

Statistical profile of women IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Department for Women

TABLE OF CONTENTS

POPULATION	3
INDIGENOUS WOMEN	7
WOMEN FROM DIVERSE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS	16
RURAL WOMEN	19
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS	22
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	25
WOMEN AS CARERS	29
EMPLOYMENT	31
HEALTH	34
BUSINESS	44
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	48
VIOLENCE AND SAFETY	51
SPORT AND LEISURE	59

POPULATION

Demographic profile

There were 6 657 400 people resident in New South Wales in September 2002, being one third of Australia's population.¹

Women are 50.22 per cent (3 343 357 persons) of the population in NSW.²

Lifespan

Women and men are fairly equally distributed across all age groups. The exception is in the 65 years plus age group where women account for 55.8 per cent (488 186 persons) of the population, a difference of 101, 791 people.³

The median age for women is 36 years and for men 35 years.⁴

Life expectancy for women in Australia is 82 years, among the highest in the world.⁵

Indigenous women

In the 2001 census 119,865 people identified as indigenous (1.9 per cent of the total population).⁶

Indigenous women are 50.3% of the indigenous population (60 294) and outnumber men (59,571).⁷

Life expectancy for indigenous women is 63 years, around 20 years less than the life expectancy for all womens.⁸

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2003) *Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2002*, Cat. No 3101.0, ABS Canberra, 2003.

² Australian Bureau of Statistics (2003) *Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2002*, Cat. No 3101.0, ABS Canberra, 2003.

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2003) *Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2002*, Cat. No 3101.0, ABS Canberra, 2003.

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Deaths Australia*, Cat. No. 3302.0, ABS, Canberra, 2000.

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Deaths Australia, chapter 3, Deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.*, Cat. No. 3302.0, ABS, Canberra, 2001.

Marriage

In 2001 there were 2 581 840 married people in NSW (51.7 % of the total population aged 15 years and over).⁹

Slightly fewer women (1,290,695) than men (1,291,145) are married.¹⁰

Significantly more women (91,206) than men (75,750) are separated (3.3% of the population aged 15 years and over).¹¹

Significantly more women (204,900) than men (156,836) are divorced (7.2% of the population aged 15 years and over).¹²

Women who are widows outnumber widowed men at a ratio of 4:1, numbering 64,065 men compared with 258,594 women.¹³

More men (855,025) than women (709,602) have never been married (31.3% of the population aged 15 years and over).¹⁴

In the 2001 census 153,196 women (5% of the total number of women in NSW) identified as being in a de facto marriage. This was 11.4% of all registered marriages and partnerships.¹⁵

Births

In 2001 there were 85, 858 births to 84, 379 women residents of NSW.¹⁶ This led to a fertility rate of 1.8, the third highest in Australia.¹⁷

The median age for women giving birth in 2001 was 29.9 years.¹⁸

Married women give birth later (median age 30.6 years) than women who are not married (median age 26.3 years).¹⁹

⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *New South Wales Year Book 2002*, Cat. No. 1300.1, ABS Canberra, 2002, p. 36.

¹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

¹² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

¹⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

¹⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

¹⁶ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001*, Volume 12, Number S-3, 2002, p. 18.

¹⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *New South Wales Year Book 2002*, Cat. No. 1300.1, ABS Canberra, 2002, p. 42.

¹⁸ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001*, Volume 12, Number S-3, 2002, p. 19.

Indigenous births

Indigenous women have a higher fertility rate than women in the general population at 2.1 births per woman compared to 1.8 births per non-indigenous woman.²⁰

Between 1997 and 2001 the reported number of births born to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers increased from 2.1% to 2.5% of all babies born in NSW.²¹

Teenage births

In NSW, 3,797 babies (4.5% of all births) were born to teenage mothers (less than 20 years of age) in 2001.²²

The number of teenage mothers decreased from 4,291 in 1997 to 3,797 in 2001.²³

About one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers were teenagers in 2001.²⁴

Families

There are 1 654 583 families in NSW, including same sex couple families.²⁵

Of these, 791 475 (47.8 per cent) are families with children and 577 401 are families without children (34.9 per cent).²⁶

One parent families number 255 859 (15%) of all families.²⁷

85% of one-parent families have a woman head of family, and this proportion is projected to maintain or slightly increase into 2021.²⁸

Two thirds of one-parent families have dependent children, most likely with a woman head of family.²⁹

¹⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *New South Wales Year Book 2002*, Cat. No. 1300.1, ABS Canberra, 2002, p. 43.

²⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Births*, Cat. No. 3301.0, ABS Canberra, 2000, p. 75.

²¹ NSW Department of Health, New South Wales 2002, 2001, *NSW Public Health Bulletin; 13 (S-4)*, p.39.

²² NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001*, Volume 12, Number S-3, 2002, p. 30.

²³ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001*, Volume 12, Number S-3, 2002, p. 19.

²⁴ NSW Department of Health, New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001, *NSW Public Health Bulletin; 13 (S-4)*, 2002, p.40.

²⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2002) *Selected social and housing characteristics for statistical local areas: NSW and Jervis Bay Territory*, Cat. No 2015.1, Canberra.

²⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

²⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

²⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household and Family Projections, 1996 to 2021*, Cat. No. 3236.0, ABS, Canberra, 2001.

Housing

60 per cent of households in public housing are headed by women. Of the total number of the Department of Housing tenants, 65.4 per cent are women and 34.6 per cent are men.³⁰

10 562 applicants were allocated public housing in the 1999/2000 financial year, up from 9217 in the previous year. In 61 per cent of successful applications, a woman holds the lease. 27 per cent of all new tenants each year are women sole parents.

Approximately 15 per cent are single women, 11 per cent of who are elderly.³¹

In NSW, the number of women setting up home on their own is projected to almost double by 2021, climbing from 294,000 in 1996 to 545,000.³²

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, a third of Australians will live alone by 2021. The trend is caused by an aging population, rising divorce rates and more people delaying or choosing not to marry.³³

²⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *New South Wales Year Book 2002*, Cat. No. 1300.1, ABS Canberra, 2002, p. 55.

³⁰ NSW Department of Housing (2000) *Applicant and tenant strip file analysis*, Sydney data centre

³¹ NSW Department of Housing (2000) *Applicant and tenant strip file analysis*, Sydney data centre

³² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Special Article-Who'll be home alone in 2021?* published in Australian Demographic Statistics, June Quarter 1999, Cat. No. 3101.0, ABS Canberra, 1999.

³³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Special Article-Looking into the Future-Australian Population Projections*, published in Australian Demographic Statistics, March Quarter 2000, Cat. No. 3101.0, ABS Canberra, 2000.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN³⁴

Demography

29.4 per cent of all indigenous Australians (119,865 people) live in NSW, accounting for 2.1% of the NSW state population.³⁵

Nationally, almost a third (30%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in major cities.³⁶

Indigenous women and girls (60,294) are 50.3 per cent of this group.³⁷

Two characteristics mark the indigenous population. Firstly it is relatively *young* compared to the non-indigenous population, and secondly, it is a rapidly *growing* population.³⁸

More than half (58%) of the Australian indigenous population is aged under 25 years, and only 11,437 people (3%) are aged 65 or over. In contrast, the Australian population has a much higher proportion of older people (13% aged 65 or over), with only about one-third (35%) aged under 25 years.³⁹

55.9 per cent of indigenous women are aged 24 years or younger compared to 32 per cent of non-indigenous women and girls.⁴⁰

The proportion of the indigenous population less than 15 years of age was 38.7% for urban areas, 41.4% for rural areas and 40.1% overall. There was a higher proportion of children aged less than 15 years in the indigenous population (40.1%) compared to the non-indigenous population (20.4%).⁴¹

³⁴ The ABS and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in the report *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No 4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003, make the point that there are limitations in the data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, due to incomplete data collection on the identification of persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Reported data may represent under-estimates of numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

³⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

³⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No. 4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003 p2

³⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic Community Profile and Snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

³⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, Cat. No. 4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2001.

³⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census records an increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations*, Cat. No. 2015.0, ABS, Canberra, 2001.

⁴⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *2001 Census Indigenous Profile NSW*, ABS, Canberra, 2002.

⁴¹ NSW Department of Health, *The health of the people of New South Wales: Report of the Chief Health Officer*, 2002, NSW Department of Health September 2002.

The total population of NSW increased by 5.5% from the 1996 census. In comparison, the NSW indigenous population increased by 18.1% from the 1996 census.⁴²

Three of the top four ATSI regions with the highest number of indigenous residents are in NSW. **Sydney** has 37 557 indigenous residents, Brisbane has 34 809 indigenous residents, **Coffs Harbour** (32 122), and **Wagga Wagga** (20 966).⁴³ These three NSW ATSI regions are home to 74.6 per cent of the indigenous residents of NSW, and 22.1 per cent of all indigenous people in Australia.⁴⁴ The other NSW ATSI regions are Tamworth (with 12 690 indigenous residents), Queanbeyan (10 951) and Bourke (7 298).

Citizenship

Aboriginal men and women, who had been generally excluded from the franchise since 1902, were given the right to vote in 1962 by the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1962*.^{*} In 1984 enrolment and voting became compulsory for Aboriginal people.⁴⁵

Life expectancy

Indigenous women's life expectancy at birth was around 20 years less than for the total population, 63 years for Indigenous women compared to 82 years for all Australian women.⁴⁶ The 1997-1999 based indigenous life expectancies at birth were similar to those experienced among the total female population in the 1920-1922 period.⁴⁷

The median age of death for indigenous women is 58 years, 24 years less than for non-indigenous women (82years).⁴⁸

As a result of their markedly shorter life expectancy, there are relatively few older indigenous women. For example, while indigenous women and girls make up 1.9% of the total female population of NSW, they make up only 0.4% of those over 65 years old.⁴⁹

⁴² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *2001 Census of Population and Housing: Selected Social and Housing Characteristics for Statistical Local Areas, New South Wales and Jervis Bay Territory, Cat.2015.1*, ABS Canberra, 2002.

⁴³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, Cat. 4705.0, Canberra, 2001. Based on usual residence count.

⁴⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, Cat. 4705.0, Canberra, 2001. Based on usual residence count.

^{*} Theoretically Aboriginal women were always able to vote as British subjects and so became enfranchised along with white women in 1902. However most Aboriginal people did not exercise their right to vote.

⁴⁵ Parliament of Australia, 2002, Parliamentary Library, *Parliament of Australia: Elections*, 25.11.02 <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/elect/electintr.htm>.

⁴⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Deaths*, Cat. No. 3302.0, ABS Canberra, 2002, p. 7.

⁴⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Deaths*, Cat. No. 3302.0, ABS Canberra, 1999, p. 73.

⁴⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Deaths*, Cat. No. 3302.0, ABS Canberra, 2002, p.20.

Cancer

The incidence of cancers among indigenous peoples is lower than among non-indigenous peoples. This may be due to the fact that the risk of most cancers increases with age, and since indigenous populations have a shorter life expectancy they may be less likely to live long enough to develop some cancers. However, cancer-related mortality is higher for indigenous peoples than for the non-indigenous population.⁵⁰

The incidence rate of cervical cancer is twice that of non-indigenous women while the mortality rate is more than eight times that of non-indigenous women.⁵¹

Diabetes

In 2001, the age standardised prevalence of self-reported diabetes among Indigenous Australians nationally was 11% compared to 3% in the non-Indigenous population.⁵² The rates of self-reported diabetes mellitus from the 1997 and 1998 NSW Health Surveys were 7.1% for indigenous people compared with 3.5% for non-indigenous people.⁵³

From the age of 25, diabetes is more prevalent among Indigenous persons than non-Indigenous Australians – with prevalence rates of 20% for 45-54 age group and 29% for those aged 55 and over compared to 4% and 11% for non-Indigenous persons.⁵⁴

Hospital separation rates for diabetes increased rapidly from ages 15-24 to 55 for Indigenous women (39.8 separations per 1,000 population in 2000-2001 for diabetes as a principal diagnosis), considerably higher than for the non-Indigenous population.⁵⁵

Rural Indigenous people are 5 times more likely to be hospitalised for diabetes than urban Indigenous people.⁵⁶

⁴⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *2001 Census Indigenous Profile NSW*, ABS, Canberra, 2002.

⁵⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, Cat. No. 4704.0, ABS, Canberra, 2000.

⁵¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, Cat. No. 4704.0, ABS, Canberra, 2000.

