Social Indicators March 2022

Released: 4 March 2022 | Next release: 1 April 2022

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Date of release: 23 February 2022

Disclaimer

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

More information:

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Social Indicators March 2022 Personal Income in Australia, 2011-12 to 2018-19

The following is a summary of personal income in the Northern Territory during the period spanning 2011-12 to 2018-19 unless otherwise stated.

- In 2018-19, the median income in the Territory was \$61,517. This was above the national median income of \$51,389 and was the second highest median income in Australia after the ACT with a median income of \$66,594.
- For the period 2011-12 to 2018-19, the median income in the Territory grew by an average of 2.4% per annum, the second lowest growth in Australia, behind the national median income growth of 2.6%.
- In 2018-19, the highest median income in the Territory was \$67,468 in Palmerston, while the lowest median income in the Territory was \$41,066 in the Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem region (Table 1).
- From 2011-12 to 2018-19, the median income in Alice Springs and Barkly rose by an average of 2.9% per annum, the tied highest median income growth in the Territory. The median income in East Arnhem fell by an average of 0.7% per annum, the only decrease in the Territory during that period.
- In 2018-19, the Gini coefficient in the Territory was 0.412, the lowest Gini coefficient of all jurisdictions and below the national Gini coefficient of 0.481, indicating a relatively lower level of income inequality in the Territory.
- For the period 2011-12 to 2018-19, the Gini coefficient rose by 2% in the Territory, the largest increase of all the jurisdictions. This indicates that while the Territory's Gini coefficient remains relatively low, income inequality in the Territory has risen much faster than other Australian jurisdictions (Figure 1).
- In 2018-19, the median income for males in the Territory was \$71,467, whereas the median income for females was \$55,751, a difference of 22%. This is lower than the national difference of 27.9% and was the second lowest percentage gap in Australia (Table 2).
- In 2018-19, the median income for females in Palmerston was 28.4% lower than the median income for males, the largest median income gap in the Territory. The median income for females in Barkly was 3% lower than the median income for males, the smallest median income gap in the Territory.

Table 1: Median income in Northern Territoryjurisdictions and Australia, 2011-12 and 2018-19

	2011-12	2018-19	Average Annual Change
	\$	\$	%
Darwin City	52 562	63 195	2.7
Darwin Suburbs	52 930	61 332	2.1
Palmerston	56 774	67 468	2.5
Litchfield	54 087	64 886	2.7
Alice Springs	47 557	58 214	3.0
Barkly	45 926	56 168	2.9
Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem	39 230	41 066	0.7
East Arnhem	58 890	55 991	- 0.6
Katherine	49 244	56 305	2.0
Northern Territory	52 230	61 517	2.4
Australia	42 987	51 389	2.6

Figure 1: Cumulative change in Gini coefficient between 2011-12 and 2018-19 (per cent)¹



¹ The Gini coefficient refers to a measure of income distribution. A lower coefficient indicates relatively lower income inequality.

Table 2: Median income by sex, Northern Territory jurisdictions and Australia, 2018-19

	Males	Females	Difference
	\$	\$	%
Darwin City	72 656	55 951	23.0
Darwin Suburbs	70 440	59 033	16.2
Palmerston	79 648	56 995	28.4
Litchfield	77 906	57 502	26.2
Alice Springs	63 324	54 053	14.6
Barkly	57 851	56 105	3.0
Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem	48 859	38 623	21.0
East Arnhem	66 900	49 216	26.4
Katherine	63 026	51 084	18.9
Northern Territory	71 467	55 751	22.0
Australia	63 213	47 012	27.9

Source data in Personal Income in Australia, 2011-12 to 2018-19: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS

The following is a summary of the Northern Territory's performance across core government services areas. The COVID-19 pandemic may affect ROGS data in a number of ways, including actual performance, collection and processing of data.

