

# Data Sheet 17 (DS 017)

## Indigenous Residents

### What are we monitoring?

The percentage of residents in the Blue Mountains Local Government Area (LGA) identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in comparison to NSW and Australia.

### What is the trend?

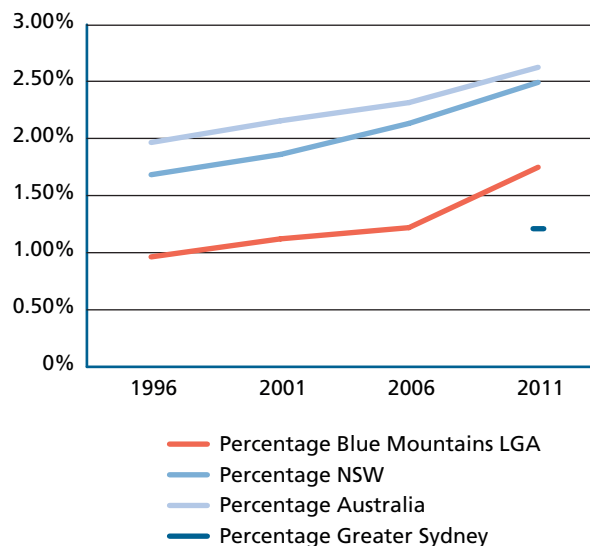
The percentage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the LGA is growing but remains well below both the state and national averages. Overall, the percentage of people identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander continues to grow throughout Australia.

In 2011 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 1.74% of the total Blue Mountains population, compared to 2.50% of the NSW population and 2.55% of the Australian population. While in 1996, they made up 0.97% of the Blue Mountains population, compared with 1.68% of the NSW population and 1.97% of the Australian population.

### Why is monitoring this trend important?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents are an integral part of our community diversity and identity. They bring knowledge, skills, heritage and culture to our local community that adds to our social capital and overall well-being. It is an important part of understanding and planning for our community to appreciate the number of residents identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Indigenous Residents as a Percentage of Total Population – Blue Mountains, NSW and Australia



Indigenous Residents as a Percentage of Total Population – Blue Mountains, NSW and Australia

Year	1996	2001	2006	2011
<b>Blue Mountains LGA</b>				
Number	702	863	944	1318
Percentage of LGA Population	0.97%	1.16%	1.27%	1.74%
<b>Greater Sydney</b>				
Number	N/A	N/A	N/A	54,747
Percentage of State Population	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.25%
<b>NSW</b>				
Number	101,485	119,865	138,507	172,621
Percentage of State Population	1.68%	1.88%	2.11%	2.50%
<b>Australia</b>				
Number	352970	410003	455027	548368
Percentage of National Population	1.97%	2.16%	2.29%	2.55%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census Data 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011  
[http://censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile](http://censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile)