

Health Performance Council

# *Presentation to the Aboriginal Leaders' Forum*

31 May 2017

HPC's Aboriginal Health Case Study,  
Launch of the consultation draft

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# Acknowledgement

The Health Performance Council acknowledges the diverse Aboriginal peoples of South Australia and their participation in the life of South Australia. We acknowledge and respect their spiritual relationship with their respective country and we acknowledge them as the custodians of their country and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to them today.

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# HPC's Aboriginal Health Case Study

## *2017 consultation draft*

### **Introduction to the Health Performance Council**

- > The Health Performance Council (HPC) provides advice to the Minister for Health on the performance of the health system, health outcomes for South Australians and the effectiveness of community and individual engagement.
- > We publish four-yearly reviews of South Australian health system performance, case studies and other monitoring reports on our website: [hpcsa.com.au](http://hpcsa.com.au).

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# HPC's Aboriginal Health Case Study

## *2017 consultation draft*

### **Background to the project**

- > HPC has an obligation to identify significant trends in the health status of South Australians and consider future priorities for the health system having regard for specific and vulnerable population groups.
- > HPC recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as having a special heritage and that the health system should support values that respect their historical and contemporary cultures.
- > This project has been identified as a priority audit topic in the HPC's 2015–2018 four-yearly review through the Aboriginal Leaders' Forum.

# HPC's Aboriginal Health Case Study

## *2017 consultation draft*

### **Background to this consultation draft report**

- > HPC published its first Aboriginal Health Case Study in 2014 (available on our website).
- > We are launching our second case study report today as a consultation draft.
- > We invite all stakeholders and interested parties in Aboriginal health to comment on consultation questions developed in conjunction with this second case study.

# Consultation questions

## **We are asking for feedback from you across four areas**

- > Have we covered what we said we'd cover?
- > How can we share the report?
- > What should be the next steps?
- > Future research considerations.

**You are invited to respond by  
5:00pm ACST on Friday, 30 June 2017 via  
email at [HealthHealthPerformanceCouncil@sa.gov.au](mailto:HealthHealthPerformanceCouncil@sa.gov.au)  
or by telephone on 08 8226 3188.**

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# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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# Population and demography

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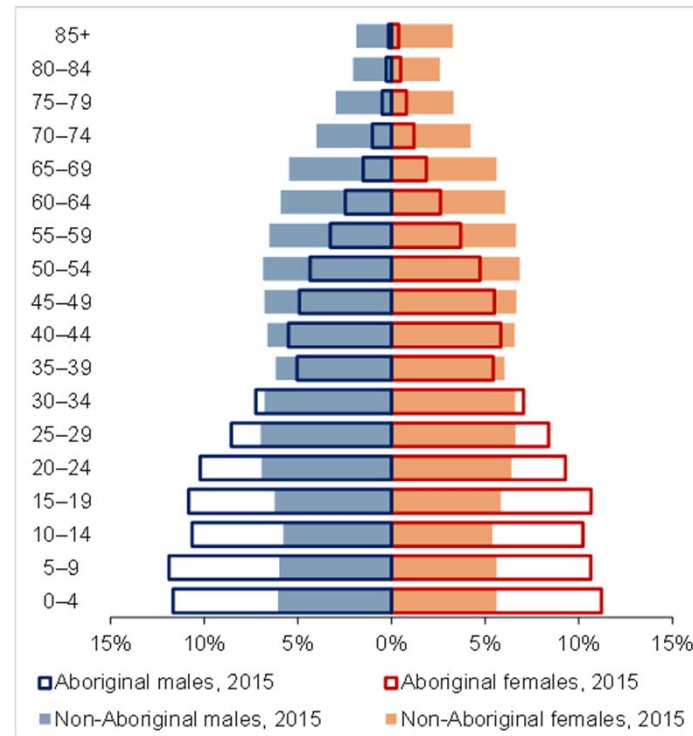
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# Age profile

## Population

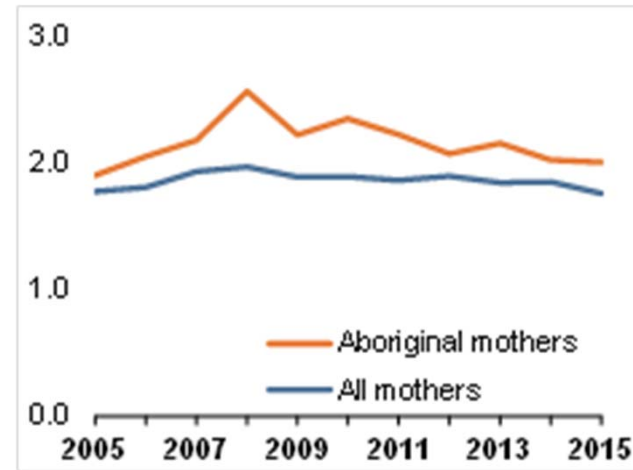
- > SA Aboriginal population 40,646 (2015 est.)
- > Over-representation of Aboriginal people aged 0 to 34 years.
- > Under-representation of Aboriginal people aged 35 years and over.
- > 33% aged under 15 years.
- > 4% aged 65 years and over.



# Fertility rate and death rate

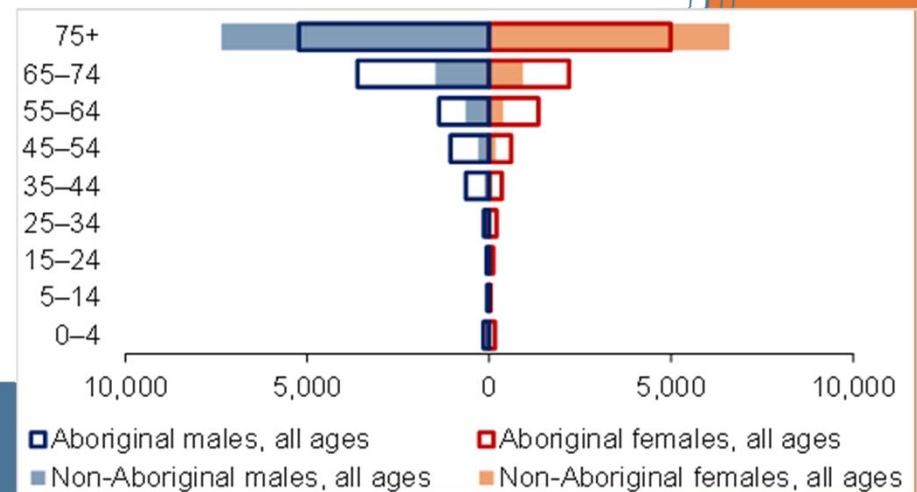
## Fertility rate

- > Aboriginal total fertility rate in SA of 2.0 births per woman is higher than the 1.8 recorded for all mothers in South Australia.
- > Aboriginal fertility rate in SA higher than the total population rate for the last decade.



## Death rate and life expectancy

- > Death rates for Aboriginal people in SA higher than non-Aboriginal rates for all age cohorts except 75 years and over.
- > The final report will include Aboriginal life expectancy data for SA.
- > Nationally, life expectancy of Aboriginal males (69.1 years) and females (73.7 years) 10+ years lower than for all persons (79.9 and 84.3 years).



# Health risk measures

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# Health risk measures

## Alcohol consumption

- > Fewer than one in ten Aboriginal people in SA reported exceeding lifetime risk guidelines for alcohol consumption, lower than the 18% for the overall SA population.
- > Around one in four Aboriginal people in SA reported exceeding single risk guidelines, again below the rate for SA in total (26%).

Health risk factors: alcohol consumption Aboriginal persons aged 15 years and over	South Australia			AUST 2014-15
	2014-15	2008	2002	
Alcohol consumption – Exceed lifetime risk*	9.6%	21.8%	17.7%	14.7%
Alcohol consumption – Exceed single occasion risk*	24.5%	37.7%	36.5%	30.1%

## Nutrition

- > 39% of Aboriginal people in SA reported eating the daily recommended consumption of fruit, below the 42% recorded for all South Australians.
- > Around one in 20 Aboriginal people in SA reported eating the daily recommended consumption of vegetables, below the approximately one in 10 recorded for all SA.

