

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(240) Output 3.1: Whole-of-Government Coordination of Policy Development and Service Delivery for Indigenous Australians

Senator Crossin (L&C 118) asked:

Provide a copy of the two most recent updated COAG site profile documents, particularly in the Northern Territory.

Answer:

A key site profile document for the Wadeye, Northern Territory, COAG Trial site is the report titled *Social Indicators for Aboriginal Governance: Insights from the Thamarrurr Region, Northern Territory* by Dr John Taylor from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University. The report, which was prepared for the Wadeye COAG partners, was released in June 2004 and is available at http://epress.anu.edu.au/caepr_series/no_24/whole_book.pdf.

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs is the Australian Government Lead Agency for the Tasmanian COAG Trial. A profile document for the Tasmanian COAG Trial site is attached.

COMMUNITY PROFILE — TASMANIAN COAG TRIAL

NOTES:

- All information and data provided in this profile is sourced within the main text or in the attachments. A list of all texts and sources is included in ATTACHMENT 1.1: [References.doc](#).
- The terminology used to refer to Aboriginal people differs between agencies and publications, and may include Aboriginal community, Aboriginal people, Indigenous people, and ATSI (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders). Definitions of Aboriginal status also differ significantly between data sources, as some data may be collected against self-identification (ie ABS data) while other data may be collected against the three part test of Aboriginality. Throughout this profile terms relating to Aboriginality are consistent with the original source. For these reasons, population figures are not universally agreed within Tasmania's Aboriginal communities.
- Figures for the number of Tasmanian Aboriginal people residing in Tasmania differ between sources. 2001 Census data has been used where more recent data is not available.

Demographics

The site for the Tasmanian COAG Indigenous Communities' Coordination trial comprises the Northern Region of Tasmania, which largely covers the "63" telephone area code. For the purposes of database reporting, the trial site has been taken to include the following eight Statistical Divisions: Break O'Day, Dorset, Flinders, George Town, Launceston, Meander Valley, North Midlands and West Tamar.

[ATT 1.2: Map of Tasmanian statistical divisions.doc](#)

Aboriginal people living in Tasmania are a non-homogenous group spread over a wide geographical area. The 2001 ABS Census shows the total Indigenous population of Tasmania to be 15,806 (7,899 males and 7,907 females), comprising approximately 3.5% of the total Tasmanian population. Twenty percent (3,165 persons) of the State's Aboriginal population reside in the Northern Region of Tasmania. [ATT 1.3: ATSI population profile.xls – Distribution by LGA](#)

ABS age demographics for Aboriginal people living in Tasmania show a growing population of larger and younger families compared to non-Aboriginal people. 59.1% of the Indigenous population in Tasmania are under 25 years of age (compared with 34.8% across total population) and only 2.6% are aged 65 years and over (13.2% across total population). Tasmania's general population profile, is characterised by very slight growth after years of decline, increased longevity and more Tasmanians aged 65 and over, and a disproportionately small share of the 20-39 age groups than the national average.

[ATT 1.4: Tasmanian population profile.doc](#)

For a list of key socio-economic indicators for Aboriginal Tasmanians and the wider population relating to Education and Training, Employment, Housing and Health, see:

[ATT 1.5: Key socio-economic indicators – Tasmanian and Aboriginal populations.doc](#)

For a list of key Aboriginal organisations operating in the trial site see:

[ATT 1.6: Contact list – Aboriginal organisations.doc](#)

History, Culture and Language

The attached document prepared by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery gives a brief overview of Tasmanian Aboriginal history and some information on traditional Tasmanian Aboriginal culture.

[ATT 1.7: Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture before 1788.doc](#)

Originally there were at least eight and as many as sixteen Tasmanian Aboriginal languages, but only a handful of words remain in use today. The *palawa kani* languages program started by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre in 1999 revived around 100 words of Indigenous language. A small number of Tasmanian Aboriginal people have indicated that they speak an Indigenous language at home.

[ATT 1.8: Indigenous language spoken at home.xls](#)

Family Violence

A broad definition of family violence, encompassing the wider kinship group and different forms of violence, has been adopted for the Trial. Historical, situational and personal causes all contribute to family violence among Aboriginal people. Aboriginal attitudes to family violence may differ significantly from those of the non-Aboriginal population.

[ATT 1.9: Family violence – definition and causes.doc](#)

Family and children's services in Tasmania fall under the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*, administered by the Department of Human Services and Health (DHHS). The Tasmanian Government has recently introduced a pro-arrest criminal justice framework for dealing with family violence.

[ATT 1.10: Family violence and child protection framework in Tasmania.doc](#)

[ATT 1.11: Reported incidence of family violence and child protection interventions.doc](#)

A list of support services available to victims and perpetrators of family violence living in the Northern Region is attached.

