

INDIGENOUS TASMANIANS

A STATISTICAL PROFILE

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Report produced by



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1. INTRODUCTION

The following report on Indigenous Tasmanians has been prepared by the Labour Economics Office of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. It presents data from the 2001 Census, with occasional references to historical Census data. Although some comment is provided to highlight some of the main features of the tables, this report does not attempt to explain in detail the reasons behind the differences between the data on indigenous people and that for the total population. It is primarily an attempt to present the data and to highlight where the differences occur. The report aims to inform any organisation which has a role in providing services to Indigenous people in Tasmania.

2. POPULATION

The number of people identifying as Indigenous in Tasmania has been increasing quite dramatically over the last 15 years or so. However the increase slowed to 13.6% between 1996 and 2001, following large jumps between 1986 and 1996. The big increases that have occurred since 1986 are generally attributed to an increase in the number of people prepared to identify as Indigenous. The slowing of the increase in the number of people identifying as Indigenous between 1996 and 2001 could be due to a range of factors. It may be that a “saturation point” has been reached in that most Indigenous people who are willing to identify, have done so, and that increases from this point on primarily reflect birth rates. The issue of Aboriginality in Tasmania is an extremely sensitive and contentious area, and it may be that the ongoing debate surrounding this issue has contributed to a slowing of the growth in those willing to identify as Aboriginals.

Table 1: Growth in Indigenous population compared to total population

	Aboriginal Males	% increase	Aboriginal Females	% increase	Total	% increase	Aboriginals as % of total population
2001	7899	14.3%	7907	13.6%	15806	13.9%	3.5%
1996	6911	54.0%	6961	58.3%	13872	56.1%	3.0%
1991	4487	32.4%	4398	32.3%	8885	32.3%	2.0%
1986	3390		3325		6715		1.5%

Table 2 shows that there are significant differences between the age structure of the Indigenous population and the total population. The number of young Indigenous people form a much greater proportion of the total Indigenous population than they do in the total population. For example, 59.1% of the Indigenous population are under 25, while only 34.8% of the total population are.

Again this is likely to involve a complex interaction of factors including issues of identification and varying birth and death rates. In addition to the issue of identification, studies have been undertaken which indicate that Indigenous peoples generally have higher birth rates, and lower life expectancy when compared with the total population. In 1998 for example, a national study showed that the fertility rate for Aboriginal women was 2.2 compared to 1.8 for the total population (*Australian Social Trends, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue no. 4102.0, Canberra, 2000*). What these figures mean is that on current fertility data, an Aboriginal woman could be expected to bear 2.2 children during her reproductive life, compared to 1.8 children for all women in Australia.

At the other end of the age scale, the same report showed that the median age of death for Indigenous people was 50.0 years compared to 77.0 years for the total population. It is a combination of fertility rates, birth rates and identification issues that are most likely responsible for the much greater proportion of young people in the Indigenous population.

Table 2: Age distribution of Indigenous population compared to total population

	INDIGENOUS			% of Total persons	TOTAL POPULATION			% of Total persons
	Males	Females	Persons		Males	Females	Persons	
0-4 years	1006	957	1963	12.4%	14,798	14,101	28,899	6.6%
5-14 years	2261	2030	4291	27.2%	33,514	31,805	65,319	14.9%
15-24 years	1494	1570	3064	19.4%	29,550	29,003	58,553	13.3%
0-24 years	4761	4557	9318	59.1%	77,862	74,909	152,771	34.8%
25-44 years	1891	2198	4089	25.9%	59,640	63,780	123,420	28.1%
45-64 years	1022	936	1958	12.4%	53,008	53,082	106,090	24.2%
65 years and over	192	216	408	2.6%	24,933	31,441	56,374	12.9%
Total persons	7866	7907	15773	100.0%	215,443	223,212	438,655	100.0%

Table 3 suggests that Indigenous people are slightly less likely to live in a major urban centre than is the case with the total population. Approximately 53.9% of Indigenous people live in cities and towns compared to 59.2% of the total population. This potentially has some implications in terms of access to employment and training opportunities, given that these are generally much more available in towns and cities than rural areas. It is still the case, however that the majority of Indigenous people live in major urban centres of more than 5,000 people.