Health risk factors: nutrition	Aboriginal persons aged 15 years and over, 2014-15		All South Australians aged 18 years and over, 2015
	South Australia	Australia	
Daily recommended consumption of fruit	39.0%	45.8%	41.8%
Daily recommended consumption of vegetables	5.2%	5.8%	10.7%

# Health risk measures

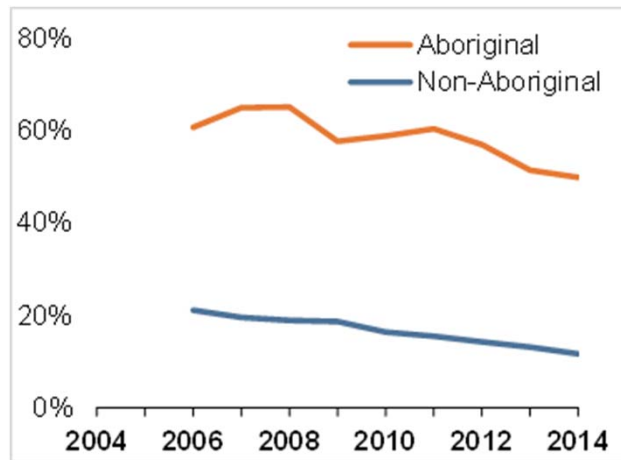
## Smoking

- > More than a third of Aboriginal people in SA reported smoking daily, more than twice the 16% of all South Australians.

Health risk factors: smoking Aboriginal persons aged 15 years and over	South Australia			AUST 2014-15
	2014-15	2008	2002	
Current daily smoker	35.4%	48.0%	43.9%	38.9%

## Smoking during pregnancy

- > Around half of Aboriginal women who gave birth in SA reported being smokers at their first antenatal visit. Higher than non-Aboriginal rate but trending down.



- > The period from 2006 to 2014 also saw gains in those giving up smoking in the second half of their pregnancy, falling from 53% to 42%.

# Social, cultural and economic factors

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# Social, cultural and economic factors

## Language, culture, caring and social support

- > Almost a quarter of Aboriginal people in SA speak an Australian Indigenous language, with one in nine speaking it as their main language at home.
- > More than half involved in cultural events, ceremonies or organisations with almost all participating in sporting, social or community activities.

Language, culture, and social networks Aboriginal persons aged 15 years and over	South Australia			AUST 2014-15
	2014-15	2008	2002	
Main language spoken at home is an Aust. Indigenous language	11.1%	9.2%	12.4%	10.5%
Speaks an Australian Indigenous language	23.9%	25.9%	31.4%	18.3%
Identifies with clan, tribal or language group	61.0%	72.7%	63.3%	62.3%
Involved in selected cultural events, ceremonies or organisations in last 12 months	57.2%	65.0%	n.a.	62.6%
Participated in selected sporting, social or community activities in last 12 months	95.1%	94.0%	n.a.	96.9%

- > More than a quarter of Aboriginal people in SA provide unpaid care and almost all able to get support in time of crisis from outside household.

Caring and social support Aboriginal persons aged 15 years and over	South Australia			AUST 2014-15
	2014-15	2008	2002	
Provided unpaid care for a person with disability, long-term condition or old age in last four weeks	27.3%	n.a.	n.a.	25.5%
Able to get support in time of crisis from outside household	93.3%	90.8%	90.4%	91.7%

# Social, cultural and economic factors

## Removal from family

- > Almost one in eight Aboriginal people in SA have been removed from their birth families, including removed by welfare or the government, or who were taken away to a mission. 42% had relatives removed from their birth families.

## Children under the Guardianship of the Minister and in secure care

- > In 2016, 33% of South Australian children up to the age of 18 years under the Guardianship of the Minister or subject to care and protection orders were Aboriginal. 48% of admissions of children and young people to secure care were Aboriginal.

## Violence

- > More than one in four Aboriginal people in SA have experienced physical or threatened physical violence in the previous 12 months.

Security: Experience of violence or threat of violence Aboriginal persons aged 15 years and over	South Australia			AUST 2014-15
	2014-15	2008	2002	
Experienced physical or threatened physical violence in last 12 months	25.9%	n.a.	29.6%	22.3%



# Social, cultural and economic factors

## Education

- > Over a quarter of Aboriginal people in SA have completed school Year 12 or equivalent compared with 44.8% of the South Australian population
- > Around half (48.8%) of Aboriginal South Australians achieved a non-school qualification (vocational education and training or tertiary education) compared with 43.9% of the state population.

Education Aboriginal persons aged 15 years and over	South Australia			AUST 2014-15
	2014-15	2008	2002	
Highest year of school completed is Year 12 or equivalent	26.8%	18.8%	n.a.	25.7%
Has a non-school qualification	48.8%	36.5%	33.2%	46.5%
Currently enrolled in formal study	23.0%	19.5%	n.a.	21.5%

## Employment, economic disadvantage and homelessness

- > More than one in five Aboriginal people in SA were **unemployed** in 2014-15, around three times higher than the overall SA rate.
- > Around one in three Aboriginal people in SA have experienced **homelessness**.
- > Around one in three Aboriginal people in SA have experienced household members **running out of money for basic living expenses** in the previous 12 months.

# Health and wellbeing outcomes

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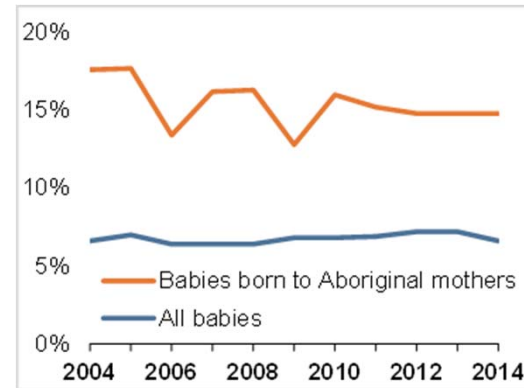
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# Child health

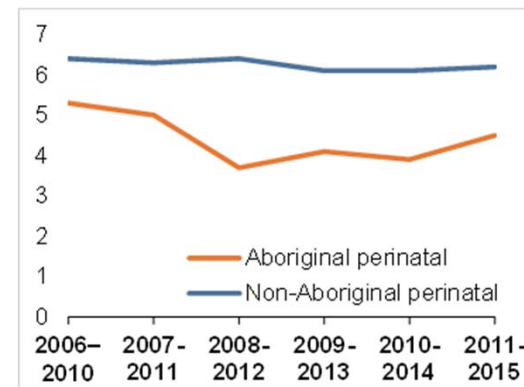
## Low birthweight

- > Around one in seven babies born to Aboriginal mothers in SA during 2014 were low birthweight, over double the rate recorded for babies to all mothers in SA.



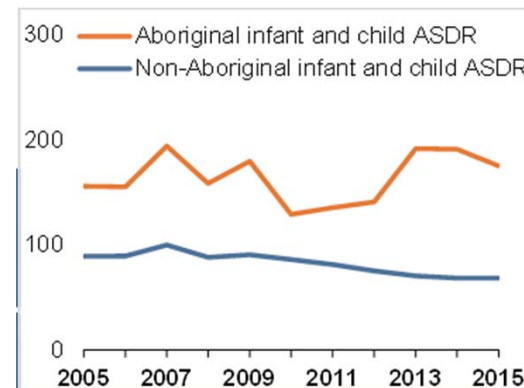
## Perinatal deaths

- > Between 2011 to 2015, there was an average 4.5 Aboriginal perinatal deaths in South Australia for every 1,000 births, below the 6.2 recorded for non-Aboriginal perinatal deaths.



## Infant and child deaths

- > In 2015, the death rate for Aboriginal infants and children in SA was 175.2 deaths per 100,000 Aboriginal population, more than double the corresponding rate for non-Aboriginal infants and children.



# Chronic and long-term illness

- > More than two in three (68%) Aboriginal people in SA were living with at least one **long-term health condition** in 2014-15.
- > A third (33%) of Aboriginal people in SA experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress (**anxiety and depression**) in 2014-15.
- > In 2012-13, **cardiovascular disease** was lower for Aboriginal South Australians than for non-Aboriginal people (23% and 30% respectively).
- > In 2012-13, one in five (20%) Aboriginal people in South Australia aged 15 years or more who reported living with **asthma**.
- > In 2012-13, one in nine (11%) Aboriginal people in SA were living with **arthritis**.
- > One in ten (10%) Aboriginal people in SA were living with a **disability** (profound or severe core-activity limitation) in 2014-15.
- > The prevalence of **diabetes/high sugar levels** in the South Australian Aboriginal population was around one in 11 (9%) in 2012-13.