[ATT 1.12: Family support services – Northern Region.doc](#)

ATTACHMENT 1.1: References

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence Report, Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development, March 2000 (2nd edition)

An Analysis of the Housing Needs of Young and Older Aboriginal People in Tasmania, Keith Jacobs and Maggie Walter, 2003

Child Protection Australia 2001-02, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2003

Crisis Intervention in Aboriginal Family Violence: Summary Report, Harry Blagg et al., 2000

Department of Health and Human Services: Annual Report 2002-2003

Health Indicators Tasmania 2003, Department of Health and Human Services

It's not just part of the culture: Profiles of and report on Indigenous family violence government and non-government programs and services (Final Draft Report to ATSIIC), ACIL Tasmania, May 2003

Justice Matters: A Feasibility Study for a Court Sexual Support Service for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Victims, Ceridwyn Davies for the Partnership Against Domestic Violence, published by Women Tasmania, Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2002

Northern Tasmania Family Support Guide 2002: A Directory of Community and Government Resources, Pilgrim Services Family Resource Centre Launceston, 2002 (5th edition)

oana mallacka Tasmanian Plan of Action for increasing Aboriginal people's access to vocational education and training 2002 – 2005, Equity Standards Branch, Department of Education, June 2002

Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2003, Productivity Commission, 2003

Partnerships Against Domestic Violence Annual Report 2000-2001, August 2002

Pathways: How women leave violent men, Shirley Patton for Partnerships Against Domestic Violence, published by Women Tasmania, Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2003

Safe At Home: A Criminal Justice Framework for Responding to Family Violence in Tasmania, Department of Justice and Industrial Relations, 2003

State of Public Health Report 2003 Tasmania, Department of Human Services and Health, 2003

Tasmania's Population 2003: An information paper on recent trends and State Government policies, Department of Treasury and Finance, 2003

Tasmania Together, Tasmania Together Community Leaders Group, September 2001

Tasmania Together Progress Report 2003, Tasmania Together Progress Board, 2003

Violence in Indigenous Communities: Full Report, Paul Memmott et al., January 2001

ya pulingina kani – *Good to see you talk*, Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2002

ATTACHMENT 1.2: Map of Tasmanian Statistical Divisions



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Statistics – Tasmania – Regional Maps – Statistical Regions
(www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats)

ATTACHMENT 1.3: ATSI population profile

Distribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Tasmanian Northern Region (by Local Government Area)

Local Government Area	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Non-ATSI	Not stated	Total LGA population	ATSI - % of total
Break O'Day	160	5181	210	5551	3.0
Dorset	137	6552	280	6969	2.0
Flinders	147	690	27	864	17.6
George Town	160	5775	322	6257	2.7
Launceston	1670	56550	2268	60488	2.9
Meander Valley	379	16313	659	17351	2.3
Northern Midlands	234	10796	384	11414	2.1
West Tamar	278	18477	535	19290	1.5
TOTAL	3165	120334	4685	128184	2.6

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics website (www.abs.gov.au) - Regional Statistics - Population - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

ATTACHMENT 1.4: Tasmanian population profile

- Tasmania's population was 476,199 in March 2003. The population returned to growth in early 2001, due primarily to a reduction in net interstate migration loss.
- In June 2002, 49.2% (232,713) of Tasmania's population resided in the Greater Hobart-Southern Region; 28.3% (133,595) resided in the Northern Region; and 22.5% (106,417) in the Mersey-Lyell Region.
- Tasmania has the second oldest population age structure in Australia and the population is ageing faster than the national average. At 30 June 2001, the median age of the Tasmanian population was 37.2 years, the second highest of all states and territories. This is 2.6 years higher than the 1996 figure of 34.6 years.
- Natural population increase is steady at around 2000 p.a. but is expected to fall as the population continues to age and the birth rate declines.
- The trend to an ageing population is more marked in the Northern Region. Two of the four local government areas with highest median ages are located in the Northern Region: Break O'Day (43.5 years) and Flinders (43.4 years).
- The majority of internal migration is from rural and regional areas to Greater Hobart and Greater Launceston.
- Approximately 38.4% (46,135) of Tasmania's population is overseas born, compared with 61.0% nationally. The top five source countries are England, New Zealand, Scotland, the Netherlands and Germany. 3.1% of people speak a language other than English at home with the most common languages being Italian, German, Greek, Dutch and Polish.
- 3.4% of the Tasmanian population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. At the time of Census 2001, the Aboriginal population has grown by 14% (1900) since 1996.

