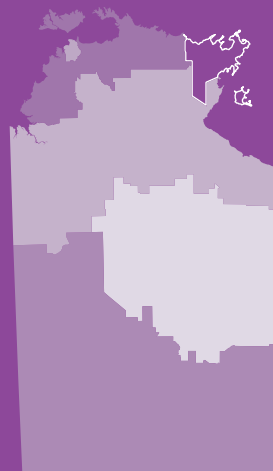


# STORY OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

EAST ARNHEM 2021



## Acknowledgements

In the spirit of respect, the authors acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country and recognise their continuing connection to their lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to elders past and present.

We wish to thank the many individuals who have contributed to the development of the featured stories. We also thank the data custodians who have assisted with preparation and release of the datasets, John Glover and Sarah McDonald at the Population Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) at Torrens University and Fiona Shalley at the Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University who prepared some of the data tables.

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The data platform is available at [cmc.nt.gov.au](http://cmc.nt.gov.au).

## Disclaimer

This Story is for information purposes only. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate, the Northern Territory Government and Menzies School of Health Research will not accept any liability for any loss or damage which may be incurred by any person acting in reliance upon the information.

Cover photos: The cover celebrates the rich cultural make-up of the children and young people of East Arnhem.

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# Introduction

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**The Story of Our Children and Young People (the Story) addresses the demand for information about the wellbeing of children and young people. This East Arnhem Story is an abridged version of the Northern Territory 2021 edition. It is a resource for people working for and with children and young people in East Arnhem. It provides an evidence-base to support actions to improve outcomes.**

This 2021 Story builds on the 2019 edition with updated data for many of the measures, the addition of sub-regional data and data by Aboriginal status. A number of measures have been added to address the identified data gaps from 2019. Updates are also provided for many of the case studies presented in the 2019 Story.

There have been changes to the policy environment since the 2019 Story including revision of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the development of a Northern Territory Social Outcomes Framework. There has also been the disruption created by the COVID-19 pandemic including its implications to service delivery. The data measures and case studies in this Story have been considered in the context of this changing policy environment, with links to Closing the Gap and the Social Outcomes Framework highlighted alongside data measures using these icons:  

Much of the available data is service-based and commonly reports deficits rather than positive outcomes. The Editorial Committee investigated strength-based measures in the development of the Story and there will be continued effort in the preparation of the 2023 Story. A number of case studies highlight the positive work happening throughout the region.

## DATA PLATFORM

The most significant addition to the Story is an interactive data platform to complement the data available in this Story. It allows users to explore measures in comparison with Australia, the Northern Territory and its other regions. Trend data for select measures is also included to consider changes over time. Use the platform at [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children). Measures for which trend data is available on the platform have this icon: 

The data presented in this East Arnhem Story is drawn from the data platform and may vary slightly from the data presented in the Northern Territory 2021 edition of the Story. Technical commentary on the data is detailed on page 29 and also in Appendix I on page 128 of the Northern Territory 2021 edition.

## CHANGE FROM 2019 TO 2021

When comparing data from this 2021 Story with the 2019 Story for the region as a whole, a number of indicators suggest change. For example, the proportion of babies exposed to alcohol during pregnancy has decreased, the number of children with notifications of child abuse has increased and school attendance in Transition has increased slightly. For young people, the apparent retention rate from Year 7 to Year 12 has increased and the rate of young people victim of an offence against a person has increased. Caution is required when making comparison using only two data points and over a short period. Trend data using multiple data points provides a more reliable assessment of change.

## THE NEST FRAMEWORK

The Story is underpinned by the national research of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) and the Nest outcomes framework. Through ARACY's research it was determined that for children and young people to thrive, they need to be valued, loved and safe; have material basics; be healthy; learning; participating and have a positive sense of identity and culture.

## HOW TO USE THIS STORY

You can use this Story in many ways, including:

- For community planning and local conversations
- As a tool to better understand indicators of wellbeing
- In service and organisational planning
- To support understanding of an outcomes-based approach
- As a reference when developing communication tools for community members and/or children and young people
- For the induction and training of staff
- To track progress against key indicators of wellbeing
- In the writing of grant applications
- When advocating for children and young people

Tell us how you are using the Story by visiting [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children).

## ABORIGINAL FRAMEWORK

While the Story is underpinned by the national research of ARACY, it acknowledges the ancient authority and traditions of Aboriginal people by using a local framework, developed in 2019, which applies cultural metaphors. The Aboriginal Framework was updated in 2021 with blue dots around the upper half of the framework to depict the waters of the northern parts of the Territory, with the ochre dots around the lower half of the framework depicting the deserts of the southern regions.



Aboriginal Framework. Source: Developed by a cultural reference group of the Editorial Committee and modified through conversations with Aboriginal people from across the Northern Territory. Painted by Cian McCue.

- a** Child or young person in the centre, with their family
- b** Children and young people form the inner circle
- c** They are surrounded by a second circle of parents, uncles, aunts and those within the family across that generation. This circle also includes local service providers such as schools and clinics, and other people working with families
- d** The third circle represents grandparents, elders and those within the family across that generation. It also includes cultural authority groups, government, policy makers and decision makers
- e** Around the circles of people, are four groups of people talking and working together
- f** Everything is connected by travel lines which illustrate movement and flow, as everything co-exists. The movement is in all directions as people have responsibilities to each other. Through the kinship system, everything and everyone is connected including to the sun, moon, stars and universe. It is important for everyone to be working together and communicating with each other
- g** The dots around the outside hold the framework together, demonstrating a wholeness. The dots also allow for movement in and out of the framework.

# METAPHORS AND THE NEST DOMAINS

The metaphors used for the Aboriginal Framework were selected to be readily interpreted using the six domains of the Nest. These six areas of wellbeing for children and young people are the pillars around which this Story is written.

The stories of the children and young people from East Arnhem are told through these six domains.

**Being valued, loved and safe – Coolamon** – The coolamon is a large bowl-like carrier made from the wood of a tree. It is a traditional cot and keeps babies safe, strong and healthy.

**Having material basics – Tree** – Trees can provide essential items such as wood and bark for housing, tools for hunting and a source of bush food and medicine.

**Being healthy – Hunting and gathering** – Connection to land and culture through hunting and gathering ensures a healthy lifestyle – physically, developmentally and mentally. Plants and animals provide important food sources to maintain a healthy diet.

**Learning – Oral tradition** – There is a strong oral tradition in Aboriginal culture, as well as other cultures present in the Territory. Elders and grandparents sit with children and young people to pass on knowledge

**Participating – Spear, boomerang and dilly bag** – Spears, boomerangs and dilly bags represent active participation in Aboriginal community life - hunting and fishing gathering seeds and fruit as well as leisure, music and dance.

**Positive sense of identity and culture – Kinship system** – Everything in Aboriginal life is connected to and given its place in the kinship system. It is about the whole universe, the planets, stars, moon and sun – everything is connected.

Whilst we are separating elements of wellbeing, in life they are intrinsically linked and so there is crossover between domains. We have attributed indicators to the domains in which they are most commonly reported.

## CONTENTS

In this Story, you will find:

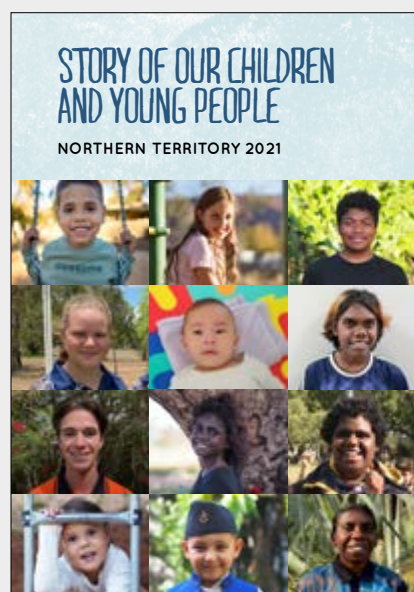
1. Information for East Arnhem, including Nhulunbuy and the balance of the region
2. Population information about families, education, employment, language and culture
3. Data for measures of child and youth wellbeing across the six domains outlined above
4. Case studies demonstrating positive change
5. Cultural stories of wellness
6. Links to the data platform containing further information

While the data highlight many stories, the Story uses a simple and direct approach in the presentation of measures. The Story deliberately refrains from providing interpretation or opinion. Definition of measures are included in the Northern Territory 2021 edition of the Story.