Early childhood education and care

- In 2020, the proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling was 87.4%, above the national average of 84.7% (Figure 2).
- Real recurrent Territory expenditure per child aged 0-12 years in 2020-21 increased by 0.6% per cent to \$1,489, the highest of all jurisdictions.
- Real recurrent expenditure per child aged 0-12 years, including Commonwealth expenditure in the Territory, was \$3,759, the second highest of all jurisdictions after the Australian Capital Territory (\$3,800 per child).

School education

- In 2020, there were 30,218 full time students in government schools, an increase of 1.4% compared to 2019. Nationally, full time students in government schools increased by 1.3% to 2.6 million (Table 3).
- Of these students in the Territory, 13,034 or 43.1% were Aboriginal. This was the highest proportion of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 7.6%.
- In 2020, there were 3,937 full time equivalent staff employed in government schools (including non-teaching staff), an increase of 1.1% compared to 2019. Nationally, full time staff in government schools increased by 3.9% to 274,289.
- The student-to-teaching staff ratio in government schools in 2020 was 11.8, the lowest of all states and below the national average of 13.9.

Vocational education and training

- Real recurrent government expenditure per person on vocational education and training (VET) in 2020 was \$619, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$346.
- In 2020, the participation rate of 18 24 year olds in government funded VET courses was 15.7%, the fourth highest of the jurisdictions and on par with the national average at 15.7%. The Aboriginal participation rate was 13.1 per cent, the lowest of all jurisdictions (Figure 3).

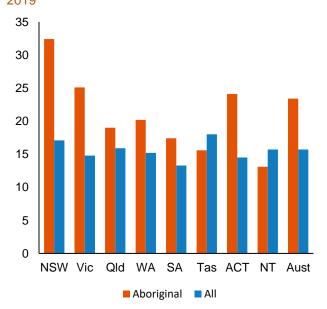
Figure 2: Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full time schooling, 2020



Table 3: Full time enrolled students in government schools by Aboriginal status, 2019

N.1		
No.	No.	%
808 949	66 731	8.2
641 462	15 157	2.4
572 115	60 491	10.6
289 775	24 280	8.4
175 580	11 896	6.8
56 480	6 255	11.1
45 371	1 802	4.0
30 218	13 034	43.1
2 619 950 199 646		7.6
	56 480 45 371 30 218	56 480 6 255 45 371 1 802 30 218 13 034

Figure 3: Participation rate of 18-24 year olds in government funded VET courses by Aboriginal status, 2019



Social Indicators March 2022 Police services

- Real recurrent expenditure on police services in 2020-21 was \$445.5 million, representing an average annual increase of 4.9% since 2016-17. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$1,806.9 per person on police services, above the national average of \$549.5 per person.
- In 2020-21, there were 2,011 full time equivalent police staff, an average annual increase of 3.0% since 2016-17. This includes sworn, civilian and other staff.
- The total number of full time operational police staff per 100,000 people was 745, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 284 (Figure 4).
- In 2020-21, the proportion of people in the Territory satisfied (in general) with police services was 71.8%, the lowest of the jurisdictions and below the national average of 80.7%.
- 82.8% of people agreed that police perform their job professionally in the Territory, compared to the national figure of 85.5%. The rate of complaints on police conduct per 100,000 people was 198, the highest of all jurisdictions.
- In 2020-21, the rate of road deaths per 100,000 registered vehicles was 22.7, an increase compared to 19.9 in 2019-20 and above the national rate of 5.7.
- The rate of traffic accident hospitalisations per 100,000 registered vehicles in 2019-20 was 413.2, more than double the national figure of 185.7.

Corrective services

- In 2020-21, real net operating expenditure on prisons was \$146.5 million, an average annual increase of 2.8% since 2016-17. This equates to Territory expenditure per prisoner per day of \$229.6, below the national average of \$272.4 per prisoner per day (Table 4).
- The imprisonment rate per 100,000 adults in the Territory was 944.7 in 2020-21, the highest of all the jurisdictions and above than the national average of 210.1.
- The Territory's age standardised imprisonment rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people (2,305 and 193 per 100,000 adults) were above the national rates (1,914 and 161) (Figure 5).
- In 2020-21, the community corrections offender to total staff ratio was 8.7, below the national average of 15.6.