⁵² Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁵³ Report of the New South Wales Chief Health Officer 2002, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples- Diabetes mellitus by Indigenous status www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/chorep/atsi/atsi_diab_urb_rur.htm

⁵⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁵⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

In 1997, figures showed that Aboriginal women died from diabetes at a rate 17 times that of non-Aboriginal women.⁵⁷

Respiratory and infectious diseases

In the 2001 NHS (National Health Survey) about a third (33%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples reported having a respiratory disease (compared to 30% of the non-Indigenous population. Asthma is more prevalent – 17% in the Indigenous population compared to 12% in the non-Indigenous population.⁵⁸

Indigenous rates of hospital separation for asthma were about three times the non-Indigenous rate.⁵⁹

Infectious respiratory diseases are a major cause of illness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. 5.2% of hospital separations for Aboriginal women in 2000-2001 were for infectious and parasitic diseases.⁶⁰

The highest rates of hospital separations for infectious diseases occur for Indigenous children aged less than a year (108.8 per 1,000 per population for Indigenous girls) and for those aged 1-4 (women 35.0 per 1,000 population).⁶¹

Injury and accident

7.1% of hospital separations for Aboriginal women in 2000-2001 were for injury or poisoning.⁶²

Assault accounted for 31% of hospital separations for Indigenous women in 2000-2001 and Indigenous women were 28 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of assault than non-Indigenous Australians.⁶³

⁵⁶ NSW Department of Health, *The health of the people of New South Wales: Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2002*, NSW Department of Health September 2002.

⁵⁷ Public Health Division, *Report of the NSW Chief Health Officer: the Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples*, NSW Department of Health, Sydney, 1997.

⁵⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁵⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁶⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁶¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁶² Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

In 2000-2001, the rate of hospitalisation of Indigenous women for intentional self-harm was 2 times higher than for non - Indigenous women.⁶⁴

Imprisonment

Aboriginal women made up 23.3 percent of the NSW female prison population in June 2001⁶⁵, up from 18 percent in 1994.⁶⁶

Work

In February 2000, the labour force participation rate for indigenous women was 42.6% compared with 54.8% of non-indigenous women. The unemployment rate for indigenous women was 14.9% compared with 7.7% of non-indigenous women.⁶⁷

At the 2001 census, Indigenous women had a labour force participation rate of 44% compared to 56% for non Indigenous women, 61% for Indigenous men and 71% for non-Indigenous men.⁶⁸

At the 2001 census, 42% of Indigenous Australians aged over 15 were in employment compared with a non-Indigenous employment rate of 58%. About one in six Indigenous persons identified as employed was participating in Community Development Employment Projects, accounting for 15% of Indigenous female employment. Indigenous people were less likely to be employed in the private sector than non-Indigenous people. Commonwealth, state-territory and local government provided 23% of Indigenous employment with a further 18% of reported Indigenous employment being through the CDEP.⁶⁹

⁶³ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁶⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁶⁵ NSW Department of Corrective Services, *NSW Inmate Census 2001: Summary of Characteristics*, by S Corben, Department of Corrective Services, 2002, p 4.

⁶⁶ Department of Corrective Services, *Women's Action Plan 2000*, page 5.

⁶⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour force characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, Cat. No. 6287, ABS Canberra, 2000.

⁶⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁶⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

The unemployment rate for Indigenous women was 18% compared with 7% for non-Indigenous women, 22% for Indigenous men and 8% for non-Indigenous men.⁷⁰

Household income and size

In 2001, the mean (average) equivalised gross household income for Indigenous persons was \$364 per week, or 62% of the corresponding income for non-Indigenous persons of \$585 per week.⁷¹

At the 2001 Census, households with Indigenous persons were on average larger (3.5 persons) than other households (2.6 persons) and were more likely than other households to be family households (82% compared to 70%). The largest Indigenous households (multi-family households) had an average of 7.7 persons compared with 5.4 persons in other multi-family households.⁷²

32% of Indigenous households owned or were purchasing a home at the 2001 census, compared to 69% of other households. 63% of Indigenous households reported renting their home, than purchasing (19%) or owning their home (13%). Indigenous households were more than twice more likely to be living in rental accommodation than other households.⁷³ This pattern is similar to 1996 census figures.

In the 2001 Census, fewer indigenous households were renting privately (43% compared to 73% of Other households) and Government (32%) and community/cooperative housing (17%) provided a significant share of rental accommodation.

Homelessness

At the 2001 Census, there were 7,782 households in improvised dwellings (including rough sleepers and those living in sheds, tents, humpies and caravans located in roadside parking areas), of which 19% were households with Indigenous persons.⁷⁴

⁷⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁷¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁷² Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁷³ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁷⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

In 2001-2, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples made up 16.1% of all adults or unaccompanied children assisted by the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) in NSW and 17% nationally. During 2001-2, 54% of all SAAP clients were women. Indigenous women were over-represented in all age groups compared to the proportion of female SAAP clients. 33% of Indigenous women accessing SAAP services were reported to be escaping domestic violence (compared to 19% of non-Indigenous clients).⁷⁵

Violence

Based on reports to the police, the victimisation rate of NSW Aboriginal women in relation to a range of violent crimes is much higher than for NSW women generally:

Aboriginal women experience assault, including domestic violence, at more than four times the rate of women generally (4 184.9 and 2 876 per 100 000 respectively, as compared to 1 010.3 and 589 per 100 000)⁷⁶.

Aboriginal women are nearly four times more likely to be a murder victim than women generally (5.4 per 100 000 as compared to 1.4 per 100 000)⁷⁷.

Aboriginal women are 6.6 times more likely to be a victim of grievous bodily harm than women generally (88.4 per 100 000 as compared to 13.3 per 100 000)⁷⁸.

Aboriginal women are 2.5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women generally (251.7 per 100 000 as compared to 101.4 per 100 000)⁷⁹.

Births

Between 1997 and 2001, the reported number of babies born to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers increased from 2.1% to 2.5% of all babies born in NSW.⁸⁰

⁷⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁷⁶ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Aboriginal Victimisation and Offending: The picture from police records*, by Jacqueline Fitzgerald and Don Weatherburn, Issue Paper no 17, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2001, p2.

⁷⁷ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Aboriginal Victimisation and Offending: The picture from police records*, by Jacqueline Fitzgerald and Don Weatherburn, Issue Paper no 17, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2001, p2.

⁷⁸ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Aboriginal Victimisation and Offending: The picture from police records*, by Jacqueline Fitzgerald and Don Weatherburn, Issue Paper no 17, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2001, p2.

⁷⁹ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Aboriginal Victimisation and Offending: The picture from police records*, by Jacqueline Fitzgerald and Don Weatherburn, Issue Paper no 17, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2001, p2.

The reported number of babies born to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers has increased at all ages. About one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers were teenagers in 2001.⁸¹

In 2001, over a quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers in the Wentworth, Far West and South West Sydney Areas were teenagers.⁸²

In 2001, approximately 8% of indigenous women in NSW had given birth to five or more babies – a pattern not changed substantially since 1997.⁸³

Between 1997 and 2001, the perinatal mortality rate among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies has varied from 14.0 to 20.0 per 1,000 births. The rate of 18.2 in 2001 is almost twice the rate of 9.2 per 1,000 for NSW overall.⁸⁴

Between 1997 and 2001, the rate of low birth weight in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies has been over 10% and was 13.5% in 2001. This was over twice the rate for NSW overall, which was 6.4% in 2001.⁸⁵

Between 1997 and 2001, the rate of prematurity (less than 37 weeks gestation) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies has been over 10%. The rate was 12.4% in 2001, compared with a rate of 7.2% for NSW overall.⁸⁶

In 2001, 59% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers reported smoking at some time during pregnancy, compared to 60.8% in 1997. This compares with 16.0% of all mothers who reported smoking at some time during pregnancy in 2001.⁸⁷

In 2001, 58.1% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers reported smoking in the second half of pregnancy.^{88*}

⁸⁰ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales 2001, NSW Public Health Bulletin*; 13 (S-4), 2002, p.39.

⁸¹ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001, NSW Public Health Bulletin*; 13 (S-4), 2002, p.40.

⁸² New South Wales Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and babies 2001*, Volume 13 No S-4, 2002, p41.

⁸³ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001, NSW Public Health Bulletin*; 13 (S-4), 2002, p.40.

⁸⁴ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001, NSW Public Health Bulletin*; 13 (S-4), 2002, p. 47.

⁸⁵ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001, NSW Public Health Bulletin*; 13 (S-4), 2002, p.45.

⁸⁶ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001*, NSW Department of Health, 2002, page 43.

⁸⁷ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001, NSW Public Health Bulletin*; 13 (S-4), 2002, p.43

⁸⁸ NSW Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001, NSW Public Health Bulletin*; 13 (S-4), 2002, p.38.

Education

Nationally, of Indigenous persons aged 15 or over who were no longer at school 32% had not completed year 10 or equivalent, compared to 18% of non-Indigenous persons and 18% reported that they had completed school to Year 12 compared to 41% of non-Indigenous persons.⁸⁹

NSW census (2001) data shows that 24% (9026) of indigenous women (aged 15 and over) reported Year 11 or 12 as the highest level of schooling. For non-indigenous women the proportion was 45%.⁹⁰

In 2001 in NSW, there were 4500 indigenous women attending university or vocational education and training, comprising 7.4% of the indigenous female population (60,294). This was slightly lower than the proportion of non-indigenous women attending university or vocational education and training (8.2%) and higher than the proportion of indigenous men (5.5%).⁹¹

Nationally, 16.3% of Indigenous women aged 15 or over had a post school qualification, compared to 34.2% of non-Indigenous women. Only 3.5% of Indigenous women had a degree or higher qualification compared to 14% of non-Indigenous women. 6.7% of Indigenous women had a Certificate level qualification.⁹²

* Smoking in the second half of pregnancy poses the greatest risk to the health of both mother and baby.

⁸⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

⁹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *2001 Census Indigenous Profile NSW*, ABS, Canberra, 2002.

⁹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *2001 Census Indigenous Profile NSW*, ABS, Canberra, 2002.

⁹² Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, Cat. No.4704.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

WOMEN FROM DIVERSE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS

At the 2001 Census, approximately 29.5 per cent of the NSW resident population was born overseas and 16.6 per cent (1,050,584 people) spoke a language other than English at home.⁹³

New South Wales continues to be the preferred State of destination of migrants and humanitarian entrants to Australia.⁹⁴ Between 1 July, 1997 and 1 July, 2002, of a total of 345, 634 settler arrivals to Australia, 41 per cent (140,838) settled in New South Wales⁹⁵.

At the 2001 Census there were equivalent numbers of men and women amongst the overseas born population in New South Wales overall but there were more men from the main English speaking countries (50.7% men) and more women from non-English speaking countries (50.4% women) as shown in Table 1.

⁹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census Basic Community Profile and Snapshot_1 New South Wales. Available online at www.abs.gov.au, 2001

⁹⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Migration, Australia*, Cat. No. 3412.0, ABS, Canberra, 2001.

⁹⁵ Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, *Review of Settlement Services for Migrants and Humanitarian Entrants*. Settlement Database data. Available online at www.immi.gov.au, 2002

Table 1: New South Wales Population - Selected characteristics
1996 Census and 2001 Census

	Male	%	Female	%	Persons (a)	% of (a) (b)
Total Persons (a)	2,983,447	49.4	3,055,249	50.6	^(a) 6,038,696	100
	3,116,719	49.3	3,194,449	50.7	^(b) 6,311,168	100
Australian Born	2,163,741	49.2	2,230,477	50.7	4,394,218	72.8
	2,189,373	49.2	2,261,399	50.8	4,450,772	70.5
Born Overseas - MESC(c)	222,998	50.6	218,014	49.4	441,012	7.3
	231,079	50.7	224,489	49.3	455,568	7.2
Born Overseas – NESC(d)	470,353	49.7	475,132	50.3	945,485	15.7
	696,267	49.6	708,561	50.4	1,404,828	22.3
Total Overseas Born	693,351	50.0	693,146	50.0	1,386,497	23.0
	927,346	49.8	933,050	50.2	1,860,396	29.5
Speaks Language other than English at home (e) Persons aged over 5 (f) All persons	499,565	49.4	512,300	50.6	1,011,865	18.2 ^(e)
	416,673		537,281		1,050,584	16.6^(f)

(a) and (b) Including overseas visitors

(c) MESC Main English speaking Countries includes: United Kingdom, Ireland, USA, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa.

(d) Non-English speaking countries

(e) Speakers of Languages other than English at home aged over 5 years as a percentage of total persons aged over 5 years

(f) Persons speaking a language other than English at home, not including overseas visitors and numbers not stated. NB 2001 Census used new methodology for language spoken at home.

Sources: Ethnic Affairs Commission, NSW (1998) *The People of New South Wales – Statistics from the 1996 Census* and ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing New South Wales Selected Characteristics⁹⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2002) 2001 Census of Population and Housing – *Selected Social and Housing Characteristics for Statistical Local Areas, New South Wales and Jervis Bay Territory* Cat. No. 2015.1

Between 1997 and 2002 there were more female settler arrivals to NSW than male settlers (53% were women compared to 47% men). While numbers of men and women from individual countries are very similar, the notable difference among the

⁹⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *1996 Census of Population and Housing New South Wales Selected Characteristics* Available online at www.abs.gov.au/

fastest growing communities was the Philippines where women represented 61% of the Filipino population in NSW.⁹⁷

The distribution of women and men arriving in NSW between 1997 and 2002 across the migration streams show that women represented 61.2% of the Family Stream but less than half of the entrants in the Skill Stream (47.7%). The predominance of women in the Family Stream is because they accounted for the majority of Spouse and of Fiancée visa arrivals.⁹⁸

The 18.2% of people in New South Wales in 1996 who spoke a language other than English at home can be divided into 14.5% who speak English well and 3.7% who speak English poorly. There are significantly more women with poor English proficiency than men for most birthplace groups.⁹⁹

⁹⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Migration, Australia*, Cat. No. 3412.0, ABS, Canberra.