# Health workforce training and participation

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# Training and education in the health professions

- > Between 2010 and 2014 the number of Aboriginal students **commencing** in tertiary health-related courses in South Australia increased from 103 commencements to 131. As a proportion of all domestic health student commencements the rate has remained relatively steady (1.2% in 2010 to 1.3% in 2014).

Year of commencement	South Australia no. & %	Australia no. & %
2010	103 (1.2%)	1,678 (1.9%)
2011	138 (1.6%)	1,924 (2.1%)
2012	125 (1.3%)	1,838 (1.8%)
2013	125 (1.2%)	2,007 (1.9%)
2014	131 (1.3%)	2,148 (1.9%)

- > In 2014, 53 Aboriginal students in SA **completed** their tertiary health profession course, representing 0.8% of all domestic health student completions. To reach a target of 2.0% an additional 73 Aboriginal student completions would be required.

Year of completion	South Australia no. & %	Australia no. & %
2010	43 (0.8%)	485 (1.0%)
2011	45 (0.9%)	606 (1.2%)
2012	42 (0.8%)	614 (1.1%)
2013	38 (0.6%)	689 (1.2%)
2014	53 (0.8%)	731 (1.2%)

# Health workforce participation

## Public and private health sector workforce and registered health professionals

- > In the 2011 Census, 35,692 people identified themselves as public and private sector health professionals in the SA workforce.
- > Of these, **190 (0.5%) identified as Aboriginal**, including 100 nurses and midwives and 14 medical practitioners.
- > In 2015, a total of **312 (0.7%)** Aboriginal people in SA were **registered** across the 14 health professions overseen by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
- > For a target of 2.0% Aboriginal health professionals registered across the 14 health professions overseen by AHPRA to be met, an additional 586 would be required.

# SA Health workforce participation

- > At 30 June 2016, 406 SA Health staff members (310.1 FTEs) were Aboriginal, representing 1.0% of the FTE workforce.
- > For SA Health to reach the SA Strategic Plan target of 2.0% Aboriginal employees, an additional 297.0 Aboriginal FTEs are required.

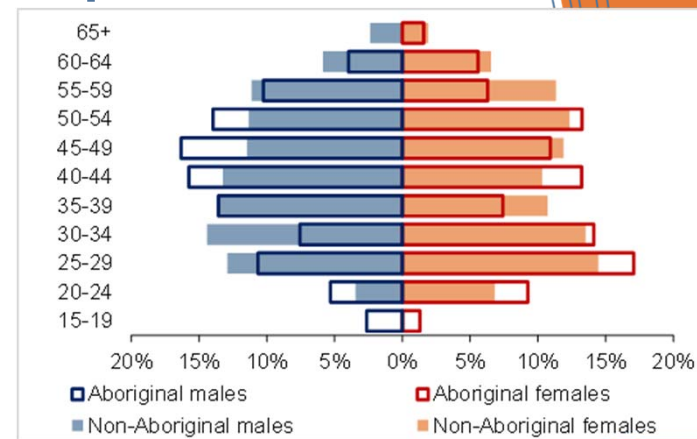
SA Health business unit	30 June 2014		30 June 2015		30 June 2016	
	No. FTEs	% FTEs	No. FTEs	% FTEs	No. FTEs	% FTEs
Central Office	16.2	0.7%	16.0	0.7%	12.6	0.6%
Northern Adelaide LHN	5.3	0.2%	5.7	0.2%	8.7	0.4%
Central Adelaide LHN	84.4	0.7%	80.4	0.7%	79.1	0.7%
Southern Adelaide LHN	51.1	0.9%	45.1	0.8%	45.3	0.8%
Country Health SA LHN	118.3	1.9%	104.3	1.9%	103.3	2.0%
Women's & Children's LHN	51.6	1.9%	53.2	2.0%	52.9	2.0%
SA Ambulance Service	12.2	0.9%	8.8	0.7%	8.1	0.6%
<b>SA Health total</b>	<b>339.0</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>313.5</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>310.1</b>	<b>1.0%</b>



