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by Talina Drabsch

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# Health, Education and Community Indicators for NSW

**by**

Talina Drabsch

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## **SUMMARY**

This paper contains a selection of statistical indicators in the fields of health, education and community in New South Wales. It aims to provide a snapshot of the trends in each of these areas. The focus is on the overall situation in New South Wales and how it has changed in recent years. Where relevant, comparisons are made to the situation in the other Australian States and Territories. For some of the indicators, comparisons are made between the various regions within New South Wales.

The sources of the data used are noted at the conclusion of each indicator. The Australian Bureau of Statistics is the primary source for the paper, but a number of other references have been utilised.

*Health, Education and Community Indicators for NSW* will be updated on an annual basis.





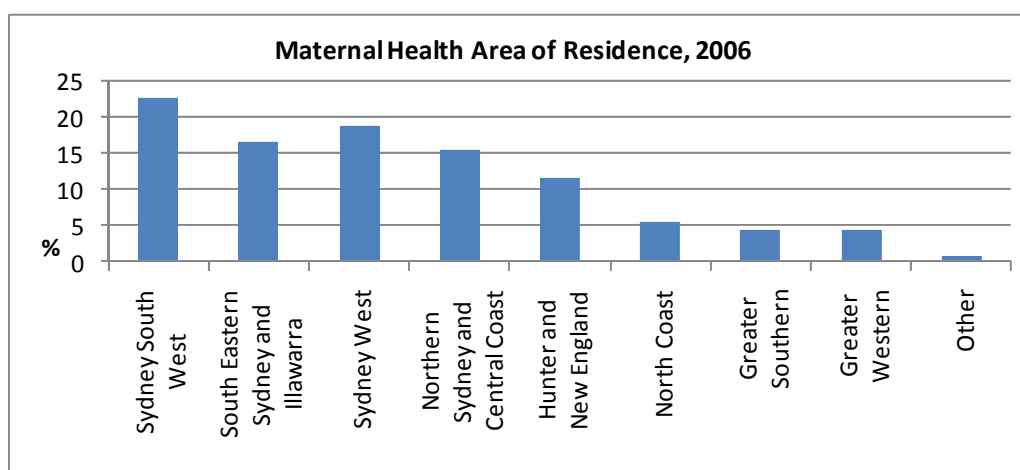
## HEALTH INDICATORS

### BIRTHS

More than 92,000 babies were born in NSW in 2006. Over one-fifth of mothers resided in the Sydney South West health area. The Greater Southern and Greater Western health areas had the smallest share at less than 5% of mothers each.

Live births by health area, 2006

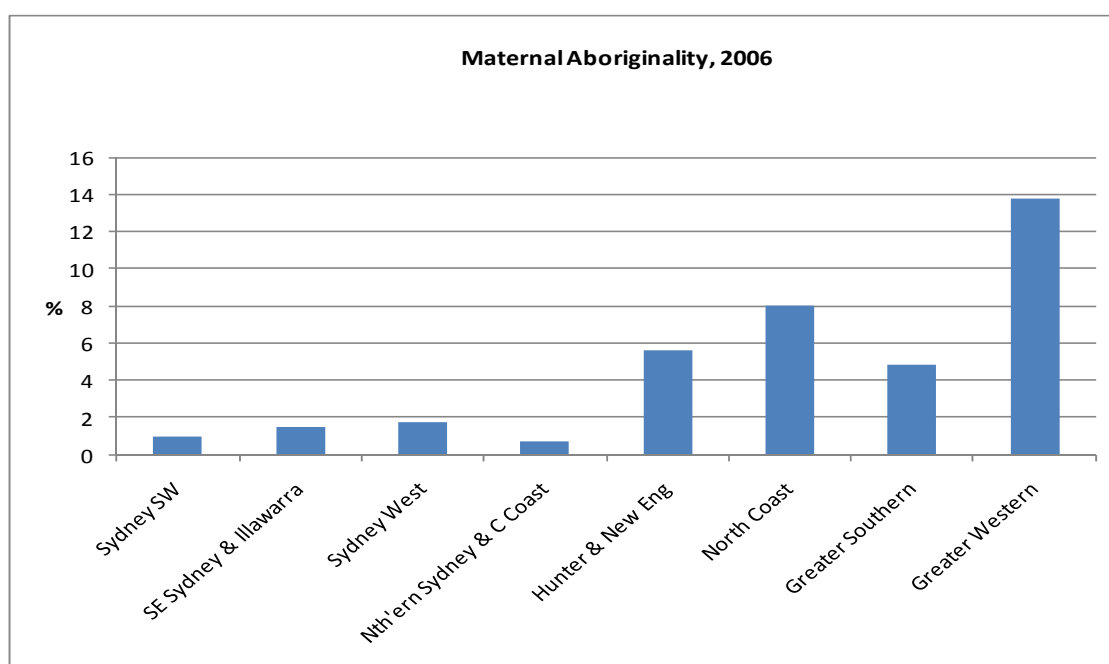
Health area	#	%
Sydney South West	20586	22.4
Sydney West	17341	18.8
SE Sydney and Illawarra	15166	16.5
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	14307	15.5
Hunter and New England	10660	11.6
North Coast	5131	5.6
Greater Southern	4092	4.4
Greater Western	4056	4.4
Other - not stated	736	0.8
Total NSW	92075	100



2.9% of mothers in NSW in 2006 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The health area with the greatest proportion of Indigenous Australian mothers was the Greater Western at 13.8% and the area with the smallest percentage was Northern Sydney and Central Coast at 0.7%. However, in terms of actual number, there were more Indigenous mothers in the Hunter and New England health area than in the Greater Western area.

### Maternal Aboriginality

Health area	ATSI		Non-ATSI		Not stated		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Sydney South West	213	1	20112	98.5	101	0.5	20426	100
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra	228	1.5	14596	97.2	196	1.3	15020	100
Sydney West	284	1.7	16893	98.2	33	0.2	17210	100
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	105	0.7	12998	99	36	0.3	14139	100
Hunter and New England	594	5.6	9969	94.2	16	0.2	10579	100
North Coast	406	8	4668	91.5	26	0.5	5100	100
Greater Southern	193	4.8	3841	94.6	25	0.6	4059	100
Greater Western	561	13.8	3406	84.1	85	2.1	4052	100
Other - not stated	27	3.7	693	94.9	10	1.4	730	100
Total	2611	2.9	88176	96.6	528	0.6	91315	100



**Source:**

- NSW Health, *The Mothers and Babies Report 2006*, vol 20, no 1, March 2009.

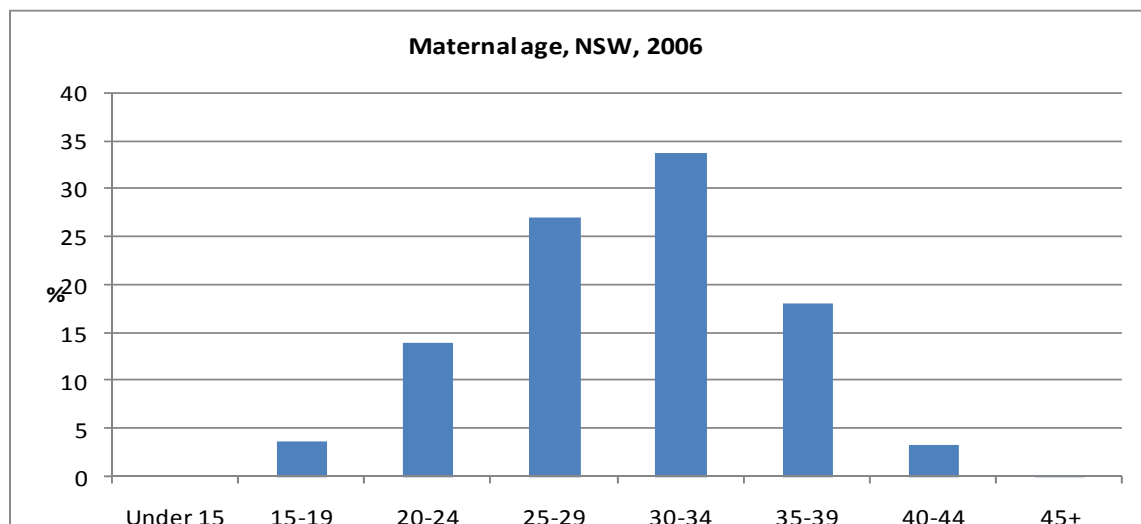
## MATERNAL AGE

Over half of the women who gave birth in NSW in 2006 were in their thirties and 34% of women were aged between 30 and 34 years. The proportion of women giving birth in their twenties in any given year has continued to decline, with a little over a quarter of women giving birth in 2006 aged between 25 and 29 years old.

In 2006, almost 9% of women giving birth in the Greater Western health area were aged between 12 and 19 years, making it the health area with the highest proportion of teenage mothers in NSW. The area with the lowest proportion of teenage mothers was the Northern Sydney and Central Coast health area where 1.6% of mothers in 2006 were less than 19 years.

Maternal age, NSW, %

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Under 15	0	0	0	0	0
15-19	4.3	4	4	3.8	3.8
20-24	15	14.7	14.3	14.3	13.9
25-29	29	28.4	27.4	26.9	26.9
30-34	32.9	33.5	34.3	34.2	33.7
35-39	15.5	16	16.4	17.1	18.1
40-44	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4
45+	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Not stated	0.1	0	0	0	0.1



NB: There were mothers aged under 15 years of age but the number rounds to zero and so does not appear on the above graph.

### Source:

- NSW Health, *The NSW Mothers and Babies Report 2006*, vol 20, no 1, March 2009.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY

In 2007, the male life expectancy in NSW was 79.1 years compared to 83.8 years for a female. Life expectancy in NSW was thus slightly above the Australian average life expectancies for males and females, which were 79 and 83.7 years respectively.

The highest male life expectancy in Australia in 2007 was in the Australian Capital Territory at 80.3 years. Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory shared the highest female life expectancy at 84 years.

Whilst life expectancy is a useful indicator, it does not tell us for how many of those years one can expect to enjoy good health. Another related indicator to consider is healthy life expectancy. In 2007, the healthy life expectancy for an Australian male was 72 years and 75 years for an Australian female.<sup>1</sup>

In 2007, the estimated life expectancy for an Aboriginal male in NSW was 69.9 years and 75 years for an Aboriginal female.

A number of the health indicators in this paper reveal a marked difference between the health of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations of NSW. On 3 June 2010 the NSW Government and Opposition signed a Statement of Intent to end Indigenous health inequality in NSW within a generation.

	Male	Female
Life expectancy in NSW	79.1	83.8
Life expectancy in NSW – Indigenous Australians	69.9	75.0
Healthy life expectancy – Australia	72.0	75.0

NB. The ABS warns against comparing the figures for Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancies due to a difference in method.

### Sources:

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010;
- World Health Organisation, *World Health Statistics 2010*, [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

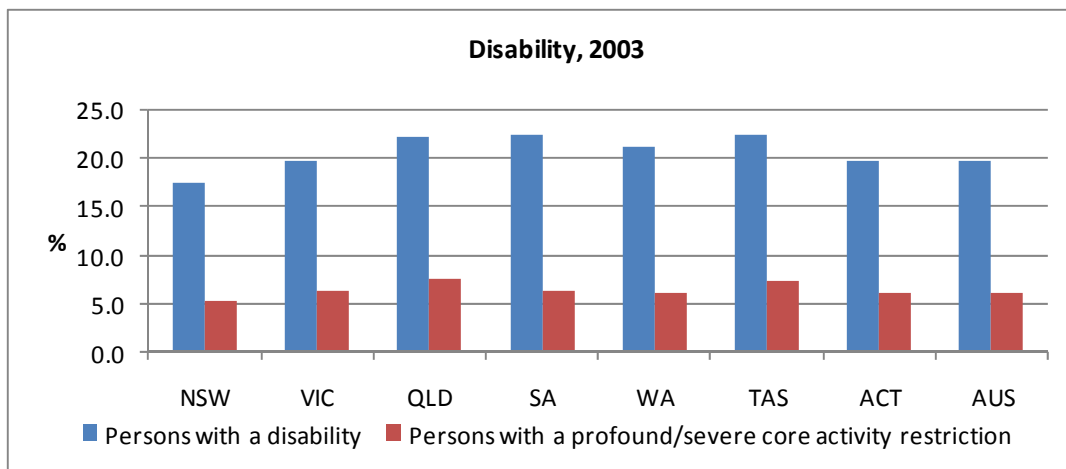
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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation, *World Health Statistics 2010*, [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

## DISABILITY

There is a relationship between disability and economic disadvantage. Research has shown that: disability may affect income levels; the cost of living may be higher for people with disabilities; and severe disability has been found to be more common in areas where people have fewer economic resources.<sup>2</sup> Having a disability may also decrease the likelihood of a person having a higher educational qualification and may have a bearing on the extent to which a person is able to participate in the labour force, such as whether one works full or part time, or is able to work at all.<sup>3</sup>

17.5% of persons in NSW had some form of disability in 2003 (down from 19.6% in 1998) and 5.4% of persons in NSW had a profound or severe core activity restriction (down from 6.2% in 1998). South Australia and Tasmania had the largest proportion of people with a disability at 22.4% in 2003. However, Queensland had the highest percentage of people with a profound or severe core activity restriction at 7.5%.



NB: Data has not been published for Northern Territory.

### Source:

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010

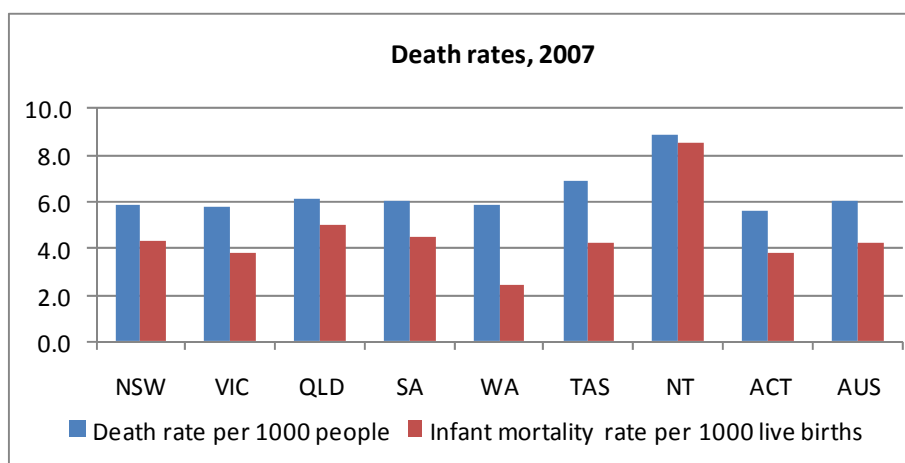
<sup>2</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The geography of disability and economic disadvantage in Australian capital cities*, AIHW, Canberra, 2009, p v.

<sup>3</sup> ABS, 'One-in-five Australians report a disability', Media release, 6/5/04.

## DEATH

### Rate of death

The rate of death in a population is influenced by a number of factors including socioeconomic status, remoteness, and Aboriginality.<sup>4</sup> The chart below compares the death and infant mortality rates for each of the Australian States and Territories. It shows that the rates in NSW are pretty close to the Australian average.



In 2007, there were 5.9 deaths for every 1000 persons in NSW. This rate has fallen from 7.3 in 1998.

### Infant mortality

Infant mortality measures the deaths of babies within their first year and is considered an important measure of the health and wellbeing of a community.<sup>5</sup> The infant mortality rate fluctuated between 1998 and 2007 in NSW from lows of 4.3 deaths per 1000 live births in 1998 and 2007 to a high of 5.8 in 1999.

Infant mortality is much higher amongst the Indigenous population. The following table compares infant mortality rates for the Aboriginal and general population in NSW. Whilst the infant mortality rate for the Aboriginal population has decreased since 1997-99, it is still higher than the general population.

<sup>4</sup> Population Health Division, *The health of the people of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer 2008 – Summary Report*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2008, p 18.

<sup>5</sup> Population Health Division, *The health of the people of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2008.

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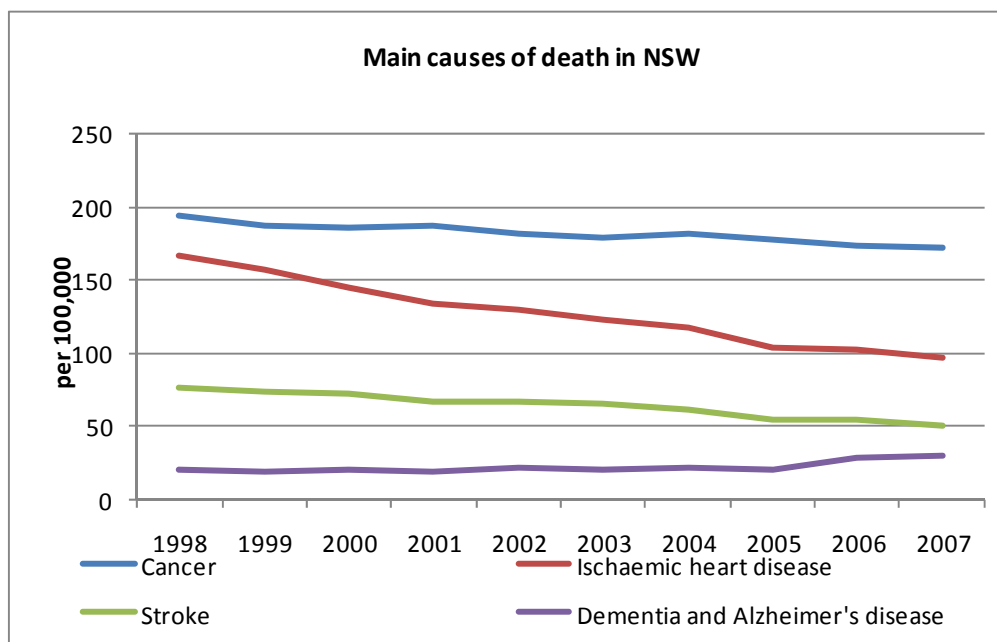
	1997-99	1998-00	1999-01	2000-02	2001-03	2002-04	2003-05	2004-06
Aboriginal	10.4	11.8	10.9	9.5	8.6	8.5	8.4	7.5
General	5.1	5.1	5.4	5	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.8

**Sources:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010;
- Population Health Division, *The health of the people of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2008.

## MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

The leading causes of death in Australia in 2007 were cancer, ischaemic heart disease, stroke, and dementia and Alzheimer's disease. As illustrated by the graph below, the number of deaths due to cancer, ischaemic heart disease and stroke is decreasing. However, the rate of deaths due to dementia and Alzheimer's disease increased between 1998 and 2007 from 19 to 30 deaths per 100,000 people. The rate at which deaths in NSW are due to these diseases is very similar to the national averages.



The main causes of death for Indigenous Australians differ from those for the population in general. Whilst ischaemic heart diseases, trachea and lung cancer and strokes are common to both groups, the fourth leading cause of death for an Indigenous Australian is diabetes. Dementia and Alzheimer's disease did not make the top ten. Cirrhosis and other diseases of the liver is the 20<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for non-Indigenous Australians, whereas it is the sixth leading cause of death for Indigenous Australians. It is also noteworthy that conditions originating in the perinatal period are the 40<sup>th</sup> leading cause of non-Indigenous deaths, yet is the ninth main cause of death for Indigenous Australians.



**Indigenous deaths in 2008 – 10 leading causes of death**

	<b>% of indigenous deaths</b>	<b>% of non-indigenous deaths</b>	<b>Non-indigenous ranking</b>
1 Ischaemic heart diseases	14.1	16.9	1
2 Trachea and lung cancer	7.2	5.3	4
3 Strokes	5.9	9	2
4 Diabetes	5.2	2.4	9
5 Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4.3	4.1	5
6 Cirrhosis and other diseases of the liver	3.8	0.9	20
7 Diseases of the kidney and urinary system	2.7	2.3	10
8 Heart failure	2.5	2.7	7
9 Cardiomyopathy	2.3	0.6	32
10 Conditions originating in the perinatal period	2.3	0.4	40

**Sources:**

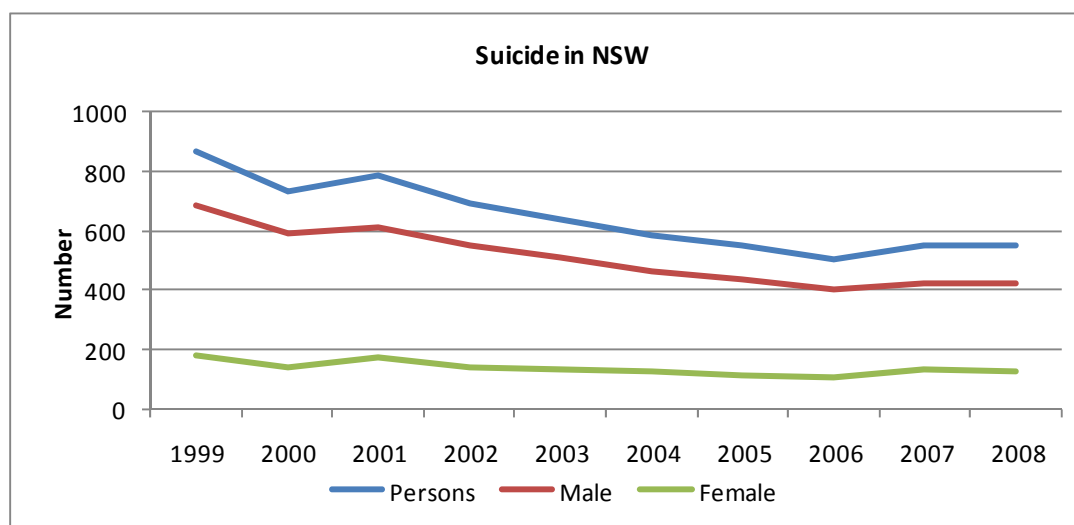
- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010
- ABS, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2008*, 3303.0

## SUICIDE

Suicide was the 14<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Australia in 2008.<sup>6</sup> 553 persons died in NSW as a result of suicide in 2008, a rate of 8 per 100,000 people. However, the suicide rate in NSW is lower than that of any other State or Territory in Australia.

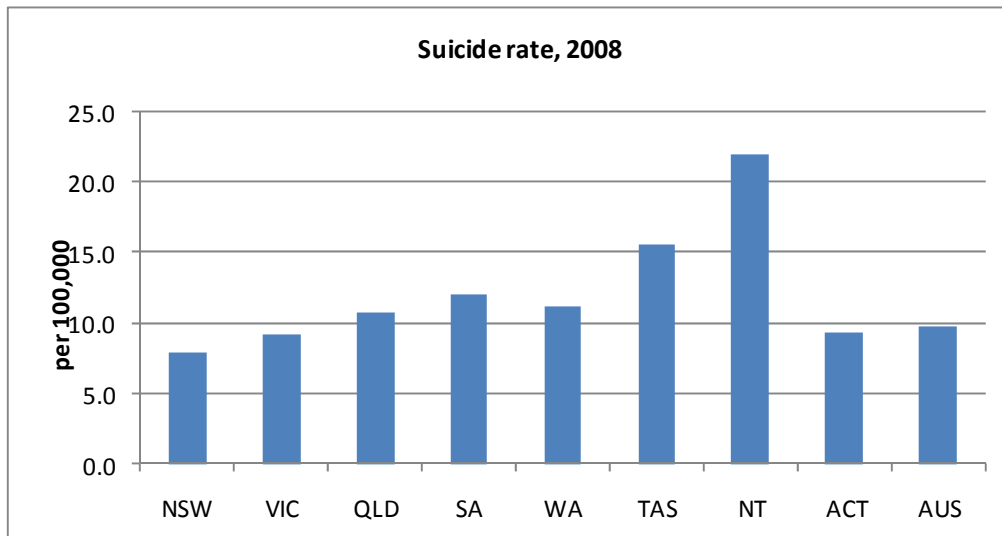
Males in NSW commit suicide at a much higher rate than females, and accounted for 77% of all deaths by suicide in 2008. Suicide rates also fluctuate between age groups. The rate of suicide amongst males in NSW aged 15 to 24 years is particularly high at 9.1 per 100,000 (the rate for females in the same age group is 2.6).

The Indigenous suicide rate is much higher than the rate for the general population. Between 2001 and 2005, suicide was the leading cause of death from external causes for Indigenous males, and the applicable rate was almost three times the rate of non-Indigenous males in Australia. The suicide rate for Indigenous females varied dramatically according to age group – it was five times the rate for females aged 24 years and younger, but was the same as or lower than the rate for females aged 45 years and over.<sup>7</sup>



<sup>6</sup> ABS, *Causes of death, Australia, 2008*, 3303.0, 2010.

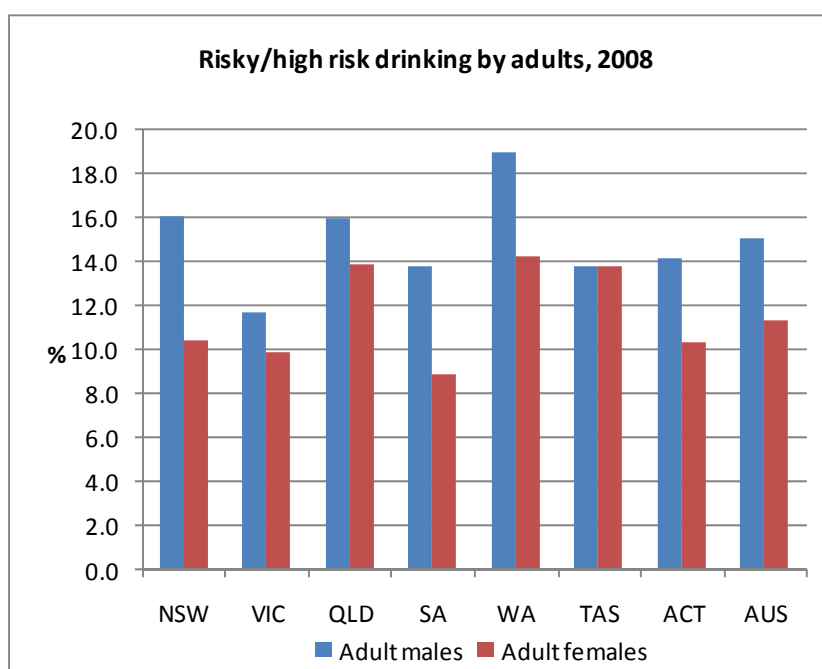
<sup>7</sup> ABS, *The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, 4704.0, 2010.

**Source:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010.
- ABS, *The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, 4704.0, 2010.

## DRINKING

16% of adult males and 10% of adult females in NSW engage in risky/high risk drinking. In all Australian States and Territories a greater proportion of males drink at a risky or high risk level than females, with the exception of Tasmania where males and females equally engage in risky or high risk drinking. Risky or high risk drinking is defined as drinking more than four standard drinks a day for a man and two standard drinks a day for a woman across a seven day average.



NB Data for the Northern Territory has not been published and so it is not represented on the above graph.

The proportion of Indigenous Australians in NSW who engaged in risky levels of drinking is significantly higher than it is for the general population. 54% of Aboriginal males and 38% of Aboriginal females aged 16 years and over drank at risky levels between 2002 and 2005.<sup>8</sup>

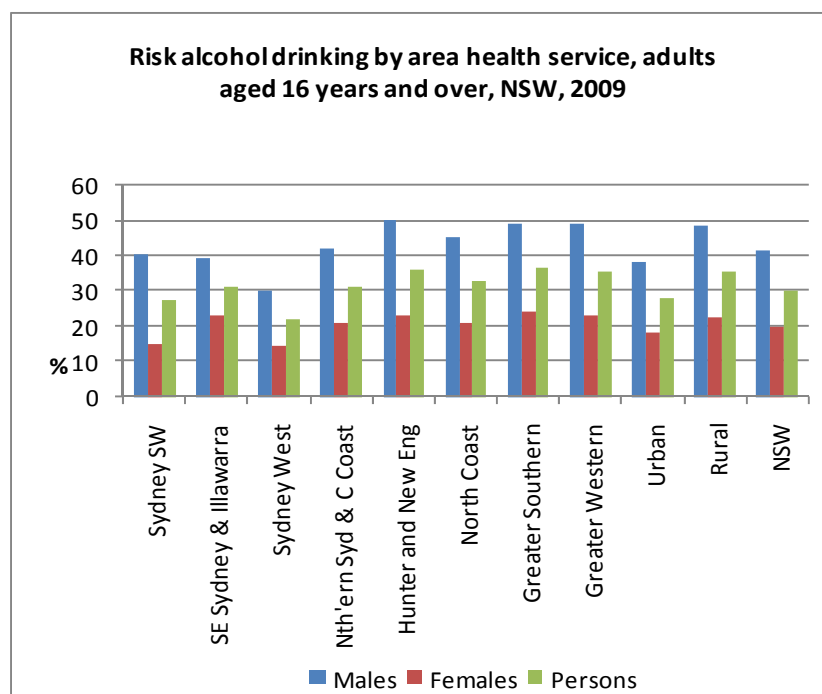
The following table and chart consider the proportion of adults who engage in any risk drinking behaviour by area health service in 2009. The NSW Population Health Survey found that a significantly higher proportion of adults in rural health areas engaged in any risk drinking behaviour compared to urban health areas. Noticeably more males than females engaged in any risk drinking behaviour in any health area. More than half of adult males in the Hunter and New England health area engaged in risk drinking behaviour (the highest proportion for any area) compared to a low of 30% in the Sydney West health

<sup>8</sup> Population Health Division, *The health of the people of New South Wales - Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2008.

area. More than 24% of females in the Greater Southern health area engaged in risk drinking behaviour (the highest of the health areas) compared to 14.5% in the Sydney West area. The level of risk drinking behaviour generally decreases with age.<sup>9</sup>

**Risk alcohol drinking by area health service, adults aged 16+ years, NSW, 2009, %**

Area	Males	Females	Persons
Sydney South West	40.4	14.9	27.5
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra	39.7	23.2	31.3
Sydney West	30.2	14.5	22.3
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	42	21	31.1
Hunter and New England	50.1	23.2	36.4
North Coast	45.2	21.1	33
Greater Southern	49.2	24.1	36.5
Greater Western	49.2	23	35.8
Urban	38.3	18.4	28.2
Rural	48.6	22.9	35.5
NSW	41.4	19.8	30.4



<sup>9</sup> Centre for Epidemiology and Research, 2009 Summary Report on Adult Health from the New South Wales Population Health Survey, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2010, p 11.

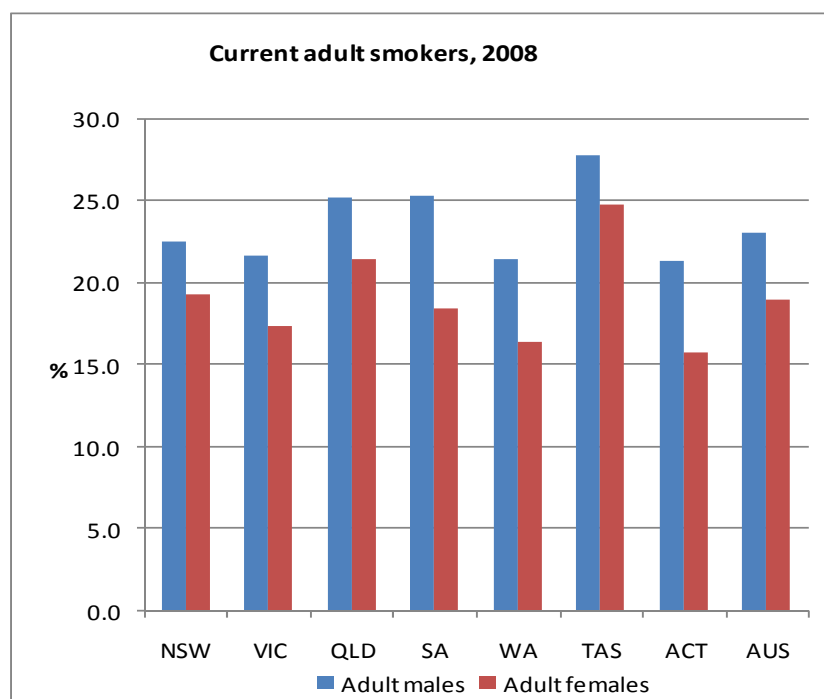
**Sources:**

- Centre for Epidemiology and Research, *2009 Summary Report on Adult Health from the New South Wales Population Health Survey*, Sydney: NSW Department of Health, 2010, p18
- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010

## SMOKING

Smoking is the greatest cause of preventable illness and death in Australia.<sup>10</sup> The proportion of adults who are current smokers in NSW continues to fall. 27% of adult males and 21% of adult females in NSW were smokers in 2001. This had fallen to 23% and 19% respectively by 2008. The proportion of adult smokers in NSW in 2008 was very similar to the Australian average.

Males are more likely than females to be current smokers in every Australian State and Territory. The greatest proportion of male and female smokers was in Tasmania where 28% of males and 25% of females were current smokers. The smallest percentage of smokers was in the Australian Capital Territory.



NB: The data for Northern Territory is not published, hence its omission from the above graph.

The proportion of Indigenous Australians who smoke is significantly higher than the general population. 45% of Aboriginal males and 42% of Aboriginal females aged 16 years and over in NSW were smokers in 2002 to 2005.<sup>11</sup>

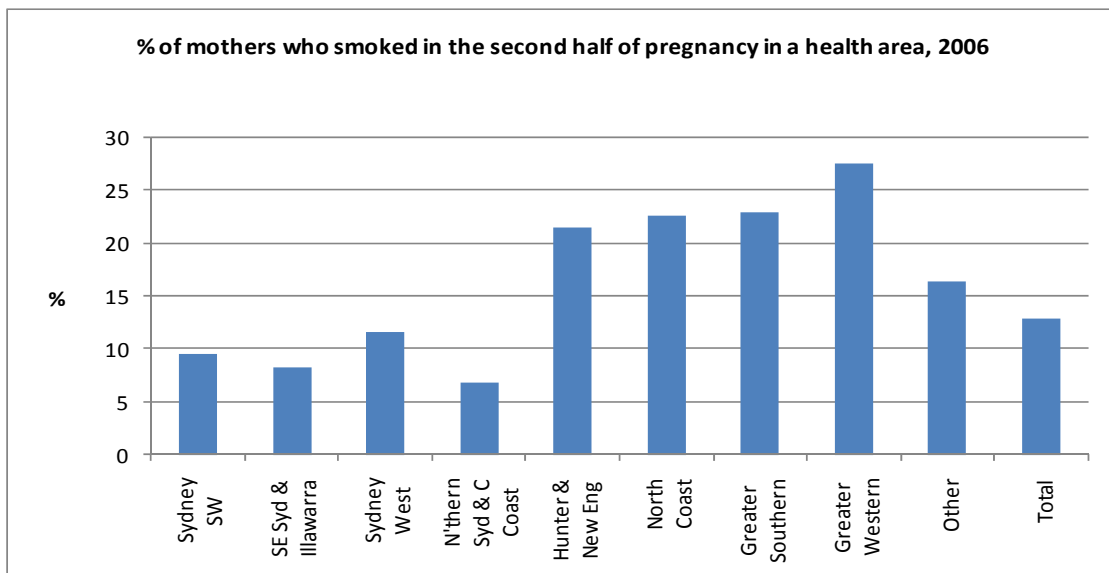
<sup>10</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's Health 2010*, AIHW, Canberra, 2010.

<sup>11</sup> Population Health Division, *The health of the people of New South Wales - Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2008.

The following graph shows the proportion of current smokers in each of the health areas in NSW. The Sydney South West health area had the highest proportion of male smokers at 29% and the greatest proportion of female smokers was in the Hunter New England health area at 18.7%.



Smoking in the second half of pregnancy poses the greatest risk to the health of both mother and baby. 12.8% of mothers in NSW in 2006 smoked one or more cigarettes during the second half of pregnancy. 5.5% of mothers smoked more than 10 a day. The region with the greatest proportion of mothers who smoked was the Greater Western Health Area at 27.5%. However, in terms of number, the Hunter and New England health area had the highest at 2271 mothers. The health area with the lowest proportion of mothers who smoked during the second half of pregnancy was Northern Sydney and Central Coast at 6.8%.





Smoking during pregnancy is more common amongst Indigenous Australian women than it is for women in general. More than half (53.6%) of Indigenous mothers in NSW in 2006 reported smoking in the second half of pregnancy compared to 58% in 2002.