⁹⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Migration, Australia*, Cat. No. 3412.0, ABS, Canberra.

⁹⁹ Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, *English Proficiency 1996 Census* Statistical Report No. 30, 2001, page 5.

RURAL WOMEN

Rural demography

The distribution of women and men in the populations of rural and metropolitan NSW is almost equal. Women make up 50.2% of the population in rural areas and 50.8% of the population in metropolitan areas; men make up 49.8% of the population in rural areas and 49.2% of the population in metropolitan areas.¹⁰⁰

26% of NSW women live in locations other than Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.¹⁰¹

Older women

Rural areas have a higher proportion of older people aged over 65 years (15%) than in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong (13%) and the NSW average (14%).¹⁰²

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 1.9% of the total NSW population.¹⁰³

Women make up 50.3% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in NSW.¹⁰⁴

Although the Sydney region has the highest *number* of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of all regions in NSW, there are higher concentrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in rural than in metropolitan regions. While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprise 1.2% of the population in the combined metropolitan areas, they comprise 4.8% of the population of rural NSW.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census of Population and Housing: Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia*, Cat 2015.0, ABS Canberra.

¹⁰¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census of Population and Housing: Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia*, Cat 2015.0, ABS Canberra.

¹⁰² Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census of Population and Housing: Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia*, Cat 2015.0, ABS Canberra.

¹⁰³ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census Basic Community Profile and Snapshot*, ABS Canberra.

¹⁰⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census of Population and Housing, Indigenous Profile*, Cat.2002.0

¹⁰⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census of Population and Housing: Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia*, Cat 2015.0, ABS Canberra. Note: this data includes only persons who stated their indigenous status.

The rural regions with the highest concentrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW are North Western (11.6%), Far West (8.2%) and Northern (7.3%).¹⁰⁶

Migrant women

29.5% of the NSW population was born overseas. 50% of the NSW overseas born population are women.¹⁰⁷

A very small proportion of overseas-born NSW residents live in rural NSW. 8% of overseas-born residents of NSW live in rural areas, while 92% live in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.¹⁰⁸

While 30.5% of the population of metropolitan NSW was born overseas, only 9% of the population in rural areas was born overseas.¹⁰⁹

The economy

Rural NSW contributes approximately 30 per cent of the State's economy from a primarily agricultural base.¹¹⁰ Women represent 32 per cent of Australia's farm workforce¹¹¹ and have contributed to the positive trends of diversification in agriculture as well as introducing new businesses and industries to their towns and regions.

The labour force

Women's highest labour force participation rate in a NSW rural region is in the Murray-Murrumbidgee Region (59.3%). Women's lowest labour market participation rates in rural regions are in the Northern, Far Western and Central West regions (45.6%) and the Hunter Region (47.6%). This compares to a State average women's labour force participation rate of 53.6%.¹¹²

¹⁰⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census of Population and Housing: Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia*, Cat 2015.0, ABS Canberra.

¹⁰⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census of Population and Housing New South Wales* ABS, Canberra

¹⁰⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census of Population and Housing: Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia*, Cat 2015.0, ABS Canberra

¹⁰⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Census of Population and Housing: Selected Social and Housing Characteristics, Australia*, Cat 2015.0, ABS Canberra

¹¹⁰ Department of State and Regional Development, *Media Fact Sheet 4.1 Regional New South Wales*, at www.business.nsw.gov.au/media/fact_sheets_search.asp, 2001.

¹¹¹ Rural Women's Network, *Making a difference: Action Plan for NSW Women in Agriculture and Resource Management*. Department of Agriculture, Orange, 1998.

¹¹² Australian Bureau of Statistics August 2002, *Labour Force Selected Summary Tables Australia*, Cat. No.6291.0.40.001, ABS, Canberra.

The unemployment rate for women in NSW overall is 5.2%. In some regions it is much higher than this. Women's unemployment rate in the Richmond, Tweed and Mid North Coast region is 7.6%, in the Illawarra and Southeast region, 7.1% and in the Hunter Region, 7%. All rural regions have a higher women's unemployment rate than the State average, with the exception of the Murray-Murrumbidgee region, where women's unemployment rate is 4.8%.¹¹³

¹¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics August 2002, *Labour Force Selected Summary Tables Australia*, Cat. No.6291.0.40.001, ABS, Canberra.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Boards and committees

- As at June 2002, women held 35% of NSW public sector board and committee positions.¹¹⁴
- In the 2001/02 financial year, women secured 39.8% of new appointments to public sector board and committee positions, an improvement of 2% over 2000/01 when women represented 38% of all appointments made, and up from 19% in 1995.¹¹⁵
- The proportion of women on public sector boards and committees is slowly but steadily increasing. In the 1999/2000 financial year, women represented 36% of all new appointments, an improvement of 2% over 1998-99 when women represented 34% of all new appointments made. This is an increase from 27.1% in December 1997.¹¹⁶
- Of the top 200 companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange at 31 March 2002, women hold 8.2 percent of Board Directorships. Of these companies, 46.7 percent had no women directors, 9.9 percent had two or more women directors, and only 5.9 percent of companies had 25 percent or more women directors.¹¹⁷
- The Australian figure (8.2%) compares with 9.8% reported in the Canadian (2001) census of FP500 companies and 12.4% in the most recent US (2001) census of Fortune 500 companies.¹¹⁸
- Another 2002 survey of female board representation by corporate governance advisory firm Boardroom Partners “Talking at the Table” reported that of the 3474 board positions available in Australia’s top 500 listed companies just 186 are held by women (5.35%). Eight women hold three or more seats, double the number in the 2001 survey, and 24 women hold two board positions, up from 15 in 2001.
- A recent survey report (Korn/Ferry 2002, Sydney) states that in 2001 women made up 8% of non-executive directors in Australia; 1% of deputy chairs and 4% of chairs. In the top 50 companies in Australia women represent 10% of directors, 0% of deputies, and 7% of chairs. The sample consisted of 400 publicly listed companies in Australia.

¹¹⁴ New South Wales Premier’s Department, unreported data.

¹¹⁵ New South Wales Premier’s Department, unreported data.

Available at URL: <http://www.premiers.nsw.gov.au/boards/publications.html>

¹¹⁶ New South Wales Premier’s Department, unreported data.

¹¹⁷ Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) 2002 Australian Census of Women Board Directors, 2002.

¹¹⁸ Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) 2002 Australian Census of Women Board Directors, 2002.

- Of the almost 1300 publicly listed companies in Australia, producing 7341 board positions, women made up just 3.4% of directors on boards of in Australia as at 30 March 2000.¹¹⁹
- The Australian Institute of Management (NSW) Survey (May 2000) showed that in large companies, women's share of board positions had fallen from 14% in 1999 to 10% in 2000, and women's share of board positions in small companies had fallen from 21% to 19%.

NSW public service

- Women occupy 54% of the total NSW Public Sector jobs. They hold 49% of all full-time positions in the public sector.¹²⁰
- As at May 2003 women made up 201 out of 825 (24.4%) of Chief Executive Service (CES) and Senior Executive Service officers in the NSW Public Service. Of the higher level CES officers, women make up 12 out of 70 (17.1%).¹²¹
- Women now make up approximately 19% of the NSW Police and participate in all areas of policing.¹²²
- In the NSW Police there are 35 women at the level of commissioned officer or above. Of these, 22 are inspectors, 5 chief inspectors, 7 superintendents, 1 chief superintendent.¹²³

Politics

- In April 2003, 26.7 % of elected members of the NSW Parliament are women, that is, 36 women compared with 99 men. At a federal level, women hold 27 per cent of positions.¹²⁴
- In NSW, women hold 24.7% of Legislative Assembly positions (23 women out of a total of 93). In the Legislative Council, women hold 31.0 % of the positions that is 13 of a total of 42 places.¹²⁵
- Women make up 26% (446 out of 1,696) of all local councillors in NSW.¹²⁶

¹¹⁹ A. Sheridan, 'A view from the top: women on the boards of public companies', *Corporate Governance*, March 2001. This figure refers to the 91% of positions where the gender of board members could be identified from Australian Stock Exchange data.

¹²⁰ Data from ODEOPE website: <http://www.eeo.nsw.gov.au>, 26 May 2003.

¹²¹ Unpublished data provided by the Premier's Department Public Sector Management Office. These figures are likely to change due to the amalgamation of government departments announced since the March 2003 Election.

¹²² NSW Police, <http://www.police.nsw.gov.au>, Accessed 26 May 2003.

¹²³ NSW Police, <http://www.police.nsw.gov.au>, Accessed 26 July 2002.

¹²⁴ Data from NSW Parliament website: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au>, Accessed 26 May 2003.

¹²⁵ Data from NSW Parliament website: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au>, Accessed 26 May 2003.

¹²⁶ Department of Local Government website: <http://dlg.nsw.gov.au>, Accessed 26 May 2003 (1999 data).

Legal profession

- On 1 October 2002 in NSW there were 6,374 female solicitors (37.1%) up from 35.8% in October 2001, and 34.6% in October 2000.¹²⁷
- Since 1988, the profession has grown by 75% with an annual average growth rate of 5%. Within that general pattern of growth, the number of female solicitors has grown by 222% (in contrast to the growth rate for male solicitors of 38%). While the growth rate for women is generally greater than that for male solicitor, in the twelve months since October 2001, the growth rate for male increased from 3.5% to 3.8% and the growth rate for women increased from 9.0% to 9.8%.¹²⁸
- Amongst full time solicitors, 42% of men, but only 25% of women, earn incomes over \$100,000; 32% of women, compared with 21% of men, earn incomes of \$50,000 or less.¹²⁹
- Women are 75 out of a total of 300 judicial officers, or 25%.¹³⁰
- Women are 41 out of a total of 135 magistrates in NSW.¹³¹

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) has 18 Commissioners - all elected - of whom currently only 1 is a woman.¹³²
- In NSW there are six ATSIC regional councils, with a total of 75 councillors. These include 24 women, or 32%.¹³³

¹²⁷ Source: NSW Law Society, data drawn from 2002 Profiles of the Solicitors of New South Wales. Available at <http://www.lawsociety.com.au>

¹²⁸ Source: NSW Law Society, data drawn from 2002 Profiles of the Solicitors of New South Wales. Available at <http://www.lawsociety.com.au>

¹²⁹ Source: NSW Law Society, data drawn from 2002 Profiles of the Solicitors of New South Wales. Available at <http://www.lawsociety.com.au>

¹³⁰ Judicial Commission of NSW unpublished data, as at 10 June 2003.

¹³¹ Attorney General's Department unpublished data, as at 12 June 2003.

¹³² The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Available at URL: <http://www.atsic.gov.au>, 15.9.03.

¹³³ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Available at URL: <http://www.atsic.gov.au>, 15.9.03.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Participation

- Young women's participation (aged 15-19 years) in NSW schools has steadily increased from 46.7% in 1989 to 51.4% in 2002. These rates exceeded both national women's participation rates and male participation rates for NSW over the same time period.¹³⁴
- Apparent retention rates for girls in NSW schools (Years 10 to 12) rose by 37% over the last twenty years, increasing from 40% in 1981 to 77.3% in 2002. The national retention rate for girls was 41.9% in 1981, rising to 81.7 by 2002. Retention rates for boys have remained consistently lower than girls in NSW.¹³⁵
- From a total of 95 819 students in higher education in NSW in 2001, 52 990 were women, comprising 55.3%.¹³⁶
- In 2001, women held 51.1% of 604 700 publicly funded vocational education and training places in NSW. This represents a 4% increase over the last decade.¹³⁷
- Trade apprenticeships however continue to show an under-representation of women. In NSW in 2001, 5 440 women were in training in a trade occupation, comprising only 14% of this group. This represents a slight increase from 1995 to 1999 rates which remained constant at 12% over this period. By contrast, there were 25 290 women undertaking traineeships in 2001, comprising 45% of all trainees in NSW. However this proportion has been in decline since 1995, where the proportion of women in traineeships was 58%. In NSW in the first quarter of 2002 (January to March) there were 92 210 people in training as an apprentice or trainee. Of these

¹³⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Schools Australia*, Catalogue no: 4221.0 and data cubes 2002.

¹³⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Schools Australia*, , Catalogue no: 4221.0, and data cubes 2002.

¹³⁶ Department of education science and training, *Students 2001: Selected higher education statistics*
www.dest.gov.au/highered/statistics/students

¹³⁷ National Centre for Vocational Education and Training Research, *New South Wales in detail statistics* 2001.

31.2% were women, which was slightly under the national participation rate for women of 34.2%.¹³⁸

- In 1999, 4,977 women filled 12% of all trade apprentices in NSW. This rate of participation is unchanged between 1995 and 1999. By contrast, 46% of all traineeships were held by 14 109 women. This level is lower than 1995 when women held 58% of traineeships.¹³⁹
- Of all women vocational education and training students, 8,600 (2.8%) were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders and 12,200 (3.9%) had a disability.¹⁴⁰
- Total enrolments for the Adult and Community Education (ACE) sector in NSW in 2001 were 379 642. Women accounted for 70.6% of enrolments.¹⁴¹
- Of the women enrolled in ACE in 2001 (267 890), 17.5% were overseas born and 6.8% spoke a language other than English at home.¹⁴²

Attainment

- Women have shown a substantial increase in the acquisition of post-school qualifications over the last decade or more. There were 2914 400 women (aged 15-64 years) with a post-school qualification in NSW in 2002, comprising 46.7% of all persons with a post-school qualification. The proportion of women with post-school qualifications in 1990 was 38%.¹⁴³

¹³⁸ National Centre for Vocational Education and Training Research, 2002, *Vocational education and training statistics: New apprenticeships in-training for NSW 2001*, based on June 2002 estimates and unpublished data 1995-1999.

¹³⁹ National Centre for Vocational Education and Training Research, *Vocational Education and Training, Statistics 1995-1999*.

¹⁴⁰ National Centre for Vocational Education and Training Research, *New South Wales in detail statistics 2001*.

¹⁴¹ Adult and Community Education, *NSW ACE enrolment statistics 2001*, NSW Board of Adult and Community Education www.bace.nsw.gov.au, 2002.

¹⁴² Adult and Community Education, *NSW ACE enrolment statistics 2001*, NSW Board of Adult and Community Education www.bace.nsw.gov.au, 2002.

¹⁴³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Education and Work*, 2002 Cat. No. 6227.0, ABS Canberra and retrospective data.

- In 2001 there were 2 055 353 persons in NSW without a post-school qualification and of these 52% were women.¹⁴⁴

Transition to work

- Acquisition of a post-school qualification makes a substantial difference to women's participation in the labour force, compared to those with no post-school qualifications. Labour force participation of women with post-school qualifications was 75%-77% from 1990 to 2000, while those with no post-school qualifications showed much lower participation rates of 53% - 56%.¹⁴⁵
- School completion has a marked effect on women's labour force participation in comparison to men's, with the gap widening for women who did not complete their schooling. Across the decade from 1990 to 2000, the labour force participation rate of women who completed high school was 60% - 66%, while men's participation rate was 81-83%. Women who did not complete high school showed the lowest labour force participation rates of around 50% across the decade, falling substantially below rates for comparable men, 78- 83%.¹⁴⁶
- Despite significant growth in the IT professions in recent years, women remain under-represented. In 2002 of all 3 872 HSC entrants taking Software Design and Development 13% (495) were girls. In 2002 of 10 507 HSC entrants taking Information Processes and Technology 36% (3 744) were girls.¹⁴⁷
- Higher School Certificate key learning areas for 2002 in which the proportion of girls was below 50% were mathematics (49%), sciences (48%) and technological and applied studies (42%).¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Education and Work*, 2001 Cat. No. 6227.0, ABS Canberra and retrospective data, 2002.

¹⁴⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Transition from Education to Work*, Cat. No. 6227.0, ABS Canberra and unpublished data, 2000.

¹⁴⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Transition from education to work*, 2000 Cat. No. 6227.0 and unpublished data ABS Canberra, 2001.

¹⁴⁷ NSW Board of Studies, *HSC subject statistics archives 2002*, NSW Board of Studies www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au, 2002.

¹⁴⁸ NSW Board of Studies, *HSC subject statistics archives 2002*, NSW Board of Studies www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au, 2002.

- Higher School Certificate key learning areas for 2002 in which girls predominated were Languages other than English (68%), Creative Arts (67%), and Personal development health and physical education (63%).¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁹ NSW Board of Studies 2002, *HSC subject statistics archives 2002*, NSW Board of Studies www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au, 2002.

WOMEN AS CARERS

- In 2000 an estimated 1,994,400 persons aged 18 years or over provided care for another adult or child, representing 42% of all persons aged 18 years and over in NSW. Of these 84% provided care on an ongoing or continual basis.¹⁵⁰
- A higher proportion of women provided care (46%) than men (37%).¹⁵¹
- Half of all carers (996,200) were employees in paid employment. Women were more likely to use work arrangements (48%) than men (33%) in order to meet their caring responsibilities. For women these arrangements included part time work, paid leave or an informal arrangement with an employer, while men were more likely to use paid leave, an informal arrangement or rostered days off.¹⁵²
- A higher proportion of women than men in the government and public service sector wanted to make more use of working arrangements (18% compared to 11%).¹⁵³
- Almost 800,000 people in NSW provided care to a person, usually a family member, who was ageing or had a disability, representing 13% of the population.¹⁵⁴
- Of this group 162,200 (20%) were primary carers, that is, they provide more assistance than anyone else, on an ongoing basis, to the person receiving care.¹⁵⁵
- Almost 72% of primary carers are women.¹⁵⁶
- Carers tend to have lower incomes than the rest of the population. 71% of primary carers receive a pension or allowance.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Managing caring responsibilities and paid employment*, Cat. No. 4903.1, ABS Canberra, 2000.

¹⁵¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Managing caring responsibilities and paid employment*, Cat. No. 4903.1, ABS Canberra, 2000.

¹⁵² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Managing caring responsibilities and paid employment*, Cat. No. 4903.1, ABS Canberra, 2000.

¹⁵³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Managing caring responsibilities and paid employment*, Cat. No. 4903.1, ABS Canberra, 2000.

¹⁵⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Managing caring responsibilities and paid employment*, Cat. No. 4903.1, ABS Canberra, 2000.

¹⁵⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Disability, Ageing and Carers*, Cat. No. 4430.0, ABS Canberra, 1999.

¹⁵⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Disability, Ageing and Carers*, Cat. No. 4430.0, ABS Canberra, 1998.

¹⁵⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Disability, Ageing and Carers*, Cat. No. 4430.0, ABS Canberra, 1999.

- In 1999, in NSW from a total of 1 056 300 children, 49.3% were in some form of formal or informal child care.¹⁵⁸
- Of this group, 22.6% used formal care and 26.7% used informal care.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁸ Formal care refers to long day care, family day care, occasional care, before and after school care and pre-school. Informal care refers to a grandparent or other relative/ persons caring for the child

¹⁵⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Child Care*, Cat. No. 4402.0, ABS Canberra, 1999.

EMPLOYMENT

Labour force participation

- The number of women, aged 15 years and over, in the NSW labour force in February 2003 was 1 495 500, which was 44.2% of the NSW labour force.¹⁶⁰
- In February 2003, 55.6% of women in NSW were in the labour force.¹⁶¹
- In 2001-2002, approximately 49.4% of all women in NSW with children aged 0-4 participated in the workforce.¹⁶²
- The unemployment rate for women in NSW in April 2003 was 5.8%.¹⁶³
- In 1996, only 32% of indigenous women in NSW were employed, compared to 43.6% of indigenous men and 43% of all women in NSW. In 1996, the unemployment rate for indigenous women in NSW was 24%, compared to 7.9% for women in NSW generally.¹⁶⁴
- In 2002, the median age of the female labour force in NSW was 37 years.¹⁶⁵
- In February 2003, 42.9% of employed women in NSW were working part-time¹⁶⁶, and women made up 70.8% of total part-time workers in the state.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Australia, February 2003*, Cat. No. 6203.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

¹⁶¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Australia, February 2003*, Cat. No. 6203.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

¹⁶² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Social Trends*, Cat. No. 4102.0, ABS Canberra, 2003

¹⁶³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Australia, April 2003*, Cat. No. 6202.0, ABS, Canberra, 2003.

¹⁶⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *1996 Census of Population and Housing, ATSI People*, Cat. No. 2034.0, ABS Canberra, 1996.

¹⁶⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Social Trends*, Cat. No. 4102.0, ABS Canberra 2003.

¹⁶⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Australia, February 2003*, Cat. No. 6203.0, ABS Canberra, 2003.

¹⁶⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Australia, February 2003*, Cat. No. 6203.0, ABS Canberra, 2003.

Work and family

- In 2002, 30.7% of all full time women workers in NSW had no access to leave entitlements, compared to 22.4% of male workers.¹⁶⁸
- In 1997, approximately a quarter of women working on a part-time, casual or temporary basis said they did so for family reasons; no men gave this as a reason for choosing these forms of employment.¹⁶⁹
- Flexible working hours (35.4%) and permanent part time work (24.4%) are the most frequently used provisions to balance work and family, with 56.2% of families with at least one parent employed using a flexible work practice. 70.4% of working mothers use work provisions compared with 30% of working fathers. Fathers are more likely to use flexible working hours, to work at home or shift work, and women are more likely to opt for part-time work¹⁷⁰
- In June 2000, 42% of women employees reported that they were entitled to paid maternity leave (although the basis of the entitlement and the quantum of leave is not known), leaving approximately 58% with no entitlement.¹⁷¹
- An estimated 5% of women aged 18-59 with children under 15 resigned from a job in the last 5 years because sufficient maternity leave was not available.¹⁷²
- In 2000, around 29% of women in NSW who became self employed did so because of their caring responsibilities.¹⁷³

¹⁶⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Social Trends*, Cat. No. 4102.0, ABS Canberra, 2003.

¹⁶⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Part-time, Casual and Temporary Employment, NSW, October 1997*, Cat. No. 6247.1, ABS Canberra, 1997.

¹⁷⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Child care*, Cat. No. 4402.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

¹⁷¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, April-June 2000*, Cat. No. 6361.0 unpublished data.

¹⁷² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Managing Work and Caring Responsibilities, NSW, October 2000*, Cat. No. 4903.1, ABS Canberra, 2000.

¹⁷³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Managing Work and Caring Responsibilities, NSW, October 2000*, Cat. No. 4903.1, ABS Canberra, 2000.

Occupational segregation

- Women remain concentrated in particular occupations and industries. Around a third of women work in occupations that are 80% or more female dominated.¹⁷⁴ For example, in February 2003, 90.6% of the 187 000 nursing professionals and 72.65% of the 292 100 school teachers in Australia were female. In contrast, around 79.2% of science, building and engineering professionals were men. In February 2003, women make up 67.8% of professionals in the education industry.¹⁷⁵ Their representation amongst managers and administrators in NSW has improved slightly from 22%¹⁷⁶ in 1999 to 24.98%¹⁷⁷ in February 2003.
- Australia-wide, the proportion of workplaces in which women were under 10% of employees fell between 1990 and 1995.¹⁷⁸

Income

- In February 2003, women's average weekly full-time ordinary time earnings in NSW were \$840.50 compared to \$1 019.00 for men, approximately 82.5% of those of full-time male workers¹⁷⁹.
- In February 2003, the average weekly earnings of all women in the NSW workforce (including part-time and casual workers) were \$591.30, approximately 64.5% of those of all men (\$916.80)¹⁸⁰.
- In 2000, the median superannuation balance for Australian women employees aged 15-64 was \$7,000, compared to \$14,800 for employed men between 15 and 64¹⁸¹.

¹⁷⁴ Calculated from Australian Bureau of Statistics, *1996 Census of Population and Housing, Selected Characteristics*, ABS, Canberra, 1996.

¹⁷⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Australia, February 2003*, Cat. No. 6203.0, ABS, Canberra, 2003.

¹⁷⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force, NSW and ACT*, Cat. No. 6201.1, ABS, Canberra, February 1999

¹⁷⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Australia, February 2003*, Cat. No. 6203.0, ABS, Canberra, 2003.

¹⁷⁸ Moorehead, A. et al, *Changes at Work: the 1995 Australian Workplace Industrial Relations Survey*, Longman, Canberra, 1997.

¹⁷⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, February 2003*, Cat. No. 6302.0, ABS, Canberra, 2003.

¹⁸⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, February 2003*, Cat. No. 6302.0, ABS, Canberra, 2003

HEALTH

General Profile

Life expectancy¹⁸²

- Women live to an average age of 82 years compared to 77 years for men. In 1996, life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women was significantly lower, at 63 years (a difference of 19 years).¹⁸³

Death

- Over the last twenty years, there has been a sustained decline in the death rate (standardised)¹⁸⁴ in NSW. The female death rate which remained consistently lower than male rates over the last two decades, dropped from 6.5 deaths per 100 000 in 1981 to 4.2 in 2001. The male death rate showed a sharper decline, dropping from 11.3 to 6.8 deaths per 100 000 between 1981 and 2001.¹⁸⁵

Leading causes of death

- In 2001, cancer (malignant neoplasms) was the leading cause of death for women, accounting for 127 per 100 000. For men this figure was 208 per 100 000.¹⁸⁶
- Heart disease was the second leading cause of death for women, followed by stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease and accidents.¹⁸⁷
- The most common cause of death from cancer for women is breast cancer (29% of all female cancer deaths) followed by lung and colo-rectal cancer (24.9%).¹⁸⁸

¹⁸¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics *Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, April – June 2000*, Cat. No. 6361.0. ABS, Canberra, 2000

¹⁸² Life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average length of time (in years) a person can expect to live, assuming that the currently prevailing rates of death for each age group will remain the same for the lifetime of that person. Adjusted life expectancies were used, which are adjusted to compensate for under-coverage.