## GLOSSARY

Aboriginal	Aboriginal people, including Torres Strait Islanders and also to mean First Nations peoples
Child/children	Usually aged 0-9, statistically and legally aged 0-17
Children and young people	Children and young people, aged 0-24
Community	Inclusive of all forms of community: local community, schools, sporting clubs, arts and music clubs, faith communities and others
Domain	An essential outcome area of wellbeing which encompasses indicators related to a central subject
Early Childhood/early years	Refers to early development years of children, aged 0-5
Indicator	A broad and measurable concept that can indicate change
Family	Inclusive of related families, caregivers, guardians, kinship carers, foster or adoptive families and any other arrangements where children are in the official care of adults
Measure	A specific and quantifiable variable which addresses an indicator
Outcome	A goal or aspiration for the wellbeing of children and young people
Youth/young people	Young people, aged 10-17
Young adults/people	Young adults, aged 18-24

Further information about the development of the Story with context for each measure, referencing, data sources and appendices, can be found in the Northern Territory edition of the 2021 Story online, [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children).



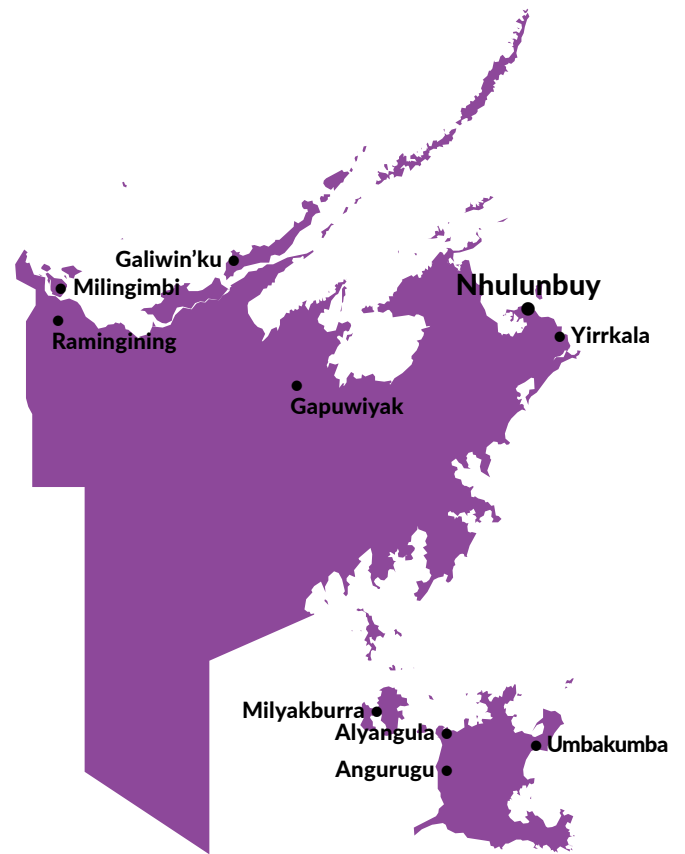


# People of East Arnhem

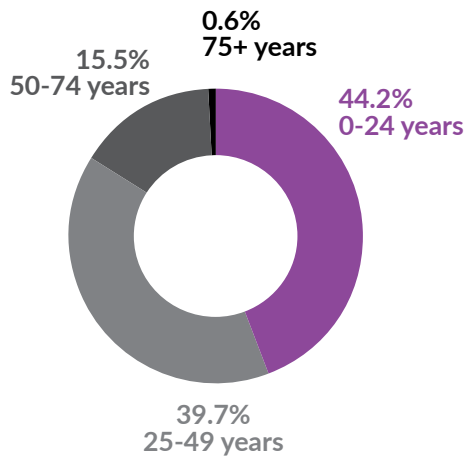
The region of East Arnhem covers the north-east corner of the Northern Territory. The major centre is Nhulunbuy. There are 10 other communities and over 70 outstations.

## POPULATION

East Arnhem has a population of 14,494 people, the majority of which live outside of Nhulunbuy. Almost 3 in 4 people (71.3%) identify as Aboriginal and about 1 in 16 people (6.1%) were born overseas. East Arnhem is one of the least transient populations when compared to the other Territory regions, with less than 1 in 10 people (8.6%) having lived interstate five years earlier. East Arnhem is the youngest region of the Territory, with more than 4 in 10 people (44.2%) aged 0-24.



### Age distribution of population



	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
Total population	14,494	3,274	11,220
Aboriginal people <sup>a</sup>	71.3%	15.9%	87.9%
Children and young people, aged 0-24	44.2%	39.0%	45.7%
People who were born overseas <sup>b</sup>	6.1%	16.4%	2.9%
People who lived interstate five years earlier <sup>b</sup>	8.6%	21.5%	4.5%

Data source and year: ABS 3235.0 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2019; <sup>a</sup> ABS Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, prepared by PHIDU (special table), June 2016; <sup>b</sup> ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

## FAMILIES

Across the region, 3 in 10 families with children under 15 years (29.5%) are single parent families. Of these, 8 in 10 families (79.2%) have a female as the head of the family.

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
Families with children aged under 15, who are single parent families	29.5%	14.1%	34.4%
Single parent families, who have a female as the head of the family	79.2%	65.9%	80.9%

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

## LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Across East Arnhem, 1 in 4 people (25.9%) speak only English and about 6 in 10 people (62.1%) speak an Aboriginal language at home. Outside of Nhulunbuy the proportion of people who speak an Aboriginal language at home is higher at more than 8 in 10 people (80.8%).

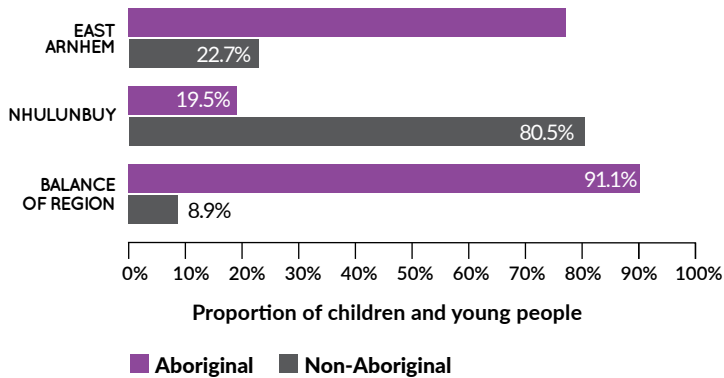
	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
People who speak only English	25.9%	71.8%	11.5%
People who speak an Aboriginal language at home	62.1%	2.2%	80.8%
People who speak a language other than English at home (including Aboriginal languages)	64.5%	11.2%	81.2%

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



There are 6,407 children and young people, aged 0-24, living in the region, almost half of the population. The majority of these (5,130) live outside of Nhulunbuy. Almost 8 in 10 children and young people (77.3%) are Aboriginal, the third highest proportion of Aboriginal children and young people of all the regions after Top End and Barkly.

## Proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 0-24, by Aboriginal status



## Number of children and young people

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
0-4 years	1,121	224	897
5-9 years	1,381	307	1,074
10-14 years	1,303	310	993
15-19 years	1,402	260	1,142
20-24 years	1,200	176	1,024
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,407</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>5,130</b>

Data source and year: Modelled based on SA2, IARE and IREG 2016 ERP and the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016, prepared by PHIDU (special table).

Data source and year: ABS 3235.0 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2019.

# EDUCATION



About 1 in 5 people aged 15 and over (22.2%), have a higher education qualification. For more than 1 in 8 people (13.3%), Year 12 is their highest level of education. For 1 in 5 people (21.1%), Year 10 or equivalent (including Year 11, Certificate I and II) is their highest level of education.

