



Domain 5

Participating

It is important for children and young people to be actively participating with their peers and within the community. Children can be involved by speaking up and sharing their views, being involved in sport or other recreational or social activities and by volunteering. Young people can participate in work, further study and can vote to have a say in our political leadership.

In this domain, two outcomes of participation in work or study and participation in the community, are explored through five indicators and three case studies:



5.1 Participation in work or study

5.1.1 Young people earning or learning

Engaging in school, higher education, training or work is crucial for young people to gain employment skills and become contributing members of society. After school, young people engage in seasonal activities of work and study which are often subject to opportunity, accessibility and individual priorities.

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, who are engaged in school, work or further education and/or training



Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

The proportion of young people in the NT engaged in 'earning or learning' in 2016 was lower than the Australian average. Across the NT, engagement varied from about 2 in 5 young people in remote regions, such as East Arnhem (42.0%), to 4 in 5 young people in Greater Darwin (79.5%).

5.1.2 Unemployment among young people

Unemployment is measured as the proportion of working age Australians who are not working but can work and are looking for work. Some workers, particularly young people, become discouraged, and stop actively looking for work. While these individuals may be jobless, they are not recorded as being unemployed in official unemployment statistics.

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, who are unemployed



Data source and year: Australia: ABS Labour Force Survey 2016. NT, Greater Darwin and regions: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

The labour force survey conducted by ABS in 2016, sampling approximately 50,000 people, reported that about 1 in 10 young Australians (12.0%) are unemployed. There is substantial variation in the unemployment rate for young people across the NT. For Greater Darwin the unemployment rate is lower (9.6%) than the comparable Australian figure, while in some NT regions more than 1 in 3 young people are registered as unemployed, such as Top End (44.1%) and Barkly (37.4%).

5.1.3 Community Development Program participation


The Community Development Program (CDP) is an employment program operated in remote areas by the Australian Government. It is aimed at improving employment opportunities through young people gaining employment experience as well as enabling young people to contribute to their communities through a range of flexible activities. Over 30,000 people in Australia are employed by CDP providers.⁽⁵⁷⁾

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, participating in the Community Development Program



Data source and year: Australia and NT: ABS Census of Population and Housing. Greater Darwin and regions: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

The availability of CDP varies across the NT regions. At the time of the last census, in 2016, there were no CDP programs in the Greater Darwin area, while in East Arnhem 1 in 14 young people (7.6%), aged 15-24, work in a CDP activity.



'It's changed my life. We can support our families and also we are doing something good for our community'

BACK TO THE TOOLS

'My name is Clinton. I am a proud Arrernte man from Ltyentye Apurte and one of the founders of the Ltyentye Apurte Traditional Craft Centre. Before the Traditional Craft Centre I was working at the men's shed and Catholic Care. I didn't really know anything about doing craft and bush tools until my big brother, Dean, showed me some stuff. That's how I started and then I got the hang of it and the more I keep on doing it I get better and better.

We decided to make tools again, the grandsons got together and started making tools. It's pretty good I'm working for the Traditional Craft Centre otherwise I'd still be working over there (on Community Development Program). It's changed my life.

I think everybody looks up to us now we have jobs. We can support our families and also we are doing something good for our community.

They bring the school kids up to us once a week to learn from us to make woomeras and shields and boomerangs. I see the schoolkids changing because they are excited to come here and work with us. I heard my little nephew saying they 'can't wait to go up to the craft centre'.

Showing our work off makes me feel proud. Proud to be Aboriginal, proud to have culture, proud to have these skills, and to support this community. I'm proud of doing our traditional crafts'

Photo: Clinton at home in Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa)

5.2 Participation in the community

5.2.1 Young people volunteering

Volunteers make an extraordinary social and economic contribution to the Australian community, a value which has been estimated to be as much as \$290 billion a year.⁽⁵⁸⁾ The value is not only to the individuals and organisations that benefit directly from the service, but also the social and emotional benefit to the volunteers and to the wider community. ABS defines a volunteer as someone who performs unpaid work in the form of time, employment or skills through a group or organisation.⁽⁵⁹⁾

Australian young people report they volunteer to help others, to develop social contacts, for personal satisfaction and as a form of staying active. Over half a million young Australians had engaged in volunteer work at the time of the last census.⁽⁵⁹⁾

Proportion (%) of people, aged 15-24, who spent time doing voluntary work in the previous 12 months



