

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association



Indigenous People with a Disability: Population Distribution and Service Use in the Grampians Region

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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background to the Project	1
Indigenous People with a Disability	1
Indigenous People with a Disability: Population, Demographics and Service Use	2
The prevalence of Disability	2
Indigenous People with a Disability in the Grampians Region	2
The Use of Services by Indigenous People	3
Indigenous Carers	3
Summary	4

INTRODUCTION	5
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METHODOLOGY	5
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Data and Literature Review	5
Data Sources	6
Identifying Regional Statistics	6
Disability Estimates	7
Reporting Data and Disability Estimates	7

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction	9
Indigenous People	9
Indigenous Status	9
Indigenous People in Australia	10
Indigenous People in the Grampians Region	10
The Indigenous Population in the Grampians Region	12
Population Projections: Indigenous Peoples	14
Key Points: Indigenous People in Australia	14
Key Points: Indigenous People in the Grampians Region	15
Measuring Disability and Disability Prevalence	16
Defining Disability	16

Measures of Disability in Australia	17
Prevalence of Disability	18
Key Points: Measuring Disability and Disability Prevalence	20
Indigenous People with a Disability in the Grampians Region	21
Disability Estimates: Indigenous Population in the Grampians Region	21
Use of Generic and Disability Services by Indigenous People	23
Home and Community Care (HACC)	23
Centrelink Payments	25
Disability Services Data	25
Key Points: Indigenous People with a Disability in the Grampians Region	26
Indigenous Carers	27
Indigenous Carers in the Grampians Region	28
Key Points: Indigenous Carers in the Grampians Region	29
CONCLUSIONS	30
APPENDICES	
Appendix 1: Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification	32
Appendix 2: Grampians Region Population: 1996-2006	34
Append 3: Remoteness Areas	36
REFERENCES	39

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Indigenous Recipients of the Carer Payment (2008)	8
Table 2: Indigenous Population in the Grampians Region	13
Table 3: Indigenous Population projections 2006-2021	14
Table 4: Measure of Disability Status by Australian Bureau of Statistics Population Collections	18
Table 5: Prevalence of Disability	19
Table 6: Prevalence of Disability by Age	20
Table 7: Disability Estimates for Indigenous Populations in the Grampians Region	21
Table 8: HACC and Centrelink Service Use by Indigenous People in the Grampians Region	24
Table 9: Indigenous Carers in the Grampians Region	29
Table 10: Regional Indigenous Areas in Western Victoria	32
Table 11: Geographical Classification Statistics for Ballarat	33
Table 12: Grampians Region Population Data	34-35
Table 13: Remoteness Area Classes	36
Table 14: Remoteness Area Classifications across the Grampians Region	37

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: State Distribution of the Indigenous Population in Australia	10
Figure 2: Local Government Areas in Regional Victoria	11
Figure 3: Victorian Aboriginal Language Map.....	12
Figure 4: Population distribution by age (Yarriambiack & Victoria)	23
Figure 5: Age Distribution of Carers in Australia	27
Figure 6: Indigenous Areas in Non-Metropolitan Victoria	33
Figure 7: Remoteness Classification Areas in Victoria	38

ABBREVIATIONS

2006 Census – 2006 Census of Population & Housing

ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics

AIHW – Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

CD – Collection Districts

CSTDA – Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement

DHS – Department of Human Services

DSP – Disability Support Pension

ERP – Estimated Residential Population

GdA – Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association

HACC – Home and Community Care

LGA – Local Government Areas

NATSISS – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Social Survey

NDA – National Disability Agreement

SDAC – Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE USE IN THE GRAMPIANS REGION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association (GdA) has been providing advocacy services to people with a disability in the Grampians Region since 1997. The association works with and supports people with a range of disabilities including: physical problems, hearing difficulties, mental health issues and intellectual or learning disabilities.

This research has been commissioned by the GdA Indigenous Liaison Program, the goal of which is to extend culturally appropriate disability advocacy to Indigenous people in the Grampians region.

Indigenous People with a Disability

There is limited information available about disability within the Indigenous population at a state and regional level. Existing references tend to be generalised and recognise that:

- Indigenous people in Australia are almost twice as likely to have a disability as the non-Indigenous people¹.
- The concept of 'disability' within Indigenous communities differs from that of the non-Indigenous communities. These differences can 'confound' formal measures of disability within the Indigenous population².
- Indigenous people are reluctant to use mainstream services³.
- Low social-economic status (poverty) is recognised as a significant barrier to accessing services by Indigenous people⁴.

This information is consistent with the experience of the GdA Indigenous Liaison Program for the Grampians Region. The range of issues that have been identified by the program and in other literature support the suggestion by indigenous people participating in the 2008/2009 National

¹ Australia, Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2009*, (Canberra, Australia: Productivity Commission, 2009).

² Bruce Bradbury et al. *Socio-economic disadvantage and the prevalence of disability*, (Melbourne: Victorian Department of Human Services, 2001).

³ Juliet Frizzell & Maree Ivey. *Victorian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (ATIS) communities needs analysis phase 2 (2004-2005)*. Demographic & HACC service utilization profile Northern Metropolitan Region. (Melbourne: Effective Change. 2005).

⁴ Australia, Department of Human Services, "Southern Metropolitan Region Publications (Southern Metropolitan Region Koorie Disability Kit" <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/operations/regional/southern/library/publications>

Disability Strategy consultations that there is a complex range of issues that confront indigenous people⁵.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY: POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHICS AND SERVICE USE

The purpose of this report is to collate quantitative data about the Indigenous population in the Grampians Region including the demographics, disability prevalence rates and the number of Indigenous people currently using generic and disability support services.

This report has relied heavily on information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Information from the ABS population collections is reported at different geographical and statistical levels including local government, state and national. Population data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing is the most comprehensive and is available for localised populations (eg. postcode areas and local government areas). Results from more specific collections including the Survey of Disability, Ageing & Carers and the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Survey are reported at state and national levels. As a result, most of the regional statistics in this report have been extrapolated from state and/or national data.

The Prevalence of Disability

The disability prevalence rate in Australia is 20%⁶. That is, one in five Australians has a disability. This is a very broad measure of disability, including people with a severe or profound disability and people who have a disability that does not place any significant limitations or restrictions on the person's ability to participate in everyday activities.

The disability prevalence rate for Indigenous people is higher. The analysis of data from the most recent National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Social Survey (2008) indicates that the disability prevalence rate for Indigenous peoples in Australia is 56%, almost three times the rate for the total population.

Indigenous People with a Disability in the Grampians Regions

There were 1,763 Indigenous people living in the Grampians Region in 2006⁷, representing 0.9% of the total population in the region.

Estimates using the disability prevalence rate of 56% for the Indigenous population indicate that there are almost 1000 Indigenous people with a disability living in the Grampians Region, almost half of whom live in the City of Ballarat.

Given that the growth of the Indigenous population in the region is anticipated to continue⁸, it is realistic to assume that the number of Indigenous people with a disability will also increase.

⁵ National People with Disabilities & Carer Council, *Shut Out: The Experience of People with Disabilities and their Families in Australia*.

⁶ "Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2003," *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/ABS@.nsf/7d12b0f6763c78caca257061001cc588/c258c88a7aa5a87eca2568a9001393e8!OpenDocument>>

⁷ "Census Data," *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Census+data>>.

The use of Disability Services by Indigenous People

The use of disability support services is also an indicator of the number of Indigenous people in the Grampians Region who have a disability.

- In the 2008/2009 financial year, 179 Indigenous people in the Grampians Region used Health Community Care (HACC) services. More than half of these people used HACC services provided by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations. The distribution of service users reflects the distribution of older Indigenous population in the region.
- Statistics suggest that the proportion of Indigenous people with a disability receiving a Disability Support Pension (DSP) in the City of Ballarat is much lower than the proportion of the total population of people with a disability who receive DSP.
- Victoria has the highest rate of Indigenous people using Disability Support Services in Australia. However there are concerns about the quality of Indigenous identification data from disability service providers in Victoria⁹.

It is important to note that the number of people using a service does not necessarily represent the number of people with a disability in a given area. People who are eligible for services may not use them, while the eligibility criteria may exclude people who have a specific type of disability or level of impairment.

It is possible that the demand for disability services by Indigenous people could increase in the future. This may be due to the anticipated population growth as well as the current focus on restructuring services and supports to ensure that they meet the needs of Indigenous people¹⁰.

INDIGENOUS CARERS

Indigenous Carers have been described as a *forgotten demographic*¹¹.

In 2006, 12.7% of indigenous people in the Grampians Region provided unpaid assistance, help or assistance to family members because of disability, long-term illness or problems related to old age¹². This is very close to the Victorian rate of Indigenous carers (12.5%)¹³.

⁸ "Experimental Estimates & Projections, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians" *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, December 2009, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/3238.0Media%20Release11991%20to%02021?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=3238.0&issue=1991%20to%202021&num=&view>>.

⁹ Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, "Disability Support Services 2007-08. National data on services provided under the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement," (Canberra: Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, 2009).

¹⁰ Australian Government, "Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage: The Challenge for Australia", (Canberra, Australia: Australian Government, 2009).

¹¹ Carers Australia, "Submission to the senate inquiry into regional & remote Indigenous communities" (Canberra, Australia: Carers Australia, 2009).

¹² "Unpaid Assistance to a person with a disability", *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, November 2009, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/0/4072E0FDC5B29214CA2572B300208A26?opendocument>>.

¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, "A profile of Carers in Australia" (Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008).

Just as the range of issues for Indigenous people with disability is complex, so too are the issues for Indigenous carers.