Figure 4: Full time equivalent operational police staff per 100 000 people, 2020-21

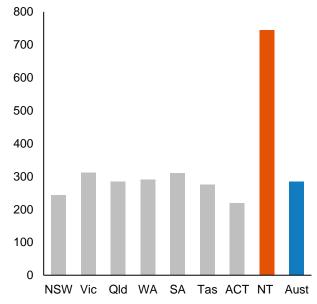
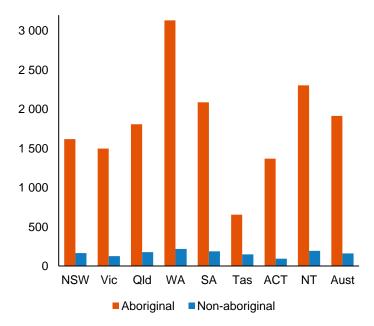


Table 4: Real net operating expenditure per prisoner per day

	2016-17 2020-21		Average annual change
	\$	\$	%
New South Wales	185.4	265.1	9.4
Victoria	326.3	377.6	3.7
Queensland	196.4	207.1	1.3
Western Australia	254.1	284.1	2.8
South Australia	225.1	220.0	-0.6
Tasmania	318.2	384.6	4.9
Australian Capital Territory	339.3	386.2	3.3
Northern Territory	219.5	229.6	1.1
Australia	230.9	272.4	4.2





Social Indicators March 2022 Public hospitals

- In 2019-20, real recurrent expenditure on public hospital services was \$1,500 million, an average annual increase of 5.8% since 2016-17. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$6,071 per person on public hospital services, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$2,971 per person (Figure 6).
- In 2020-21, the proportion of patients in emergency departments treated within national waiting time benchmarks was 52%, below the national figure of 68%.

Primary and community health

- There were 59.7 separations per 1,000 people in 2019-20, the highest figure of all jurisdictions and above the national figure of 25.5.
- The proportion of Aboriginal people aged 15-54 who received a health check or assessment in 2020-21 was 29.6%, above the national average of 25.6%.
- The proportion of children aged 12 to 15 months who were fully immunised in 2020-21 was 95.2%. This is similar to the national average of 94.9% and is an improvement on the previous year's figure of 94.5%.

Child protection and youth justice

- In 2020-21, real recurrent Territory expenditure on all child protection services, including family support, was \$212.1 million, an average annual decrease of -1.6% since 2016-17. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$3,446.9 per child, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$1,327.4 per child (Table 5).
- In 2020-21, there were 390.2 Aboriginal child protection notifications per 1,000 Aboriginal children compared to 188.8 nationally. The rate of non-Aboriginal child protection notifications was 82.1 per 1,000 non-Aboriginal children compared to 34.3 nationally.
- Of the 6,914 child protection investigations that commenced in 2020-21, 81.6% began within 7 days, the second highest of all jurisdictions after WA and above the national rate of 59.5%.
- In 2020-21, the rate of detention per 10,000 young people was 12.2 in the Territory, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 2.6.
- The cost per young person per day in detention in 2020-21 was \$6,246.7 in the Territory, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$2,517.5 (Figure 7).
- The cost per young person per day in communitybased supervision in 2020-21 was \$1,316.1 in the Territory, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$246.8.

