Performance report:
In our communities
Our performance targets

**Increase the proportion of the NSW population involved in volunteering**

Research shows that people who volunteer are healthier and live longer than people who do not and that volunteering increases people’s wellbeing. Volunteering also supports and extends government-funded services and delivers care and support to people in local communities. The target is to exceed the national average by 2016. In 2010, the estimated proportion of adults involved in formal volunteering in NSW rose to approximately 36.6 per cent, slightly higher than the national average (see Figure 20).

**Figure 20:** Percentage of people aged 18 and over who undertook voluntary work for an organisation in the last 12 months (2006 to 2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUST</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ABS General Social Survey, 2006 (cat. 4159155001); General Social Survey: Summary Results, 2006 (cat. 159.0.2006); General Social Survey: Summary Results, 2010 (cat. 41590D00007_201). Notes: Care needs to be taken with the interpretation of survey data as high standard errors can mean that differences from year to year are not significant. Survey results are available every four years, with 2014 data available in mid-2015.

**Increase the proportion of the NSW population involved in local community organisations**

Community participation develops connections between people outside their close personal relationships, providing a wider pool from which people can draw resources and contribute to society. The target is to exceed the national average by 2016. Between 2006 and 2010, the estimated proportion of adults involved in a community support organisation in NSW remained stable at around 33.2 per cent of the population. Over the same period, there was a small increase in the national average to 34.9 per cent (see Figure 21).

**Figure 21:** Percentage of people aged 18 and over who were involved with a community support organisation in the last 12 months (2006 to 2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUST</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: ABS General Social Survey, 2006 (cat. 4159155001); General Social Survey, 2006 (cat. 4159.0.2006); General Social Survey, 2010, expanded CURF, RADL; General Social Survey (cat. 41590DO006_2010). Notes: Care needs to be taken with the interpretation of survey data as high standard errors can mean that differences from year to year are not significant. Survey results are available every four years, with 2014 data available in mid-2015.
Performance report: In our communities

Increase the proportion of the population who have weekly social contact with family or friends

Close personal networks of families and friends provide a source of practical help as well as material and emotional support. The target is to exceed the national average by 2016. While the proportion of adults with regular contact with family and friends remains high (at around 96.1 per cent of the population), between 2006 and 2010 there was no significant change. This is roughly consistent with the national average (see Figure 22).

Figure 22: Percentage of people aged 18 and over who had contact with family and friends living outside the household in the last week (2006 to 2010)

Increase the proportion of the population who feel they have someone to turn to in times of crisis

Levels of social attachment can also be measured by the ability of people to get support in an emergency. The target is to exceed the national average by 2016. In 2010, an estimated 92.6 per cent of adults reported that, in a time of crisis, they could get support from outside their household. This proportion has been stable over the period from 2006 to 2010 and is consistent with the national average (see Figure 23).

Figure 23: Percentage of people aged 18 and over who were able to get support in a time of crisis (2006 to 2010)

Sources: ABS Australian Social Trends: Data Cube, Family and Community, 1998-2011 (cat. 4102.0); General Social Survey, 2010, expanded CURF, RADL. Notes: Care needs to be taken with the interpretation of survey data as high standard errors can mean that differences from year to year are not significant. Survey results are available every four years, with 2014 data available in mid-2015.
Close the life expectancy gap within a generation

Estimates of life expectancy at birth for Aboriginal Australians are used as a measure for assessing population health and disadvantage. In NSW for 2010 to 2012, life expectancy at birth for Aboriginal males was estimated to be 70.5 years, 9.3 years less than life expectancy at birth for non-Aboriginal males (79.8 years). Life expectancy at birth for Aboriginal females was estimated to be 74.6 years, 8.5 years less than life expectancy at birth for non-Aboriginal females (83.1 years). The ABS estimates that life expectancy at birth for Aboriginal males in NSW increased by 2.2 years since 2005 to 2007 and by 0.6 years for Aboriginal females. The difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal life expectancy in NSW narrowed by 1.2 years for males and 0.1 years for females over the same period (see Figure 24).