Non Aboriginal services do not understand the Aboriginal way of 'shared care' and the role that extended families play in supporting people with disabilities¹⁴.

Carers Australia states that *it is essential that the approach to indigenous carers and communities be guided by the age of the target group, their connection to family and community, the types of services that work in particular areas and the geographical region where the person lives¹⁵.*

SUMMARY

This report refers to a wide range of data sources including measures associated with Indigenous populations and people with a disability that have not been collated before.

Rather than provide a comprehensive understanding of the Indigenous population that have a disability in the Grampians Region, the report offers a series of findings that indicate that there is a significant population of Indigenous people who may benefit from services and supports that are reorientated to meet the needs of Indigenous people with a disability and their carers.

¹⁴ National People with Disabilities & Carer Council, 59.

¹⁵ Carers Australia, 5.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE USE IN THE GRAMPPIANS REGION

INTRODUCTION

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association (GdA) has been providing advocacy services to people with a disability in the Grampians Region since 1997. The association works with and supports people with a range of disabilities including: physical problems, hearing difficulties, mental health issues and intellectual or learning disabilities.

This research has been commissioned by the Indigenous Liaison Program, which was initiated in 2008 to improve GdA's engagement with Indigenous people with a disability and their associates. To date the Program has focused on building relationships and generating discussion and interest amongst key stakeholders. The aim of the research is to collate statistical information on the demographics and location of the Indigenous communities in the Grampians region and the prevalence of different types of disabilities within those communities. It is hoped that this report will stimulate further discussion about the disability advocacy needs of Indigenous people within our region.

METHODOLOGY

This section describes the sources of information used and how estimates for the number of Indigenous people with a disability in the Grampians Region were determined.

DATA AND LITERATURE REVIEW

A review of information about Indigenous peoples in the Grampians Region and disability within Indigenous communities was undertaken to determine the body of existing information and whether this information could be collated within a regional context.

The majority of information available has a national focus, describing the population trends, disability status and socio-economic status of the Indigenous population in context of the non-Indigenous population.

Disability is one of the headline indicators in the Productivity Commission's biennial publication, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage*. The report describes progress since 2002 against key indicators and is used to inform government about the impact of Indigenous policy¹⁶.

The 2007/2008 report about disability services provided under the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA)¹⁷ includes a chapter on the use of specialist disability services by indigenous people.¹⁸

¹⁶ Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision.

¹⁷ From January 1st 2009 the CSTDA was superseded by the National Disability Agreement (NDA) which has also introduced new reporting requirements

At state level, the Victorian Department of Health has developed a strategy to strengthen the delivery of Health & Community Care (HACC) services by Aboriginal organisations¹⁹. Prior to the development of this strategy the department commissioned a needs analysis that examined how indigenous people in the Northern Metropolitan Region used HACC services. The analysis identifies issues around the need for and delivery of HACC services to older Indigenous people, Indigenous people with a disability and their carers.

These and other documents (as referenced) have been used to identify the type of information that is available about indigenous people with a disability and to ensure the content of the report reflects current knowledge.

DATA SOURCES

The primary source of data for this project is the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). In addition to the Census of Population & Housing (2006), the ABS has two main data collections that measure disability in Australia. They are the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) and the short disability module. The module is included in surveys to identify broad characteristics of the proportion of people with a disability within the target population²⁰.

The short disability module is used in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS), a survey that provides information about Indigenous Australians and covers a broad range of areas of social concern including health, education and culture²¹.

IDENTIFYING REGIONAL STATISTICS

The 2006 Census provides the most localised data for the Grampians region. The ABS website provides data for specified geographical locations including collection districts, postcode areas and local government areas (LGAs).

The other main source of statistical information is Profile.id, a consulting firm that provides community profiles of LGAs throughout Australia including seven of the eleven LGAs in the Grampians region²².

¹⁸ Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, *Disability Support Services 2007-08. National data on services provided under the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement*.

¹⁹ "Strengthening Home & Community Care (HACC) in Aboriginal communities strategy", *Victorian Government Health information*, December 2009, <<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/publications/shac.htm>>.

²⁰ "Themes - Disability, Ageing and Carers: Using Disability, Ageing and Carers Statistics", *ABS*, November 2009, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/C311215.nsf/20564c23f3183fdaca25672100813ef1/42286ef35b5f1d84ca2572f30014fece!OpenDocument>>.

²¹ "National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)" *ABS*. November 2009, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DOSSbyTopic/9AD558B6D0AED752CA256C7600018788?OpenDocument>>.

²² *Profile.id*, October 2009. <<http://home.id.com.au/Default.aspx?pg=4040>>.

As well as population data, the report includes information about the use of services and supports for people with a disability by Indigenous people in the region. Information was sourced about Home and Community Care (HACC), Centrelink and national data on disability support services.

DISABILITY ESTIMATES

As previously identified, not all the statistics available are directly related to the Grampians region. This issue was especially pertinent for information on disability. The 2006 census data was the first census to identify people with a disability. However, the scope of this count is limited to people who identify as needing assistance with one or more core activities. Conceptually, this is similar to a severe or profound disability and does not measure people who have a moderate or mild disability: estimated as approximately two thirds of people with a disability²³.

The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is more comprehensive, and is the primary source of data about the prevalence of disability in the total population. SDAC statistics are only available at a state level and do not provide statistics specific to the Indigenous population.

Like the SDAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSIS) provides a more comprehensive measure of the Indigenous populations than the Census but does not provide statistics for regional or local areas.

To get the best possible overall snapshot, statistics from the three data collections are used in this project. Extrapolations (statistical calculations) are made using the census data (actual population data) using statistics from the SDAC (2003) and NATSISS (2008). The extrapolated data in this project is referred to as *estimates* and should not be interpreted as absolute numbers.

REPORTING DATA AND DISABILITY ESTIMATES

A risk associated with reporting small populations is that of identifying individuals. This is recognised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) when reporting on Indigenous populations. The ABS uses Australian Indigenous Geographical Classifications (AIGC's) which are determined by the number of people within a specified area as well as geographical considerations (Appendix 1). Each *Indigenous Area* has a minimum Indigenous population of 300 to maintain the confidentiality of individuals.

Indigenous populations across the Grampians Region are small, with less than 300 people residing in the majority of local government areas (LGAs). Under the AIGC guidelines, the City of Ballarat is the only LGA with a statistically *significant* Indigenous population.

The *Indigenous Areas* in Western Victoria do not align with Grampians Region LGA boundaries effectively negating their use in this analysis and report.

²³ Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings.

The data for Indigenous people with a disability involves even smaller numbers. For example, the City of Ballarat is the only LGA with ten or more Indigenous people who have a *core activity need for assistance* (a crucial statistic for generating disability estimates). While these figures are publicly available on the ABS website, we are mindful that by highlighting them, this report may enable service providers to identify individuals in the Grampians region.

We have sought guidance in how to address this issue by looking at how other organisations present data that may compromise the confidentiality of individuals.

Centrelink has addressed the issue by recording “<20” where the number of payment recipients in a specified area is less than 20 and using “N/A” where a small total would compromise confidentiality. This is illustrated in Table 1. In 2008 the number of non-Indigenous females receiving the Carers Payment is reported as N/A. If the actual number was provided, the number of recipients from the West Wimmera Shire and possibly their identity could be determined.

The use of <20 has implications for the usefulness of data. As indicated in Table 1, the number of Indigenous people (both males and females) receiving Carer Payments in the Grampians Region is less than 20. Because the number of recipients is so low, no information is available about the distribution across the local government areas within the region.

To address the need for confidentiality and for meaningful data, this report describes categories with less than 10 persons as <10 and extrapolated data (estimates) are reported as whole numbers. In addition, it is strongly advised that caution should be taken about the distribution of information outside of the context of this report.

Carer Payment Recipients: Grampians Region 2008

	Indigenous Recipients		Non-Indigenous & Unknown Status	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Grampians Region	<20	<20	N/A	580
Ararat	<20	<20	49	33
Ballarat	<20	<20	520	242
Golden Plains	<20	<20	88	38
Hepburn	<20	<20	80	43
Hindmarsh	<20	<20	28	<20
Horsham	<20	<20	65	32
Moorabool	<20	<20	147	71
Northern Grampians	<20	<20	70	40
Pyrenees	<20	<20	48	24
West Wimmera	<20	<20	<20	<20
Yarriambiack	<20	<20	59	32

Source: Centrelink (Strategic performance & Information management Branch)

Table 1: Indigenous Recipients of the Carer Payment (2008)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

A significant challenge of this report was to draw information from two very separate areas of knowledge and research to gain an understanding about a specific group of people; Indigenous people with a disability.

This has been achieved through the extrapolation of data from a number of sources that measure different aspects of the Australian population. To accommodate the different knowledge bases and research, the discussion is divided into four sections:

1. Indigenous People
2. Measuring Disability and Disability Prevalence
3. Indigenous People with a Disability in the Grampians Region
4. Indigenous Carers in the Grampians Region

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

INDIGENOUS STATUS

For the purposes of this report the term 'Indigenous' persons has been used. We acknowledge that there is on-going discussion about the language describing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity. However as this report relies on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, it refers to ABS categories based on the definition below²⁴.