Source:

- *Tasmania's Population 2003: An information paper on recent trends and State Government policies*, Department of Treasury and Finance
- Australian Bureau of Statistics website (www.abs.gov.au) - *Australia Now*- Regional Statistics – Tasmania – Population – Population composition – Median age

ATTACHMENT 1.5: Key socio-economic indicators – Tasmanian and Aboriginal populations

Education and Training

Tasmanian population

Enrolments

- At May 2001 there were 54,300 persons aged 15 to 64 years enrolled in a course of study, representing 18% of all persons in this age range. Of all persons aged 15 to 64 years, 17% (50,900) were enrolled in a course of study leading to a qualification.
- Of those persons enrolled in a course of study:
 - 15,000 (28%) were attending a higher education institution;
 - 19,500 (36%) were at school; and
 - 14,200 (26%) were at Technical and Further Education Institutions (TAFE).
- The number of females enrolled in a course of study (27,700) was marginally higher than the number of males (26,500).
- Of those persons enrolled in a course of study in May 2001, some 47% were aged 15 to 19 years, and 60% attended study full time.

Educational attainment

- In May 2001, the highest level of education for almost 44% of Tasmanians aged 15 to 64 years was year 10 or below. The highest level of education of a further 14% was Year 12, while 15% had a Certificate III or IV, and 9% had a Bachelor degree.
- Just over one-quarter (26%) of all persons with a Bachelor degree or higher were aged 35 to 44 years, while 29% were aged between 25 and 34 years.

(Source: 2001 Census)

Aboriginal population

In May 2003, 0.9% of Tasmanian children at pre-school were Indigenous; 10.1% at primary school; 6.6% at secondary school; and only 3.1% of students at technical or further educational institutions in Tasmania were Indigenous. (*Indigenous Tasmanians: A statistical profile – May 2003*, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations)

According to the Department of Education's *Aboriginal Education Policy*, Aboriginal students are among the most disadvantaged in the Tasmanian education system. Aboriginal students have poorer literacy and numeracy levels, are absent from school more often than other students, and are less likely to continue through to year 12. In 2000 the retention rate to year 12 for Aboriginal students was 58.8% compared with 84% for non-Aboriginal students. (Office for Educational Review, Department of Education, 2001)

Within the vocational and educational training system, Aboriginal students average lower pass rates and higher withdrawal and failure rates than other VET students. In 2000, 68.5% of Aboriginal VET students completed their courses, compared with 82% of non-Aboriginal people. (AVETMISS, 2001)

The State Government's *oana mallacka Tasmanian Plan of Action* for increasing Aboriginal people's access to vocational education and training 2002 – 2005 identifies the national strategies requiring action by Tasmanian education/ training providers.

Vocational education and training provides a means for Aboriginal people to gain valuable skills that contribute to community development and address serious issues of health and justice. Vocational education and training can also facilitate the growth of community governance, the preservation and promotion of Aboriginal culture and environment and the development of businesses that will provide sustainable futures. *Department of Education website – Overview of the Status of Aboriginal People in VET*

Educational attainment

- In May 2003, 71.1% of Indigenous people in Tasmania held no recognised educational qualification. Another 16.8% held a Diploma or Certificate.
- Only 3.0% of Indigenous people held a tertiary qualification (Bachelor's Degree or above) compared with 10.2% of the total population.

Source: *Indigenous Tasmanians: A statistical profile – May 2003*, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Employment

Tasmanian population

Labour force participation

The labour force participation rate for Tasmanians aged 15 years and over was 59.0% in November 2003. This is an increase of 0.7% compared to the November 2002 rate. The Australian labour force participation rate for same period was 63.6%, a 0.3% decrease compared with November 2002.

Employment

The total number of employed persons in Tasmania increased by 5.0% between November 2002 (199,600 persons) and November 2003 (224,700 persons), the highest increase anywhere in Australia for this period. Employment increases over the same period in other states and territories ranged from 0.9% (Western Australia) to 3.7% (Queensland). The increase in the national employment figure over the same period was 1.8%.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Tasmania for November 2003 was 6.7%, a decrease from 8.7% in November 2002. The Australian unemployment rate for the same period was 5.6%, a 0.5% decrease compared with the November 2002 unemployment rate of 6.1%.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – *Tasmanian Statistical Indicators* (released 09/01/04). All figures based on Australian Bureau of Statistics national trend estimates.

Aboriginal population

Labour force participation

Across all age groups, Indigenous people have roughly the same level of participation in the labour market as the total population. Aboriginal men over the age of 35 years demonstrate a lower level of participation than males across the Tasmanian population, but this can be attributed to the sharp decline in the Indigenous population in older age groups. Indigenous females are participating at lower levels across age groups. (*Indigenous Tasmanians: A statistical profile – May 2003*, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, page 9)

Labour force participation rates of Indigenous and total Tasmanians

	Indigenous males	Total males	Indigenous females	Total females	Indigenous - Total	Tasmania - Total
15-24 yrs	61.0	63.1	49.8	58.7	55.3	61.2
25-34	82.0	88.1	51.8	64.1	65.9	76.0
35-44	76.5	87.6	57.7	70.6	66.3	79.2
45-54	67.6	82.6	59.2	68.9	63.6	76.0
55-64	45.5	55.5	24.6	34.5	35.4	45.2
65+	12.6	8.9	4.2	3.4	8.1	5.8
TOTAL	66.4%	66.5%	49.6%	51.0%	57.7%	58.5%

Source: *Indigenous Tasmanians: A statistical profile – May 2003*, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, page 9

Employment

There are no large differences between the numbers of Indigenous people and the total population employed in specific industries. However, Indigenous people are concentrated in the lower-skilled occupations and are significantly under-represented in management and professional positions.