Figure 6: Real recurrent expenditure on public hospital services per person, 2019-20 (dollars)

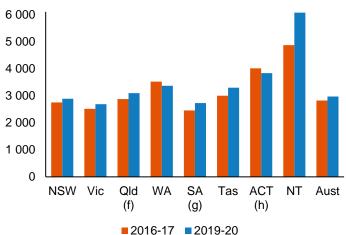
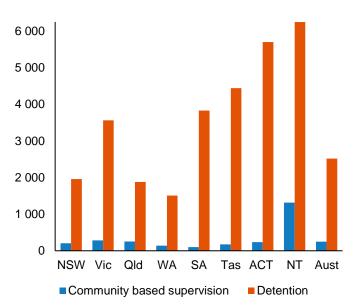


Table 5: Real recurrent expenditure on all child protection services per child aged 0-17 years old

	2016-17	2020-21	Average annual change
	\$	\$	%
New South Wales	1 168.2	1 436.5	5.3
Victoria	855.4	1 218.9	9.3
Queensland	895.7	1 267.9	9.1
Western Australia	858.9	1 002.0	3.9
South Australia	1 494.5	1 733.2	3.8
Tasmania	917.1	1 272.3	8.5
Australian Capital Territory	752.0	879.8	4.0
Northern Territory	3 619.8	3 447.0	-1.2
Australia	1 037.3	1 327.4	6.4

Figure 7: Cost per young person per day by type of order, 2020-21 (dollars)



Social Indicators March 2022 Ambulance services

- In 2020-21, there were 49,339 ambulance incidents, or an incident rate of 200.1 per 1,000 population, the second highest of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 158.7 incidents per 1,000 population.
- Calls to the emergency call service (000) answered in a time equal to or less than 10 seconds in 2020-21 was 89.2%, below the national average of 90.8% (Figure 8).
- In 2020-21, 98.0% of patients were very satisfied or satisfied with ambulance services, above the national average of 96.0%.

Housing

- In 2020-21, real net recurrent Territory expenditure on social housing was \$448.7 million, an average annual increase of 36.0% since 2016-17. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$869.1 per person in the population, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$174.7 per person (Figure 9).
- On 30 June 2021, 8.1% of public housing was overcrowded, the highest rate of all jurisdictions and above the national average of 4.2%.
- The average turnaround time for vacant public housing stock in 2020-21 was 120.1 days, the longest turnaround time of all jurisdictions.

Homelessness

- In 2020-21, real recurrent expenditure on homelessness services was \$48.1 million, an average annual increase of 6.7% since 2016-17. This equates to Territory expenditure of \$194.9 per person in the residential population, the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average of \$47.5 per person.
- The proportion of clients who needed assistance to obtain or maintain independent housing and achieved it at the end of support and did not present again was 85.8%, comparable with the national average of 86.7%.
- The proportion of clients who had repeat periods of homelessness in 2020-21 was 5.4%, a 0.2 percentage point increase from the previous year and comparable with the national average of 5.6%.
- The estimated recurrent cost per client accessing homelessness services in the Territory was \$4,748 in 2020-21, the fourth highest cost of the jurisdictions and comparable with the national average cost of \$4,385 per client (Table 6).

Figure 8: Calls to the emergency call service (000) answered in a time equal to or less than 10 seconds, 2020-21 (%)



Figure 9: Real recurrent expenditure on social housing per person in the population (dollars)

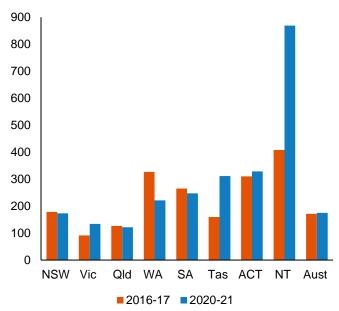


Table 6: Estimated recurrent cost per client accessing homelessness services

2016-17	2020-21	Average annual change
\$	\$	%
2 955	3 739	4.3
2 675	4 828	5.8
3 290	3 977	4.1
3 274	3 692	3.5
3 413	4 479	4.7
3 512	5 254	5.5
4 838	6 664	5.5
4 038	4 748	4.2
3 080	4 385	5.0
	\$ 2 955 2 675 3 290 3 274 3 413 3 512 4 838 4 038	\$ \$ 2 955 3 739 2 675 4 828 3 290 3 977 3 274 3 692 3 413 4 479 3 512 5 254 4 838 6 664 4 038 4 748

Source data in Report on Government Services, 2022: Department of Treasury and Finance, SCRGSP

The following is a summary of information on offence counts in the Northern Territory in the December quarter 2021 compared to the December quarter 2020, unless otherwise stated.