The term 'Indigenous' refers to all persons identified as being of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Information presented on Aboriginal persons also includes data on persons identified as having both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Similarly, information on Torres Strait Islanders also includes persons identified as having both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

The Census forms the basis of the estimated residential population (ERP) and is the official measure of the Australian population. It is also recognised as one of the most important sources of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population statistics²⁵. The ERP is adjusted for instances where Indigenous status is unknown and for net undercount. Other sources of data include the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

The primary sources of data in this report are the:

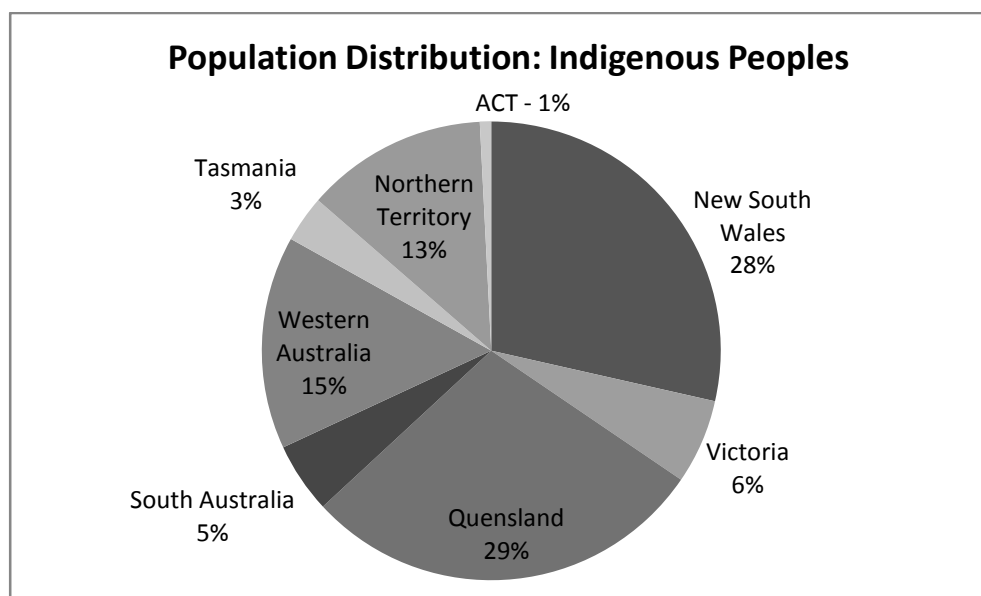
- 2006 Census of Population and Housing, and the
- 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

²⁴ "National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008" *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, November 2009, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4714.0Explanatory%20Notes12008?OpenDocument>>.

²⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics. *Population distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*. (Australian Bureau of Statistics: Canberra, Australia, 2007)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA

In the 2006 census, 455,028 people in Australia were identified as being of Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander origin: an increase of 11% from the 2001 census. In absolute numbers, NSW and Queensland had the largest Indigenous populations, while 6% of the total Indigenous population live in Victoria (Fig.1).



Source: National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Survey 2008

Figure 1: State distribution of the Indigenous population in Australia

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE GRAMPIANS REGION

The Grampians Region of Victoria is one of eight Department of Human Service (DHS) regions. The region covers 47,980 square kilometres reaching from Bacchus Marsh in the east to the South Australian border in the west, and from Patchewollock in the north to Lake Bolac in the south²⁶. There are 11 local government areas (LGAs) in the Grampians Region (Fig. 2) including the City of Ballarat, Golden Plains, Moorabool and Hepburn shires to the south. The central area, also known as the *Grampians-Pyrenees* includes Ararat Rural City, the Pyrenees Shire and Northern Grampians Shire. The LGAs in the *Wimmera* or northern end of the region are Horsham Rural City, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh and Yarriambiack shires.

²⁶ Brenda Boland, "Grampians Region," *State Government of Victoria, Australia, Department of Human Services, Operations*, Dec. 2009 <<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/operations/regional/grampians>>.



Source: The Cancer Council, Victoria www.quit.org.au

Figure 2: Local Government Areas in Regional Victoria

There is limited historical information available about the Indigenous population in a regional context. Rock paintings have been found within the Black Range (near Stawell) and Grampians National Park (Gariwerd). The Grampians is recognised as a meeting place for five main Aboriginal communities for traditional celebrations and dispute resolutions²⁷.

In 1859 the Moravian missionaries established the Ebenezer Mission on Wotjobaluk country on the Wimmera River. The area was gazetted two years later as the Lake Hindmarsh Aboriginal Reserve. In 1861 the mission had a permanent population of 22 and distributed rations to a further 140. The mission continued to expand over the next two decades. The *Act to Provide for the Protection of and Management of the Aboriginal Natives of Victoria* (the *Half-Caste Act*) of 1886 effectively forced many of the residents to leave the reserve resulting in the closure of the mission in 1904²⁸. Some of the residents moved to the Antwerp Aboriginal Reserve, while others relocated to Lake Tyers²⁹ in Gippsland³⁰.

²⁷ "Aboriginal Victoria," *Visit Victoria*, November 2009. <<http://www.visitvictoria.com/display/object.cfm/objectid.5E24BE38-37B5-4C13-91A392DFE903CC56/>>.

²⁸ "Ebenezer Mission," *ABC, Mission Voices*, November 2009. <http://www.abc.net.au/missionvoices/ebenezer/mission_history/default.htm>.

²⁹ "Museums, Arts & Culture," *Hindmarsh Shire Council*. November 2009. <http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=185&h=0>.

More recently, a Native Title Claim was successfully made in 2005 on Crown land in the Little Desert National Park near Dimboola. The determination gives the Wotjobaluk, Jardwadgali, Jaadwa, Jupagalk and Wergaia peoples traditional non-exclusive native title rights to hunt, fish, gather and camp along the Wimmera River, Lake Hindmarsh and Lake Albacutya³¹.

Traditionally there were a diverse range of Indigenous communities throughout the Grampians Region. The region includes seven language groups, each of which have multiple dialects. It was common for Indigenous people to speak five or more languages fluently, enabling trade and other activities between communities^{32,33}. The map below illustrates the richness of Indigenous culture that existed in the Grampians region and throughout Victoria prior to colonisation.



Source: The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages www.vaclang.org.au

Figure 3: Victorian Aboriginal Language Map (reprinted with permission)

THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN THE GRAMPAINS REGION

The indigenous population in the Grampians Region of Victoria reflects Victorian and National trends³⁴ with regard to an increase in population and as a proportion of the total population. Between 1996 and 2006 the number of people who indicated that they were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin has increased by 544 (Appendix 2). This figure represents a proportional increase from 0.6% to 0.9% the total population.

³⁰ "Lake Tyers," ABC, *Mission Voices*, November 2009. < http://www.abc.net.au/missionvoices/lake_tyers/default.htm>.

³¹ Personal communication – B. Pickford

³² Personal communication – M. Gathercole

³³ The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages www.vaclang.org.au

³⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2006 – 210, *Population Projections, Australia*, (Australian Bureau of Statistics. Canberra: Australia. 2008).

The regional Indigenous population is described by service providers as transitory, moving to and from the area throughout the year.³⁵

The larger Indigenous populations in the region are in the City of Ballarat, 853 (1.0%) and Rural City of Horsham, 216 (1.2%). The smallest population of Indigenous people is in the West Wimmera Shire, representing 0.4% of the total population. The population figures for Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the Grampians Region are in Table 2.

Indigenous Population: Grampians Region					
	Total Population	Indigenous Population	% Total Population	Not Stated	'Not stated' Ratio
Grampians Region	207,109	1,763	0.9%	8,531	4.8
Ararat	11,255	80	0.7%	340	4.3
Ballarat	85,198	853	1.0%	3,868	4.5
Golden Plains	16,452	92	0.6%	648	7.0
Hepburn	13,733	89	0.7%	727	8.1
Hindmarsh	6,039	61	1.0%	154	2.5
Horsham	18,492	216	1.2%	613	2.8
Moorabool	25,475	176	0.7%	949	5.4
Northern Grampians	11,912	86	0.7%	485	5.7
Pyrenees	6,558	35	0.5%	319	9.2
West Wimmera	4,474	<20	0.4%	109	6.4
Yarriambiack	7,521	58	0.8%	319	5.5

Source: 2006 Census of Population & Housing

Table 2: Indigenous Population in the Grampians Region

In the 2006 Census, a large proportion of participants in the Census did not indicate if they are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin (Table 2). At the state, regional and local levels the number of *not-stated* responses exceeds the number of Indigenous respondents.

The capacity to determine if there are greater numbers of Indigenous people in the region than indicated by the most recent Census data is beyond the scope of this report. However, local Indigenous health and support workers suggest that the populations in the region are larger³⁶. Another Indigenous support worker said that many of the Indigenous people they work with tend to move in and out of the area³⁷. It is difficult to know how a person who has a transient lifestyle may report their *address*. The Census is designed to measure the *usual place of residence* and has the capacity for individuals to report *none*, suggesting homelessness³⁸.

³⁵ Personal communication – K. Galpin

³⁶ Personal communication – J. Harne, K. Galpin & F. Clark

³⁷ Personal communication – K. Galpin

³⁸ "Place of usual address" *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, December 2009, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/0/9AAE37351D8FAD66CA25729E0008A893?opendocument>>.

For the purpose of this report, population figures (for both total and Indigenous populations) have reported the Grampians Region as their usual place of address.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Despite that assumption that *the Aborigines would gradually disappear in the face of the superior British civilisation* in the nineteenth century³⁹, the Indigenous population continues to grow. By 2021 the Indigenous population in Australia is projected⁴⁰ to reach 720,000⁴¹. In Victoria the Indigenous population is projected to be 48,000 by 2021 (Table 3). Assuming that the Indigenous population in the Grampians Region continues to grow steadily, the Indigenous population in the region is anticipated to increase to almost 3,000 by 2021.