Indigenous people are over-represented in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries, and in the retail sector. The former may be due to the fact that more Indigenous people live outside major urban centres compared with the total population; the latter due to the age structure of the Indigenous population (generally younger than the general population) and to the retail sector's tendency to employ a disproportionately high number of young people. Indigenous people are under-represented in the industries of education, property and business services, and finance and insurance, compared to the wider population. (*Indigenous Tasmanians: A statistical profile – May 2003*, pages 7 & 13)

Unemployment

The table below shows the unemployment rates for Indigenous and total populations by local government area, for the trial site. These figures and the full set of statewide data (not reproduced here) indicate that Indigenous people consistently experience higher rates of unemployment than the rates experienced by the local population.

Unemployment rates of Indigenous and total population by Local Government Area

<u>LGA</u>	Indigenous unemployed	Unemployment rate	Total unemployed	Unemployment rate
Break O'Day	18	40.0%	329	16.2%
Dorset	0	0.0%	214	6.9%
Flinders	3	4.9%	24	5.25%
George Town	12	23.5%	313	12.8%
Launceston	121	22.2%	2,972	10.9%
Meander Valley	21	31.1%	627	7.9%
North Midlands	15	21.4%	433	8.6%
West Tamar	18	18.4%	710	8.1%
TOTAL TASMANIA	1085	19.7%	20,345	10.1%

Source: *Indigenous Tasmanians: A statistical profile – May 2003*, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, page 6

Housing

- Housing outcomes for Aboriginal people differ from those for the wider population:
... by housing tenure, demographic and geographic profile, the Tasmanian Aboriginal population resembles far more closely the national Indigenous profile than it does the general Tasmanian population.

(ABS 1999 & ABS 2002, cited in *An Analysis of the Housing Needs of Younger and Older Aboriginal People in Tasmania*, page 6)

- **A larger proportion of Aboriginal people in Tasmania live outside the major urban centre, Hobart, and in small towns and rural districts, than the general population.**
- Aboriginal people in Tasmania are much less likely to own their own home. The rate of housing ownership for Indigenous households is 23.1% in Tasmania, compared with 43.2% for the total population.
- Aboriginal youth in Tasmania are more likely to be living in rental housing than the non-Aboriginal Tasmanian population of the same age, and more than twice as likely to be renting from a private landlord.
- Twice as many Aboriginal youth receive homeless payments as non-Aboriginal youth. Many experience secondary or tertiary homelessness (living with friends on a temporary basis or in short term accommodation).
- The housing needs of Aboriginal people in Tasmania are affected by a range of demographic and socio-economic factors including:
 - lower median family incomes
 - higher levels of unemployment
 - an earlier age at school leaving
 - lower levels of home ownership & higher levels of rental

Source: *An Analysis of the Housing Needs of Young and Older Aboriginal People in Tasmania*, Jacobs & Walter (page vi)

Housing tenure type - Tasmania

Tenure Type	Indigenous households	% of Indigenous households	Total Households (Tas)	% of Total Households (Tas)
<i>Fully owned</i>	1,358	23.1	73,665	43.2
<i>Being purchased*</i>	1,972	33.6	49,832	29.2
<i>Being rented</i>	2,283	38.9	38,677	23.3
<i>Other tenure^</i>	157	2.7	4,057	2.4
<i>Not stated</i>	98	1.7	3,419	2.0
Total	5,868	100.0	170,650	100.0

* includes purchase under rent/buy schemes ^ includes rent-free and life tenure schemes

Source: *Indigenous Tasmanians: A statistical profile – May 2003*, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, page 12

Health

Tasmanian population

The *State of Public Health Report 2003 Tasmania* reported:

- a life expectancy in Tasmania of 81.2 years for females and 75.7 years for males, slightly below the national averages of 82.0 (females) and 76.6 (males).
- declining mortality rates over the past two decades, with the mortality rates for males declining more rapidly than for females.
- significant differences in mortality rates for males (545.6 per 100,000 population per annum, age standardised) and females (341.0), and both are significantly higher than Australian averages of 505.0 (males) and 308.0 (females).
- an infant mortality rate of 5.8 per 1,000 live births, slightly above the national average of 5.2.
- in 1999-2000 the three most common causes of death in Tasmania were cancer (27.9%), ischaemic heart disease (20.2%) and stroke (9.3%). Compared with the rest of Australia, the impact of cardiovascular deaths and cancers in Tasmania is significant, with higher death rates than national averages.