¹⁸³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Deaths Australia*, Cat No.3302.0, ABS, Canberra, 2001.

¹⁸⁴ Standardised death rates enable the comparison of death rates between populations with different age structures by relating them to a standard population. The current standard population is all persons in the 1991 Australian population. The standardized death rate is the overall death rate that would have prevailed in the standard population if it had experienced at each age the death rates of the population under study.

¹⁸⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Deaths Australia*, Cat No.3302.0, ABS, Canberra, 2001.

¹⁸⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Deaths Australia*, Cat No.3302.0, ABS, Canberra, 2001.

¹⁸⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Causes of Death, Australia*, Cat No.3303.0, ABS, Canberra, 2001.

¹⁸⁸ Coates M.S. and Tracey E.A., *Cancer in NSW: Incidence and mortality 1998 and incidence for selected cancers 1999*, NSW Central Cancer Registry for NSW Cancer Council, Sydney, 2001.

Cancer

- In NSW in 2000 there were 28 889 new cases of cancer, and of these 13 212 were diagnosed in women and girls.¹⁸⁹
- In NSW in 2000 there were 11 655 deaths from cancer and of these 5 098 (44%) were women and girls.¹⁹⁰

Breast cancer

- In NSW in 2000, breast cancer accounted for 29% (3,842 women) of all cancers diagnosed in NSW women.¹⁹¹
- Compared to many other cancers, the median age at diagnosis of breast cancer is young (59 years of age), with 12% of cases occurring in women aged 35-44 years.¹⁹²
- There was an especially marked increase in the incidence of breast cancer for women aged 50-69 years, from 203.3 per 100,000 in 1989 to 299.7 per 100,000 in 2000.¹⁹³
- Women aged 50-69 years are the target group for the BreastScreen NSW Program, which can reduce death rates through earlier detection of breast cancer. There is good evidence that part of the increased incidence in breast cancer in women in this age group is due to earlier detection.¹⁹⁴

Cervical cancer

- Between 1990 and 2000, both the incidence and death rates for cervical cancer among women aged 20-69 years fell by around 40%.¹⁹⁵

¹⁸⁹ NSW Central Cancer Registry, *Cancer in NSW, Incidence and Mortality 2000*, the Cancer Council of NSW, 2002.

¹⁹⁰ NSW Central Cancer Registry, *Cancer in NSW, Incidence and Mortality 2000*, the Cancer Council of NSW, 2002.

¹⁹¹ Public Health Division, *The Health of the People of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2002*. Sydney: NSW Health Department, 2002.

¹⁹² Public Health Division, *The Health of the People of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2002*. Sydney: NSW Health Department, 2002.

¹⁹³ Public Health Division, *The Health of the People of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2002*. Sydney: NSW Health Department, 2002.

¹⁹⁴ Public Health Division, *The Health of the People of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2002*. Sydney: NSW Health Department, 2002.

Burden of disease

- Heart disease and stroke are the two leading causes of burden of disease¹⁹⁶ for both men and women. Depression, dementia and breast cancer are the next three leading causes in women.¹⁹⁷

Tobacco use

- In the last twenty years, the number of current smokers as a percentage of the population has declined. For men the percentage has decreased from 41% in 1977 to 27% in 1997. For women the percentage has decreased from 30% to 21% in the same period.¹⁹⁸
- In women, the highest rate of current smoking (29%) was in the 16-24 year age group, and remained high among women aged 25-29 years (28.6%). In men the highest rate of current smoking was 35.3% in the 25-34 year age group.¹⁹⁹
- In 2000, 2,256 women died in NSW from diseases caused by smoking (lung and other cancers, coronary heart disease, stroke and other lung disease).²⁰⁰
- Between 1990 and 2000, there was a 17% increase in the incidence of lung cancer and a slight increase in death rates in women, whereas for men, there was an 18% decrease in incidence and 22% decrease in death rates.²⁰¹

Alcohol use

- In 2001, one in three persons in Australia aged 14 years or more consumed alcohol in a way that put themselves at significantly increased risk of alcohol-related harm in the *short term*. Around 39% of men consumed 7 or more standard

¹⁹⁵ Public Health Division NSW, *The Health of the People of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Health Department, Sydney, 2002, pg 204.

¹⁹⁶ 'Burden of disease' refers to the impact of illness, injury, disability and premature mortality on 'healthy' life.

¹⁹⁷ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's Health 2000*, Cat No. 19, AIHW Canberra, 2000, p54.

¹⁹⁸ Public Health Division NSW, *The Health of the People of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Health Department, Sydney, 2000.

¹⁹⁹ Public Health Division NSW, *The Health of the People of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Health Department, Sydney, 2002, p 42.

²⁰⁰ NSW Health, *The Health of the People of NSW: A Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2000*, p 50.

²⁰¹ Public Health Division NSW, *The Health of the People of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Health Department, Sydney, 2002, p 188.

drinks and 29.6% of women consumed 5 or more standard drinks on at least one day in the previous 12 months.²⁰²

- The 1998 NSW Health survey showed:
 - almost half of the men (47.9%) and more than one quarter of the women (28.9%) reported 'risk drinking' behaviours.²⁰³
 - Both men and women in the 16-34 year age group were most likely to report risk drinking.
 - More people in rural areas report risky drinking than in urban areas. Almost one third of rural women (32.2%) reported risky drinking behaviour compared to 28.0% of urban women. The Central Coast health area had the highest prevalence of risk drinking among women (35.7%).²⁰⁴

- On a day when alcoholic drinks are consumed, 60% of young men (aged 14-24 years) reported having five or more drinks compared with 39% of young women (aged 14-24 years). The proportion of occasional and regular drinkers among young women appears to be increasing, from 74% in 1995 to 78% in 1999.²⁰⁵

- Among some age groups, there are more young girls drinking at harmful levels than young men. The 1999 Australian Schools Students' Alcohol and Drugs Survey showed:
 - 28% of young men (12-17 years) and 36 per cent of young women reported they had drunk at *hazardous*²⁰⁶ amounts in the two weeks preceding the survey.
 - 20% of 15 year old girls and 30% of 16 year old girls are drinking five or more drinks on one occasion.

²⁰² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Statistics on drug use in Australia 2002*, www.aihw.gov.au/publications, 2.6.03.

²⁰³ Usual weekly intake, heavy drinking days (4 or 6 drinks per day for women and men respectively) and alcohol free days were combined to give an overall measure of 'risk drinking'.

²⁰⁴ NSW Health, *The health of the people of NSW: Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2002*, Sydney, NSW Department of Health, 2002.

²⁰⁵ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's young people – their health and wellbeing 1999*, p 127-128.

²⁰⁶ *Hazardous* is defined as three or more drinks on one occasion for women and five or more drinks on one occasion for men. This is in line with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines.

- In NSW, 17,000 students aged 16 and 17 years engaged in *hazardous* drinking two or more times in the fortnight preceding the survey.²⁰⁷

Mental health

- While the overall prevalence of mental disorders was similar for both sexes in NSW, women vary from men in the type of condition.²⁰⁸
- In 1997, 17.9% of women aged 18 or over had been diagnosed with a mental disorder, compared to 16.9% of men.²⁰⁹
- Women are more likely to be diagnosed as having anxiety or affective disorders²¹⁰ (12.8% and 6.8% of the population respectively) while men are more likely to be diagnosed with substance abuse disorders²¹¹ (10.4% of the population).²¹²

Young women

- The major health issues among young women are depression and attempted suicide, (which was the largest cause of burden among young women), eating disorders, tobacco use and reproductive and sexual health.²¹³

Depression

- The rates of depressive disorders are three times higher for young women than for young men (10% of women and 3% of men aged 18-24 years) had a depressive

²⁰⁷ NSW Health, *Youth alcohol action plan 2001-2005*, NSW Health Department, Sydney, 2002, p 7.

²⁰⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Mental health and well-being profile of adults NSW*, Cat. No. 4326.1.40.001, ABS, Canberra, 1997.

²⁰⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Mental health and well-being profile of adults NSW*, Cat. No. 4326.1.40.001, ABS, Canberra, 1997.

²¹⁰ Anxiety disorders include panic disorder, agoraphobia, social phobia, generalized anxiety disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and post traumatic stress disorder. Affective disorders include depression and dysthymia.

²¹¹ Substance abuse disorders include alcohol harmful use (a pattern of use that is causing damage to physical or mental health and is often associated with adverse social consequences), alcohol dependence (where the use of alcohol takes on a much higher priority for a person than other behaviours that once had greater value and person usually has an overpowering desire to take alcohol) and drug use disorders.

²¹² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Mental health and well-being profile of adults NSW*, Cat. No. 4326.1.40.001, ABS, Canberra, 1997.

²¹³ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's young people – their health and wellbeing 1999* p87.

disorder. The rate of depression among 18-24 year old women (10%) is higher than the overall rate of 7% for women of all ages.²¹⁴

- While the suicide rate for men was four times the rate for women, the hospitalisation rate for attempted suicide among young women was greater at all ages and more than three times the rate for young men at ages 15 and 16.²¹⁵

Eating disorders

- Eating disorders were a substantially larger burden on women than on men (7% of women and 0.2% of men).²¹⁶
- Adolescent girls are more likely to be on a special diet than boys. By the age of 16-18 years almost 20% of girls reported being on some form of special diet, 5% were on a vegetarian diet, 6% were on a weight reduction diet and a further 8% were on some other form of diet.²¹⁷
- The prevalence of anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa in Australia is estimated at 0.5% and 0.5-1% of the population respectively. However, disordered eating, restrained eating, binge eating, fear of fatness, purging and distortion of body image are common among young people.²¹⁸
- A recent study found that 29% of girls used fasting or crash dieting strategies, 9% used cigarettes, and 6% - 8% used vomiting and diet pills or laxatives at least occasionally to lose weight.²¹⁹ Findings consistent with these have been reported in other studies.²²⁰ A study of over 1,300 secondary school students showed that 57% of girls and 18% of boys had dieted at some time.²²¹
- Anorexia nervosa has the highest death rate of any psychiatric disorder.²²²

²¹⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's young people – their health and wellbeing 1999* p87.

²¹⁵ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's young people – their health and wellbeing 1999*, p101.

²¹⁶ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's young people – their health and wellbeing 1999*, p35.

²¹⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics 1995, *National Nutrition Survey*, Cat No. 4802.0, ABS, Canberra.

²¹⁸ National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) 1995, cited in Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Australia's young people – their health and wellbeing 1999*, p146.

²¹⁹ D. Maude et al 1993, *Body dissatisfaction and weight loss behaviours, and bulimic tendencies among Australian adolescents*, in National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) 1995, *Acting on Australia's weight*, p146. NHMRC 1995.

²²⁰ G. Huon 1994, *Dieting and binge eating, and some of their correlates among secondary school girls*, in National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC), *Acting on Australia's weight*, 1995, p146.

²²¹ D. Crawford & T. Selwood, *The nutritional knowledge of Melbourne high school students*, in National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC), *Acting on Australia's weight*, p151, 1995.

²²² Lee C., *Women's Health: Psychological and social perspectives*, London: Sage, 1998.

Tobacco use

- One in five 14-19 year olds reported smoking in 2001.²²³ In NSW, young women in this age group (14.9%) were more likely than young men (11.2%) to be daily smokers.²²⁴
- In NSW, there is a continuing trend for more women to take up smoking than men. Between 1992 –1996, the prevalence of non-smokers decreased for women by 37% and for men it was 26%.²²⁵
- Smoking rates are substantially higher among indigenous people compared to non-indigenous. In 2001, smoking was more commonly reported among indigenous women than non indigenous women across all age groups. Particularly in the 18-24 year old group where 54% of indigenous women were current smokers compared to 25% non-indigenous women and in the 35-44 year old group, where 61% of indigenous women were current smokers compared to only 23% of non-indigenous women.²²⁶
- In NSW, about 19.6% of women smoke. The rate of daily smoking is much higher in the 30-39 year old group (23.8%) and in the 20-29 year old group (23.3%).
- While men currently smoke more than women do, they are also quitting at a faster rate.
- Between the mid 1970s and 1996, deaths from lung cancer rose by 94% in women and fell by 23% in men.²²⁷ More women than men will develop lung cancer in NSW by the year 2006.²²⁸
- There has been no significant decline in the rate of pregnant women smoking since 1994. The proportion of mothers in NSW reporting smoking during pregnancy has varied little from 1994 (22.1%) to 1997 (20.6%). Only 3% of those who smoked during pregnancy, stopped smoking in the second half of their pregnancy and about 50% smoked more than 10 cigarettes per day.²²⁹

²²³ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey*, Drug Statistics Series No. 9, Canberra, AIHW cat. no. PHE 35, May 2002, p 12.