Table 3: Urban and non – urban population distribution

	Indigenous Pop'n	% of total Indigenous pop.	Total Pop'n	% of total Tas Pop.
Burnie/Somerset	868	5.5%	18095	4.0%
Devonport	837	5.3%	21575	4.7%
Hobart	3216	20.4%	126048	27.6%
Launceston	1798	11.4%	68443	15.0%
Kingston/Blackmans Bay	391	2.5%	14827	3.2%
Bridgewater/Gagebrook	656	4.2%	6693	1.5%
New Norfolk	181	1.1%	5011	1.1%
Ulverstone	555	3.5%	9515	2.1%
<i>Total Major Urban Centres*</i>	<i>8502</i>	<i>53.9%</i>	<i>270207</i>	<i>59.2%</i>
<i>Total non-major urban, non-urban population*</i>	<i>7271</i>	<i>46.1%</i>	<i>186,445</i>	<i>40.8%</i>
Total Population	15773	100.0%	456,652	100.0%

- *Major urban centres refers to towns with a total population greater than 5,000. "Non-major, non-urban centres refers to rural areas and urban centres of less than 5,000 people."*

The following table shows Indigenous people as a percentage of the total population in each local government area, and also as a percentage of the total Indigenous population in the State. So for example, on Flinder's Island 17.0% of the population has identified as Indigenous, but this population accounts for only 0.9% of the State's Indigenous population. In Burnie however, only 4.3% of the population are Indigenous, but these people make up 5.0% of the State's Indigenous population. As indicated above, the highest concentrations of Indigenous people are in the major

urban centres of Hobart (Glenorchy 9.8%, Clarence 8.2%), and Launceston (10.6%). One notable exception is the Huon Valley where 8.2% of the State's Indigenous population live.

Table 4: Population distribution and concentration of the Indigenous population

	<i>Indigenous as % of total population in LGA</i>	<i>Indigenous as % of total indigenous</i>
Break O'Day (M)	2.9%	1.0%
Brighton (M)	6.5%	5.2%
Burnie (C)	4.3%	5.0%
Central Coast (M)	5.6%	7.1%
Central Highlands (M)	4.3%	0.6%
Circular Head (M)	7.3%	3.6%
Clarence (C)	2.7%	8.2%
Derwent Valley (M)	3.8%	2.2%
Devonport (C)	3.8%	5.6%
Dorset (M)	2.0%	0.9%
Flinders (M)	17.0%	0.9%
George Town (M)	2.6%	1.0%
Glamorgan/Spring Bay (M)	3.3%	0.8%
Glenorchy (C)	3.6%	9.8%
Hobart (C)	1.3%	3.9%
Huon Valley (M)	9.8%	8.2%
Kentish (M)	3.8%	1.3%
King Island (M)	1.9%	0.2%
Kingborough (M)	2.7%	4.8%
Latrobe (M)	4.8%	2.4%
Launceston (C)	2.7%	10.6%
Meander Valley (M)	2.2%	2.4%
North Midlands (M)	2.0%	1.5%
Sorell (M)	3.2%	2.1%
Southern Midlands (M)	3.7%	1.3%
Tasman (M)	5.5%	0.8%
Waratah/Wynyard (M)	6.0%	5.0%
West Coast (M)	5.2%	1.8%
West Tamar (M)	1.4%	1.8%
TOTAL	3.5%	100.0%

3 LABOUR MARKET

A) UNEMPLOYMENT

Table 5 below, shows the unemployment rates of Indigenous people compared to the total population by local government area. It shows that Indigenous people consistently experience higher rates of unemployment than the rates experienced by the total population. Actual numbers of unemployed have also been included to avoid drawing inappropriate conclusions from what on the surface appear to be particularly high rates of unemployment. For example, the Central Highlands municipality has an Indigenous unemployment rate of 42.9%, but in fact the actual number of unemployed aboriginals is only 9. Similarly, King Island has an Indigenous unemployment rate of 33.3%, but only 3 people we recorded as being unemployed. In fact in this case it could actually be only 1 person – the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will round figures below 3 up to 3 where there is some possibility of

individuals being identified, and confidentiality being breached. This could happen if, for example, in a small community a number of variables such as occupation, Indigenous background and level of income are cross referenced at the collection district level (the smallest geographical area defined by the ABS).

Table 5: Unemployment rates of Indigenous and total population by Local Government Area.