**Sources:**

- NSW Health, *The health of the people of NSW – Report of the Chief Health Officer 2008 – Summary Report*
- NSW Health, *The NSW Mothers and Babies Report 2006*, vol 20, no 1, March 2009

## OBESITY

Obesity is of concern as it increases the risk of developing a number of chronic diseases including diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and some cancers.<sup>12</sup> The Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measure of whether someone is overweight or obese. It is calculated by dividing a person's weight in kilograms by his or her height in metres squared. A healthy BMI is between 18.5 and 25.<sup>13</sup> Someone who is obese has a BMI of 30 or more.

Between 2001 and 2008, the proportion of males aged 15 years and over in NSW who were overweight or obese increased from 56% to more than 63%. In 2001, 40% of women in NSW aged 15 years or over were overweight or obese. In 2008, the proportion had increased to more than 43%.

NSW has a greater proportion of overweight or obese males than any other State or Territory in Australia. In contrast, NSW has the smallest proportion of overweight or obese females in Australia.



NB. Data for the Northern Territory is not published, hence its exclusion from the above chart.

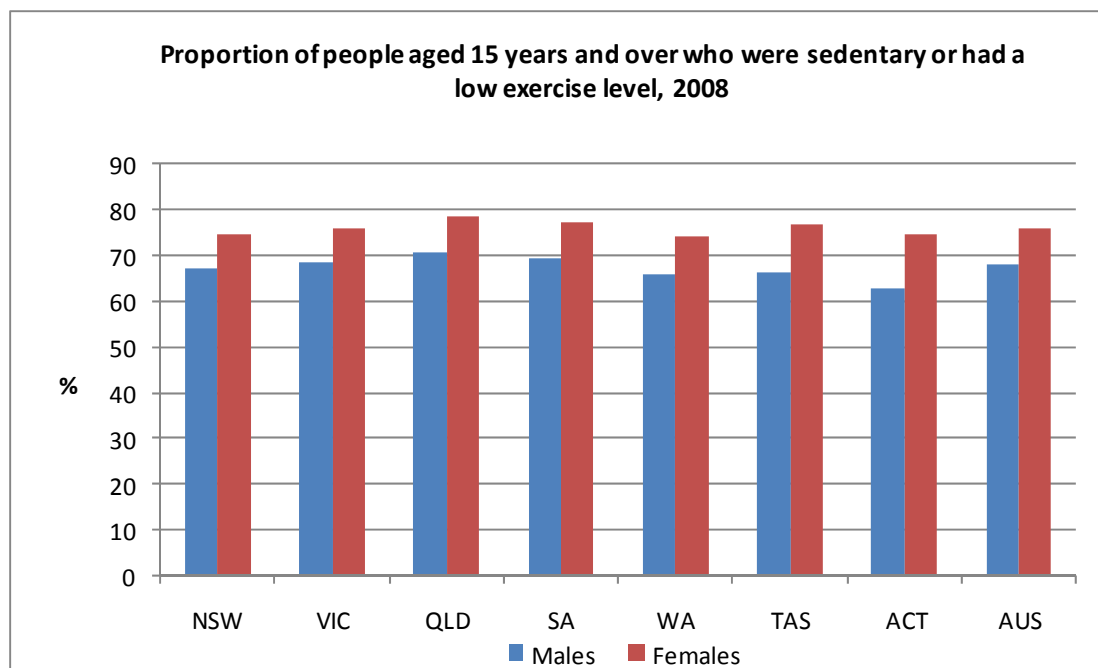
The following graph compares the levels of obesity in the various health areas in NSW in 2007. The greatest proportion of overweight and obese males and females was in the Greater Western health area.

<sup>12</sup> ABS, 'Health and socio-economic disadvantage', *Australian Social Trends*, March 2010, 4102.0

<sup>13</sup> NSW Health, 'Adult BMI Calculator', [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

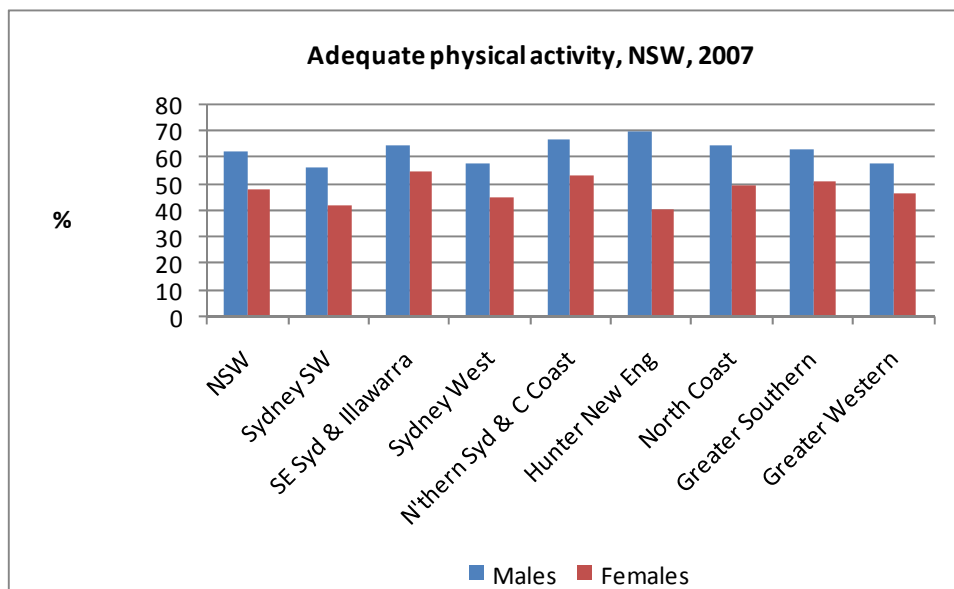


A separate but related concern is how common sedentary lifestyles are in NSW. More than 67% of males aged 15 years and over in NSW are sedentary or exercise to a low level only. It is even more of an issue amongst females, with 75% of women aged 15 years and over in NSW either sedentary or exercising at a low level. Nonetheless, the proportion of people in NSW living sedentary or fairly inactive lifestyles is less than the Australian average.



The following graph illustrates the proportion of persons in each of the health areas in NSW with adequate physical activity in their lives. A greater percentage of men in the Hunter New England health area engage in adequate physical activity than elsewhere in NSW. For females, the highest proportion with

adequate physical activity was in South Eastern Sydney.



**Sources:**

- NSW Health, *The health of the people of NSW - Report of the Chief Health Officer 2008 - Summary Report*.
- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010

## DRUG USE

(Please note that data is not available for Queensland. Accordingly, the comments below do not consider the situation in Queensland).

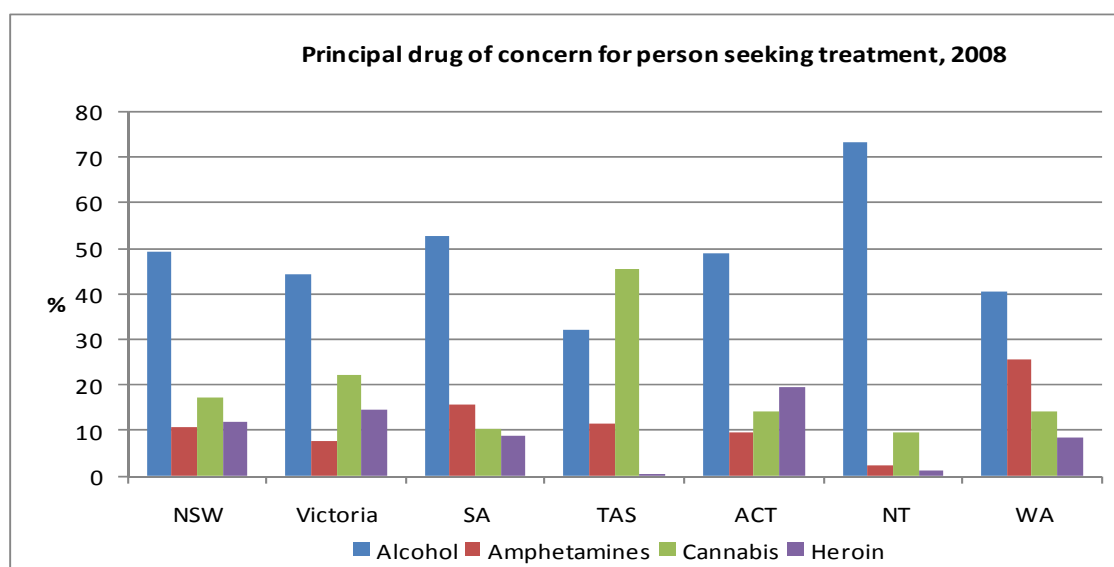
There were 268 government funded drug treatment agencies and outlets in New South Wales in 2008. They provided 42,078 treatment episodes. Whilst NSW has the largest number of government funded drug treatment agencies and outlets in Australia, more treatment episodes occurred in Victoria. Victoria's 138 drug treatment agencies and outlets provided 47,538 treatment episodes.

The median age of a person receiving treatment for his or her own drug use was 34 years in NSW. This was the highest median age in Australia (together with South Australia). The youngest median age of a person receiving treatment was in Tasmania at 28 years.

The following table notes the principal drug of concern for those receiving treatment in NSW (ie the main substance that led the person to seek treatment). The proportion of people seeking treatment for alcohol increased from 43% in 2002 to 49% in 2008. The percentage of people seeking treatment for heroin in the same period fell from 19% to 12%.

**Principal drug of concern for people seeking treatment, NSW, by financial year, %**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Alcohol	42.7	42.1	41.2	41.5	43	45	49.3
Amphetamines	10.7	10.9	10.9	11.3	11.2	13.3	10.8
Cannabis	14.3	15.4	16.1	17.4	20.2	19	17.1
Heroin	18.7	21.4	21.4	20.1	15.6	13	12



**Sources:**

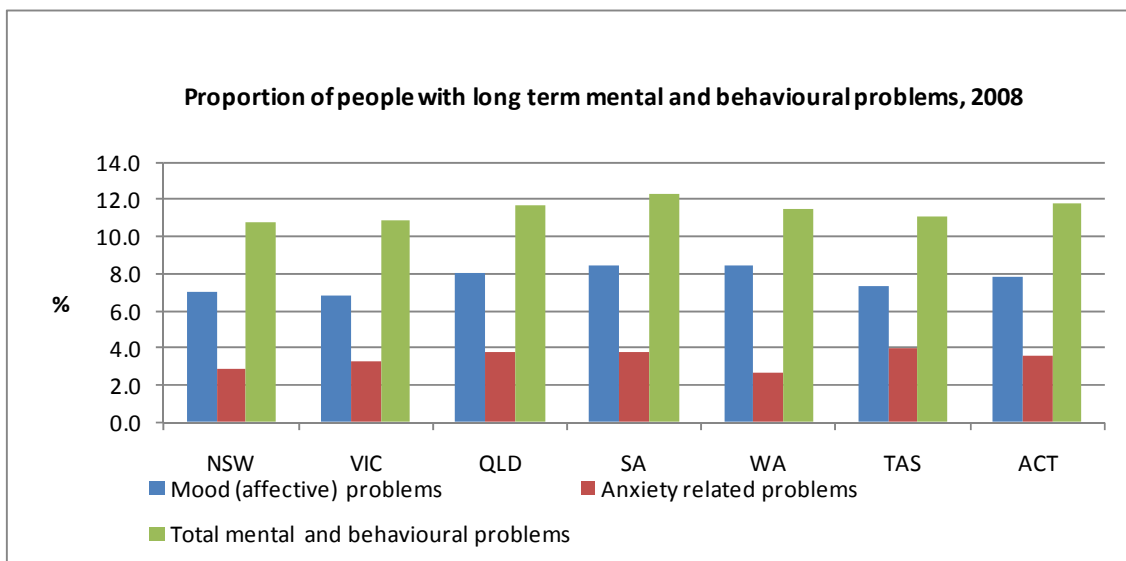
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in New South Wales, 2007-08: findings from the National Minimum Data Set*, AIHW, Canberra, 2009.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Victoria, 2007-08: findings from the National Minimum Data Set*, AIHW, Canberra, 2009.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in South Australia, 2007-08: findings from the National Minimum Data Set*, AIHW, Canberra, 2009.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Tasmania, 2007-08: findings from the National Minimum Data Set*, AIHW, Canberra, 2009.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in the Australian Capital Territory, 2007-08: findings from the National Minimum Data Set*, AIHW, Canberra, 2009.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in the Northern Territory, 2007-08: findings from the National Minimum Data Set*, AIHW, Canberra, 2009.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Western Australia, 2007-08: findings from the National Minimum Data Set*, AIHW, Canberra, 2009.

## MENTAL HEALTH

(NB. No data is published for the Northern Territory).

Mental illness is one of the leading causes of non-fatal burden of disease and injury in Australia.<sup>14</sup> 11% of respondents to the National Health Survey in NSW in 2008 had some form of mental or behavioural problem identified by a medical professional that is a long term condition. This was the lowest proportion out of the Australian States and Territories. On the other hand, 13% of people in NSW experienced high or very high psychological distress in the four weeks prior to being interviewed for the National Health Survey, second only to South Australia. Very high psychological distress may require professional help.

The following chart compares the proportion of people with long term mental and behavioural problems in 2008, by State and Territory. The total proportion of people with mental and behavioural problems is noted, but specific attention is also given to mood (eg depression) and anxiety related (eg phobias) problems.



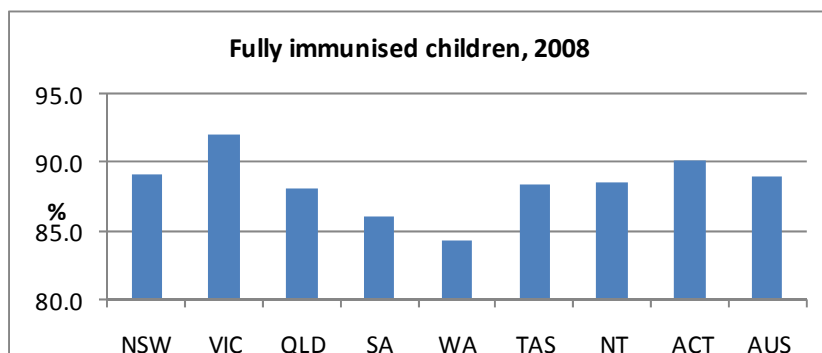
### Source:

- ABS, *National Health Survey: Summary of Results; State Tables 2007-08*, 4362.0

<sup>14</sup> Population Health Division, *The health of the people of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer 2008 – Summary Report*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 2008, p 94.

## IMMUNISATION

The NSW Immunisation Program seeks to protect the community against preventable diseases. The proportion of children in NSW who are fully immunised grew from 81 to 89 per cent between 2002 and 2008 (an increase of more than 10%). This is the second year in a row that the proportion of immunised children in NSW has been slightly above the national average. The proportion of immunised children in Australia ranges from a low of 84% in Western Australia to a high of 92% of children in Victoria.



**Source:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010;



## HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA

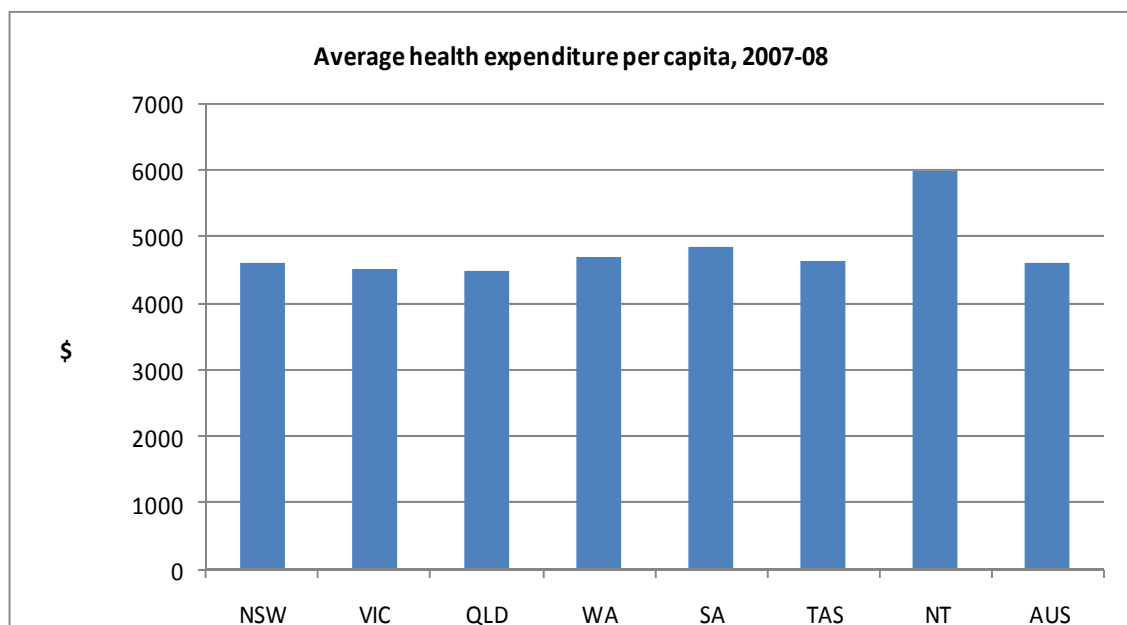
One means of comparing the health expenditure in each of the States and Territories is to measure health expenditure per capita. \$4613 was spent per person in NSW in 2007/08 (the Australian average), having increased from \$4292 in 2005/06. The Northern Territory spent the most per person at \$5981 and Queensland the least at \$4492.

