

**This survey ...** provides a picture of the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal adults, aged 15 years and over, living permanently, and temporarily in South Australia from November 2010 to October 2011. The information collected will be used to inform policy and improve health services provided for all Aboriginal South Australians as well as help to inform programs progressing the aims of the Closing the Gap initiatives.

Some of the information has already been used to feed into ongoing programs such as:

- ◆ ‘Ever Felt Like Complaining’ campaign;
- ◆ Tackling Smoking Closing the Gap programs;
- ◆ ‘Give Up Smokes For Good’ campaign;
- ◆ Aboriginal Well Health Checks programs;
- ◆ Road safety for Aboriginal persons;
- ◆ Safe driver’s licensing practices; and
- ◆ Direction for the next survey.

The purpose of this booklet is to highlight the key findings from the cultural factors data for the three regions: metropolitan Adelaide, rural SA, and remote communities.

Should you wish to explore these or other SAAHS data in more depth, please do not hesitate to contact Population Research and Outcome Studies (PROS) (see overleaf). Additionally, the complete report can be viewed on the PROS website by clicking the [2012 South Australian Aboriginal Health Survey](#) link under reports.



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## SAAHS

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SURVEY

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Government  
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SA Health

The art work depicts families coming together to share food collected from the bush (Artist: Mark Elliot/Trevorrow, Ngarrindjeri Elder).

# South Australian Aboriginal Health Survey

## ABORIGINAL CULTURE



## REGIONS OVERVIEW

## Are Aboriginal languages spoken?

Yes, nearly three quarters of SA Aboriginal adults speak at least some words of an Aboriginal language, while nine out of ten people speak mainly English at home.

Those respondents reporting that English was their main language spoken at home were:

- ◆ more likely to be from metropolitan Adelaide; and
- ◆ less likely to be from remote communities.

Respondents who reported speaking an Aboriginal language as their main language at home were:

- ◆ more likely to be from a remote community; and
- ◆ less likely to be living in metropolitan Adelaide or rural SA.

## Are traditional foods part of an everyday diet?

Yes, over one third say they have traditional foods in their diet.

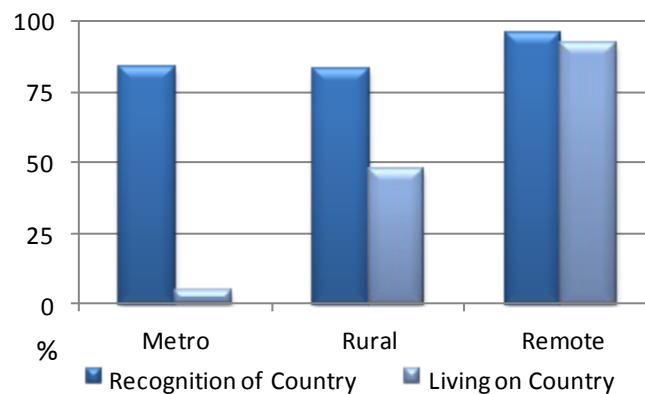
Adults living in metropolitan Adelaide are less likely to have traditional foods in their diet (28%) when compared to non-metropolitan areas of the state (72%).

**Note:** All data reported are from the SAAHS 2010/11 for Aboriginal South Australians, 15 years of age and older.

## Identification and use of traditional Lands . . .

Overall, 85% of people recognise an area as their community, Homeland, or traditional Country, and one in three of these people are currently living on that Country (31%).

Aboriginal adults living in remote or rural areas of SA are more likely to be living in areas they recognise as their traditional Country when compared to metropolitan Adelaide.



Recognition of and living on traditional Lands, by region

## Importance of attending cultural activities ...

Seven out of every ten people said that it was important for them to attend ceremonies, carnivals, and cultural activities.

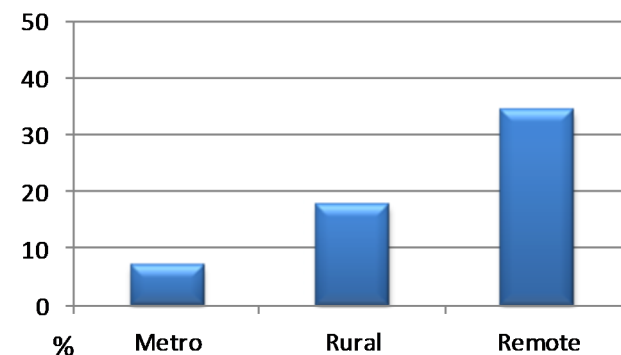
One third of these people reported not always being able to do so whenever, or as often as they would want to.

## Involvement in 'Caring for Country' activities ...

Almost one in seven SA Aboriginal adults report spending more than a few days in the last year involved in 'Caring for Country'\* activities.

Those in remote areas are more likely to spend more than a few days in the last year undertaking 'Caring for Country' activities\* when compared to adults living in the rest of SA.

\*Caring for Country activities include: living on Country, travelling through Country, burning grass, cleaning up, gathering bush tucker and medicine, protecting sacred sites, animals and totems, performing or participating in ceremonies, and making artworks.



Spending time on 'Caring for Country' activities\*, more than a few days in the last year

## Cultural activities ...

Overall, 75% of people attended, or had been involved in, at least one cultural activity in the past twelve months.

Those living in metropolitan Adelaide are less likely to have attended, or been involved in, at least one cultural activity when compared to the rest of the state.