the capital cities were single parent families (defined here as single parent families with dependent children under 15 years of age), ranging from 8.4 per cent in South Australia to 14.6 per cent in the Northern Territory (Table 3.10). For most States and the Northern Territory, variations between the *Capital city* and *Rest of State/Territory* totals were minimal, with the largest differences being in South Australia and Tasmania. There has been a steady increase in the proportions of single parent families in all States and Territories since 1986.

Table 3.10: Single parent families, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	9.3	9.1	10.5	10.4	10.1	12.1	13.8	11.5 ²	9.7
Other major urban centres ³	10.4	10.7	11.2	..	..	..	..	..⁴	10.7
Rest of State/Territory	10.6	9.5	10.1	8.4	9.5	9.6	14.6	.. ⁴	10.0
Whole of State/Territory	9.8	9.2	10.4	9.9	10.0	10.6	14.2	11.6	9.9
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	8.0	6.7	7.7	6.5	8.3	7.6	12.1	.. ⁴	7.6

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

As in **Darwin**, the increase in the number of single parent families has been a consistent demographic trend in the non-metropolitan areas of Northern Territory in recent years. At the 1986 Census, there were 2,160 single parent families, 12.1 per cent of all families. By 1991, this had increased to 2,312 single parent families (12.7 per cent) and, by 1996, it had increased further to 3,035 single parent families (14.6 per cent).

Unlike **Darwin**, the distribution of single parent families in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory was not strongly linked to the availability of public rental housing. All SLAs with above average percentages were non-urban areas (Map 3.6). There were high proportions in East Arnhem-Balance (32.2 per cent), Sandover-Balance (23.3 per cent), Gulf (22.9 per cent) and Bathurst-Melville (20.4 per cent). These SLAs were amongst those with the highest proportions of Indigenous people. There were links evident between the distribution of high proportions of single parent families and high proportions of low income families and dwellings without a motor vehicle. The latter would represent considerable disadvantage to families in these isolated locations not only in economic terms but also in relation to access to employment and services. Although the towns of the Northern Territory had lower proportions of single parent families than most of the rural areas, proportions exceeded the Australian

Rest of State/Territory average, of 10.0 per cent. Katherine for instance, had a higher proportion, of 12.8 per cent, as did Alice Springs, with 12.4 per cent. The lowest proportions of single parent families were in Jabiru (5.6 per cent) and Nhulunbuy (6.1 per cent).

The largest numbers of single parent families were in Alice Springs (698 single parent families, with 293 families in the suburb of Larapinta); East Arnhem-Balance (365 single parent families) which also had the largest number of dwellings rented from the government housing authority; Litchfield [Part B] (280 single parent families), Katherine (265 single parent families) and Tanami (241 single parent families).

There were correlations of substantial significance with the variables for the Indigenous population (0.87) and low income families (0.78). Correlations of meaningful significance were also recorded with the variables of households without a motor vehicle (0.67), early school leavers (0.66) and children aged from 0 to 4 years (0.62). There were also inverse correlations with variables of socioeconomic advantage, including high income families (-0.82). The inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.87) also indicates a positive association at the SLA level between high proportions of single parent families and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Table 3.11: Housing tenure by family type, Darwin, 1996
Per cent

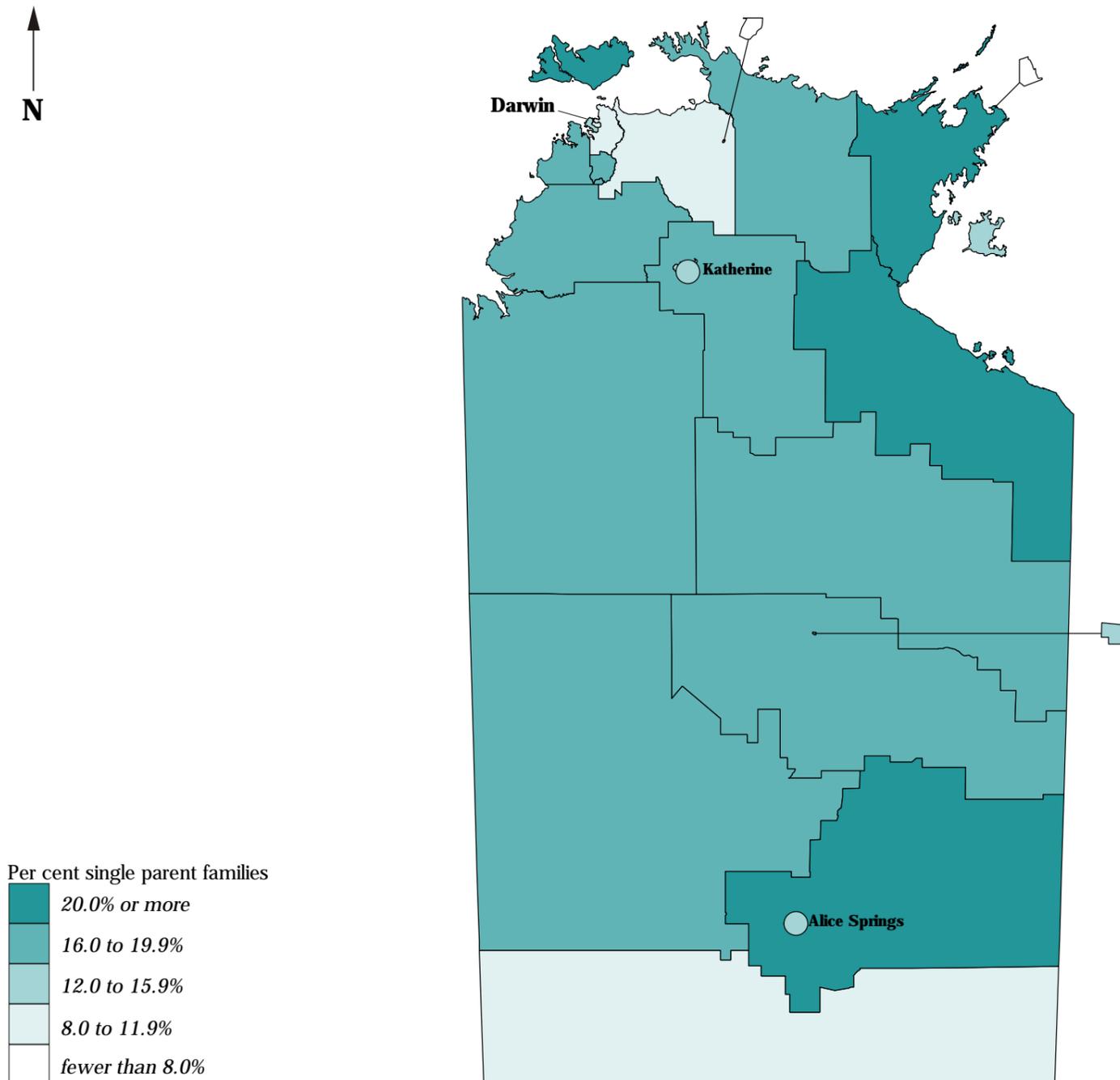
Family type	Owner/Purchaser	Government rental	Private rental	Other	Total
Single parent family: with dependent children	31.7	44.6	22.4	1.3	100.0
Single parent family: with no dependent children	52.9	35.1	10.7	1.3	100.0
Couple family without children	59.9	9.7	28.2	2.2	100.0
Couple family with dependent children	65.1	15.7	17.4	1.8	100.0
Couple family with no dependent children	71.0	16.6	10.4	1.9	100.0
Other families	33.7	16.6	46.4	3.3	100.0
Total	58.2	18.9	21.0	1.9	100.0

Source: ABS Census 1996 Basic Community Profile Table B25

Map 3.6

Single parent families, Northern Territory, 1996

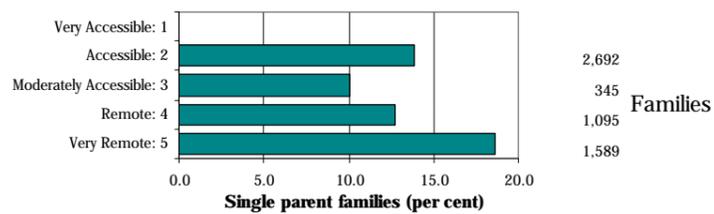
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The most accessible areas had the second highest proportion of single parent families (13.9 per cent in the Accessible category), with the proportion then dropping to the lowest level of 10.0 per cent in the Moderately Accessible areas before increasing sharply to 12.7 per cent in the Remote areas and 18.6 per cent in the Very Remote areas. The number of families is again relatively high in the two 'remote' categories, where the influence of the Indigenous population is no doubt a factor.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Low income families, 1996

Capital city comparison

Low income families, defined as families with annual family incomes of less than \$21,000 (less than \$400 per week), comprised 11.1 per cent of all families in **Darwin** for which income details were obtained at the 1996 Census (**Table 3.12**). The use of low income as a measure of poverty is compromised to an extent by the fact that income is influenced by differences in family size, age structure and housing tenure and costs. While the variable will normally capture most welfare dependent families, it will also include sizeable numbers of families for which low income is linked to their retirement status.

Adelaide had the highest (21.8) percentage of low income families, while **Darwin** (11.1 per cent) and **Canberra** (11.7 per cent) had much lower percentages, reflecting the younger age structures of these cities and the lower proportions of retired families in their populations. Overall, there has been an increase in the proportion of low income families in all capital cities in the ten years from 1986 to 1996. Refer to the footnote to **Table 3.3** on page 20 regarding the interpretation of these comparisons over time.

Table 3.12: Low income families, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	16.6	17.2	18.0	21.8	17.7	20.2	11.1	11.7	17.5
1986	15.7	14.3	16.9	19.2	17.4	17.3	10.6	8.8	15.8

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

Comparisons between 1986, 1991 and 1996 Census data show some fluctuations in the proportions of low income families in **Darwin**. In 1986, 10.6 per cent of **Darwin** families (1,432 families) had a low income. By 1991, the comparable figures were 12.5 per cent and 2,156 low income families. At the 1996 Census, the proportion had declined to 11.1 per cent, and the number was virtually stable at 2,132 low income families¹.

Although the difference between the 1986 and 1996 proportions was small, there was an overall growth of 48.9 per cent over this ten year period in the number of low income families, largely due to changes in the developing southern suburbs of Moulden, Gray, Woodroffe and Driver.

Moulden (23.0 per cent) and Coconut Grove (22.8 per cent) had the highest proportions of low income families in **Darwin**. Both SLAs were consistently among those with the highest proportions of single parent families, unemployed people and public rental housing. These measures of low socioeconomic status were also present in high proportions in The Narrows, in which 19.8 per cent of families were low income families. Gray (with 17.2 per cent of low income families) was characterised by high proportions of single parent families and public rental housing and Winnellie (16.0 per cent) had the second highest proportion of unemployed people in **Darwin**. Millner (16.3 per cent) and Malak and Parap (both with 15 per cent) were also in the second highest range as shown on **Map 3.7a**.

The SLAs with less than five per cent of low income families were City-Remainder, Brinkin, Palmerston-Balance and East Arm.

The largest numbers of low income families were in Moulden (211 low income families), Karama (154), Gray (141), Malak (131) and Millner (103). The majority of the remaining SLAs had fewer than 80 low income families.

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for single parent families (0.91) and dwellings rented from the government housing authority (0.75), and of meaningful significance with unemployed people (0.65). An inverse correlation of meaningful significance was recorded with the variable for high income families (-0.63). These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.65), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of low income families and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Postcode-based areas

The Palmerston suburbs had the highest proportion of low income families, 15.6 per cent of all families (**Map 3.7b**). These southern suburbs also had the highest proportions of single parent families, children aged from 0 to 4 years and public rental housing. The second highest proportion, 11.2 per cent, was in Darwin: North West. Darwin: North East and Darwin: South West had proportions of 9.8 and 8.9 per cent, respectively.

¹See footnote to Table 3.3, page 20 regarding these comparisons.

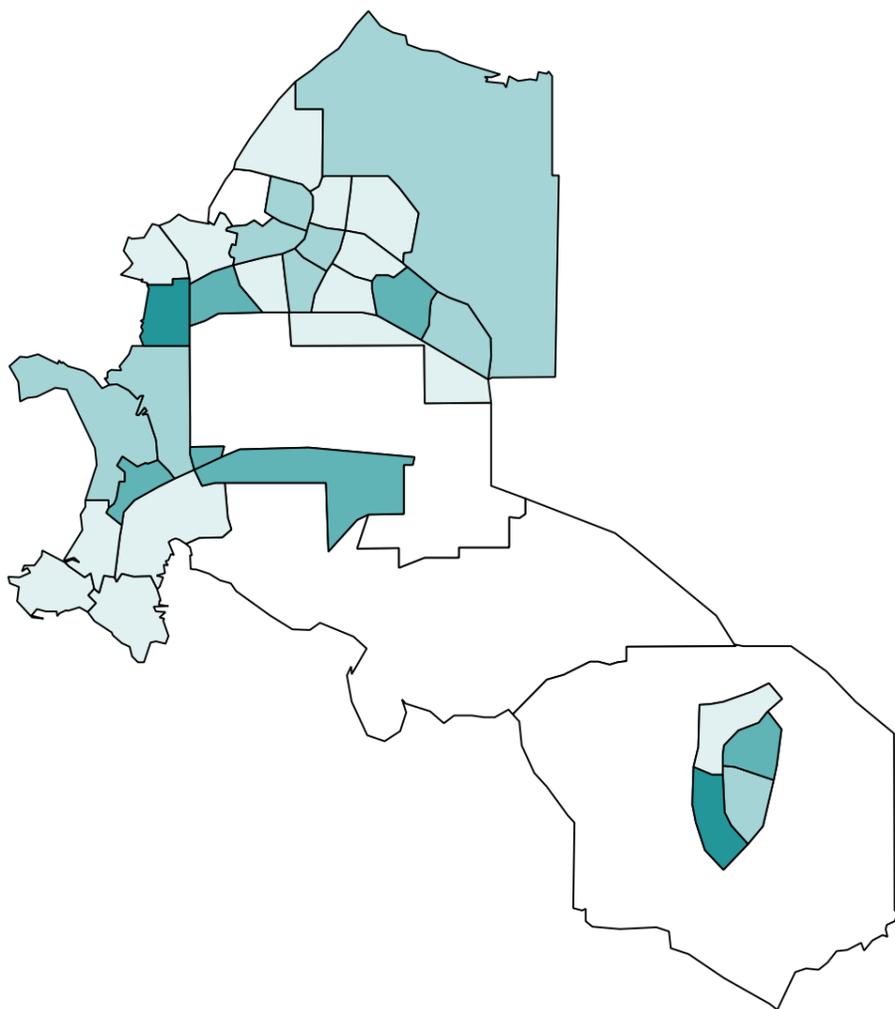
Map 3.7

Low income families*, Darwin, 1996

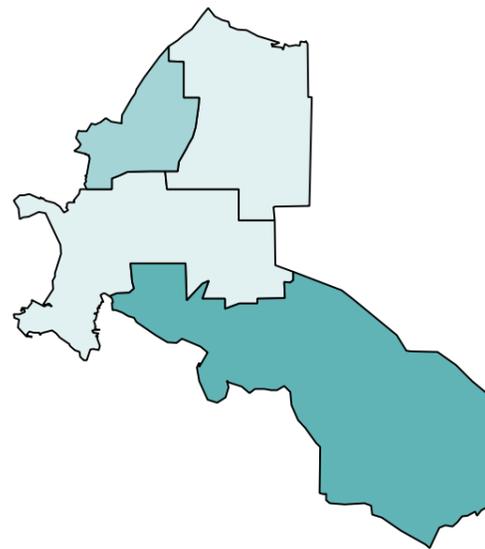
as a percentage of the total population in each area



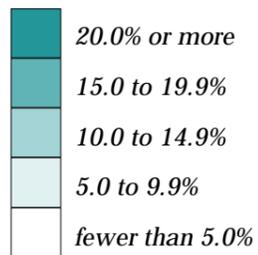
Map 3.7a: SLA Map



Map 3.7b: Postcode Map#



Per cent low income families*



*Families with annual income of less than \$21,000 as a percentage of all families for which income data was obtained

#SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Low income families, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The proportion of low income families (families with annual family incomes of less than \$21,000) living outside of the capital cities and other major urban centres in New South Wales is, at 26.5 per cent, the highest in Australia (**Table 3.13**). The highest proportions of low income families in all States and the Northern Territory were in the areas outside the capital cities and other major urban centres.

Since 1986, the proportion of low income families across Australia had risen from 18.7 per cent to 20.0 per cent over the decade to 1996. The Northern Territory underwent a similar change, with an increase from 16.0 per cent to 16.6 per cent across the whole Territory and an increase from 20.5 per cent to 21.6 per cent in the non-metropolitan regions. Refer to the footnote to **Table 3.3** on page 20 regarding the interpretation of these comparisons over time.

Table 3.13: Low income families, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	16.6	17.2	18.0	21.8	17.7	20.2	11.1	11.2 ²	17.5
Other major urban centres ³	23.6	22.6	22.4	..	..	..	..	..	23.0
Rest of State/Territory	26.5	24.2	23.6	26.2	20.6	25.7	21.6	- ⁴	24.6
Whole of State/Territory	20.0	19.1	20.8	22.9	18.5	23.5	16.6	11.2	20.0
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	26.7	21.9	25.0	25.9	22.1	22.3	20.5	- ⁴	24.8

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

The proportions of low income families in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory have fluctuated since 1986. There were 3,298 low income families in 1986, 20.5 per cent of all families with an income. The number was almost the same in 1991 (3,279), but the proportion was lower (18.0 per cent). In 1996, the number of low income families rose to 4,495, 21.6 per cent of all families with an income. As mentioned on the previous text page, caution must be taken when comparing these figures over time.

Map 3.8 shows that much of the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory had relatively high proportions of low income families. The most apparent exceptions were the towns of Alice Springs (an overall proportion of 9.1 per cent) and Katherine (10.1 per cent), and the SLA of Litchfield [Part B] (11.2 per cent). Not evident from the map is the extent of the very high proportions of low income families in Tennant Creek-Balance (52.6 per cent), Gulf (50.3 per cent), East Arnhem-Balance (46.3 per cent), West Arnhem (45.4 per cent) and Tanami (44.1 per cent).

Apart from Alice Springs, Katherine and Litchfield [Part B], as mentioned above, the SLAs of Jabiru (3.3 per cent), Nhulunbuy (3.4 per cent), Litchfield [Part A] (14.8 per cent), Tennant Creek (17.9 per cent) and Coomalie (21.2 per cent) had proportions below the *Rest of State/Territory* average of 21.6 per cent.

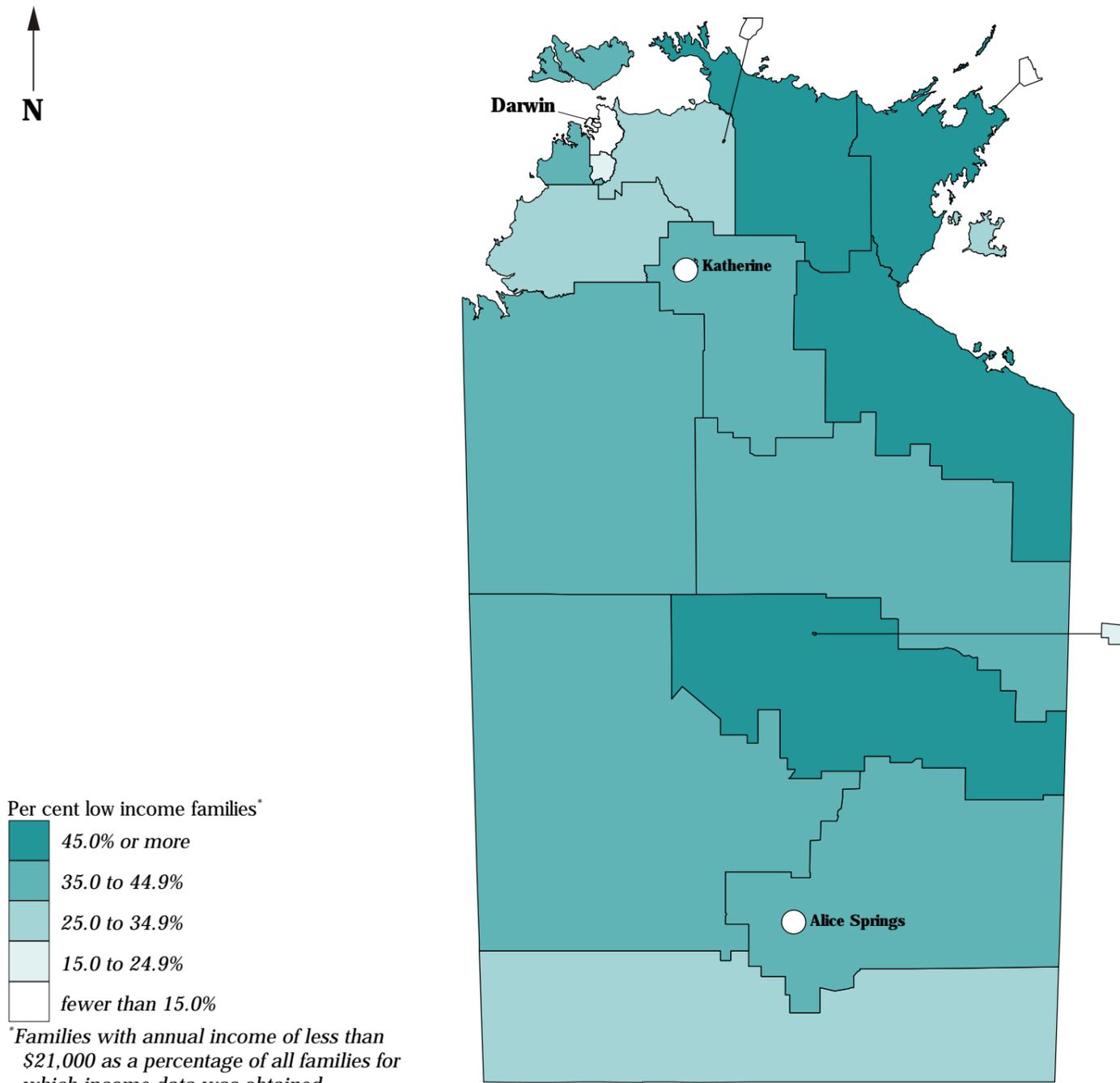
The largest numbers of low income families were recorded in Tanami (545 families), East Arnhem-Balance (517 families), West Arnhem (355 families) and Litchfield [Part B] (341 families). The lowest numbers were in Jabiru (9 families), Litchfield [Part A] (25 families) and Nhulunbuy (31 families).

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for the Indigenous population (0.83), single parent families (0.78) and early school leavers (0.71). A correlation of meaningful significance was recorded with the variable for private dwellings without a motor vehicle (0.67). Inverse correlations of substantial significance were recorded with the variables for high income families (-0.92) and female labour force participation (-0.80). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.89), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of low income families and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 3.8

Low income families*, Northern Territory, 1996

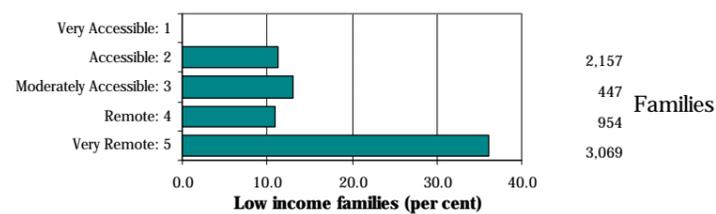
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportions of low income families are relatively similar across the first three ARIA categories in the Northern Territory, accounting for 11.0 per cent of all families with an income in the Remote areas, 11.2 per cent in the Accessible areas and 13.0 per cent in the Moderately Accessible areas. The Very Remote areas had a substantially higher proportion of 30.0 per cent and the largest number of low income families, reflecting the generally low incomes received by the Indigenous population.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Unskilled and semi-skilled workers, 1996

Capital city comparison

Occupation remains the most important determinant of wealth, social standing and well-being for most people in Australian society. People employed in the Census defined occupations of labourers and related workers, and intermediate production and transport workers, are described generally in this analysis as unskilled and semi-skilled workers. These categories of occupation encompass most lower paid and less skilled, blue collar work and their prevalence therefore forms a useful general measure of low socioeconomic status. The percentages of workers employed in these occupations are calculated as a proportion of the total employed labour force.

