

Facts at a glance

Indigenous demographics

- According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), in 2006 there were 70,996 Australian Indigenous people living in Western Australia. This equates to 14 per cent of the total Indigenous population in Australia, and is the third largest Indigenous population of all the States and Territories. Indigenous people comprise 3 per cent of the Australian population.
- The ABS also estimated that 95.1 per cent were of Aboriginal origin only, 1.8 per cent were of Torres Strait Islander only, and 1.6 per cent were of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.
- About 56 per cent is aged less than 25 years, compared with 33 per cent of the non-Indigenous population.
- Indigenous people aged 65 years and over comprised 3 per cent of the Indigenous population.
- Among the DIA regions, Metro/Wheatbelt has the largest number of Indigenous people (29,076 or 41 per cent of the Indigenous population) followed by West Kimberley (9,475 or 13.35 per cent of the Indigenous population), Pilbara (7,464 or 11 per cent of the Indigenous population), Gascoyne/Murchison (6,774 or 10 per cent of the Indigenous population), Southern (6,280 or 8.9 per cent of the Indigenous population), Goldfields (6,231 or 8.89 per cent of the Indigenous population), and East Kimberley (5,666 or 8 per cent of the Indigenous population).
- About 15 per cent of the Western Australian Indigenous population live in a household where an Indigenous language is the main language spoken.
- There are over 250 discrete Indigenous communities which are home to about 16,000 people. These range in size from small outstations to town-sized populations with equivalent amenities (Department of Indigenous Affairs Aboriginal Community List).

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