

PDR Number:  
MS19-000007



## MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION

Special Minister of State

14 February 2019

### Publication of Indigenous enrolment rates

**Timing:** Routine 15 February 2019

**Recommendation:**

That you: Note the content of this brief

5 NOTED

██████████ PLEASE DISCUSS

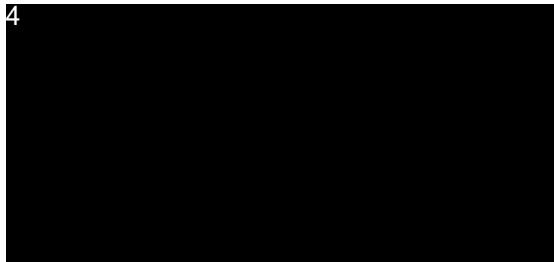
**Key Issues:**

2. The AEC will publish Indigenous enrolment rate estimates on its website this month and will update this information each year as part of the AEC's annual roll integrity review.
3. The AEC Indigenous enrolment rate estimates show an overall increase on previous data.
4. There has been commentary recently about the extent of Indigenous enrolment which was based on outdated information. The AEC is now able to provide more robust estimates in this area. We estimate that at 30 June 2018 the national Indigenous enrolment was 76.4 per cent. A state breakdown can be found at Attachment A.
5. These estimates have been informed primarily by self-identified Indigeneity data made available to the AEC by the Department of Human Services combined with population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and compared with electoral Roll data.
6. Any gap between non-Indigenous and Indigenous enrolment rates is disappointing. However, it is encouraging to see that Indigenous enrolment rates have improved considerably since the last time estimates were prepared.
7. The AEC acknowledges that there are specific geographical and social considerations that may influence electoral participation for Indigenous communities and people, it has a long term goal to close the gap and better align all enrolment rates.
8. To this end the AEC is working to build engagement with the electoral process for Indigenous Australians, particularly in areas with a greater proportion of people unenrolled.
9. To further stimulate enrolment, later this month the AEC will also reach out to all unenrolled electors (including Indigenous electors) across Australia that the AEC is aware of. More details of this will be provided in a separate brief.

**Financial Implications:** N/A

**Consultation:**

1. Government Partnerships Branch, Department of Human Services
2. Communications Section, Disclosure, Assurance and Engagement Branch



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5/3/19

Attachment A

**Indigenous enrolment rates**

These figures will be updated and published annually.

**Estimated Indigenous enrolment rates as at 30 June 2018**

State / territory	Estimated Indigenous voting age population	Estimated enrolled	Estimated unenrolled Indigenous	Enrolment rate (%)
NSW	164,845	143,891	20,954	87.3%
VIC	36,538	27,775	8,763	76.0%
QLD	135,642	98,357	37,285	72.5%
WA	64,545	41,182	23,363	63.8%
SA	26,522	18,622	7,900	70.2%
TAS	18,004	15,150	2,854	84.1%
ACT	5,000	3,971	1,029	79.4%
NT	50,563	34,130	16,433	67.5%
National	<b>501,659</b>	<b>383,078</b>	<b>118,581</b>	<b>76.4%</b>

**Source**

The AEC Indigenous enrolment rate estimates use self-identified Indigeneity data made available to the AEC by the Department of Human Services, combined with population data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and compared with the electoral Roll data.

**Recent trends**

- Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018 the estimated Indigenous voting age population increased by 2.8 per cent (13,511 electors) from 488,148 to 501,659.
- For the same period there was:
  - a 5.1 per cent increase in the estimated number of enrolled Indigenous Australians as a proportion of the estimated Indigenous population, rising from 364,631 to 383,078; and
  - a corresponding 4 per cent fall in the estimated number of non-enrolled Indigenous Australians from 123,517 to 118,581.

## **REDACTION CODES**

- 1 Personal Information (name) redacted.
- 2 Personal Information (date of birth) redacted.
- 3 Personal Information (photograph) redacted
- 4 Personal Information (facsimile of signature) redacted.
- 5 Personal Information (facsimile of manuscript initialling) redacted.
- 6 Personal Information (Individual's address) redacted.
- 7 Personal Information (individual's telephone number) redacted.
- 8 Personal Information (individual's opinion) redacted.
- 9 Personal Information (opinion about individual) redacted.
- 10 Personal Information (employment history) redacted.
- 11 Personal Information (qualifications) redacted.
- 12 Personal Information (health) redacted.
- 13 Personal Information (identifying individual) redacted.
- 14 Business information (Bank Account details) redacted.
- 15 Business information (Billing Account details) redacted.
- 16 Business information (internal operations) redacted.
- 17 Legal Professional Communication redacted.
- 18 Deliberative material redacted.
- 19 Irrelevant material redacted.
- 20 Electoral Roll material redacted.
- 21 Tests, examinations or audits material redacted.
- 22 Management or assessment of personnel material redacted.
- 23 Proper and efficient conduct of the operations of AEC material redacted.
- 24 Lawful methods or procedures for preventing, detecting, investigating, or dealing with matters arising out of, breaches or evasions of the law.
- 25 Trade Secrets.
- 26 Commercial valuable information.
- 27 Financial interests of the Commonwealth.
- 28 Property interests of the Commonwealth.