Ten per cent increase in participation in sport and recreational activities by 2016

Sport and physical recreation are important to the Australian sense of identity and are a key way for people to connect with their local communities and institutions. Over 3.8 million people in NSW participated regularly in sport or physical activity in 2011/12. The participation rate for people aged 15 and over increased to 65.1 per cent in 2011/12, compared to 62.7 per cent in 2009/10. This puts NSW on par with the national average and on track to achieve this target (see Figure 25).

Figure 24: Life expectancy at birth (2005 to 2007 and 2010 to 2012)

Source: ABS Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010-2012 (cat. 3302.0.55.003). Notes: This target is consistent with the national target agreed by COAG in 2008 to close the gap in life expectancy within a generation (by 2031). Life expectancy at birth refers to the average number of years a group of newborn babies could expect to live, if they experienced the 2010 to 2012 death rates throughout their lifetimes. The estimates are calculated for a three-year period and reported every five years. Changes to the ABS methodology required an adjustment to 2005 to 2007 estimates (baselines). These estimates are calculated without an age adjustment and may not be comparable to the headline estimates for Australia published by the ABS.
Figure 25: Percentage of people aged 15 years and over who regularly participate in physical activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>AUST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005/06</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>65.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target (2016)</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
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</table>

Source: ABS Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia (cat. 4177.0)

Notes: As part of changes to its work plan announced in June 2014, the ABS has discontinued the collection and reporting of culture, sport and recreation statistics. Data for 2013/14 is therefore not available.

Increase the number of partnerships between Aboriginal communities and the NSW Government

OCHRE: Opportunity, choice, healing, responsibility, empowerment is the Aboriginal affairs plan for NSW. It reiterates the NSW Government’s intention to work in genuine partnership with Aboriginal people. Aboriginal Affairs continues to play a key role in facilitating and strengthening these partnerships.

Local Decision Making, a key initiative of OCHRE, is empowering Aboriginal leaders and communities to take a greater role in making decisions about the government services. The initiative focuses on building regional alliances in order to deliver services and programs that are tailored to local communities. Aboriginal Affairs is currently working with regional alliances in five sites across NSW.

The first accord between the NSW Government and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly in Far Western NSW was finalised in December 2014, and will be signed in early 2015. In 2014, the initiative was expanded to the Three Rivers Regional Assembly (Central West NSW) and the Central Coast Aboriginal Community Organisations Network (Central Coast NSW).

Increase access for people to learn Aboriginal languages

In 2014, 15 Aboriginal languages were taught in NSW public schools. This included both schools connected to Aboriginal language and culture nests, and 26 schools outside of the language and culture nests.

Aboriginal language and culture nests are local community networks connected by a language. They will create pathways for Aboriginal students, teachers and community members to teach and
learn traditional languages. In 2014, we established five language nests for local school students and community members to revitalise their language and culture: the North West Wiradjuri, Gumbaynggirr, Bundjalung, Paakantji and Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaaraay/Yuwaalayaay language nests.

In 2014, five Aboriginal teaching positions have been created and filled. They are located at the base school in each language and culture nest and have a key role in supporting schools to implement a local Aboriginal language program. There are also 50 Aboriginal language tutors in schools across the five language and culture nests. All tutors are working towards Certificate III in Aboriginal Languages at TAFE NSW.

TAFE NSW delivers qualifications in Aboriginal languages. Courses are developed and delivered in collaboration with local community groups and Aboriginal language speakers. In the six months to 30 June 2014, there were over 190 enrolments at TAFE NSW in AQF certificate I to III Aboriginal language programs.

**Increase number of opportunities for cultural participation**

The department provides opportunities for cultural participation by sponsoring major events and providing assistance and support to communities to deliver local activities. Events in 2014 included Corroboree Sydney, the Yabun Festival, the Saltwater Freshwater Festival, WUPA@Wanaruah and Message Sticks.