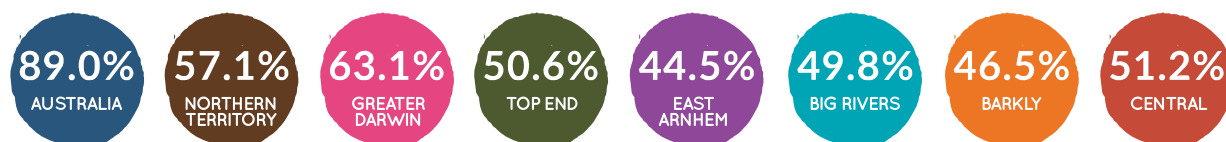
Data source and year: Australia: ABS: Census of Population and Housing, 2016. NT, Greater Darwin and regions: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

At the time of the census in 2016 about 1 in 5 young people (18.5%) aged 15-24, across Australia, reported undertaking voluntary work in the previous year. In the NT the proportion was lower with about 1 in 8 young people (12.6%) across the NT having volunteered. Across the regions there was some variation in the proportion of young people volunteering.

5.2.2 Young people enrolled to vote

Many young people in Australia are active and interested in social and political issues, and young voters are a powerful segment influencing Australian elections. In Australia, all citizens aged 18 years and older, are required to enrol and vote in elections, by-elections and referendums. Voting is a demonstration of active citizenship and is considered a responsibility of a citizen.

Proportion (%) of people, aged 18-24, enrolled to vote



Data source and year: Australia: Australian Electoral Commission, 30 June 2019. NT, Greater Darwin and regions: NT Electoral Commission, 28 June 2019; proportions calculated using ABS 3235.0 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2017.

Note: Proportions are calculated using estimated resident populations, with no adjustment for residents not eligible to vote.

There is a substantial difference in the rates of enrolment by young adults between the NT and Australia. In the NT, about 6 in 10 young adults (57.1%) are enrolled to vote compared with 9 in 10 young adults (89.0%) across Australia. The enrolment rate varies across the NT from over 4 in 10 young adults in East Arnhem (44.5%) to almost two thirds in Greater Darwin (63.1%).

Participation in sport and physical activities improves health and wellbeing. There is no data to adequately reflect sporting involvement in the Northern Territory and so, over the next two pages, a couple of stories are included to reflect participation in sport and physical activities, and the resulting positive outcomes for children and young people.



'All levels of student abilities are catered for'

BUILDING PATHWAYS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

In the Barkly region, school students were competing in regional athletics competitions without any exposure to competitive sport outside of their school environment. A proposal was made in 2016 to develop an interschool sports program to build capacity and give students broader experience in the lead-up to regional competitions.

The interschool athletics carnival program was launched in the following year. It aimed to bring schools and their students together for athletics carnivals. The days socialised the students on a wider level, gave them greater exposure to competition and prepared them for regional events. 'The students from our school look forward to the annual Interschool Athletics Carnival. Beneficial student outcomes can be measured by student participation, physical fitness, socialisation and enjoyment', said Janet Purje from Murray Downs School.

The athletic carnivals are competitive sporting events with a strong social component. 'All levels of student abilities are catered for and when ribbons are awarded for either a place or participation, they are worn proudly and shared with parents and the community upon return home', Janet said. Community members attend and are also involved in the relays, tug of war, and egg and spoon race.

Since its inception, there has been an increase in schools and students participating, with all schools in the region apart from two participating in 2018.

Photo: A student competing at the Ampilatwatja interschool competition



'This place is like my second home'

A SAFE PLACE TO GO

In Palmerston, teenagers had been asking to use the basketball courts at the Palmerston Recreation Centre after school. They wanted a place which was easy to get to, safe, and where they could be with their friends from other schools. Sport, particularly basketball, is a positive engagement tool and one that attracts a wide range of young people.

Responding to the requests from the community, in April 2017, the Youth Drop-In Sports program began. The model of delivering the program is based on the Loughborough University 10 factors of effective sport-based projects. The program runs five days a week, 50 weeks a year. It is a place-based solution to the perceived issue of youth crime and anti-social behaviour. Young people are involved in nearly all aspects of the program, from the planning to evaluation.

The program is also about building relationships between teenagers, the staff and volunteers, and sports. It engages with an average of 85 young people each night, over 100 on Friday nights and on average 70% are Aboriginal young people.

Clinton says, 'Before coming here, I really didn't have anywhere to hang out so used to just hang out at the shops. Coming here keeps me motivated and happy with something to look forward to each day. It keeps my mind positive'. And Kaylum, 'I like it here because I get to hang out with people into the same hobbies as me. I come because I had to do something positive and keep me active, so I stay away from the streets. This place is like my second home'.

Photo: Youth Drop-In Sports mentors Campbell and Mikaella at the afternoon program.