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
People, aged 15 and over, who have a higher education qualification (above Year 12 level)	22.2%	48.9%	13.9%
People, aged 15 and over, for whom Year 12 is their highest level of education	13.3%	11.7%	13.8%
People, aged 15 and over, for whom Year 10 or equivalent (including Year 11, Certificate I and II) is their highest level of education	21.1%	11.5%	24.1%

# EMPLOYMENT



More than 4 in 10 people aged 15-64 (44.8%), participate in the workforce. Of these, 1 in 7 people (14.1%) are unemployed. The proportion of workforce unemployment is more than 8 times higher outside of Nhulunbuy (21.5%), compared to Nhulunbuy (2.6%). The major employment industries in East Arnhem are education and training, mining, and health care and social assistance.<sup>a</sup>

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
People, aged 15-64, who participate in the workforce (employed or actively looking for work)	44.8%	74.5%	35.7%
People who are unemployed, of those who participate in the workforce	14.1%	2.6%	21.5%

Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016. <sup>a</sup> ABS Housing and Population Census, 2016.



# Domain 1

## Being valued, loved and safe

Children and young people should be valued, loved and safe in the environment they grow up in, both in the family and the broader community. This need includes having loving family relationships, positive connections with their peers and other adults, and personal and community safety. These factors are critical for children and young people's healthy development and their ability to socialise, to understand society and to shape their future. When children are valued, loved and safe, they are more confident, resilient and have a stronger sense of identity.

The available data for this domain is service-based and commonly reports deficits rather than positive outcomes. The Editorial Committee investigated strength-based measures and there will be continued effort in the preparation of the 2023 Story.

There is the addition of one measure in this domain for the number of young people in detention. This new measure responds to a data gap identified in the 2019 Story.

In this domain, the two outcomes of safe families and safe communities are explored through eight indicators.

## 1.1 Safe families

### 1.1.1 Domestic and family violence

Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, in notifications with domestic and family violence recorded as a contributing factor

		EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	Number	395	0	395
	Proportion	7.9%	0%	10%
Aboriginal	Number	367	0	367
	Proportion	9.7%	0%	10.3%
Non-Aboriginal	Number	28	0	28
	Proportion	2.2%	0%	7.5%

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).

Number of domestic and family violence offences where children, aged 0-17, were subject to violence or heard/saw the incident



Data source and year: NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (special table extracted on 4 August 2021), 2020-21.

Note: 1. This measure is not reportable by sub-region due to small numbers.  
2. This measure is not available by Aboriginal status.

### 1.1.2 Child abuse or neglect

Child abuse and neglect refers to behaviour or treatment that either harms or has the potential to harm a child or young person, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, exposure to domestic and family violence, sexual abuse and neglect.

Number of notifications of child abuse or neglect

		EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All		1,608	0	1,608
Aboriginal		1,492	0	1,492
Non-Aboriginal		116	0	116

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21.

Note: Children can be reported on more than one occasion in a year.

Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, with notifications of child abuse or neglect

		EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	Number	1,003	0	1,003
	Proportion	20.0%	0%	25.4%
Aboriginal	Number	914	0	914
	Proportion	24.2%	0%	25.5%
Non-Aboriginal	Number	89	0	89
	Proportion	7.1%	0%	23.7%

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).



Substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect are those in which an investigation of a notification has confirmed there was reasonable cause to believe the child had been, or was likely to be harmed.

### Number of substantiated investigations for children, aged 0-17

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	97	0	97
Aboriginal	97	0	97
Non-Aboriginal	0	0	0

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21.

Note: In July 2018 the NT Government introduced the One Child One Case policy to improve the way in which the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities responds to subsequent notifications for children who have a current open case. As a result, fewer investigations have been commenced.

### Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, who were the subject of a substantiated investigation

		EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	Number	97	0	97
	Proportion	1.9%	0%	2.5%
Aboriginal	Number	97	0	97
	Proportion	2.6%	0%	2.7%
Non-Aboriginal	Number	0	0	0
	Proportion	0%	0%	0%

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).



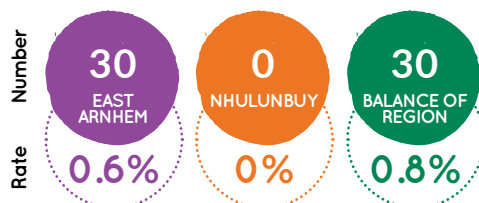
visit the data platform for more information on these measures.  
[cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)

Resubstantiation refers to the circumstance when children who were the subject of a substantiated episode of child abuse and neglect are the subject of another substantiation within 12 months.

### Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, who were the subject of resubstantiation, within 12 months

This measure is not reportable for East Arnhem due to small numbers.

### Number and proportion (%) of children, aged 0-17, in out-of-home care



Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21.

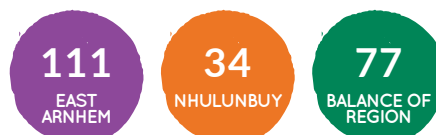
Note: 1. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers. 2. Numbers are estimated as at 1 July 2021. 3. Geography is where children are placed and not where they are from.

## 1.2 Safe communities

### 1.2.1 House break-ins

The number of reported house break-in offences for houses with children is not available, however there is data on all house break-in offences. This was chosen as one measure of community safety as it relates to a child's sense of safety in their community and at home.

### Number of house break-in offences



Data source and year: NT Department of Attorney General and Justice (special table extracted on 11 August 2021), 2020-21.

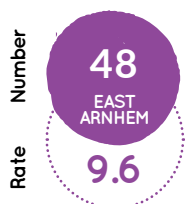
Note: This measure is not available by Aboriginal status.



## 1.2.2 Children and young people as victims of crime

Offences against the person are crimes that involve physical harm or force, such as physical assault.

Number and annual rate (per 1,000 population) of victims, aged 0-17, of an offence against a person



Number and annual rate (per 1,000 population) of victims, aged 18-24, of an offence against a person

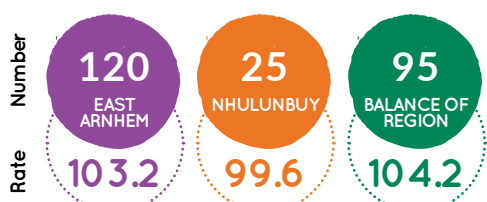


Data source and year: NT Department of Attorney General and Justice (special table extracted on 11 August 2021), 2020-21. Rates calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table). Note: 1. Crimes are counted once for each incident. Victims may be counted more than once, for different incidents, in a year. 2. Number and rate of victims, aged 0-17, is not reportable by sub-region or Aboriginal status due to small numbers. 3. Number and rate of victims, aged 18-24, is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

## 1.2.3 Young people involved in crime

An apprehension is any offence where a young person was arrested, issued a summons or notice to appear before court, or referred for youth diversion.

Number and rate (per 1,000 population) of apprehensions of males, aged 10-17



Data source and year: NT Department of Attorney General and Justice (special table extracted on 17 August 2021), 2020-21. Rates calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table). Note: 1. Apprehensions are calculated as one event for a person for one date. 2. In July 2020 the NT Department of Attorney General and Justice changed their standard counting rules to include where a young person received a 'Youth Diversion Assessment' as they are alleged to have committed an offence(s). 3. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

Number and rate (per 1,000 population) of apprehensions of females, aged 10-17

This measure is not reportable for East Arnhem due to small numbers.

## 1.2.4 Youth diversion

Youth diversion programs include written or verbal warnings, family group conferences and victim-offender group conferences.

Number of diversions for young people, aged 10-17



Data source and year: NT Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Services (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21. Note: This measure is not available by Aboriginal status and is not reportable by sub-region due to small numbers.

## 1.2.5 Young people in detention

Daily average number of young people, aged 10-17, in a youth detention centre

	EAST ARNHEM
All	0.9
Aboriginal	0.9
Non-Aboriginal	0

Data source and year: NT Department of Territory Families Housing and Communities (special table extracted on 19 August 2021), 2020-21. Note: This measure is not available by sub-region.

## 1.2.6 Young people in prison

Daily average number of young men and women, aged 18-24, in Northern Territory prisons

		EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
Men	All	27.0	13.2	13.8
	Aboriginal	26.5	12.7	13.8
	Non-Aboriginal	0.5	0.5	0
Women	All	0	0	0
	Aboriginal	0	0	0
	Non-Aboriginal	0	0	0

Data source and year: NT Department of Attorney General and Justice (special table extracted on 9 August 2021), 2020-21.