²²⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *2001 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: State and Territory supplement*, Drug Statistics Series No. 10, Canberra, AIHW cat. no. PHE 37, 2002,

²²⁵ W. N. Schofield et al, *Self-reported tobacco and alcohol use among NSW secondary school students. The 1996 Australian school students' alcohol and drugs survey*, NSW Cancer Council and NSW Health Department, Sydney, p38, 1998.

²²⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *National Health Survey 2001: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander results*, Cat. No. 4715.0, ABS, Canberra, 2002.

²²⁷ Coates M, Armstrong B., *Cancer in NSW incidence and mortality*, in NSW Health, *NSW tobacco Action Plan 2001-2004*, NSW Health Department, 2001, p5.

²²⁸ The Cancer Council, *Cancer in NSW Incidence and Mortality 1997* in N. Higgins, Lung cancer rates among women continue to rise, report reveals tragic end, *Border Mail (Albury/Wodonga)*, 12 July, 2000, p12.

²²⁹ Action on Smoking and Health Australia, *Tobacco Facts for MPs, information pamphlet, March 2000, No 6, 2000.*

- Cigarette smoking causes around 20% of deaths of women (before age 65) annually.²³⁰
- In 2000, 2,256 women died in NSW from diseases caused by smoking (lung and other cancers, coronary heart disease, stroke and other lung disease). The rate of smoking-related hospitalisations for women in NSW increased by about 11% between 1989-90 (715 per 100,000) and 1999-00 (789.5 per 100,000).²³¹

Reproductive health

- In NSW, 3 797 babies (4.5 per cent of all births) were born to teenage mothers (19 years of age and less) in 2001.²³² More than 90 per cent of the teenage mothers were from English speaking backgrounds while 10 per cent of all teenage girls were from language backgrounds other than English.
- The teenage birth rate in NSW is higher than in Sweden and France, on par with Canada, and lower than the United Kingdom and the United States.²³³
- Teenage mothers are more likely to have lower birth-weight babies - 9% of births to teenage mothers (under 20 years of age) were classified as low birth-weight (less than 2.5 kg). This compares to 6% for all births.²³⁴
- In NSW about one in five (20.8%) indigenous mothers are teenagers, five times higher than for non-indigenous mothers (4.8%).²³⁵
- Babies of indigenous mothers were more than twice as likely (13.5%) as babies of mothers in NSW overall (6.4%) to be of low birth-weight (less than 2500 grams). The rate of prematurity (less than 37 weeks gestation) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies was 12.4 per cent compared with a rate of 7.2 per cent for NSW overall. Babies of indigenous mothers were also twice as likely to die at birth and

²³⁰ Action on Smoking and Health Australia 2000, Tobacco Facts for MPs, newsletter, March 2000, No 6.

²³¹ Public Health Division, *The Health of the People of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer, 2002*. Sydney: NSW Health Department, 2002.

²³² New South Wales Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001, N S W Public Health Bull*; 13(S-4), 2002, p 19.

²³³ Association of Women Educators, *Pregnancy, parenting and school completion*. Source: www.sev.com.au/awe/projects.htm, April 24, 2002; Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (2002) *Differences in teenage pregnancy rates among five developed countries: the role of sexual activity and contraceptive use*. Source www.thebody.com/siecus/teen_pregnancy.html, October 1st, 2002.

²³⁴ New South Wales Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2000*, Volume 12, Number S-3, 2001.

²³⁵ New South Wales Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001, N S W Public Health Bull* ; 13(S-4), 2002, p40.

during the early post-natal phase at the rate of 18.2 per 1,000 in 2001 as 9.2 per 1,000 for NSW overall.²³⁶

Physical inactivity

- Physical inactivity has been estimated to contribute almost 7% to the total burden of disease in Australia, second only to tobacco.²³⁷
- Across all age groups, men were more likely than women to take part in sport and physical activity. The largest difference exists in the 45 to 54 year age group, where only 36.4% of women take part in physical activity, compared to 51.4% of men.²³⁸
- NSW women across all age cohorts have lower rates of participation in sport and physical activity than Australian women generally, with the exception of those aged 65 years and over. This is especially noticeable in the 45 to 54 year age group, where NSW women have a participation rate of 36.4% compared to 45% for Australian women of the same age.²³⁹
- In 2000 women were 20% less likely to report leisure time physical activity than men. Married women, especially those with children, report less leisure time physical activity than single women of the same age.²⁴⁰
- People from non-English speaking backgrounds are 32% less likely to be adequately active than English speaking people and Aboriginal people are 28% less likely to engage in adequate physical activity.²⁴¹

Body weight

- In 1998, men far exceeded women in reporting overweight or obesity (50% of men compared to 35% of women).²⁴²

²³⁶ New South Wales Department of Health, *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2001*, N S W Public Health Bull; 13(S-4), 2002, p45-47.

²³⁷ C Mathers, et al, *The burden of disease and injury in Australia*, Canberra, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1999, p xxxvii.

²³⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Participation in sport and physical activities, Australia*, Cat. No. 4177.0, ABS, Canberra, 2000.

²³⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Participation in sport and physical activities, Australia*, Cat. No. 4177.0, ABS, Canberra, 2000.

²⁴⁰ Bauman A., Bellew B., Vita P., Brown W., Owen N., *Getting Australia active: towards better practice for the promotion of physical activity*. National Public Health Partnership. Melbourne, Australia, March 2002, p31.

²⁴¹ NSW Health, *New South Health Promotion Survey, 1994, Physical Activity*, Sydney, 1996.

²⁴² Public Health Division NSW, *The health of the people of New South Wales – Report of the Chief Health Officer*, NSW Health Department, Sydney, 2002, p 35.

- A 1999-2000 study estimated that 67% of Australian men and 52% of Australian women aged 25 years and over, were overweight or obese. NSW data have historically closely matched those for the rest of Australia, with the most recent data for NSW, (National Nutrition Survey 1995) estimating that 63% of men and 46% of women were overweight.²⁴³
- Obesity rates in Australia have risen from 7.2% in men in 1980 to 17.1% in 2000. For women the rise in obesity is greater, from 7.0% in 1980 to 18.9% in 2000.²⁴⁴
- The greatest proportionate rise in rates of obesity has occurred in the 25-34 year old age group where it has more than doubled in men in the last 20 years and quadrupled in women for the same age group.²⁴⁵
- Indigenous women in each age group are more likely to be obese than non-indigenous women.²⁴⁶

Gambling

- 40% or 117,200 problem gamblers across Australia are women.²⁴⁷
- 50% of machine-playing gamblers are women, an increase of 10% over the past decade.²⁴⁸
- Over 70% of women gamble because of loneliness and isolation, boredom, stress and depression. A phone-in identified that women were concerned about the impact of gambling on their finances, relationships and sense of self-control. A significant number of women identified domestic violence and sexual abuse as factors contributing to their gambling behaviour.²⁴⁹

²⁴³ Department of Health, *Childhood Obesity Summit Background Paper*, www.nsw.gov.au/obesitysummit, 28 August, 2002.

²⁴⁴ Department of Health, *Childhood Obesity Summit Background Paper*, www.nsw.gov.au/obesitysummit, 28 August, 2002.

²⁴⁵ Department of Health, *Childhood Obesity Summit Background Paper*, www.nsw.gov.au/obesitysummit, 28 August, 2002.

²⁴⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *National Health Survey: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Results, Australia, 2001*, cat. No. 4715.0, ABS, Canberra, 2002, p37.

²⁴⁷ Productivity Commission, *Inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industries*, Canberra, 1999, p 6.57.

²⁴⁸ Productivity Commission, *Inquiry into Australia's Gambling Industries*, Canberra, 1999, p 13.

²⁴⁹ Northern Suburbs Community Development Project (1998) *Women and Gambling Project*

BUSINESS

- Women make up 44.2 % of the NSW workforce.²⁵⁰
- Women comprise only 3.4% of directors on boards of publicly listed companies²⁵¹
- Women hold only 26% of management and administrative positions in the workplace in NSW.²⁵²

Small business

- Most small businesses are operated only or predominantly by men. The next most common pattern is equal male and female operation; the least common is only or predominantly female operation (31% in NSW). This is not changing significantly.²⁵³
- Half of all small businesses are run by both men and women - 44% are husband and wife teams.²⁵⁴
- Women operators generally operate micro-businesses (either non-employing businesses or businesses employing 1-4 employees). This does not differ significantly from the proportion of businesses operated only or predominantly by men that are micro-businesses.²⁵⁵
- In 2001, 39% of women small business operators worked full-time in their businesses, while 87% of male small business operators worked full-time.²⁵⁶
- More women owner managers are found in retail trade than in any other industry. More male owner managers are found in the construction industry than in any other industry. However, men and women owner managers have four industries in common in each of their top six industries, which are:
 - construction

250 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Australia*, February 2003, Cat. No. 6203.0, ABS Canberra, 2003.

251 Sheridan, Alison, 'A view from the top: women on the boards of public companies', *Corporate Governance*, March 2001. This figure refers to the 91% of positions where the gender of board members could be identified from Australian Stock Exchange data.

252 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force NSW and ACT*, Cat. No. 6201.1, ABS Canberra, 2001.

253 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Characteristics of Small Business*, Cat. No. 8127.0, ABS Canberra, 2001.

254 Yellow Pages *Small Business Index, A Special Report on Women in Business*, 1996.

255 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Characteristics of Small Business*, Cat. No. 8127.0, ABS Canberra, 2001.

- property and business services
- retail trade
- manufacturing.²⁵⁷

Influence in the business

- Women do not have a level of influence in their businesses that is in proportion to their numerical representation as operators. In 1996, women played a major leadership role in 26% of small businesses. By comparison, men played a major leadership role in 87% of small businesses.²⁵⁸

Occupations of business operators

- The most common occupation for male owner managers is trades and related occupations, while the most common occupations for women owner managers are clerical, sales and service and professional occupations.
- However, men and women owner managers are almost equally likely to be found in professional and associate professional occupations.²⁵⁹

Home-based businesses

- 67% of all small businesses in Australia and NSW are home-based small businesses. Women and men small business operators in NSW are equally likely to be operating a home-based small business.²⁶⁰

Age profile

- The majority of women small business operators in NSW are in the 30-50 year age group and a substantial proportion are over 50. A very small proportion of women small business operators are under 30. Although they still represent a very small

256 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Characteristics of Small Business*, Cat. No. 8127.0, ABS Canberra, 2001.

257 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Forms of Employment*, Australia, Cat. 6359.0, ABS Canberra. Note: Data on owner managers in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry is not included in this analysis, to allow for comparability with other ABS small business data.

258 Yellow Pages *Small Business Index*, *A Special Report on Women in Business, 1996*. Note: these figures include businesses in which men and women share a major leadership role.

259 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001), *Forms of Employment*, Australia, Cat. 6359.0, ABS Canberra.

260 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Characteristics of Small Business*, Cat. No. 8127.0, ABS Canberra, 2001.

proportion of women operators, women operators under 30 in NSW are now the fastest growing age category for all operators, both male and female.²⁶¹

- The age profile of women in small business does not differ significantly from that of men. The majority of female and male operators are in the 30-50 age category, with a substantial proportion in the over 50 category. Men are slightly more likely than women to be in the over 50 age category.²⁶²

Indigenous small business operators

- As is the case for all Australians, indigenous women are less likely than indigenous men to be business operators. The latest available gender specific ABS data on indigenous business operators is from 1994, is for Australia as a whole, and applies to people 'managing their own business'.²⁶³
- In 1994, the proportion of indigenous men in Australia managing their own business was 6.3 per cent, compared to the Australian male average of 17.3 per cent. At the same time, 3.8 per cent of indigenous women managed their own businesses, compared to the Australian average for women of 11.8 per cent.²⁶⁴
- There is more recent data available on indigenous self-employment which is not gender-specific. At the time of the 1996 Census, there were 2,665 self-employed indigenous Australians. The overall rate of indigenous self-employment was 1.3%, compared to a rate of 4.8% for the population as a whole.²⁶⁵

Operators born overseas

- Overseas born people in NSW are proportionately more likely to be small business operators than Australian born people. One-third of all NSW small business operators

261 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Characteristics of Small Business*, Cat. No. 8127.0, ABS Canberra, 2001.

262 Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Characteristics of Small Business*, Cat. No. 8127.0, ABS Canberra, 2001.

263 Altman and McLennan (1996) *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 1994: Employment Outcomes for Indigenous Australians*, ABS, cited in Schaper, M. (1999 in *Sensis GEM Australia*, 2002), Australia's Aboriginal Small Business Owners: Challenges for the Future, *Journal of Small Business Management* (July) 88-93, cited, p. 42. In this data, individuals defined as managing their own business include owner-employers and self-employed individuals.