Indigenous Population: Projections						
	Total Population	Indigenous Population	Indigenous Population ESTIMATES			
			2006 (a)	2011	2015	2021
Victoria	4,932,422	30,141	33,517	37,647	41,518	48,233
Grampians Region	207,109	1,763	1,961	2,202	2,428	2,821
Ballarat	85,198	853	949	10,669	1,176	1,366

(a) Estimate resident Indigenous Population

Source: ABS, *Experimental estimates & projections, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians* (2009)

Table 3: Indigenous Population Projections 2006 - 2021

KEY POINTS: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA

- Indigenous status refers to people of Aboriginal or/and Torres Strait Islander origin.
- Australia-wide, the Indigenous population is increasing and is expected to grow steadily.
- Projection data predicts that the Indigenous population in Australia will reach 720,000 by 2021.

³⁹ L. Smith et al. (2008). "Fractional Identities: The Political Arithmetic of Aboriginal Victorians. The debate over the size of the Aboriginal population of Australia," *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 38, no. 4 (2008), 533-531

⁴⁰ The population projections are not intended as forecasts or predictions, but are illustrations of growth and change in the population that would occur if assumptions made about future demographic trends were to prevail over the projection period

⁴¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. "Experimental Estimates & Projections, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians".

KEY POINTS: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE GRAMPPIANS REGION

- The Grampians (or Gariwerd) was a significant meeting place for Indigenous communities in the region.
- Indigenous communities in the Grampians region have been affected by the settlement and policies of non-Indigenous Australians.
- There is a Native Title Area in Grampians Region along the Wimmera River and including Lake Hindmarsh and Lake Albacutya.
- Following national trends, the Indigenous population in the Grampians Region is increasing.
- In 2006, 1,763 Indigenous people lived in the Grampians Region. Almost half (853) lived in the City of Ballarat.
- The majority of LGAs in the Grampians Region have an Indigenous population of less than 100.
- The Indigenous population has been described as transient, moving to and from the region during the year.

MEASURING DISABILITY AND DISABILITY PREVALENCE

It is important to note that the concept of 'disability' within Indigenous communities differs from that of non-Indigenous Australians.

The report *'Telling it Like it is'* indicates that Indigenous communities discuss, understand and construct disability differently to how disability is understood by non-Indigenous Australians⁴². These differences can 'confound' formal measures of disability within the Indigenous population⁴³.

The exploration of the concept of disability within regional Indigenous communities and the implications for 'measuring' disability is beyond the scope of this report. The report uses population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and information from sources including the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Productivity Commission and the Department of Human Services in Victoria.

DEFINING DISABILITY

The Victorian Disability Act 2006 defines disability as:

An impairment that may be sensory, physical, neurological or an acquired brain injury, which results in a substantially reduced capacity in at least one of the areas of self-care, self-management, mobility or communication. A person must also require ongoing or long-term episodic support and their impairment must not be related to ageing. The definition of disability also includes an intellectual disability or a developmental disability⁴⁴.

It is important to recognise that this definition is legislative. It has been written to inform policy around the provision of services for people with a disability including the eligibility criteria for services.

Agencies seeking to measure the prevalence of disability tend to take a broader view. Definitions are based on the International Classification of Disability & Health (ICF) which has been developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The ICF defines functioning and disability as *multidimensional concepts relating to:*

- *The body structures and functions of people*
- *The activities people do and the life areas in which they participate*

⁴² Aboriginal Disability Network of NSW. *Telling it like it is. A report on community consultations with Aboriginal people with disability and their associates throughout NSW, 2004-2005.* (Australia: Aboriginal Disability Network of NSW, 2007).

⁴³ Bruce Bradbury et al. *Socio-economic disadvantage and the prevalence of disability*, (Melbourne: Victorian Department of Human Services, 2001).

⁴⁴"The Disability Act for people with a disability, parents, carers & families" *The Department of Human Services, Victoria*, December 2009, <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability/improving_supports/disability_act_2006/the_disability_act_for_people_with_a_disability_parents_carers_and_families>.

- *The factors in the environment which affect these experiences*⁴⁵

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) uses the ICF to inform the design of data collection tools in the area of disability⁴⁶.

A general definition used by the ABS for disability is *a limitation in everyday activities, restriction in education or employment, or physical impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for six months or more*⁴⁷.

As discussed in the methodology section the ABS is the primary source of data used for this report, consequently the findings in this report will reflect the broader definition of disability.

It is important to note that this concept of disability encompasses a broad range of abilities that includes people with severe or profound disabilities who require supervision or assistance with activities associated with self-care, mobility or to communicate with others. At the other end of the spectrum are people who have a disability that imposes little or no limitations on their everyday activities.

The report has included data from organisations that provide services and support to people with a disability to provide an indication of the number of people in the region who are eligible for, or more accurately, use these services.

MEASURES OF DISABILITY IN AUSTRALIA

As described in the Methodology, this report uses information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) three primary measures of disability:⁴⁸

- The Survey of Disability Ageing & Carers
- The ABS Short Disability Module, and
- The Census of Population & Housing

Each of these collections measures both the extent and degree of disability differently, therefore the inferences that can be made about disability in Australia (or specific population groups) from the data is limited.

The Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is recognised as the most comprehensive and most accurate measure of disability in Australia⁴⁹. The SDAC was most recently conducted in 2003. This survey has seven different categories to describe disability status that include disabilities that have a profound effect on a person's capacity to perform everyday tasks associated with self-care, mobility and communication to people with disabilities that have little or no impact on their

⁴⁵“Using Disability, Ageing and Carers Statistics,” ABS, November 2009. <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/c311215.nsf/20564c23f3183fdaca25672100813ef1/42286ef35b5f1d84ca2572f30014fece!OpenDocument>>.

⁴⁶ “Using Disability, Ageing and Carers Statistics.”

⁴⁷ “Australian Social Trends 2006,” ABS, November 2009, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/0/6F443192D27B9360CA2571B00013D954?opendocument>>.

⁴⁸ “Using Disability, Ageing and Carers Statistics.”

⁴⁹ “Using Disability, Ageing and Carers Statistics.”

everyday activities (Table 4). The SDAC also includes measures for *no disability* that have not been included in this report.

The 2006 Census was the first census to include questions about disability. The questionnaire was designed to collect information about people with a profound or severe disability only and cannot be used to determine the overall prevalence of disability in Australia.

	Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)	Census of Population and Housing	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)
Disability	Profound or severe core-activity limitation (a)	Core activity need for assistance	Has profound or severe core-activity limitation
	Moderate core-activity limitation (a)		Has unspecified limitation or restriction
	Mild core-activity limitation (a)		
	Schooling or employment restriction only (b)		
	Without specific limitations or restrictions (c)		
No Disability	Long-term health condition		
	No long-term health condition		Has no disability or long-term health condition

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

- Notes: (a) Core activities compromise communication, mobility and self-care
 (b) Without core activity limitation
 (c) Includes people who need assistance with health care, cognition and emotion, paperwork, transport, housework, property maintenance or meal preparation

Table 4: Measures of Disability Status by Australian Bureau of Statistics Population Collections

Like the 2006 Census, the short disability module was designed to identify and collect information on the broad characteristics of the population with a disability or long-term health condition within the context of the survey it has been used in. The module is a component of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). The most recent NATSISS was completed in 2008 and has been used in this report to extrapolate information about the regional Indigenous population. As illustrated in Table 4, the NATSISS has only two categories of disability; however like the SDAC they include a broad range of abilities.

PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY

The prevalence of disability among all Australians is 20% or one in five people. This figure is determined by data collected in the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) and has been consistent across the 1998 and 2003 collections^{50,51}. Although the SDAC is the principal source of disability prevalence data in Australia, information about the cultural background of participants is

⁵⁰ Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings.

⁵¹ The results for the 2009 SDAC are expected to be released in late 2010. "Current Household Surveys" ABS, December 2009.

<<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.NSF/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/d64e3fdf17be5c1fca2571060079d60b!OpenDocument#Top>>.

limited to the country of birth and does not have the capacity to provide prevalence rates for specific cultural groups including Indigenous people.

The prevalence rate of disability within the Indigenous population is recognised as being higher than that of the total population. The steering committee for the review of government service provision cited that around 36% (over a third) of the Indigenous population over the age of 15 reported a disability or health condition⁵²; while the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reports Indigenous adults in non-remote areas were twice as likely as non-Indigenous adults to need assistance with core activities⁵³.

The 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) includes the ABS Short Disability Module, a measure of function and disability. The module does not supersede the prevalence rates determined by the SDAC⁵⁴, but is recognised as an accurate source for measuring disability in the Indigenous population by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

For the purposes of this report, the data used to determine the estimate for the prevalence of disability in the Indigenous population is from the 2008 NATSISS. As indicated in Table 5 the estimated prevalence of disability among the Indigenous population in Victoria is 56%, almost three times (2.8) as high as the prevalence of disability in the total population.

	People with a Disability		
	% Total Population with a Disability (a)	ESTIMATE	Ratio (c)
% Indigenous Population with a disability (b)			
Australia	20.0%	49.8%	2.5
Profound/Severe	7.1%	7.9%	2.6
Victoria	20.0%	55.9%	2.8
Profound/Severe	6.5%	9.6%	1.5

(a) Source: SDAC 2003 – Note: National figures exclude NT

(b) Source: NATSISS 2008

(c) Ratio of Indigenous people with a disability to the total number of people with a disability

Table 5: Prevalence of disability

The prevalence of disability increases with age (Table 6). Children in Victoria (0-14 years) have a disability prevalence rate of 7.2% while adults over the age of 55 have a disability prevalence rate of 46.8%.

⁵² Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision.

⁵³ B. Pink & P. Alibon. *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*. (Canberra, Australia: ABS & AIHW, 2008).

⁵⁴ "Using Disability, Ageing and Carers Statistics".