The majority of capital cities had near average percentages for this variable, with the lower percentage in **Canberra** a reflection of low levels of manufacturing industry. The proportion in **Sydney** (14.9 per cent) was below that in the other large capital cities (**Table 3.14**).

The 1996 figures for this variable were considerably lower than those from 1986, including a fall from 20.7 per cent in **Sydney** in 1986 to 14.9 per cent in 1996, largely a reflection of the changing nature of employment in Australia's capital cities. The overall decline for Australia's capital cities was from 20.9 per cent of all people with an occupation in 1986, to 17.8 per cent in 1991 and 15.6 per cent in 1996, a net loss 110,506 from these occupations.

Table 3.14: Unskilled and semi-skilled workers, capital cities

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra¹	All capitals
1996	14.9	16.4	16.5	17.3	15.7	14.5	13.2	9.3	15.6
1986	20.7	22.1	21.6	21.6	20.3	19.4	15.1	12.3	20.9

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin²

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

At the 1986 Census, 5,139 people in **Darwin's** employed population were unskilled and semi-skilled workers, some 15.1 per cent of the employed population. There was little change in the period to 1991, but by 1996 the number had increased to 5,389 people and the proportion had decreased to 13.2 per cent.

Map 3.9a shows that the highest proportions of unskilled and semi-skilled workers were generally found in the southern section of **Darwin**. The highest rates were in East Arm (30.2 per cent and 19 people), Winnellie (26.8 per cent) and Moulden (20.5 per cent). Still in the south, the SLAs of Palmerston-Balance (18.3 per cent), Gray (17.4 per cent) and Woodroffe (16.6 per cent) also had relatively high proportions. The highest proportions of unskilled and semi-skilled workers in the northern suburbs were in Wagaman (18.6 per cent), Malak (16.6 per cent) and Karama (16.5 per cent).

Many of the lowest proportions of unskilled and semi-skilled workers were in the older, established inner city suburbs. The Gardens had the lowest proportion of all SLAs, with 6.2 per cent, while Fannie Bay had 8.5 per cent, City-Inner had 9.6 per cent and Larrakeyah had 10.1 per cent. There was also a group of northern SLAs with relatively low proportions of unskilled workers including Brinkin (9.5 per cent) and Nakara (10.9 per cent), both of which are situated near the university.

SLAs with the largest numbers of unskilled and semi-skilled workers were Karama (370 people), Leanyer (292 people), Moulden (264 people) and Malak (258 people).

There was a correlation of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variable for early school leavers (0.84) and of meaningful significance with the variable for Indigenous people (0.69). The inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.74) indicates an association at the SLA level between high proportions of semi-skilled and unskilled workers and socioeconomic disadvantage. The inverse correlation of substantial significance with the variable for managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.72) illustrates the extent to which these two sub populations live in different areas of the city.

Postcode-based areas

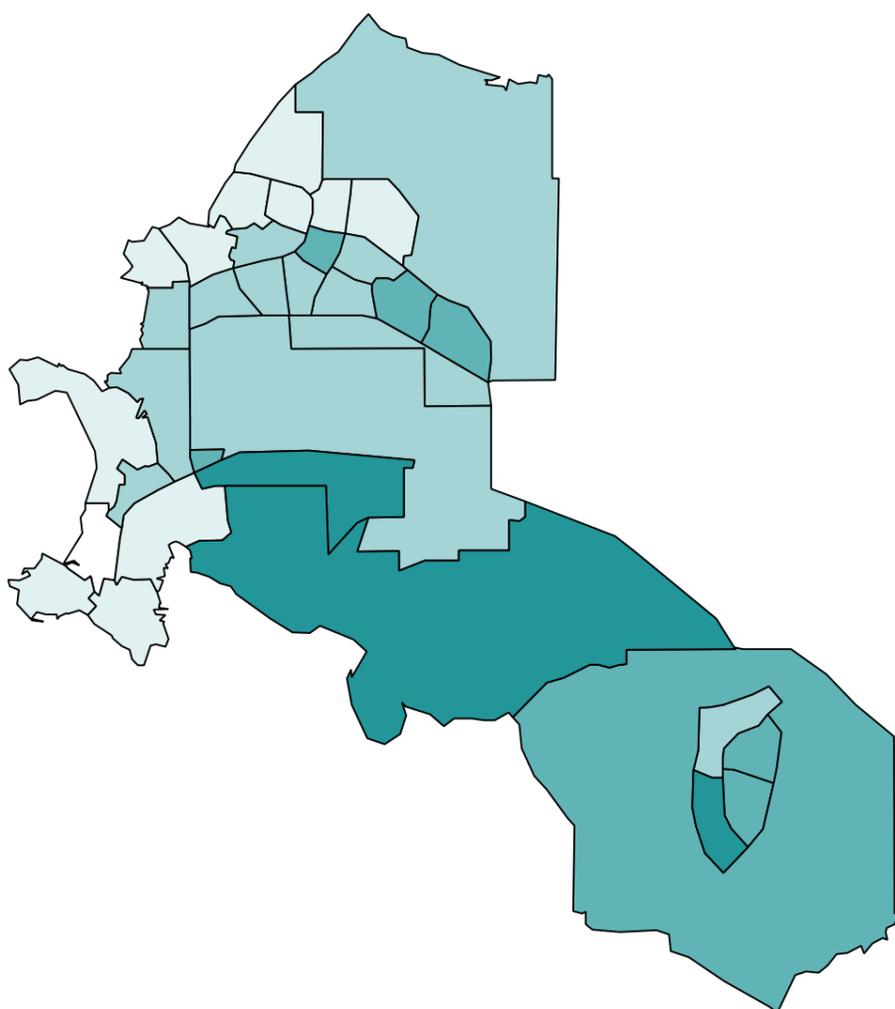
The Palmerston suburbs had the highest proportion of unskilled and semi-skilled workers (17.8 per cent) (**Map 3.9b**). Darwin: North East (14.2 per cent) also had a higher proportion than **Darwin's** average of 13.7 per cent. Darwin: South West (11.4 per cent) and Darwin: North West (13.3 per cent) had the lowest proportions of these workers.

²Because these categories do not appropriately reflect the occupational status of country residents, this variable has not been mapped for areas outside of the major urban centres.

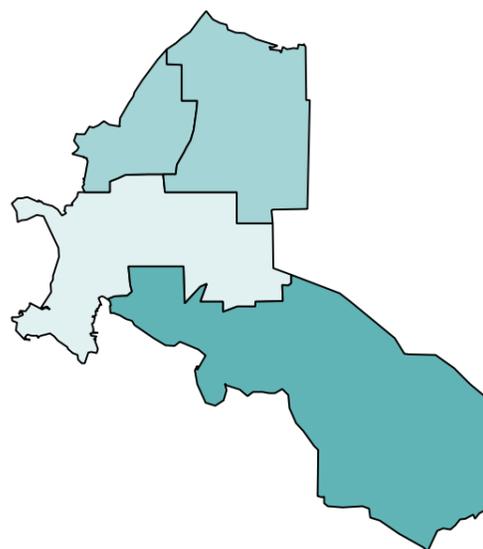
Map 3.9
Unskilled and semi-skilled workers*, Darwin, 1996
 as a percentage of the total population in each area



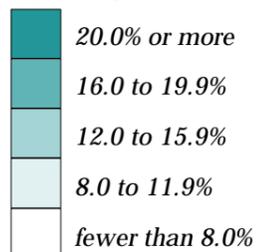
Map 3.9a: SLA Map



Map 3.9b: Postcode Map#



Per cent unskilled and semi-skilled workers*



*Consists of ABS population groups 'intermediate production and transport workers' and 'labourers and related workers'

#SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Unemployed people, 1996

Capital city comparison

At the 1996 Census, 771,972 Australians reported being unemployed and looking for work, of whom 463,429 resided in Australia's capital cities. More than a quarter of the *All capitals* unemployed lived in **Sydney** (134,857 people). The unemployment rate in the other capital cities ranged from 7.5 per cent in **Canberra** (13,062 people, and a considerably higher rate than in 1986 when it was 4.8 per cent) to 10.6 per cent in **Adelaide** (51,662 people) (**Table 3.15**). The *All capitals* unemployment figure varied greatly over the ten years to 1996, rising considerably from 8.2 per cent in 1986, to 11.2 per cent in 1991, before declining to the 1996 rate of 8.5 per cent.

It is important to note that these figures can understate the true extent of unemployment because they do not report hidden unemployment and under-employment. Hidden unemployment results from people not recording themselves at the Census as unemployed, as they felt they did not fit the 'looking for work' requirement, often having been discouraged from doing so by the difficulty of obtaining employment. Under-employment refers to those who have jobs but are working fewer hours than they would prefer. Women predominate in both of these categories, as do those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

These figures are based on self-report information in the Census. As it is unclear how Indigenous people would record their involvement in CDEP schemes it may be more appropriate to use the information for unemployment beneficiaries, page 96, which includes details of those schemes.

Table 3.15: Unemployed people, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	7.4	9.1	8.8	10.6	8.3	9.7	7.7	7.5	8.5
1986	8.6	6.6	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.7	4.8	8.2

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

The unemployment rate in **Darwin** varied considerably between 1986 and 1996. In 1986, 9.7 per cent of the labour force (3,633 people) were unemployed. By 1991, these figures had increased to 12.6 per cent and 5,235 people respectively, before dropping considerably to 7.7 per cent and 3,415 people in 1996.

Table 3.17 (overleaf) illustrates the variations in unemployment rates between both the sexes and age groups within **Darwin**. Male unemployment rates were higher than those of females in all age groups. The overall rate of unemployment of females in **Darwin** in 1996 was 7.0 per cent, while 8.2 per cent of males were unemployed. The highest level of unemployment was in the 15 to 19 year age group, with males (17.3 per cent) and females (17.1 per cent) having similar percentages. The 20 to 24 year age group also had relatively high unemployment rates, although with a greater differential between male (13.0 per cent) and female levels (9.6 per cent). Generally, the proportions of unemployed people decrease as age increases. The exception to this pattern is the 55 to 64 year age group for males.

Map 3.10a shows that there were pockets of high unemployment (above 10 per cent) scattered throughout **Darwin**. The northern, outer SLA of Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp had the highest proportion (20.0 per cent, 51 people). This was followed by the industrial suburb of Winnellie (16.2 per cent) and The Narrows (15.5 per cent), although overall numbers were low here too. While the numbers were greater, proportions of unemployed people were slightly lower in Coconut Grove (11.1 per cent), Wagaman (10.5 per cent) and Millner (10.4 per cent) in the north of **Darwin** and in Moulden (10.6 per cent) and Gray (10.5 per cent) in the southern, Palmerston area. The Palmerston suburbs had the largest growth in the number of unemployed people since 1986, although the unemployment rate had decreased.

The levels of youth unemployment (ie. the 15 to 19 year age group) were generally higher than those of the general population. However, the highest proportions in Palmerston-Balance (39.1 per cent), Ludmilla (31.1 per cent), Winnellie (28.6 per cent) and Rapid Creek (25.6 per cent) represented very low numbers. The largest number of unemployed youth in any SLA in **Darwin** was in Rapid Creek with 34 unemployed 15 to 19 year olds.

The lowest proportions of unemployed people in **Darwin** were in Brinkin (4.1 per cent), Leanyer (4.7 per cent), City-Remainder (5.2 per cent) and Nakara and Palmerston-Balance (both 5.3 per cent). East Arm had none of its labour force of 71 people reporting themselves as unemployed in 1996.

There were correlations of meaningful significance at the SLA level with the variables for low income families (0.65), single parent families (0.50) and people aged 65 years and over (0.53). In contrast, there was an inverse correlation of substantial significance with the variable for high income families (-0.72). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.49), indicate an association at the SLA level between high rates of unemployment and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Postcode-based areas

The highest level of unemployment was (8.6 per cent) in Palmerston, and the lowest was (7.0 per cent) in Darwin: North East (**Map 3.10b**). Darwin: North West and Darwin: South West had rates of 7.8 per cent and 7.9 per cent, respectively.

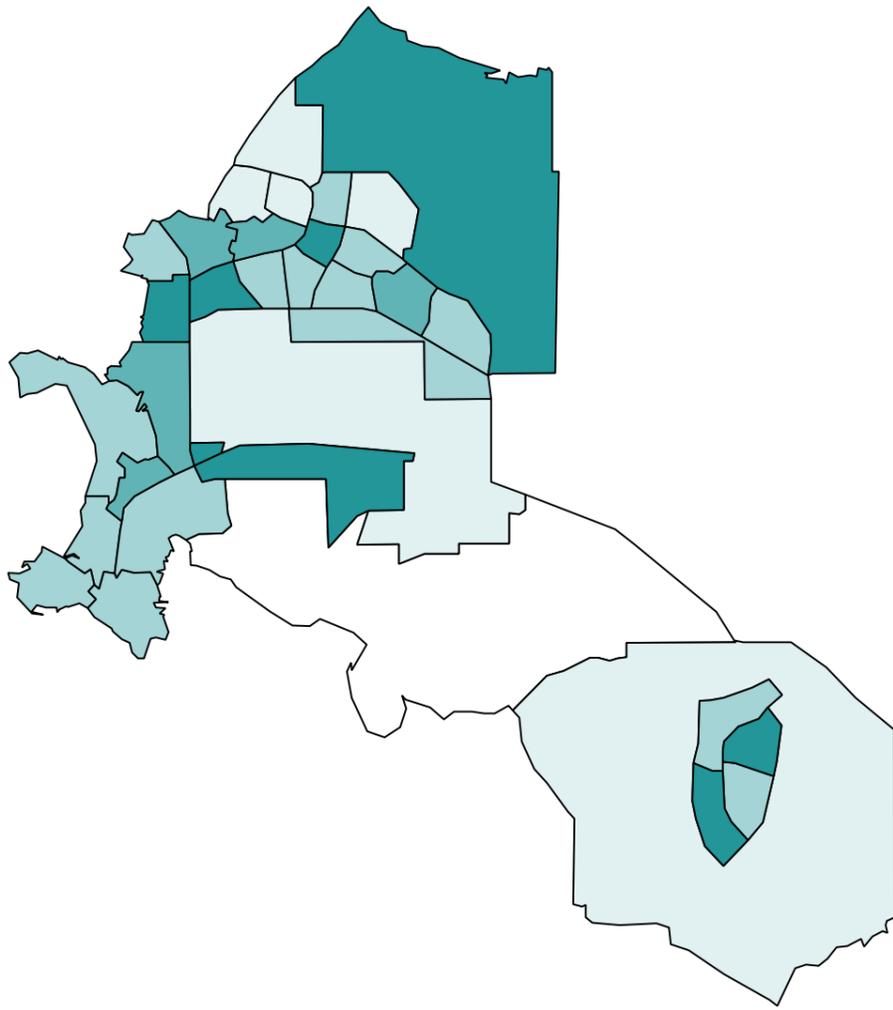
Map 3.10

Unemployed people, Darwin, 1996

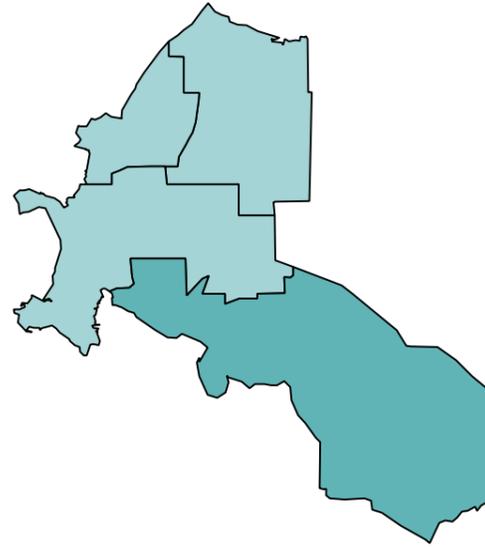
as a percentage of the total population in each area



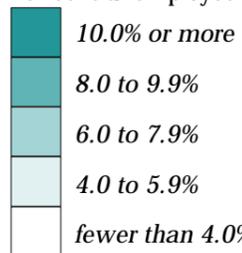
Map 3.10a: SLA Map



Map 3.10b: Postcode Map*



Per cent unemployed people



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Unemployed people, 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, unemployment rates in the *Other major urban centres* category in **Table 3.16** were considerably higher than those recorded for the capital cities and, in New South Wales, higher than the average for the *Rest of State /Territory* areas. Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania also had higher levels of unemployment in the *Rest of State /Territory* areas than in the capital cities, in contrast to the situation in South Australia and Western Australia. Although the unemployment rate in the *Rest of State /Territory* areas was lower in 1996 (10.1 per cent) than in 1986 (10.8 per cent), the relativities between the States and Territories varied, with the largest declines occurring in the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales, and the largest increase in Victoria.

These figures are based on self-report information in the Census. As it is unclear how Indigenous people would record their involvement in CDEP schemes it may be more appropriate to use the information for unemployment beneficiaries, page 98, which includes details of those schemes.

Table 3.16: Unemployed people, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	7.4	9.1	8.8	10.6	8.3	9.7	7.7	7.5 ²	8.5
Other major urban centres ³	11.6	12.0	11.9	..	..	..	..	..	11.7
Rest of State/Territory	11.2	10.1	10.0	9.8	7.5	11.9	7.0	— ⁴	10.1
Whole of State/Territory	8.8	9.4	9.6	10.4	8.1	11.0	7.4	7.3	9.2
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	12.6	8.0	12.2	9.6	9.2	10.6	12.0	— ⁴	10.8

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

At the 1986 Census, there were 4,171 unemployed people (12.0 per cent of the labour force) in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory. The number increased slightly to 4,320 people in 1991 but the proportion dropped to 10.2 per cent. By 1996, both the number and proportion had fallen to 3,197 people and 7.0 per cent, respectively.

Table 3.17 shows that, outside of **Darwin**, males (7.3 per cent) had slightly higher unemployment rates than females (6.9 per cent). This pattern was reversed in the 15 to 19 year age group where females had the higher proportion of 17.5 per cent compared to males with 15.2 per cent. As with the young unemployed in **Darwin**, the 15 to 19 year age group had the highest unemployment levels. Generally, the non-metropolitan areas had marginally lower levels of unemployed people than **Darwin**. However, there were slightly higher proportions of unemployed females in the 15 to 19 and the 20 to 24 year age groups in the rural areas.

Map 3.11 shows there was some variation in the proportions of unemployed people across the Northern Territory. There was a cluster of high unemployment SLAs in the north, with the highest proportions in Cox-Finiss (17.8 per cent), Bathurst-Melville (15.0 per cent) and Daly (14.4 per cent). In the south, Tanami also had a high proportion of unemployed people, with 14.1 per cent. The lowest proportions were in Jabiru (1.3 per cent), Petermann (2.0 per cent) and Groote Eylandt (2.2 per cent).

The general pattern of youth unemployment across these rural areas was similar to the distribution of the unemployed of all ages, but the rate was considerably higher, at 15.8 per cent. Tanami had 38.8 per cent and Bathurst-Melville had 35.5 per cent of their 15 to 19 year olds recorded as being unemployed.

There was no consistent evidence in the correlation analysis of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of people in this population group and socioeconomic status.

Table 3.17: Unemployment rates by age and sex, Northern Territory, 1996

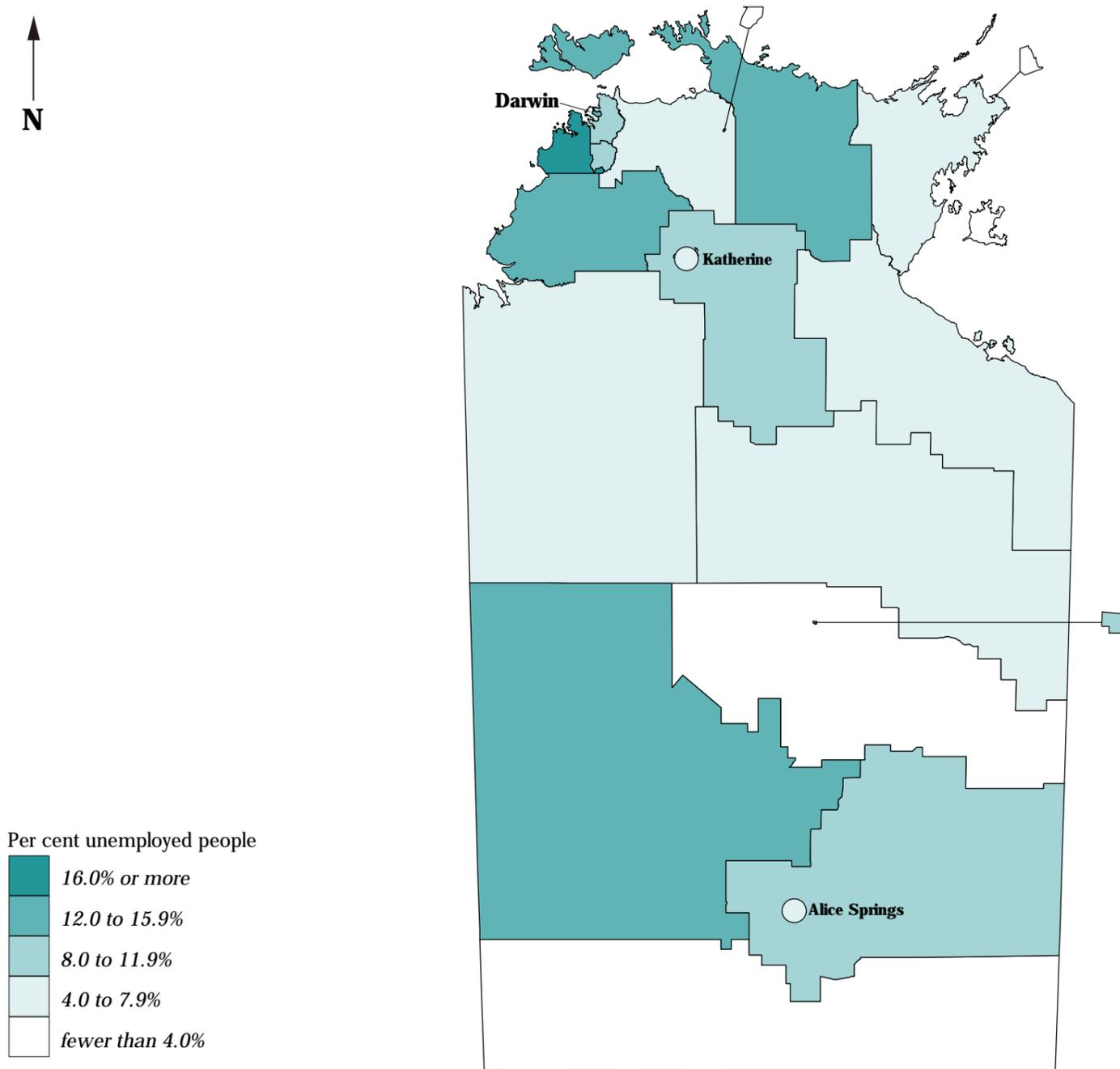
Age group (years)	Per cent male labour force unemployed		Per cent female labour force unemployed	
	Darwin	Rest of Territory	Darwin	Rest of Territory
15 to 19	17.3	15.2	17.1	17.5
20 to 24	13.0	11.3	9.6	10.8
25 to 34	7.5	7.3	6.8	6.7
35 to 44	6.5	5.8	5.2	4.6
45 to 54	6.0	4.5	4.5	4.3
55 to 64	7.8	5.9	3.9	3.5
65 & over	5.4	4.3	3.2	3.0
Total	8.2	7.3	7.0	6.9

Source: ABS Census 1996 Basic Community Profile Table B25

Map 3.11

Unemployed people, Northern Territory, 1996

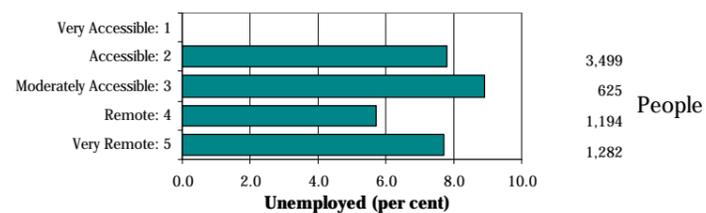
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The distribution of unemployment by ARIA category is unusual, in that the highest rates are in the two 'accessible' ARIA categories, with rates of 8.9 per cent of the labour force being unemployed in the Moderately Accessible areas and 7.8 per cent in the Accessible areas. The Very Remote areas had the next highest proportion (7.7 per cent) with the lowest rate in the Remote areas (5.7 per cent). As it is unclear how Indigenous people would record their involvement in CDEP schemes (see associated text opposite) it may be more appropriate to use the information for unemployment beneficiaries, page 98, which includes that program.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Female labour force participation, 1996

Capital city comparison

The marked increase in women's participation in paid work has been one of the most significant trends in Australian society in recent years. Women are both remaining in the work force longer (partly by delaying childbirth), and re-entering the workforce after childbirth, because of changes in social perceptions of the role of women and increased economic pressures on families. Female labour force participation is calculated here as the number of females in the labour force (employed plus unemployed and looking for work) as a proportion of all females in the population aged 20 to 54 years. The denominator is limited to the 20 to 54 year age group, as the participation rate for women under the age of 20 years is affected by differences in educational participation rates and for women aged 55 years and over by retirement rates, which are particularly high from age 55 years.

