

National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 12a-Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent (Census data), 2020; Quality Statement

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	726268
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous, Standard 06/02/2020

Relational attributes

Indicators linked to this Quality statement:	National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 12a-Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent (Census data), 2020 Indigenous , Standard 23/08/2019
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Data quality

Institutional environment: The Census of Population and Housing is collected by the ABS under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and government arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](#)

Timeliness: The Census is conducted every five years in August. Results from the 2016 Census were released in 2017 and 2018.

Accessibility: An extensive range of Census online products are available from the [Census homepage](#) on the ABS website.

If the Census information required is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can provide customised services. Contact 1300 135 070 from within Australia or +61 2 9268 4909 from overseas. Alternatively, email client.services@abs.gov.au.

Interpretability: The 2016 Census Dictionary (ABS 2016b) is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users to determine and specify their data requirements, and to understand the concepts underlying the data. It provides details of classifications used and a glossary of definitions of Census terms.

Information about the 2016 Census (including data quality statements and conceptual information) can be found in [Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia, 2016](#) (ABS 2017).

Relevance: Census data are available by state and territory and by statistical areas. The Census collects data from all people in Australia on Census night, except foreign diplomats and their families. People in Norfolk Island on Census night were counted for the first time in the 2016 Australian Census following passage of the *Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Act 2015*.

The Census collects information on the highest year of school completed and highest level of non-school qualification for each individual aged 15 and over. The classification of qualifications used is the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001* (ABS 2001).

Accuracy: The 2016 Post Enumeration Survey, which is run a month after each Census is completed, found a net undercount for the 2016 Census of 1.0%. This means approximately 99% of all people in Australia on Census night were counted; this was an improvement of 0.7% on the undercount from 2011. The Census is self-enumerated; respondents sometimes do not return a Census form or fail to answer every applicable question. While some data are imputed, the majority of output classifications include a 'Not stated' category to record the level of non-response for that data item.

This indicator uses two Census data items – Highest Year of School Completed (for Year 12) and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (for AQF Certificate level II or above). Non-response rates for these variables were 8.6% and 2.8% respectively (from 8.4% and 2.6% in 2011). An estimated 1% of respondents provided more than one response to these variables; in these cases responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and extra responses were rejected.

The Indigenous status item is used to ascertain Indigenous status of persons. The non-response rate for this variable was 6.0% (up from 4.9% in 2011).

For further information see specific [data quality statements](#) and the [non-response rate quality statement](#).

Coherence: It is important for Census data to be comparable and compatible with previous Censuses and also with other data produced by the ABS and wider community. The ABS, and the Census, use Australian standard classifications, where available and appropriate, to provide data comparability across statistical collections.

The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (ABS 2001) 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 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (ABS 2016a), National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (ABS 2019) and Survey of Education and Work (ABS 2018) also provide information on educational attainment for this indicator.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Origin: ABS Census of Population and Housing

Reference documents: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2001. Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001. ABS Cat. no. 1272.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2016a. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014-15. ABS Cat. no. 4714.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2016b. Census Dictionary, 2016. ABS Cat. no. 2901.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2017. Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia, 2016. ABS Cat. no. 2900.0. Canberra: ABS

ABS 2018. Education and Work, Australia, May 2018. ABS Cat. no. 6227.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2019. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, 2018-19. ABS Cat. no. 4715.0. Canberra: ABS.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 12a-Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent \(Census data\), 2019; Quality Statement](#)

- [Indigenous](#), Standard 07/02/2019