This trend is consistent across the Indigenous population. National data for the Indigenous population (Table 6) indicate that just over a third (35.1%) of young adults aged 15-24 years has a disability while the prevalence of disability among older adults (55+ years) is 77.5%.

Disability Prevalence: Age		
	Victoria	Australia
	Total Population (SDAC 03)	Indigenous Population (NATSISS 08)
0-14 years	7.2%	N/A
15-24 years	7.8%	35.1%
25-24 years	10.1%	42.5%
35-44 years	14.4%	51.3%
45-54 years	23.4%	66.2%
55+ years	46.8%	77.5%
Total	20.0%	49.8%

Source: Survey of Disability, Ageing & Carers 2003 and National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Survey 2008

Table 6: Prevalence of Disability by age

KEY POINTS: MEASURING DISABILITY AND THE PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY

- The concept of disability within Indigenous communities differs from non-Indigenous Australians.
- This report uses a broad concept of disability that encompasses a broad range of abilities that includes people with severe or profound disabilities and people who have disabilities that impose little or no limitations on their everyday activities.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics is the main source of population data used in this report. There are three collections which provide information about the extent of disability in Australia. The National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Survey focus specially on Indigenous Australians.
- Prevalence of disability is the proportion of people with disability within a population. The prevalence of disability in Australia is 20%. Recent data indicates that the prevalence of disability within the Indigenous population is 56%.
- In both the Australian and Indigenous populations, the prevalence of disability increases with age.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY IN THE GRAMPIANS REGION

DISABILITY ESTIMATES: INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN THE GRAMPIANS REGION

The use of the disability prevalence rate of 56% for Indigenous people and data from the 2006 Census to determine estimates for the number of Indigenous people with a disability in the Grampians Region depicts the extent of disability within regional Indigenous communities very differently to the census data alone.

In contrast to the 94 Indigenous people in the Grampians Region who reported having a *core activity need for assistance* in the 2006 Census, the estimates indicate that there are almost 1000 Indigenous people living in the Grampians Region who have a disability (Table 7).

		Indigenous population: Disability Status					
		Total Indigenous population	Need for Assistance (NFA)	% Need for Assistance (NFA)	ESTIMATES		
					Profound/severe Disability (a)	Disability Status (b)	Disability Status (c)
Victoria	0-14 yrs	11,126	312	2.8%	-	-	N/A
	15-54 yrs	10,561	622	5.9%	-	-	4,826
	55+ yrs	2,789	492	17.6%	-	-	2161
	Total	24,476	1,426	5.8%	2,349	13,682	-
Grampians Region	0-14 yrs	644	24	3.7%	-	-	N/A
	15-54 yrs	909	36	4.0%	-	-	415
	55+ yrs	207	34	16.4%	-	-	160
	Total	1,760	94	5.3%	169	984	-
	Ararat	78	0	N/A	7	44	-
Ballarat	0-14 yrs	336	12	0.6%	-	-	N/A
	15-54 yrs	451	15	1.1%	-	-	206
	55+ yrs	67	14	6.0%	-	-	52
	Total	854	41	4.8%	82	477	-
	Golden Plains	91	>10	7.7%	9	51	-
	Hepburn	90	>10	6.7%	9	51	-
	Hindmarsh	63	10	15.9%	6	35	-
	Horsham	213	>10	2.8%	20	119	-
	Moorabool	178	>10	5.1%	7	100	-
	Northern Grampians	87	>10	10.3%	8	49	-
	Pyrenees	36	0	N/A	3	20	-
	West Wimmera	18	0	N/A	2	10	-
	Yarriambiack	52	>10	11.5%	5	29	-

(a) Estimate determined by NATSISS (08) prevalence rate for severe/profound disability in Victoria (9.6%)

(b) Estimate determined by NATSISS (08) prevalence of disability in Victoria (55.9%)

(c) Estimate determined by NATSISS (08) Victorian prevalence rates for nominated age groups (15-64 yrs - 45.7%; 65+ yrs - 77.5%)

Table 7: Disability Estimates for Indigenous populations in the Grampians Region

As anticipated, the City of Ballarat, the local government area (LGA) that has the largest population of Indigenous people in the Grampians Region, also has the largest number (estimate) of Indigenous people with a disability.

The Hindmarsh Shire has the highest proportion of Indigenous people who have a *core activity need for assistance*. There are 65 Indigenous people who live in Hindmarsh Shire, 16% of who indicated in the 2006 Census that they required assistance with one or more core activities. This is in contrast to the City of Ballarat where 5% of the Indigenous population indicated that they required assistance.

Of the 11 local government areas in the region, three (Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack Shires) had a proportion of the Indigenous population who reported a *core need for assistance* that was greater than the Victorian prevalence rate for Indigenous people with a severe or profound disability (9.6%).

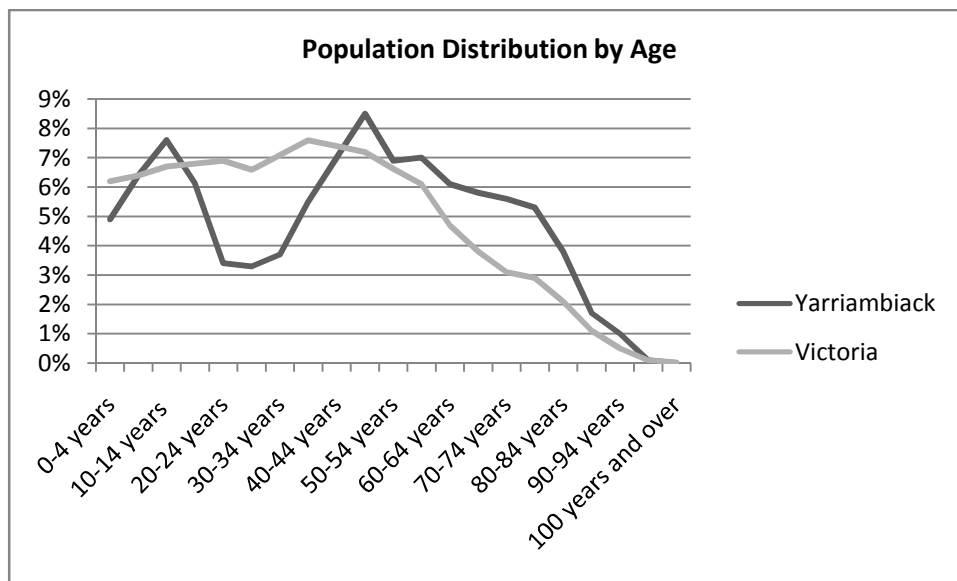
The percentage of Indigenous people in the Grampians Region who reported a *core activity need for assistance* in the 2006 Census was 5.3%. This figure is less than the Victorian prevalence rate for Indigenous people with a severe/profound disability (9.5%). As indicated previously, although the 2006 Census measures are conceptually the same as the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) severe/profound disability status – they are not designed to capture the same number of people, rather a population with the same characteristics. Therefore, it is reasonable to anticipate that the Census data for the number of people who have a *need for assistance with a core activity* would be less than the SDAC prevalence rate for severe or profound disability status.

No Indigenous people from the Rural City of Ararat, Pyrenees Shire or West Wimmera Shire indicated that they required assistance with core activities in the 2006 Census. As previously suggested, this does not mean there are no Indigenous people with a severe/profound disability living in these areas.

Yarriambiack Shire is the only LGA in the Grampians Region with a *core activity need for assistance* figure that is higher than the *severe/profound disability* prevalence rate for the Indigenous population and the total population. One possible explanation for this is that Yarriambiack has a higher proportion of older residents than other areas.

The median age of the total population in Yarriambiack is 46 years, significantly higher than the median age for Victorians (37 years)⁵⁵. The difference in the age distribution between Yarriambiack Shire and the state of Victoria is illustrated in Figure 4. Just over two-thirds (36.5%) of Yarriambiack's population is over the age of 55 years, a higher proportion than Victoria's population aged over 55 years (24.5%).

⁵⁵ "Census Data (Quickstats)", ABS, December 2009, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Census+data>>.



Source: ABS (Yarriambiack and Victoria)

Figure 4: Population distribution by age (Yarriambiack and Victoria)

USE OF GENERIC AND DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE GRAMPPIANS REGION

The use of disability support services is also an indicator of the number of Indigenous people in the Grampians Region who have a disability. Information is available for the number of Indigenous people who used HACC services in the 2008/2009 financial year and the number of people who received Disability Support and Carer Payments from Centrelink in 2006 and 2008.

The number of people using a service does not necessarily represent the number of people with a disability in a given area. People who are eligible for services may not use them, while the eligibility criteria may exclude people who have a specific type of disability or level of impairment.

Home and Community Care (HACC)

The Home and Community Care (HACC) data for the Grampians Region suggests there are more Indigenous people in the Grampians Region that require assistance to maintain their independence at home than the census data suggests.

HACC funded services include:

- Home help
- Personal care
- Nursing (community nursing, home nursing)
- Allied health services (physiotherapy, podiatry, dietetics, etc)
- Meals on Wheels
- Planned activity groups & Day programs
- Property maintenance
- Respite services
- Linkages packages

In the 2008/2009 financial year 179 HACC clients in the Grampians region were registered as people of Indigenous status (Table 8). This represents 18% of the estimated number of Indigenous people with a disability but almost twice as many as reported as having a *core activity need for assistance* in the 2006 Census.

It is important to note that the eligibility criteria for HACC services are based upon a person's capacity to live independently rather than a measurable degree of function (or loss of function)⁵⁶. This means that people who require assistance with every-day activities such as meal preparation, housework and transport; difficulties that the Survey of Disability, Ageing & Carers classify as *without specific limitations or restrictions* are eligible for assistance. Therefore it is not unreasonable to anticipate that there would be more HACC clients in a given area than the number of people who report having a *need for assistance with a core activity*.