As **Table 3.18** shows, most cities had participation rates close to the average. The highest rates were in **Canberra** (almost seven percentage points higher than the average) and **Darwin**. The participation of women in the labour force in all capital cities increased between 1986 and 1996, with the largest increase occurring in **Brisbane**.

Table 3.18: Female labour force participation, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	69.3	69.8	69.4	69.1	68.3	68.9	70.7	76.3	69.5
1986	64.5	64.8	61.0	64.3	62.2	62.6	68.5	72.4	64.1

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

In 1986, **Darwin** already had a comparatively high participation rate of women in the labour force with 68.5 per cent (13,506 women), the second highest in Australia (**Table 3.18**). By 1991, the proportion had increased to 72.3 per cent, before falling to 70.7 per cent in 1996. This latter figure represented 17,313 women, a growth of over 28.2 per cent on the number in 1986.

High rates of female labour force participation were recorded in three areas of **Darwin** (**Map 3.12a**). The highest rate, of 79.4 per cent, was shared by Palmerston-Balance (but corresponding to a total of just 112 females) and Leanyer (in the north of **Darwin**, with the largest number of 1,215 females in the labour force).

High proportions of female labour force participation were also recorded in Stuart Park (79.0 per cent) and The Narrows (78.7 per cent). Stuart Park was well represented by high income earners, people with university qualifications and people in high status occupations. The Narrows, on the other hand, had high levels of unemployed people, low income families and semi or unskilled workers. In the north of **Darwin**, other high female labour participation rates appeared in a cluster of seven SLAs including Leanyer (described above). These were Brinkin (78.6 per cent), Alawa (77.7 per cent), Nightcliff (77.6 per cent), Rapid Creek (75.9 per cent), Wanguri (75.8 per cent) and Jingili (75.0 per cent).

The lowest proportions of women in the labour force were in City-Inner (44.2 per cent), Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp (47.5 per cent) and Winnellie (53.9 per cent). With the exception of Palmerston-Balance (79.4 per cent) and Woodroffe (71.0 per cent), the SLAs of Moulden, Gray and Driver in Palmerston had relatively low participation rates. Moulden and Gray, in particular, also had high proportions of low income families, single parent families and public rental housing.

The largest numbers of women participating in the labour force were 1,215 in Leanyer, 1,035 in Karama, 820 in Nightcliff and 745 in Rapid Creek.

The only correlation of meaningful significance was with the variable for high income families (0.55). Weak inverse correlations were recorded with the variables for unemployed people (-0.47), early school leavers (-0.39) and unskilled and semi-skilled workers (-0.31). These results, together with the weak correlation with the IRSD (0.47), suggest the existence of an association between high female labour force participation and high socioeconomic status.

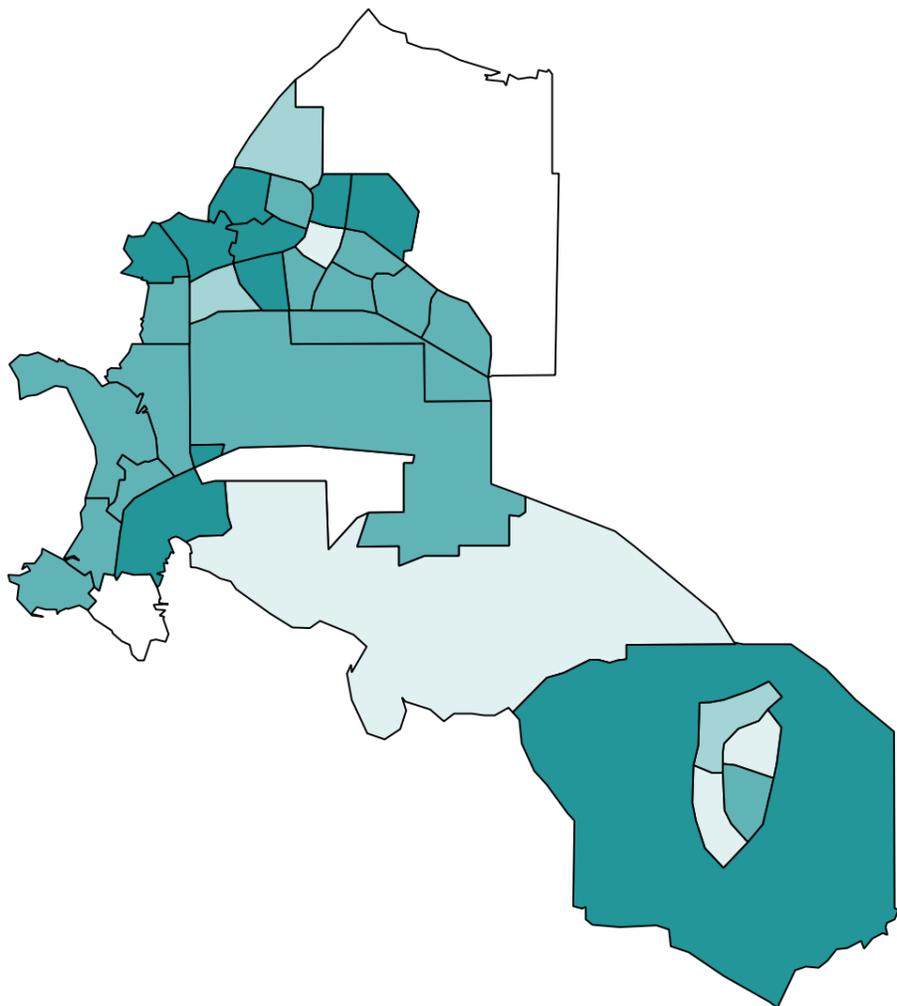
Postcode-based areas

The highest rates of female labour force participation were in Darwin: North West (73.4 per cent) and Darwin: North East (73.1 per cent) (**Map 3.12b**). Darwin: South West (67.2 per cent) and Palmerston (66.4 per cent) both recorded proportions below the **Darwin** average of 70.7 per cent.

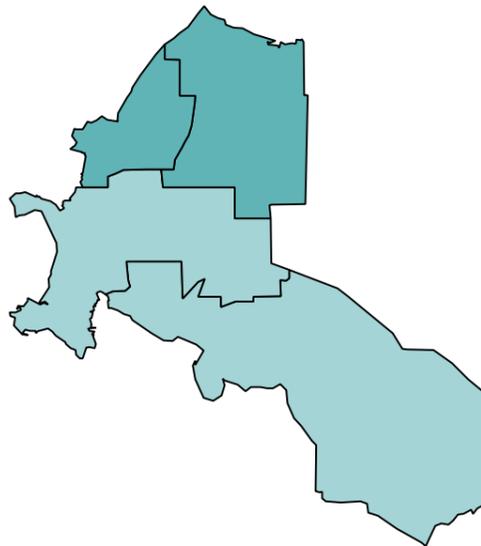
Map 3.12
Female labour force participation* , Darwin, 1996
 as a percentage of the total population in each area



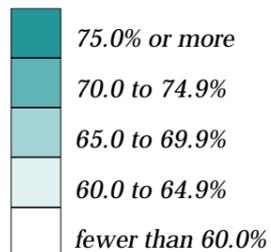
Map 3.12a: SLA Map



Map 3.12b: Postcode Map#



Per cent female labour force participation*



*Labour force participation of females aged 20 to 54 years

#SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Female labour force participation, 1996

State/Territory comparison

Female labour force participation is calculated here as the number of females in the labour force (employed plus unemployed and looking for work) as a proportion of all females in the population aged from 20 to 54 years.

The female labour force participation rate for Australia was 68.0 per cent in 1996, with most States and Territories having near average participation rates, ranging from 64.1 per cent in the Northern Territory, to 76.6 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory (**Table 3.19**). Within all of the States and Territories, female labour force participation rates were lower in the non-metropolitan areas than in the capital cities. This differential was particularly evident in the Northern Territory. The participation of women in the labour force increased substantially between 1986 and 1996, with the Australian participation rate increasing from 61.8 per cent in 1986 to 68.0 per cent in 1996. This increase was evident in every State and Territory.

Table 3.19: Female labour force participation, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	69.3	69.8	69.4	69.1	68.3	68.9	70.7	76.3 ²	69.5
Other major urban centres ³	64.7	66.8	67.9	..	..	..	..	..	66.1
Rest of State/Territory	65.4	66.5	63.8	66.2	64.6	62.2	58.3	- ⁴	64.8
Whole of State/Territory	67.8	69.0	67.0	68.4	67.3	65.1	64.1	76.6	68.0
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	58.0	60.1	55.3	60.7	56.8	55.4	56.6	- ⁴	57.7

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

At the 1986 Census, over half (56.6 per cent) of females aged 20 to 54 years (11,027 females) in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory were in the labour force. The proportion increased to 60.4 per cent in 1991 but dropped to 58.3 per cent in 1996, a total of 16,512 women in the labour force. Despite this growth of almost 50 per cent in the numbers over ten years, female labour participation rates in non-metropolitan Northern Territory still lagged behind the other States, a contrast to the situation in **Darwin**.

Map 3.13 shows that female labour participation was generally low across the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory. There was a distinction between rural and urban areas, with the highest participation rates in the towns mapped and in the areas surrounding **Darwin**. Nhulunbuy had the highest participation rate of females in the work force, with 75.7 per cent. The town of Alice Springs had a participation rate of 70.4 per cent, with above average rates in Alice Springs-Ross and Alice Springs-Larapinta (both 75.4 per cent) and Alice Springs-Charles (70.0 per cent). Alice Springs-Stuart had a relatively low proportion of 51.0 per cent and was the only urban area outside **Darwin** with a participation rate less than the non-metropolitan average of 58.3 per cent. The town of Katherine also recorded a relatively high participation rate of 67.0 per cent.

The lowest rates of female participation in the labour force were in Tanami (33.9 per cent), South Alligator (35.7 per cent), Groote Eylandt (38.3 per cent) and East Arnhem-Balance (39.0 per cent).

Most of the remaining rural SLAs had participation rates of between 40 and 50 per cent. Other variables which had a similar differentiation between rural and urban areas included single parent families and the distribution of the Indigenous population.

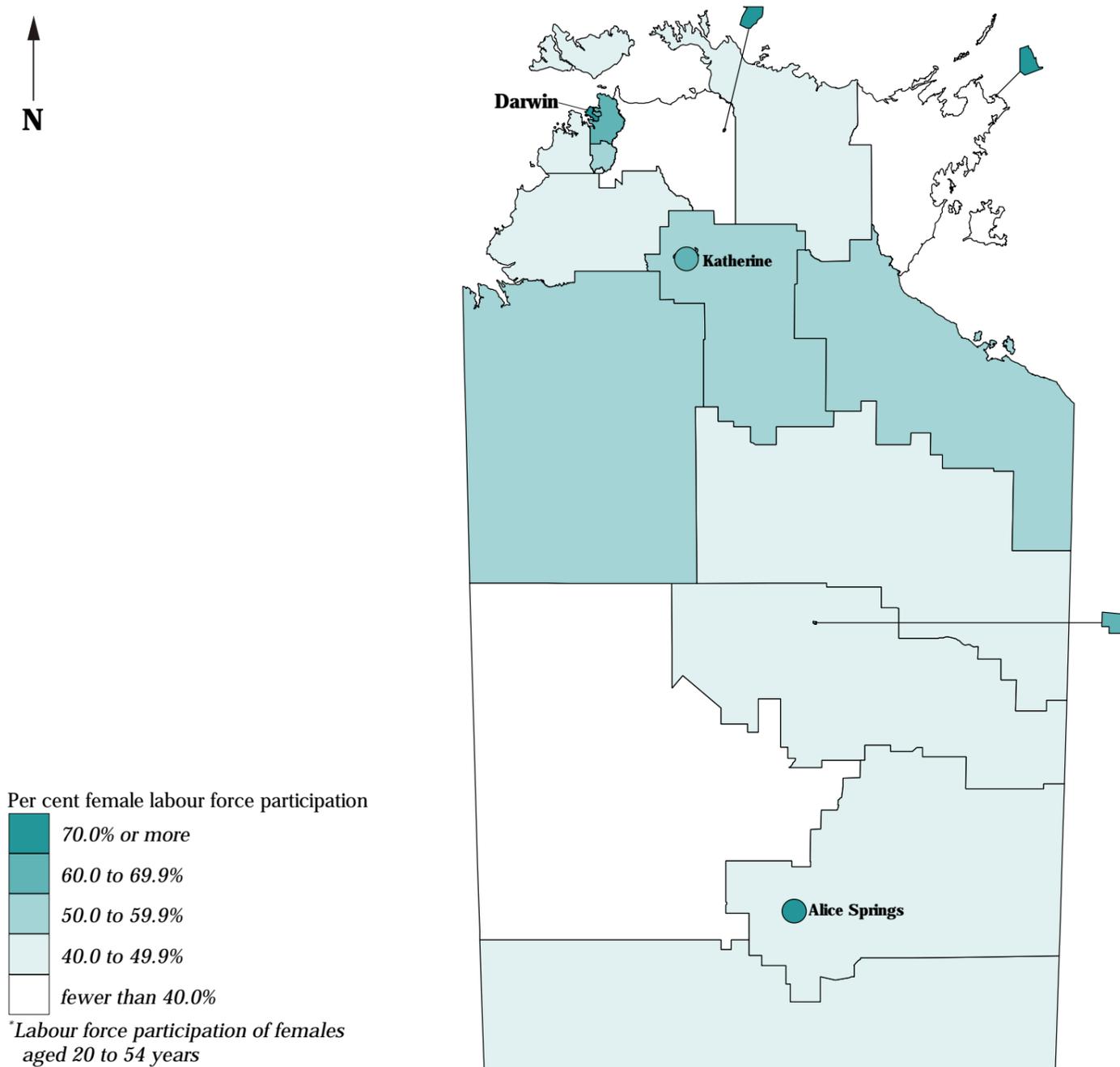
The largest number of women participating in the labour force was in Alice Springs (5,447), with 1,827 women in Alice Springs-Larapinta and 1,606 women in Alice Springs-Ross. The next highest numbers were in Litchfield [Part B] (2,325 women in an SLA with a number of developing 'urban nodes' within commuting distance of **Darwin**) and Katherine (1,853 women),

There was a correlation of substantial significance with the variable for high income families (0.73), and an inverse correlation of substantial significance with low income families (-0.80). Inverse correlations of meaningful significance were recorded with the variables for the Indigenous population (-0.67), single parent families (-0.59) and private dwellings without a motor vehicle (-0.62). These results, together with the correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (0.69), indicate the existence of an association between high female labour force participation and high socioeconomic status.

Map 3.13

Female labour force participation*, Northern Territory, 1996

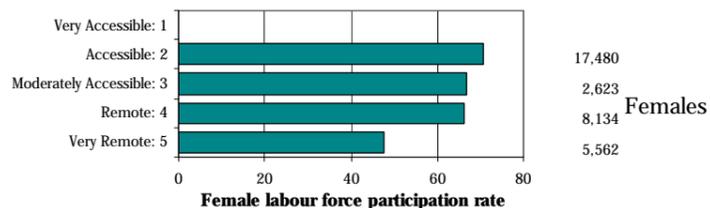
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



There are high and relatively similar levels of female labour force participation across the first three ARIA categories, with the highest (70.6 per cent) in the Accessible areas and slightly lower rates in the Moderately Accessible (66.7 per cent) and Remote (66.3 per cent) areas. Participation rates were lowest in the Very Remote (47.3 per cent) areas, where the influence of the Indigenous population is no doubt a factor. The Remote areas have the second largest number of women in the labour force, largely reflecting the populations in the towns outside of Darwin.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, 1996

Capital city comparison (Australia as the Standard)

The age at which people cease their formal education does not determine absolutely how they will fare in life, but it does have a strong influence, not only on the ability to gain secure and rewarding employment but also on general life style. Differences in educational participation are examined in this analysis by comparing variations in the extent to which the population left school at age 15 or less, or did not go to school (jointly referred to as early school leavers). This variable has been age-sex standardised to remove differences in participation rates occurring between areas solely because of differences in the age and sex of the population in the areas being studied. A description of this process is on page 20. Among the capital cities, the highest standardised ratio (SR) of early school leavers was recorded in **Perth**, with 12 per cent more early school leavers than expected (an SR of 112**), and the lowest was recorded in **Canberra**, where the ratio of 68** indicated that there were 32 per cent fewer early school leavers than were expected from the Australian rates.

There was relatively little difference in the early school leaver ratios for 1986 and 1996 (**Table 3.20**), with some cities (**Sydney**, **Melbourne** and **Brisbane**) showing a small improvement (relative to the Australian rates) and others (eg. **Hobart** and **Darwin**) showing a relative decline as their rates moved closer to the Australian rates. The ratio for **Hobart** moved from below (in 1986) to above (1996) the *All capitals* ratio.

Table 3.20: People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, capital cities
Age-sex standardised ratios

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	89**	82**	110**	98**	112**	98**	92**	68**	92**
1986	92**	85**	112**	98**	112**	92**	88**	69**	94**

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Statistical significance: * significance at 5 per cent level; ** significance at 1 per cent level

Darwin (NT as the Standard)

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

In 1996, there were 15 per cent fewer early school leavers than expected from the Northern Territory rates (an SR of 85**), a total of 17,768 people (9,351 males and 8,417 females).

East Arm had the highest age-sex standardised ratio, with 46 per cent more people than expected (from the Northern Territory rates) leaving school at age 15 or younger. This sparsely populated SLA was characterised by both the highest proportions of Indigenous people and unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Winnellie had the second highest early school leaver ratio, of 123**: it also had the second highest proportions of both the unemployed and unskilled and semi-skilled workers in **Darwin**. Moulden (with an SR of 112**), Woodroffe (112**), Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp (109) and Gray (104) were the only other SLAs to have more early school leavers than expected. The majority of **Darwin's** SLAs fell into the range with ratios within 15 per cent of the level expected.

Lower ratios of early school leavers were generally found in the western suburbs of **Darwin**, where the ratios were over 30 per cent lower than expected (**Map 3.14a**). These were the suburbs of City-Inner (an SR of 63**), Larrakeyah (64**), and The Gardens (65**), as well as the university SLA of Brinkin (67**). Other SLAs with low ratios tended to adjoin these areas.

There was a correlation of substantial significance with the variable for unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.84) and of meaningful significance with the variable for Indigenous people (0.63). An inverse correlation of meaningful significance was recorded with the variable for managers and administrators, and professionals (-0.64).

These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.73), indicate an association at the SLA level between the distribution of high rates of early school leavers and socioeconomic disadvantage.

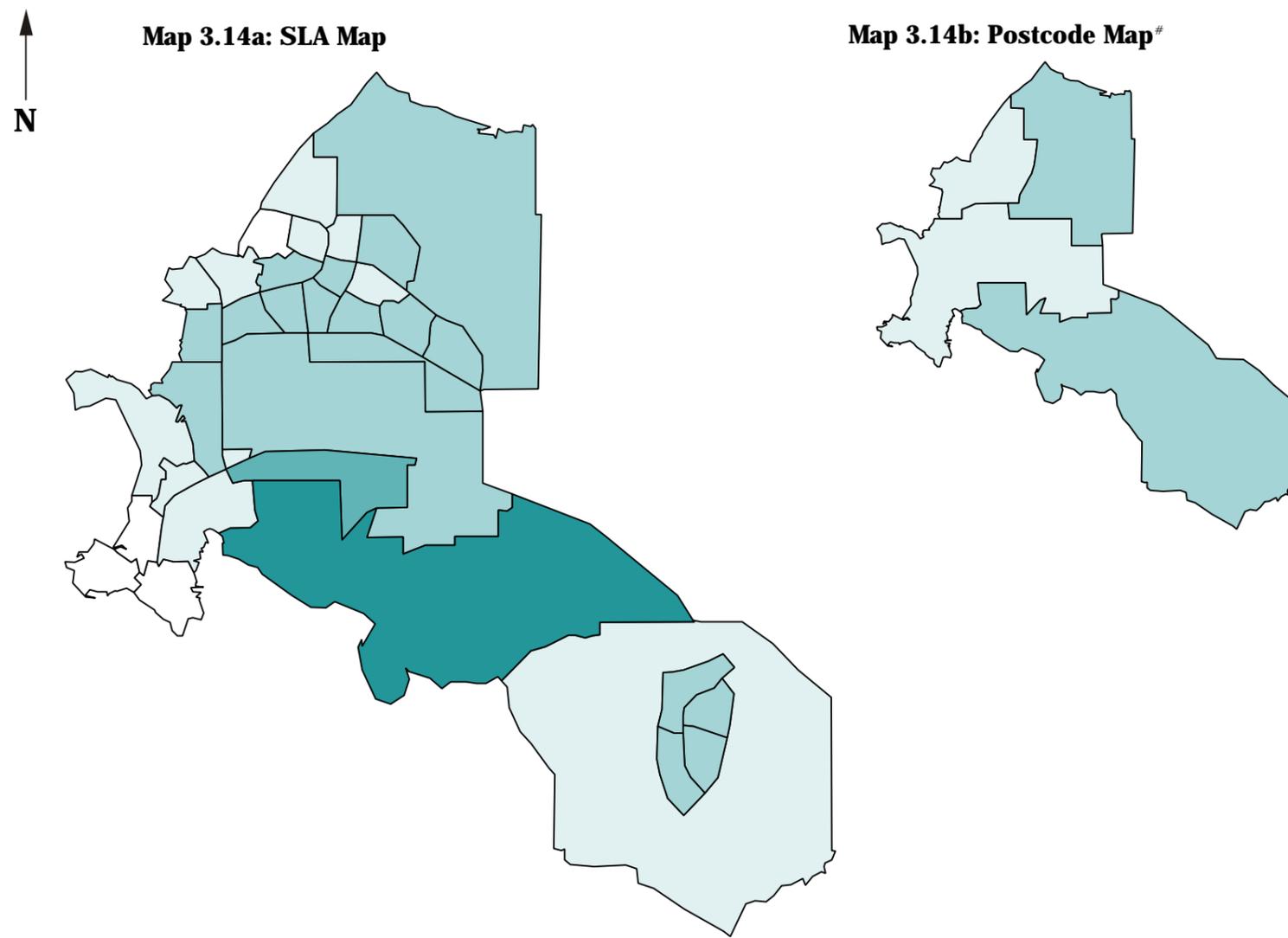
Postcode-based areas

Palmerston was the only area that had an elevated ratio (an SR of 106**), with fewer early school leavers than expected from the Northern Territory rates in the other postcode areas (**Map 3.14b**). The lowest ratios were in Darwin: South West (an SR of 75**), Darwin: North East (89**) and Darwin: North West (83**).