<i>LGA Name</i>	<i>Indigenous Unemployed</i>	<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	<i>Total Unemployed</i>	<i>Unemployment Rate</i>
<i>Break O'Day</i>	18	40.0%	329	16.2%
<i>Brighton</i>	66	30.7%	801	16.3%
<i>Burnie</i>	59	21.70%	1019	13.3%
<i>Central Coast</i>	125	20.97%	838	12.0%
<i>Central Highlands</i>	9	42.9%	118	11.7%
<i>Circular Head</i>	35	15.6%	289	7.8%
<i>Clarence</i>	67	16.8%	1,867	8.6%
<i>Derwent Valley</i>	23	20.2%	522	14.1%
<i>Devonport</i>	79	22.7%	1,226	12.6%
<i>Dorset</i>	0	0.0%	214	6.9%
<i>Flinders</i>	3	4.9%	24	5.25%
<i>George Town</i>	12	23.5%	313	12.8%
<i>Glamorgan/Spring Bay</i>	0	0.0%	184	11.0%
<i>Glenorchy</i>	104	20.3%	2,070	11.4%
<i>Hobart</i>	48	17.3%	1820	7.6%
<i>Huon Valley</i>	52	10.9%	585	10.9%
<i>Kentish</i>	16	21.9%	352	15.9%
<i>King Island</i>	3	33.3%	40	4.2%
<i>Kingborough</i>	35	11.9%	865	6.5%
<i>Latrobe</i>	31	18.7%	359	10.3%
<i>Launceston</i>	121	22.2%	2,972	10.9%
<i>Meander Valley</i>	21	13.1%	627	7.9%
<i>North Midlands</i>	15	21.4%	433	8.6%
<i>Sorell</i>	23	23.0%	459	9.9%
<i>Southern Midlands</i>	9	25.0%	253	10.8%
<i>Tasman</i>	6	15.4%	104	11.7%
<i>Waratah/Wynyard</i>	58	22.7%	653	12.2%
<i>West Coast</i>	29	27.4%	299	11.6%
<i>West Tamar</i>	18	18.4%	710	8.1%
Total Tasmania	1085	19.7%	20,345	10.1%

NB: The Australian Bureau of Statistics and Centrelink, the organisation which pays income support for unemployed people, have different definitions of unemployment. A person can be working only a few hours a week and therefore still be receiving some Newstart benefits from Centrelink, but be classified as employed by the ABS. This would account for any discrepancies between the ABS unemployment figures, and the number of people receiving Centrelink Newstart benefits.

B) EMPLOYMENT

Table 6 compares the industries where Indigenous Tasmanians are employed to those where all Tasmanians are employed. Generally speaking there are not large differences between the percentage of Indigenous people employed in each industry and the total population. Indigenous people are over-represented in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, which is to some extent to be expected, given that more Indigenous people live outside major urban centres compared to the total population (see table 3). Indigenous people are also over-represented in

the retail industry as well. This may well be a reflection of the age structure of the Indigenous population in that the retail sector employs a disproportionately large number of young people and, as discussed in section 2 above, 59.1% of Aboriginals in Tasmania are under 25 years of age.

The industries in which Indigenous people seem to be under - represented compared to the total population, are education, property and business services, and finance and insurance.

Table 6: Employment by industry, Indigenous Tasmanians and the total employed population

	Indigenous employed	% of Indigenous employed	Total employed Population	% of Total
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	387	8.8%	12,261	6.7%
Mining	42	1.0%	1,550	0.8%
Manufacturing	539	12.2%	21,125	11.6%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	33	0.7%	1,788	1.0%
Construction	252	5.7%	9,326	5.1%
Wholesale Trade	205	4.6%	8,402	4.6%
Retail Trade	744	16.9%	27,354	15.0%
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	237	5.4%	9,458	5.2%
Transport and Storage	202	4.6%	7,899	4.3%
Communication Services	72	1.6%	2,780	1.5%
Finance and Insurance	62	1.4%	4,443	2.4%
Property and Business Services	269	6.1%	14,113	7.7%
Government Administration and Defence	255	5.8%	9,692	5.3%
Education	233	5.3%	15,040	8.2%
Health and Community Services:	486	11.0%	21,261	11.6%
Cultural and Recreational Services	64	1.5%	4,310	2.4%
Personal and Other Services	190	4.3%	6,888	3.8%
Non-classifiable economic units	54	1.2%	1,508	0.8%
Not stated	87	2.0%	3,324	1.8%
Total	4,413	100.0%	182,522	100.0%

The following table takes the same approach as the above, but compares Indigenous employment to that of the total population by looking at their relative shares of occupational groups. It seems fairly clear from Table 7 that Indigenous people are concentrated in the lower skilled occupations and are significantly under represented in management and professional positions. The percentage of professionals in the total population is over twice that of the percentage of professionals among the Indigenous population, for example. One area where this trend is reversed is in the trades area. This is possibly because for many years there have been a range of incentives available to employers aimed at encouraging Aboriginals to take up apprenticeships. Another possible reason is that Indigenous people are slightly over-represented in the construction, and the manufacturing industries (see above) where trades are more prevalent than in many other industries.