	Indigenous Population: Service Use					
	Total Indigenous population	Need for Assistance (NFA)	Indigenous People with a disability ESTIMATE	Disability Support Pension		HACC Clients 2008/2009
				2006	2008	
Grampians Region	1,760	94	984	N/A	N/A	179
Ararat	78	0	44	<38	<38	11
Ballarat	854	41	477	<38	60	85
Golden Plains	91	<10	51	<38	<38	N/A
Hepburn	90	<10	51	<38	<38	<10
Hindmarsh	63	10	35	<38	<38	17
Horsham	213	<10	119	<38	<39	24
Moorabool	178	<10	100	<38	<38	<10
Northern Grampians	87	<10	49	<38	<38	17
Pyrenees	36	0	20	<38	<38	<10
West Wimmera	18	0	10	<38	<38	<10
Yarriambiack	52	<10	29	<38	<38	<10

Source: 2006 Census of Population & Housing; Centrelink; Department of Health (HACC)

Table 8: HACC and Centrelink Service Use by Indigenous People in the Grampians Region

HACC service users (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous) tend to be older people. A needs analysis of HACC service provision in the Northern Metropolitan DHS Region in 2005 found that 75% of Indigenous clients were over the age of 45⁵⁷.

The pattern of HACC service use by Indigenous people in the Grampians region is reported to reflect that trend⁵⁸.

⁵⁶ "Home & Community Care" *The Department of Health, Victoria*, December 2009. <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc/hacc_victoria/funding.htm>.

⁵⁷ Juliet Frizzell & Maree Ivey.

Dimboola (Hindmarsh Shire) is known to have a larger population of elders than other areas and this is reflected in the high proportion of the number of Indigenous people with a disability who use HACC services⁵⁹. This figure is consistent with the number of Indigenous people who receive HACC services through Goolum Goolum (one of three Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations in the Grampians Region) which had up to 40 HACC service users in 2008/2009⁶⁰.

The other large provider of HACC services to Indigenous people in the Grampians Region is Ballarat Aboriginal Co-operative. The Co-operative provided HACC funded services to 49 Indigenous people in the last financial year⁶¹.

Centrelink Payments

Centrelink data about the number of Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients is limited due to issues addressed in the methodology section of this report. In 2006 and 2008 the only LGA in the Grampians region that had a reportable number of DSP recipients was the City of Ballarat (Table 8)⁶².

When compared with data for the total population, the number of DSP recipients in Ballarat in 2008 suggests that the proportion of Indigenous people with a disability receiving DSP is much lower than the proportion of the total population of people with a disability who receive DSP.

In 2006, 33.1% of people with a disability in the Grampians Region received DSP payments. This percentage increased to 38.0% in 2008. This is in stark contrast to the 12.6% of the Indigenous population with a disability in the City of Ballarat who received DSP payments in the latter year.

Disability Services Data

Since 1991, the Australian governments (federal, states and territories) have signed agreements determining the responsibility for the funding and provision of specialised disability services throughout Australia. The Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) was replaced by the National Disability Agreement (NDA) on the 1st January 2009. In 1995 the Agreements have included a direction about how information relating to the services provided under the CSTDA and the people using these services is collected and disseminated⁶³.

The type of disability services that are provided under the CSTDA are accommodation support, community support, community access (including learning and life skills, recreation and holiday programs), respite, employment, advocacy and information.

In the most recent CSTDA, *increased access to disability services for Indigenous people* was identified as a national priority. The identification of Indigenous service users and the quality of the information around their service use is varied. This is due to factors such as the number of service

⁵⁸ Personal communication – J Brooks

⁵⁹ Personal communication – J Brook,

⁶⁰ Personal communication – J Harne

⁶¹ Personal Communication – K. Monaghan

⁶² Centrelink (Strategic performance & Information management Branch)

⁶³ AIHW. *Disability Support Services 2007-08*.

users whose Indigenous status is 'not stated' and the reporting requirements of different service types.

The issue of reporting requirements is significant for the Grampians Region. The mandatory reporting of service user *Indigenous Status* by service providers was introduced in July 2009⁶⁴. Therefore *more accurate* Indigenous service use data may not be available for 3-4 years⁶⁵.

In 2007-2008 almost 11,000 Indigenous people used CSTDA funded disability services representing 4.5% of all service users. This represents an increase of more than two-thirds (68%) in 5 years. Twenty-one percent of Indigenous service users (2,316) were from Victoria.

Rates of service use are calculated using estimates of the *Indigenous potential population*⁶⁶. In 2007-2008 there were 306 Indigenous service users per 1,000. This was slightly less than the rate of non-Indigenous service users (315 per 1,000). Interestingly Victoria had the highest rate of Indigenous service users (784 per 1,000). However the report⁶⁷ does relay concerns about the quality of Indigenous identification data from disability service providers in Victoria.

KEY POINTS: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY IN THE GRAMPIANS REGION

- The estimations made in this report suggest that there are almost 1,000 Indigenous people in the Grampians Region who have a disability.
- Almost half of the Indigenous people with a disability (477) in the region live in the City of Ballarat, 200 people live in the Wimmera and 100 people live in the Moorabool Shire.
- The estimations also suggest there are more Indigenous people with a profound or severe disability living in the Grampians Region than was indicated in the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.
- The Hindmarsh Shire has the highest proportion of Indigenous people with a severe/or profound disability (16%).
- The Yarriambiack Shire has a higher percentage of people (Indigenous & non-Indigenous) with a severe or profound disability than the state average.
- In the 2008/2009 financial year 179 Indigenous people in the Grampians Region used Health and Community Care (HACC) services.
- Over half of the HACC services used by Indigenous people in the region are provided by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations.
- In 2008, 12.6% of Indigenous people with a disability living in the City of Ballarat received Disability Support Pension (DSP) from Centrelink. This is in contrast to the 38% of non-Indigenous people with a disability in Ballarat who received the DSP.
- Statistically the proportion of Indigenous people who use disability services in Victoria is similar to rate of use by non-Indigenous people. However, there are concerns about the collection of this data.

⁶⁴ Personal communication – S. Rose

⁶⁵ AIHW. *Disability Support Services 2007-08*.

⁶⁶ Indigenous potential population refers to the number of Indigenous people in Australia who might have needed in a nominated period of time (eg. 2007-2008 financial year)

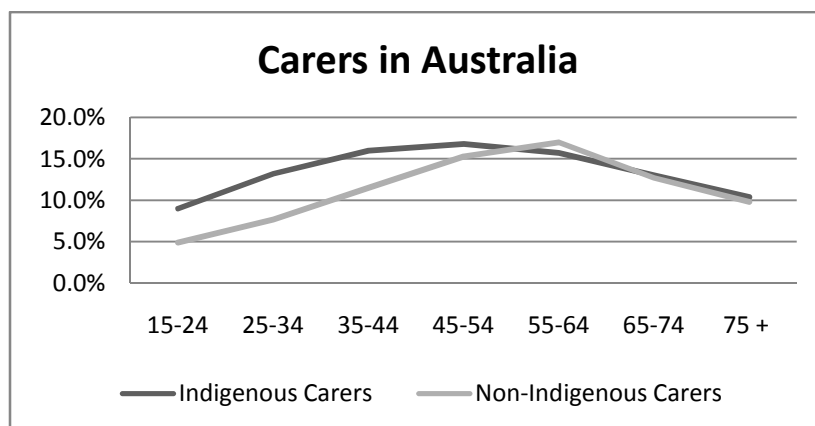
⁶⁷ AIHW. *Disability Support Services 2007-08*.

INDIGENOUS CARERS

In a submission to the 2009 senate inquiry into regional & remote indigenous communities, Carers Australia describes Indigenous Carers as a *forgotten demographic*⁶⁸. In summary, results from the 2006 Census demonstrate that:

- Indigenous people (13.2%) were more likely than non-Indigenous people (11.2%) to care for another person with a disability⁶⁹.
- Indigenous people in the 15-34 year age group were twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to be carers⁷⁰.
- Indigenous carers were up to three times more likely to need assistance with core activities themselves⁷¹.

The median age of carers is 48 years. The number of Indigenous carers peak in the 45-54 year age group with the number of non-Indigenous peaks later in life (55-64 years). After the age of 65, the carer rate for Indigenous and non-Indigenous carers are similar (Fig 5).



Source: A profile of Carers in Australia (2008)

Figure 5: Age distribution of carers in Australia

The wellbeing of Indigenous carers is also a significant concern identified by Carers Australia. Both Indigenous people and carers (total population) have been found to have low social and emotional wellbeing. Carers have been found to have the lowest overall wellbeing of any group, suggesting that the wellbeing of Indigenous carers may be lower still⁷².

Just as the range of issues for Indigenous people with disability is complex, so are the issues for Indigenous carers.

*Non Aboriginal services do not understand the Aboriginal way of 'shared care' and the role that extended families play in supporting people with disabilities*⁷³.

⁶⁸ Carers Australia.

⁶⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics. *A profile of Carers in Australia*.

⁷⁰ Carers Australia.

⁷¹ Carers Australia.

⁷² Carers Australia.

⁷³ National People with Disabilities and Carer Council, 59.

Carers Australia states that *it is essential that the approach to indigenous carers and communities be guided by the age of the target group, their connection to family and community, the types of services that work in particular areas and the geographical region where the person lives*⁷⁴.