Map 3.14

People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, Darwin, 1996

Standardised ratio: number of people in each area compared with the number expected*



*Expected numbers were derived by indirect age-sex standardisation, based on NT totals

#SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, 1996

State/Territory comparison (Australia as the Standard)

A description of the process of age-sex standardisation, used in producing the standardised ratios (SRs) mapped, is provided on page 20. The overall number of early school leavers (people had left school aged 15 years or less, or did not go to school), was 13 per cent higher than expected in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia, compared with eight per cent lower in the capital cities. This relationship was evident in all of the Australian States, with the biggest difference between capital city and non-metropolitan ratios occurring in the Northern Territory. Western Australia (with an SR of 133**) and Queensland (127**) had the highest *Rest of State/Territory* ratios.

There were notably larger differentials (from the Australian rates) in the ratios recorded for the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory, Tasmania and Western Australia in 1996, when compared with the ratios for 1986 (Table 3.21). The higher ratios suggest a decline in educational participation, relative to the Australian experience, over this ten year period.

Table 3.21: People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, State/Territory
Age-sex standardised ratios

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	89**	82**	110**	98**	112**	98**	92**	68 ² **	92**
Other major urban centres	114**	95**	106**	..	..	..	..	..	109**
Rest of State/Territory	106**	97**	127**	114**	133**	120**	121**	- ⁴	113**
Whole of State/Territory	96**	86**	116**	102**	118**	111**	108**	64**	100**
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	104**	98**	125**	112**	123**	111**	104**	- ⁴	110**

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Statistical significance: * significance at 5 per cent level; ** significance at 1 per cent level

Rest of Territory (NT as the Standard)

The most striking feature of the non-metropolitan ratio is that it is so much higher than in **Darwin** (ie. that participation in education is substantially lower). The overall number of people who left school aged 15 or younger was 21 per cent higher than expected from the Northern Territory rates, compared with 15 per cent fewer in **Darwin**.

The majority of SLAs had elevated ratios, and seven SLAs had ratios elevated by more than 30 per cent. Five of these SLAs formed a large area in the centre of the Territory (Map 5.15). Among these was Victoria, with the highest ratio, with 72 per cent more early school leavers than expected from the Northern Territory rates (an SR of 172**). In the north-east, West Arnhem (with an SR of 169**) and East Arnhem-Balance (152**) had ratios elevated by 69 and 52 per cent respectively. Bathurst-Melville, Gulf, Eusey-Balance and Tennant Creek had between 15 and 30 per cent more early school leavers than expected. Most of the SLAs discussed to this point had over 60 per cent of their populations comprised of Indigenous Australians. A further seven SLAs had ratios elevated by between 3 per cent and 14 per cent.

Ten SLAs had fewer school leavers than expected, although none were more than 20 per cent below the level expected from the Northern Territory rates. Outside of Alice Springs, the lowest ratio was in South Alligator, with 17 per cent fewer early school leavers than expected (an SR of 83**), just ahead of Groote Eylandt with 15 per cent fewer (an SR of 85**). The relatively low ratio in Groote Eylandt (where just over half (53.6 per cent) of the population is Indigenous) contrasts sharply with the higher ratios in other similarly remote areas with high proportions of

Indigenous people. As noted in the first edition of the atlas (Glover and Woollacott, 1992), these low ratios may in part reflect the presence over many years of church run schools located in Indigenous communities.

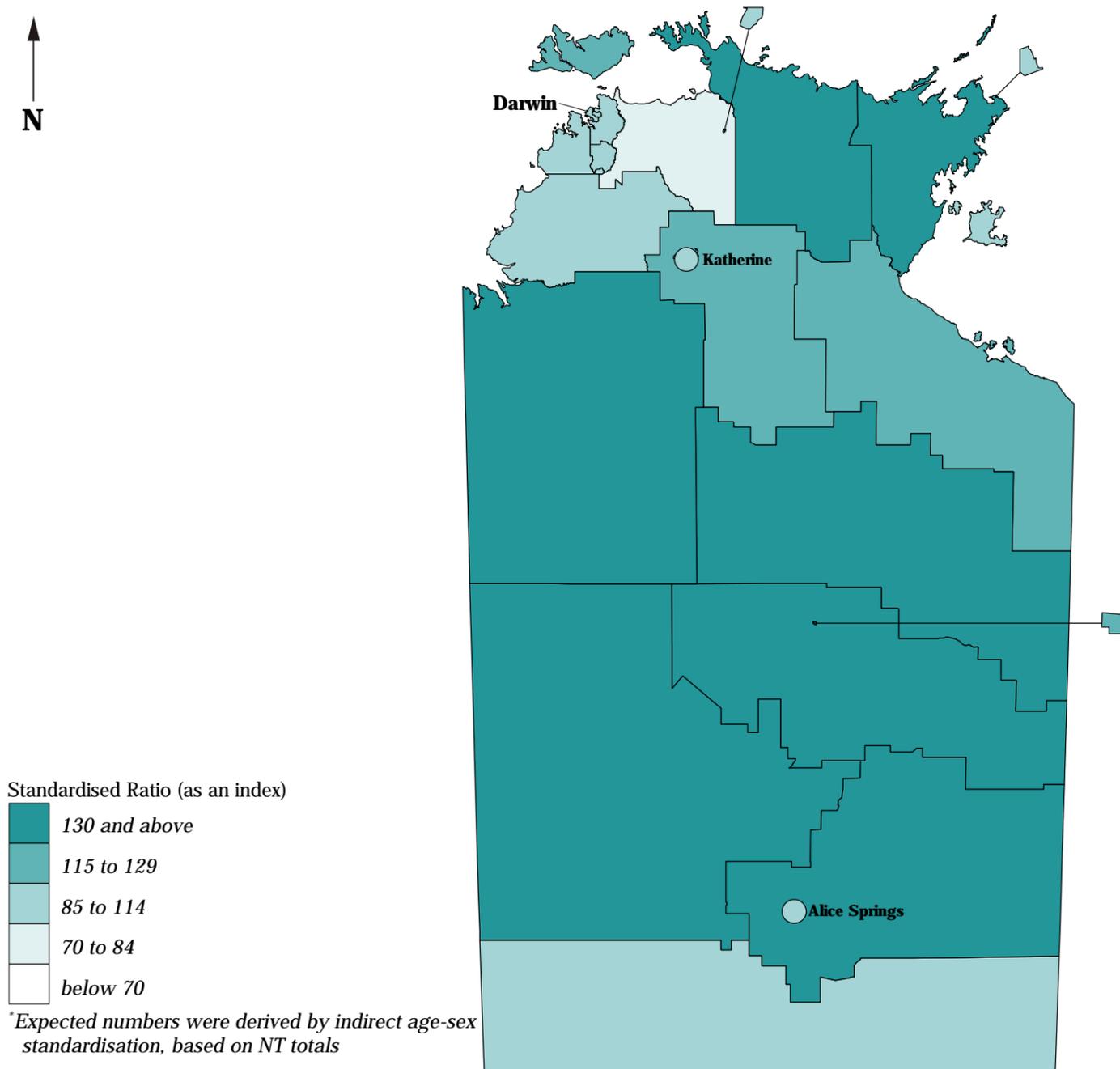
The town of Alice Springs had six per cent fewer early school leavers than expected from the Northern Territory rates, similar to the overall rate for **Darwin**. Within the town, the SLA of Alice Springs-Ross had 18 per cent fewer early school leavers than expected and Alice Springs-Stuart had 13 per cent fewer.

There were correlations of substantial significance with the variables for the Indigenous population (0.76) and low income families (0.71), and correlations of meaningful significance with the variables for single parent families (0.66) and dwellings with no motor vehicle (0.61). An inverse correlation of meaningful significance was recorded with high income earners (-0.70). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.80), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between low rates of educational participation and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 3.15

People who left school at age 15 years of less, or did not go to school, Northern Territory, 1996

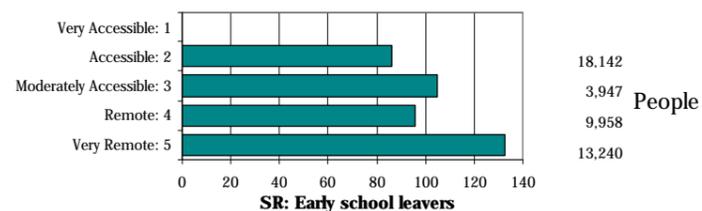
Standardised Ratio: number of people in each Statistical Local Area compared with the number expected*



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



People living in the areas classified within ARIA as Accessible had the highest rates of educational participation (the lowest rates of people who left school at age 15 or earlier, or did not go to school, an SR of 86, 14 per cent fewer earlier school leavers than were expected from the Northern Territory rates). The lowest rates of educational participation were in the areas in the Accessible category (an SR of 133, 33 per cent more early school leavers than expected), with near the expected levels of early school leavers in the Moderately Accessible (an SR of 105) and Remote (96) ARIA categories.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 1996

Capital city comparison

The percentages of people identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the 1996 Census were low, with the *All capitals* average was 1.0 per cent (**Table 3.22**). The exceptions were **Hobart** and **Darwin**, where Indigenous people comprised 2.5 per cent and 8.6 per cent of the population, respectively. The lowest percentage was recorded in **Melbourne** (0.3 per cent), with **Sydney** and **Adelaide** the next lowest, both with 0.9 per cent. However, some 36.6 per cent of Australia's Indigenous people (108,557 people) lived in the capital cities at the 1996 Census, with the largest numbers in **Sydney** (34,432 Indigenous people).

The proportion of Indigenous people living in Australia's capital cities increased in the ten years from 1986, rising from 0.6 per cent in 1986, to 0.7 per cent in 1991 and to 1.0 per cent in the 1996 Census. The number of Indigenous Australians rose by 47,945 in the same period. This substantial increase largely reflects changes over time in the preparedness of people to identify themselves as Indigenous on the Census form. The increase was greatest in New South Wales, and particularly marked in the non-metropolitan areas of the State, with a population of 56,474 in 1996 compared with 35,907 in 1986. Additional information about these increases is provided on pages 18 and 19 (see *Data quality of Indigenous population counts*).

Table 3.22: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	0.9	0.3	1.5	0.9	1.4	2.5	8.6	1.1	1.0
1986	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.6	1.0	1.2	7.6	0.6	0.6

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

Both the number and proportion of the Indigenous population have increased in **Darwin** in recent years. In 1986 there were 5,536 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in **Darwin** (7.6 per cent of the total city population). This number grew to 6,179 in 1991 (7.9 per cent) and to 7,370 (8.6 per cent) by 1996. See the note above about possible reasons for this large increase, of 33.2 per cent over the ten years to 1996.

Map 3.16a shows that there were particularly high concentrations of Indigenous people in two SLAs of **Darwin**. These were East Arm (48 per cent and 178 people) and Ludmilla which included the Bagot Aboriginal Community (20.6 per cent). The southern suburbs of Moulden (15.7 per cent) and Gray (14.3 per cent) had the next highest proportions. Other SLAs with relatively high proportions were The Narrows, Tiwi, Millner and Coconut Grove (including the Kulaluk Community). With the exception of Tiwi, these SLAs tended to rank highly for variables such as low income families, single parent families and dwellings rented from the Territory housing authority. Indigenous people comprised between 8.0 per cent and 12.0 per cent of the population in 11 SLAs, most of them in a cluster between Karama and Alawa.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprised low proportions of the population in the high income SLAs of Larrakeyah (2.7 per cent) and Stuart Park (3.0 per cent) as well as in Marrara (2.8 per cent), Brinkin and Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp (both with 3.1 per cent) and City-Inner (3.8 per cent).

The largest numbers of Indigenous Australians were found in Karama (583 people), Moulden (541 people), Gray (470 people), Malak (414 people) and Ludmilla (396 people).

The southern, developing areas of Woodroffe, Gray and Moulden have had large increases in numbers of Indigenous people since 1986, with other notable increases in the SLAs of Karama and Coconut Grove.

There were correlations of meaningful significance at the SLA level with the variables for unskilled and semi-skilled workers (0.69) and early school leavers (0.63). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.62), indicate an association at the SLA level between high proportions of Indigenous people and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Postcode-based areas

Indigenous people represent 12.6 per cent of the population in the Palmerston suburbs, compared with 6.4 per cent in Darwin: South West. However this overall low proportion included high proportions in the SLAs of East Arm (48.0 per cent) and Ludmilla (20.6 per cent). Darwin: North West and Darwin: North East had proportions of 8.6 per cent and 8.4 per cent respectively.

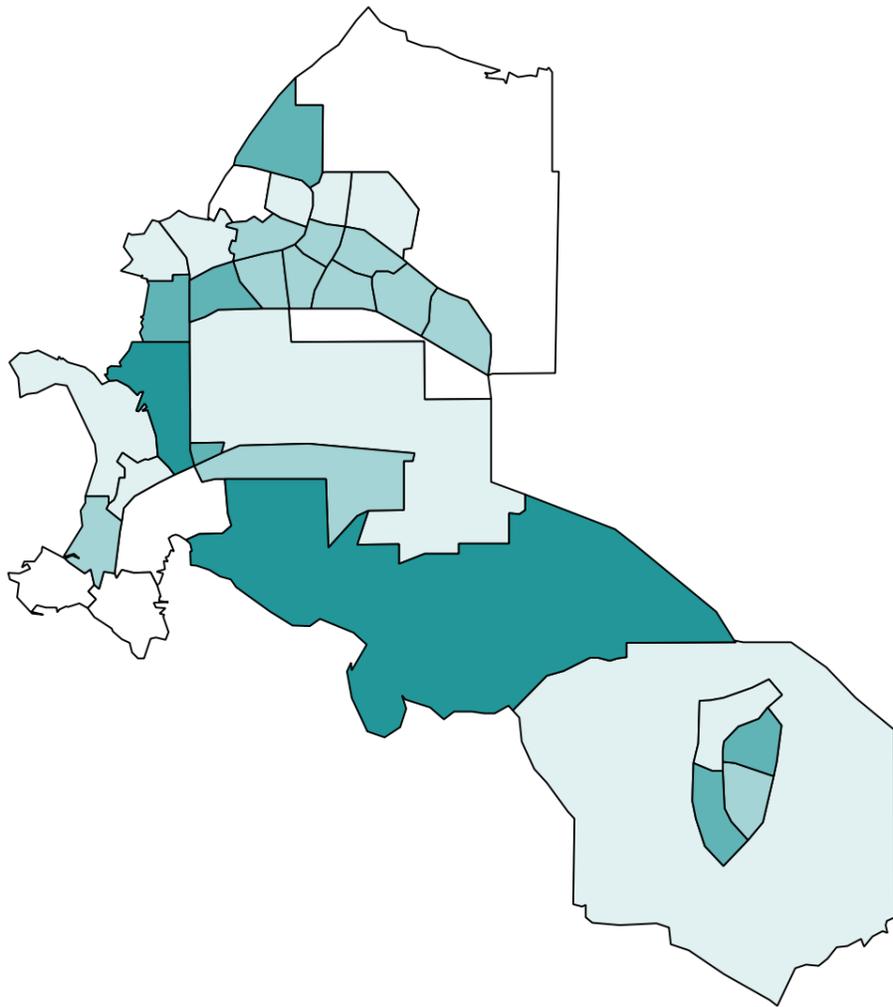
Map 3.16

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Darwin, 1996

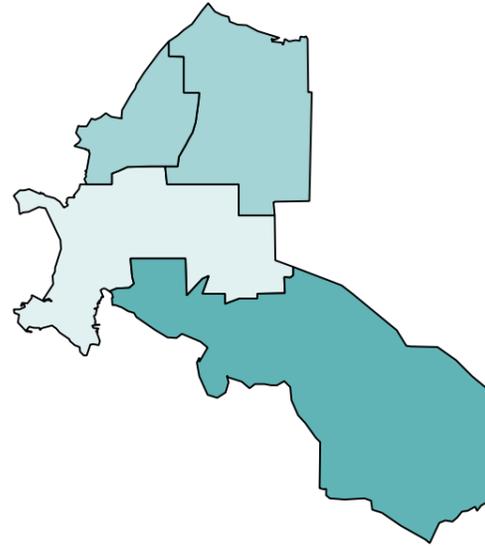
as a percentage of the total population in each area



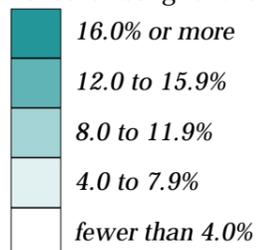
Map 3.16a: SLA Map



Map 3.16b: Postcode Map*



Per cent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 1996

State/Territory comparison

At the 1996 Census, some two thirds of those who identified themselves at the Census as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait (Indigenous) Islander people lived in inland and remote areas of Australia, away from major urban centres and other highly populated areas. There were wide variations between States and Territories, from a high of 23.7 per cent in the Northern Territory to a low of 0.5 per cent in Victoria; similar variations occurred in the non-metropolitan areas (**Table 3.23**). While Indigenous people accounted for just 3.5 per cent of the population in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales, compared with 35.6 per cent in the non-metropolitan areas of Northern Territory, the population was much larger (56,648 Indigenous people, compared to 38,893 people, respectively).

The number of Indigenous people recorded in New South Wales as a whole increased from 59,011 in 1986 to 101,652 in 1996. These changes represent an increase of 72.0 per cent, presumably because of changes over time in the preparedness of people to identify themselves on the Census form. Additional information about these increases is on pages 18 and 19.

Table 3.23: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	0.9	0.3	1.5	0.9	1.4	2.5	8.6	1.1 ²	1.0
Other major urban centres ³	1.5	0.5	1.9	..	..	..	..	..	1.5
Rest of State/Territory	3.5	0.9	4.6	2.9	7.0	3.4	35.6	— ⁴	4.2
Whole of State/Territory	1.7	0.5	2.8	1.4	2.9	3.0	23.7	1.0	2.0
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	2.6	0.6	3.7	2.3	6.7	1.8	35.7	— ⁴	3.3

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

Although there have been minor fluctuations in the proportions of Indigenous people in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory since 1986, there has been a steady growth in numbers. In 1986, there were 29,203 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (35.7 per cent of the total population), increasing to 33,731 (34.6 per cent) in 1991 and to 38,893 people (35.6 per cent) in 1996. The increase in numbers between 1986 and 1996 represented a growth of 33.2 per cent (see *Data quality of Indigenous population counts*, page 18, about possible reasons for this large increase).

It can be seen that Indigenous people made up a sizeable proportion of the population across most SLAs of the Northern Territory (**Map 3.17**). With the exception of Tennant Creek (with 39.3 per cent), all SLAs with very high proportions of Indigenous people were rural areas, as opposed to urban centres. There were very high proportions in the north-eastern, coastal SLAs of East Arnhem-Balance (92.7 per cent), West Arnhem (90.3 per cent), Bathurst-Melville (88.6 per cent) and Gulf (74.0 per cent). High proportions were also found in the central SLAs of Tanami (79.6 per cent) and Sandover-Balance (73.5 per cent). Katherine and Alice Springs had similar proportions, of 15.0 and 14.4 per cent. Within Alice Springs there were variations from 11.9 per cent in Ross to 18.0 per cent in Stuart.

The lowest proportions of Indigenous people were in Nhulunbuy (3.7 per cent), Jabiru (6.1 per cent), Litchfield [Part B] (7.0 per cent) and Litchfield [Part A] (8.3 per cent).

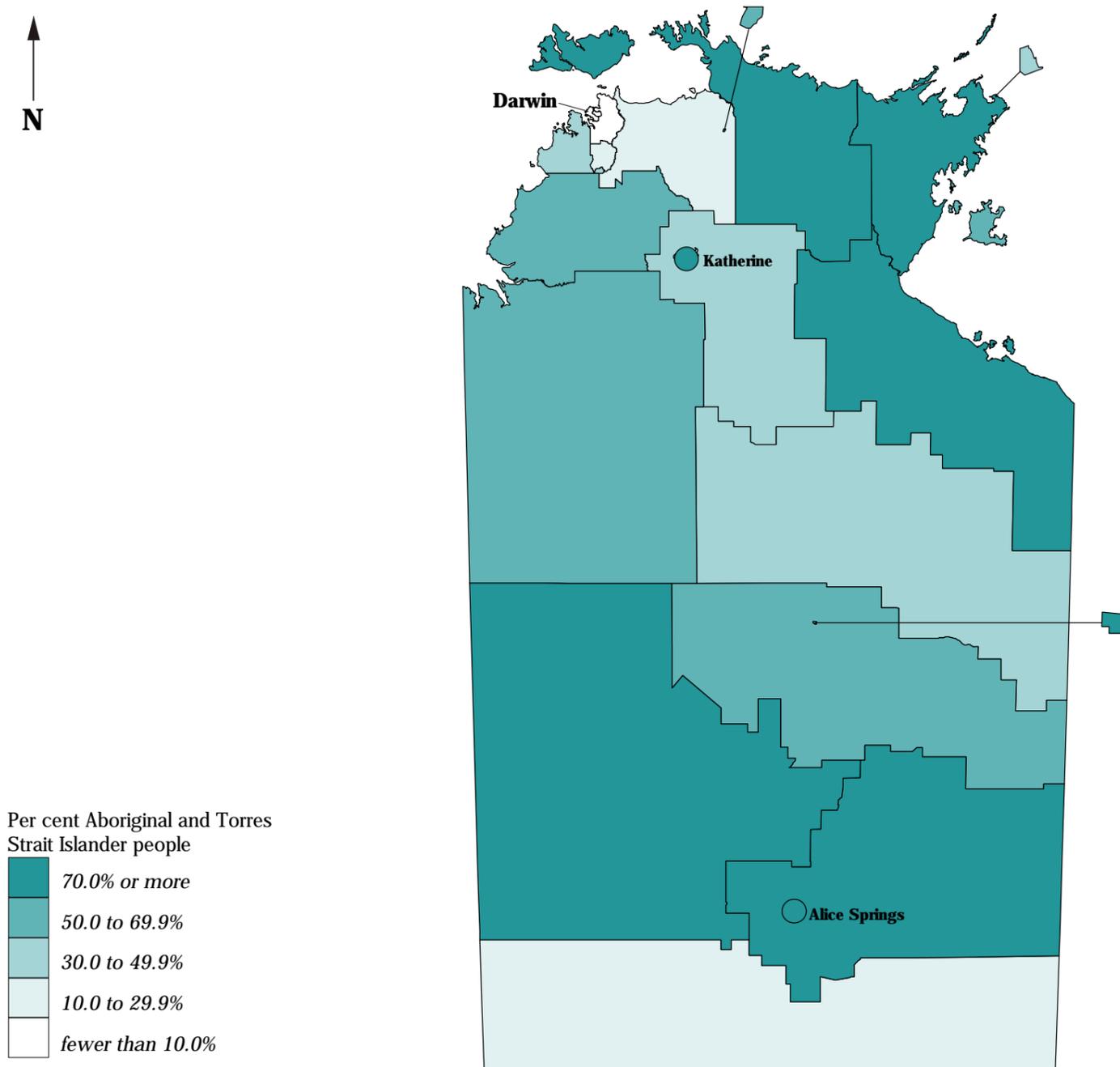
Generally, SLAs with percentages above 20 per cent were those with larger numbers, in excess of 1,000 Indigenous people. West Arnhem (3,536 people), Tanami (5,333) and East Arnhem-Balance (5,495) had the largest numbers. The three SLAs with the least numbers of Indigenous people were Litchfield [Part A] (102 people), Jabiru (104) and Nhulunbuy (138).