264 Ibid. This data is not limited to small business, but, given the very high proportion of Australian businesses which are small employing or non-employed businesses, it would be safe to assume that the data applies mainly to small business.

265 1996 ABS Census data cited in Taylor, J. and Hunter, B., *The job still ahead: Economic costs of continuing indigenous employment disparity*, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU, 1998.

were born overseas. 29% of women small business operators and 35% of male small business operators were born overseas.²⁶⁶

- The leading birthplaces of overseas-born Australian small business operators are United Kingdom and Ireland, other Europe and USSR, New Zealand, Italy, Northeast Asia (including China), Southeast Asia (including Vietnam), the Middle East and North Africa combined and Greece.²⁶⁷

²⁶⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Characteristics of Small Business*, Cat. No. 8127.0, ABS Canberra, 2001.

²⁶⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Small Business in Australia*, Cat. No. 1321.0, ABS Canberra, 1997.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Use of and access to Information Technology is influenced by a range of factors, including, sex, occupation, education level, work status, income and geographic location.²⁶⁸

Use of computers and the Internet

- Of 7,327,000 women (and 7,177,000 men) surveyed in Australia in 2002, 67% of women used a computer (compared to 70% of men) and 56% accessed the Internet (compared to 61% of men).²⁶⁹
- Of these women, 53% use a computer at home, 42% use a computer at work, 25% use a computer at a neighbour, friends or relatives home, 14% use a computer at a public library, 10% at a TAFE or other tertiary institution and 6% at a cyber cafe. Of the men, 58% used a computer at home, 44% at work, 26% at a neighbour, friends or relatives home, 10% use a computer at a public library, 10% at a TAFE or other tertiary institution and 8% at a cyber cafe.²⁷⁰
- The proportion of households in NSW with access to a home computer increased from 44% in 1998 to 61% as did those with home Internet access which increased from 18% in 1998 to 48% in 2002.²⁷¹
- In NSW, in the week before the 2001 Census:
 - 1, 264,382 (39%) of women used a personal computer at home compared with 1,335,875 (42%) men;
 - 1,798,608 (56%) women and 1639 822 (52%) of men do not use computer at home;
 - 1,110,967 (34%) women and 1,187,070 (37%) men accessed Internet;
 - of those using a computer at home in NSW 1,932,390 (59.8%) women did not use the Internet compared to 1,769,115 (56%) men.

²⁶⁸ Office of the Status of Women, *Internet and Computer Usage*, ACNielsen-McNair Reports 1997-98

²⁶⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household use of information technology, 2001-02*, Cat. No. 8146.0, ABS, Canberra, p 20,29.

²⁷⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household use of information technology, 2001-02*, Cat. No. 8146.0, ABS, Canberra, p 23.

²⁷¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household use of information technology, 2001-02*, Cat. No. 8146.0, ABS, Canberra.

- The points from which the Internet was accessed in the week before the 2001 Census of those using a computer at home in NSW included:
 - 592,822 (18.3%) women and 600 980 (19%) men used the Internet from home;
 - 180,421 (5.5%) women and 161 007 (5%) men used the Internet from work;
 - 3% of both women (99,451) and men (97,253) used the Internet elsewhere; and
 - 238,273 (7%) of women and 327,830 (10%) men used the Internet in a combination of places such as home and work or work and elsewhere.²⁷²

Purpose of computer and Internet use

- In 2002, 3,674,000 women used a home computer. Of those women, 90% used it for personal or private purposes, 44% for work or business related purposes, 39% for educational or study purposes and 13% for voluntary or community purposes.²⁷³
- In 2002, 1,332,000 women accessed government services via the Internet for private purposes. Of these women, 52% used the Internet to pay bills, 45% accessed information and services (e.g. taxation, employment and/or pensions), 20% lodged tax returns and 6% made applications for permits and other related matters.²⁷⁴

Characteristics of people using computers and the Internet

- Of those using a computer at home in NSW in the week preceding the 2001 Census,²⁷⁵ there were:
 - 424,100 girls and women (13.1%) aged 0-19 years compared to 442,734 (14.1%) boys and men;
 - 566,755 women (17.7%) aged 20-44 years compared to 562,586(18%) men in the same age group;
 - 282,567 women (7.6%) compared to 243,365 (9%) men aged 45-64 years; and

²⁷² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Basic community profile and snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra, 2002.

²⁷³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household use of information technology, 2001-02*, Cat. No. 8146.0, ABS, Canberra, p25.

²⁷⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household use of information technology, 2001-02*, Cat. No. 8146.0, ABS, Canberra, p47.

²⁷⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2002), *Basic community profile and snapshot: New South Wales*, Cat. No. 2001.0, ABS Canberra.

- 30,162 women (1.2%) aged 65 years and over compared to 47,988 (1.5%) men.

Older people are the least likely group in society to own a computer or be connected to the Internet. Only 30% of people aged 55 years and over own a home computer²⁷⁶ and while statistics indicate that older people are the fastest growing age group among Internet users, their numbers are still low. This issue is particularly relevant to women, as ABS data indicates that from the 65-69 age bracket, women comprise a higher proportion of the aged population in Australia.²⁷⁷

People residing in metropolitan areas were more likely to have accessed a computer (65% compared to 54%) and the Internet (50% compared to 39%) than adults residing outside metropolitan areas.²⁷⁸

People with high incomes are far more likely to have access to computers and the Internet than people with low incomes. In 2002, of those who had used a computer:

- 62% had incomes under \$40,000,
- 89% had incomes of \$40,000 - \$79,999; and
- 92% had incomes of \$80,000 and above.

Similarly, in 2002, of those who had used the Internet:

- 52% had incomes under \$40,000;
- 80% had incomes of \$40,000 - \$79,999; and
- 89% had incomes of \$80,000 or over.²⁷⁹

People with higher levels of education are more likely to access computers and the Internet. In 2002, of those who had used computers:

- 93% had Bachelor degrees or above;

²⁷⁶ Draft NSW Government *Seniors Online Business Case* June 2000, page 8.

²⁷⁷ ACNielsen Net Ratings, 4th Quarter, 1999 as reported in the draft NSW Government *Seniors Online Business Case* June 2000, p.8

²⁷⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household use of information technology, 2001-02*, Cat. No. 8146.0, ABS, Canberra, p29.

²⁷⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household use of information technology, 2001-02*, Cat. No. 8146.0, ABS, Canberra, p29.

86% had Diplomas;
68% had Certificate qualifications; and
59% had attained Year 12 Certificate or below.²⁸⁰

In 2002, of those who had accessed the Internet:
88% had Bachelor degrees or above;
77% had Diplomas;
56% had Certificate qualifications; and
48% had attained Year 12 Certificate or below.²⁸¹

Statistics on Women's Involvement in the ICT Industry

In 2001, 4, 283 (or 25%) women were enrolled in information and communication technology university courses in NSW, compared to 12,943 (or 75%) men.²⁸²

Excerpt from the *Proceedings of the 2003 Australian Women in IT Conference* *Overcoming the Adversity of Diversity* Scollary, A; Craig; A; Fisher J

“ It is shown that women participate in the IT industry at much lower rates than women in many other industries and have not achieved pay equity with men. Also women are not well represented in senior management roles”.

According to the 2001 census population and housing , there were 153,183 persons in Australia with a post-secondary qualification in the IT area. Of this number, 30.1% were women, which represents a decrease of 6% on the same figure in 1996. Given that the total number of men and women with IT qualifications increased by almost 70% between 1996 and 2001, this decline indicates a significant worsening of the trend away from IT education/industry by women.” p.111

Possible causes have been identified by von Helens and Nielsen, (2001) and include; misconceptions about the nature of IT work, unfriendly male dominated workplaces and the fact that the nature of IT work, makes it difficult to balance work and home responsibilities.” p.111

Analysis of recent census data indicate that the position of women in the IT industry has not improved in recent years, and in many cases has actually become worse.

- Women participate in IT occupations at about half the rate found in the general workforce

²⁸⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household use of information technology, 2001-02*, Cat. No. 8146.0, ABS, Canberra, p21.

²⁸¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household use of information technology, 2001-02*, Cat. No. 8146.0, ABS, Canberra, p29.

²⁸² Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, *ICT Skills Snapshot: The state of ICT skills in Victoria*, June 2002, p16.

- On an industry basis the Health and Community Service sector appears to provides an environment that supports women in IT occupations
- Few women have made inroads into management roles in IT
- The highest participation rate is amongst computer support technicians however there is a severe downward trend
- Income disparities between men and women occur in IT occupations as in most other occupations. Also women are concentrated in the lower income occupations of the IT sector.” p.115

**Excerpt from the Proceedings of the 2003 Australian Women in IT Conference
The Participation and Remuneration of Women in the Australian IT Industry:
An exploration of recent census data: G. Byrne; L. Staehr**

“The percentage of women graduating from university with degrees in information technology has fallen to 50% below the levels of 20 years ago”. P.83

**Excerpt from the Proceedings of the 2003 Australian Women in IT Conference:
Multimedia is much more fun but I still don't want to do IT: T, Turner**

“Women are not taking their share of IT&T jobs. The ABS estimates women at 20% of IT&T professionals with the situation not improving”.

IT Industry Figures for 2001. Male Graduates (under 25) 77.9%/ Female Graduates (under 25) 22.1%

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/mis/awic/statistics.html>

Australian Women in Computing

VIOLENCE AND SAFETY

General statistics on prevalence of violence against women

National estimates were published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1996²⁸³. These findings were based on a nationwide survey and remain the most comprehensive and up-to-date statistics available. Some of the major findings were as follows:

- 30 percent of women over the age of 18 had experienced physical violence since the age of 15²⁸⁴;
- 18 percent had experienced sexual violence since the age of 15²⁸⁵;
- 5 percent had experienced physical violence by a man and 2 percent had experienced sexual violence in the last 12 months²⁸⁶;
- 19 percent of women aged 18-24 years had experienced an incident of violence (physical or sexual) in the last 12 months²⁸⁷;
- 6.6 percent of women aged 18-24 years had been stalked during the previous 12 months²⁸⁸;
- 6.1 percent of women who had been in a previous relationship had been stalked by their partner at some time²⁸⁹; and
- 27 percent of these women reported that the stalking lasted 2 years or more²⁹⁰.

Reported rates of violence against Aboriginal women

- Aboriginal women experience assault, including domestic violence, at more than four times the rate of women generally²⁹¹.
- Aboriginal women are nearly four times more likely to be a murder victim than women generally²⁹².

²⁸³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996.

²⁸⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p13.

²⁸⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p13

²⁸⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p5

²⁸⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p5

²⁸⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p62

²⁸⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p62

²⁹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p63

- Aboriginal women are 6.6 times more likely to be a victim of grievous bodily harm than women generally²⁹³.
- Aboriginal women are 2.5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women generally²⁹⁴.

Domestic violence – prevalence

Violence is primarily perpetrated against women by men they know, generally a partner, former partner or boyfriend:

- 15.9 percent of women who had experienced physical violence during their life had been assaulted by their current partner, 51.2 percent by a previous partner and 10.8 percent by a boyfriend or date²⁹⁵;
- 10.7 percent had been physically assaulted by a family member and 8.2 percent by a friend²⁹⁶; and
- only 15.5 percent had been physically assaulted by strangers²⁹⁷.
- 23 percent of women who had been married or in a de facto relationship experienced violence by a partner at some time during the relationship²⁹⁸.

Domestic violence incidents reported to the police

- The rate of recorded incidents of domestic assault increased over the two years 2000 to 2002 from 315.4 per 100 000 population to 377.6²⁹⁹.

²⁹¹ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Aboriginal Victimization and Offending: The picture from police records*, by Jacqueline Fitzgerald and Don Weatherburn, Issue Paper no 17, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2001, p2

²⁹² NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Aboriginal Victimization and Offending: The picture from police records*, by Jacqueline Fitzgerald and Don Weatherburn, Issue Paper no 17, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2001, p2

²⁹³ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Aboriginal Victimization and Offending: The picture from police records*, by Jacqueline Fitzgerald and Don Weatherburn, Issue Paper no 17, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2001, p2

²⁹⁴ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Aboriginal Victimization and Offending: The picture from police records*, by Jacqueline Fitzgerald and Don Weatherburn, Issue Paper no 17, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2001, p2

²⁹⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p23

²⁹⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p23

²⁹⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p23

²⁹⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p50

²⁹⁹ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p45 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

- The rate of increase was not uniform across the State, however. In Sydney overall, the rate increased from 260.1 to 317.3 per 100 000 population, an increase of 22 percent. The rate in Central Northern Sydney, however, rose during the same period from 91 to 101.5, an increase of 11.54 percent, while the rate in Fairfield-Liverpool rose from 294.0 to 455.3, an increase of 54.86 percent³⁰⁰.
- Outside Sydney, again the rate of increase varied across statistical divisions. In Murray the rate increased from 413.8 to 445.8 per 100 000, an increase of 7.73 percent, whereas in the Far West, the rate rose from 1183.0 to 1745.9, an increase of 47.58 percent³⁰¹.