# SA Health workforce participation

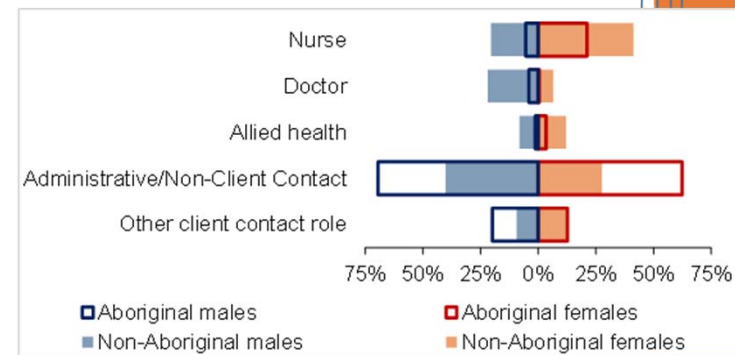
## Gender

- > Three-quarters of the 310.1 total Aboriginal FTEs in SA Health were female and a quarter were male. Roughly in line with the overall SA Health workforce.



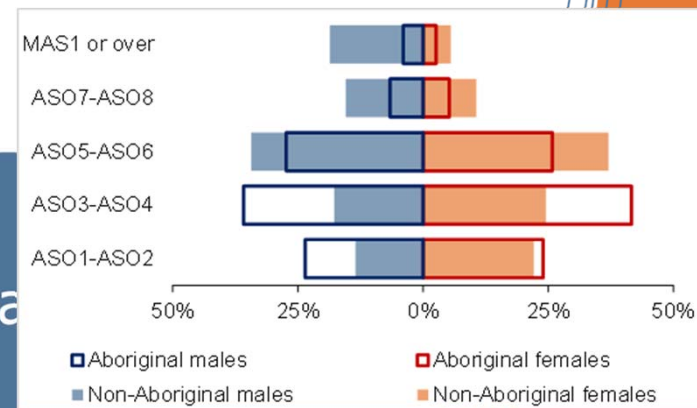
## Types of roles

- > Two-thirds of Aboriginal employees in SA Health are in administrative or non-client contact roles. There are just 4.0 FTE doctors in SA Health who identify as Aboriginal employees.



## Seniority

- > Proportionally Aboriginal people fill fewer positions of relative seniority than non-Aboriginal staff in SA Health. Only 3% of Aboriginal FTEs within SA Health are at a senior manager level equivalent or higher, compared to 9% for non-Aboriginal staff.



# Applications for SA Health jobs

- > As a percentage of the nearly 90,000 total applications received for jobs in SA Health, **Aboriginal people accounted for 1.6%.**
- > Most applications were received for weekly paid positions and administrative roles.
- > Only 35 (0.4%) of the applications received from Aboriginal people in 2016 were for medical professional positions.
- > For SA Health to reach 2.0% of Aboriginal persons applying for positions across the organisation, an additional 335 applications from Aboriginal people would have been required in 2016.

Stream	2014		2015		2016	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Administrative/Executive	603	2.5%	558	2.7%	566	2.4%
Allied Health Professional	22	0.4%	40	0.6%	53	0.8%
Medical Professionals	10	0.3%	41	0.6%	35	0.4%
Nurses/Midwives	197	0.9%	167	0.8%	222	0.9%
Professional Officers	**	**	**	**	**	**
SA Ambulance	**	**	**	**	25	1.3%
Scientific/Technical	16	0.6%	15	0.6%	**	**
Weekly Paid	152	2.0%	211	3.3%	382	3.3%
Other	105	2.3%	173	3.3%	124	2.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

# Interactions with the SA health system

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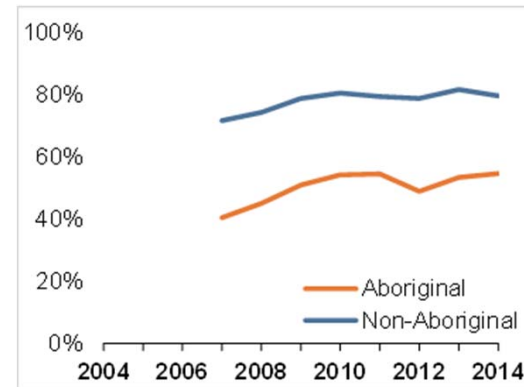
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# Mother and child health

