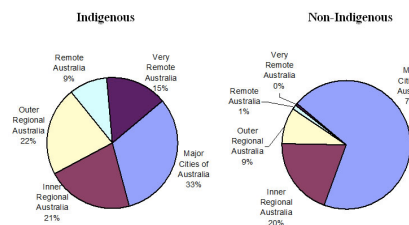


Aboriginal/Indigenous Australians

- The Indigenous population still face many disadvantages in today's society. **Statistically, Indigenous people have poorer health, educational opportunities, life expectancy, employment options**, etc. They tend to live in very **remote areas**. Along with all these issues, many still also have to deal with **negative social attitudes**.

LAND OWNERSHIP:

- Ancestral land** is a vital element in **maintaining Indigenous culture**. Since the Mabo case, **land rights** have been a significant issue between the Aboriginal peoples and the Government.
- Indigenous groups face great challenges in making land claims - court cases are expensive, time consuming, and require a great deal of proof/information which is difficult to obtain (particularly because Indigenous people do not have written records). They must prove the land's link to customs/traditions, and its cultural significance.



REMOTENESS:

- There is a large percentage of Indigenous peoples that live in very **remote areas** of Australia. This remoteness creates many challenges for them as it **limits access to necessary services**, such as health services, educational institutions, employment opportunities.

HEALTH:

- Since the European introduction of disease to Australia, the Indigenous population has **suffered greatly in terms of health**.
- Research concludes that Indigenous people have the worst health status: **highest rates of poor health, higher morality rates in certain diseases** (CVD, lung cancer, respiratory disease, diabetes), **lower life expectancy** (17 years lower), **higher infant mortality rate** (3x greater chance of death in first year of life), **higher suicide rate**, etc.
- Introduction of alcohol and drugs, remoteness, lack of trust towards the medical industry and negative social attitudes are some of the reasons identified for this poor health.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT:

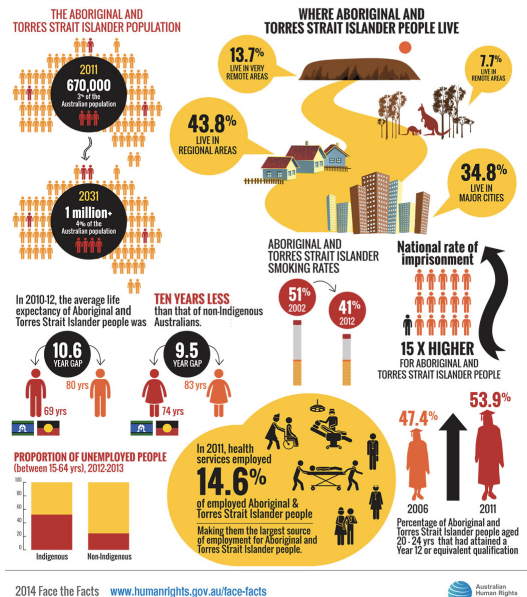
- Indigenous people still have the **lowest statistics (attendance, retention, continuing their education) of education** when compared to other groups in Australia.
- Unfortunately, negative views, remoteness and lack of education have led to **high unemployment** amongst the Indigenous population.
- Skills** need to be taught, **social attitudes** need to be altered and more **community effort** needs to be made to overcome this unemployment.

SOCIAL ATTITUDES:

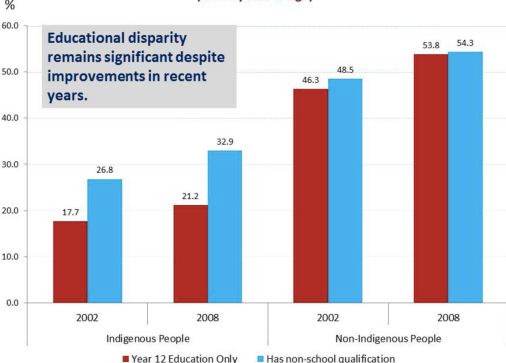
- Negative social attitudes are still common. It is important to create an **understanding** amongst non-Indigenous people about the Indigenous culture, beliefs and past, and how it still affects them today.
- Reconciliation** has become important in creating better understanding of Indigenous culture and building stronger relationships within the whole community.

"...a future that embraces all Australians...A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, indigenous and non-indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity...A future where all Australians...are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia." - KEVIN RUDD

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People



Educational Attainment Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians (15-64 years of age)



Source: ABS NATSISS (2009)