Indigenous Carers in the Grampians Region

In 2006 there were 140 indigenous people (12.7%) in the Grampians Region who provided unpaid assistance to family members who have a disability, long-term illness or problems related to old age (Table 9)⁷⁵. This is very close to the rate of Indigenous carers from both *Inner and Outer Regional Remoteness Areas* across Victoria (12.5%)⁷⁶. See Appendix 3 for the remote area classifications in the Grampians Region.

The trend in the Grampians Region reflects the age distribution of carers in Victoria with a smaller proportion of carers over the age of 65 (7.4%). As in other areas measured in the 2006 Census, there are a large proportion of individuals who did not state if they did or did not provide unpaid assistance to a family member (ie: these are identified as “not-stated”). Across the Grampians 13.2% of Indigenous people did not state if they did/did not *provide unpaid assistance* (Table 9). This was higher than the proportion of the total population who indicated that they provided unpaid assistance.

Across the 11 local government areas in the region, the Pyrenees Shire was one of six LGAs that reflect the state and national trends by having a higher rate of Indigenous carers. The shire had an Indigenous carer rate of 29.6%. Ararat Rural City (5.6%), Yarriambiack (7.9%) and Golden Plains Shire (8.0%) had the lowest proportion of Indigenous people who provided unpaid assistance.

The number of Indigenous people in the Grampians Region that received a Carers Payment through Centrelink in 2006 and in 2008 is unspecified⁷⁷, indicating that there were no more than 38 recipients in the region⁷⁸. Depending on the actual number of recipients, the percentage of Indigenous people who *provide unpaid assistance* that received Carer Payments in 2006⁷⁹ may vary from 0.7% - 26.3%.

A review of the number of Carer Payment recipients (total population) across the Grampians Region show that Carer Payment recipients are only a small proportion of people that *provide unpaid assistance*. In 2006, 6.9% of individuals (Indigenous & non-Indigenous) who *provide unpaid assistance* received carer payments in the Grampians Region. Two years later, the number of recipients in the Grampians Region had increased by 443 to 9.2% of people who *provide unpaid assistance*. This increase occurs across all of the local government areas in the Grampians Region.

⁷⁴ Carers Australia, 5.

⁷⁵ “Unpaid Assistance to a person with a disability”.

⁷⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics. *A profile of Carers in Australia*.

⁷⁷ See *Reporting Statistics* in the Methodology Section of this report for a discussion about how Centrelink data is reported

⁷⁸ Centrelink (Strategic Performance & Information Management Branch)

⁷⁹ The same year as the last Census of Population & Housing – 2006

Indigenous Population: Providing Unpaid Assistance

		Total Indigenous Population	Provides Unpaid Assistance (PUA)	Not Stated	% Provide Assistance
Victoria	15-64 years	17,810	2,177	2,146	12.2%
	65+ years	1,211	123	344	10.2%
	Total	19,021	2,300	2,490	12.1%
Grampians Region	15-64 years	997	132	109	10.4%
	65+ years	108	8	37	7.4%
	Total	1105	140	146	12.7%
	Ararat	54	<10	21	5.6%
	Ballarat	516	65	68	12.6%
	Golden Plains	50	<10	4	8.0%
	Hepburn	53	<10	9	17.0%
	Hindmarsh	43	<10	0	11.6%
	Horsham	140	17	18	12.9%
	Moorambool	117	15	7	12.8%
	Northern Grampians	55	<10	6	10.9%
	Pyrenees	27	<10	10	29.6%
	West Wimmera	12	<10	0	N/A
	Yarriambiack	38	<10	3	7.9%

Source: ABS – 2006 Census of Population & Housing

Table 9: Indigenous Carers in the Grampians Region

KEY POINTS: INDIGENOUS CARERS IN THE GRAMPIANS REGION

- Indigenous carers have been described as the *forgotten demographic*.
- In 2006 there were 140 Indigenous carers in the Grampians Region
- The rate of Indigenous carers in the Grampians Region is similar to the rate of Indigenous carers across non-metropolitan Victoria (12% – 13%).
- The Pyrenees Shire had the highest proportion of Indigenous carers (29.6%) in the Grampians region. This is more than twice the percentage of Indigenous carers in Victoria.

CONCLUSIONS

This research exercise rigorously examined the existing data on Indigenous populations and disability with a view to collating these for the Grampians region. The absence of local primary data resulted in the extrapolation of national and state-wide statistics to estimate population numbers and indicators of disability prevalence in the Grampians. Due to weaknesses in the data sources (described in the Methodology), these estimates can only be used as a general indication and not as definitive numbers.

However, the available data does strongly suggest that there are a significant number of Indigenous people in the Grampians Region who have a disability or who care for a person with a disability. The most recent National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey results indicated that the disability prevalence rate for the Indigenous population is 56%. Estimates using this figure indicate that there are almost 1000 Indigenous people with a disability living in the Grampians Region, approximately half of whom live in the City of Ballarat. Approximately 200 reside in the Wimmera (in the shires of Hindmarsh, Yarriambiak, West Wimmera and Horsham); while 100 live in the shire of Moorabool. An estimated 200 Indigenous people with a disability live within the local government areas of Hepburn, Golden Plains, Pyrenees, Ararat, and Northern Grampians.

In addition, there are approximately 140 indigenous people in the Grampians Region who provide unpaid assistance to family members because of disability, long-term illness or problems related to old age⁸⁰.

The disability service data collated in this report implies an under-utilisation of support services in Grampians region by Indigenous people with a disability and their family members or carers. In particular, there appears to be an under-utilization of HACC services, and the proportions of carers and Indigenous people with disabilities who receive appropriate pensions is low.

This is consistent with the findings of other research^{81,82} that indicates that Indigenous people with a disability and their associates are often not aware of available services and are reluctant to use non-Indigenous services. This highlights the need for disability services in the Grampians region to examine how they can better meet the needs of Indigenous people.

Projection data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimate that the Indigenous population will increase to almost 3000 people over the next decade. It is not unreasonable to suggest that the number of Indigenous people with a disability and Indigenous carers will also increase.

These observations reinforce the importance of exploring how the disability advocacy needs of Indigenous people can best be met. This may be through existing “mainstream” organisations such

⁸⁰ Figures are from the 2006 Census and possibly represent an underestimate as even more people did not respond to the question about whether they did or did not *provide unpaid assistance*.

⁸¹ Aboriginal Disability Network of NSW. *Telling it like it is. A report on community consultations with Aboriginal people with disability and their associates throughout NSW, 2004-2005*. (Australia: Aboriginal Disability Network of NSW, 2007).

⁸² Research report by Summer Foundation for the Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative and DHS, 2010. *Enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Access to Disability Services: Hume Region*.

as GdA or via new Indigenous controlled networks or programs. Through its Indigenous Liaison Program, GdA will continue to stimulate discussion towards the provision of culturally appropriate disability advocacy within the Grampians region.

APPENDIX 1: AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION

Australian Indigenous Geographical Classification (AIGC) has three levels of geographic units that are used to report information about Indigenous Populations.⁸³ They are:

- Indigenous Regions
- Indigenous Areas, and
- Indigenous Locations

Indigenous Regions are based on the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) regions as defined under the ATSIC Act (1998). In the 2006 Census some modifications were made to reflect changes in local government areas. Victoria has two Indigenous Regions; Melbourne and Non-Metropolitan Victoria.

INDIGENOUS AREAS

Indigenous Areas were developed to allow more detailed Census information of Indigenous populations to be produced. Generally, Indigenous Areas correspond to large Indigenous communities and local government areas (LGA's). However, to maintain confidentiality of individuals the minimum Indigenous population is 300.⁸⁴ In areas where there are less than 300 Indigenous people, local government populations are combined to meet the 300 people criteria.⁸⁵

There are two Indigenous Areas that are in the Grampians Region; the City of Ballarat and the Wimmera Statistical District (Fig. 6).

Moorabool Shire is in the Macedon Ranges/ Moorabool Shire Indigenous Area, while the South-West and North-West Indigenous Areas include LGA's in the Grampians region. The Indigenous population of these areas range from 345 to 853 (Table 10).

Regional Indigenous Areas				
	Total Population	Indigenous Population	% Total Population	Not Stated
Ballarat Indigenous Location	85,197	853	1.0%	3,768
Macedon Ranges (S) / Moorabool (S) Indigenous location	63,831	345	0.5%	2664
North-West Central Victoria Indigenous location	69,113	612	0.9%	2757
South-West Central Victoria Indigenous location	<i>Data not available</i>			
Wimmera Statistical Division	46,320	437	0.94%	1,683

Source: 2006 Census of Population & Housing

Table 10: Regional Indigenous Areas in Western Victoria

⁸³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population Distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*. 72.

⁸⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics.

⁸⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics.



Source: Non-Metropolitan Victoria Indigenous Region (ABS)

Figure 6: Indigenous Areas in Non-Metropolitan Victoria

INDIGENOUS LOCATIONS

Indigenous Locations are divisions of Indigenous Areas that have at least 50 Indigenous people. The only Indigenous Location in the Grampians Region that the Australian Bureau of Statistics provides 2006 Census data for is Ballarat which corresponds with City of Ballarat and the Ballarat Indigenous Area (Table 11).⁸⁶

	Ballarat Statistical Areas		
	Total Population	Indigenous Population	Not Stated
Ballarat City (LGA)	85,198	853	3,868
Indigenous Area	85,197	852	3,868
Indigenous location	85,198	853	3,867

Source: 2006 Census of Population & Housing

Table 11: Geographical Classification Statistics for Ballarat

⁸⁶ "Census Data" Australian Bureau of Statistics.