# Domain 2

## Having material basics

Material basics are the foundational elements that children and young people need in life. These include a safe house to live in, adequate and nutritious food, clean water and appropriate clothing. Income is crucial for a family to pay for basic living expenses. Children who experience poverty early in life are more likely to experience ongoing disadvantage.

The majority of the measures in this domain are reported from the 2016 Census and so there are no changes since the 2019 Story. A measure specific to children, aged 14 and under, has been added to the indicator of internet access. Mobile phone use remains a data gap.

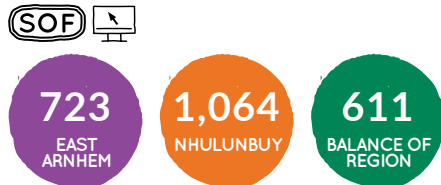
In this domain, four outcomes of financial stability, adequate housing, communication and technology, and access to transport are explored through six indicators and one case study.

### 2.1 Financial stability

#### 2.1.1 Socioeconomic disadvantage

The measure of Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is a score for relative socioeconomic disadvantage, with scores below 1,000 indicating relative disadvantage, and scores above 1,000 indicating relative advantage.

Scores for relative socioeconomic disadvantage

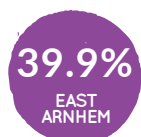


Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

#### 2.1.2 Family income

Department of Social Services classify households with children aged 15 and under, earning under \$36,515 per annum in receipt of the Family Tax Benefit Part A as 'low income' households.

Proportion (%) of children, aged 15 and under, living in low income households



Data source and year: Department of Social Services, prepared by PHIDU (special table), June 2017.

Note: 1. Households are private dwellings only. 2. This measure is not available by sub-region or Aboriginal status.

### 2.2 Adequate housing

#### 2.2.1 Severely crowded households

The ABS defines households as severely crowded when four or more extra bedrooms would be needed to accommodate the number of people usually living there. Information on overcrowding is not available for families, children or young people. This measure is based on people of any age.

Number and rate (per 10,000 of the population) of people living in severely crowded dwellings

		EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	Number	3,792	0	3,792
	Rate	3,185.8	0	4,086.0
Aboriginal	Number	3,786	0	3,786
	Rate	4,497.4	0	4,648.1
Non-Aboriginal	Number	6	0	6
	Rate	17.8	0	54.5

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

Note: 1. Rates are expressed as number per 10,000 population of usual residents.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures. [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)



## BUILDING BUSINESS TO FUND COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

The people of Mandjaway in East Arnhem were concerned as funding for their homeland community was under threat, and their school house was at risk of closure. “Our school is bicultural, it keeps our culture and our identity alive. If our classroom closes, we will lose our kids to the problems of bigger towns. We also need jobs on our homeland, so we can be strong and independent.”



Led by the vision of the late Nalwarri Ngurruwuthun, a tertiary qualified teacher and school principal, the community considered options for economic activity. Over six years, the community worked with friends and partners, blending traditional Yolju culture with western business concepts. It has led to the creation of the Knowledge Water business, packaging the spring water from their land to sell locally and across Australia. “Water has always been part of our culture. It is a symbol of knowledge, and a powerful link to our past. Now we are using water to protect our future.”

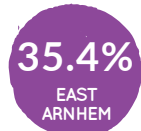
The main objectives of Knowledge Water are to support economic activity and education in the region while making the community of Mandjaway more self-sufficient. The business is creating jobs on country, and through profits being invested into their community trust, will provide scholarships for Yolju people to train as tertiary qualified teachers. “We want to keep our culture strong here in Mandjaway. And we want to take control of our own future. That is why we decided to build this Knowledge Water business.”

Photo: Dylan Ngurruwuthun on country with a carton of Knowledge Water

## 2.2.2 Children and young people who are homeless

The ABS defines homelessness as the condition when a person's current living arrangement is in a dwelling that is inadequate; has no secure tenure; or does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations. This includes people living in temporary arrangements, boarding houses, tents or sleep out and in severely overcrowded dwellings.

Proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 0-24, who are homeless  




Data source and year: ABS Housing and Population Census, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region or Aboriginal status.

## 2.3 Communication and technology

### 2.3.1 Internet access

Proportion (%) of households where internet was accessed from dwelling   

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	67.7%	83.4%	58.1%
Aboriginal	49.3%	67.5%	47.4%
Non-Aboriginal	85.1%	85.6%	84.0%

Proportion (%) of children, aged 14 and under, living in dwellings from which internet was not accessed 

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	28.5%	2.6%	36.2%
Aboriginal	38.5%	9.8%	39.9%
Non-Aboriginal	1.8%	1.4%	3.0%

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

## 2.4 Access to transport

### 2.4.1 Household access to a vehicle

Proportion (%) of dwellings with no motor vehicle 

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	30.6%	3.8%	47.0%
Aboriginal	55.8%	0%	61.6%
Non-Aboriginal	7.0%	4.3%	11.8%

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



visit the data platform for more information on these measures. [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)





# Domain 3

## Being healthy

It is essential to take good care of the health and wellbeing of children and young people to ensure good health and opportunity into adulthood. Health is impacted by many factors including individual physiology, lifestyle, environmental and cultural influences and access to appropriate health care and support services. Children are particularly vulnerable in their early years and dependent on parents and caregivers for their physical and emotional needs.

There have been a number of developments in the measures used to indicate the health of children and young people from the 2019 Story. A measure of pre-term births has been added and three indicators of the health of young people have been added to address data gaps identified in 2019 – smoking prevalence, being mentally healthy and incidence of sexually transmissible infections.

In this domain, three outcomes of healthy before birth, healthy in the first year and growing up healthy are explored through 16 indicators, one case study and one cultural story of wellness.

### 3.1 Healthy before birth

#### 3.1.1 Early antenatal visits

Antenatal care is the care received from health professionals during pregnancy to support the health of both the pregnant woman and the unborn child.

Proportion (%) of pregnant women with first antenatal visit in first trimester (less than 14 weeks)



	EAST ARNHEM
All	66.3%
Aboriginal	56.2%
Non-Aboriginal	92.5%

Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region.

#### 3.1.2 Regular antenatal visits

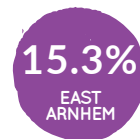
Proportion (%) of pregnant women who attended five or more antenatal visits

	EAST ARNHEM
All	90.5%
Aboriginal	87.6%
Non-Aboriginal	98.1%

Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: This measure is not available by sub-region.

#### 3.1.3 Teenage mothers

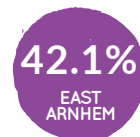
Proportion (%) of births to women aged under 20



Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: 1. This measure is not available by sub-region. 2. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

#### 3.1.4 Smoking during pregnancy

Proportion (%) of women who reported smoking during pregnancy



Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.  
Note: 1. This measure is not available by sub-region. 2. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

#### 3.1.5 Alcohol consumption during pregnancy

Proportion (%) of babies exposed to alcohol in first trimester of pregnancy

This measure is not reportable for East Arnhem due to small numbers.

## Proportion (%) of babies exposed to alcohol in third trimester of pregnancy (CTG)



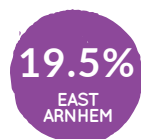
Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.

## 3.2 Healthy in the first year

### 3.2.1 Pre-term births

Pre-term birth is associated with increased risks including long-term neurological disability, re-admission to hospital in the first year of life and perinatal death.

#### Proportion (%) of pre-term births (less than 37 weeks) (CTG)

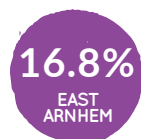


Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.

Note: 1. This measure is not available by sub-region. 2. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

### 3.2.2 Low birthweight

#### Proportion (%) of babies born with low birthweight (less than 2,500g) (CTG)



Data source and year: NT Perinatal Data Collection, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table), 2019.

Note: 1. This measure is not available by sub-region. 2. This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

### 3.2.3 Infant mortality

#### Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) (CTG)



Data source and year: Australian Coordinating Registry, Cause of Death Unit Record Files, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2014-18.

Note: This measure is not available by Aboriginal status or sub-region.

### 3.2.4 Breastfeeding

#### Proportion (%) of babies exclusively breastfed to 6 months of age (SOP)



Data source and year: 2017-18 National Health Survey and 2018-2019 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, ABS. Data extracted for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal populations separately using ABS TableBuilder and combined, 9 August 2021 (special table).