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for dwellings with no motor vehicle (0.88), single parent families (0.87), low income families (0.83), and early school leavers (0.76). Inverse correlations were recorded with a number of variables including high income families (-0.81) female labour force participation (-0.67), people aged 65 years and over (-0.53) and managers, professionals and administrators (-0.50). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.96), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of Indigenous people and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 3.17

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Northern Territory, 1996

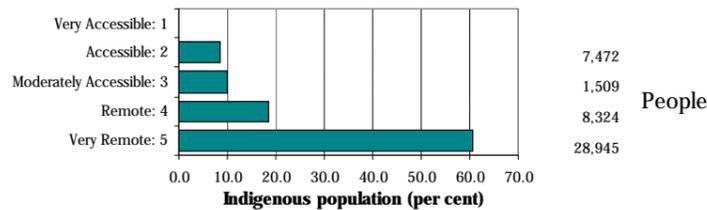
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The distribution of the Indigenous population under ARIA is quite striking, with their representation in the population increasing by seven times from a low of 8.6 per cent in the Accessible areas (although still high relative to the other States) to a high of 60.6 per cent in the Very Remote areas. The proportions in the other two ARIA categories are also quite high, with 10.1 per cent of the population in the Moderately Accessible and 18.5 per cent in the Remote areas being recorded at the Census as Indigenous Australians. There were more Indigenous people in the Very Remote areas than in the other three ARIA categories, combined.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, 1996

Capital city comparison

Migrants in this category arrived in Australia from predominantly non-English speaking countries in or before 1991. As a substantial proportion will have been resident in Australia for many years, their distribution is often widespread within urban areas, especially the capital cities. Of the Australian capital cities, **Sydney** has the second highest proportion of its population in this category (**Table 3.24**), while **Hobart** has the lowest (4.3 per cent). This characteristic, of a strong over representation of non-English speaking migrants, has been a feature of New South Wales' demography during the post-war period. There were 666,190 people in this category in **Sydney** in 1996 (17.8 per cent of the population), well above **Melbourne's** population of 568,565 people. This represents a major change from the situation in 1986, when **Melbourne** had 456,686, just 15,177 less than in **Sydney**.

Table 3.24: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	17.8	18.1	7.5	11.1	11.7	4.3	10.7	11.4	14.8
1986	14.0	16.1	6.0	10.5	10.5	4.2	10.2	10.8	12.7

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

Just as there are variations in Australia's capital cities in the proportions of people born in non-English speaking countries and resident for five years or more, there are also variations in the distribution of the nationalities. **Table 3.28** (on page 62) shows the major origins of people born in non-English speaking countries, and illustrates the ethnic diversity characterising **Darwin's** population. Unlike cities such as **Melbourne** or **Adelaide**, where European groups dominate the ethnic composition, immigrants from Asian countries are more important in **Darwin's** composition. People from Indonesia and the Philippines were particularly predominant, with Greek born people forming the next largest group, and the largest group from Europe.

The proportion of people of non-English origins in **Darwin** who had been resident in Australia for five years or more increased slightly, from 10.2 per cent in 1986 to 10.7 per cent in 1996. However, the increase from 7,422 people in 1986 to 9,153 people in 1996 represented a growth of 23.3 per cent.

Map 3.18a shows that the highest proportions of longer term residents born in predominately non-English speaking countries were found in the northern suburbs of **Darwin**. Particularly evident is the cluster of six SLAs with proportions of 15.0 per cent and above, in which Wagaman had the highest percentage (19.3 per cent). This SLA also had the highest proportion of immigrants who had been resident for less than five years. Other SLAs included in this cluster are Nakara (16.4 per cent), Karama (15.6 per cent), Alawa (15.5 per cent), Wanguri (15.4 per cent) and Malak (15.0 per cent).

The lowest proportion of people born in predominately non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more was in City-Remainder (3.1 per cent). Other low proportions were found in the less densely populated areas of East Arm (3.9 per cent), Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp (4.6 per cent) and Palmerston-Balance (5.1 per cent). City-Inner also had a relatively low proportion, of 5.0 per cent.

The largest numbers of people in this population group were in Karama (813 people), Leanyer (716 people), Malak (528 people), Nightcliff (460 people) and Wagaman (444 people).

As would be expected, there were correlations of significance at the SLA level with the variables for poor English proficiency (0.76) and with more recent immigrants from non-English speaking backgrounds (0.59). There was a weaker association with the variables for female labour force participation (0.41) and single parent families (0.34).

Postcode-based areas

Darwin: North West had the highest proportion of people born in predominately non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more (13.3 per cent) (**Map 3.18b**). All but one SLA in this area (Rapid Creek; 9.8 per cent) recorded proportions that were above the **Darwin** average of 10.7 per cent, including Wagaman, which had the highest individual SLA proportion of 19.3 per cent. Darwin: North East had the next highest proportion (12.9 per cent), with the lowest proportions in Palmerston (6.8 per cent) and Darwin: South West (7.3 per cent).

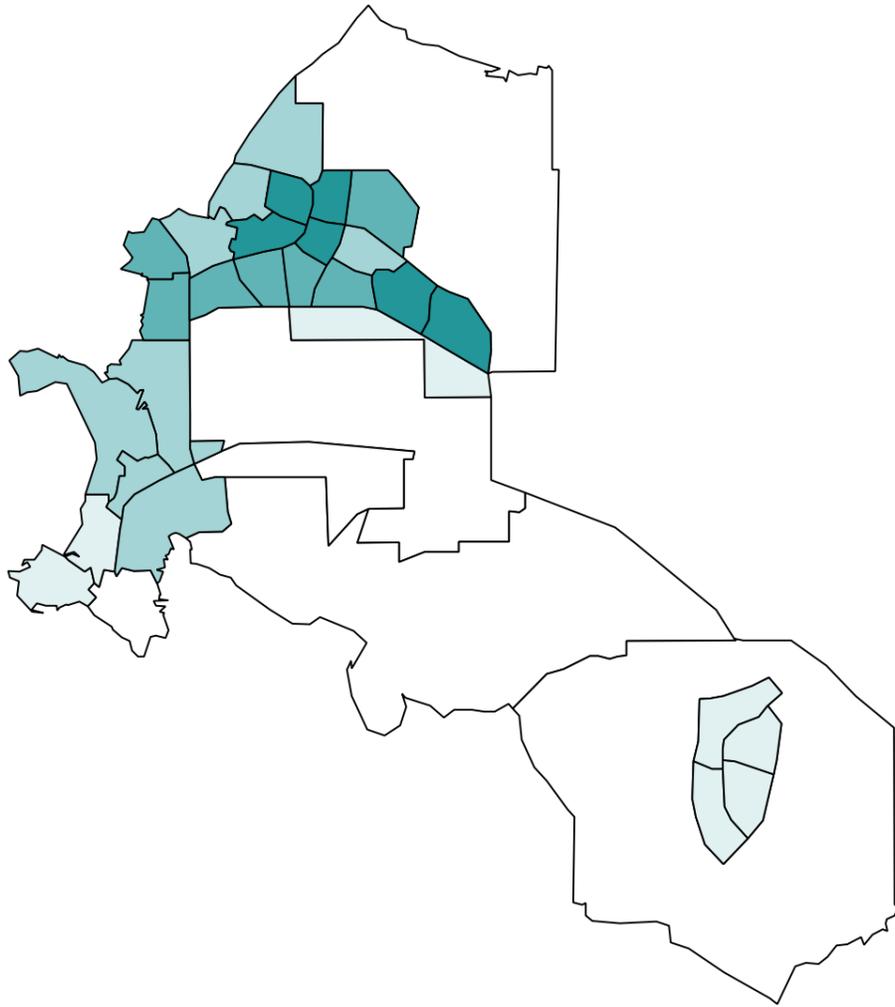
Map 3.18

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, Darwin, 1996

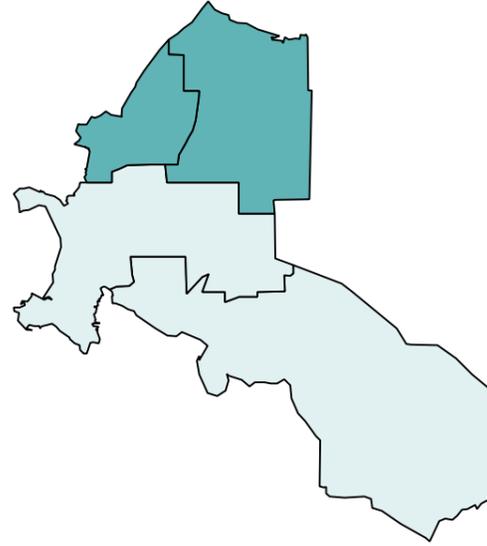
as a percentage of the total population in each area



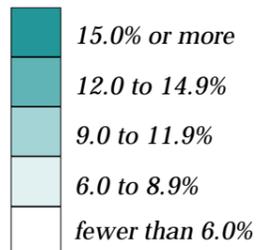
Map 3.18a: SLA Map



Map 3.18b: Postcode Map*



Per cent born in non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The proportion of migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, who arrived in Australia in or before 1991 and resided in the non-metropolitan areas at the 1996 Census, was highest in Victoria and Western Australia. However, as is shown in **Table 3.25**, the proportion of migrants in this category located in the non-metropolitan areas of the States is low relative to capital city rates. An important social process is suggested when **Tables 3.25** and **3.27** (of more recently arrived migrants) are compared. As migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries become more proficient in English, and adapted to the host country's economic and social systems, they are more prepared to leave the capital cities to access opportunities available in the more rural areas.

Between 1986 and 1996, there was an increase in the proportions of people born in non-English speaking countries and resident for five years or more in all States and Territories except the Northern Territory, where there was a small decline. The Australian average increased from 9.5 per cent in 1986 to 10.9 per cent in 1996. The proportion across the *Rest of State/Territory* areas was 3.5 per cent at both Censuses.

Table 3.25: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	17.8	18.1	7.5	11.1	11.7	4.3	10.7	11.4 ²	14.8
Other major urban centres ²	7.0	10.0	6.1	..	..	..	..	..	7.0
Rest of State/Territory	3.1	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.9	2.6	3.2	— ⁴	3.5
Whole of State/Territory	12.7	14.3	5.7	9.2	9.5	3.3	6.5	11.3	10.9
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	2.8	4.1	3.6	4.1	4.6	2.4	3.8	— ⁴	3.5

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries who had been resident in Australia for five years or more made up just 3.2 per cent of the non-metropolitan population in the Northern Territory in 1996, compared with 10.7 per cent in **Darwin**. **Table 3.28** (on page 62) shows that ethnic composition was also somewhat different. Germany and the Philippines were the most common countries of origin, while the Indonesian- and Greek- born were proportionally less significant than in **Darwin**. Generally, the European-born population was more predominant in non-metropolitan areas, whereas Asian birthplaces predominated in **Darwin**. At the 1986 Census, 3.8 per cent of the non-metropolitan population (3,079 people) had been born in a predominantly non-English speaking country and resident in Australia for five years or more. The proportion fell to 3.2 per cent in 1996, but the number increased to 3,509 people.

Map 3.19 shows that higher proportions of people with a non-English speaking background were mainly located in the towns, as well as in SLAs close to **Darwin**. The highest proportions were in Nhulunbuy (8.1 per cent), Litchfield [Part B] (5.7 per cent), and Jabiru (5.2 per cent). The town of Alice Springs had 3.9 per cent of its population in this group: with the exception of Alice Springs-Heavitree (2.6 per cent), all of the suburbs in Alice Springs had percentages above the average for non-metropolitan Northern Territory. The lowest percentages were in areas that had high

proportions of Indigenous Australians. Some of these were Bathurst-Melville (0.2 per cent), East Arnhem-Balance (0.3 per cent), Sandover-Balance (0.6 per cent) and West Arnhem (0.7 per cent).

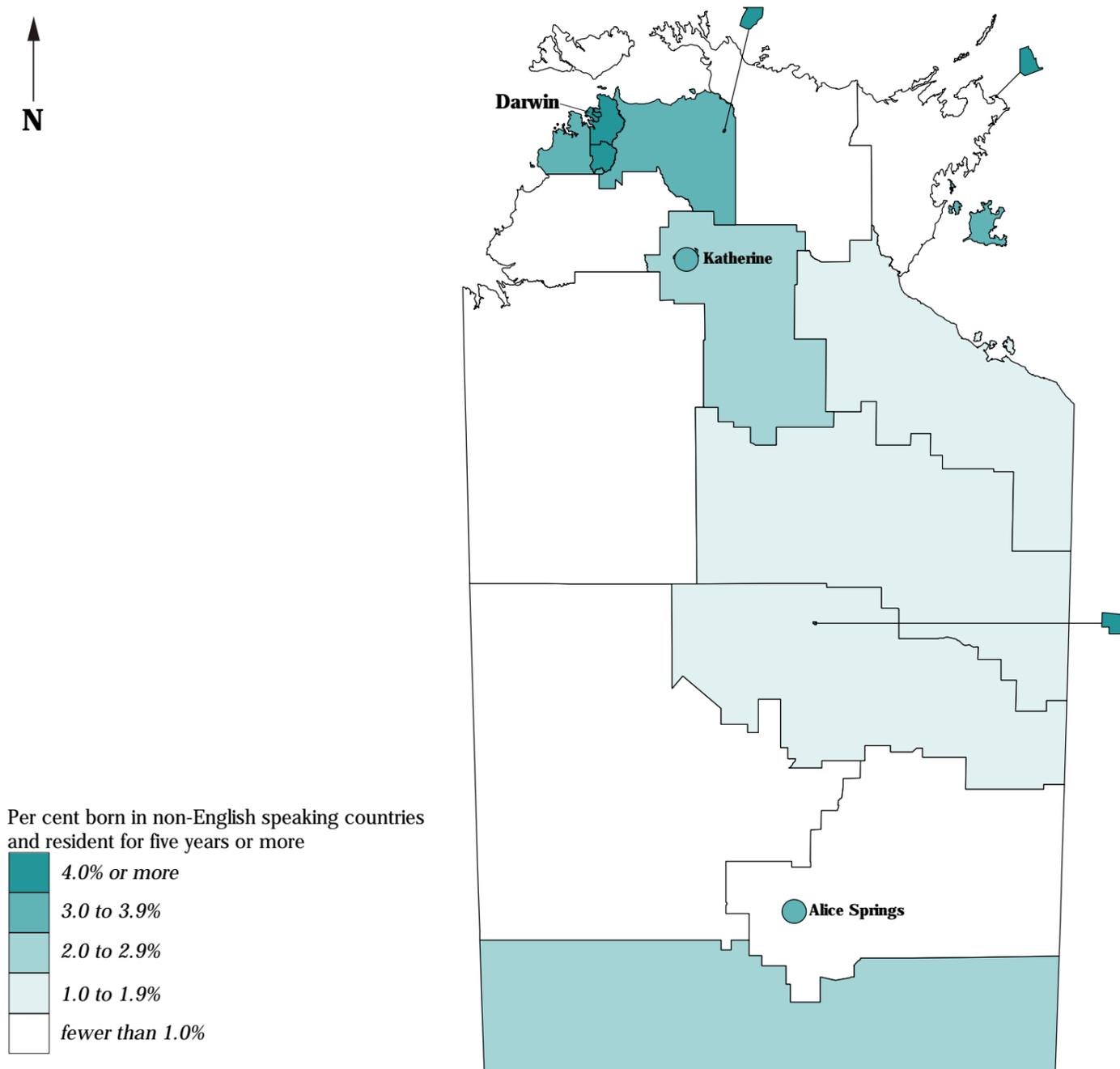
Overall, the numbers of people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries were very low in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory. The largest numbers were recorded in Alice Springs (1,063 people, with the majority in the suburbs of Larapinta (326), and Ross, (303)); in Litchfield [Part B] (719 people); and in Katherine (422 people).

There were correlations at the SLA level with a number of indicators of socioeconomic advantage, with correlations of substantial significance with the variables for high income families (0.89), more recent immigrants (0.82), female labour force participation (0.74) and people reporting poor proficiency in English (0.76). Inverse correlations of substantial significance were recorded with the variables for low income families (-0.85) and single parent families (-0.82). These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (0.89), indicate an association at the SLA level between high rates in the population of this group of people and socioeconomic advantage.

Map 3.19

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, Northern Territory, 1996

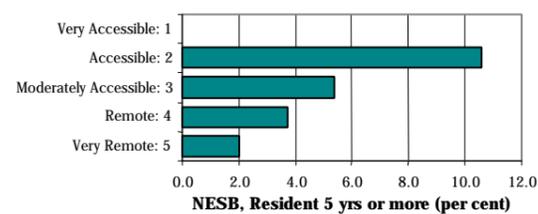
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The distribution of the population born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more is in direct contrast to that of the Indigenous population. Proportions drop away sharply from a high of 10.6 per cent in the Accessible areas, through proportions of 5.4 per cent in the Moderately Accessible and 3.7 per cent in the Remote areas, to the lowest proportion of 2.0 per cent of the population in the Very Remote areas. The relatively high number in the Remote areas is likely to reflect people living in the major towns outside of Darwin.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, 1996

Capital city comparison

For migrants arriving from non-English speaking countries, the initial years of settlement are the most difficult. The settlement process is often further exacerbated by limited English proficiency. For these migrants, obtaining employment may be difficult, type of employment may be restricted, and income levels may be low. In this context, the largest capital cities hold wider prospects for employment and they also have the most culturally diverse populations. **Sydney** is the major initial destination for migrants from predominantly non-English speaking countries, with 138,009 people (3.7 per cent of its population) having arrived in Australia in the previous five years (**Table 3.26**). **Melbourne** was the second largest destination, attracting 88,673 people in this population group, 2.8 per cent of its population at the 1996 Census.

The proportion of recent immigrants in Australia's capital cities increased slightly from 2.5 per cent in 1986 to 2.7 per cent in 1996. This was largely due to the growth in numbers in **Brisbane**, **Sydney** and **Melbourne**. Although the proportion remained the same, there was an increase in absolute terms in **Perth** over the same period of time. **Darwin**, **Canberra** and **Adelaide** experienced a decline in both proportions and numbers in this population group.

Table 3.26: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	3.7	2.8	1.7	1.4	2.3	0.7	1.7	1.9	2.7
1986	3.1	2.6	1.4	1.6	2.3	0.7	3.1	2.2	2.5

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

Overall, **Darwin** attracted relatively few recent immigrants born in predominately non-English speaking countries. In 1986, the 3.1 per cent of **Darwin's** population in this category represented 2,226 people. By 1996, the proportion had fallen to 1.7 per cent and the number to 1,442 people. A large proportion of the newest arrivals came from South East Asia.

Map 3.20a shows that there were higher concentrations of recent immigrants in the northern suburbs of **Darwin**, centred around Wagaman. The inner city SLAs of The Gardens and Stuart Park also had relatively high proportions. Wagaman, with the highest proportion (5.3 per cent), also had the highest proportions of people reporting poor proficiency in English and people born in non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more. Brinkin had the second highest proportion of recent immigrants (4.8 per cent), reflecting the presence of overseas students attending the university located there. The proportions then drop to lower values, with 2.7 per cent in The Gardens and 2.6 per cent in Malak.

The lowest proportions of recent immigrants born in predominately non-English speaking countries were in City-Remainder (0.4 per cent), Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp and Driver (both with 0.7 per cent) and Wulagi (0.8 per cent).

The numbers of recent immigrants in **Darwin** were very low. The only two SLAs with more than 100 people for this variable were Wagaman (122 people) and Karama (104 people).

Some similarities remained in the pattern of distribution of people recently arrived from non-English speaking countries when compared to the distribution in 1986. The highest concentrations were located in the northern suburbs in both 1986 and 1996. However, while a decrease in numbers and proportions is evident in most SLAs, Karama, in particular, experienced a significant reduction in numbers.

As would be expected, there was a correlation of substantial significance with the variable for poor English proficiency (0.72), and of meaningful significance with the variable for people born in non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more (0.59).

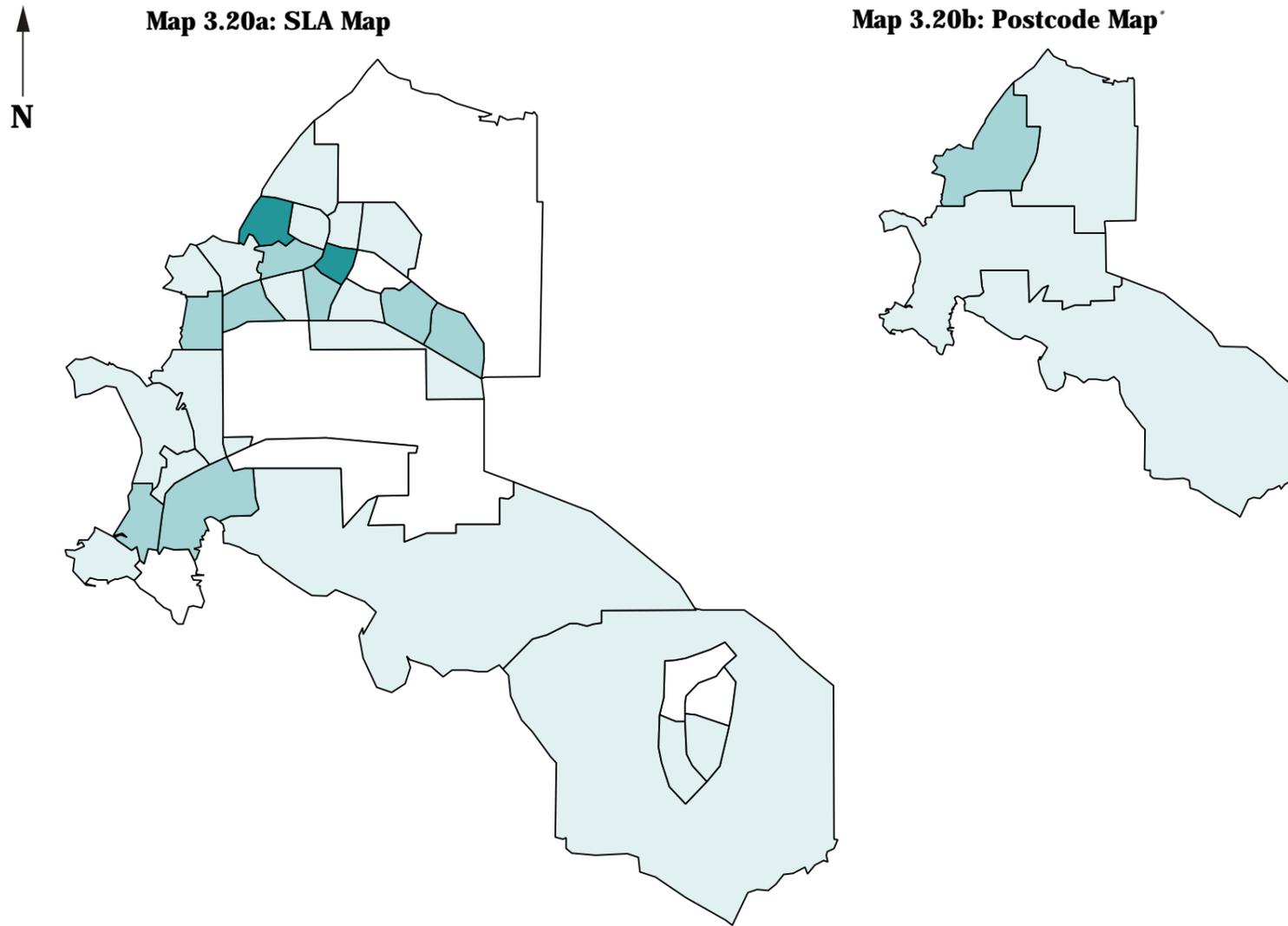
Postcode-based areas

The pattern of distribution of people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries who had been resident in Australia for less than five years (**Map 3.20b**) is similar to that of immigrants who had been here for five years or more. Darwin: North West had the highest proportion (2.2 per cent). Again, within this area, Wagaman had the highest proportion at the SLA level (5.3 per cent). The other postcode areas were Darwin: North (1.7 per cent), Darwin: South West (1.4 per cent) and Palmerston (1.1 per cent).

Map 3.20

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, Darwin, 1996

as a percentage of the total population in each area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, 1996

State/Territory comparison

Recently arrived migrants from predominantly non-English speaking countries have a strong preference for capital city residence, as is clear from **Table 3.27** (see comments on previous text page). The proportion of the population in the non-metropolitan areas of all of the States and the Northern Territory has declined between the periods shown.

