Our performance targets

Increase support for Aboriginal communities’ participation in decision making

In 2015, the number of Aboriginal community governance bodies participating in Local Decision Making increased from five to six: Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (far western NSW), Illawarra/Wingecarribee Alliance Aboriginal Corporation, Regional Aboriginal Development Alliance (North Coast), Barang Aboriginal Regional Partnership (Central Coast), Three Rivers Regional Assembly (central west) and, most recently, the Northern Region Aboriginal Alliance (north west). Aboriginal Affairs is also supporting communities in the Riverina Murray and Newcastle Port Stephens areas to develop their regional governance structures.

In February 2015 an accord was signed between the NSW Government and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly, which represents Aboriginal communities in far western NSW. This was the first accord negotiated under Local Decision Making.

Increase partnerships for Aboriginal economic participation

Aboriginal Affairs supported the increase in economic participation of Aboriginal people by entering into a third industry based agreement with the Civil Contractors Federation, which aims to leverage the significant infrastructure investment being made by the NSW Government. An existing agreement with the Minerals Council has delivered two forums between the mining industry and Aboriginal businesses. The agreement with the Master Builders Association has seen the recruitment and retention of 16 Aboriginal apprentices and trainees and the development of nine fact sheets to support Aboriginal people who are working or want to work in the construction industry.

Increase access for people to learn Aboriginal languages

Five Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests have been established in partnership with the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and local Aboriginal language groups. They are the North West Wiradjuri, Gumbaynggirr, Bundjalung, Paakantji and Gamilaraay/Yuwaalaraay/Yuwaalayaay Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests.

The number of students studying an Aboriginal language in schools covered by the five Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests has steadily increased, from approximately 1,950 students in December 2014 to approximately 4,000 students in December 2015.

Increase number of opportunities for cultural participation

Aboriginal Affairs has increased the number of opportunities for participation in cultural activities and events by delivering small grants to support more than 100 NAIDOC week events in NSW. This reflects an increase of nearly 20 per cent on the number of events supported in 2014. In 2014–15, Aboriginal Affairs provided $154,455 to support a range of significant regional cultural events, including the Yabun, Tamworth Country Music (Cultural Showcase) and Saltwater Freshwater festivals.

In early 2015, Aboriginal Affairs established a new language initiative, Our Languages, Our Way, to fund community-based projects to strengthen community ownership and participation in language revitalisation projects. Grants totalling $163,560 were allocated to six applicants.
Increase the proportion of the NSW population involved in volunteering

An estimated 5.8 million Australians contributed 743 million volunteer hours in 2014. Sport and recreation (31 per cent) and education and training (24 per cent) were the most popular areas for volunteers. While the latest ABS statistics on volunteering show a drop in the volunteer rate, informal volunteering, such as checking on an older neighbour or organising local charitable events through social media, remains steady. The way we volunteer appears to be changing in the 21st century. Forms of participation such as online volunteering, social entrepreneurship and corporate volunteering, which occur at an increasing rate in our community, are largely unaccounted for in this measure.

Figure 21: Percentage of individuals aged 18 years and over who had undertaken voluntary work for an organisation in the last 12 months, 2006, 2010 and 2014

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), General Social Survey, 2006 (cat. 4159155001); General Social Survey: Summary Results, 2006 (cat. 159.0.2006); Voluntary Work, Australia 2010 (cat. 41590D0007_201); General Social Survey, Summary Results, 2014 Australia (cat. 41590D0003). Note: Care needs to be taken with interpreting survey data as high standard errors can mean that differences from year to year are not significant.

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 2010 and 2014, the estimated proportion of adults involved in a community support organisation in NSW fell to around 31.0 per cent of the population. Over the same period, there was a similar decrease in the national average to 32.9 per cent.

Figure 22: Percentage of individuals aged 18 years and over who were involved with a community support organisation in the last 12 months, 2006, 2010 and 2014

Sources: ABS, General Social Survey, 2006 (cat. 4159155001); General Social Survey: Summary Results, 2006 (cat. 159.0.2006); Voluntary Work, Australia 2010 (cat. 41590D0007_201); General Social Survey, Summary Results, 2014 Australia (cat. 41590D0003). Note: Care needs to be taken with interpreting survey data as high standard errors can mean that differences from year to year are not significant.
Increase the proportion of the NSW population who feel they have someone to turn to in times of crisis

Levels of social attachment can be measured by the ability of people to get support in an emergency. The target is to exceed the national average by 2016. In 2014, an estimated 94.1 per cent of adults in NSW reported that in a time of crisis, they could get support from outside their household. There has been a rise in the proportion since 2006 consistent with the national average.

Figure 23: Percentage of individuals aged 18 years and over who were able to get support in a time of crisis 2006, 2010 and 2014

Sources: ABS, General Social Survey, 2006 (cat. 415915001), General Social Survey Summary Results, 2006 (cat. 159.0.2006); Voluntary Work, Australia 2010 (cat. 415900007, 2011, General Social Survey Summary Results, 2014 Australia (cat. 415900003). Note: Care needs to be taken with interpreting survey data as high standard errors can mean that differences from year to year are not significant.