Note: 1. Survey results for children aged 6 months to 3 years at time of data collection. 2. The 2019 Story reported exclusive breastfeeding to 3 months of age. 3. This measure is not available by region or Aboriginal status.



## STUDENTS SHARING HEALTH AWARENESS – UPDATE

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions the Ramingining School and HealthLAB's usual program did not run in 2020. Rather, as part of the 2020 National Science Week's water theme, HealthLAB provided Ramingining School with water desalination kits and resources to educate children about healthy drink choices.

The Ramingining School's celebration of National Science Week in August 2021 was also postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing HealthLAB and other presenters from travelling. The School are keen to ensure the program happens in 2022.

Ramingining School and HealthLAB have worked in partnership for over five years, benefiting from a consistent appreciation for engaging science and health education. HealthLAB continue to run sessions across the Northern Territory to educate children and young people about positive lifestyle choices and taking ownership of their health.

Photo: Water desalination kits on their way to Ramingining School

## 3.3 Growing up healthy

### 3.3.1 Child immunisation

#### Proportion (%) of children fully immunised at age two (SOP)



Data source and year: Australian Immunisation Register, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2018.

Note: This measure is not available by Aboriginal status.

visit the data platform for more information on these measures. [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)



## NWARAN, AN ASTROLOGICAL NAMING CEREMONY

“My name is Manju and I was born in Kathmandu, Nepal. I came to Australia in 2007 and my husband and I have two children. In Nepalese culture we hold an astrological naming ceremony, a ‘Nwaran’, on the 11th day after the birth of a baby. A priest visits the family for the ceremony and family and friends attend, it is quite big.

During the Nwaran, a Hom (meaning fire) is conducted to purify the baby, mother and house. We put ghee on a stick of wood and light it and the priest says a mantra. This is very auspicious and means the family and the house are purified. Bad spirits will be removed from the house.

Nepalese people have two names, their common name and an astrological name. As part of the Nwaran, the priest will look at the time of the birth of the baby and make an astrological horoscope. The China (pronounced ch – e – na), also known as Janma Kundali, is an astrological chart which is prepared based on the date, time and place of a baby’s birth. The chart determines the location of planets, the sun and the moon. This sets out the astrological aspects of a person.

When a child is unwell, the China can be used to determine what has caused the illness. If anything arises for health and wellbeing, for physical and mental health we can look to the astrological reading. If a child is unsettled, we believe there are bad shadows and the Astrologer can look to the China to see the cause and how it can be fixed. My children’s China is with my husband’s family in Nepal.”

Photo: Manju (right) with her mother Mohan (left) and children Nirran and Myra



### 3.3.2 Bodyweight for children and young people

Proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 2-19, who were overweight or obese

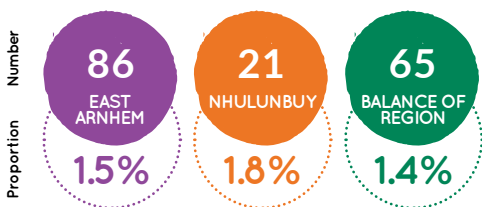


Data source and year: 2017-18 National Health Survey and 2018-2019 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, ABS. Data extracted for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal populations separately using ABS TableBuilder and combined, 9 August 2021 (special table).

Note: This measure is not available by region or Aboriginal status.

### 3.3.3 Children and young people with a disability

Number and proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 0-24, who have need for assistance with core activities



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

Note: This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

### 3.3.4 Mentally healthy

Mental health-related conditions are common and only a small proportion of individuals with these conditions are ever admitted to hospital. However, hospital admission records provide a consistent and reliable measure for mental health.

Number and rate (per 10,000 population) of hospital admissions for mental health-related conditions for young people, aged 15-24

		EAST ARNHEM
All	Number	85
	Rate	343.9
Aboriginal	Number	65
	Rate	311.2
Non-Aboriginal	Number	20
	Rate	521.7

Data source and year: NT Department of Health (special table), 2020. Rates calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).

Note: This measure is not available by sub-region.

### 3.3.5 Smoking prevalence among young people

Proportion (%) of young men and women, aged 15-24, who are current smokers

		NORTHERN TERRITORY
Men		46.3%
Women		24.5%

Data source and year: 2017-18 National Health Survey and 2018-2019 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, ABS. Data extracted for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal populations separately using ABS TableBuilder and combined, 9 August 2021 (special table).

Note: This measure is not available by region or Aboriginal status.

### 3.3.6 Sexually transmissible infections

Data is not available for all sexually transmissible infections (STIs). This Story reports the rates of two common diseases, chlamydia and gonorrhoea.

Number and rate (per 100,000 population) of chlamydia and gonorrhoea notifications among young people, aged 15-24

		EAST ARNHEM
Chlamydia	Number	103
	Rate	4,166.6
Gonorrhoea	Number	43
	Rate	1,739.5

Data source and year: NT Department of Health (special table), 2020. Rates calculated using ABS Census 2016 data, prepared by NT Department of Health (special table).

Note: 1. Data are reported by NT health districts, which varies marginally from the geography used elsewhere in this Story. 2. This measure is not available by sub-region.

### 3.3.7 Death of children and young people

Death rate (per 100,000 population) for children, aged 1-14, and young people, aged 15-24

		NORTHERN TERRITORY
Children		32.5
Young people		119.0

Data source and year: ABS 3303.0 Causes of Death, 2019.

Note: 1. ABS rates are based on preliminary death data and are subject to revision. 2. This measure is not available by region or Aboriginal status due to small numbers.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures.  
[cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)



# Domain 4 Learning

Children and young people are constantly learning as they grow and develop. Learning takes place in many ways, at home with family, through interaction with the wider community and in formal settings, like schools.

There are a number of developments, from the 2019 Story, in this domain. A measure of developmentally on track has been added as an additional indicator for transitioning to school. There has been a change in the measure for preschool attendance to report the proportion of children attending a preschool program for 15 hours or more per week, to be consistent with national reporting. A measure


of vocational education and training participation has also been added.

In this domain six outcomes of parent engagement in learning, early childhood learning, transitioning into school, school attendance, school progress and vocational learning are explored through 15 indicators and one case study.

## 4.1 Parent engagement in learning

### 4.1.1 Reading at home

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a nationwide survey of how young children are developing and their readiness for formal schooling as they begin their first year of full-time school. Teachers complete a questionnaire based on their knowledge and observation of the children in their class.

Proportion (%) of children who are regularly read to or encouraged to read at home 

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	48.6%	96.6%	26.2%
Aboriginal	14.5%	nr	nr
Non-Aboriginal	98.7%	nr	nr

Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.

Note: 1. (nr) not reportable due to small numbers. 2. Results include teachers' responses of 'Somewhat true' or 'Very true'.

## 4.1.2 Participation in Families as First Teachers as First Teachers

There are a number of early childhood and family support programs, Families as First Teachers (FaFT) being one of them. The aim of FaFT is to improve developmental outcomes for children by working with families and children, aged 0-4, prior to school entry. Data is not available to measure Territory-wide participation in similar programs.

Participation in Families as First Teachers program




	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
Number of communities	10	0	10
Number of children	529	0	529
Average days for children	28.2	na	28.2

Data source and year: Families as First Teachers (FaFT) program, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table) 2020.

Note: 1. Children can attend multiple FaFT program sites during the year; each child is counted once in a sub-region; data for the region may count a child more than once if they have attended a FaFT program in more than one sub-region in the year. 2. The average days is the average number of days each child attended over the reporting period. 3. A FaFT program does not operate in Nhulunbuy. 4. (na) not available.



## 4.1.3 Parent engagement with school

Proportion (%) of children whose parents or caregivers are actively engaged with the school in supporting their child's learning (SOF) 

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	73.5%	96.6%	62.7%
Aboriginal	56.4%	nr	nr
Non-Aboriginal	98.7%	nr	nr

Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.

Note: 1. (nr) not reportable due to small numbers. 2. Results include teachers' responses of 'Somewhat true' or 'Very true'.

