

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 overall state.

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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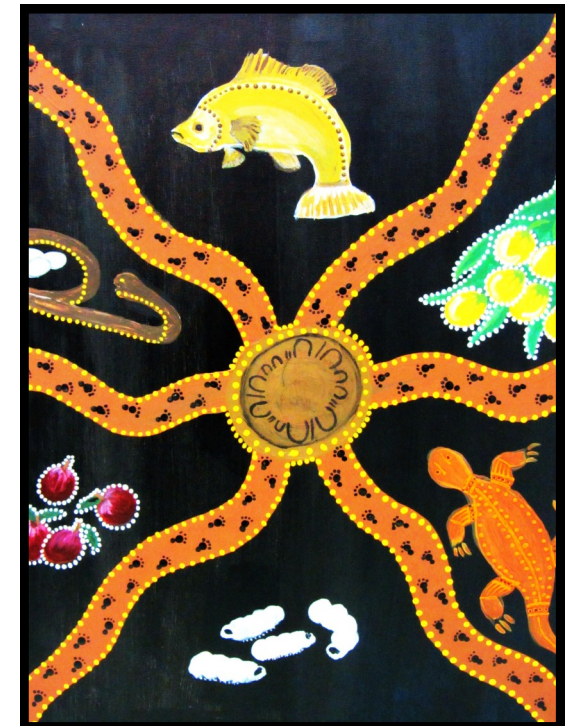
Government
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SA Health

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

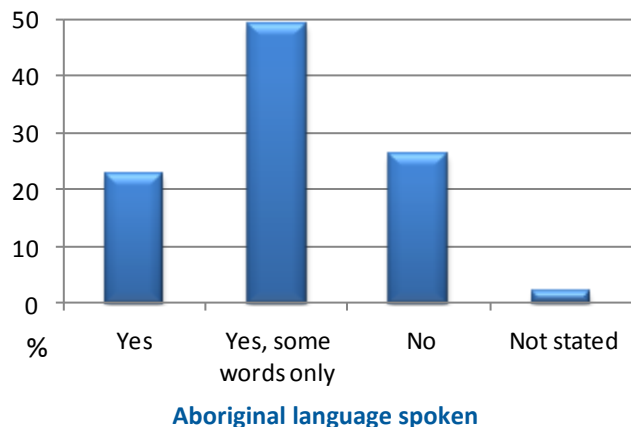
ABORIGINAL CULTURE



STATE OVERVIEW

Are Aboriginal languages spoken?

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



Identification and use of traditional Lands . . .

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

Are traditional foods part of an everyday diet?

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

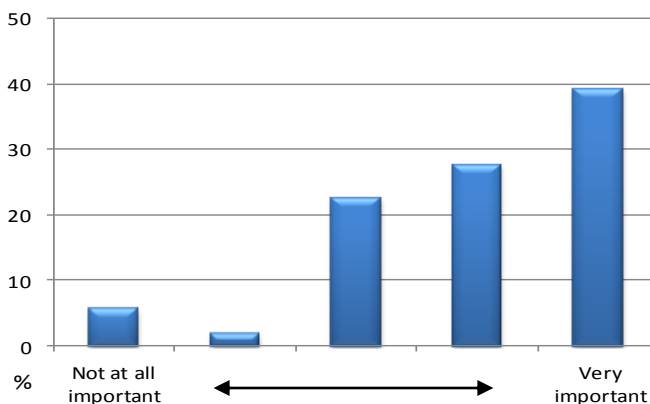
Note: All data reported are from the SAAHS 2010/11 for Aboriginal South Australians, 15 years of age and older.

Cultural activities ...

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

Seven out of every ten people said that it was important or very 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.



Importance of being able to attend ceremonies, carnivals, and cultural activities as often as respondent would like.

Overall, 57% of people reported being able to attend or take part in activities whenever or as often as they would like.

These respondents were more likely to be male and aged 15 to 24 years of age and less likely to be female and aged 45 years and over.

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. These activities included:

- ◆ living in Homeland, travelling through Country (70%);
- ◆ cleaning up country, fire work (11%);
- ◆ gathering bush tucker, bush medicine, hunting and fishing (55%);
- ◆ looking after Sacred Sites, animals, and totems (14%);
- ◆ performing or participating in ceremony (8%);
- ◆ making artworks—painting, weaving, and carving (27%);
- ◆ performing any Aboriginal music, dance, or theatre (9%); and
- ◆ writing or telling any Aboriginal stories (21%).

There were no differences found between males and females, however, those aged 45 years and over were more likely to spend more than a few days each year on Country.

