

# National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 14b-Level of workforce participation (survey data), 2018; Quality Statement

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## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Quality Statement
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	689613
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Indigenous</a> , Superseded 07/02/2019

## Data quality

**Institutional environment:** The Survey of Education and Work (SEW) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) were collected, processed and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS operates within a framework that includes the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* and the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*. These ensure the independence from political influence and impartiality of the ABS and the confidentiality of respondents.

For more information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, see [ABS Institutional Environment](#).

**Timeliness:** The SEW is conducted annually in May as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Results from the 2015 survey were released in November 2015.

The 2014-15 NATSISS was conducted from September 2014 to June 2015. Results were released in April 2016. The previous NATSISS was conducted in 2008.

**Accessibility:** The data for the SEW are available from the ABS website in the publication *Education and Work, Australia* (ABS 2016a). Additional data are available at cost upon request through the National Information Referral Service. The survey microdata are available through the TableBuilder product, *Microdata: Education and Work, Australia* (ABS 2016b).

The data for the NATSISS are available from the ABS website in the publication *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014-15* (ABS 2016c). Other information from the survey is available on request.

**Interpretability:** Information on how to interpret and use the data appropriately is available from the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: User Guide, 2014-15* (ABS 2016d) and Explanatory Notes in *Education and Work, Australia* (ABS 2016a).

**Relevance:** The SEW is conducted as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), with data items collected in the LFS available from the SEW. The publication *Labour Force, Australia, Dec 2016* (ABS 2017) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys.

For some respondents, information is supplied by another household resident (referred to as 'Any Responsible Adult'), such as a parent, partner or unrelated adult. While this is a standard survey methodology, answers to some questions may occasionally differ from those that would have been supplied in a personal interview.

While Indigenous status is collected in the SEW, the survey sample and methodology are not designed to provide output that separately identifies Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. The SEW can, however be used for providing non-Indigenous comparisons.

In the SEW, information may have been supplied by one household resident on behalf of another person. The person reporting may not know all details of the participation of the other in employment. In the NATSISS and SEW answers to some questions were not supplied. Hence, judgement may be required in classifying people for this measure.

**Accuracy:** The 2012 SEW response rate was 92% which constituted 39,200 completed interviews. The 2015 response rate was consistent with that in previous years.

The data for the SEW are collected from an ARA on behalf of other members of the household and are weighted for non-response.

The 2014-15 NATSISS was conducted in all states and territories, including very remote areas. Non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes and short-stay caravan parks were excluded from the survey. The final response rate was 80.3%.

The NATSISS and SEW are weighted to account for non-response.

As they are drawn from a sample survey, data for the indicator are subject to sampling error. Sampling error occurs because only a small proportion of the population is used to produce estimates that represent the whole population. Sampling error can be reliably estimated as it is calculated based on the scientific methods used to design surveys. Rates and measurement of changes should be considered with reference to the relative standard error (RSE) of the estimates. Estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are generally considered too unreliable for general use.

**Coherence:** Both the numerator and denominator for non-Indigenous persons come from the SEW. Measures based on the 2012 SEW are consistent with those supplied for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reporting from previous cycles of this survey.

The SEW excludes people living in Indigenous communities. Since 2009, the SEW has included people living in 'very remote' areas who are not in Indigenous communities. Prior to SEW 2009, all persons living in 'very remote' parts of Australia were excluded. Nationally, less than 1% of persons in scope of the SEW live in 'very remote' areas that are not Indigenous communities. In the Northern Territory, this proportion is higher, at around 8%.

Persons who are permanently unable to work were included in the scope of the SEW for the first time in 2013. There were an estimated 452,600 people who reported being permanently unable to work in May 2015.

Both the numerator and the denominator for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons come from the NATSISS. Measures based on the 2014-15 NATSISS are consistent with those supplied for COAG reporting from previous cycles of this survey.

The SEW and NATSISS have different enumeration periods and therefore differences in this indicator for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people may reflect changes in the economic cycle.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Bureau of Statistics

**Origin:** For the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population: the ABS 2014-15 NATSISS.

For the non-Indigenous population: the SEW. Data are available annually.

These surveys are weighted to benchmarks for the total in-scope population derived from the Estimated Resident Population (ERP).

**Reference documents:** ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2016a. Education and Work, May 2016. ABS Cat. no. 6227.0. Canberra. ABS.

ABS 2016b. Microdata: Education and Work, Australia, May 2016. ABS Cat. no. 6227.0.30.001. Canberra. ABS.

ABS 2016c. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2014–15. ABS Cat. no. 4714.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2016d. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: User Guide, 2014–15. ABS Cat. no. 4272.0. Canberra: ABS.

ABS 2017. Labour Force, Australia, Dec 2016. ABS Cat. no. 6202.0. Canberra: ABS.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Supersedes [National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 14b-Level of workforce participation \(survey data\), 2015-16: Quality Statement Indigenous](#), Superseded 07/02/2018

Has been superseded by [National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 14b-Level of workforce participation \(survey data\), 2019: Quality Statement Indigenous](#), Standard 07/02/2019

**Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement:**

[National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 14b-Level of workforce participation \(survey data\), 2018 Indigenous](#), Superseded 31/07/2018