## 4.2 Early childhood learning

### 4.2.1 Child care attendance

Proportion (%) of children, aged 0-5, attending approved child care (SOF) 

	EAST ARNHEM
All	18.6%
Aboriginal	4.3%
Non-Aboriginal	54.6%

Data source and year: Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table), December quarter 2020. Proportions calculated using ABS 3235.0 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.

Note: This measure is not available by sub-region.

### 4.2.2 Preschool attendance

Proportion (%) of children, aged 4, attending a preschool program (CTG) (SOF)  

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	62.2%	89.5%	48.7%
Aboriginal	39.6%	60.0%	37.4%
Non-Aboriginal	94.4%	95.7%	91.7%

Proportion (%) of children, aged 4, attending a preschool program for 15 hours or more per week

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	71.0%	86.3%	57.1%
Aboriginal	42.5%	83.3%	35.3%
Non-Aboriginal	88.1%	86.7%	90.9%

Data source and year: Age Grade Census, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table), 2020. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table). Note: Data include NT Government and Catholic schools only and does not include preschool programs provided at centre-based care by a qualified worker.

## 4.3 Transitioning into school

### 4.3.1 Developmentally on track

The AEDC measures the early development of children aged 5 across five key domains: physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills (school-based), and communication skills and general knowledge. Children are considered 'developmentally on track' if they score in the top 75% of the scores for the reference population in a domain.

Proportion (%) of children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains (CTG) (SOF)  

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	27.3%	47.4%	17.6%
Aboriginal	7.8%	nr	nr
Non-Aboriginal	54.1%	nr	nr

Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.

Note: (nr) not reportable due to small numbers.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures. [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)



## 4.3.2 Developmental vulnerability

Children are considered 'developmentally vulnerable' if they score in the lowest 10% of the scores for the reference population in a domain.

Proportion (%) of children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains



	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	55.5%	33.3%	66.4%
Aboriginal	76.8%	nr	nr
Non-Aboriginal	27.0%	nr	nr

Proportion (%) of children assessed as developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains



	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	34.9%	14.0%	45.2%
Aboriginal	51.0%	nr	nr
Non-Aboriginal	13.5%	nr	nr

Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.

Note: (nr) not reportable due to small numbers.

## 4.3.3 Developmental strengths

The Multiple Strengths Indicator (MSI) was developed in 2017 to complement the existing AEDC measures of vulnerability with a strength-based view of early childhood development. The MSI uses the same Early Development Instrument used in the AEDC and has 39 items.

Proportion (%) of children assessed as having highly developed, well developed and emerging strengths using Multiple Strengths Indicator

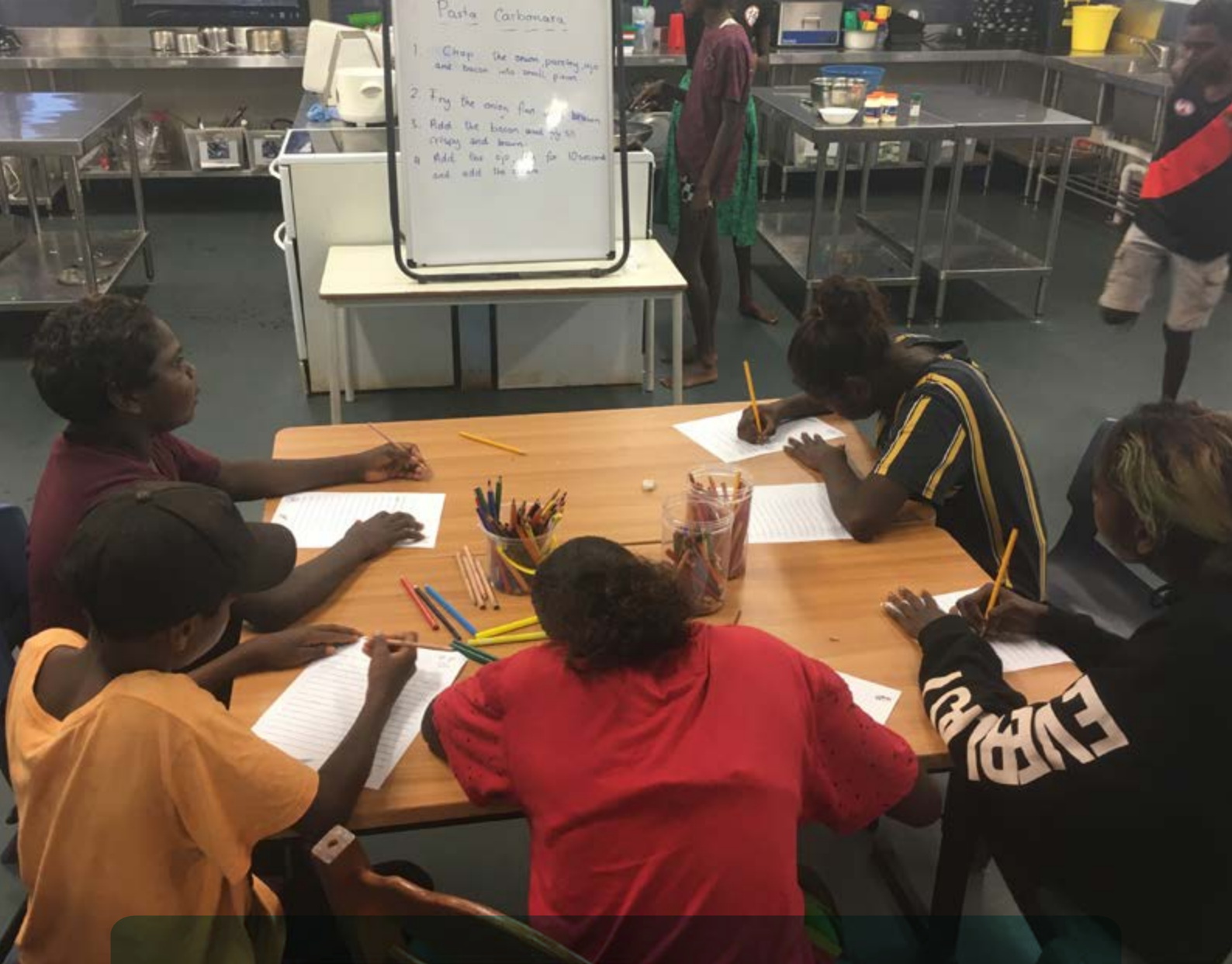


		EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
Highly developed strengths	All	31.6%	50.9%	21.9%
	Aboriginal	11.3%	nr	nr
	Non-Aboriginal	58.1%	nr	nr
Well developed strengths	All	17.5%	21.1%	15.8%
	Aboriginal	17.5%	nr	nr
	Non-Aboriginal	17.6%	nr	nr
Emerging strengths	All	50.9%	28.1%	62.3%
	Aboriginal	71.1%	nr	nr
	Non-Aboriginal	24.3%	nr	nr

Data source and year: Australian Early Development Census, prepared by Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment (special table extracted on 6 October 2021), 2018.

Note: (nr) not reportable due to small numbers.





## ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

**“It’s not just about education, it’s about wellbeing.” Garrawurra Danny Dungadunga and Alex Hortle are part of the Outreach Team from Shepherdson College, Galiwin’ku who developed an after hours program in 2019 aimed at engaging children not attending school.**

The school’s leadership had noticed there were a lot of children in the community not engaged in the school. The ‘Sunset’ program, initially targeted at teenagers, was established at a time (4-8pm) which worked better for them. It began once a week with about 15 children, and later progressed to five days a week.

The program aims to increase student engagement with learning and build confidence and healthy relationships to support student wellbeing in class. The agenda is student-led and the focus is on allowing students to direct their own learning. Alex says, “While most kids love to learn, some struggle with being taught. To engage these students, we try to hide our teaching in the activities kids love. When the kids feel comfortable in the group and excited about the activity, they pretty much teach themselves.”

About ten organisations partner with the school to run one or two activities each evening. The regular program involves cooking, sports and music with other activities including hunting trips, dance workshops and making coffee at the Sunset Café. Community members are supportive and have stepped into mentoring roles.

Listening to student needs and ideas is crucial to them engaging with the school and building stronger relationships with educators. Garrawurra Danny says, “The students can feel confidence through this program, yaka humiliating ga yaka embarrassing, just so they will feel very proud and strong and that’s going to lead them to better learning and education.”