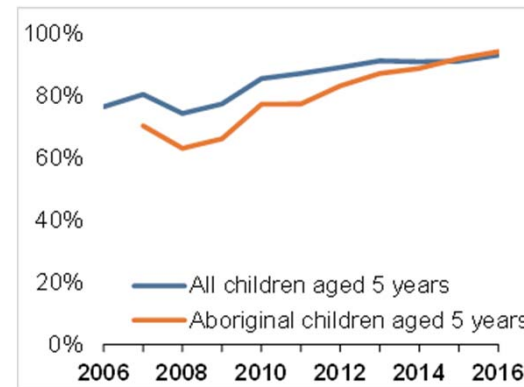
## Antenatal visits

- > Over half of Aboriginal women who gave birth in South Australia have their first antenatal visit within the first 14 weeks of pregnancy.



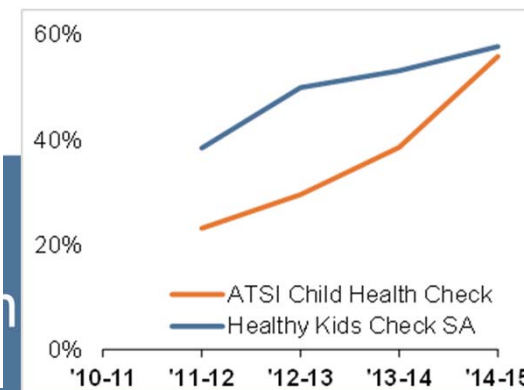
## Childhood vaccination

- > 94% of Aboriginal children aged five years in South Australia are fully immunised. The trend has increased over the last decade and the proportion of Aboriginal children aged five years fully immunised is above the state's overall figure.



## Early childhood health checks

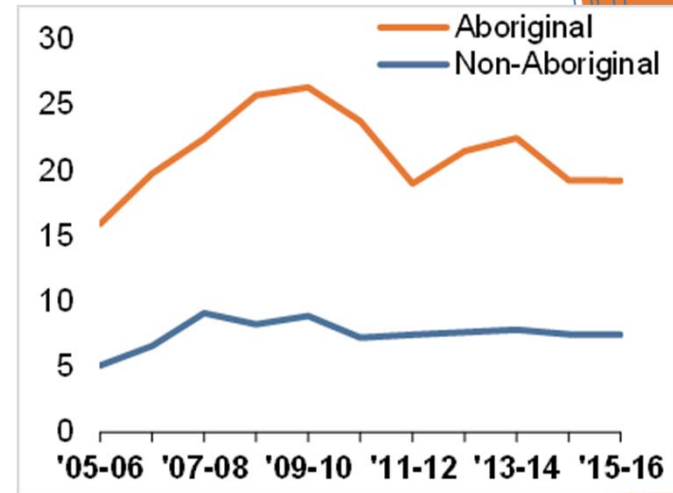
- > Over half of Aboriginal children in SA receive a fourth year developmental health (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Health Check). Rate now effectively the same as all children in South Australia receiving a Healthy Kids Check



# Adverse hospital outcomes

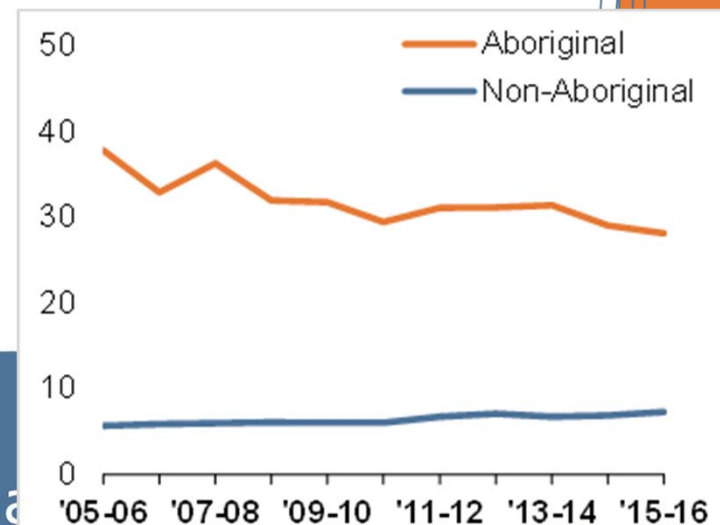
## Leave ED at own risk

- > Aboriginal persons leave hospital emergency departments at their own risk after treatment started at a rate more than double the non-Aboriginal population.