Domestic violence – AVOs granted

- 18 853 Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders were granted in 2001, with the highest rates per 100 000 population being in the Far West (1077.7), the North West (584.8), the Mid North Coast (489.3) and Northern (481.3) Statistical Divisions³⁰².
- The highest rates per 100 000 population for Sydney were in Blacktown (326.5) and Outer Western Sydney (300.7) and the lowest in Lower Northern Sydney (75) and Central Northern Sydney (84.2)³⁰³.

Apprehended Violence Orders breached

- Breaches³⁰⁴ have increased over the three years 2000-2002, from 171.3 to 185.4 per 100 000 population state wide, an increase of 8.23 percent³⁰⁵.
- This increase applies, though not uniformly, to all Statistical Divisions outside Sydney except for Illawarra and Richmond-Tweed, which have declined from 279.8 to 245.4 and 236.3 to 229.8 per 100 000 respectively. The largest increases were in

³⁰⁰ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p45 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

³⁰¹ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p45 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

³⁰² NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Local Courts Statistics 2001: AVOs Granted*, BoCSaR, Sydney http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/lc_2001_avo, 2002.

³⁰³ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Local Courts Statistics 2001: AVOs Granted*, BoCSaR, Sydney http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/lc_2001_avo, 2002.

³⁰⁴ Includes breaches of all Apprehended Violence Orders – Domestic and Personal

³⁰⁵ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p70 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

Murray (182.8 to 266.1 per 100 000, 45.57 percent) and the Far West (555.5 to 754.4 per 100 000, 35.81 percent)³⁰⁶.

- In Sydney, the overall rate has increased from 126.3 to 134.3, an increase of 6.33 percent, although it has declined in seven of the 14 statistical divisions, including Outer Western Sydney (177.5 to 154.1, a decrease of 13.18 percent), Central Northern Sydney (51.2 to 44.9, down by 12.3 percent) and Central Western Sydney (142.9 to 126.3 or 11.62 percent)³⁰⁷.
- The largest increases have been in Canterbury-Bankstown (up from 75.5 to 116.5, or 54.3 percent), Northern Beaches (64.5 to 94.6, an increase of 46.67 percent), and Inner Western Sydney (up by 27.8 percent, from 79.5 to 101.6 per 100 000)³⁰⁸.

Sexual violence – prevalence

Sexual violence is also primarily perpetrated against women by men they know:

- While only 3.6 percent of women had experienced sexual violence by their current partner, 21.5 percent had been sexually assaulted by a previous partner, 34.1 percent by a boyfriend or date and 26.5 percent by a friend³⁰⁹;
- 8.3 percent had experienced sexual violence by a family member and 7.4 percent by a boss or co-worker³¹⁰.
- Less than a quarter (22.3 percent) had been sexually assaulted by a stranger³¹¹.

Sexual assaults reported to the police

- The rate of recorded incidents of sexual assault has remained stable over the two years 2000 to 2002, increasing nominally from 55.9 per 100 000 population to 56.0³¹². Over the longer period, however, there has been a marginal increase from 52.0 in

³⁰⁶ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p70 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

³⁰⁷ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p70 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

³⁰⁸ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p70 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

³⁰⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p23

³¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p23

³¹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p23

³¹² NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p46 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

1998. The rate of recorded indecent assault/act of indecency declined from 59.1 to 57.2 during this same period³¹³.

- The 2000-2002 period does not reflect a uniform trend across the State, however. Eight of the fourteen Sydney statistical divisions showed an increase while six declined, with the rate for Sydney overall declining marginally from 45.5 to 44.5 per 100 000 population. The rate in Outer South Western Sydney rose during this period from 68.6 to 78.0, an increase of 13.7 percent, and declined by 41.82 percent in Central Northern Sydney, from 22.0 to 12.8³¹⁴.
- Outside Sydney, the rate rose in six of the eleven statistical divisions, remained stable in one and fell in the remaining four, with the greatest increase in the Hunter, from 55.5 to 76.5, or 37.84 percent. The rates declined elsewhere, most significantly in Murray (down from 98.2 to 61.7, or 37.17 percent) and North Western (down from 127.5 to 98.8, 22.51 percent)³¹⁵.

Percentage of victims reporting to the police

Victim surveys indicate a sharp decline in the trend for reporting sexual assault:

- an estimated 12.6 percent of victims reported the assault to the police in 1999, down from 25.6 percent in 1994³¹⁶.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics found that 20 percent of women had reported an act of physical assault by a man to the police but only 10 percent had reported a sexual assault. Only 5 percent of those who were assaulted by their current partner reported the incident to the police³¹⁷.
- 12 percent of those who were sexually assaulted did not report to the police because they were ashamed or embarrassed³¹⁸.

³¹³ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *NSW Recorded Crime Statistics 1998-2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2002, p1 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>.

³¹⁴ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p46 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

³¹⁵ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics 2002*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2003, p46 <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/bocsar1.nsf/pages/crimestatsindex>

³¹⁶ NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, *Key Trends in Crime and Justice New South Wales 1999*, BoCSaR, Sydney, 2000, p10

³¹⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p29

³¹⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p29

Percentage of sexual assault charges resulting in a conviction

- A total of 975 sexual assault charges were finalised in NSW Local Courts in 2001; of these, 43.08 percent resulted in a conviction and 56.92 percent were dismissed³¹⁹.
- 1128 sexual assault charges were finalised in NSW Higher Courts in 2001; of these, 39.18 percent pleaded or were found guilty, 29.08 percent resulted in acquittal and 23.85 percent were not proceeded with³²⁰.
- In total, 43.14 percent of all charges finalised resulted in conviction.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics found that only 22 percent of incidents reported to the police resulted in charges being laid³²¹, which equates to approximately 9.5 percent of sexual assault incidents reported to the police resulting in a conviction or guilty plea.
- If 10 percent of women report sexual assault to the police³²², less than one percent of sexual assaults are likely to result in a conviction or guilty plea.

Sexual assault – women’s experience in the court room

Women’s experience in the courtroom was documented in the *Heroines of Fortitude* report, published by the Department in 1996³²³. Some of the findings were as follows:

- In 65 percent of trials there were, on average, two interruptions to evidence because of the distress suffered by complainants³²⁴.
- 52 percent of complainants were accused of making false reports based on ulterior motives, such as vengeance or applications in Family Court proceedings. 32 percent were asked if they had made applications for victims’ compensation³²⁵.
- 59 percent were questioned about drinking on the day of the offence³²⁶.

³¹⁹ Unpublished data provided by Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, October 2002

³²⁰ Unpublished data provided by Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, October 2002

³²¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women’s Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p29

³²² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women’s Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p29

³²³ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault*, DFW, Sydney, 1996

³²⁴ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p10

³²⁵ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p13

- 57 percent of complainants were questioned about behaving in a sexually provocative manner; 42 percent were asked about the way they were dressed at the time and 22 percent were cross-examined about their responsibility for the offence³²⁷.
- 43 percent of complainants were asked about why they were in the location where contact with the accused was made. 82 percent were cross-examined about lying. More than two-thirds were questioned about lack of resistance to sexual assault³²⁸.
- In 40 percent of trials, judges gave the old-style corroboration warning that it is dangerous to convict on the complainant's evidence alone, despite changes to sexual assault legislation in 1981 that no longer requires such a warning to be given³²⁹.
- Evidence related to sexual reputation was raised in 12 percent of trials, despite such evidence being completely inadmissible. Matters related to sexual experience (which is only to be admitted in strictly defined circumstances) was admitted in 84 percent of the instances in which it was raised – in 35 percent of these cases without prior application having been made, without challenge by either counsel and without justification by the judge³³⁰.

Sexual assault – Aboriginal women's experience in the court room

The findings of *Heroines* were even harsher for Aboriginal women, who were ten times more likely to be complainants than non-Aboriginal women³³¹ and who seemed to experience greater distress during the court process than non-Aboriginal women:

- The longest cross-examination by the Defence in the entire study – five hours and 20 minutes – was of an Aboriginal woman (average time two hours)³³².
- One hearing involving an Aboriginal woman was interrupted 12 times during cross-examination because of her distress³³³.

³²⁶ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p13

³²⁷ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p14

³²⁸ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p15

³²⁹ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p17

³³⁰ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p20

³³¹ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p7

³³² Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p8

- In other hearings, complainants dry-retched, claimed to feel nauseous in the witness box, were unable to answer questions or had to take regular breaks³³⁴.
- Language barriers and the use of jargon present particular difficulties for Aboriginal women³³⁵.
- Aboriginal women experience shame in giving evidence about the essential elements of the offence such as when they are compelled to talk about their sexual organs. In one hearing where the complainant had difficulties describing her vagina or saying the word “vagina”, the Crown Prosecutor asked a total of 34 questions about sexual organs³³⁶.
- Aboriginal women were asked far more questions about lying than non-Aboriginal women. In two separate cases, Aboriginal women complainants were asked 70 questions and 29 questions respectively by the Defence on whether they were lying or making the story up, in contrast to an average of seven questions directed to complainants generally³³⁷.

Safety in public places

The ABS found the following statistics in relation to women’s feelings of safety in public places:

- 16 percent of women had used public transport alone after dark in the previous year: of these, 35 percent felt unsafe while using it and 52 percent felt unsafe while waiting for it³³⁸.
- Of the remaining 84 percent of women who had not used public transport alone after dark in the previous year, 30 percent did not do so because they did not feel safe³³⁹.
- 66 percent of women didn’t walk alone at night: of these, 58 percent did not do so because they felt unsafe³⁴⁰.

³³³ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p8

³³⁴ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p8

³³⁵ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p8

³³⁶ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault, Summary Report*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p7

³³⁷ Department for Women, *Heroines of Fortitude: the experience of women in court as victims of sexual assault*, DFW, Sydney, 1996, p100

³³⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women’s Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p61

³³⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women’s Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p61

SPORT AND LEISURE

Participation

- In 1999-2000, 52.7% of people in NSW participated in sport and physical activity (1,150,000 or 48.3% of women and 1,327,500 or 57.2% of men).³⁴¹
- Across all age groups, men were more likely than women to take part in sport and physical activity. The largest difference exists in the 45 to 54 year age group, where only 36.4% of women take part in physical activity, compared to 51.4% of men.³⁴²
- NSW women across all age cohorts have lower rates of participation in sport and physical activity than Australian women generally, with the exception of those aged 65 years and over. This is especially noticeable in the 45 to 54 year age group, where NSW women have a participation rate of 36.4% compared to 45% for Australian women of the same age.³⁴³

Media coverage

- In 1996³⁴⁴, the Australian Sports Commission carried out a survey of the media coverage of women's sport over a two-week period. The following are some of the results:

Gender breakdown of sports media coverage, 1996

	Women's	Mixed	Men's
Radio	1.4%	3.5%	95.1%
Television	2%	41.8%	56.2%
Newspaper	10.7%	10.2%	79.1%

³⁴⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Women's Safety Australia*, Cat no 4128.0, ABS, Canberra, 1996, p61

³⁴¹ NSW Department of Sport and Recreation, *Female participation in sport, recreation and physical activity in New South Wales*, Infosheet, 2002.

³⁴² Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Participation in sport and physical activities, Australia*, Cat. No. 4177.0, ABS, Canberra, 2000.

³⁴³ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Participation in sport and physical activities, Australia*, Cat. No. 4177.0, ABS, Canberra, 2000.

³⁴⁴ NSW Department of Sport and Recreation, *Media coverage of women in sport*, Infosheet, 2002.

Coaching

Women are significantly under-represented in sports coaching, especially at the elite levels and the highest levels of coaching accreditation. In Australia, 1998-99 Australian Sports commission figures report that women make up 30% of level 1 (the lowest level of accreditation), 18% of level 2 and 11% of level 3 accredited coaches.³⁴⁵

Earnings and prize money in sport

Inequality between men and women exists in many areas of sport, including sponsorship and media coverage as well as earnings and prize money.

Sport	Men	Women
Cricket	Retainers for 25 selected Australian players range from \$110,000 to \$440,000 per year	Women cricketers do not receive payment
2002 Professional Golfers Assoc Tour Top ranking players	Tiger Woods received \$6,912,625	Annika Sorenstam \$2,863,904
2003 Australian Open Tennis ³⁴⁶	\$1,127,850	\$1,127,850
2002 Quicksilver Series Surfing	\$711,163 Mark Occhilupo	\$385,000 Layne Beachely

Source: Women's Cricket Australia, Women's Golf Australia, Tennis Australia and Surfing Australia

Commercial Sponsorship of Sport³⁴⁷

Sport	Sponsorship
motor racing	\$657,362,000
AFL	\$108,406,000
rugby league	\$106,430,000
netball	\$5,395,000
hockey	\$4,865,000

³⁴⁵ NSW Department of Sport and Recreation, *Women as coaches*, Infosheet, 2002.

³⁴⁶ In 2001 Tennis Australia announced that men and women would receive equal prize money at the 2001 Australian Open.

³⁴⁷ Commercial Economic Advisory Service Australia (CEASA) data