Photo: Students participating in the ‘sunset’ program

## 4.3.4 Transition attendance

School attendance in Transition, NT Government Schools  

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	57.2%	89.2%	47.6%
Aboriginal	37.4%	56.2%	36.6%
Non-Aboriginal	91.2%	93.1%	88.7%

Data source and year: Enrolment and Attendance data, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.

Note: Data reporting period covers weeks 1 to 4 and weeks 5 to 8 of each term in a calendar year.

Proportion (%) of all Preschool to Year 12 students, with more than 80% school attendance, NT Government schools  

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	29.9%	68.6%	17.0%
Aboriginal	12.9%	39.4%	10.2%
Non-Aboriginal	79.8%	79.7%	80.0%

Data source and year: Enrolment and Attendance data, prepared by the NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.




Note: 1. Students who are passive at the end of the reporting period are excluded. 2. Students can attend multiple school sites during the year; however, each student is only counted once in each sub-region; data for the region may count a child more than once if they have attended a school site in more than one sub-region in the year.

## 4.4 School attendance

### 4.4.1 School attendance

School attendance in Year 3, NT Government schools  

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	60.9%	90.0%	50.0%
Aboriginal	43.6%	70.3%	41.5%
Non-Aboriginal	92.8%	94.1%	90.5%

School attendance in Year 7, NT Government schools   

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	63.3%	79.5%	41.3%
Aboriginal	43.6%	58.2%	36.5%
Non-Aboriginal	89.5%	89.7%	87.6%

Data source and year: Enrolment and Attendance data, prepared by the NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.

Note: Data reporting period covers weeks 1 to 4 and weeks 5 to 8 of each term in a calendar year.

### 4.4.2 Continuation to Year 12

This measure is the proportion of students enrolled in Year 12, out of all students enrolled in the corresponding cohort in Year 7, for Northern Territory Government and Catholic schools. The rate may not accurately reflect all students who have completed Year 12 as students may travel to attend school in other regions or interstate.

Apparent retention from Year 7 to Year 12

	EAST ARNHEM
All	55.0%
Aboriginal	51.1%
Non-Aboriginal	81.6%

Data source and year: Age Grade Census data, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.

Note: 1. Data include NT Government and Catholic schools only. 2. Data is an underestimate due to interstate movement of students between Years 7 and 12 to complete school. Similarly results for regions may under or overestimate apparent retention as a result of movement of students between regions. This is most common with students from remote areas going to Greater Darwin and to Alice Springs to complete school. 3. This measure is not available by sub-region.



## 4.5 School progress

### 4.5.1 Literacy and numeracy skills

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a nationwide annual assessment for students. The test assesses skills considered essential to progress through school in the domains of reading and writing, language conventions and numeracy. Due to the disruptions to education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, NAPLAN assessments were not completed in 2020.

#### Proportion (%) of students in Year 3 reaching the minimum national standard in literacy

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	51.4%	93.8%	29.8%
Aboriginal	27.2%	85.7%	22.4%
Non-Aboriginal	96.0%	95.1%	100%

#### Proportion (%) of students in Year 3 reaching the minimum national standard in numeracy

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	63.5%	91.3%	47.5%
Aboriginal	45.5%	nr	42.3%
Non-Aboriginal	91.8%	92.5%	88.9%

#### Proportion (%) of students in Year 7 reaching the minimum national standard in literacy

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	47.1%	94.4%	21.2%
Aboriginal	20.6%	75.0%	13.3%
Non-Aboriginal	100%	100%	100%

#### Proportion (%) of students in Year 7 reaching the minimum national standard in numeracy

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	61.9%	93.8%	47.9%
Aboriginal	47.9%	100%	43.3%
Non-Aboriginal	93.8%	92.3%	100%

Data source and year: NT Department of Education (special table), 2019.  
Note: 1. (nr) not reportable due to small numbers. 2. Data include NT Government and Catholic schools only.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures.  
[cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)

## 4.5.2 Year 12 or equivalent completion

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 20-24, who have attained a Year 12 or equivalent qualification  

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	30.7%	52.5%	27.1%
Aboriginal	27.6%	58.3%	26.7%
Non-Aboriginal	65.5%	64.1%	69.0%

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

## 4.5.3 NTCET completion

The Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) is the final school qualification for students in the Northern Territory.

#### Proportion (%) of enrolled students who completed NTCET

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	98.3%	100%	94.7%
Aboriginal	96.3%	100%	94.7%
Non-Aboriginal	100%	100%	na

Data source and year: NT Department of Education (special table), 2020.  
Note: 1. (na) not available 2. Data include NT Government and Catholic schools only.

## 4.6 Vocational learning

### 4.6.1 Vocational education and training participation

This measure reports young people, aged 15-24, who participated in both government subsidised and fee for service vocational education and training (VET) enrolments in 2019, regardless of the year they commenced. It includes school students engaged in VET.

#### Number and rate (per 1,000 population) of young people, aged 15-24, who participate in vocational education and training

		EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	Number	766	382	384
	Rate	309.8	1,149.7	179.4
Aboriginal	Number	498	158	340
	Rate	238.4	1,900.2	169.5
Non-Aboriginal	Number	268	224	44
	Rate	699.1	899.2	327.8

Data source and year: NCVET Total VET Activity prepared by NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (special table), 2019. Rates calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).



# Domain 5

## Participating


It is important for the wellbeing of children and young people that they actively participate with their peers and within the community. Participation can take many forms – it can include children and young people being involved in sport, recreational or social activities, or volunteering with community groups. A key element of participation is children and young people being listened to and supported to have a say on issues affecting their lives and their community.

Measures in this domain focus on young people, aged 15 and above, as there is a lack of reliable information for participation among younger age groups other than formal education. Most measures in this domain use census data. As the latest census was in 2016, the data in these measures has not changed since the 2019 Story (except for some minor adjustments for changed regional boundaries).

In this domain, the two outcomes of participation in employment or learning and participation in the community, are explored through five indicators and one case study.

### 5.1 Participation in employment or education

#### 5.1.1 Young people earning or learning

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

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	41.8%	69.6%	37.3%
Aboriginal	37.4%	58.5%	36.8%
Non-Aboriginal	81.6%	84.3%	71.9%

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

#### 5.1.2 Unemployment among young people

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



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

Note: This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.





## 5.1.3 Community Development Program participation

The Community Development Program (CDP) is an Australian Government employment program operated in remote areas. The program aims to improve job seekers' skills and improve their employability, as well as benefiting the local community.

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, participating in the CDP



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

Note: This measure is not reportable by Aboriginal status due to small numbers.

## 5.2.2 Young people enrolled to vote

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



Data source and year: NT Electoral Commission, 31 March 2021. Proportions calculated using 2016 ERP based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table).

Note: 1. Proportions are calculated using estimated resident populations, with no adjustment for residents not eligible to vote.  
2. This measure is not available by Aboriginal status.



visit the data platform for more information on these measures.  
[cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)

## 5.2 Participation in the community

### 5.2.1 Young people volunteering

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, who spent time doing voluntary work (SOF)

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	13.8%	25.2%	11.9%
Aboriginal	11.6%	0%	11.9%
Non-Aboriginal	34.5%	35.2%	31.6%

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





## LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

**In a town where a third of the population are young, the Nhulunbuy Youth Council (the Council) was introduced to provide young people with a voice in the community. Established in 2019, young people, aged 12-18, form the Council and provide a direct link to and advocacy for the young people of Nhulunbuy.**

Part of their role is to meet monthly as a group, report to the Town Board and they also meet annually with Rio Tinto leadership. Council Chair, Kiyarnie Reynolds, aged 16 says, "Being on the Council has shown me what a big impact youth can actually have on everything, everywhere."

The Council organises events to engage young people such as silent discos, pool days and school holiday activities. Kiyarnie says, "We are all really passionate about youth. We always have holiday events for youth to get involved in." The Council works to ensure events are inclusive. "We have buses in and out of Yirrkala [and Gunyajarra], so it's inclusive of the whole of Nhulunbuy, not just town kids," Kiyarnie said.