Aboriginal population

The Department of Health and Human Services acknowledges that the Aboriginal health data tend to be limited in Tasmania due to inconsistent documentation of identifying information at the time of presentation to health services. (*State of Public Health Report 2003 Tasmania*, page 18)

In general, Aboriginal people have the lowest health status of any identifiable population group in Australia. Life expectancy for Aboriginal people is 15 to 20 years less than the general community and prevalence of disease is up to 12 times higher than the Australian average. (*Department of Health and Human Services website – Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing*)

A Tasmanian Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Strategy is currently being developed, and will include a consultative communication structure with Aboriginal people that will ensure their participation in policy, planning, program development and evaluation processes.

ATTACHMENT 1.6: Contact list – Aboriginal organisations

ABORIGINAL ORGANISATIONS IN NORTHERN REGION, TASMANIA

Name of Service	Services Provided
<p>Flinders Island Aboriginal Association PO Box 20 Whitemark/ West Street, Lady Barron 7255 Ph. 6359 3532 Fax: 6359 3532 Email: fiaai@bigpond.com</p>	<p>Provides information, counselling, support and referrals, emergency assistance and liaison between government departments. Indigenous housing organisation and administers a housing/maintenance program. It also administers a health care service and an aged care program. It manages a CDEP that provides employment for 40 community people.</p>
<p>Workforce Aboriginal Corporation 38 Frederick Street, Launceston 7250 Ph. 6334 1822 Email: kwest.wac@tassie.net.au</p>	<p>Administers ATSI's CDEP for Tasmania.</p>
<p>Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Service 182 Charles St, Launceston Ph. 6331 6966 Fax: 6331 4258</p>	<p>Family Support and care program – works with kids and families in crisis. Health service – organises health promotions.</p>
<p>Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc 182 Charles St, Launceston, 7250 Ph: 6331 6966 Fax: 6331 4258 launceston@tacinc.com.au pbeeton@vision.net.au michaelb@tacinc.com.au</p>	<p>Launceston office provides core services – health, Aboriginal Legal Service, Aboriginal Women's Legal Program, youth justice and aged care, Link Up, family support and parenting, aged care, language program. TAC's Youth Diversionary Program that operates on Lungutulana (Clarke Island) is managed from Launceston office. <i>(The provision of all the above services is restricted to those people whose identity is recognised by the TAC.)</i></p> <p>Burnie TAC – family violence worker</p>
<p>Aboriginal Family Support 182 Charles St, Launceston, 7250 Ph: 6331 6966 Fax: 6331 4258</p>	<p>Supports Aboriginal families in their own home and keeps the children in the Aboriginal community</p>
<p>Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania 182 Charles St, Launceston Ph: 6331 2833 Fax: 63312834</p>	<p>Statutory organisation established by the State Government to administer returned lands. The office is situated within the Launceston TAC premises.</p>
<p>Aboriginal Legal Service 182 Charles St, Launceston Ph: 6334 4140 Fax: 6331 4258 alsln@tac.com.au</p>	<p>Provides legal service. In-house lawyer to deal with legal matters.</p>

Name of Service	Services Provided
Aboriginal Women's Legal Program Ph. 6224 4054	
Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation for Women's Art and Craft (TACWAC) 163 St John St, Launceston, 7250 Ph: 6334 9378 Fax: 6334 1399	Operates from the Elders building. Provides art and craft workshops to community people of all ages within the northern district region.
JAHADI 900 Mole Creek Rd, Mole Creek, 7304 Ph: 6363 6172 jahadi@microtech.com.au	Conduct cultural camps for youth at risk – includes school visits and cultural experiences for school groups conducted at the Mole Creek property. Activities are designed to build self-esteem and confidence and encourage a sense of identity and worth.
Tasmanian Aboriginal Child Care Association 89 Lindsay St, Invermay, 7248 Ph: 6331 6671	Operates a child-care centre at Invermay which is funded by FaCS. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children are welcome.
Aboriginal Elders Council of Tasmania 163 St Johns St, Launceston, 7250 Ph: 6334 3138 Fax: 6334 1399 taselder@intas.net.au	Passing on traditional skills to the younger generation through art, cultural activities and oral histories. Aged care program, community centre for community gatherings.
Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association Inc (CBIAAI) The Corner, Cape Barren Island, 7252 Ph: 6359 3533 cbiab@bigpond.com.au	Indigenous housing organisation and administers a housing/maintenance program and infrastructure service, including the provision of power, water and sewerage, post office and shop for community of approximately 76 people. Health care service. Actively seeks funding opportunities for programs that will benefit the community. Community members recognised by the TAC have access to programs operated by the TAC.
Indigenous Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (ITAC) 17 Brisbane St, Hobart, 7000 Ph: 6231 9270	A state-wide Indigenous housing organisation – providing rental housing program and managing stock of 78 houses (25% are located in the northern district)
Riawunna Centre For Aboriginal Education University of Tasmania, Newnham Drive, Newnham 7250 PO Box Locked Bag 1-344 Ph: 6325 3491/3386 Fax: 6324 3483 Ph: 6226 2772 (Hobart)	Education centre for Aboriginal students at the university providing support, tutoring, assignment assistance, counselling, course advice, space for private study, computer access, bridging program, resource library, audio visual aids and testing assistance.