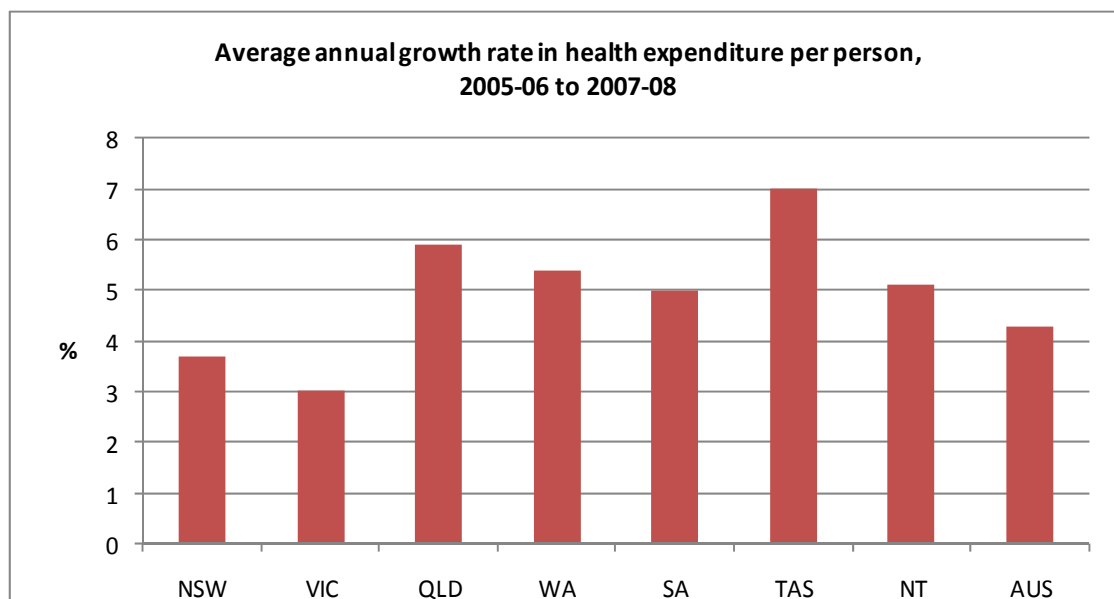
The average annual growth rate in per capita health expenditure in NSW was 3.7%, the smallest of the States and Territories with the exception of Victoria.

### Average health expenditure per capita

State/territory	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Av annual growth rate 2005-06 to 2007-08 (%)
NSW	4292	4448	4613	3.7
VIC	4255	4374	4513	3
QLD	4003	4255	4492	5.9
WA	4210	4413	4677	5.4
SA	4389	4488	4840	5
TAS	4045	4225	4630	7
NT	5417	5571	5981	5.1
AUS	4242	4409	4613	4.3

NB. No data available for ACT.



**Source:**

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's Health 2010*, No 12, AIHW, Canberra, 2010, p 421.

## SERVICES

The table below provides an overview of health service activity in each of the eight Area Health Services in NSW. More detail is provided in the individual Indicators on hospital separations etc to follow in this paper.

**Health service activity, 2007-08**

Area Health Service	Northern Sydney - Central Coast	South Eastern Sydney - Illawarra	Sydney South West	Sydney West	Greater Southern	Greater Western	Hunter - New England	North Coast	NSW
Estimated residential population	1,113,414	1,185,526	1,360,139	1,114,027	477,068	300,387	852,165	485,288	6,888,014
Separations	177,611	287,672	297,202	201,018	109,033	88,071	186,611	151,348	1,527,382
Average available beds	2,749	3,444	3,919	2,911	2,005	1,916	3,143	1,616	22,190
Pop'n per bed	405	344	347	383	238	157	271	300	310
Bed occupancy rate	85.2	91.1	90.1	86.3	68.94	68.45	75.26	84.19	84.26
Liveborn babies	8,010	11,277	17,247	13,619	3,414	3,645	8,776	5,784	71,772
ED attendances	243,315	378,450	342,787	243,681	258,567	230,710	361,718	308,960	2,417,818
ED attendances per capita	0.22	0.32	0.25	0.22	0.54	0.77	0.42	0.64	0.35
Medical and surgery average waiting time (months)	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.1	3	2.7	2.6	3.6	2.5
EFT staff	10,213	15,073	16,002	12,653	4,469	4,188	6,849	6,151	78,551
Pop'n per staff member	109	79	85	88	107	72	124	79	88

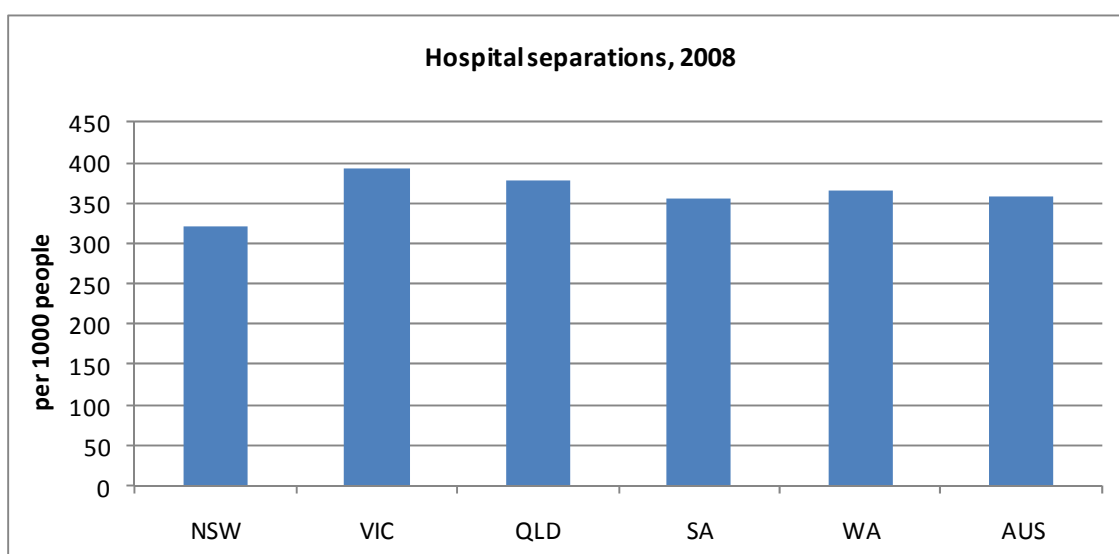
**Source:**

- NSW Health, *NSW Health Services Comparison Data Book, 2007-08*, June 2009.

## HOSPITAL SEPARATIONS

A hospital separation is when a patient leaves the hospital after completing an episode of care. They may have been discharged to home, to another hospital, or to a nursing home, or they may have died.

There were 320 hospital separations per 1000 people in NSW in 2008, the lowest rate for the Australian States which averaged 359 hospital separations per 1000 people.

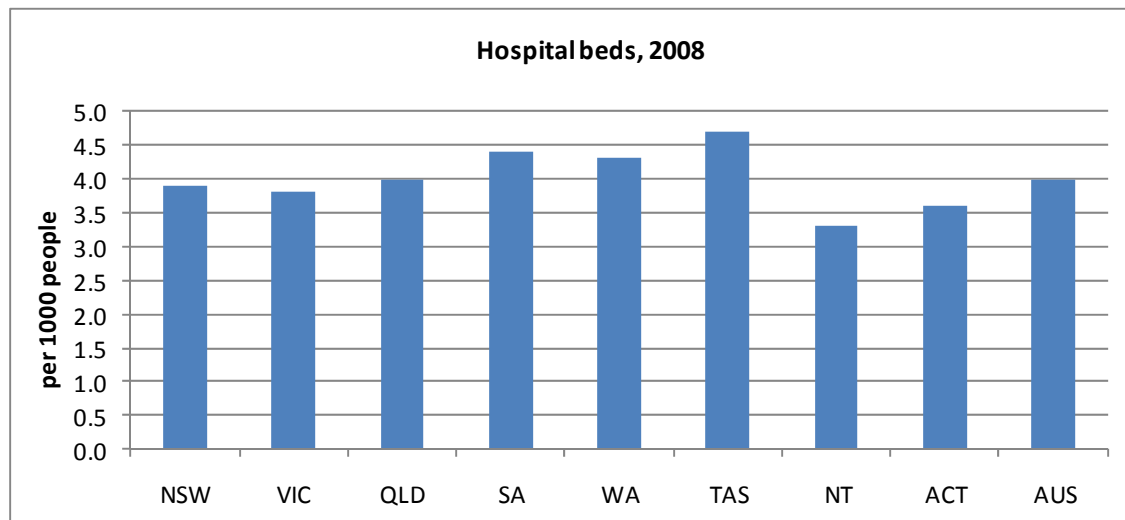


**Source:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010

## BEDS

There were 3.9 hospital beds per 1000 people in NSW in 2008. The number of hospital beds has fluctuated only slightly between 2002 and 2008 from a low of 3.7 beds in 2002 to a high of 4.1 beds in 2005. The number of beds in NSW is just under the Australian average of 4 beds per 1000 people. The greatest number of beds per 1000 people is in Tasmania where there were 4.7 beds per 1000 people in 2008.



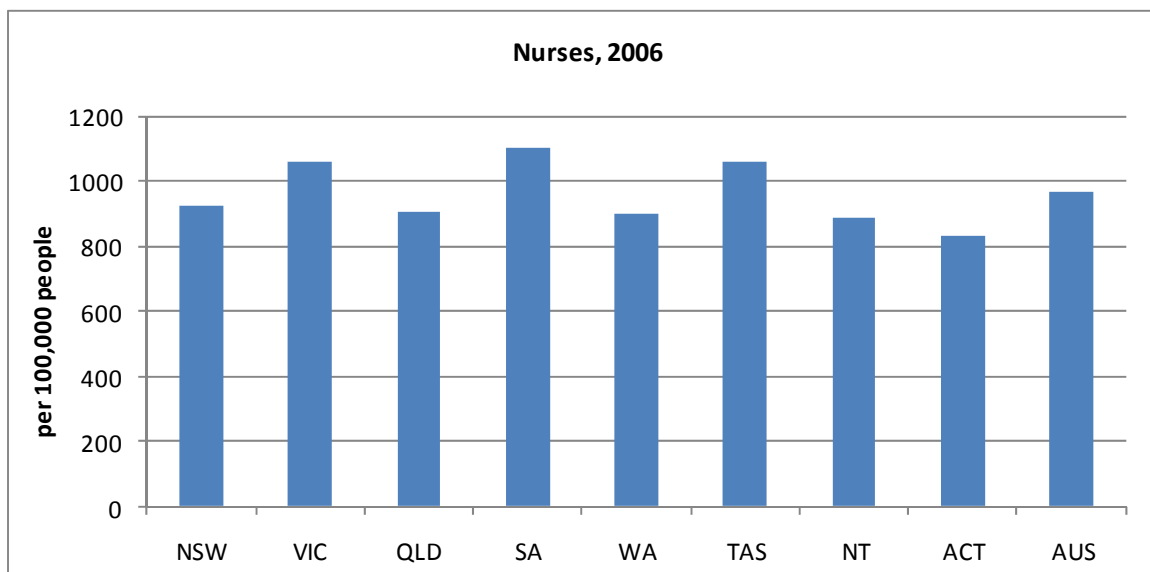
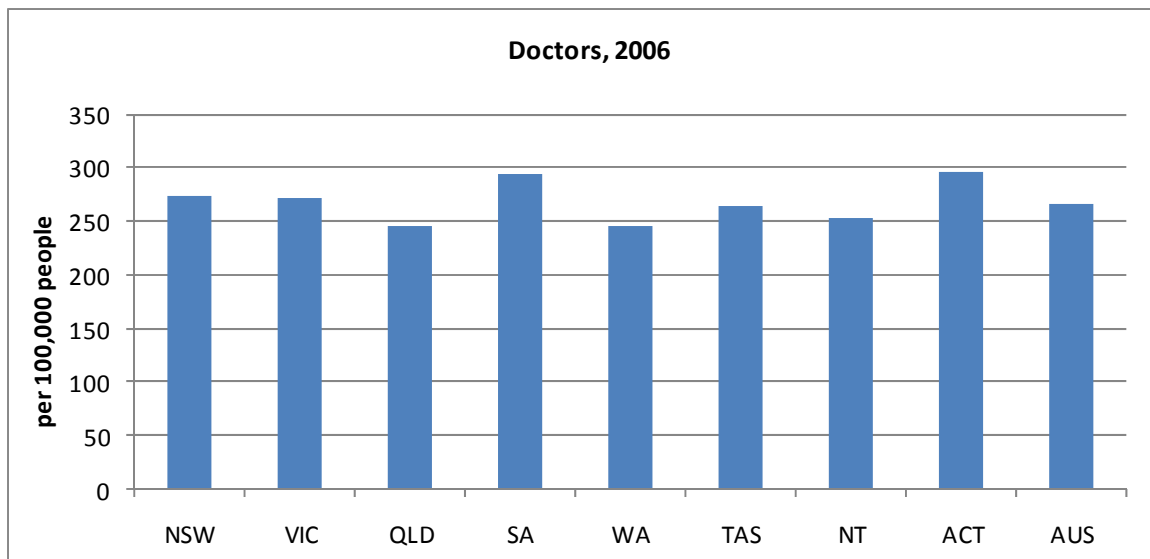
**Source:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010

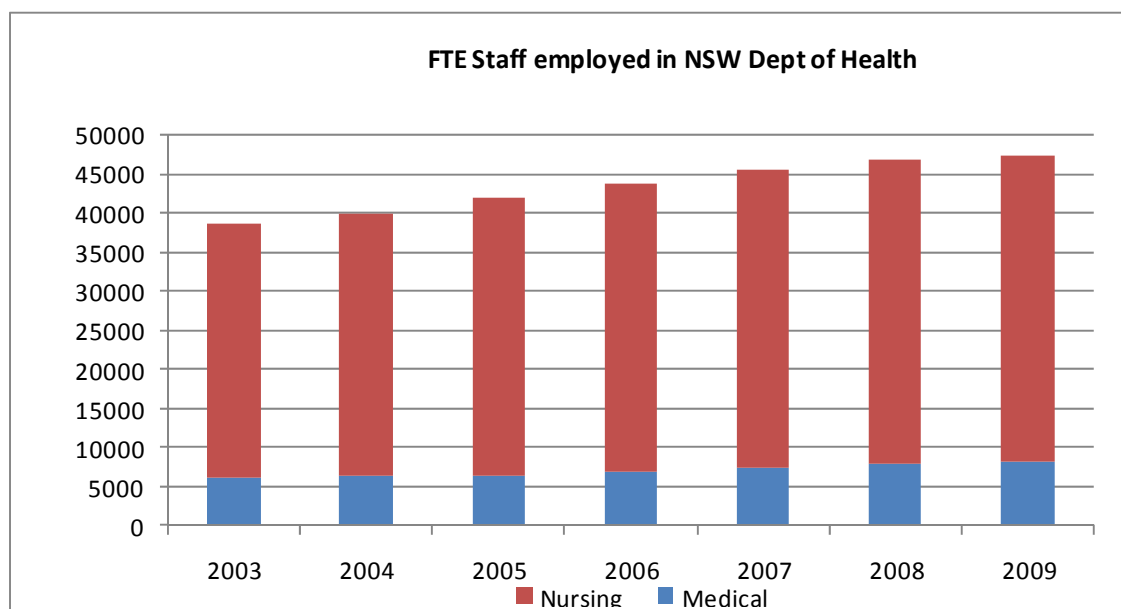
## STAFF

The number of doctors and nurses in NSW is growing. There were 273 doctors and 927 nurses for every 100,000 people in NSW in 2006 (compared to 251 doctors and 822 nurses in 2001). New South Wales has the third highest number of doctors per 100,000 people of the States and Territories, with only South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory having a greater number proportionally.

However, the number of nurses per 100,000 people in NSW is below the Australian average of 968 nurses per 100,000 people, and is less than the rate of nurses in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania.



The following graph shows how the number of staff employed by the NSW Department of Health has increased since 2003.



There were 30,694 registered medical practitioners in NSW as at 30 June 2009 and 86,488 registered nurses, 17,535 registered midwives, and 17,250 enrolled nurses.

**FTE staff employed in NSW Department of Health, Health Support Services, Ambulance Service of NSW and health services**

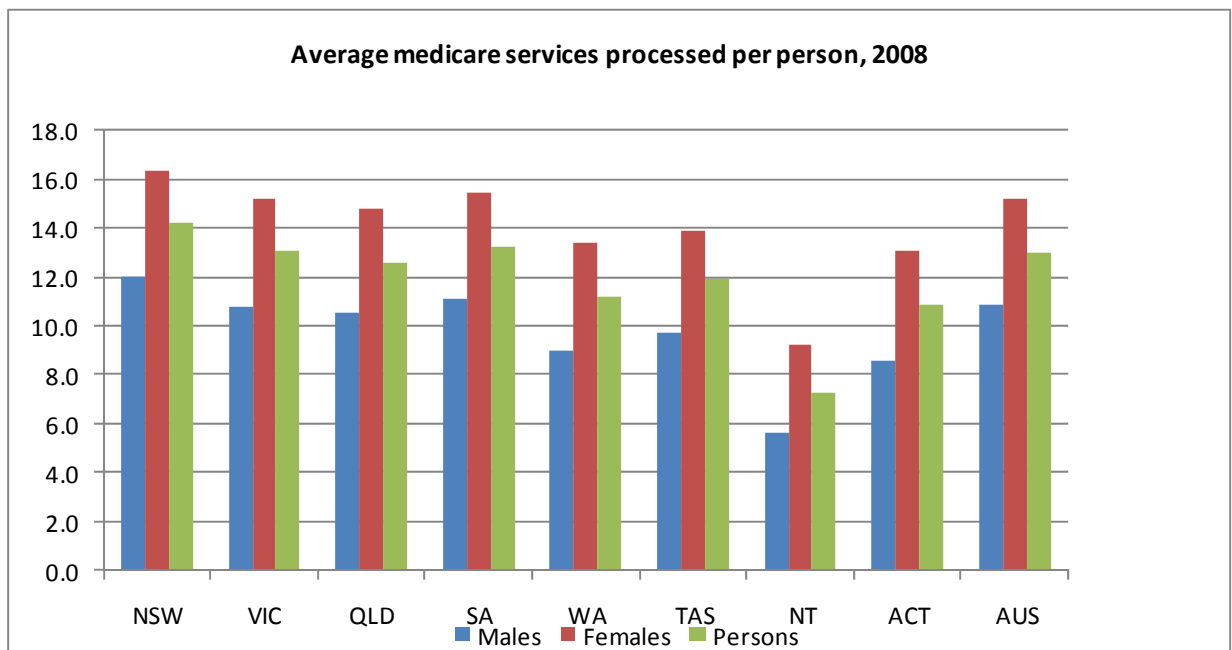
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Medical	6112	6357	6462	6826	7318	7866	8140
Nursing	32550	33488	35523	36920	38101	39043	39142

**Sources:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010
- NSW Department of Health, *Annual Report 2008-09*

## MEDICARE

More than 14 Medicare services were processed per person in NSW in 2008. This has increased from 11.8 services per person in 1998. The average number of Medicare services processed differs according to gender, with females processing more than 16 services in 2008 compared to 12 for every male in NSW. NSW has the highest number of Medicare services processed for every male and female of all the Australian States and Territories. The Northern Territory has a noticeably smaller number of services processed per person.