Table 7: Employment by occupational group, Indigenous and total Tasmanians

	<i>Indigenous employment</i>	<i>% of Indigenous</i>	<i>Total employment</i>	<i>% of Total Employment</i>
Managers and Administrators	260	5.9%	15,833	8.7%
Professionals	342	7.7%	30,778	16.9%
Associate Professionals	406	9.2%	21,164	11.6%
Tradespersons and Related Workers	622	14.1%	22,695	12.4%
Advanced Clerical and Service Workers	95	2.2%	5,220	2.9%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	779	17.7%	30,489	16.7%
Intermediate Production and Transport Workers	553	12.5%	16,433	9.0%
Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers	519	11.8%	18,290	10.0%
Labourers and Related Workers	718	16.3%	17,882	9.8%
Inadequately described	60	1.4%	1,716	0.9%
Not stated	59	1.3%	2,022	1.1%
Total	4,413	100.0%	182,522	100.0%

Table 8 shows the proportion of Indigenous people employed in various levels of government and the private sector, compared to the total population. The Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) was first established in Tasmania in 1999, and the figures in the table may not be typical of the program. Unofficial DEWR figures suggest that the total number of people on CDEP in 2001 was just over 100, so there may have been some data collection or definitional problems with the Census.

Indigenous people appear to be under-represented in State government employment, and marginally over-represented in private sector and local government employment.

Table 8: Employment by Sector, indigenous and total Tasmanians

	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>% of Total Indigenous</i>
Commonwealth Government	8601	4.7%	211	4.8%
State/Territory Government	23295	12.7%	433	9.8%
Local Government	3283	1.8%	102	2.3%
Private sector	144618	78.8%	3,519	79.9%
Community Development Employment Program	33	0.0%	18	0.4%
Not stated	3723	2.0%	123	2.8%
Total	183553	100.0%	4,406	100.0%

C) PARTICIPATION RATES

The participation rate is the percentage of people in the labour force (i.e. all employed and unemployed people) expressed as a percentage of the population over the age of 15.

Across the board, Indigenous people appear to have roughly comparable participation rates to the total population. However there are significant differences in individual age groups. Indigenous males have similar participation rates to the rest of the population until about the age of 35, when they start to diverge, which is probably due to the sharp decline in the Indigenous population in older age groups, compared to the total population. Indigenous females appear to be participating in the work force at much lower rates compared to the total population, across all age groups, and this in turn brings the participation rate down for Indigenous persons across all age groups.

Table 9: Participation rates of Indigenous and total Tasmanians

	Indigenous	Total	Indigenous	Total	Indigenous	Total
	Males	Males	Females	Females	Persons	Persons
15-24 years	61.0%	63.1%	49.8%	58.7%	55.3%	61.2%
25-34 years	82.0%	88.1%	51.8%	64.1%	65.9%	76.0%
35-44 years	76.5%	87.6%	57.7%	70.6%	66.3%	79.2%
45-54 years	67.6%	82.6%	59.2%	68.9%	63.6%	76.0%
55-64 years	45.5%	55.5%	24.6%	34.5%	35.4%	45.2%
65 years and over	12.6%	8.9%	4.2%	3.4%	8.1%	5.8%
Total	66.4%	66.5%	49.6%	51.0%	57.7%	58.5%

NB: There appear to be significant differences in the participation rates of Indigenous people to the total population, when individual age groups are examined, but when they are totalled the differences appear to be minimal. This is an effect of the differing demographic profiles, with the majority of Indigenous people in the under 25 age groups, while the majority of the total population is in the over25 age group. When totalled these differences appear to counter-balance each other.