Name of Service	Services Provided
Aboriginal Education Officer 40a Ravenswood Rd Ravenswood 7250 Ph: 6339 3712 Fax: 6339 1993	Provides a communication link between schools and families of Aboriginal children in grades Kinder through to Year 12 and information on financial and support programs in the community

ATTACHMENT 1.7: Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture before 1788

Twelve thousand years ago sea level was rising as the most recent period of global glaciation eased. The land mass now known as Tasmania was cut off and the Aboriginal people living here were isolated. They shared many traits with Australian mainland Aboriginal people but also developed physically and culturally into a distinctive population.

Society and economy

The Tasmanians were hunters and gatherers. They made tools and containers from wood, bone, stone, seaweed, bark, grass and sinew. They managed their environment carefully, moving around their country to harvest seasonal food resources and using fire to maintain grasslands which supported an abundance of wallabies and kangaroos.

Coastal people relied on the sea for much of their diet. Scale fish were eaten in the distant past but apparently not since about 3,500 years ago, however the women collected abalone, oysters, mussels and other shellfish. The remains of these make up enormous middens all around Tasmania's coastline. The Tasmanians made bark canoes to travel to offshore islands to harvest mutton birds and seals during summer and autumn.

The people camped in family groups, several of which formed a band, the land-holding group in Tasmanian society. Several bands spoke the same language and there were nine language groups / tribes in Tasmania at the time of European contact. Bands with reciprocal arrangements intermarried and shared resources.

Traditional culture

The Tasmanians had totems and taboos. Through stories and songs they passed on knowledge of how their world, the animals, plants and the people were created. They had knowledge of astronomy, and stone engravings in sites along the west coast are thought to be important symbols of the Tasmanians' religious beliefs.

The people used ochres and charcoal as pigments for body decoration and bark art inside their dwellings. The men dressed their hair with ochre and both women and men wore necklaces of shells and animal and plant fibres.

Source: Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

ATTACHMENT 1.8: Indigenous language spoken at home in Tasmania

Males - age group		Females - age group	
0-9 yo	6	0-9 yo	3
10-14 yo	0	10-14 yo	0
15-19 yo	3	15-19 yo	3
20-24 yo	0	20-24 yo	3
25-34 yo	3	25-34 yo	3
35-44 yo	6	35-44 yo	5
45-54 yo	3	45-54 yo	3
55-64 yo		55-64 yo	
65-74 yo		65-74 yo	
75+ yo		75+ yo	
	21		20

Source: *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2003 Report* (Productivity Commission, 2003)

ATTACHMENT 1.9: Family violence – definitions and causes

Defining family violence

A broad definition of family violence - encompassing a range of forms of violence occurring between a variety of kinspeople - has been adopted for the Trial. The adoption of this broader definition recognises the nature of family violence within Aboriginal communities (ie, it is as likely to involve kinship relations as spouses); the preference of many Indigenous communities for the term “family violence” because it includes all forms of violence in intimate relationships (*Safe at Home* report, 2002); and the need to address violence between family members in all its forms rather than only addressing domestic/spouse violence.

Family violence is violence where:

- all types of relative within the extended family are potentially involved;
- the victim and/or perpetrator may be an individual or a group;
- the acts of violence may be physical, psychological, emotional, social, economic and/or sexual.

(*Violence in Indigenous communities*, Attorney-General's Department, January 2001, page 1 - abridged version)

Causes of Indigenous family violence

In its review of research on Indigenous family violence, the *Violence in Indigenous Communities* report identified key causes of family violence that are overwhelmingly supported by the literature.

Aboriginal attitudes towards violence

Prevailing social attitudes among Indigenous people towards violence may have been influenced by the regular occurrence of violence over a number of generations. The history of violence in some Aboriginal communities may lead to an acceptance of ongoing violence within the family:

An important situational factor is the prevailing social value of, and attitude towards, violence. Where violence has been a way of life for many Indigenous families for a number of generations, it may be viewed as normal. Parents may regard it as inevitable that their children will be violent. (*Violence in Indigenous Communities*, page 19)

A type of social complacency or feeling of powerlessness may develop among some victims of family violence. The violence may be accepted as inevitable, and borne because it involves family members. (Atkinson 1990c:5 in *Violence in Indigenous communities*, page 20)

According to the Tasmanian Government's *Safe At Home* report, Tasmanian Aboriginal victims of family violence demonstrate a lack of faith in criminal justice agencies and there is strong pressure on victims to keep family violence hidden. There is an identified lack of cultural awareness in criminal justice agencies and there is also a perception that domestic violence is part of Aboriginal culture. (*Safe at Home report - August 2003*)

Conversations with Aboriginal people conducted as part of the research for the *Justice Matters: Court Support Feasibility Study* report indicated there is growing recognition among the Aboriginal community of the widespread nature of family violence.

Changing the attitudes and behaviours of Aboriginal people towards family violence is seen by Partnerships Against Domestic Violence as a long term goal, and one that is interrelated with achieving positive outcomes in the areas of health, skill development, employment and economic independence. (*Partnerships Against Domestic Violence, Annual Report 2000-2001, page 12*)

Personal and situational factors

As well as attitudes to violence, other situational factors that can individually or collectively contribute to the likelihood of Aboriginal family violence occurring include:

- family problems and break up
- lack of available resources/services for counselling, violence programs, recreational activities
- children staying on the street at night without adult supervision
- loss of close family members or other relations
- unemployment and loss of income
- psychological problems
- anger
- alcohol abuse.

Underlying or historical factors

It is important to note that Aboriginal people may be affected by a unique combination of factors that do not affect the rest of the population. These include:

- historical factors such as dispossession of land;
- removal of Aboriginal people to reserves or missions; and
- the policy of removing mixed descent people from their families.

ATTACHMENT 1.10: Family violence and child protection framework in Tasmania

Criminal justice framework

The *Safe At Home: A Criminal Justice Framework for Responding to Family Violence in Tasmania* options paper released in August 2003 recommends a criminal justice framework for dealing with family violence based on a pro-arrest, pro-prosecution approach. A bill to establish separate Family Violence (restraint) Orders was introduced into the State Parliament in 2003 as part of implementation of the *Safe At Home* recommendations.

For more information see the [Related initiatives addressing family violence.doc](#) attachment in the "Working Together Agreement Making" section.

The *Justice Matters* report notes that only a very small number of women victims of family violence currently receive support through court processes and procedures. The report noted the lack of understanding of cultural factors and sensitivity to Aboriginal community needs by both the court and police systems. It also found significant service gaps for all victims of domestic violence and sexual support in Tasmania, including the lack of:

- access to legal aid;
- specialist court support services for victims of sexual abuse;
- self-referral mechanisms and court support systems for child victims of domestic violence;
- a consistent statewide service for child victims of sexual assault;
- support services for victims' family and friends; and
- government funded programs for perpetrators.

(Justice Matters: Court Support Feasibility Study, page 3)

Child protection framework

Child abuse and neglect is often related to a range of social and personal factors including mental health of care givers, substance abuse within the family and family violence. (*OID2003, 3.44*) The *Tasmanian Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* defines abuse or neglect as:

"physical or emotional injury or other abuse, or neglect, to the extent that the injured, abused or neglected person has suffered, or is likely to suffer, physical or psychological harm detrimental to the person's wellbeing; or the injured, abused or neglected person's physical or psychological development is in jeopardy."

In Tasmania a matter must initially be notified and investigated and will only be substantiated if it is concluded that the child has been, is being or is likely to be abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. (*Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2003, page 3.44*) (This differs from procedures in other Australian states and territories.)

Experiencing family violence is a "risk" under the Act and would therefore warrant intervention by the appropriate statutory body.

There is no separate protection framework specifically for Aboriginal children in place in Tasmania, although the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* contains some provisions relating specifically to Aboriginal children. In particular, Section 9 *Principles relating*

to dealing with Aboriginal children states that an Aboriginal organisation must be consulted before an Aboriginal child is placed outside the home.

The State Government's policy position is that where Aboriginal children are unable to remain in their family, placement is made in the best interests of the child, and with Aboriginal relatives in the first instance. In this, the State Government adheres to the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle.

ATTACHMENT 1.11: Reported incidence of family violence and child protection interventions

Family violence

The reported incidence of domestic violence and child abuse in Tasmania rose dramatically over 2001-03, from 5777 reported cases in 2001-02 to 9631 reported cases in 2002-03. The number of new clients recorded for domestic violence contacts rose by 20%, from 1019 in 20001-03 to 1227 in 2003-03. (Department of Health and Human Services *Annual Report 2002-03*)

Figures provided to DIMIA by the Department of Health and Human Services provide a snapshot of the numbers of family violence offenders and victims in Tasmania and the Northern Region in June 2002:

Tasmania

Offenders	TOTAL	2,153	
	Aboriginal	98	(7 female, 91 male)
Victims	TOTAL	2,186	
	Aboriginal	43	(41 female, 2 male)

Northern Region

Offenders	TOTAL	631	
	Aboriginal	28	(2 female, 26 male)
Victims	TOTAL	644	
	Aboriginal	13	(13 female)

It is important to note that the data on family violence may not reflect the true numbers of Aboriginal people using these services:

A major gap in researching the current scope of the domestic violence and sexual assault in Tasmania [sic] is the lack of an appropriate, consistent and coordinated data collection system.