APPENDIX 2: REGIONAL POPULATION 1996-2006

		Total Population	Indigenous Population	% Total Population	Indigenous Population Growth
Victoria	1996	4,414,195	21,503	0.5%	
	2001	4,625,807	24,579	0.5%	211,612
	2006	4,932,422	30,141	0.6%	306,615
Grampians Region	1996	196,042	1,219	0.6%	
	2001	197,541	1,486	0.7%	1,499
	2006	207,109	1,763	0.8%	9,568
Ararat	1996	11,396	21	0.2%	
	2001	11,105	47	0.4%	26
	2006	11,255	80	0.7%	33
Ballarat	1996	77,259	597	0.8%	
	2001	79,605	729	0.9%	132
	2006	85,198	853	1.0%	61
Golden Plains	1996	13,435	46	0.3%	
	2001	14,349	80	0.6%	34
	2006	16,452	92	0.6%	12
Hepburn	1996	13,664	66	0.5%	
	2001	13,527	81	0.6%	15
	2006	13,733	89	0.6%	8
Hindmarsh	1996	6,728	41	0.6%	
	2001	6,154	43	0.7%	2
	2006	6,039	61	1.0%	18
Horsham	1996	17,591	164	0.9%	
	2001	17,774	180	1.0%	16
	2006	18,492	216	1.2%	36
Moorabool	1996	22,365	109	0.5%	
	2001	23,959	140	0.6%	31
	2006	25,475	176	0.7%	35

		Total Population	Indigenous Population	% Total Population	Indigenous Population Growth
Northern Grampians	1996	13,075	97	0.7%	
	2001	12,294	98	0.8%	- 1
	2006	11,912	86	0.7%	- 12
Pyrenees	1996	6,805	38	0.6%	
	2001	6,348	31	0.5%	- 7
	2006	6,558	35	0.5%	4
West Wimmera	1996	5,078	12	0.2%	
	2001	4,559	15	0.3%	3
	2006	4,474	17	0.4%	2
Yarriambiack	1996	8,646	28	0.3%	
	2001	7,867	42	0.5%	14
	2006	7,521	58	0.8%	16

Source: Census of Population & Housing (ABS)

Table 12: Grampians Region Population Data 1996-2006

APPENDIX 3: REMOTENESS AREAS

Remoteness areas are one of seven geographical classifications that the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) uses to collect and disseminate statistics.⁸⁷

Remoteness Areas were developed in response to a demand for 'quantitative data on the *country* versus the *city*'.⁸⁸ A Steering Committee formed by the commonwealth Department of Health & Aged Care concluded that the critical concept was remoteness and what 'defines *city* and *country* is the context of how far one travels to access goods and services'.⁸⁹

The Index of Remoteness is known as the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) and is an *index value* that is calculated for 1 kilometre grids across Australia. To determine the *remoteness* of a specific area, a classification system has been developed that is based upon the average index value of census collection districts (Table 13).⁹⁰

Remoteness Area Classes	
Remote Area Class	ARIA score range (a)
Major Cities of Australia	CDs with an average index value of 0 - 0.2
Inner regional Australia	CDs with an average index value greater than 0.2 and less than or equal to 2.4
Outer Regional Australia	CDs with an average index value greater than 2.4 and less than or equal to 5.92
Remote Australia	CDs with an average index value greater than 5.92 and less than or equal to 10.53
Very Remote Australia	CDs with an average index value greater than 10.53

Notes: (a) The latest version of ARIA is commonly referred to as *ARIA Plus*

Source: ASGC Remoteness Classification: Purpose and Use (ABS)

Table 13: Remoteness Area Classes

The majority of Victoria, including the Grampians Region is classified Inner Regional and Outer Regional Australia as indicated by the orange and dark yellow shading in Figure 7.

Remoteness area classification for local government areas are determined by the ARIA averages (or range) for that area. The remoteness area classifications for the local government areas in the Grampians Region are in Table 14.

⁸⁷ "Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)," *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, December 2009, <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/1216.0Main%20Features9999Jul%202009?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=1216.0&issue=Jul%202009&num=&view>>.

⁸⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *ASGC Remoteness Classification: Purpose & Use. Census Paper No. 03/01*, (Canberra, Australia: Australian Bureau of Statistics), 2.

⁸⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *ASGC Remoteness Classification*.

⁹⁰ Collection Districts (CS) are the smallest blocks in the ABS geographical classification structure.

Remoteness Area Classifications

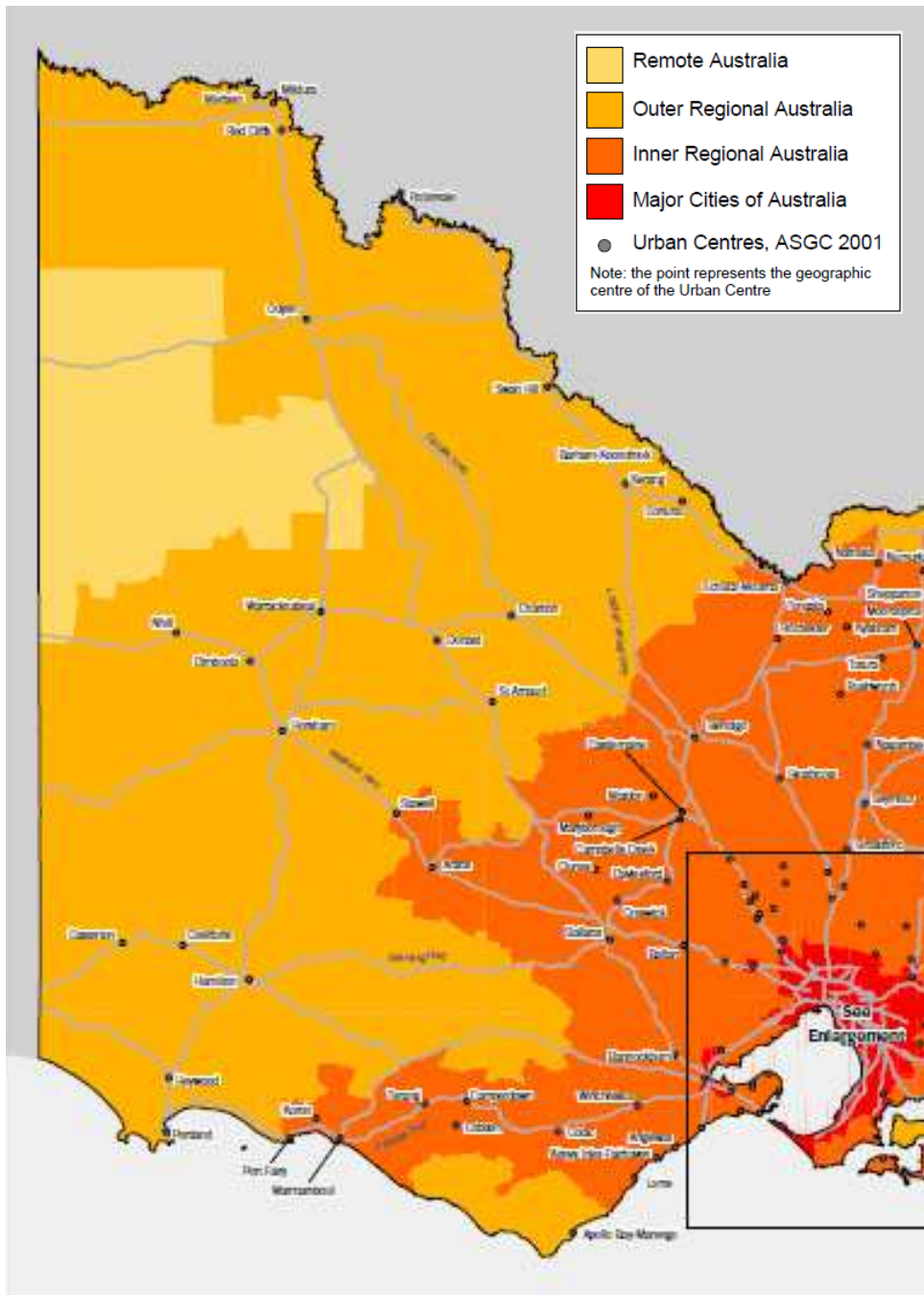
	ARIA	Remoteness Area Classification
Ararat Rural City	1.1 - 2.32	Inner Regional Aust
City of Ballarat	0.27 - 0.57	Inner Regional Aust
Golden Plains Shire	0.69 - 1.24	Inner Regional Aust
Hepburn Shire	0.69 - 1.25	Inner Regional Aust
Hindmarsh Shire	2.88 - 4.98	Outer Regional Aust
Horsham Rural City	2.62 - 3.88	Outer Regional Aust
Moorabool Shire	0.49 - 1.09	Inner Regional Aust
Northern Grampians	1.89 - 2.79	Inner & Outer Regional Aust
Pyrenees Shire	0.81 - 2.07	Inner Regional Aust
West Wimmera Shire	2.59 - 4.57	Outer Regional Aust
Yarriambiack	3.06 - 4.93	Outer Regional Aust

Source: ARIA Search Facility⁹¹

Table 14: Remoteness Area Classification across the Grampians Region

The Northern Grampians Shire is the only local government area in the Grampians Region that has an ARIA range that includes more than one Remoteness Class (Table 14). The City of Ballarat has the smallest ARIA range (0.3) while Hindmarsh Shire has the largest range (2.1.). The most remote area in the Grampians region is in the Yarriambiack Shire (4.93).

⁹¹ "Accessibility/Remoteness index Australia: Search Facility," *Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing*, December 2009. <<http://www9.health.gov.au/aria/ariaipt.cfm>>.



Source: ASGC Remoteness Classification: Purpose & Use (2003)

Figure 7: Remoteness Classification Areas in Victoria (west)

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