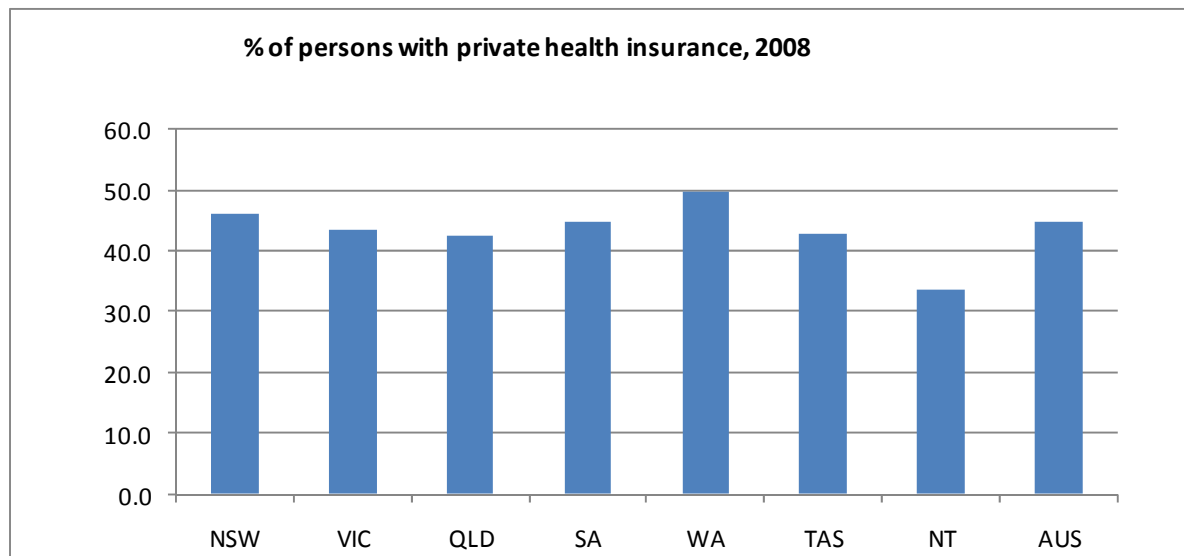
### Source:

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010



## PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

In 2008, almost 46% of people in NSW had private health insurance, having increased from 31% in 1998. NSW is the Australian jurisdiction with the second largest proportion of people having private health insurance, coming after Western Australia where almost half of the population is privately insured. The jurisdiction with the smallest proportion of people with private health insurance is the Northern Territory, where less than 36% are privately insured.



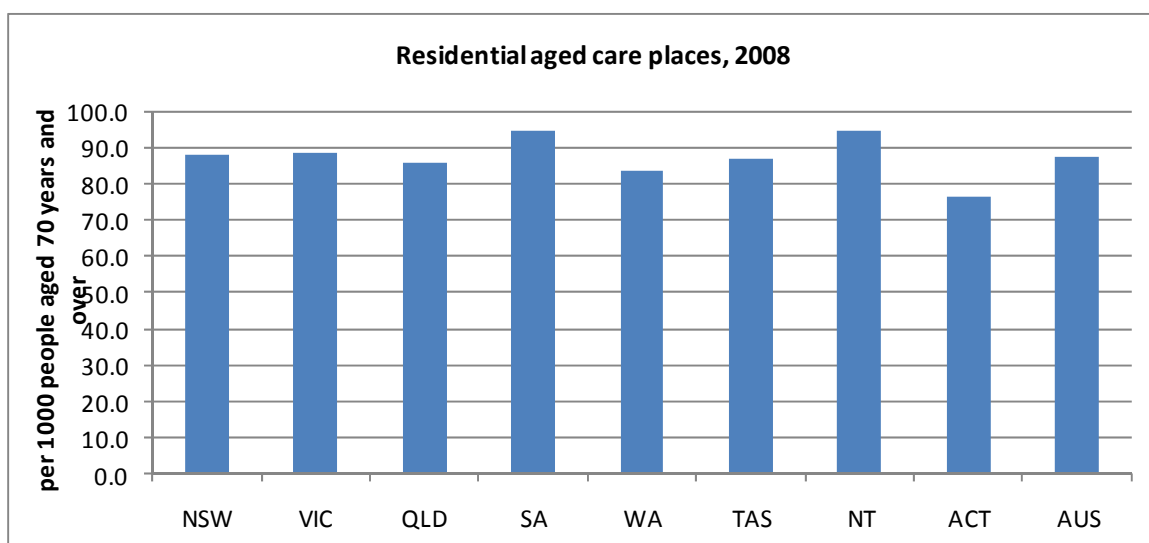
NB Data is not available for the Australian Capital Territory.

**Source:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010

## AGED CARE PLACES

The number of residential aged care places in NSW has continued to increase. There were almost 88 residential aged care places for every 1000 people aged 70 years and over in New South Wales in 2008, compared to 81 places in 2002. The situation in NSW compares favourably to the Australian average. However, more places are available for the elderly in Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory.



**Source:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010

## EDUCATION INDICATORS

### STUDENTS

#### Students in New South Wales, '000

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>School students – total</b>	1,107	1,107	1,108	1,109	1,109	1,109
<b>Preschool students</b>	71.7	70.6	67.7	63.8	62.3	60.7
<b>Primary students</b>	626.4	624.0	621.9	620.2	618.4	617.6
<b>Secondary students</b>	481.0	483.1	485.8	488.7	490.8	491.0
<b>% of students in government schools</b>	68	67	67	67	67	66
<b>VET students*</b>	588.4	517.5	562.1	565.3	549.0	550.9
<b>Higher education students</b>	300.2	296.5	297.2	302.9	321.6	-
<b>% of all higher education students that are overseas students</b>	22.0	22.5	22.4	22.4	22.7	-

#### Preschool

In 2005, 29% of three year olds and more than half of four year olds attended preschool. The number of preschool students continues to fall, reaching 61,000 in 2008 (compared to 75,000 in 2002).

#### Primary and secondary

In 2008, there were more than 1.1 million students in NSW (56% were in primary school and 44% were secondary students). About two thirds of students in NSW attended government schools, slightly above the national average. The highest proportion of students attending government schools is in the Northern Territory (75%) and the lowest is in the ACT (58%).

#### Tertiary

In 2009, there were 550,000 students engaged in vocational education and training (VET) in NSW, a 0.2% decrease from 2008.<sup>15</sup> The biggest increase in VET student numbers in Australia occurred in the ACT and Northern Territory, where student numbers rose by 7.3% and 6.4% respectively between 2008 and 2009.

The proportion of higher education students in NSW that are overseas students has more than doubled since 1998. In 2007 there were 321,600 students enrolled in higher education of which almost 23% were overseas students. This

<sup>15</sup> National Centre for Vocational Education Research, *Students and Courses, 2009, 2010*.

is less than the national average of 27% of higher education students being overseas students. The highest proportion of overseas students is in Victoria where they constitute 34% of all students.

### Indigenous students

There were 45,644 school age Indigenous Australians in NSW in 2006, 31% of all school age Indigenous Australians. As shown by the table below, NSW and Queensland account for 60% of school age Indigenous Australians.

**School age Indigenous Australians 2006**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>% of school age Indigenous Australians</b>
NSW	45644	31%
QLD	42119	29%
WA	18749	13%
NT	16204	11%
VIC	9538	6%
SA	8055	5%
TAS	5452	4%
ACT	1201	1%
AUS	146962	100%

### Sources

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010
- H Hughes and M Hughes, *Indigenous Education 2010*, No 110, Centre for Independent Studies, 2010, p 2
- ABS, *NSW State and Regional Indicators*, 1338.1, March 2010
- National Centre for Vocational Education Research, *Students and Courses, 2009, 2010*

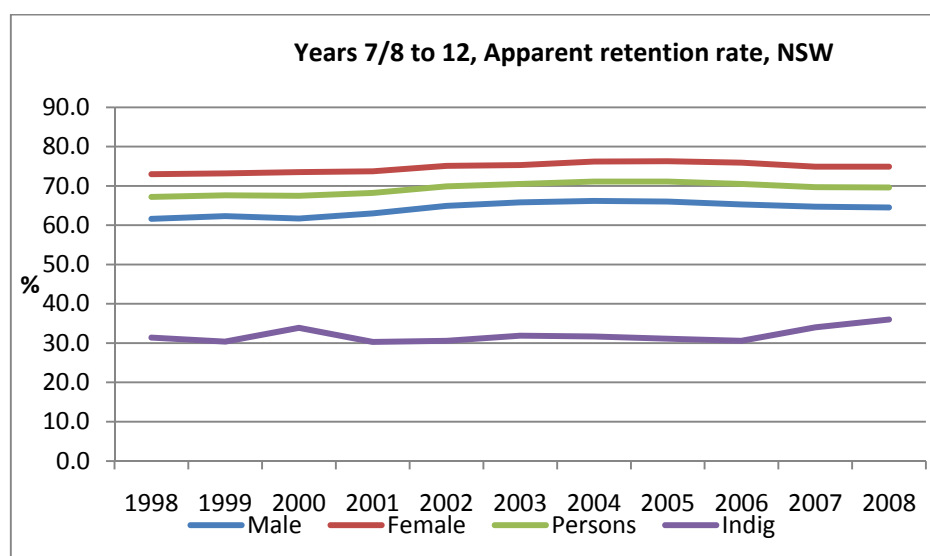
## RETENTION RATE

The following table shows the retention rates for secondary school in NSW, that is, the proportion of children in Years 7 or 8 who go on to complete Year 12. There was a slight increase in the retention rate between 1998 and 2008 from 67% to 70%. However, there is a noticeable difference between the retention rates for male and female students, with the retention rate for females in 2008 at 75% compared to 65% for male students.

The retention rate for Indigenous students in NSW has increased since 1998, from 31% to 36%. However, even with the increase, it is almost half the rate for students in general.

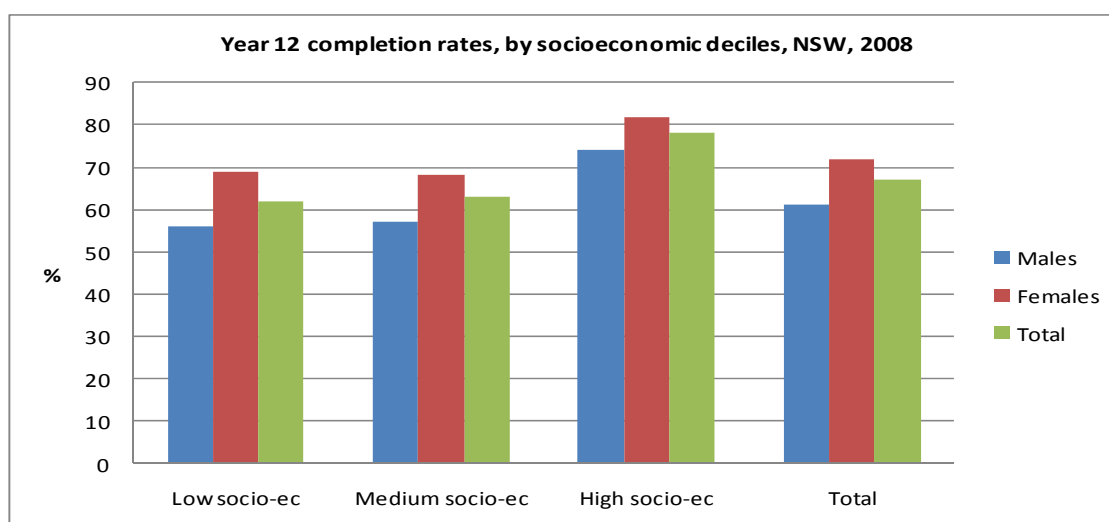
Retention rates, years 7/8 to 12, %, NSW

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Males	61.6	62.3	61.7	63.0	64.9	65.8	66.2	66.0	65.3	64.7	64.5
Females	73.0	73.2	73.5	73.7	75.1	75.3	76.2	76.3	75.9	74.9	74.9
All students	67.2	67.6	67.5	68.2	69.9	70.5	71.1	71.1	70.5	69.7	69.6
Indigenous	31.4	30.4	33.9	30.3	30.6	31.9	31.7	31.1	30.6	34.0	36.0



Socio-economic status appears to influence retention rates. In 2008, 78% of those of high socio-economic status in NSW completed Year 12 compared to 62% of people of low socio-economic status. Females of high socio-economic status in Victoria and South Australia had the highest retention rates in Australia - 88% and 85% respectively. The lowest retention rates were for males and females of low socio-economic status in the Northern Territory, of whom only 14% and 18% respectively completed Year 12.

The completion of Year 12 is an important milestone as it improves the employment chances of an individual and thus aids their transition from education to employment.



**Year 12 completion rates, by socioeconomic status, 2008, %**

	Low socioeconomic deciles			Medium socioeconomic deciles			High socioeconomic deciles			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>NSW</b>	56	69	62	57	68	63	74	82	78	61	72	67
<b>VIC</b>	49	66	57	54	71	62	75	88	81	60	75	67
<b>QLD</b>	48	65	57	58	71	65	68	74	71	58	70	64
<b>SA</b>	44	65	55	56	77	66	77	85	81	56	74	64
<b>WA</b>	48	64	55	54	70	62	68	81	74	58	73	66
<b>TAS</b>	42	56	49	61	70	65	73	75	74	52	63	57
<b>NT</b>	14	18	16	46	50	48	-	-	-	30	35	32
<b>ACT</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	77	79	78	76	79	78
<b>AUS</b>	50	66	58	56	70	63	72	82	77	59	72	66

NB: Boxes without information in the table above indicate that the data for those groups was too small to give a meaningful result.

#### Sources:

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010
- Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training, and Youth Affairs, *National Report on Schooling in Australia*, 2008, p 39

## ENGAGED IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING

The transition from education to employment is an important but sometimes difficult one. As a result, it can be useful to consider what proportion of older teenagers and young adults are fully engaged in:

- Full time education;
- Full time employment; or
- Part time education and part time work.

Around 82% of persons aged 15 to 24 years in NSW in 2009 were fully engaged in education or work, or a combination of both. The level of engagement fluctuates with age, with 97% of 15 year olds fully engaged, to a low of 70% of those aged 24 years. The ACT had the highest level of full engagement of 15 to 24 year olds at 88% and Queensland the lowest at 78%.

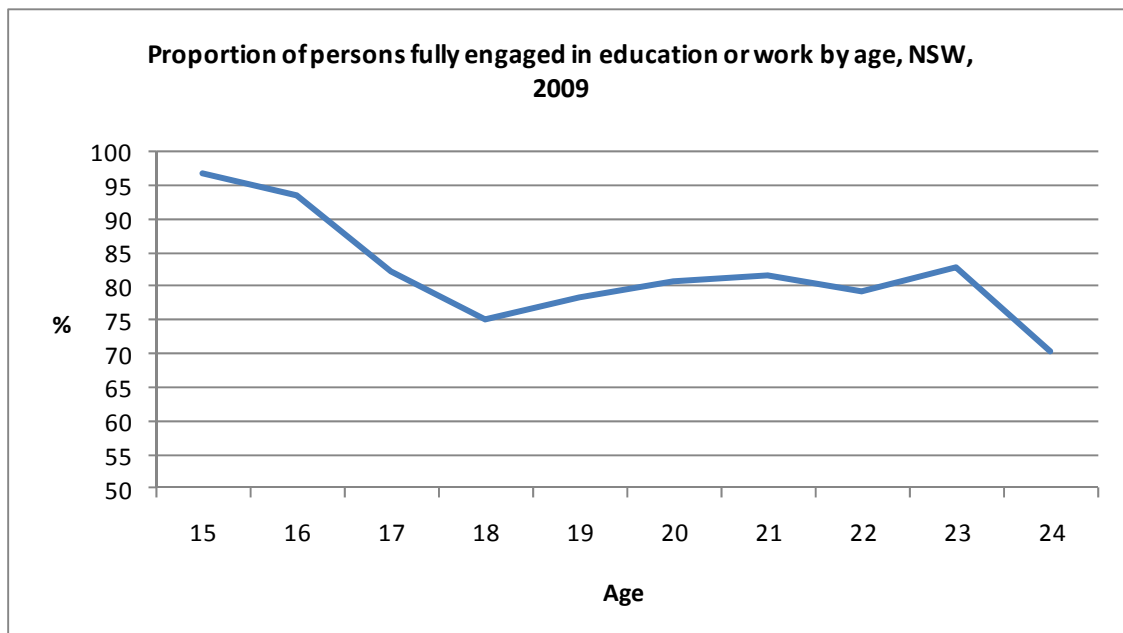
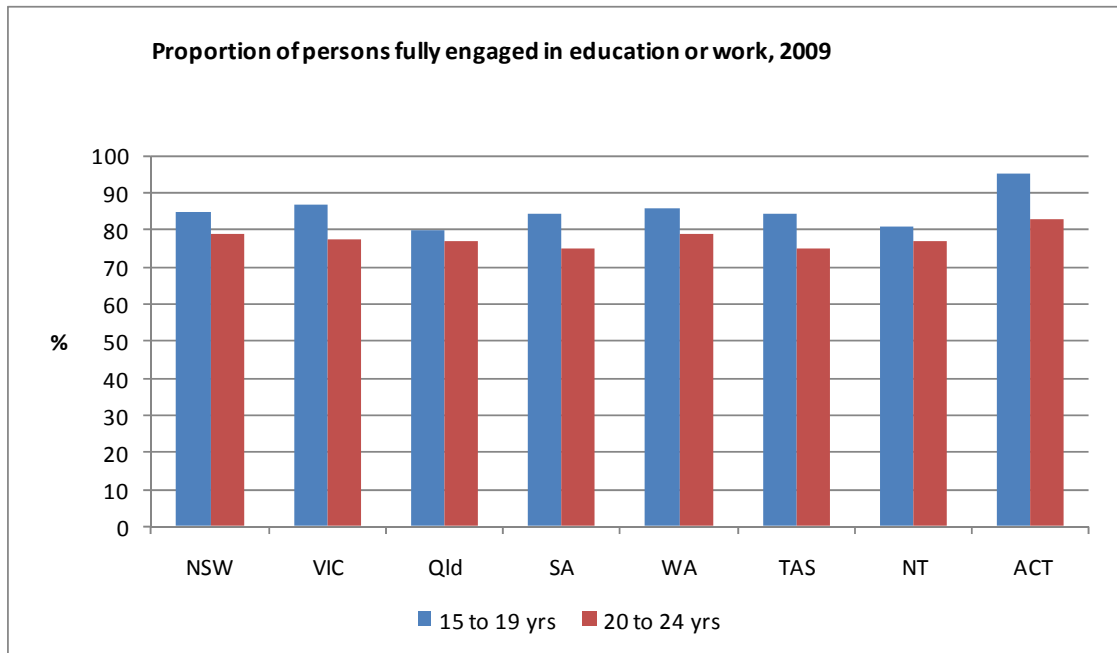
Around one-third of all school leavers between the ages of 15 and 19 years in NSW were not fully engaged in education and/or employment (the national average is 27%).

### Engagement in education and/or training, NSW, %

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Persons aged 15 to 24 years participating in some form of education	58	59	59	59	58	60
School leavers aged 15-19 years not fully engaged in education and/or employment - of all school leavers aged 15-19 years	30.6	29.9	29.6	32.1	34.8	33.6
Persons aged 15-19 years not fully engaged in education and/or employment - of all persons aged 15-19 years	12.8	13.6	13.8	13.2	15.1	13.9

### Proportion of persons aged 15 to 24 years who are fully engaged in education or work, 2009

	15 yrs	16 yrs	17 yrs	18 yrs	19 yrs	20 yrs	21 yrs	22 yrs	23 yrs	24 yrs
<b>NSW</b>	96.6	93.4	82.1	75.0	78.3	80.8	81.5	79.1	82.9	70.2
<b>VIC</b>	98.7	96.2	94.1	75.1	71.1	81.8	83.6	76.3	72.1	74.0
<b>QLD</b>	93.2	93.7	71.7	73.0	70.6	84.7	72.0	73.3	74.9	79.3
<b>SA</b>	100.0	89.8	82.4	75.8	74.5	75.1	86.6	66.2	73.9	73.3
<b>WA</b>	100.0	96.7	82.3	75.9	73.9	74.8	88.5	74.2	85.2	72.9
<b>TAS</b>	100.0	94.0	92.1	70.8	69.2	83.5	71.2	80.2	73.8	67.0
<b>NT</b>	100.0	94.7	84.5	66.5	58.2	78.0	63.6	88.3	72.8	83.6
<b>ACT</b>	100.0	100.0	88.1	96.5	91.0	85.6	74.0	85.6	80.7	88.0



**Sources:**

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010
- ABS, *NSW State and Regional Indicators*, 1338.1, March 2010
- ABS, *Education and Work, Australia*, 6227.0, May 2009



## QUALIFICATIONS

The number of people with qualifications is an important indicator as obtaining a qualification increases the probability of employment.<sup>16</sup> More than 63% of people aged 25 to 64 years in NSW in 2008 had some form of non-school qualification. More than a quarter of people in that same age group had qualified for a Bachelor degree or higher.

### Proportion of persons with various qualifications in NSW

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Persons aged 20-24 years with Year 12 and/or Certificate II and above	80.7	81.8	80.7	82.0	82.6	83.4
Persons aged 25-29 years with Certificate III and above	55.9	55.1	56.5	59.2	59.3	61.6
Persons aged 25-64 years with an Advanced diploma and diploma or below	36.2	37.4	36.5	37.3	36.5	36.0
Persons aged 25 to 64 with a bachelor degree or above	21.8	23.4	24.5	25.0	24.9	27.1
Total persons aged 25 to 64 with a non-school qualification	58.0	60.9	61.1	62.3	61.4	63.1

As shown by the table below, 84% of people aged 15 to 64 years who obtained their Year 12 qualification (or equivalent) were in the labour force in 2008, compared to 67% of those who had no qualification. 87% of persons of working age who had a Bachelor degree or higher were in the labour force.

### Labour force participation rate in NSW

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Persons aged 15 to 64 years with Year 12 or equivalent	83.8	83.3	83.0	83.4	84.0	83.5
Persons aged 15 to 64 years with Bachelor degree or above	88.4	88.2	88.7	87.2	88.0	87.0
All persons aged 15 to 64 years without qualifications	66.1	65.1	65.7	65.9	66.9	67.0
Indigenous persons aged 15 to 64 with Yr 12 or equivalent	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	76.3	n.a.	n.a.
Indigenous persons aged 15 to 64 with qualifications at Certificate III level or above	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	82.3	n.a.	n.a.
Indigenous persons without non-school qualifications	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	51.3	n.a.	n.a.

### Sources

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010
- ABS, *NSW State and Regional Indicators*, 1338.1, March 2010

<sup>16</sup> National Centre for Vocational Education Research, *Annual transitions between labour market states for young Australians*, May 2010, p 26.

## EDUCATIONAL BENCHMARKS

The following three tables reveal the proportion of children in Year 5 in NSW who achieved the national reading and numeracy benchmarks. 92% of students achieved the national reading benchmark in 2007 and 91% achieved the national numeracy benchmark. There is a noticeable gap in those achieving the benchmarks between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Only 77% of Indigenous students in year five reached the reading benchmark (up from 74% in 2006) and 76% achieved the numeracy benchmark (down from 78% in 2006).

### Proportion of Year 5 students achieving national reading benchmarks - NSW

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Males	88.6	87.1	90.5	90.5	89.7	88.6	87.9	87.9	90.2
Females	92.0	91.2	93.5	94.1	93.9	93.3	91.5	92.8	93.8
All	90.3	89.1	92.0	92.3	91.7	90.9	89.7	90.3	92.0

### Proportion of Year 5 students achieving national numeracy benchmarks - NSW

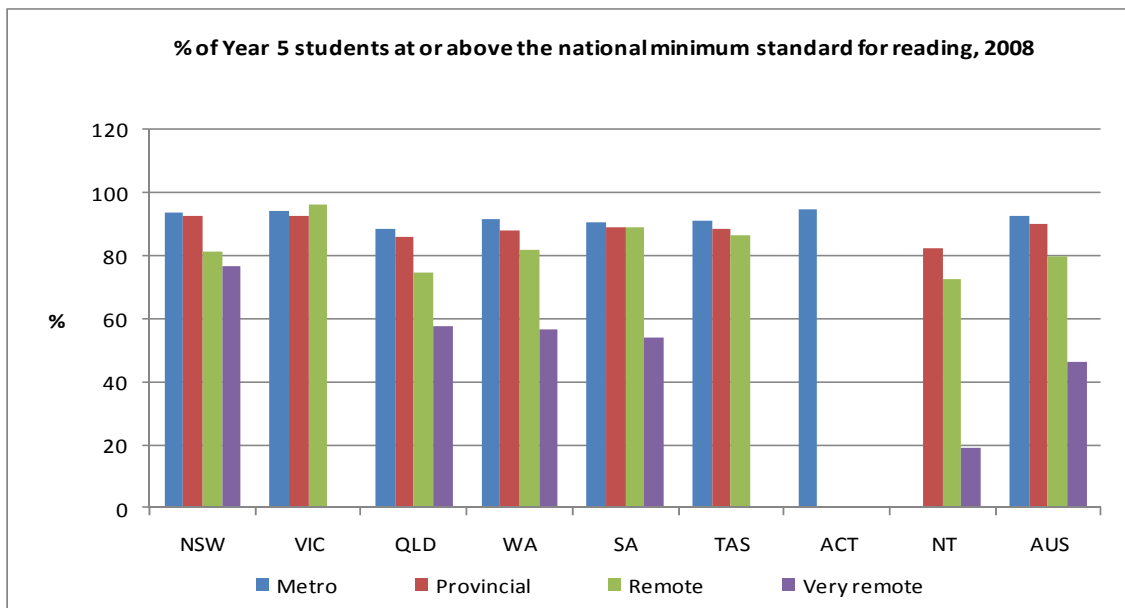
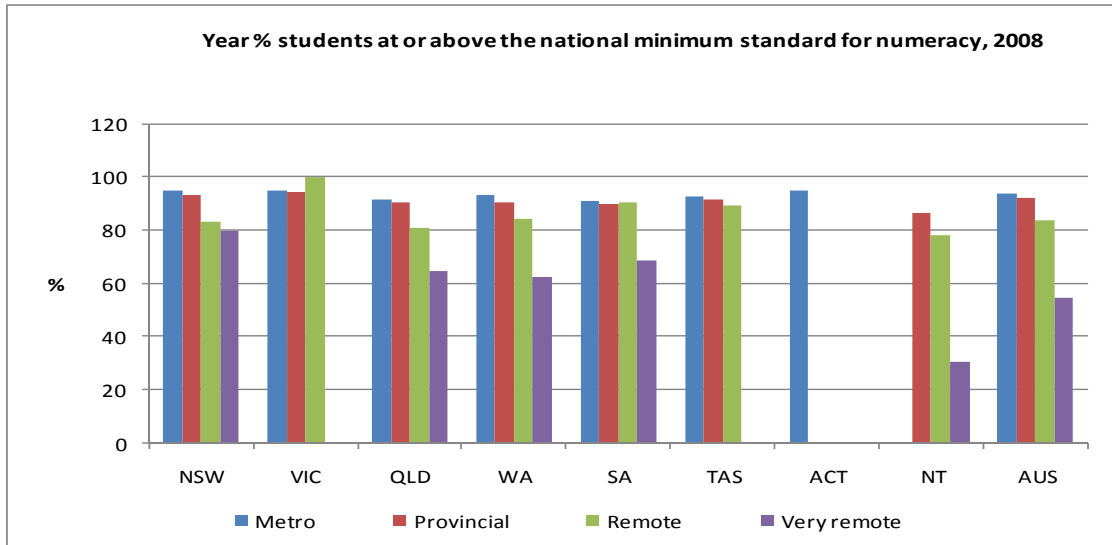
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Males	90.8	91.5	91.0	90.4	91.9	91.1	92.4	91.4
Females	91.5	91.8	91.4	92.2	92.5	92.3	92.9	91.3
All	91.1	91.7	91.2	91.3	92.2	91.7	92.6	91.3

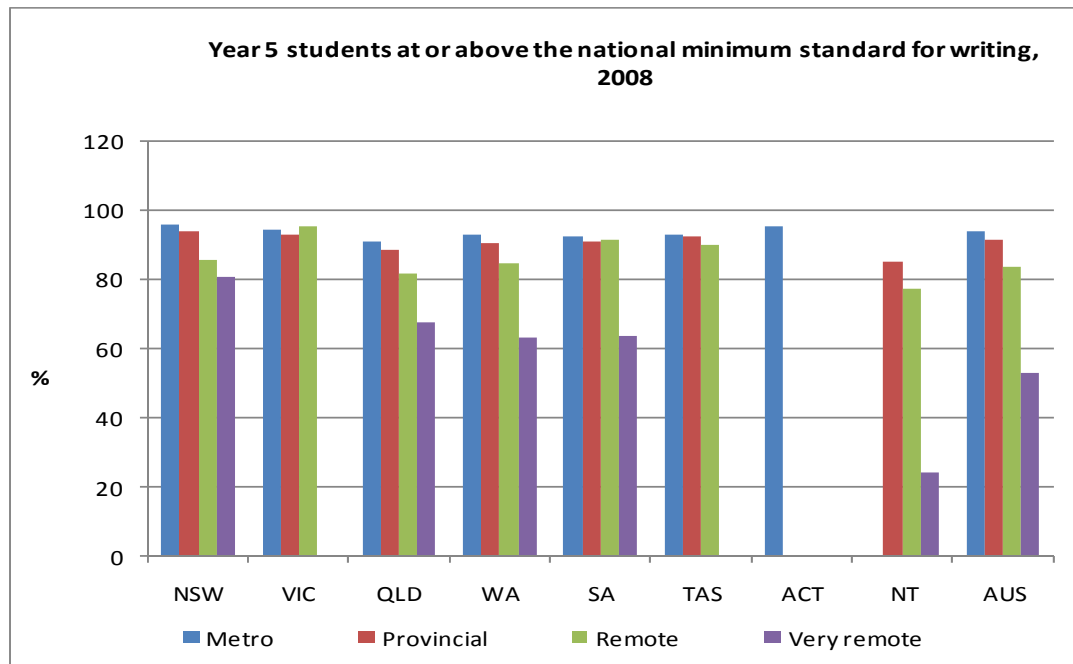
### Proportion of Year 5 indigenous students achieving national benchmarks - NSW

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Reading	72.5	70.9	76.6	75.4	76.5	75.7	72.3	73.6	77.3
Numeracy	n.a.	73.5	74.6	72.4	73.9	77.0	75.4	78.0	76.0

The location of students influences the likelihood of a student achieving the national minimum standard for reading and numeracy. Generally, a greater proportion of students in metropolitan or provincial areas achieve the standard, followed by those in remote areas. In a number of the Australian States and Territories there was a noticeable drop in the proportion of year 5 students in very remote areas who were at or above the national minimum standard.

See the following charts for a comparison of the regions within each of the States and Territories.





### Sources

- National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, *National Report, 2008*, [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au)
- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010
- ABS, *NSW State and Regional Indicators*, 1338.1, March 2010

## RESOURCES

There were 2189 government schools and 920 non-government schools in NSW in 2008. Teaching is an increasingly female dominated profession, with women constituting 70% of the 86,000 teachers in NSW in 2008.

### Primary schools

The student: teacher ratio continues to fall in NSW primary schools. There were 16 students for every teacher in government primary schools in NSW in 2008 (17 in non-government schools). This is the highest teaching ratio of any of the States and Territories.

### Secondary schools

A smaller and steady ratio applies to government secondary schools where there were 12 students to every teacher. Tasmania, the Northern Territory, Queensland, and South Australia have higher teaching ratios in their government secondary schools.

### Higher education

The student: teacher ratio for those in higher education dropped slightly from its 2006 peak with 21 students to every teacher in 2007. This is the highest ratio of all the States and Territories. The lowest ratio is in the ACT where there are 17 students to every teacher.

<b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
School teachers '000	84.5	85.3	83.9	84.6	85.7	86.1
% of all school teachers that are female	69.7	69.9	69.5	69.9	70.2	70.4
Student/teaching staff ratio:						
Government primary schools	17.3	17.0	16.7	16.2	16.2	15.9
Non-government primary schools	17.5	17.2	17.1	16.9	16.8	16.8
Government secondary schools	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.5	12.4
Non-government secondary schools	12.0	11.9	11.8	11.7	11.7	11.6
Higher education academic staff '000	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.1	9.5	n.y.a.
Student/teaching staff ratio: Higher education	20.0	19.4	19.7	21.0	20.7	n.y.a.

### Source:

- ABS, *Australian Social Trends*, 4102.0, March 2010

## EXPENDITURE

25% of the NSW Government's budget in 2008/09 was directed toward education. Of the \$13.6 billion spent, 75% went to primary and secondary education, 12% to TAFE education, and 0.3% went to universities.

### Education expenditure - \$ m – NSW Government – by financial year

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Primary and secondary	5,907	6,285	6,828	7,388	7,753	8,373	8,650	9,020	9,508	10,175
University	21	13	14	20	22	39	27	41	53	39
TAFE	1,224	1,198	1,241	1,334	1,313	1,405	1,472	1,524	1,537	1,632
Other	797	798	920	1,030	1,159	1,263	1,328	1,286	1,444	1,764
Total	7,949	8,294	9,003	9,771	10,246	11,080	11,477	11,871	12,542	13,610
Education as % of govt spending	27%	26%	27%	27%	27%	27%	27%	26%	26%	25%

The following tables compare per capita expenditure on government and non-government schools in each of the States and Territories. Please note that expenditure data for government and non-government schools should not be compared due to differences in the scope of data, reporting period and accounting basis used.

### Per capita government expenditure on government schools 2007/08

	Recurrent	Capital/investing
NSW	12324	660
VIC	11442	888
QLD	12426	982
SA	12458	454
WA	15853	1362
TAS	12366	389
NT	18247	1663
ACT	16061	2072
AUS	12639	865

\*It should be noted that the above table does not represent total government expenditure on school-level education. It also does not include such things as funds raised by schools, school councils or community organisations.

**Non-government schools' expenditure per student, 2008 calendar year**

	Recurrent	Capital
NSW	11301	1530
VIC	11133	1905
QLD	10436	2186
SA	10529	1600
WA	10287	2077
TAS	9965	2561
NT	12579	3458
ACT	10481	1508
AUS	10893	1852

**Sources:**

- ABS, *Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2008-09*, 5512.0, 2010
- Ministerial Council for Education, Employment, Training, and Youth Affairs, *National Report on Schooling in Australia, Additional Statistics on Australian Schooling*, 2008, pp 23 and 27.

## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INDICATORS

### LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

The table below looks at the number of people in different living arrangements for each of the 12 statistical divisions in NSW. In 2006, 30% of people in NSW lived with a child of any age, 24% of people lived with their partner and children, 19% lived with their partner but no children, and 4% were lone parents. 9% of people lived alone.

**Number of people in various living arrangements, NSW, 2006**

Statistical Division	Husband/wife/partner without children	Husband/wife/partner with children	Lone parent	Child of any age	Lone person	Group household member	Other adult	Total
Central West	35,319	37,640	7,070	49,439	16,970	3,586	3,404	169,623
Far West	4,661	4,098	1,139	5,667	2,887	329	526	22,319
Hunter	123,075	132,622	27,492	169,830	55,656	14,486	13,343	583,659
Illawarra	82,737	90,668	17,656	115,934	35,984	8,661	8,174	388,834
Mid-North Coast	69,612	55,378	14,201	76,625	29,457	5,769	6,316	286,406
Murray	24,551	23,744	4,304	30,440	11,497	2,828	2,072	110,705
Murrumbidgee	28,460	33,675	5,971	44,056	13,818	3,207	3,007	147,095
North Western	22,292	23,248	5,117	32,340	10,796	2,085	2,917	112,003
Northern	36,061	36,740	7,554	48,544	17,148	3,709	3,976	172,686
Richmond-Tweed	48,556	43,805	11,264	59,656	23,076	7,091	5,481	222,829
South Eastern	44,721	43,028	7,826	53,969	19,539	3,385	3,686	210,099
Sydney	689,290	1,025,352	166,201	1,247,772	334,826	125,597	133,463	4,102,050
NSW	1,209,335	1,549,998	275,795	1,934,272	572,033	180,733	186,365	6,528,687

The number of people living alone increased by 20% between 2001 and 2008 compared to a 10% rise in the number of families in the same period. Of all families with dependent children, more than one-fifth are one parent families.

**Number of people in various living arrangements, NSW, '000**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total households	-	2,455	2,492	2,528	2,566	2,605	2,643	2,679	2,716
Lone person households	-	587	604	621	639	657	675	690	705
Total families	1,721	1,777	1,798	1,826	1,836	1,878	1,908	1,924	1,958
Couple families without children	601	656	650	685	687	677	720	709	737
Families with dependent children	869	859	893	875	882	898	895	896	909
% of all families with dependent children that are one parent families	20.7	20.6	22.1	22.2	22.7	21.2	21.3	22.1	21.2
% of all couple families that are de facto couples	-	11.5	-	-	-	-	13.2	-	-

#### Sources:

- ABS, *NSW State and Regional Indicators*, June 2010, 1338.1
- ABS, *Family Characteristics and Transitions, Australia, 2006-07*, 4442.0



## FAMILIES AND WORK

The following table provides an overview of trends in the balance of family responsibilities with employment.

The proportion of families with dependent children in which there is no parent employed has declined in the last few years. 5% of couple families with dependent children in 2008 had no parent employed, compared to 7.1% in 2000. Just over 38% of one parent families did not have an employed parent in 2008, compared to 49% in 2000. In 2007, 18% of all families in NSW did not have an employed parent in the household.<sup>17</sup>

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
% of couple families with dependent children in which both parents are employed.	59.2	58.4	59.8	59.5	60.0	60.9	61.9	60.9	60.6
% of couple families with dependent children in which both parents are not employed.	7.1	7.5	6.8	6.9	6.7	5.4	6.7	5.4	5.0
% of one parent families with dependent children in which the lone parent is not employed.	48.9	53.7	50.8	51.0	52.0	44.7	48.7	43.4	38.3
% of children aged 0-14 years without an employed parent in the household.	19.4	18.2	-	16.2	15.7	-	14.2	-	-

### Source:

- ABS, *NSW State and Regional Indicators*, 1338.1, March 2010

<sup>17</sup>

ABS, *Family Characteristics and Transitions, Australia, 2006-07*, 4442.0, 2008.

## CHILD CARE

40% of children under the age of two years in NSW in 2008 were subject to some form of child care arrangement. 19% of children under the age of 2 were in a form of formal childcare and 20% were looked after informally, usually by a grandparent.

65% of two and three year olds receive some form of childcare. Half of children this age receive some form of formal care and 35% receive some form of informal care.

The decline in the proportion of children in some form of child care arrangement after the age of four years is associated with preschool attendance.

### Type of care usually attended – NSW – 2008

	Under 2		2–3		4–5	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Children with usual child care arrangements	71	40	115	65	92	53
Formal care						
Before and/or after school care	0	0	0	0	12	7
Long day care	21	12	76	43	33	19
Other formal care	13	7	17	10	5	3
<i>Children in formal care</i>	33	19	89	50	49	29
Informal care						
Grandparent	36	20	45	25	42	24
Other person	11	6	22	12	27	16
<i>Children in informal care</i>	45	25	61	35	63	36
Children in formal care only	26	14	54	30	29	17
Children in informal care only	37	21	26	15	42	24
Children in both formal and informal care	8	4	35	20	21	12
Children with no usual child care arrangements	108	60	62	35	81	47
<b>All children</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100</b>

### Sources:

- ABS 4402.0 Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2008
- ABS, 'Child care', *Australian Social Trends, June 2010*, 4102.0

## OUT OF HOME CARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN

In 2009, there were 3763 families engaged or participating in Brighter Futures in NSW. The Brighter Futures program is an early intervention program run by the NSW Department of Community Services that seeks to build the resilience of at risk families and children. In 2009, 18% of all families participating in Brighter Futures were in the Northern DoCS region. The Southern DoCS region had the smallest proportion of families at 11%.

**Families engaged or participating in Brighter Futures by region, NSW, as at 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009**

DOCS region	2008		2009	
	No	%	No	%
Metro Central	396	14.6	556	14.8
Metro West	358	13.2	533	14.2
Metro South West	332	12.3	477	12.7
Southern	349	12.9	426	11.3
Hunter and Central Coast	286	10.6	460	12.2
Northern	535	19.8	677	18.0
Western	451	16.7	634	16.8
Total	2707	100	3763	100

The NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) provides out of home care services for children who cannot live with their families. It has four main objectives:

- Helping families regain care of their children as far as practicable
- Providing care for children who cannot live at home
- Securing stable placements with suitable carers
- Preparing young people for independent living.<sup>18</sup>

In 2008/09, there were 16,524 children and young people in out of home care in NSW. That equates to 10.2 children for every 1000 people under the age of 18 years. The rate has increased from 5.7 since 2002.

**Children and young people in out of home care, end of financial year, NSW**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number	9273	10059	10337	10041	10623	12712	14667	16524
Rate per 1000 persons aged 0-17 yrs	5.7	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.7	8.1	9.1	10.2

As at 30 June 2009, 32.1% of the children and young people in out of home care were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children (the number doubled

<sup>18</sup> NSW Department of Community Services, *Annual Statistical Report 2008/09*, May 2010, p 41

between 2002 and 2009).<sup>19</sup> The rate at which Indigenous children are placed in out of home care is much higher than it is for non-Indigenous children in NSW. 84.3 of every 1000 Indigenous children are in out of home care compared to 7.4 for every 1000 non-Indigenous children.

**Children and young people in out of home care by Aboriginal status, NSW, 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2009 (rate per 1000)**

	2007			2008			2009		
	No	%	Rate	No	%	Rate	No	%	Rate
ATSI	3865	30.4	61.4	4575	31.2	72.7	5307	32.1	84.3
Non-Aboriginal	8847	69.6	5.9	10092	68.8	6.7	11217	67.9	7.4
Total	12712	100	8.1	14667	100	9.1	16524	100	10.2

The rate at which children are placed in out of home care also varies by region within NSW, from 3.8 of every 1000 children in the Metro Central region to 16.1 of every 1000 children in the Northern region.

**Children and young people in out of home care by region, NSW, 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2009**

DOCS region	2007			2008			2009		
	No	%	Rate per 1000	No	%	Rate per 1000	No	%	Rate per 1000
Metro Central	1288	10.1	3.1	1416	9.7	3.3	1602	9.7	3.8
Metro West	1831	14.4	6.6	2088	14.2	7.4	2423	14.7	8.5
Metro South West	1396	11	6.4	1666	11.4	7.4	1921	11.6	8.6
Southern	1482	11.7	11.1	1596	10.9	11.5	1766	10.7	12.8
Hunter and Central Coast	2316	18.2	11.2	2691	18.3	12.6	2835	17.2	13.3
Northern	2328	18.3	13.4	2658	18.1	14.8	2876	17.4	16.1
Western	1717	13.5	11.6	2037	13.9	13.5	2360	14.3	15.8
Statewide Services	354	2.8	-	515	3.5	-	741	4.5	-
Total	12712	100	8.1	14667	100	9.1	16524	100	10.2

51% of children in out of home care in NSW in 2009 had been placed with relatives or Aboriginal kin. Another 37% were in foster care. More than 31% of children had been in out of home care for five or more years.

<sup>19</sup> NSW Department of Community Services, *Annual Statistical Report 2008/09*, May 2010, p 43

**Children and young people in out of home care by placement type, NSW,  
30 June 2007 to 30 June 2009**

Placement type	2007		2008		2009	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Relative and Aboriginal Kinship Care	6497	51.1	7496	51.1	8434	51
Foster care	4741	37.3	5429	37	6141	37.2
Non related person	350	2.8	272	1.9	216	1.3
Parents	611	4.8	860	5.9	1078	6.5
Residential care	309	2.4	357	2.4	392	2.4
Independent living	125	1	154	1	183	1.1
Supported accommodation	79	0.6	90	0.6	79	0.5
Not specified	0	0	9	0.1	1	0
Total	12712	100	14667	100	16524	100

**Children and young people in out of home care by length of time in current care period,  
NSW, 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2009**

Time in current care period	2007		2008		2009	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Less than 6 months	1751	13.8	1821	12.4	1797	10.9
6 months to 1 year	1566	12.3	1624	11.1	1852	11.2
1 to 2 years	1857	14.6	2739	18.7	2895	17.5
2 to 5 years	3118	24.6	3602	24.6	4792	29
5 years or more	4401	34.7	4868	33.2	5185	31.4
Total	12693	100	14654	100	16521	100

**Sources:**

- NSW Department of Community Services, *Annual Statistical Report 2008/09*, May 2010, pp 13, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48, 49 and 51.

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The following table measures variations in the proportion of adults in NSW since 2002 who believe most people can be trusted. After increasing to a high of 74% in 2006, it has fallen slightly so that 71% of adults in NSW in 2009 believed they could trust most people. However, levels of trust vary according to age, ranging from 65% of 16 to 24 year olds believing they could trust most people to 78% of 45 to 54 year olds.

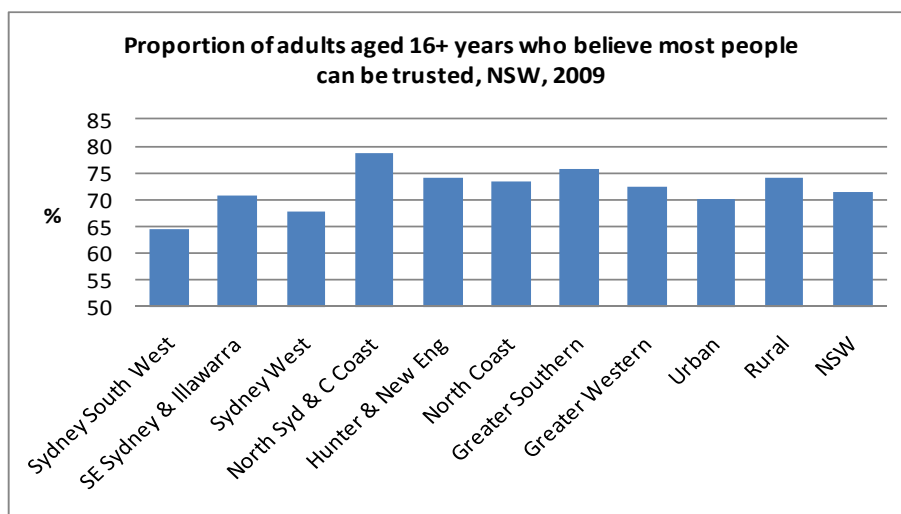
### Proportion of adults aged 16 years and over who believe most people can be trusted, NSW

	2002	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Males	68.9	71.5	74.2	74.4	72.3	72.5	71.6
Females	62.6	68	72.5	72.7	69.1	70.7	71.1
Persons	65.7	69.7	73.3	73.5	70.7	71.5	71.4

Differences in feelings of trust are also apparent in the various regions of NSW as evidenced by the table below. 79% of adults in the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service believed they could trust most people compared to 65% of those in the Sydney South West Area Health Service. Feelings of trust appear to be slightly higher in rural as opposed to urban areas of NSW.

### Proportion of adults aged 16 years and over who think most people can be trusted, by Area Health Service, NSW, 2009

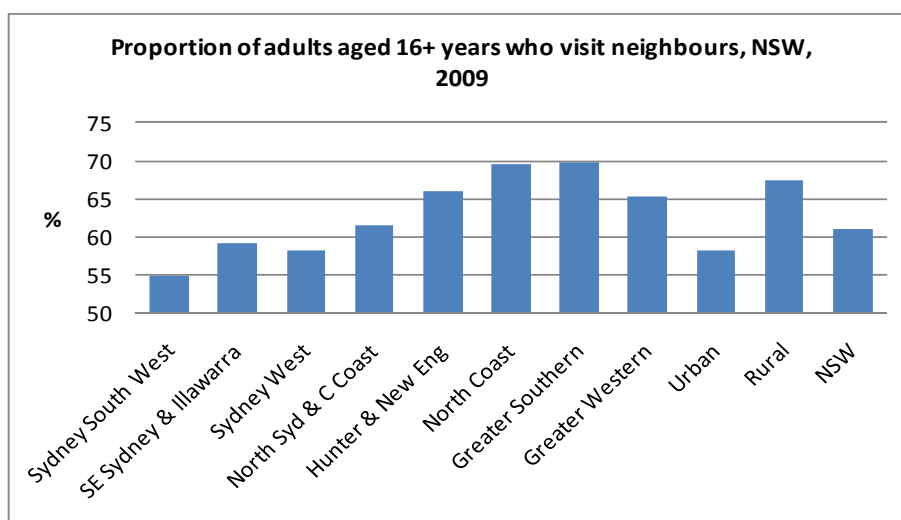
Area	Males	Females	Persons
Sydney South West	64.2	65	64.6
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra	71	70.3	70.6
Sydney West	67.3	68.5	67.9
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	79.9	77.8	78.8
Hunter and New England	77.5	70.7	74.2
North Coast	71.6	75.2	73.5
Greater Southern	75.5	75.8	75.7
Greater Western	71.6	72.8	72.3
Urban	70.2	70.2	70.2
Rural	75	73.3	74.1
NSW	71.6	71.1	71.4



Links to the community may also provide some indication of wellbeing. 61% of adults in NSW visit their neighbours. Again there is a difference according to region, with 58% of adults in urban areas having contact with neighbours compared to 68% in rural areas.

**Proportion of adults aged 16 years and over who visit their neighbours, by area health service, NSW, 2009**

Area	Males	Females	Persons
Sydney South West	57.9	51.7	54.8
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra	59.6	58.7	59.1
Sydney West	56.5	59.5	58.1
Northern Sydney and Central Coast	60.7	62.3	61.5
Hunter and New England	68.8	62.9	65.9
North Coast	73.7	65.6	69.5
Greater Southern	72	67.4	69.7
Greater Western	69.8	61	65.2
Urban	58.6	57.8	58.2
Rural	70.7	64.3	67.5
NSW	62.3	59.8	61



**Source:**

- NSW Health, *2009 Summary Report on Adult Health*, pp 118, 120 and 124.



## VOLUNTARY WORK

In 2006, 32.7% of people in NSW engaged in some form of voluntary work. This is less than the Australian average of 34.1%, with the highest participation rates in the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland at 38.4% and 37.8% respectively. Only South Australia had a smaller participation rate than NSW at 31.4%. However, the volunteering rate in NSW has increased – it was 19% in 2005.<sup>20</sup>

There is a higher rate of volunteering in NSW outside of Sydney where 37.2% of people undertook some voluntary work compared to 30.1% of people in Sydney. Participation rates also vary according to age with people between the ages of 35 and 55 years most likely to volunteer. The smallest participation rate is for adults between the ages of 25 and 34 years old.

In NSW, 47% of voluntary work involves fundraising and sales activities and 22% of voluntary work is for sport/physical recreation organisations. 73% of adults in NSW gave money to an organisation in 2006 (up from 69% in 2000).<sup>21</sup>

### Volunteer rates, 2006

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUS
Capital city	30.1	29.6	37.8	30.4	35.7	34.2	35.9	38.4	32
Balance of state	37.2	41.1	37.9	34.3	38.5	37.4	35.5	-	38.1
Total	32.7	32.7	37.8	31.4	36.3	36	35.8	38.4	34.1

### Volunteer rates, by age, 2006

By age	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT
18-24	27.6	30.9	30.7	26.3	31.9	34.6	34.1	28.9
25-34	26.2	28.1	39.4	30.6	33.1	33.9	34.9	34.1
35-44	38.3	43.9	47.3	40.3	47.4	38.5	39.2	44.9
45-54	40.9	35.9	42.3	34.3	40.6	37.5	37.4	44.3
55-64	32	28.5	35.8	33.2	32.8	37	36.6	44.8
65+	29.1	26.2	26.7	21.9	27.6	33.9	24.8	29.9
Total	32.7	32.7	37.8	31.4	36.3	36	35.8	38.4

### Source:

- ABS, *Voluntary work, Australia*, 2006, 4441.0

<sup>20</sup> ABS, *Voluntary work, Australia*, 2006, 4441.0

<sup>21</sup> ABS, *Voluntary work, Australia*, 2006, 4441.0

## COMPUTER AND INTERNET ACCESS

### Access to a home computer

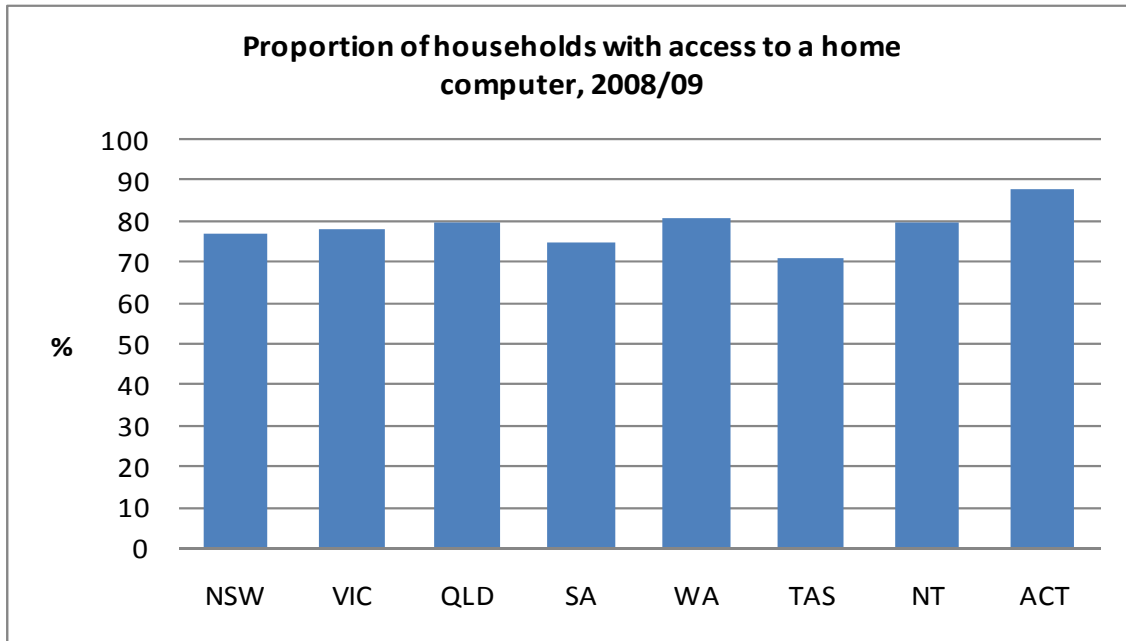
The number of households in NSW with access to a home computer has doubled since 1998 to reach 2,047,000 households in 2008/09 (32% of all households with a home computer in Australia). 77% of households in NSW now have a home computer, compared to 44% in 1998.

#### Households with access to a home computer '000

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
NSW	1,023	1,079	1,244	1,435	1,528	1,653	1,723	1,822	1,918	2,049	2,047
VIC	791	867	987	1,108	1,144	1,278	1,306	1,361	1,435	1,528	1,605
QLD	562	585	680	776	822	957	1,026	1,092	1,159	1,214	1,283
SA	246	272	299	346	355	390	409	429	451	462	484
WA	300	352	397	427	479	512	545	560	613	626	673
TAS	66	75	84	96	98	111	119	121	131	136	141
NT	20	27	28	28	34		38	41	46	47	50
ACT	75	79	84	94	96	99	99	101	108	111	116

#### Proportion of all households with access to a home computer

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
NSW	44	45	52	59	61	65	67	69	72	76	77
VIC	46	50	56	61	62	68	68	69	72	74	78
QLD	43	44	50	55	57	65	67	72	74	75	80
SA	41	45	49	56	58	62	64	67	69	71	75
WA	44	50	55	58	63	67	69	71	76	76	81
TAS	36	40	45	50	51	57	61	60	66	67	71
NT	42	55	54	52	62		71	70	75	77	80
ACT	64	66	70	77	78	80	79	82	84	86	88

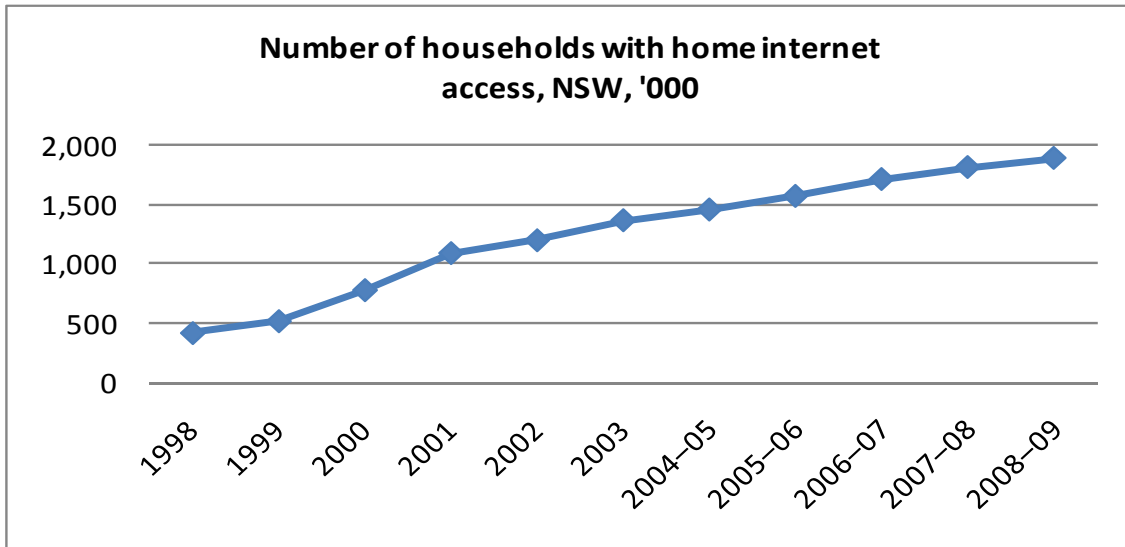


### Home internet access

The number of households with home internet access in NSW has grown by 356% since 1998 so that 1,890,000 households in 2008/09 had the internet at home (71% of all households). Only Tasmania and South Australia had a smaller proportion of households with home internet access.

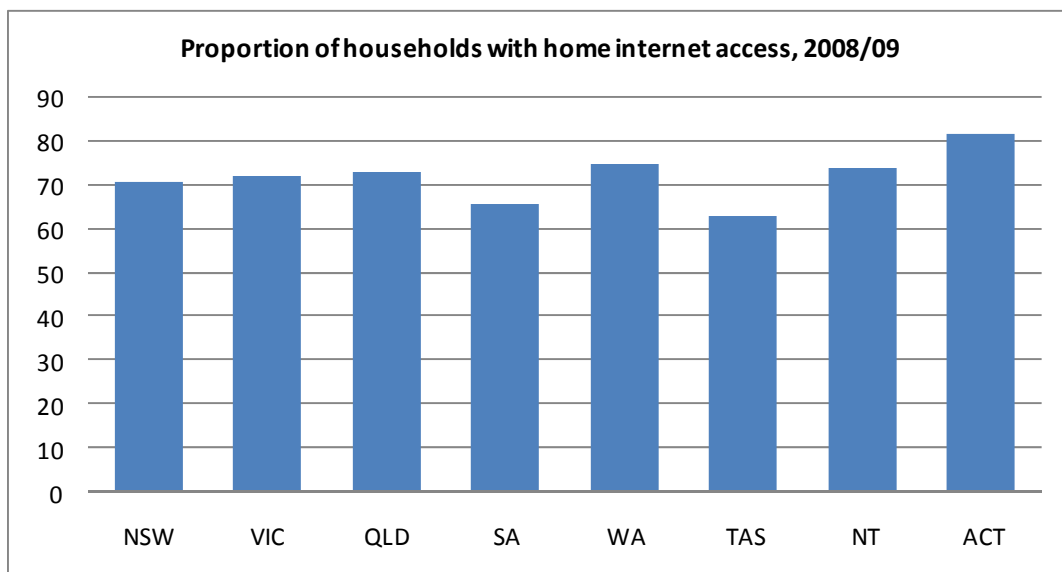
#### Households with home internet access '000

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
NSW	414	514	776	1,088	1,196	1,365	1,455	1,570	1,712	1,813	1,890
VIC	255	394	603	780	852	1,019	1,085	1,161	1,253	1,357	1,469
QLD	194	269	416	563	602	757	861	937	1,020	1,101	1,182
SA	75	117	177	229	261	300	323	356	369	399	432
WA	101	155	245	300	366	406	456	484	536	564	626
TAS	19	34	48	59	67	78	94	99	112	114	126
NT	8	14	18	21	26	-	34	35	41	41	46
ACT	32	41	56	73	74	82	84	89	95	103	108



**Proportion of households with home internet access**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
NSW	18	22	32	45	48	54	56	60	64	67	71
VIC	15	23	34	43	46	54	57	59	63	66	72
QLD	15	20	31	40	42	52	56	61	65	68	73
SA	12	19	29	37	43	48	50	56	57	62	66
WA	15	22	34	41	48	53	58	62	66	68	75
TAS	10	18	25	31	35	41	48	49	56	56	63
NT	16	30	35	38	48		61	60	67	68	74
ACT	27	34	46	60	60	66	67	72	73	80	82

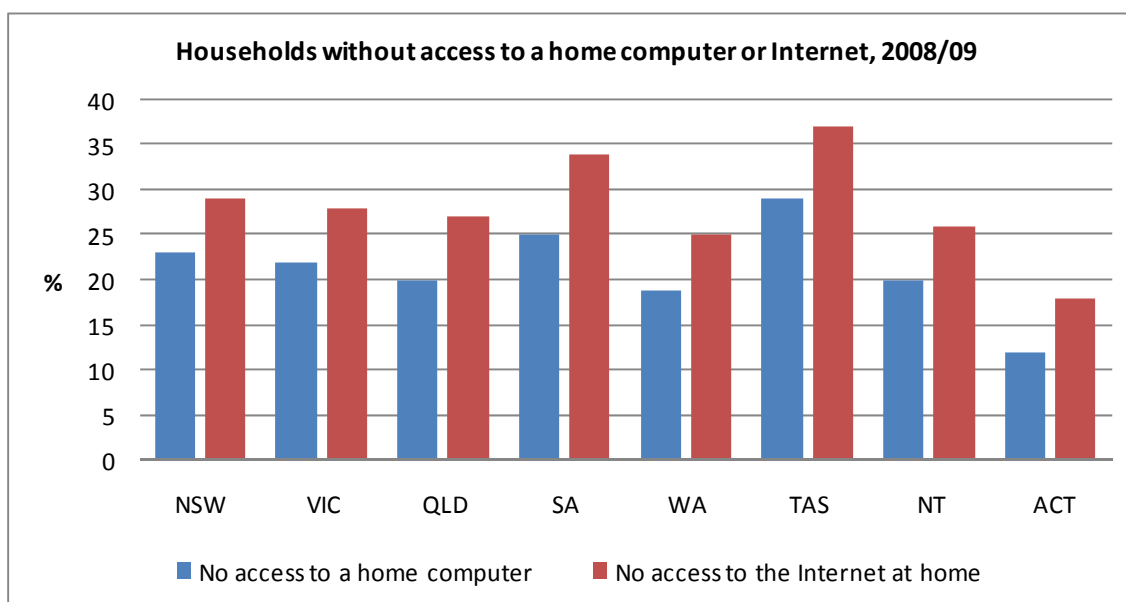


### Households without access to the internet or a home computer

A sizeable portion of households still do not have access to the internet or a computer at home. 23% of households in NSW in 2008/09 did not have access to a home computer and 29% did not have access to the internet at home. Only South Australia and Tasmania had a greater proportion of households without access to either.

Households without access to the internet or a home computer, 2008/09

	Total households	Households without access to a home computer		Households without access to the Internet at home	
		'000	'000	%	'000
NSW	2,656	609	23	766	29
VIC	2,047	441	22	578	28
QLD	1,610	327	20	427	27
SA	650	165	25	218	34
WA	833	161	19	207	25
TAS	200	58	29	74	37
NT	62	12	20	16	26
ACT	133	17	12	25	18



**Source:**

- ABS, *Household use of information technology, Australia, 2008-09*, 8146.0

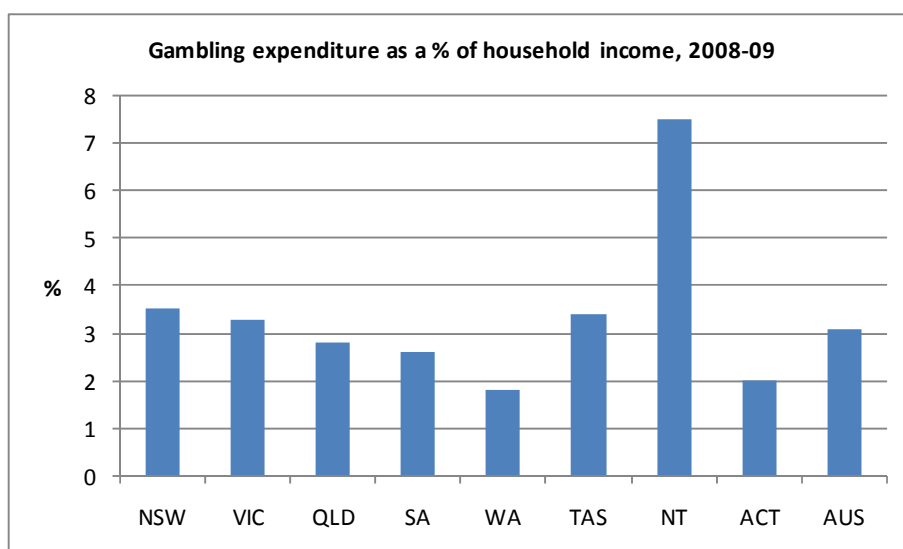
## GAMBLING

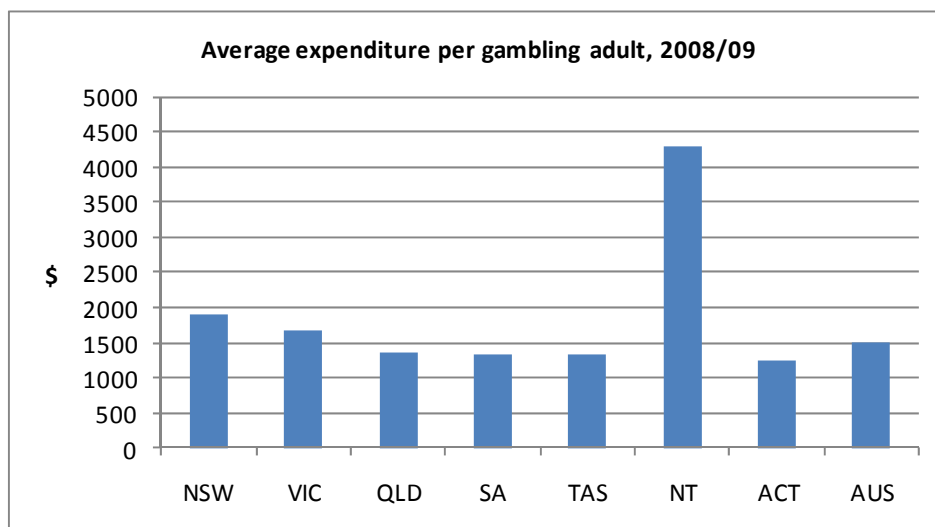
\$7150 million was spent on gambling in NSW in 2008/09, 38% of all gambling expenditure in Australia. This equates to \$1319 per adult in NSW, second only to the Northern Territory where the average gambling expenditure was \$3129 per adult. When average gambling expenditure is limited to those adults who gamble, NSW still has the second highest expenditure in Australia with each person spending an average of \$1911.

**Gambling expenditure by jurisdiction, 2008-09**

State	Expenditure \$M	Expenditure as a proportion of household consumption	Average expenditure per adult	Average expenditure per gambling adult
NSW	7150	3.5	1319	1911
VIC	5110	3.3	1229	1684
QLD	3344	2.8	1016	1355
SA	1136	2.6	921	1316
WA	1129	1.8	672	Unavailable
TAS	429	3.4	1124	1322
NT	500	7.5	3129	4287
ACT	243	2	901	1234
AUS	19042	3.1	1147	1500

\* Average expenditure per adult in Australia is an estimate based on likely gambling participation in WA.





There are almost 7000 venues in NSW that provide a form of gambling service, including electronic gaming machines (EGM), TABs, and lottery outlets. The proportion of adults in NSW who engage in some form of gambling is generally declining. 24% of adults in NSW used an EGM at least once during 2008/09 (compared to 39% in 1999), 16% engaged in race wagering (the rate was 26% in 1999) and 7% in sport wagering.

#### Number of venues with particular gambling services

	Casinos	EGM venues		TAB		Lottery outlets
		Hotels	Clubs	Standalone	Other	
NSW	1	1710	1322	313	1995	1570
VIC	1	249	266	108	585	780
QLD	4	766	557	148	611	1117
SA	1	497	69	57	315	535
WA	1			91	194	564
TAS	2	90	10	31	96	83
NT	2	39	33	16	43	73
ACT	1	12	63	10	39	34
AUS	13	3363	2320	774	3878	4756

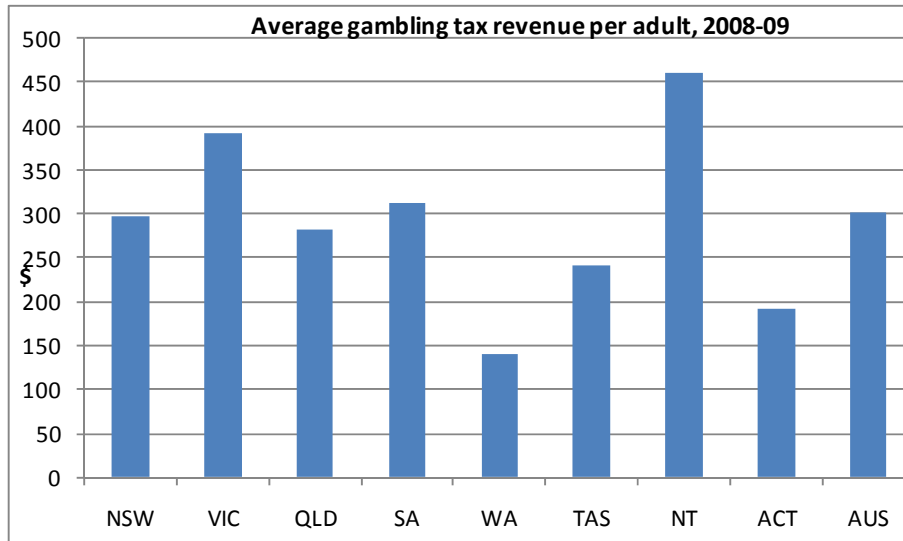
#### % of adult population who engaged in a form of gambling at least once during the year - NSW

	EGM participation rate	Expenditure per participant on EGMs	Race wagering participation rate	Sports wagering participation rate
1999	39	2645	26	8
2006	31	3428	20	6
2008/09	24	3668	16	7

A substantial amount of revenue is earned from gambling taxation. It provided NSW with \$1610 million in 2008-09 (32% of all gambling tax revenue in Australia), with only Victoria earning more (\$1625 million). However, as the graph below reveals, the amount of revenue per adult in NSW is much less than in the Northern Territory and Victoria. Each State has a different effective tax rate. As a result, Victorians spent less on gambling than people in NSW in 2008-09 yet provided more tax revenue than in NSW that same year.

**Gambling taxation revenue, 2008-09, \$M.**

State	Tax revenue	Av gambling tax revenue per adult	Tax revenue as proportion of total own-state tax revenue
NSW	1610	297	9
VIC	1625	391	13
QLD	931	283	11
SA	393	312	11
WA	237	141	4
TAS	92	241	10
NT	74	460	12
ACT	52	191	5
AUS	5014	302	10



Almost 68% of NSW's gambling tax revenue in 2006/07 came from electronic gaming machines, the biggest share of any of the States or Territories except for South Australia where 73% of gambling tax revenue came from EGMs.



**Tax revenue share for different forms of gambling, 2006-07, %**

	<b>EGMs</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>Racing</b>	<b>Lotteries</b>	<b>Casino gaming</b>	<b>Interactive/online</b>
NSW	67.8	0.4	8.9	17.6	5.4	-
VIC	60.8	0.2	8.3	23	7.7	-
QLD	65	0.2	4.3	24.4	6.2	-
SA	73	0.1	1.7	20	5.2	-
WA	-	0.3	18.7	57.4	23.6	-
TAS	36.8	-	-	29.7	27.4	6.1
ACT	58	0.9	12.6	24.8	3.7	-
NT	36.6	1.2	24.7	21	16	0.5

**Source:**

- Productivity Commission, *Gambling*, Inquiry Report, June 2010, pp 2.3, 2.11, 2.12, 2.16, 2.22, 2.39