## Self-discharge from hospital at own risk

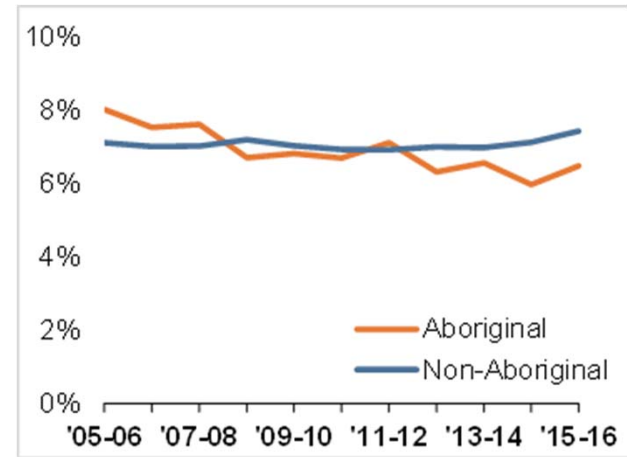
- > Aboriginal inpatients self-discharge from public hospital against medical advice at a rate nearly four times the non-Aboriginal population, although the trend is down.



# Avoidable hospital admissions

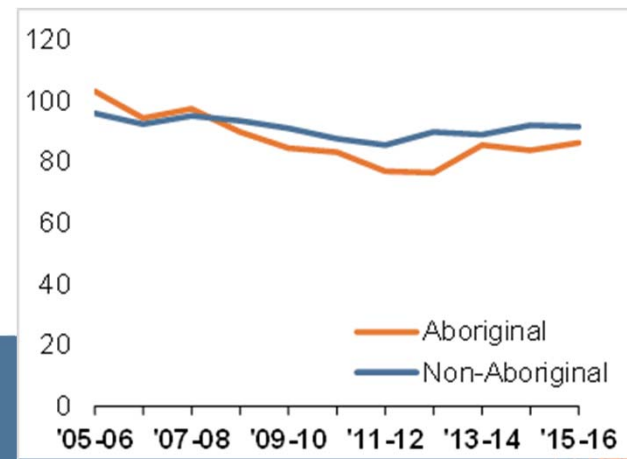
## Emergency readmissions

- > The rate of Aboriginal inpatients emergency-readmitted back to the same public hospital within 28 days of their discharge is lower than for non-Aboriginal inpatients. The trend is down.



## Potentially preventable admissions

- > The rate of Aboriginal inpatients hospitalised for potentially avoidable conditions is lower than for non-Aboriginal inpatients.



# Conclusions

- > There have been improvements for Aboriginal South Australians in relation to some determinants of health and wellbeing.
- > However in nearly all health-risk, economic and social measures Aboriginal South Australians remain significantly disadvantaged compared with non-Aboriginal South Australians.
- > In 2012, *South Australia's Strategic Plan Progress Report 2012* identified four targets relating to Aboriginal employment and health.

South Australia's Strategic Plan Progress Report 2012 targets	
T6 Aboriginal wellbeing	Improve the overall wellbeing of Aboriginal South Australians.
T51 Aboriginal unemployment	Halve the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal unemployment rates by 2018.
T53 Aboriginal employees	Increase the participation of Aboriginal people in the South Australian public sector, spread across all classifications and agencies, to 2% by 2014 and maintain or better those levels through to 2020.
T79 Aboriginal healthy life expectancy	Increase the average healthy life expectancy of Aboriginal males to 67.5 years (22%) and Aboriginal females to 72.3 years (19%) by 2020.

- > The failure to meet state strategic plan targets has occurred despite ongoing effort and reform and a multiplicity of policy and programs over the last decade.



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