The slight increase in the proportion of people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, from 1.7 to 1.9 per cent of the population of Australia between 1986 and 1996, was due mainly to increases in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. South Australia and the Northern Territory experienced a decline in both numbers and proportions over this ten year period.

Table 3.27: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	3.7	2.8	1.7	1.4	2.3	0.7	1.7	1.9 ²	2.7
Other major urban centres ³	0.9	1.0	1.2	..	..	..	..	..	1.0
Rest of State/Territory	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	— ⁴	0.4
Whole of State/Territory	2.5	2.1	1.2	1.0	1.8	0.5	1.0	2.0	1.9
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.4	1.0	— ⁴	0.5

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

On the whole, recent immigrants from non-English countries did not venture into the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory, which had a total of only 545 people in this category. The highest proportions were in Nhulunbuy (1.3 per cent) and Jabiru (1.2 per cent) (**Map 3.21**). The town of Alice Springs had

a proportion of 0.7 per cent (with 1.4 per cent in the suburb of Stuart, a total of 47 people). The towns of Alice Springs (192 people) and Katherine (94 people) had the largest numbers in this population group.

Table 3.28: Countries of origin of people born in non-English speaking countries, Northern Territory, 1996

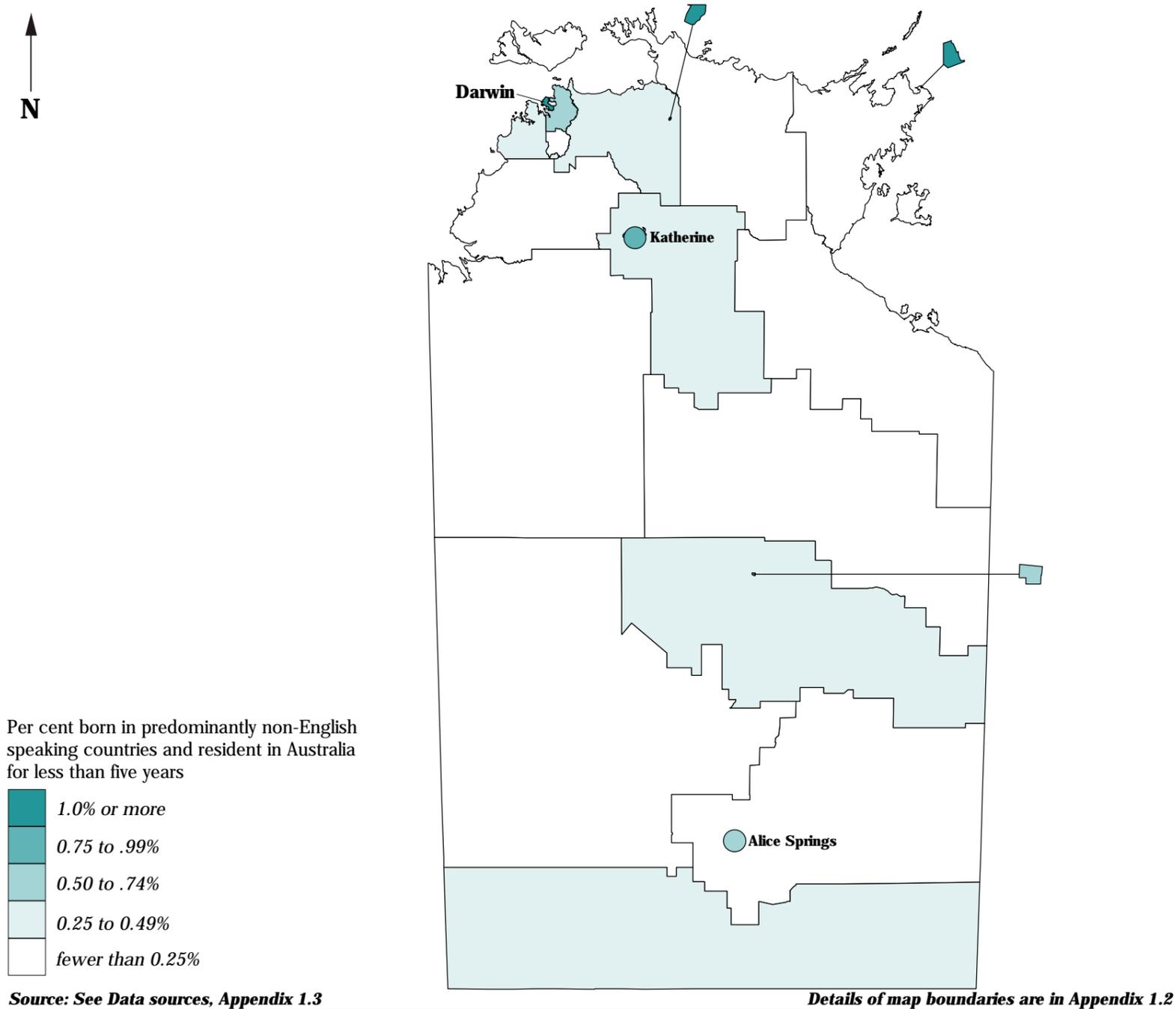
Country of origin	Darwin		Rest of Territory	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
China (excl. Taiwan)	304	2.8	38	0.9
Former Yugoslavia	182	1.7	149	3.5
Germany, Federal Republic	571	5.2	520	12.1
Greece	1,027	9.3	96	2.2
Hong Kong	223	2.0	29	0.7
India	402	3.6	108	2.5
Indonesia	1,602	14.5	98	2.3
Italy	402	3.6	229	5.3
Malaysia	542	4.9	169	3.9
Malta	33	0.3	37	0.9
Netherlands	364	3.3	372	8.7
Philippines	1,238	11.2	492	11.5
Poland	73	0.7	51	1.2
Sri Lanka	246	2.2	77	1.8
Vietnam	410	3.7	113	2.6
Other	3,398	30.8	1,708	39.8
Total	11,017	100.0	4,286	100.0

Source: ABS 1996 Census Basic Community Profile Table B05

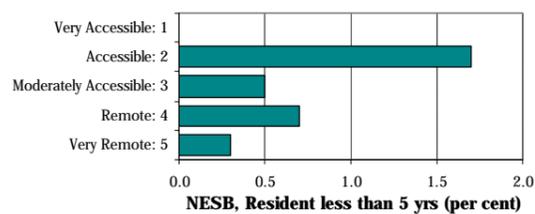
Map 3.21

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, Northern Territory, 1996

as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The proportion of the population born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for fewer than five years is highest in the Accessible areas (1.7 per cent) and drops away rapidly to much lower proportions in the next three ARIA categories, with the lowest in the Very Remote areas (0.3 per cent). There is a higher proportion (0.7 per cent) in the Remote areas, which also has the second largest number of people in this population group. The relatively high number in the Remote areas is likely to reflect people living in the major towns outside of Darwin.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Proficiency in English, 1996

Capital city comparison

For migrants from non-English speaking countries, the rate at which they adapt to live in the host country is directly related to the rate at which they achieve proficiency in English. Their level of proficiency in English has profound implications for the ease with which they are able to access labour markets, develop social networks, become aware of and utilise services, and participate in many aspects of Australian society. From a health service provision viewpoint, the location of migrants with limited English proficiency may indicate areas within the city where different approaches might be taken to ensure that these residents are aware of the health services available. In the provision of health services for women and older people, these distributions are perhaps even more relevant, as many migrants from European countries who arrived in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s have not developed English language skills (especially females), or have returned to using the language of their birthplace as they have aged (both females and males).

Poor proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born overseas in predominantly non-English speaking countries was determined when people within this category reported speaking English 'not well' or 'not at all' (**Table 3.29**). The percentages shown are calculated on the total population aged five years and over, not just those born overseas. **Melbourne** and **Sydney** have the highest proportions of migrants with poor proficiency in English at 5.0 and 4.9 per cent respectively. These high levels are due largely to the fact that **Melbourne** and **Sydney** have been the principal destinations for migrants from South-East Asia during the last two decades, following the major influx of people from European countries in the 1950s and 1960s. However, since the 1986 Census, there has been a trend across most Australian cities towards increasing numbers of people who are not fluent in English. While proportions may have fluctuated, numbers increased in most cities. **Darwin** was the only capital city to record a fall in both proportions and numbers.

Table 3.29: Poor proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, capital cities

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	4.9	5.0	1.4	2.5	2.1	0.6	2.0	1.7	3.7
1986	4.0	4.8	1.2	2.7	2.1	0.6	2.6	1.9	3.4

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

Unlike other Australian capital cities, **Darwin** has had a decline in the number of people who reported poor proficiency in English. At the 1986 Census, there were 1,756 people (2.6 per cent of the population aged five years and over) in **Darwin** who did not speak English well, if at all. Both the number and proportion fell slightly by 1991 to 1,725 and 2.4 per cent respectively. By 1996, there had been a more substantial decline, to 1,602 people and 2.0 per cent.

Map 3.22a shows that, with the exception of East Arm, all SLAs with three per cent or more of their population reporting poor proficiency in English formed a cluster in the northern suburbs of **Darwin**. Wagaman had the highest proportion (7.7 per cent) and it also, most surprisingly, had the highest proportions of both recent and earlier immigrants from predominantly non-English speaking countries. Other SLAs with high percentages were Karama (4.1 per cent), Malak (3.7 per cent) and Nakara (3.3 per cent).

The lowest percentages were recorded in City-Remainder (0.2 per cent), Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp (0.4 per cent), and Driver and Palmerston-Balance (both 0.6 per cent).

Overall, the number of people with these characteristics for this variable were low, the highest being in Karama (194 people), Wagaman (162 people), Leanyer (145 people) and Malak (119 people). All other SLAs had fewer than 70 people who reported not speaking English well, or at all.

As would be expected, there were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for immigrants from non-English speaking countries, both those who had been in Australia for five years or more (0.76) and those who had been here for less than five years (0.72).

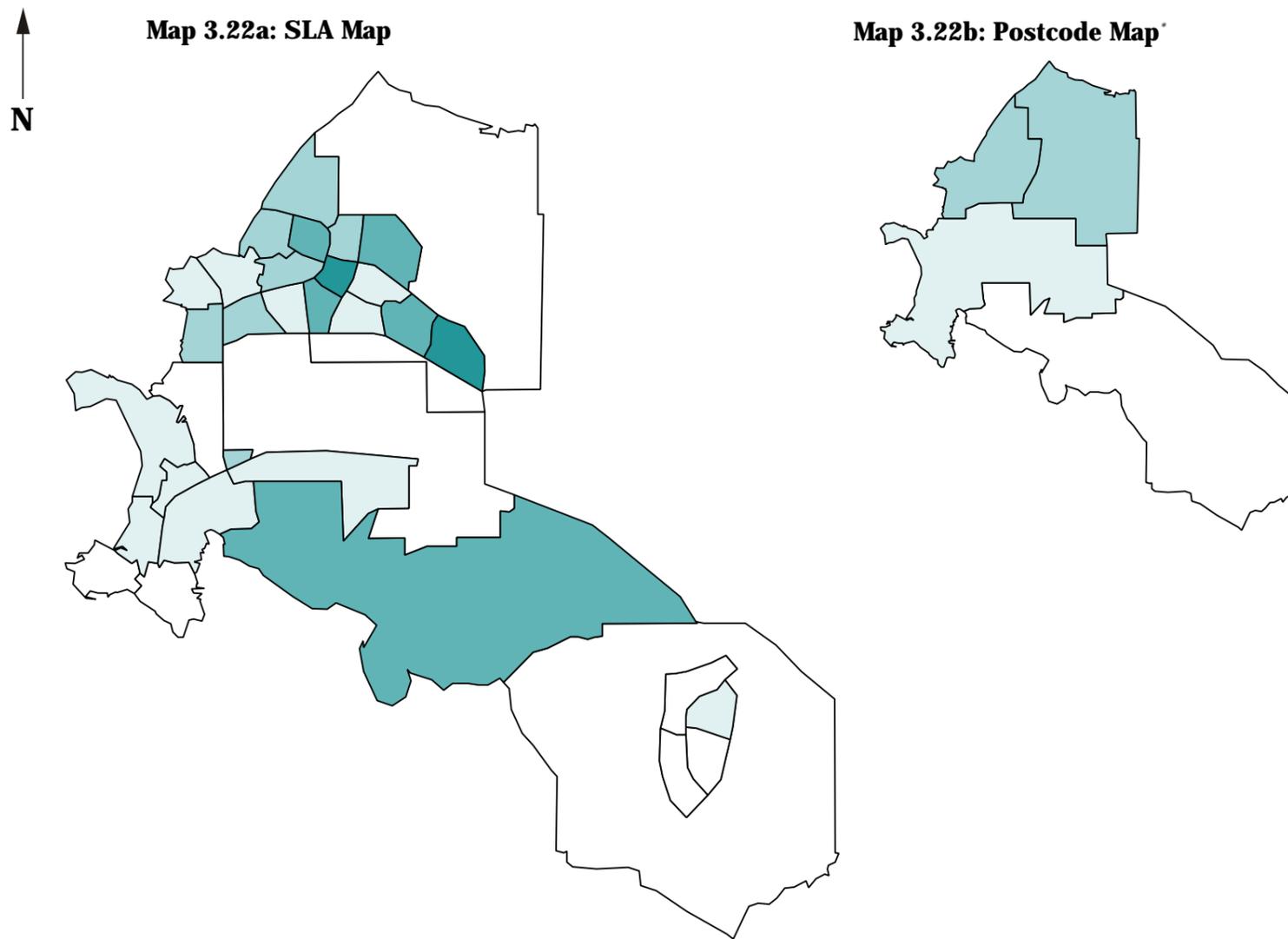
Postcode-based areas

Darwin: North West and Darwin: North East had the highest proportion of people who reported poor proficiency in English, at 2.7 per cent. In Darwin: North West, the SLA of Wagaman stood out, with the highest individual SLA percentage, of 7.7 per cent. In Darwin: North East, the SLAs of Karama (4.1 per cent), Malak (3.7 per cent) and Leanyer (3.2 per cent) contributed the majority of people with poor English proficiency. Darwin: South West and Palmerston had proportions of 1.2 per cent and 1.0 per cent respectively, below **Darwin's** average of 2.0 per cent.

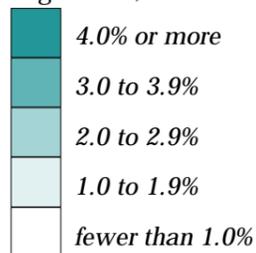
Map 3.22

Proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born in a non-English speaking country, Darwin, 1996

as a percentage of the total population in each area



Per cent people who do not speak English well, or at all



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Proficiency in English, 1996

State/Territory comparison

Poor proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born overseas in predominantly non-English speaking countries was determined when people within this category reported speaking English 'not well' or 'not at all'. Migration research has consistently demonstrated a propensity for migrants to locate in the major cities of the States and Territories, especially the capital cities. **Table 3.30** shows that this tendency is evident, possibly more so, for migrants reporting a poor proficiency in English. For these migrants to move away from the capital city and seek employment and residence elsewhere requires an ability to interact with the wider community. Poor proficiency in English restricts this capacity. Consequently, until English proficiency improves, they generally remain restricted to areas where they have the security of their language community, including longer term resident migrants with better English skills who can represent them in their interactions with the labour market, schools, health services and government authorities.

There has been an increase (at the whole of Australia level) in both the proportions and numbers of people reporting poor proficiency in English in the ten years from 1986 (when 2.4 per cent of Australia's population aged over five years did not speak English fluently) to 1996 (2.6 per cent). This increase took place in the capital cities as there was a slight decline in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas.

Table 3.30: Poor proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	4.9	5.0	1.4	2.5	2.1	0.6	2.0	1.7 ²	3.7
Other major urban centres ³	1.4	2.1	0.8	..	..	..	..	..	1.2
Rest of State/Territory	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	— ⁴	0.4
Whole of State/Territory	3.3	3.7	0.9	2.0	1.6	0.3	1.0	1.7	2.6
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.4	— ⁴	0.5

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

There were few people who did not speak English well, or not at all, in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory. By far the greater proportion of people in this population group in the Northern Territory remained in **Darwin**, where social supports, services and possibly family were located. The proportions have fluctuated over the years, from 0.4 per cent (in 1986) up to 0.6 per cent (in 1991) and down to 0.2 per cent (in 1996).

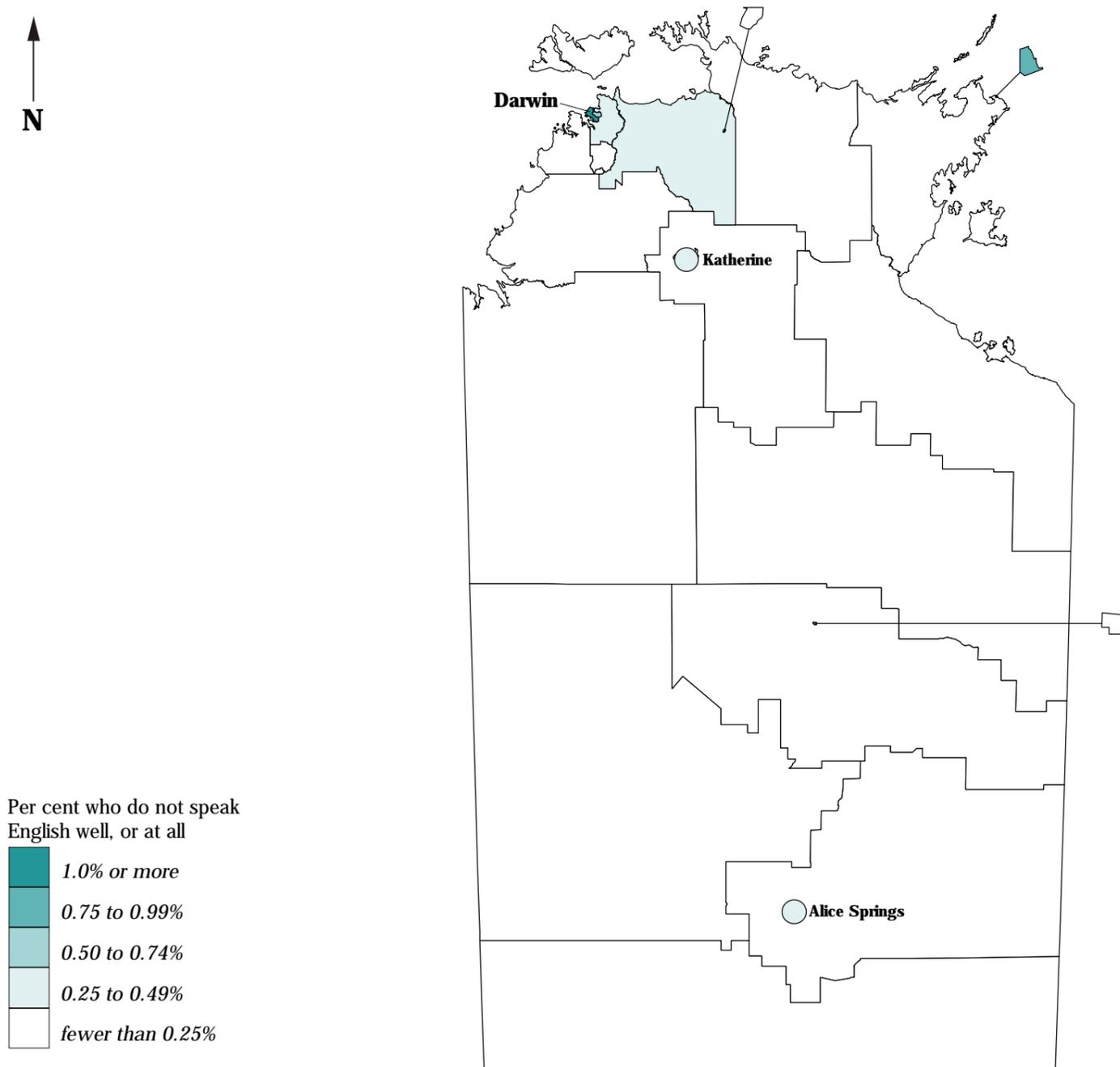
The distribution of the 234 people reporting poor proficiency in English was very sparse across the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory (**Map 3.23**). Most SLAs had fewer than 10 people in this category, and many recorded none at all. Those with no population with these characteristics tended to be the rural areas, as opposed to the less remote areas which attracted slightly higher numbers. The highest proportion, of 0.8 per cent, was in Nhulunbuy and represented only 28 people. The highest number of people who did not speak English well, if at all, in any individual SLA was 44 people in Litchfield [Part B].

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for high income families (0.74), immigrants from non-English speaking countries, both those who had been resident in Australia for five years or more (0.76) and those who had been resident in Australia for less than five years (0.72). A correlation of meaningful significance was recorded with the variable for female labour force participation (0.60). There were inverse correlations of significance with several indicators of low socioeconomic status. These results, together with the correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (0.58), suggest the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of people with poor proficiency in English and high socioeconomic status.

Map 3.23

Proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born in a non-English speaking country, Northern Territory, 1996

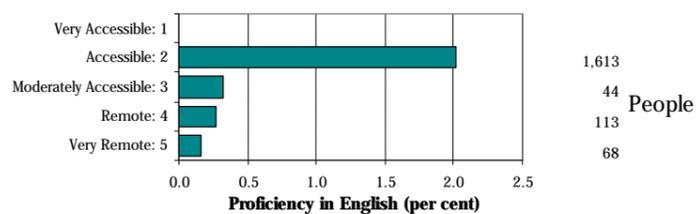
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



Not surprisingly, the distribution of the population by proficiency in English has a distribution that is similar to that for people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries. The highest proportion of the population aged five years and over and reporting poor proficiency in English is in the Accessible (2.3 per cent of the population) areas under the ARIA classification, with very low proportions of 0.3 per cent in both the Moderately Accessible and Remote areas, and 0.2 per cent in the Very Remote areas. Both the percentages and numbers are very small.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dwellings rented from the State/Territory housing authority, 1996

Capital city comparison

The Census collects data on dwellings rented from the Department of Housing and Local Government: in this analysis, rented dwellings are expressed as a proportion of all occupied private dwellings. (Note: Private dwellings exclude special dwellings such as hotels and boarding houses.) The distribution of housing authority dwellings is an indicator of the distribution of single parents, unemployed, aged, disabled and Indigenous people, as these groups are given waiting list priority for public housing which has become increasingly scarce since the 1970s.

The proportion of the dwelling stock rented from the State housing authority is just above the national average for both **Sydney** and New South Wales (**Table 3.31**). In comparison, **Darwin**, **Adelaide** and **Canberra** have above average proportions of dwelling stock rented from State government housing authorities. Although the proportion of dwellings in this category increased only slightly, from 5.2 per cent (at the 1986 Census) to 5.5 per cent (at the 1996 Census) of all dwellings in **Sydney**, the 1996 figure represented an additional 13,766 dwellings. The largest relative increase in the number of State housing authority dwellings in the ten years from 1986 to 1996 was recorded in **Brisbane**, and the largest decreases were recorded in **Darwin** and **Canberra**.

Table 3.31: Dwellings rented from the State/Territory housing authority, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	5.5	2.9	4.8	9.7	4.6	8.3	15.8	9.7	5.3
1986	5.2	2.9	3.9	10.5	5.3	10.0	21.9	11.5	5.3

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

Public housing has played a particularly important role in the development of **Darwin**. In earlier years, a major role for public housing was to accommodate public servants. At the 1986 Census, only 42 per cent of housing authority rental dwellings were occupied by low income families. This situation has changed, as the size of welfare dependent groups has grown. In 1986, there were 4,897 dwellings rented from the Department of Housing and Local Government, over a fifth (21.9 per cent) of all **Darwin's** occupied, private dwellings. By the 1991 Census, there was little change in the number of dwellings (4,971) or the proportion (21.2 per cent). By 1996, however, both the number and proportion had declined, to 4,361 dwellings and 15.8 per cent, respectively.