4 EDUCATION

The following table shows that Indigenous people generally have fewer qualifications than the rest of the population, particularly at levels above the certificate level. This is clearly related to, or reflects, the occupational distribution above. Most if not all professions require a degree level qualification and only 2.5% of Indigenous people have degrees compared to 7.8% in the total population. At the other end of the scale 71.1% of Indigenous people do not have a qualification, compared to 60.2% of the total population. Indigenous males and females are generally educated to comparable levels, with the exception of the certificate levels where 19.7% of Indigenous males have a certificate level qualification, compared to 9.4% of Indigenous females. This is also related to the occupational structure as well, in that certificate level III is the usual level of a trade qualification, and table 7 shows that Indigenous people are slightly over-represented in these occupations.

Table 10: Level of education, Indigenous and total population (aged 15+)

	INDIGENOUS			TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Postgraduate Degree	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	1.6%	0.9%	1.3%
Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.9%	1.3%	1.1%
Bachelor Degree	1.9%	3.0%	2.5%	6.9%	8.7%	7.8%
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	1.8%	3.0%	2.4%	4.7%	5.6%	5.2%
Certificate	19.7%	9.4%	14.4%	23.7%	8.1%	15.6%
Not stated(b)	9.2%	8.9%	9.1%	7.8%	9.9%	8.9%
Not applicable(c)	67.0%	75.0%	71.1%	54.5%	65.5%	60.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(b) Includes 'Inadequately described'

(c) Includes persons who do not have a qualification and persons who have a qualification out of scope of the Australian Standard Classification of Education.

The following table shows the various fields of qualification of indigenous people compared to the total population. Again, Indigenous people are under represented in most fields, with perhaps the most significant statistic being the 71.1% of Indigenous people without a qualification compared to 58.6% in the total population.

Table 11: Indigenous and total population qualifications by field of study

	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>% of Indigenous</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Natural and Physical Sciences	31	0.3%	3,936	1.1%
Information Technology	37	0.4%	1,896	0.5%
Engineering and Related Technologies	507	5.3%	27,591	7.7%
Architecture and Building	229	2.4%	9,906	2.8%
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	101	1.1%	4,268	1.2%
Health	150	1.6%	13,950	3.9%
Education	102	1.1%	12,170	3.4%
Management and Commerce	321	3.4%	16,877	4.7%
Society and Culture	227	2.4%	11,542	3.2%
Creative Arts	61	0.6%	3,815	1.1%
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	253	2.7%	7,766	2.2%
Mixed Field Programmes ^(c)	3	0.0%	82	0.0%
Field of Study inadequately described	39	0.4%	1,328	0.4%
Not stated	686	7.2%	32,786	9.2%
Not applicable(b)	6,771	71.1%	209,391	58.6%
Total	9,518	100.0%	357,304	100.0%

(b) Includes persons who do not have a qualification and persons who have a qualification out of scope of the Australian Standard Classification of Education.

(c) Mixed Field Programs include course such as literacy and numeracy programs, social skills programs or employment skills programs.

Table 12 shows that indigenous people are attending primary and secondary schools in greater percentages than the whole population, largely due to the different demographic profile of the Indigenous population. As noted above, 59.1% of the Indigenous population is under 25 so of course it could be expected that larger percentages would be attending school. Their attendance rate at university is lower than the total population, however. Indigenous people also attend TAFE at greater rates than the total population, presumably reflecting the greater percentage of Indigenous people in trades.

Table 12: Attendance at educational institutions, Indigenous and total Tasmanians (%)

	<i>% of Indigenous total</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Pre school	1.7%	0.9%
Infants/Primary:		
Government	15.9%	7.7%
Catholic	2.0%	1.5%
Other Non Government	0.6%	0.9%
<i>Total</i>	<i>18.5%</i>	<i>10.1%</i>
Secondary:		
Government	8.7%	4.4%
Catholic	1.2%	1.2%
Other Non Government	0.6%	1.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>6.6%</i>
Technical or Further Educational Institution:		
Full-time	2.6%	1.3%
Part-time	2.0%	1.8%
Not stated(a)	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>4.7%</i>	<i>3.1%</i>
University or other Tertiary Institution:		
Full-time	1.3%	1.9%
Part-time	0.4%	1.0%
Not stated(a)	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1.8%</i>	<i>3.0%</i>
Other:		
Full-time	0.4%	0.2%
Part-time	0.4%	0.4%
Not stated(a)	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>0.6%</i>
Not attending	58.2%	71.4%
Not stated(b)	3.8%	4.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

(a) Includes persons who were attending a Technical or Further Educational Institution, University or another type of educational institutions, but did not state whether full-time or part-time.

(b) Includes persons who did not state whether or not they were attending an educational institution, and persons who stated they were attending an educational institution but did not state which type of educational institution.