- Recorded offences against property increased by 286, or 5.1%, to 5,847. This increase was driven by increases in all offences against property other than property damage, which decreased by 112, or 4.9% (Table 7).
- Commercial break-ins increased by 36.1% to 607 with the increase driven by increases in Darwin (58), Alice Springs (86), Katherine (6) and NT Balance (29).
- House break-ins increased by 14.5% to 712, driven by increases in Darwin (42), Alice Springs (34), Katherine (18),Tennant Creek (20) and NT Balance (18) (Table 8).
- The number of offences against persons decreased by 132, or 4.7%, to 2,660, primarily driven by decreases in acts intended to cause injury (129) and sexual assault and related offences (27).
- The number of homicide and related offences increased by 5 or 166.7%. This was primarily due to increases in Darwin (4) and Alice Springs (1).
- Of the total number of acts intended to cause injury, 2,330 were assaults. Of these assaults, 64.6% involved domestic violence, 47.9% involved alcohol and 34.7% involved both domestic violence and alcohol.
- In the year ending December 2021, offence rates for theft and related offences (other than motor vehicle theft and related offences) increased 27.1% to 3,185.1 per 100,000 population compared to the year ending December 2020.
- This increase in offence rates was primarily driven by increases in Darwin (26.4%), Alice Springs (57.4%), Katherine (3.0%), Tennant Creek (5.1%), Nhulunbuy (79.7%) and NT Balance (20.1%). Palmerston was the only area that experienced a decrease of 3.5%.
- The Northern Territory crime statistics are prepared by the Department of Attorney-General and Justice using data recorded by the Northern Territory Police.

Table 7: Selected recorded offences against property and persons, Northern Territory, December quarter, 2020 and 2021^{2,3,4}

	Dec qtr 2020	Dec qtr 2021	Annual change
	No.	No.	%
Offences against property			
House break-ins	622	712	14.5
Commercial break-ins	446	607	36.1
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	386	455	17.9
Theft	1 819	1 897	4.3
Property damage	2 288	2 176	-4.9
Total	5 561	5 847	5.1
Offences against persons			
Homicide and related offences	3	8	166.7
Acts intended to cause injury	2 464	2 335	-5.2
Sexual assault and related offences	133	106	-20.3
Other	192	211	9.9
Total	2 792	2 660	-4.7

2 Break-ins include actual and attempted break-ins.

3 Other includes other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons, abduction, harassment and other offences, robbery, extortion and related offences.

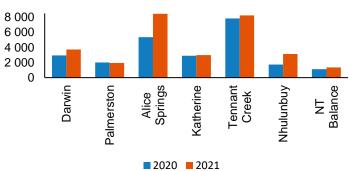
4 Acts intended to cause injury includes assault and related offences.

Table 8: Recorded house break-ins by region, Northern Territory, December quarter, 2020 and 2021⁵

Northern remoty,	Northern remory, December quarter, 2020 and 2021°				
	Dec qtr Dec qtr		Annual		
	2020	2021	change		
	No.	No.	%		
Darwin	134	176	31.3		
Palmerston	98	63	-35.7		
Alice Springs	207	241	16.4		
Katherine	17	35	105.9		
Tennant Creek	24	44	83.3		
Nhulunbuy	11	4	-63.6		
NT Balance	131	149	13.7		
Total	622	712	14.5		

5 NT Balance is the area of the Northern Territory that lies outside of the six urban centres of Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

Figure 10: Theft and related offences per 100 000 population, Northern Territory, for the 12 months ending November⁶