(Justice Matters: Court Support Feasibility Study, 2002, page 3)

The Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services, for example, does not collect statistics on Aboriginal or Indigenous clients through its Domestic Violence Crisis Service unless a client self-identifies at the time of seeking assistance.

Child protection

In 2002-03 there were 741 notifications of child harm or mistreatment in Tasmania, of which 213 were substantiated. This level is considered to be consistent with a rate of increased reporting of such matters across Australia. (DHHS Annual Report 2002-03, page 60) It is also a notable increase in both notifications and substantiations in previous years: in 2001-02, 508 notifications resulted in 158 substantiations, and in 2000-01, 306 notifications and 94 substantiations were recorded.

It should be noted that the data collected by community service departments may not reflect the true extent of abuse or neglect, just as it may not reflect the true numbers of Aboriginal people using these services, and consequently needs to be interpreted with care. Increases in

notifications and/or substantiations may reflect an increase in awareness of these issues and a consequent reduction in tolerance for abuse or neglect among Aboriginal individuals and families. This is a positive outcome rather than a negative one, as it reflects growing community awareness and action. It may also be the result of better identification of Aboriginal client status, increased resourcing for support agencies, or improved data collection by agencies. (*Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage, 2003, pp 3.44-3.45*)

**Placements under the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle in Tasmania
(as at 30 June 2002)**

Indigenous relatives/kin	5
Non-Indigenous relatives/kin	6
Other Indigenous caregiver	2
Other non-Indigenous caregiver	8
Non-Indigenous residential care	8

Source: Department of Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENT 1.12: Family support services – Northern Region

Service / agency	Contact details	Function
Centacare – Men's issues	201 York Street Launceston 7250 Tel: 6331 9253 Fax: 6331 2873	Referrals, information, counselling and men's Changing Abusing Behaviour (CAB) group.
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	3 Kelham Street Launceston 7250 Tel: 6336 2867	Assessment, counselling and therapy for 0-18 year olds and their families for emotional, behavioural and/or psychiatric problems. Fee-free service.
Childcare Access Support Service	95-99 Cameron Street PO Box 824 Launceston 7250 Tel: 6334 2660	Supports inclusion of children with additional needs, including Aboriginal children, into mainstream children's services. Services include provision of special equipment, staff training and funding for additional staff.
Child Development Unit	13 Mulgrave Street Launceston 7250 Tel: 6336 2134	
Child Family Support Service Centre, incorporating Child Protection Unit (DHHS)	115-119 Cameron St / PO Box 633G Launceston 7250 Tel: 6336 2376	Assessment, intervention, counselling and service co-ordination for physically, emotionally and sexually abused children, and children at risk.
Lifelink Samaritans	PO Box 228 Launceston 7250 Tel: 6331 3355 / 1300 364 566 http://www.lifelinksamaritans.org	24 hour telephone and face-to-face support service for those in crisis and despair, and family support after suicide.
Reconnect	192 Charles Street Launceston 7250 Tel: 6336 7000	Counselling, mediation, referral and practical assistance for families with young people (12-18 years old) who are homeless, or who might become homeless, due to family conflict or other problems. Outreach services in Launceston, Deloraine and Scottsdale areas.
Relationships Australia	192 Charles Street	Education program on relationship topics. Mediation for separated or

Service / agency	Contact details	Function
	Launceston 7250 Tel: 6336 7000 / 1800 002 222 Fax: 6336 7015 Email: launceston@reitas.com.au http://www.relationships.com.au	divorced couples.
Sexual Assault Support Service	PO Box 1062 Launceston 7250 Tel: 6334 2740	Support and information for women who have been raped or sexually assaulted.
Victims of Crime Service	4a George Street Launceston 7250 Tel: 6334 1665 Freecall: 1800 066 019	Assistance for victims and their families and friends involved with the criminal justice system in any way.

Aboriginal specific services

Service / agency	Contact details	Function
Aboriginal Family Support	182 Charles Street Launceston 7250 Tel: 6331 6966 Fax: 6331 4258	Supports Aboriginal families in their own homes and aim to keep their children in the Aboriginal community.

Source: *The Northern Tasmania Family Support Guide 2002: A Directory of Community and Government Resources* (Pilgrim Services Family Resource Centre, Launceston, 2002)