National Indigenous Reform Agreement: P26b-Proportion of Indigenous 18-24 year olds engaged in full-time employment, education or training at or above Certificate III (Survey data), 2010 QS

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	396326
Registration status:	Community Services (retired), Superseded 04/04/2011

Data quality

Institutional environment:	These surveys are conducted under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see the ABS Institutional Environment.
Timeliness:	The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) is conducted every six years. The 2008 survey was conducted from August to April 2009. Results were released in October 2009. The Survey of Education and Work (SEW) is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Results from the 2008 survey were released in November 2008.
Accessibility:	See *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008* (4714.0) and *Education and Work, Australia* (6227.0). This measure is released as part of a SEW Detailed Education Data cube. Specialised data tables and Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are also available on request.
Interpretability:	Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available from the *2008 NATSISS User's Guide* (4720.0) – due for release in 2010 – and *Education and Work Australia* (6227.0).
Relevance:	While Indigenous status is collected in the SEW, the survey sample and methodology are not designed to provide output that separately identifies Indigenous people. The SEW can, however, be used for providing non-Indigenous comparisons. The NATSISS and SEW collect information on labour force participation and educational participation. While the SEW collects information on the level of current study, the NATSISS only collects information on whether or not a person is studying but not by level. To maximise consistency, the measures derived from both surveys were based on all students, not just those studying for a Certificate III or above. In the SEW, information may have been supplied by one household resident on behalf of another person. The person reporting may not know all details of the participation of the other in employment or education. In the NATSISS and SEW answers to some questions were not supplied. Hence, judgement may be required in classifying people for this measure.

Accuracy:

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons/6900 households, with a response rate of 82 per cent of households.

In the 2008 NATSISS there was a relatively large level of undercoverage when compared to other ABS surveys. As a consequence, the analysis undertaken to ensure that results from the survey were consistent with other data sources was more extensive than usual. Potential bias due to undercoverage was addressed by the application of a number of adjustments to the initial weights and an adjustment to geographical areas based on the density of the Indigenous population. As undercoverage can result in variances across population characteristics, as well as across data items, caution should be exercised when interpreting the survey results. For more information see the 2008 NATSISS Quality Declaration.

The SEW is conducted in all states and territories excluding very remote areas. This exclusion has a small impact only on national and state estimates, except for the Northern Territory, where such persons comprise over 20 per cent of the population. From 2009 the SEW will include remote areas but will exclude discrete Indigenous communities. As a consequence of this exclusion, comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in remote areas are not available. The 2008 SEW response rate was 96 per cent.

Both surveys are weighted to account for non-response. Since it is derived from sample surveys, this indicator is subject to sampling error which occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated and is based on the statistical methods used to design surveys.

Overall, this indicator has a relative standard error (RSE) of less than 25 per cent for all states and territories. Finer levels of disaggregation (e.g. by the inclusion ofother cross classifying variables) may result in higher levels of sampling error.

Coherence:

The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) has been used in all surveys with education items since 2001 and allows the education and training items between different surveys to be compared. The data items used to construct the measures in the Census, NATSISS and SEW are consistent and comparable, and support assessment of change over time. While there are a range of differences between the scope, coverage, timing and collection methodologies of the collections, these issues do not affect their broad consistency for this measure. Nevertheless, different collection techniques and treatment of 'Not Stated' responses should be considered when comparing surveys with the Census.

The corresponding indicator in the National Education Agreement report was also based on the 2008 SEW. Since Indigenous comparisons were not required for that indicator, the coding used available survey information to match the indicator specifications for people currently studying at Certificate III or above. As noted in Relevance (above), people studying full-time at any level were included in this National Indigenous Reform Indicator (NIRA) indicator to maximise consistency with data available from the 2008 NATSISS.

Relational attributes

Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement:

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