6 Excludes motor vehicle theft and related offences. Source data in Northern Territory Crime Statistics, December 2021: Department of Treasury and Finance, NTPFES

Social Indicators March 2022 Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2020-21

The following summarises crime victimisation estimates in the Northern Territory in 2020-21, unless otherwise stated:

- An estimated 5.6% of Territorians aged 15 and over experienced physical and/or threatened assault, the highest of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 3.8% (Table 3).
- About 3,700 Territorians experienced physical assault, a 47.1% decrease compared to 2016-17. Nationally, physical assault decreased by 9.3% over the same period.
- From 2016-17 to 2020-21, the victimisation rate of physical assault in the Territory decreased by 2.4 percentage points, compared to the national victimisation rate which decreased by 0.4 percentage points.
- About 4,800 persons aged 15 and over experienced threatened assault, representing 2.0% of Territorians, on par with 2.0% nationally.
- About 2,800 or 4.5% of households experienced a break-in, the highest of all the jurisdictions and above the national victimisation rate of 1.7%. In 2020-21, 71.4% of Territory break-in victims reported to police (Figure 2).
- About 3,500 or 5.6% of households experienced an attempted break in. Of these households, 45.7% reported to police. Nationally, 1.8% of households experienced an attempted break-in and 45.1% reported to police (Figure 2).
- About 5,000 or 8.0% of households experienced malicious property damage. Of these households, 58.0% reported to police. Nationally, 4.0% of households experienced malicious property damage and 50.8% reported to police.
- About 2,000 or 3.2% of households experienced theft from a motor vehicle. Of these households, 50.0% reported their most recent incident to police. Nationally, 2.5% of households experienced theft from a motor vehicle and 53.9% reported to police.
- From 2016-17 to 2020-21, the victimisation rate of household break-ins in the Territory decreased by 0.5 percentage points while the victimisation rate nationally decreased by 0.8 percentage points (Table 4).

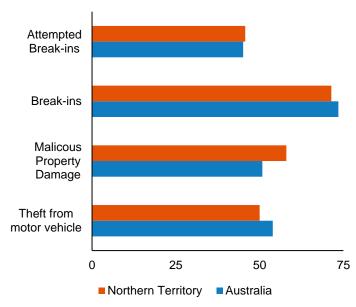
Table 3: Victimisation rate for persons experiencingphysical and/or threatened assault7, 8

	2016-17	2020-21	Change
	%	%	ppt
NSW	4.1	3.6	-0.5
Vic	5.3	3.4	-1.9
Qld	4.5	5.0	0.5
WA	6.2	4.9	-1.3
SA	4.3	4.7	0.4
Tas	4.7	4.8	0.1
ACT	4.7	3.8	-0.9
NT	7.0	5.6	-1.4
Australia	4.7	4.1	-0.6

7 Victimisation rate is the total number of persons aged 15 years and over who experienced the crime, expressed as a percentage of all persons aged 15 years and over.

8 Where a person has experienced both physical and threatened assault it is counted only once in the aggregated total.

Figure 2: Reporting rates for selected crimes, 2020-219



9 Reporting rate refers to the total number of households that reported the most recent incident of crime to police, expressed as a percentage of the total number of households that experienced the crime.

Table 4: Victimisation rate for persons experiencing break-ins

	2016-17	2020-21	Total change
	%	%	ppt
NSW	2.0	1.4	-0.6
Vic	2.8	1.8	-1.0
Qld	2.0	1.8	-0.2
WA	4.3	2.4	-1.9
SA	1.9	1.5	-0.4
Tas	2.0	1.4	-0.6
ACT	2.5	2.4	-0.1
NT	5.0	4.5	-0.5
Australia	2.5	1.7	-0.8

Source data in Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2020-21: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS

Social Indicators March2022 Schools, Australia, 2021

The following is a summary of information on students and schools in the Northern Territory in 2021, unless otherwise stated:

- There were a total of 191 schools in the Territory, comprised of 152 or 79.6% Government schools, 21 or 11.0% Independent schools and 18 or 9.4% Catholic schools.
- There were 40,564 total students (full-time and part-time in schools, an average annual decrease of 0.6% since 2018. Territory students represented 1.0 percent of national students.
- Of the total students, 30,097 or 74.2% attended Government schools, 5,617 or 13.8% attended Independent schools and 4,850 or 12.0% attended Catholic schools. Nationally, 65.1% of students attended Government schools, 15.4% attended Independent schools and 19.5% attended Catholic schools.
- Of the total number of Territory students who attended Government schools, 63.3% attended primary schools and 36.7% attended secondary schools. Nationally, 60.4% attended primary schools and 39.6% attended secondary schools (Table 7).
- Of the total number of Territory students attending non-Government schools, 49.4% attended primary schools and 50.6% attended secondary schools. These figures are similar to the national results of 48.6% and 51.4% respectively (Table 7).
- There were 13,064 Indigenous students, of which 82.5% attended Government schools, similar to the national rate of 82.9%.
- Indigenous students represented 43.4% of total Government school students, compared to 7.9% nationally (Table 8).
- The apparent retention rate (ARR) for all students in years 10 to 12 was 67.5%, the lowest of the jurisdictions and a 2.9 percentage point decrease in comparison to 2020. Nationally, the retention rate was 81.6%, a 0.5 percentage point decrease compared to 2020 (Figure 4).
- The ARR for Indigenous students in year 10 to 12 was 44.1%, the lowest of the jurisdictions and a 7.8 percentage point decrease in comparison to 2020. Nationally, the retention rate for Indigenous students was 60.5%, a 1.0 percentage point decrease in comparison to 2020

Table 7: Total students in Government and non-Government schools, 2021¹⁰

	No.	Primary	Secondary
	'000	%	%
Government			
NSW	802.8	60.8	39.2
Vic	645.7	60.3	39.7
Qld	575.2	58.6	41.4
WA	292.5	61.2	38.8
SA	174.2	63.7	36.3
Tas	56.1	57.5	42.5
ACT	46.2	59.6	40.4
NT	30.1	63.3	36.7
Australia	2 622.8	60.4	39.6
Non-Government			
NSW	441.1	48.8	51.2
Vic	365.5	48.1	51.9
Qld	292.2	48.5	51.5
WA	143.8	47.0	53.0
SA	100.0	51.6	48.4
Tas	25.7	49.0	51.0
ACT	29.2	50.5	49.5
NT	10.5	49.4	50.6
Australia	1 408.0	48.6	51.4

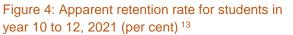
10 Figures may not add due to rounding

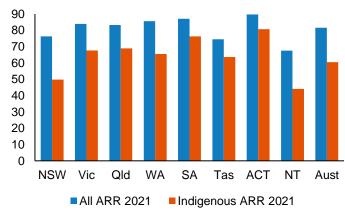
Table 8: Indigenous students in Government and non-Government schools, proportion of total students, 2021^{11, 12}

	Government		Non-Government	
	'000	%	'000 '	%
NSW	69.0	8.6	13.6	3.1
Vic	16.0	2.5	3.2	0.9
Qld	62.8	10.9	13.7	4.7
WA	24.9	8.5	5.1	3.6
SA	12.3	7.1	1.9	1.9
Tas	6.5	11.6	1.7	6.8
ACT	1.8	4.1	0.6	2.0
NT	13.1	43.4	2.8	26.5
Australia	206.4	7.9	42.6	3.0

11 Figures may not add due to rounding

12 Students include full-time and part-time students.





13 ARR for students in year 10 to 12 is the proportion of students in year 10 in 2019 that remained in the schooling system until year 12 in 2021.

Source data in Schools, Australia, 2021: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS