

Population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, 30 June 2016

Sources: ABS 3238.0.55.001, released 31 August 2018 and ABS 2077.0, released 17 October 2018

Final population estimates

Key points

- Queensland's final¹ estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 221,276 persons at 30 June 2016, or 4.6% of the total state population.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in Queensland comprised nearly one-third (27.7%) of Australia's estimated resident Indigenous population of 798,365 persons.
- Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was relatively young, with a median age of 22.0 years, compared with the non-Indigenous population's median age of 37.9 years.

Queensland counts and shares

At 30 June 2016, Queensland's final estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 221,276² people, which accounted for 4.6% of the state's total population.

Table 1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, states and territories, 2016

State or territory	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	Proportion of Australian Indigenous population	Proportion of state or territory population	Proportion of Australian population
	— persons —	— per cent —		
NSW	265,685	33.3	3.4	1.1
Vic.	57,767	7.2	0.9	0.2
Qld	221,276	27.7	4.6	0.9
SA	42,265	5.3	2.5	0.2
WA	100,512	12.6	3.9	0.4
Tas.	28,537	3.6	5.5	0.1
NT	74,546	9.3	30.3	0.3
ACT	7,513	0.9	1.9	0.0
Australia	798,365	100.0		3.3

As a proportion of Australia's estimated resident Indigenous population of 798,365 people, Queensland had the second largest share (27.7%) after New South Wales (33.3%).

More than 1 in 4 or **221,276** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people called Queensland home in 2016, an increase of **17.1%** since 2011

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population increased by 32,322³ persons (up 17.1%) in Queensland and by 128,484 persons (up 19.2%) nationally, between 2011 and 2016.

Most of the growth³ in Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (75.1%) was driven by natural increase (births less deaths), consistent with the national pattern. Other demographic factors, such as net overseas and interstate migration, accounted for a further 6.9% of the change in Queensland's Indigenous population. The remaining 18.0% of Queensland's population growth was due to non-demographic factors such as Census coverage and response rates, delayed identification, and changing propensity to identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

Among Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 221,276 people:

- 176,910 persons or 79.9% were of Aboriginal origin only
- 24,873 persons or 11.2% were of Torres Strait Islander origin only
- 19,493 persons or 8.8% were of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Queensland's population of Torres Strait Islanders (comprised of Torres Strait Islander origin only and both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin) was 44,366 persons. Torres Strait Islanders residing in Queensland accounted for 62.6% of Australia's Torres Strait Islander population of 70,880 persons.

Figure 1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population by state/territory, 2016



Age structure

Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population had a younger age profile than the non-Indigenous population.

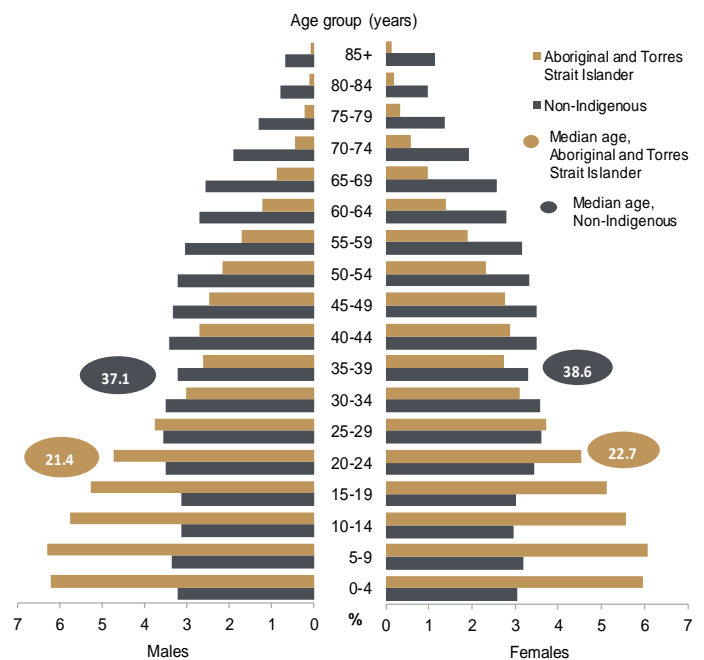
More than 1 in 3 (35.9%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons were children aged less than 15 years, compared with 18.9% of the non-Indigenous population.

In contrast, only 4.0% of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was aged 65 years and over, compared with 15.2% of the non-Indigenous population (Figure 2).

The median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders at 30 June 2016 was 22.0 years, compared with 37.9 years for the non-Indigenous population. The median age has risen slightly from 2011, when Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population recorded a median age of 21 years, and the non-Indigenous population a median age of 37.2 years.

Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, females had a slightly higher median age (22.7 years) than males (21.4 years) (Figure 2). Similarly, non-Indigenous females were relatively older than non-Indigenous males, with median ages of 38.6 years and 37.1 years respectively.

Figure 2 Age structure and median age, Queensland, 2016



Indigenous regions⁴

Of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 221,276 persons, the majority (38% or 84,454 people) lived in the Brisbane Indigenous Region (IR) (Table 2).

Moreover, across the 37 IRs in Australia, the Brisbane IR had the second largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders after NSW Central and North Coast IR (85,169 people).

A further 40% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders lived in the IRs of Townsville-Mackay (31,496 persons), Cairns-Atherton (30,050 persons) and Rockhampton (26,941 persons).

Of the eight IRs in Queensland, the Torres Strait IR was where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples comprised the highest proportion of the total population, accounting for almost 9 in 10 (86.6%) persons (Table 2). While the Brisbane IR had the greatest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, they only made up 2.5% of the region's total population.

Table 2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by Indigenous regions, 2016

Region	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons	Proportion of Qld Indigenous population	Proportion of total population in region
	persons	— per cent —	
Queensland	221,276	100.0	4.6
Indigenous regions			
Brisbane	84,454	38.2	2.5
Cairns-Atherton	30,050	13.6	12.3
Cape York	10,579	4.8	60.2
Mount Isa	9,003	4.1	29.5
Rockhampton	26,941	12.2	5.8
Toowoomba-Roma	21,350	9.6	6.0
Torres Strait	7,403	3.3	86.6
Townsville-Mackay	31,496	14.2	7.9

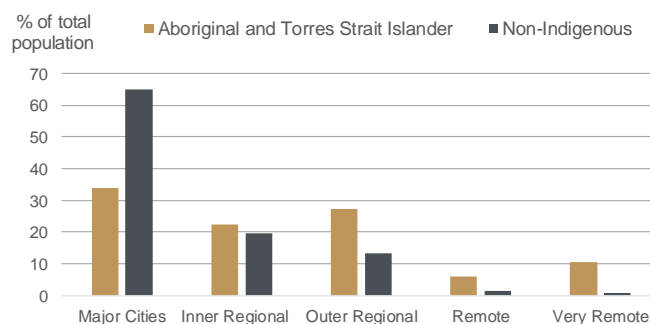
Remoteness⁵

Looked at from a remoteness perspective, 34.0% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders lived in major cities (75,148 persons) in 2016. A further 22.2% (49,149) lived in inner regional Queensland, while 27.3% (60,402) lived in outer regional Queensland.

The remainder lived in remote or very remote Queensland (6.0% or 13,281 persons and 10.5% or 23,296 persons respectively).

For the non-Indigenous population, the highest proportion also lived in major cities (64.3%), however, only 2.0% lived in remote and very remote areas (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Population by remoteness area, Queensland, 2016



Local government areas

While the distribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the state's local government areas (LGAs) was variable, a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders lived in coastal LGAs (Figure 4), including:

- Brisbane (C) (9.2% or 20,385 persons)
- Cairns (R) (8.0% or 17,750 persons)
- Townsville (C) (7.1% or 15,640 persons) (Table 3).

While LGAs in the more remote regions of the state contained fewer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, those people accounted for notably higher proportions of the respective LGA populations (Figure 5). There were 15 LGAs where the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population comprised more than 90% of the LGA's total population, with the highest proportion recorded in Cherbourg (99.0%).

Of the larger city LGAs¹ in Queensland, Cairns had the highest proportion of its total population that were of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin (11.0%), followed by Townsville (8.2%).

Table 3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons by LGA, 2016

Largest five LGAs by Indigenous population	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons	Proportion of Qld Indigenous population	Proportion of total LGA population
	persons	— per cent —	
Brisbane (C)	20,385	9.2	1.7
Cairns (R)	17,750	8.0	11.0
Townsville (C)	15,641	7.1	8.2
Moreton Bay (R)	14,996	6.8	3.4
Logan (C)	11,794	5.3	3.7

¹ Larger city LGAs are those with estimated resident populations greater than 100,000 persons.

Figure 4 Percentage of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in each LGA, 2016

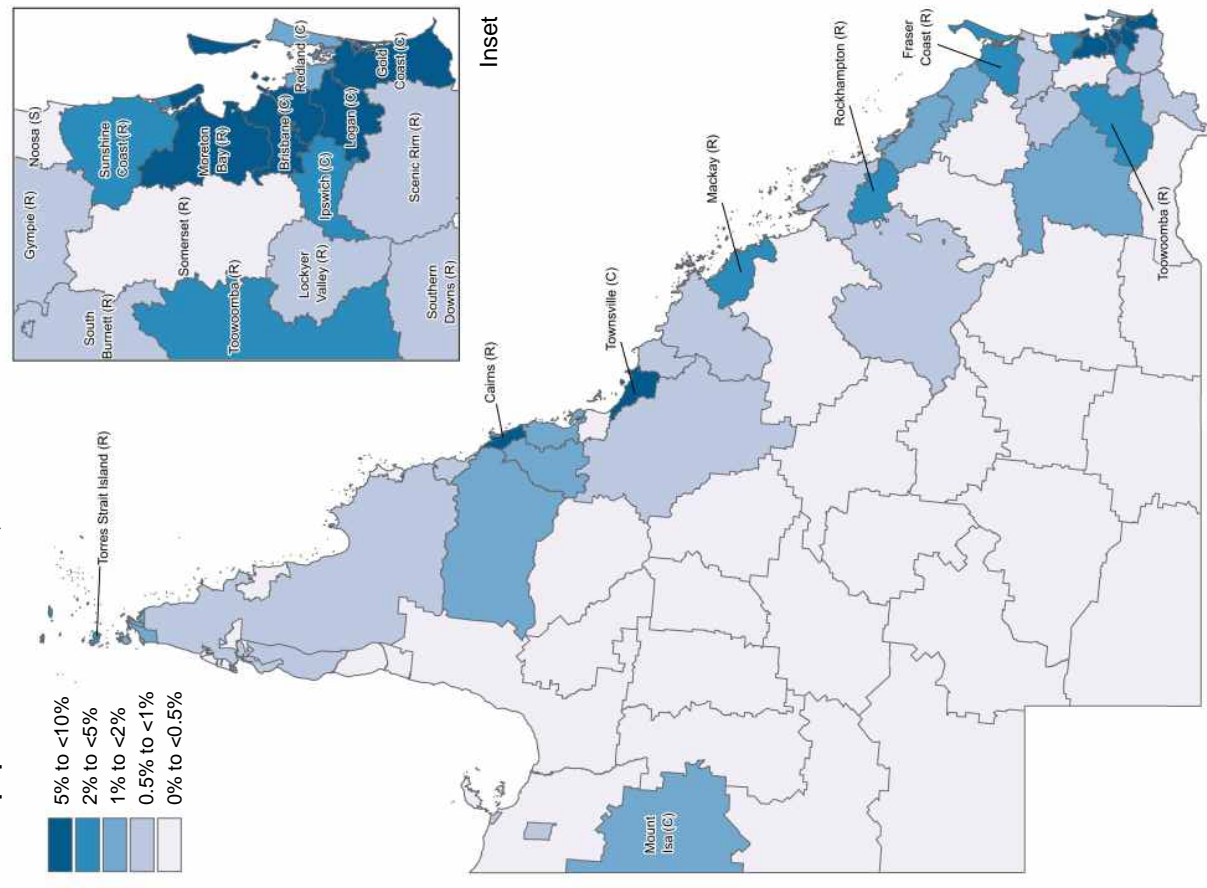
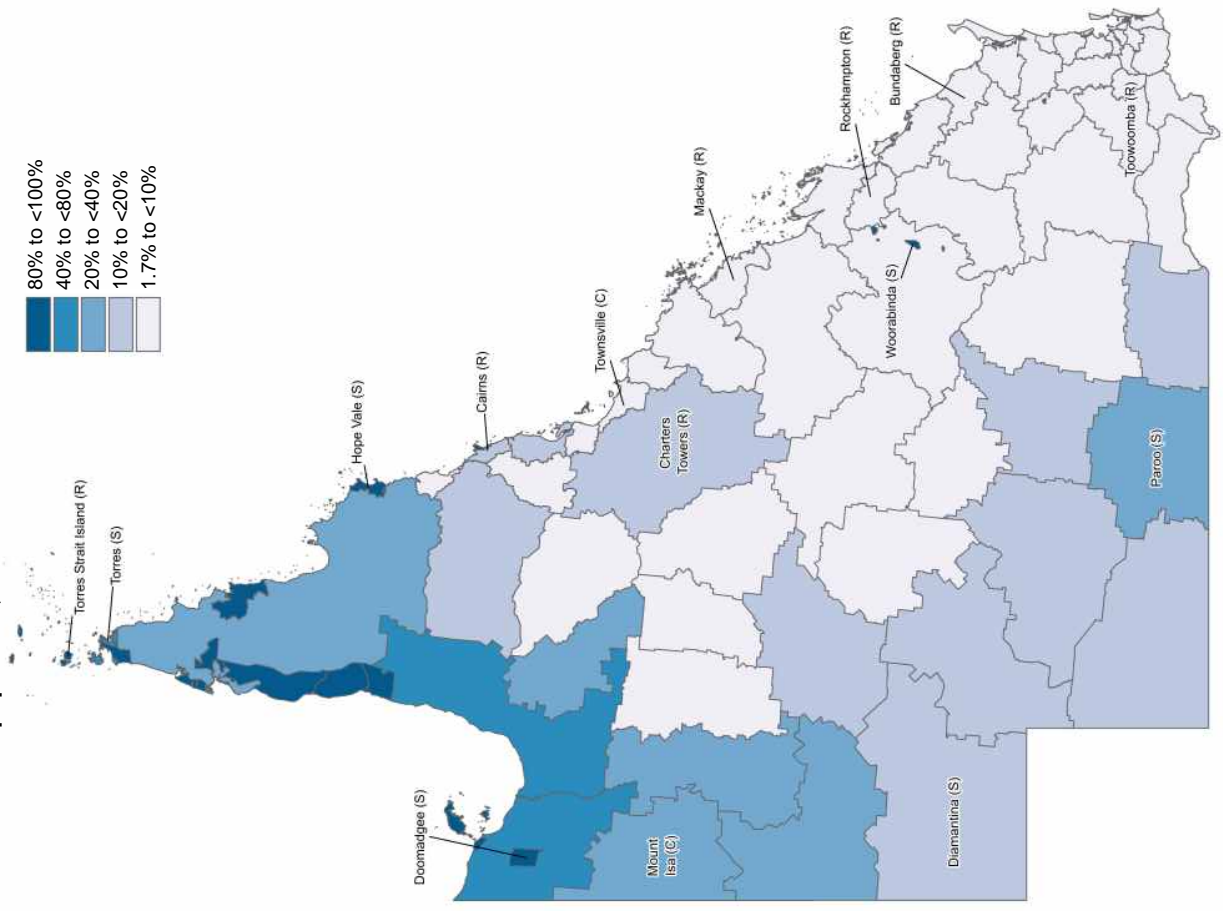


Figure 5 Percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a share of total LGA population, 2016





Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Notes

1 This brief presents final ABS estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population figures for Australia and Queensland at 30 June 2016. These replace the preliminary estimates released in *Australian demographic statistics*, March 2018 (ABS 3101.0) and the earlier Census 2016 counts.

Final population estimates are based on the 2016 Census and cannot be used with the 2011-based estimates or the 1996–2026 projection series (ABS 3238.0). However, comparable historical and projected estimates for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population will be released in 2019.

2 Due to the methods used to derive the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population estimates, figures should be used with caution. For further information see the explanatory notes and technical notes in *Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, June 2016 (ABS 3238.0.55.001).

3 Large increases in the counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have historically been observed between Censuses. For additional information, see *Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts*, 2016 (ABS 2077.0).

4 The Indigenous regions (IRs) are geographical areas defined by the ABS. IRs are based on former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission regions and are intended to represent something of the regional diversity among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.

5 Remoteness areas are geographical areas defined by the ABS. The five remoteness areas (major cities, inner regional, outer regional, remote, and very remote) are classified based on the accessibility of cities and towns, of a range of sizes, by road