Membership of the Council is annual. Many of the members have reapplied and been selected for a second, or sometimes third year. This is Kiyarnie's second year. Members have access to a range of professional development and leadership opportunities. Kiyarnie says her experience with the Council has helped develop her skills in public speaking and cemented her desire to help young people in the future. "I really want to go into teaching to help people."

Photo: Youth Council members at an event for National Youth Week 2021



## Domain 6

# Positive sense of identity and culture

Having a positive sense of identity and culture is fundamental to a child or young person's wellbeing. Identity and culture are broad topics which are complex to define. Identity is generally understood to be a person's sense of self, their understanding of who they are, both individually and within their social context. Culture can be described as a shared approach and understanding of people's existence in relation to other people and their environment. Culture encompasses intangible concepts such as religion or spirituality, value systems and norms of behaviour as well as tangible or material items such as food, clothing, art and literature.


Many of the measures in this domain are reported from the 2016 Census with no update to the data available. In this Story there are a number of developments in the measures. The language spoken at home measure has been expanded to include the proportion of young people who speak Aboriginal languages. There are two additional measures presenting

information on language and culture in schools and Aboriginal employment in the Northern Territory Government.

In this domain the three outcomes of connection to culture, spirituality and cultural diversity are explored through eight indicators and one case study.

## 6.1 Connection to culture

### 6.1.1 Language spoken at home

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, who speak English, Aboriginal languages and other languages at home 

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	12.5%	67.5%	3.5%
English	Aboriginal	2.2%	0.4%
	Non-Aboriginal	83.5%	83.3%
All Aboriginal languages	77.8%	2.0%	90.2%
Arnhem Land and Daly River Region Languages	14.4%	na	na
Yolngu Matha	59.2%	na	na
Other Australian Indigenous Languages	4.0%	na	na

Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.  
 Note: 1. Languages spoken at home by less than 1% of the population are not included in this table. 2. When English is recorded it indicates only English is spoken at home. 3. (na) not available.

### 6.1.2 Connection to Aboriginal culture

Connection to Aboriginal culture is complex and varied, often stemming from practices in the family, in ceremonies and on country which differ across nations and language groups. There is not a measure to adequately represent this connection.

### 6.1.3 Aboriginal culture in the workplace

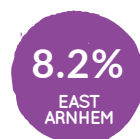
Proportion (%) of employees of the Northern Territory Government who identify as Aboriginal 



Data source and year: NT Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (special table), June 2021.  
 Note: 1. Data include permanent, temporary, contract and casual employees. 2. Data does not include Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and NT Legal Aid.

### 6.1.4 Language and culture in schools

Proportion (%) of classroom teachers in Northern Territory Government schools who identify as Aboriginal



Data source and year: PIPS pay data, prepared by NT Department of Education (special table), 24 June 2020.  
 Note: 1. Data exclude other teaching staff (assistant or senior teachers and teaching principals) and school council employees. 2. This measure is not reportable by sub-region due to small numbers.

# Nathanmaram djamarrkuḷiny' märrma'kurr romgurr: GROWING UP CHILDREN IN TWO WORLDS – UPDATE

The Growing Up Children research team have developed a range of resources to educate early childhood educators and others on Yolḷu ways of raising children. The Growing Up Yolḷu website has been developed to share the resources widely, with videos, stories and online talking books (pictured) which showcase the learnings about Yolḷu perspectives and priorities for child development.

The research team is now working on a new project called 'Dharaḅanamirr dhukarr guḅgayunaraw djamarrkuḷiw ga gurruḷumirriw marḅgikunharaw ḁälkunharaw gakaḷwun dhiyakun märrmaw'nha romgun: Understanding pathways to support Yolḷu children and families to achieve strong learning in two systems.' This project will run until the end of 2021 and aims to better understand how to use the knowledge gained of Yolḷu and Balanda (non-Aboriginal) ways to make sure children can be strong in both pathways.

Image: 'Gutjan's Story - Dhuwal dhäwu Gutjangalaḅawuy' talking book developed by the research team



## 6.1.5 Organisations promoting culture

Number of registered organisations promoting culture and the arts



Data source and year: Register of Cultural Organisations – Australian Government, 5 March 2021.  
Note: 1. Numbers reflect Registered Cultural Organisations (organisations that can receive tax deductible donations and which promote cultural arts and language diversity). For a full list go to: [www.arts.gov.au](http://www.arts.gov.au). 2. This measure is not available by sub-region.

## 6.2 Spirituality

### 6.2.1 Connection to Aboriginal spirituality

Aboriginal spirituality is broad and holistic and can be understood as a framework that guides all aspects of life including relationships with family, community, environment, animals, plants and the land. While this is an important indicator of wellbeing for Aboriginal children and young people there is no quantitative measure of spirituality for Aboriginal children and young people.

visit the data platform for more information on these measures. [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children)

## 6.2.2 Connection to a faith tradition

Proportion (%) of young people, aged 15-24, identifying with a religion

	EAST ARNHEM	NHULUNBUY	BALANCE OF REGION
All	77.9%	33.4%	85.2%
Aboriginal	86.5%	24.5%	88.4%
Non-Aboriginal	42.7%	42.4%	43.9%

Data source and year: ABS Census of Population and Housing, prepared by PHIDU (special table), 2016.  
Note: Religion does not include secular or other spiritual beliefs.

## 6.3 Cultural diversity

### 6.3.1 Overseas-born

Proportion (%) of children and young people, aged 0-24, born overseas



Proportion (%) of Australian-born children and young people, aged 0-24, who have both parents born overseas



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

## DATA CONSIDERATIONS

**This East Arnhem Story provides more extensive information than presented in the Story of Our Children and Young People, Northern Territory 2021. The data presented in this East Arnhem Story is drawn from the data platform which may result in minor differences to the data presented in the Northern Territory 2021 edition.**

The main reason for this variation is there some records with missing data for Aboriginal status, location or gender (when reported). Missing data is treated differently between the Northern Territory 2021 edition and this East Arnhem Story:

- In the Northern Territory 2021 edition, records with missing data are included at the level for which data is available with a note reporting missing data for other levels of reporting. For example, if a record does not have location data for a region, the item will be reported for the Northern Territory but excluded in the regional data.
- This East Arnhem Story and the operation of the data platform requires consistency of data between levels of reporting. This requires exclusion of the small number of records with missing data for location, Aboriginal status or gender at all levels of reporting. For example, if a measure presents data by Aboriginal status then records with missing data for Aboriginal status are excluded from all levels of reporting for that measure.

A separate technical consideration is the need for care when publishing data with small counts due to the risk of confidentiality. Data with a count of less than 5 have been suppressed. It is also necessary to suppress related data which allow the calculation of the small number. The suppression of data with small counts has resulted in some items being 'not reportable'. The presentation of information by sub-region and Aboriginal status has resulted in an increase in the amount of data that are 'not reportable'.

For further technical commentary on the data, read Appendix I on page 128 of the Story of Our Children and Young People, Northern Territory 2021.

## ACRONYMS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACARA	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
AEDC	Australian Early Development Census
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ARACY	Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
CDP	Community Development Program
CFCA	Child Friendly Community Australia
FaFT	Families as First Teachers
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex and Asexual
MSI	Multiple Strength Indicator
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy
NT	Northern Territory
NTCET	Northern Territory Certificate of Education
PHIDU	Public Health Information Development Unit
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
WHO	World Health Organisation



# Where to from here?

For our children and young people of East Arnhem to flourish and reach their potential, there are basic human needs which must be met. While many of our children and young people are flourishing, there are too many who face substantial challenges. The data in this Story highlight both indications of positive change and areas where considerable improvement is needed.

Further information is available for all measures in this Story on the data platform, allowing comparison with Australia, Northern Territory and its other regions. Trend data for select measures is also included to consider changes over time. Use the platform at [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children).

## Process towards the next Story



This is the second Story, a biennial commitment by the Northern Territory Government to track progress over time across key indicators of wellbeing for children and young people. In 2023, progress will again be reviewed through both data measures and stories of positive change. Attention will once more be given to meeting identified data gaps and there will be continued effort to report relevant local indicators.

Further information about the development of the Story and its indicators, with referencing, data sources and appendices, can be found in the Northern Territory edition of the 2021 Story at [cmc.nt.gov.au/children](http://cmc.nt.gov.au/children).