Of all occupied dwellings, the older, established SLAs of The Narrows and Coconut Grove had the highest proportion of housing authority rented dwellings (41.6 per cent and 27.9 per cent respectively). The remaining SLAs with proportions above 25 per cent were the more recently established suburbs. They were Malak (34.6 per cent) and Karama (26.7 per cent) in the north, and Moulden (40.4 per cent), Gray (36.7 per cent) and Woodroffe (26.5 per cent) in the south. These suburbs also had high proportions of low income families, unskilled workers and single parent families. Above average proportions of housing authority rented dwellings were also found in other northern SLAs and in SLAs of The Gardens, Parap and Fannie Bay in the eastern coastal section of the city.

The largest numbers of dwellings rented from the housing authority were in the suburbs of Moulden (441 dwellings), Karama (430), Gray (424), Malak (389) and Woodroffe (247).

In the ten years from 1986 to 1996, the number of these dwellings in nearly all of **Darwin's** SLAs declined as a proportion of all private dwellings. One notable exception was Woodroffe, where the proportion increased from 21.2 to 26.5 per cent. The general decline in proportions was accompanied by decreases in the number of dwellings in most SLAs. Overall, there had been a slight shift of government rental dwellings from established, northern and inner city areas to the southern, developing Palmerston SLAs. Woodroffe had the largest growth, from 7 to 247 dwellings over this ten year period, while Moulden also an increase in its public rental stock from 363 to 441 dwellings.

There were correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for single parent families (0.86) and low income families (0.75). A weaker association was also evident with several other indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage. These results, together with the inverse correlation of meaningful significance with the IRSD (-0.55), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of government housing authority rented dwellings and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Postcode-based areas

By far the highest proportion of housing authority rental dwellings was found in the Palmerston area (29.4 per cent) with Moulden and Gray in particular contributing to this rate (**Map 3.24b**). Darwin: North East and Darwin: North West had proportions of 17.4 per cent and 12.9 per cent, respectively. The lowest proportion, 9.3 per cent, was recorded in Darwin: South West. This area included the SLA of The Narrows, which had the highest proportion (41.6 per cent) of dwellings rented from the housing authority (although there were only 96 dwellings).

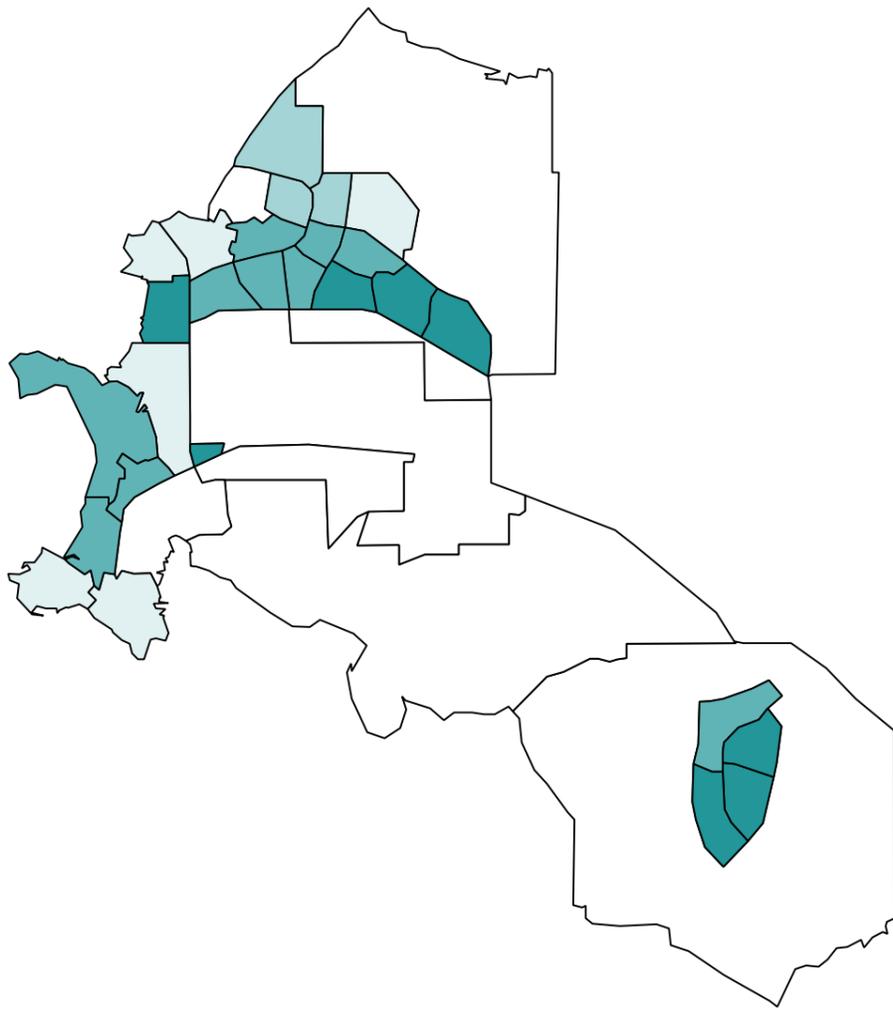
Map 3.24

Dwellings rented from the Territory housing authority, Darwin, 1996

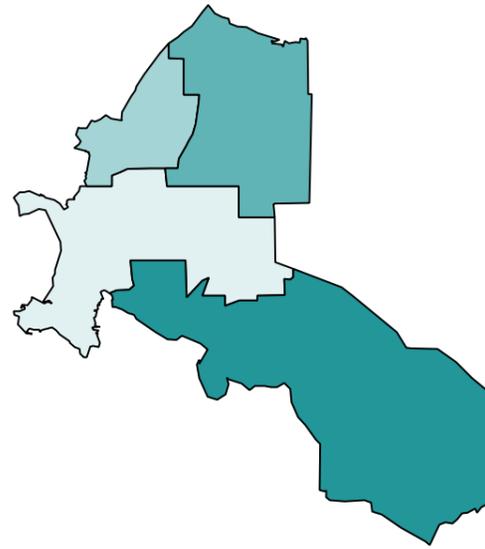
as a percentage of the total population in each area



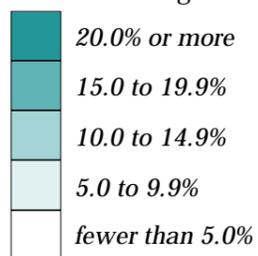
Map 3.24a: SLA Map



Map 3.24b: Postcode Map*



Per cent housing authority rented dwellings



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dwellings rented from the State/Territory housing authority, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The Census collects data on dwellings rented from the Department of Housing and Local Government: in this analysis, rented dwellings are expressed as a proportion of all occupied private dwellings. (Note: Private dwellings exclude special dwellings such as hotels and boarding houses.) In 1996, the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of housing authority rented dwellings outside the capital cities (**Table 3.32**). The lowest levels were recorded in the non-metropolitan areas of Queensland and Victoria. With the exception of Queensland, these rental dwellings declined as a proportion of all occupied private dwellings in all non-metropolitan areas between 1986 and 1996.

At the 1996 Census, 10.5 per cent of all occupied, private dwellings in the non-metropolitan area of the Northern Territory were rented from the Territory housing authority. This was the highest proportion of all Australian States and Territories and was considerably higher than the average of 4.6 per cent. The lowest proportion was 2.9 per cent in Queensland. In the ten years between 1986 and 1996, the Northern Territory saw a reduction in the proportion of public rental housing from 17.9 per cent to 13.0 per cent. This change was greater than that for the whole of Australia, which declined from 5.3 per cent in 1986 to 5.1 per cent in 1996.

Table 3.32: Dwellings rented from the State/Territory housing authority, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	5.5	2.9	4.8	9.7	4.6	8.3	15.8	9.7 ²	5.3
Other major urban centres ³	7.3	5.0	3.3	..	..	..	..	..	5.5
Rest of State/Territory	4.3	3.9	2.9	9.0	5.7	6.2	10.5	— ⁴	4.6
Whole of State/Territory	5.4	3.2	3.8	9.5	4.9	7.1	13.0	10.1	5.1
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	4.9	4.5	1.7	12.4	7.5	6.9	13.4	— ⁴	5.1

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

At the 1986 Census, there were 2,700 housing authority rented dwellings in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory, 13.4 per cent of all occupied private dwellings. By 1991, this had increased, to 3,484 dwellings (15.6 per cent), but then fell to 3,133 dwellings (10.5 per cent) in 1996. Despite these declines, the Northern Territory maintained its status of being the major government provider of rental housing of any State or Territory.

Map 3.25 shows that much of the non-metropolitan area of the Northern Territory had fewer than 5.0 per cent of occupied private dwellings rented from the government housing authority. The highest proportion of rented dwellings was in Bathurst-Melville, with 32.1 per cent and 135 dwellings. The rural area of Petermann also had a comparatively high proportion, of 16.6 per cent. However, with the exception of these two SLAs, there was a clear differentiation between the less remote and rural areas in the distribution of public authority rented dwellings.

For example, apart from the SLA of Jabiru (7.3 per cent), the less remote areas had above average proportions of government rental housing, the highest being in the towns of Katherine (17.8 per cent) and Alice Springs (17.1 per cent) and the SLA of Tennant Creek (17.0 per cent). Suburbs within Alice Springs mostly had high proportions, with 27.3 per cent in Larapinta, 16.0 per cent in Stuart, 15.2 per cent in Charles and 14.1 per cent in Ross.

Two thirds of rural SLAs had proportions of less than 13.0 per cent. Several SLAs, including Cox-Finiss, Sandover-Balance and South Alligator, had no dwellings rented from the public housing authority.

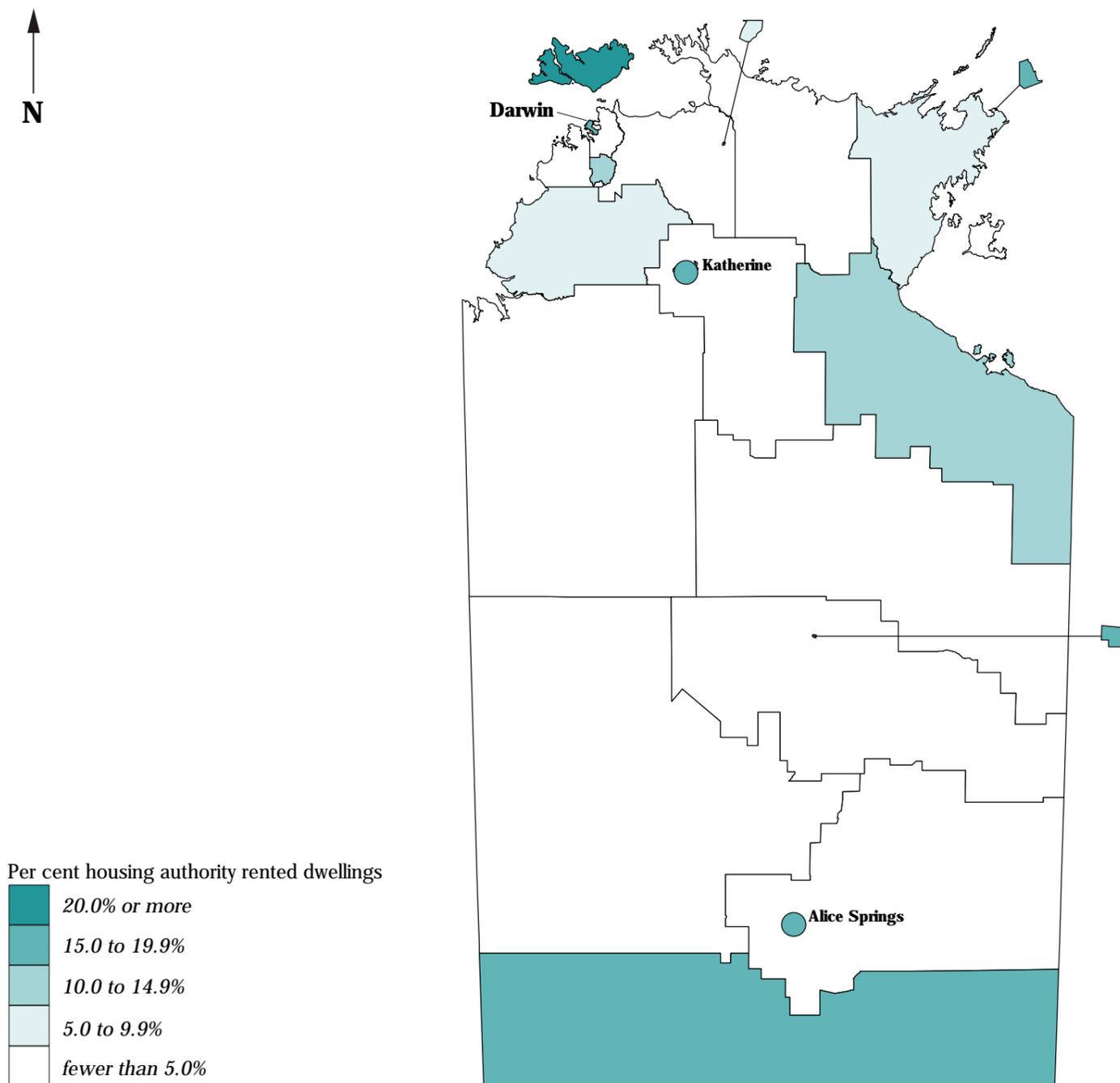
The largest numbers of public housing authority rental dwellings were in Alice Springs (with 1,465 dwellings) and Katherine (with 568 dwellings). The Alice Springs suburb of Larapinta had 768 of these dwellings, more than the highest number (of 441) in **Darwin**, in the suburb of Moulden.

There was no consistent evidence in the correlation analysis of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of public authority rented dwellings and socioeconomic status.

Map 3.25

Dwellings rented from the Territory housing authority, Northern Territory, 1996

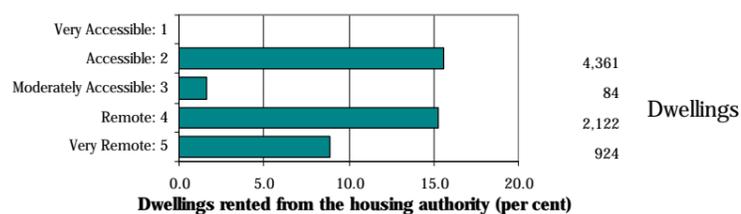
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The majority of dwellings rented from the Northern Territory housing authority are in the Accessible (**Darwin**) and Remote (the major towns outside of **Darwin**) ARIA categories (79.2 per cent), which also have the highest proportions, of 15.6 per cent and 15.3 per cent, respectively. A relatively high proportion of dwellings in the Very Remote areas is also rented from the housing authority (8.9 per cent), with a much lower proportion in the Moderately Accessible areas (1.6 per cent).

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dwellings with no motor vehicle, 1996

Capital city comparison

People living in households without cars face many disadvantages in gaining access to jobs, services and recreation, especially if they are in low-density outer suburbia. In 1996, 10.2 per cent of all occupied private dwellings in **Darwin** had no motor vehicles parked or garaged overnight. This figure was lower than the capital city average of 12.5 per cent. Only **Canberra** and **Perth** had lower percentages with 8.6 and 9.5 per cent respectively. **Sydney** was notable for the highest proportion of 15.4 per cent.

Comparisons with 1986 data show that, on average, there has been a decline in the proportion of dwellings without motor vehicles in the capital cities in the ten years to 1996. However, although the *All capitals* figure fell from 13.8 per cent in 1986 to 12.5 per cent in 1996, and a decrease was recorded for all capital cities except **Darwin** and **Canberra** (increases of 1.0 and 1.1 percentage points respectively), the absolute number of dwellings with no motor vehicle increased.

Table 3.33 Dwellings with no motor vehicle, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	15.4	11.2	11.6	12.5	9.5	12.2	10.2	8.8	12.5
1986	16.8	12.7	12.9	13.2	10.6	13.4	9.2	7.7	13.8

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Darwin

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

At the 1986 Census, 9.2 per cent of dwellings (2,059 dwellings) in **Darwin** had no motor vehicle. By the 1991 Census, both the proportion and the number had risen markedly, to 11.6 per cent and 2,732 respectively. By 1996, the number had increased slightly, to 2,820 dwellings, but the proportion had dropped to 10.2 per cent.

Map 3.26a shows that the highest proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle were in the established, inner suburbs. These were The Narrows (26.4 per cent), City-Inner (23.6 per cent), Coconut Grove (19.7 per cent) and Parap (18.8 per cent). Other inner city SLAs tended to have percentages above **Darwin's** average of 10.2 per cent. **Darwin** followed a pattern common in Australian cities where the inner, established suburbs had the lowest levels of motor vehicle availability. These areas tended to be better served by public transport and, particularly in the case of **Darwin**, had a high proportion of the population aged 65 years and over. However, in the case of The Narrows, Coconut Grove and, to a lesser degree, Parap, the high proportions of dwellings without motor vehicles may have been largely due to financial dictates. These SLAs were characterised by high levels of public authority rental housing, low income families, unemployed people and single parent families, as well as some of the highest proportions of people aged 65 and over. In the outer, southern area of **Darwin**, the SLAs of Moulden (12.6 per cent) and Gray (14.6 per cent) also had relatively high proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle. These suburbs were also characterised by high levels of public authority rental housing, single parent families, low income families and unemployed people. Any socioeconomic disadvantages experienced by the population in these suburbs would be compounded by living in an outer suburb with limited access by motor vehicle to employment, shops and health services.

The lowest proportions of dwellings with no motor vehicle were in the relatively sparsely populated SLAs of Palmerston-Balance (0.0 per cent) and Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp (3.4 per cent). Other low proportions were in Leanyer (3.9 per cent), Marrara (4.3 per cent) and Brinkin (4.4 per cent). These three SLAs also had some of the higher proportions of high income families.

The largest numbers of dwellings without motor vehicles were in Nightcliff (212 dwellings), Gray (168), Coconut Grove (166) and Fannie Bay (159).

There were weak correlations with the variables for low income families (0.49), single parent families and dwellings rented from the Territory housing authority (both 0.41). These results, together with the inverse correlation with the IRSD (-0.46), suggest the existence of an association at the SLA level between high levels of private dwellings with no motor vehicle and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Postcode-based areas

The highest proportion of dwellings with no motor vehicle, was recorded in the older, established inner city suburbs included in Darwin: South West (13.8 per cent) (**Map 3.26b**). Notably high proportions were recorded in The Narrows (26.4 per cent) and City-Inner (23.6 per cent). Darwin: North West (11.1 per cent) and Palmerston (10.4 per cent) also recorded overall proportions above **Darwin's** average of 10.2 per cent. Darwin: North East recorded the lowest proportion, of 5.8 per cent.

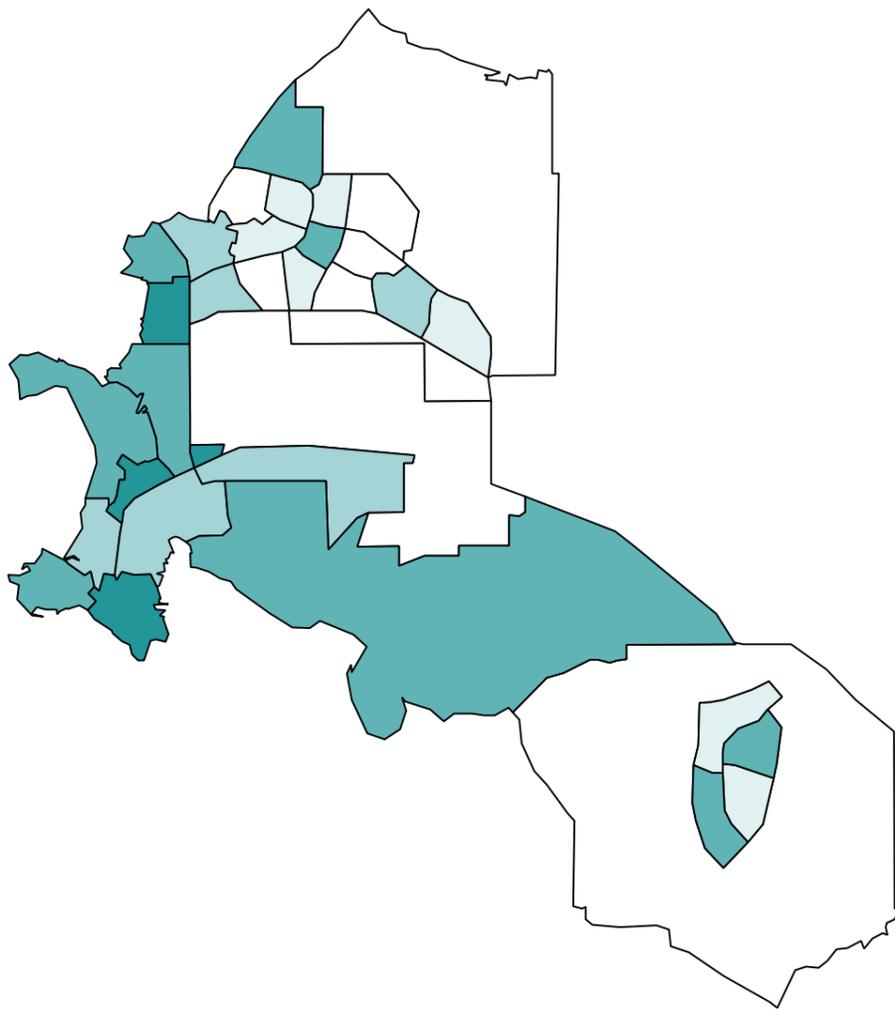
Map 3.26

Dwellings with no motor vehicle, Darwin, 1996

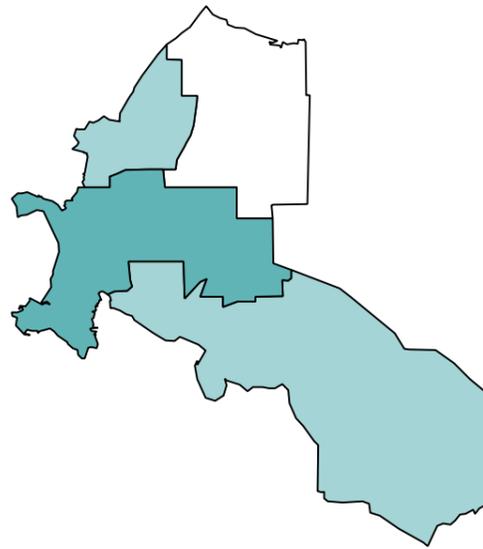
as a percentage of the total population in each area



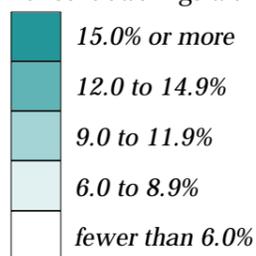
Map 3.26a: SLA Map



Map 3.26b: Postcode Map*



Per cent dwellings with no vehicles



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dwellings with no motor vehicle, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The phenomenon of higher car ownership in non-metropolitan relative to urban areas was apparent within all the States and Territories other than the Northern Territory. Rates varied considerably across the nation, from 7.8 per cent of occupied private dwellings with no motor vehicle in Western Australia to 18.3 per cent in the Northern Territory, with most States and Territories recording between 8 and 10 per cent (**Table 3.34**). The Northern Territory had the highest percentages for both the *Rest of State* and *Whole of State/Territory* categories, ahead of New South Wales.

The average across all *Rest of State/Territory* areas was 9.6 per cent at both the 1986 and 1996 Censuses.

Table 3.34: Dwellings with no motor vehicle, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	15.4	11.2	11.6	12.5	9.5	12.2	10.2	8.8 ²	12.5
Other major urban centres ³	13.8	11.7	10.8	..	..	..	..	..	12.4
Rest of State/Territory	10.7	8.3	9.8	8.2	7.8	9.5	18.3	.. ⁴	9.6
Whole of State/Territory	14.0	10.5	10.7	11.4	9.0	10.7	14.4	8.5	11.6
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	10.6	8.6	9.7	8.1	8.1	10.2	19.8	.. ⁴	9.6

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory

Although the numbers of dwellings in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory with no motor vehicles have increased consistently since 1986, the proportions have fluctuated. In 1986, there were 4,000 dwellings without a motor vehicle (19.8 per cent), increasing to 4,654 (20.8 per cent) in 1991 and increasing further to 5,466 in 1996, but representing a lower 18.3 per cent of all dwellings. The Northern Territory is the only State/Territory in Australia where the proportion of dwellings with no motor vehicle is higher in the *Rest of State/Territory* than in the capital city.

Map 3.27 shows that the majority of SLAs in non-metropolitan Northern Territory had more than 20 per cent of dwellings without a motor vehicle and many had percentages of over 30 per cent. The highest values were recorded in Bathurst-Melville (73.6 per cent and 309 dwellings), West Arnhem (61.7 per cent and 362 dwellings), East Arnhem-Balance (46.9 per cent and 351 dwellings) and Tanami (38.7 per cent and 390 dwellings). These four SLAs also had the highest proportions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Northern Territory.

All of the SLAs with 23 per cent or more of their dwellings without a motor vehicle were in rural areas as opposed to urban centres.

Only two SLAs had fewer than 10 per cent of dwellings without a motor vehicle: they were Litchfield [Part B] (3.4 per cent and 146 dwellings) and Nhulunbuy (8.0 per cent and 91 dwellings).

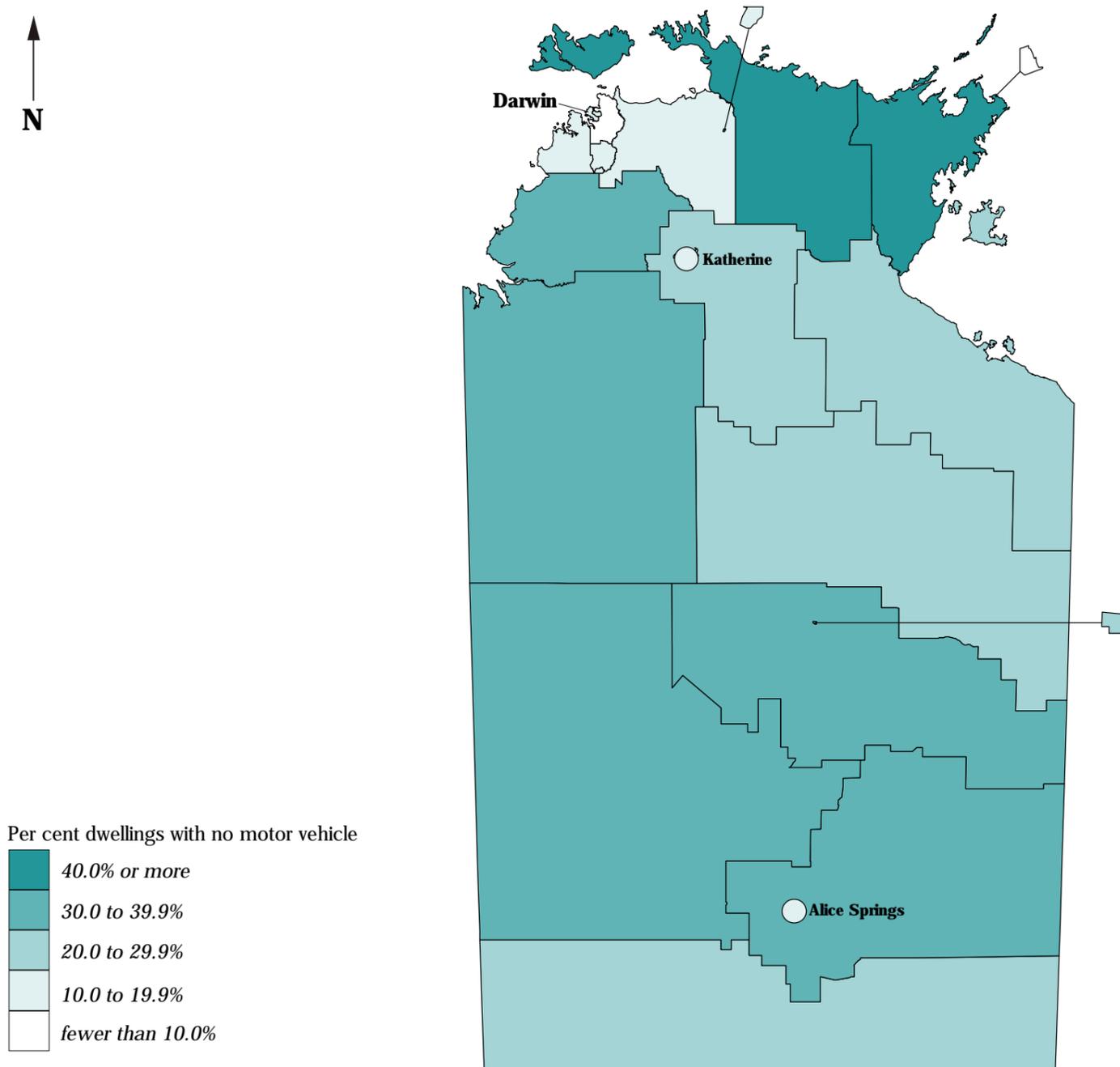
The largest numbers of dwellings without a motor vehicle were in Tanami (390 dwellings), Petermann (388 dwellings), West Arnhem (362 dwellings) and East Arnhem (351 dwellings).

There was a correlation of substantial significance with the variable for the Indigenous population (0.88), and of meaningful significance with the variables for low income families (0.67), single parent families (0.67), early school leavers (0.61) and children aged from 0 to 4 years (0.52). Inverse correlations of meaningful significance were recorded with the variables for high income families (-0.66), female labour force participation (-0.62) and people aged 65 years and over (-0.54), as well as people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, both recent and earlier arrivals. These results, together with the inverse correlation of substantial significance with the IRSD (-0.84), indicate the existence of an association at the SLA level between high proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle and socioeconomic disadvantage.

Map 3.27

Dwellings with no motor vehicle, Northern Territory, 1996

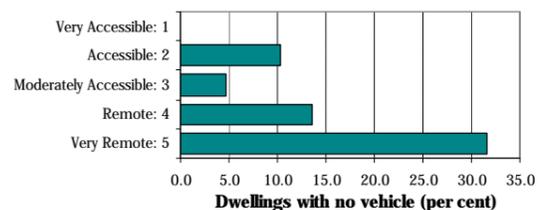
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



2,890
241
1,891
3,264
Dwellings

The highest proportion of dwellings without a motor vehicle (31.5 per cent of occupied private dwellings) is in the Very Remote areas. The Remote and Accessible areas also have relatively high proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle (13.6 per cent and 10.3 per cent, respectively). The lowest proportion is in the Moderately Accessible areas, where just 4.7 per cent of occupied private dwellings had no motor vehicle. The distribution of the Indigenous population is likely to have influenced the high proportion in the Very Remote areas, and the relatively large number in the Remote areas is likely to reflect the situation in the towns outside of Darwin.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 1996

Capital city comparison (Australia equals 1000)

A description of the SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD), and comments as to its use in comparisons between Censuses, is provided on page 18. Briefly, the IRSD score measures the relative socioeconomic disadvantage of the population of an area in comparison with the average for Australia as a whole. High index scores indicate least disadvantage and low index scores indicate greater disadvantage. At the 1996 Census, **Canberra** had the highest IRSD score, of 1084, showing its population to have the least relative disadvantage, or highest socioeconomic status, and **Adelaide** the lowest, with 992, showing its population to have the most relative disadvantage, or lowest socioeconomic status (**Table 3.35**). Between 1986 and 1996, the IRSD scores in **Sydney**, **Perth** and **Darwin** all increased relative to the Australian score of 1000: scores for the other capital cities declined or remained relatively stable.

Table 3.35: SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, capital cities
Index values (Australia equals 1000)

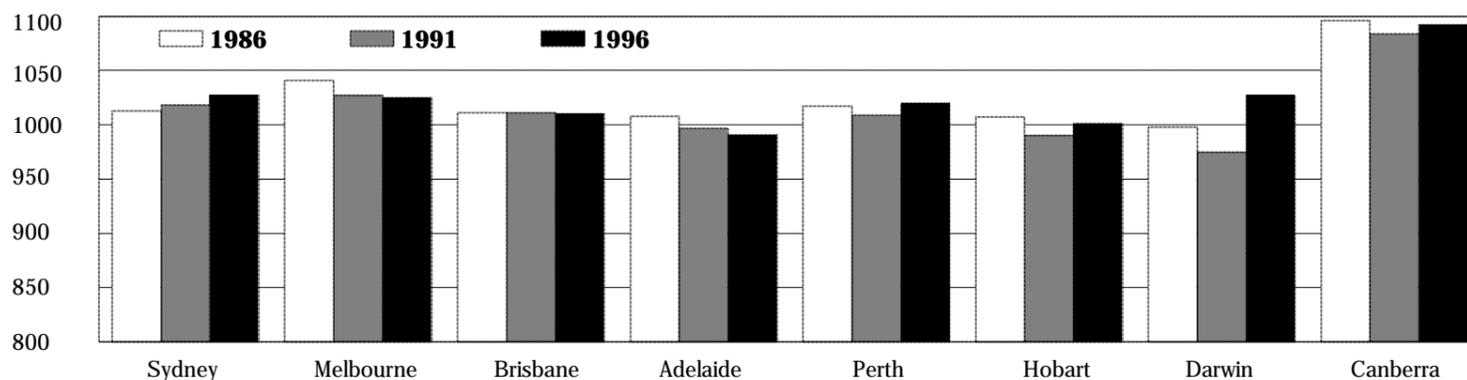
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	1027	1025	1010	992	1020	1001	1027	1084	1021
1986	1013	1041	1011	1008	1017	1007	998	1089	1021

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Figure 3.1 indicates the steady increase over each of the last three Censuses (1986, 1991, 1996) in the scores for **Sydney**; the steady decline for **Adelaide**; the stable situation in **Brisbane**; the slowing of the decline in **Melbourne**; and the turnaround experienced by the other capital cities, following a decline in index scores from 1986 to 1991. **Adelaide** had the lowest score of the capital cities for the first time in any of these three periods.

Figure 3.1: SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, capital cities



Source: ABS special data services

Darwin (Northern Territory equals 1000)

Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

The residents of **Darwin** had relatively high levels of socioeconomic status, compared to the Northern Territory as a whole, with an IRSD score of 1113 (when the index score for the Territory was 1000). This compares with an index score of 986 for people living in the remainder of the Northern Territory.

Overall, the IRSD scores at the SLA level in **Darwin** were high, with just Moulden (with an index score of 991) and East Arm (999) recording scores of below 1000 (**Map 3.28**). Moulden also had among the highest proportions for many of the measures of low socioeconomic status including single parent families, low income families, unemployed people, early school leavers and public rental housing.

Four SLAs had IRSD scores of between 1000 and 1050; The Narrows (with an IRSD of 1005), Winnellie (1017), Gray (1023) and Coconut Grove (1032). All other SLAs had scores of above 1050. The highest (least disadvantaged) scores were in Brinkin (1218), Palmerston-Balance (1200) and Leanyer (1179).

There were inverse correlations of substantial significance at the SLA level with the variables for unskilled and semi-skilled workers (-0.74) and early school leavers (-0.73); and of meaningful significance with low income families (-0.65), the Indigenous population (-0.62), housing authority rental dwellings (-0.55) and single parent families (-0.51). Correlations of meaningful significance were also recorded with the variables for high income families (0.61) and managers and administrators, and professionals (0.57). These relationships indicate a positive association at the SLA level between this aggregate measure of socioeconomic disadvantage and the individual indicators analysed.

Postcode-based areas

The Palmerston suburbs had the lowest IRSD score, of 1052. The remaining postcode areas had similar relatively high, IRSD scores of 1129 in Darwin: South West and 1121 in Darwin: North East.

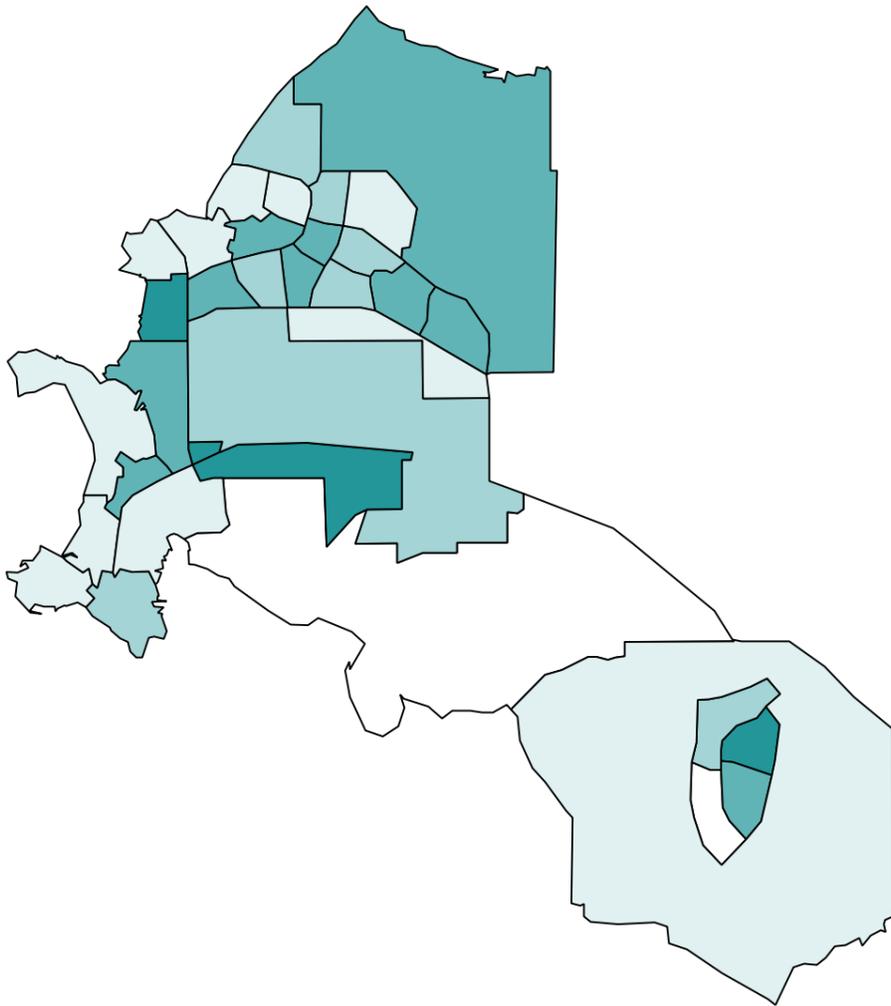
Map 3.28

ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Darwin, 1996

IRSD index number for each area



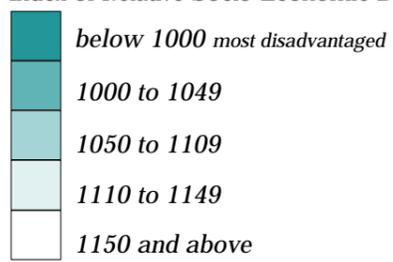
Map 3.28a: SLA Map



Map 3.28b: Postcode Map*



Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage



*SLAs have been grouped to approximate postcode areas

Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 1996

State/Territory comparison (Australia equals 1000)

A description of the SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD), and comments as to its use in comparisons between Censuses, is provided on page 18. The *Whole of State/Territory* index scores ranged from a low of 962 in the Northern Territory to a high of 1091 in the Australian Capital Territory. Between 1986 and 1996 index scores for the non-metropolitan areas of Australia declined for each State and the Northern Territory (Table 3.36), although the score in Western Australia was almost stable.

Table 3.36: SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, State/Territory
Index values (Australia equals 1000)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	1027	1025	1010	992	1020	1001	1027	1084	1021
Other major urban centres	973	980	985	..	..	..	..	..	978
Rest of State/Territory	973	995	965	963	970	955	909	- ⁴	972
Whole of State/Territory	1007	1016	989	984	1006	974	962	1091	1000
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	981	1026	972	986	971	988	917	- ⁴	999

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

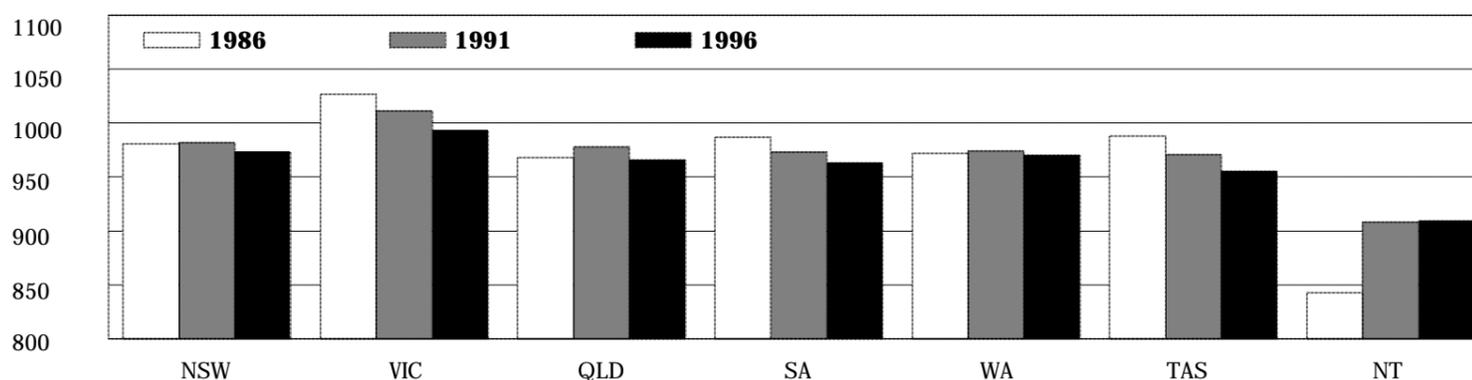
³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Figure 3.2 indicates the steady decline over the last three Censuses (1986, 1991, 1996) in the scores for the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania and the marked increase in the Northern Territory (although remaining as the lowest score); and the small decline experienced by the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, following the increase from 1986 to 1991.

Figure 3.2: SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Rest of State/Territory



Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Territory (Northern Territory equals 1000)

Using the whole of the Northern Territory as the standard (ie. with an IRSD of 1000), the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory had an IRSD of 986, much lower than the 1113 for residents of Darwin. There was a very wide range between the highest (1185 in Jabiru) and lowest index scores (686 in East Arnhem-Balance) (Map 3.29).

The lowest scores were recorded for residents in East Arnhem-Balance (an IRSD of 686), Tanami (702), Bathurst-Melville (729), Gulf (762) and West Arnhem (764). These SLAs also had the highest proportions of Indigenous people in their populations, an indication of the significant degree of relative disadvantage experienced by these people. With the exception of Tennant Creek, all SLAs with IRSD scores below 1,000 (the mean for the whole of the Northern Territory) were rural areas as opposed to less remote.

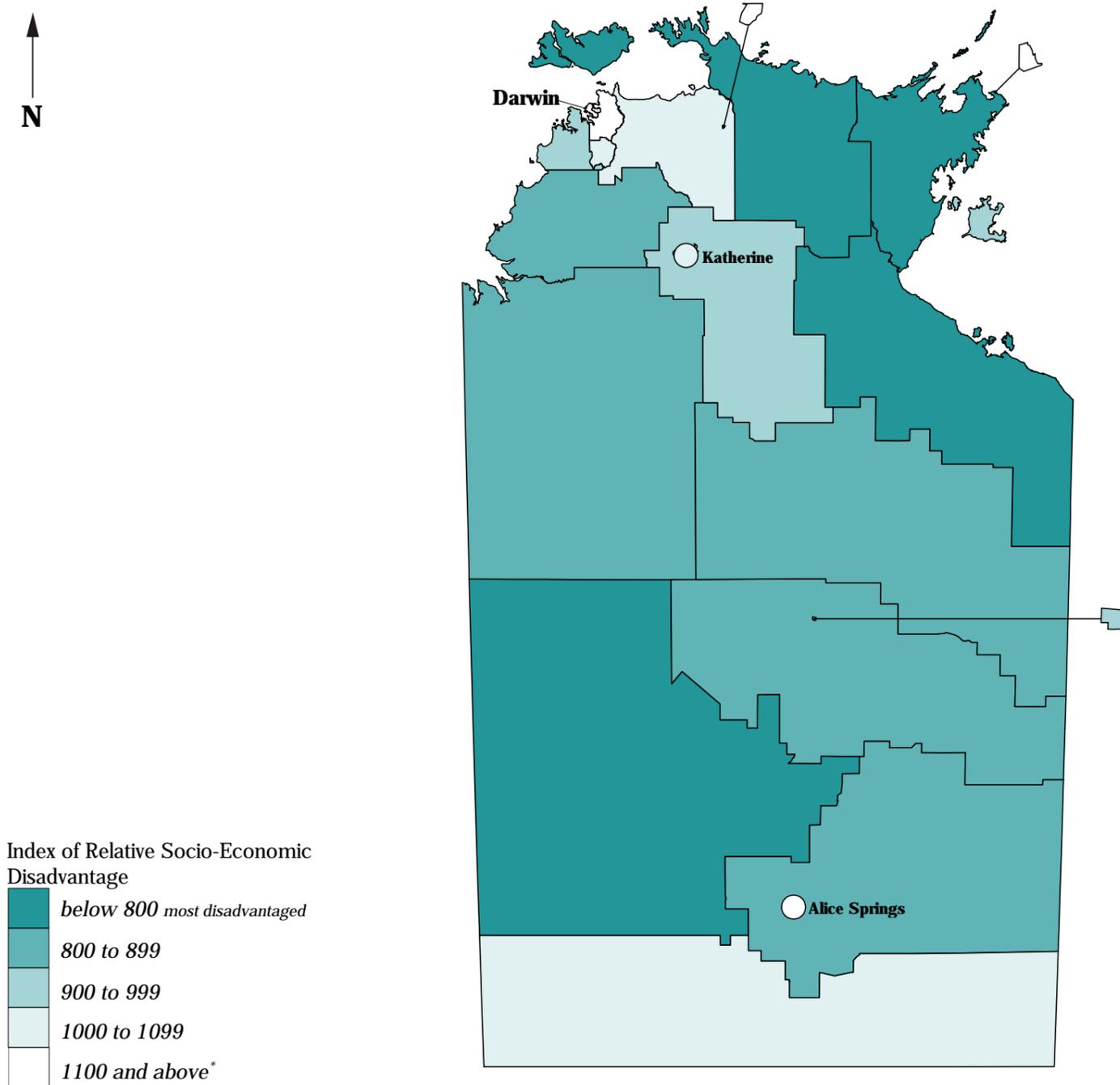
The highest scores were found in Jabiru (an IRSD of 1185), Nhulunbuy (1151), Litchfield [Part B] (1119) and Alice Springs (1110). The suburb of Ross had the highest IRSD score in Alice Springs, of 1152.

There were inverse correlations of substantial significance with most measures of socioeconomic disadvantage, including the variables for the Indigenous population (-0.96), low income families (-0.90), single parent families (-0.87), dwellings without a motor vehicle (-0.84) and early school leavers (-0.80). These relationships indicate a positive association at the SLA level between this aggregate measure of socioeconomic disadvantage and the individual indicators analysed.

Map 3.29

ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Northern Territory, 1996

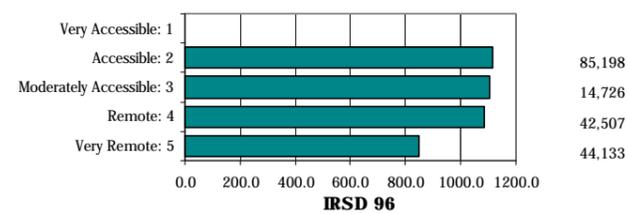
IRSD index number for each Statistical Local Area



Source: See Data sources, Appendix 1.3

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



People

The graph of the ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage shows the highest index scores (indicating the most advantaged areas) are in the Accessible (1113), Moderately Accessible (1003) and Remote (1085) ARIA categories. The lowest score is in the Very Remote category (850): this index score is lower than in the Very Remote areas of any of the States and is likely to have been influenced by the high proportion of Indigenous people in the Very Remote areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

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