5 INCOME AND HOUSING

The next table shows the distribution of income levels of Indigenous people compared to the total population. Although the actual amounts people earn can date quite quickly, the actual distribution patterns are less likely to change as much, as wage rises tend to be reasonably consistent across the board. It would be rare, for example for one particular set of industries to consistently increase their pay levels while other industries stayed static.

The data below shows that Indigenous people tend to be concentrated in the lower income groups, and under-represented in the higher income levels. A total of 81.0% of Indigenous people were earning less than \$600 per week (\$31,200 per year), while 71.5% of the total population are in this group. At the other end of the scale, only 2.7% of Indigenous people are earning over \$1,000 per week, compared to 6.4% of the total population.

Although it is clear from most of the data that Indigenous people suffer significant disadvantage on most social indicators, it is also likely that their relative disadvantage on income levels is also related to the age profile of Indigenous people. It has already been established that Indigenous Tasmanians are much younger on average than the total population. Given that young people generally are paid at lower rates than older, more experienced workers, this goes some way to partially explaining the differences in income in table 14. It is also clear however, that Indigenous people tend to be concentrated in less-skilled occupations which usually attract lower rates of pay than more skilled occupations. So while the age profile is part of the explanation, there is still a significant indication that Indigenous people are disadvantaged across all ages, relative to the total population.

Table 13: Weekly individual income, Indigenous and total population

	<i>Indigenous 15+</i>	<i>% of total Indigenous</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Negative/Nil income	651	6.8%	18,438	5.2%
\$1-\$119	878	9.2%	24,806	6.9%
\$120-\$199	2,103	22.1%	64,024	17.9%
\$200-\$399	2,526	26.5%	90,240	25.3%
\$400-\$599	1,548	16.3%	57,866	16.2%
\$600-\$799	742	7.8%	35,336	9.9%
\$800-\$999	324	3.4%	20,343	5.7%
\$1,000 or more	256	2.7%	23,034	6.4%
Not stated	490	5.1%	23,219	6.5%
Total	9,518	100.0%	357,306	100.0%

Consistent with the lower levels of income outlined above, the following table shows that the rate of housing ownership is much lower among Indigenous people compared to the total population. Again part of the reason for this is that Indigenous people are generally younger than the total population and home ownership among young people is generally less prevalent than it is among people in older age groups who have been working long enough to afford to buy a house. Interestingly, the percentage of Indigenous people currently in the process of buying a home is slightly higher than the total population, but the percentage of those renting is significantly above the rate for the total population.

Table 14: Housing tenure type, Indigenous and total population

	<i>Indigenous</i>	<i>% of Indigenous</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
<i>Tenure Type</i>	<i>Households</i>	<i>Households</i>	<i>Households</i>	<i>Households</i>
Fully owned	1,358	23.1%	73,665	43.2%
Being purchased(b)	1,972	33.6%	49,832	29.2%
Being rented	2,283	38.9%	39,677	23.3%
tenure type(c)	157	2.7%	4,057	2.4%
Not stated	98	1.7%	3,419	2.0%
Total	5,868	100.0%	170,650	100.0%

(b) Includes dwellings being purchased under a rent/buy scheme.

(c) Includes dwellings being occupied rent-free and dwellings being occupied under a life tenure scheme.

6 SUMMARY

- Indigenous people comprised 3.5% of the total population in Tasmania at the 2001 Census;
- 59.1% of the Indigenous population are under 25, while only 34.8% of the total population are;
- Indigenous people are slightly less likely to live in a major urban centre (53.9%) than is the case with the total population (59.2%). However, the majority of Indigenous people still live in major urban centres of more than 5,000 people;

- Indigenous people consistently experience higher rates of unemployment than the rates experienced by the total population;
- Indigenous people are generally speaking, employed in similar proportions in each industry as the total population. They are however, slightly over-represented in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, and also the retail industry, but under-represented in education, property and business services, and finance and insurance;
- Indigenous people are concentrated in the lower-skilled occupations and are significantly under represented in management and professional positions;
- Indigenous people generally have fewer qualifications than the rest of the population, particularly at levels above the certificate level;
- Indigenous people tend to be concentrated in the lower income groups, and under-represented in the higher income levels. A total of 81.0% of Indigenous people were earning less than \$600 per week (\$31,200 per year), compared to 71.5% of the total population;
- the rate of housing ownership is much lower among Indigenous households at 23.1% compared to 43.2% the total population.

