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Research Program

TROPICAL ECOSYSTEMS *hub*

Torres Strait Region: Demographic and Socio-Economic Status and Trends



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National Research
FLAGSHIPS
Wealth from Oceans



Australian Government



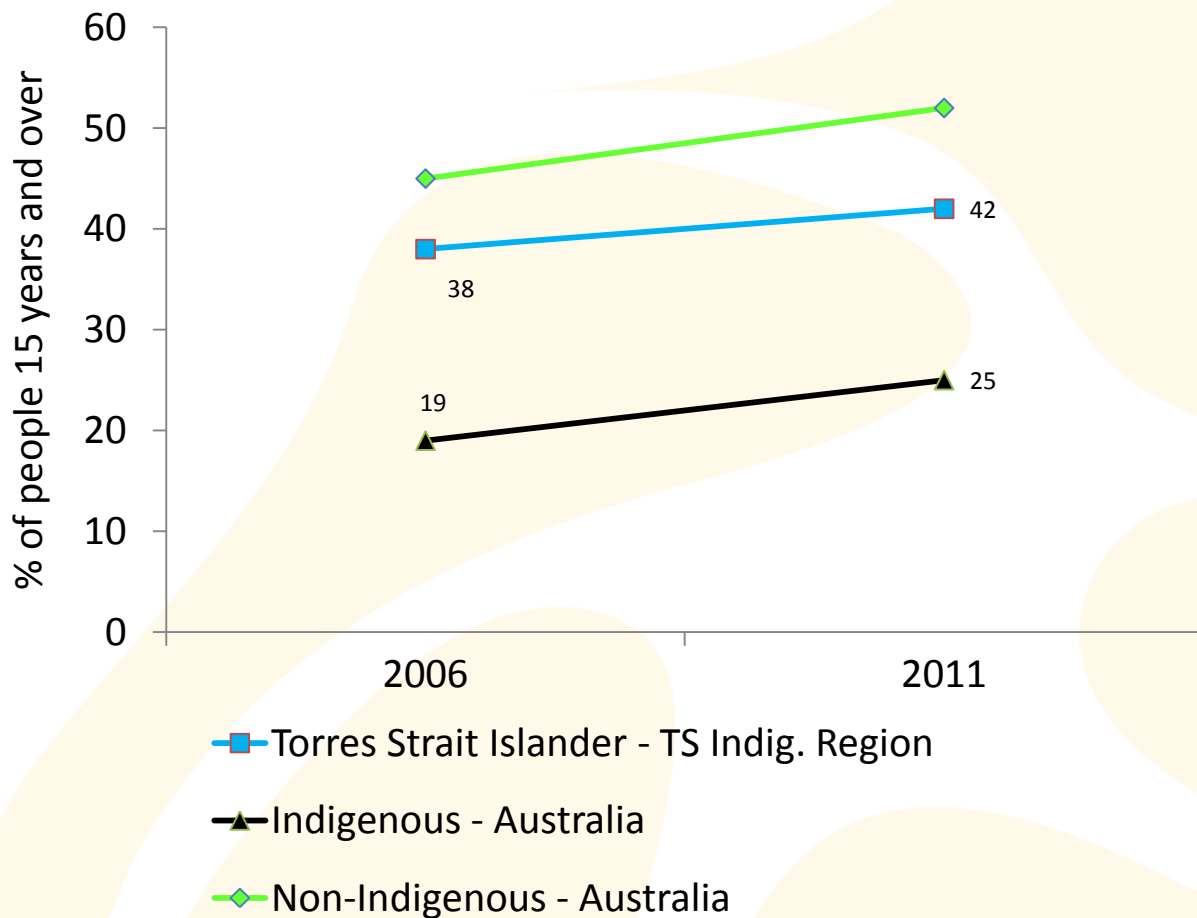


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EDUCATION

Adults (15 years and over) who completed year 12 or equivalent

ABS 2006, 2012

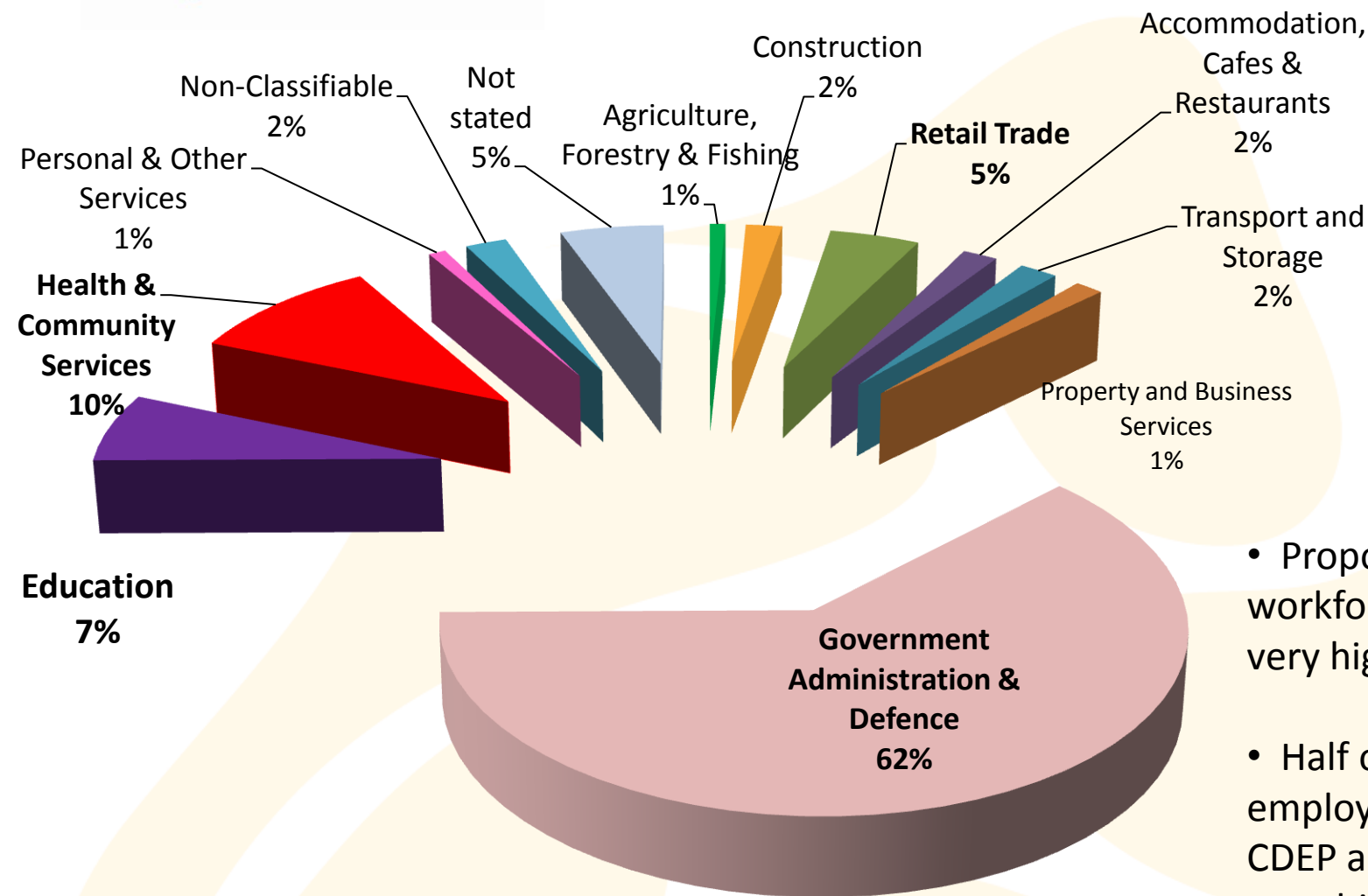


- Year 12 completion rate higher than that for indigenous Australia and improving



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EMPLOYMENT



- Proportion of the workforce employed very high (69%)
- Half of those employed were in CDEP and more than two thirds employed by government

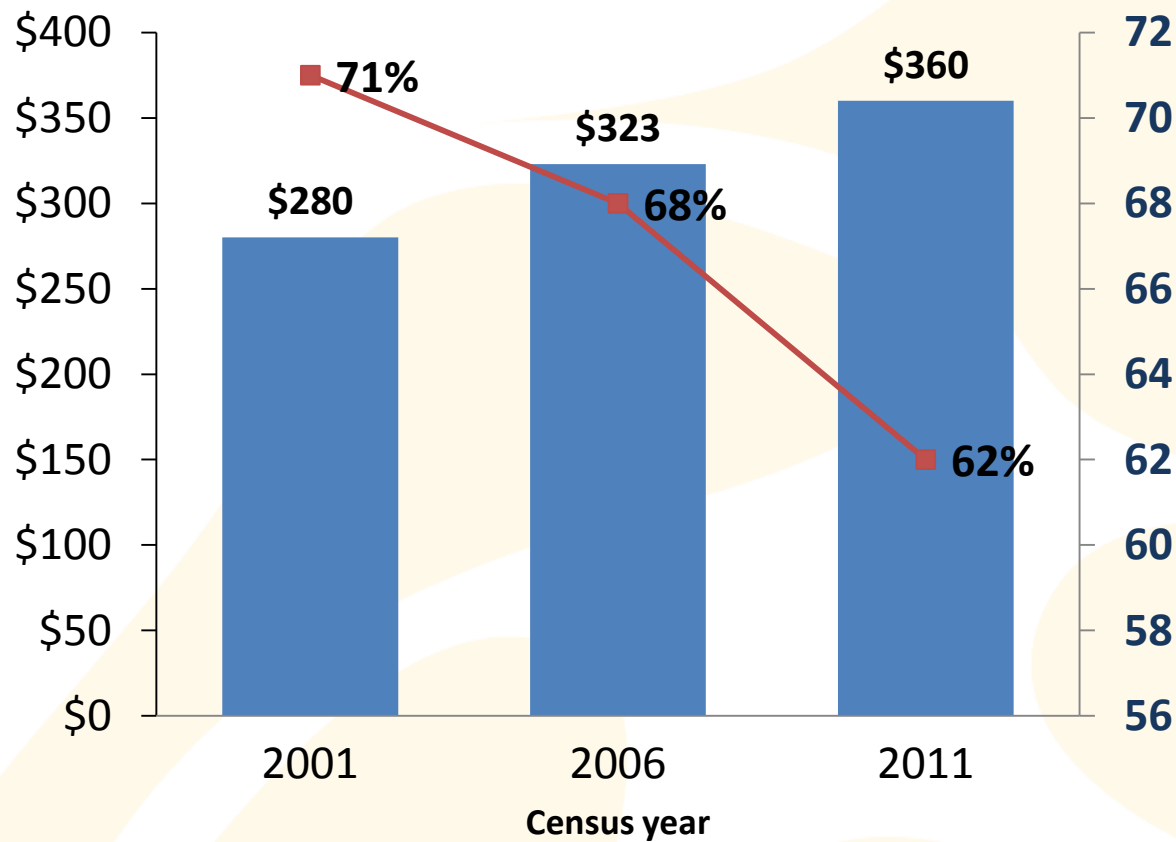


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INCOME

Average Personal Weekly Income

ABS 2006, 2010; 2012



- Increase in nominal income but showing widening gap with income of non-indigenous Australians

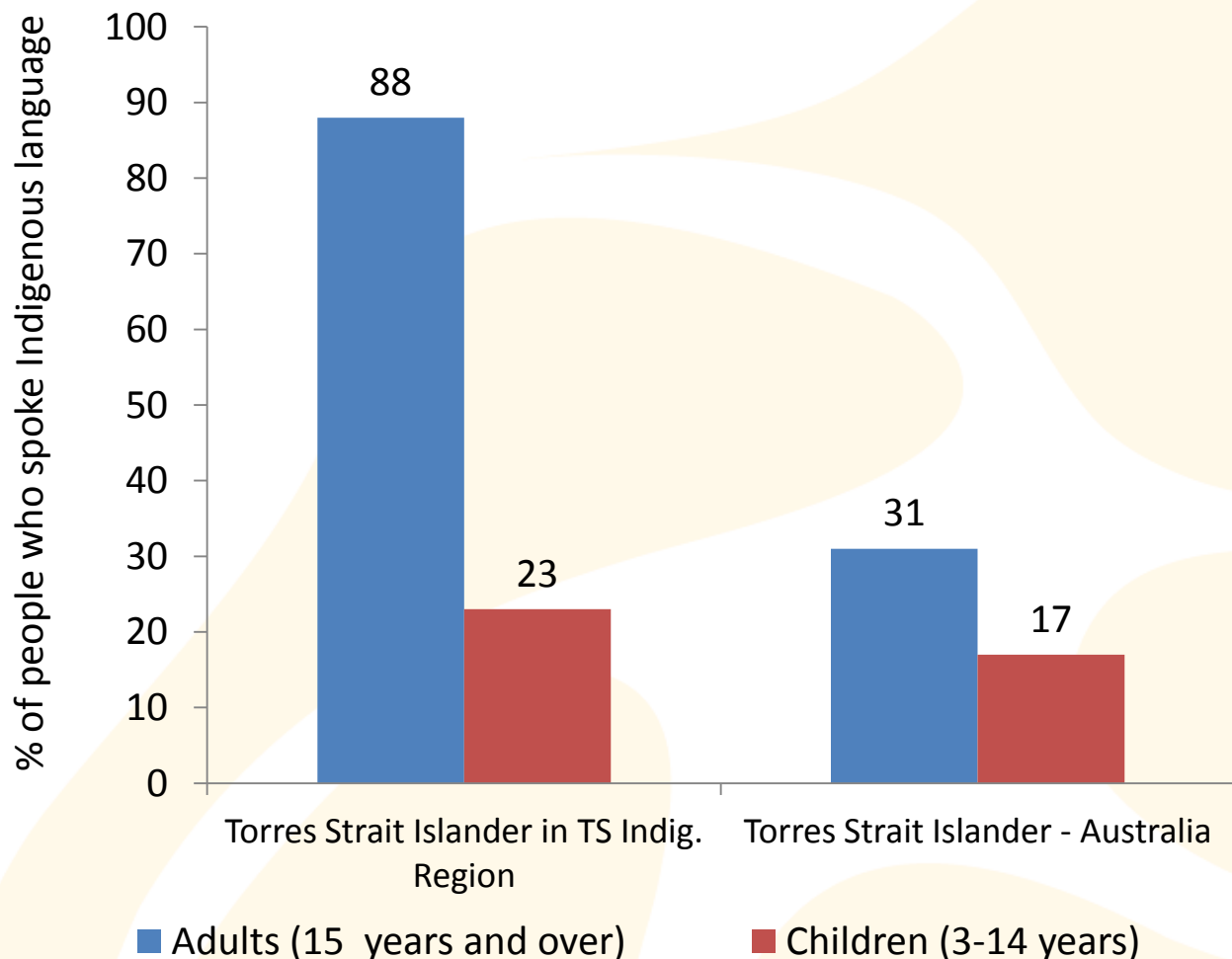
■ Indigenous person in the TS Indig. Region
—■ As % of that for non-Indigenous Australian



LANGUAGE

Proportion of people who spoke Indigenous language

ABS 2006, 2010; 2012



- Higher proportion adults being able to speak indigenous language but there is a substantial decline within a generation

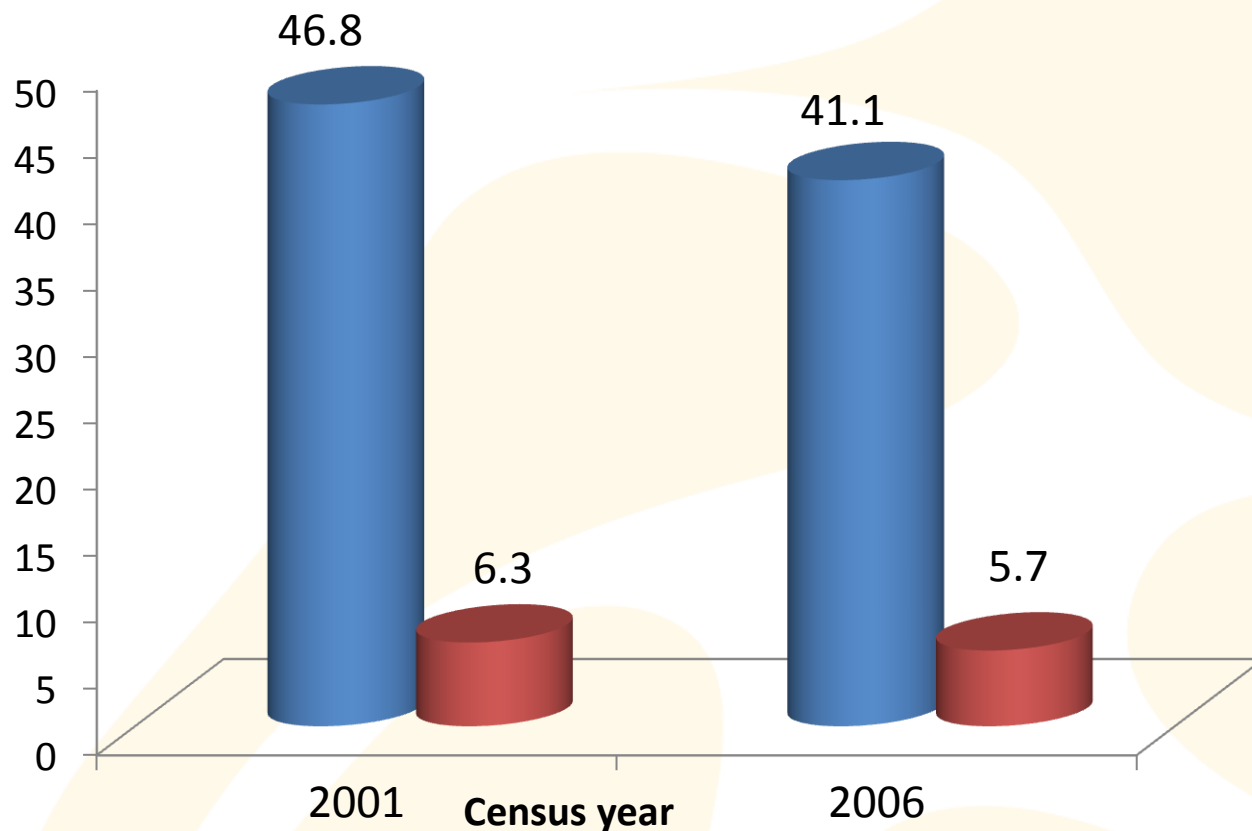


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HOUSING

% of adults (15 years and over) living in overcrowded housing

ABS 2006, SCRGSP 2009



- There seems easing of overcrowding but still very high compared with overcrowding among non-indigenous Australians

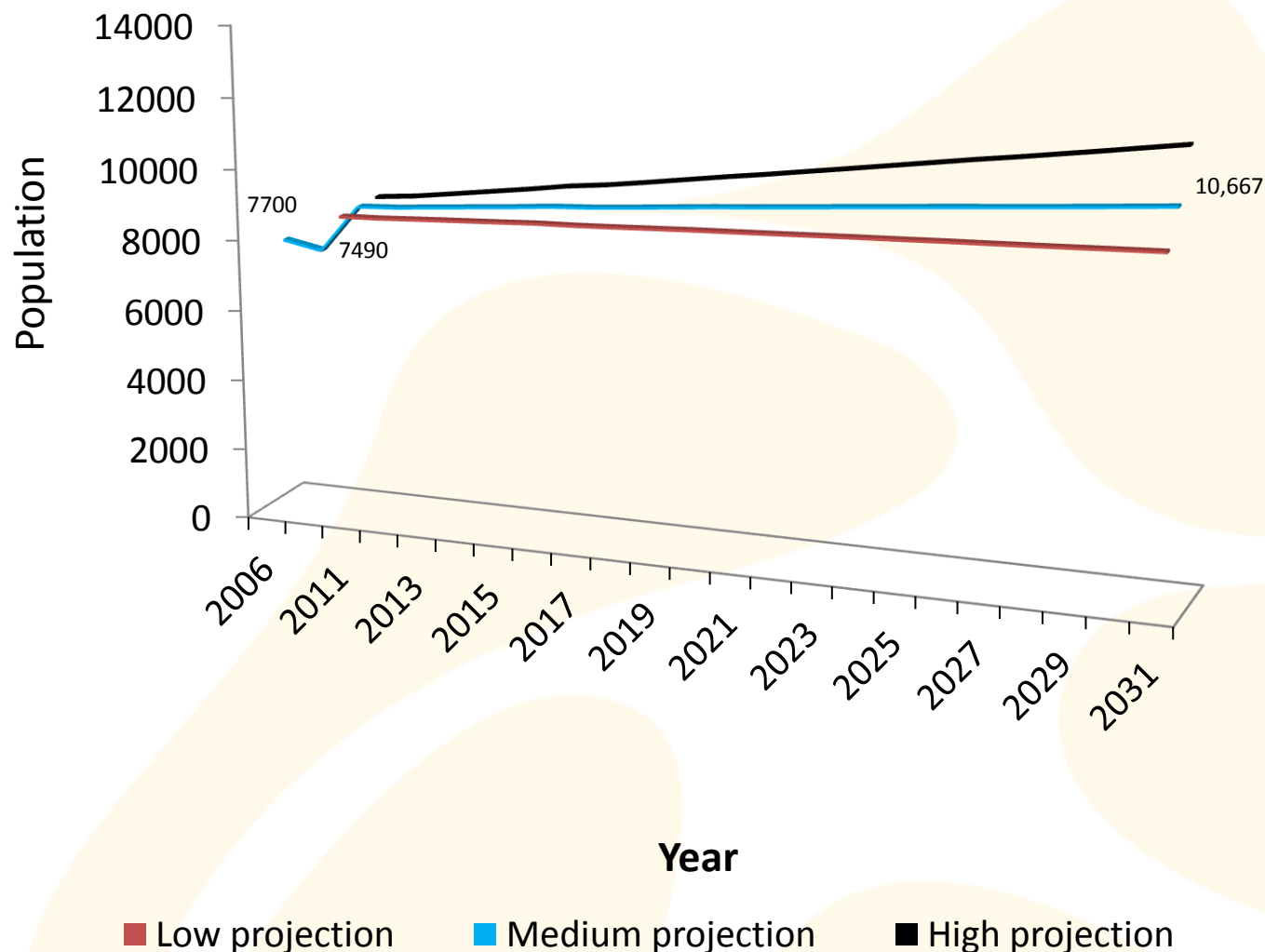
■ Torres Strait Islander

■ non-Indigenous Australian



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POPULATION PROJECTIONS

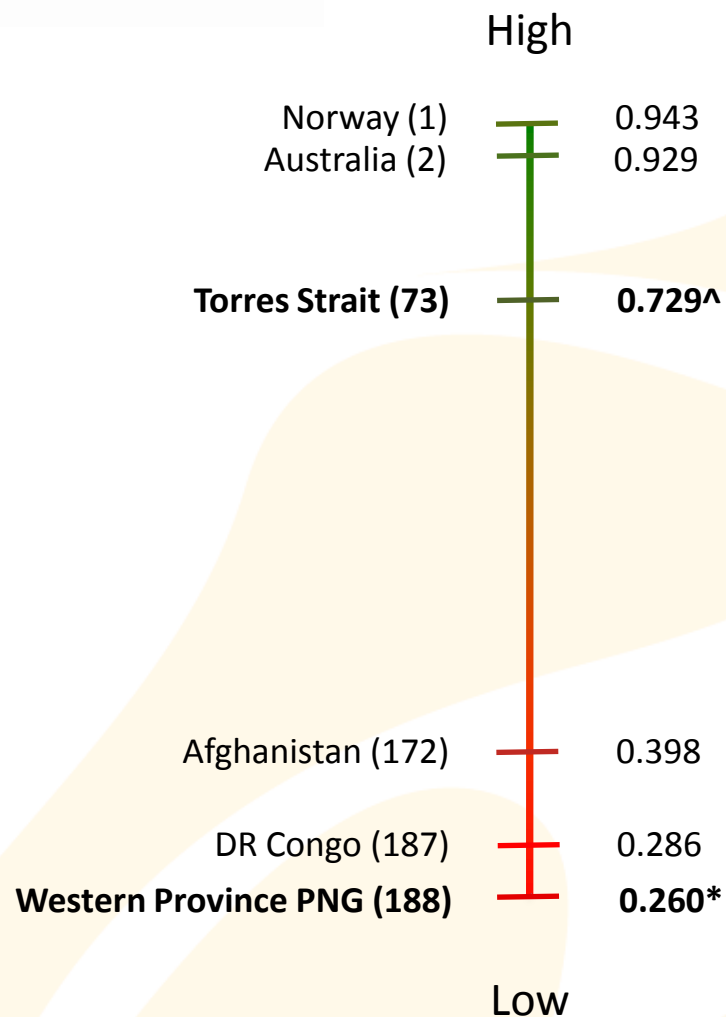


- Projected average annual growth rate of 0.91%. Lower than the 1.4% for Australian population.



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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX



Human Development Report, 2011.

*McGillivray, M. 2012. <http://www.deakin.edu.au/news/2012/23042012PNGMarkIndexresults.php>

[^]Estimated using ABS 2006 & 2011 census data



IMPLICATIONS OF STATUS AND TRENDS

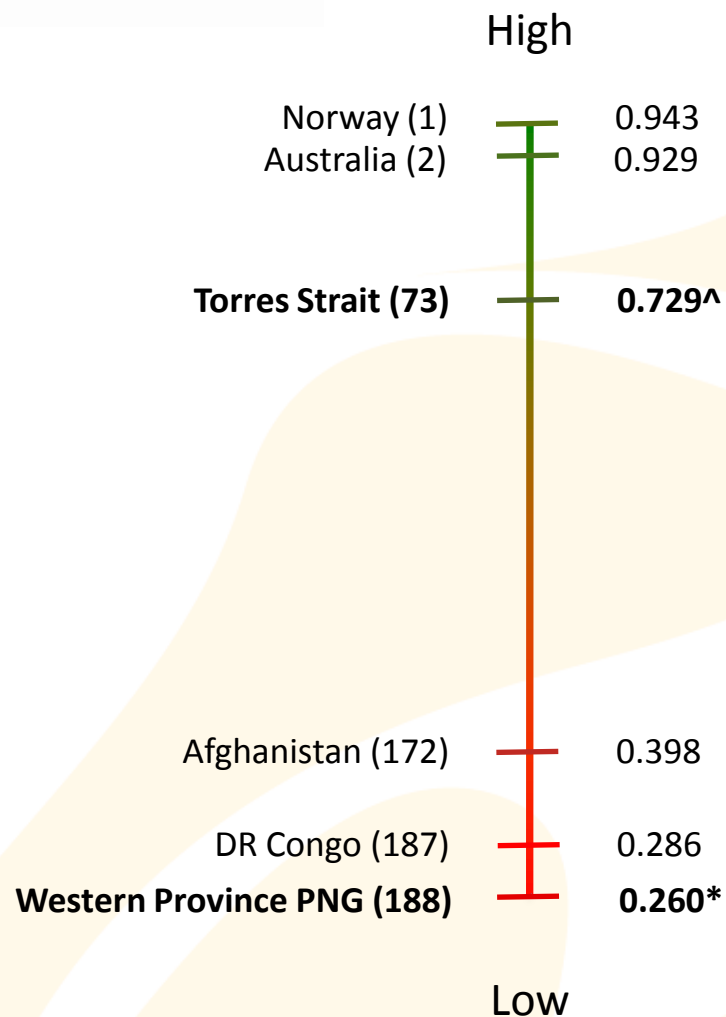
- Population growth rate in the Torres Strait region is low, probably because of outmigration. While low growth may be desirable given land and housing constraints, this pattern may have an undesirable effect on the make up of the population, particularly if those migrating out are young, educated and employed.
- Addressing the underlying causes of limited and slow socio-economic improvement is essential for long - term adaptation of the Torres Strait communities to climate change and other global and regional pressures.





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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX



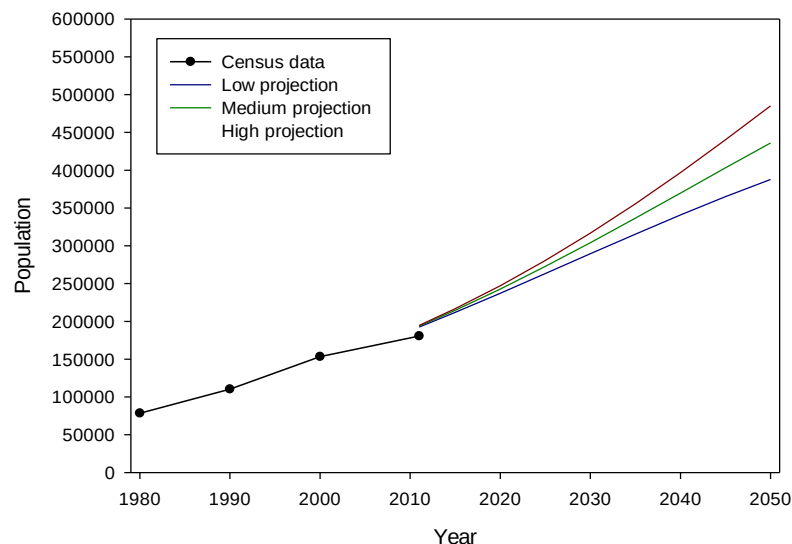
Human Development Report, 2011.

*McGillivray, M. 2012. <http://www.deakin.edu.au/news/2012/23042012PNGMarkIndexresults.php>

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POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Western Province population projections

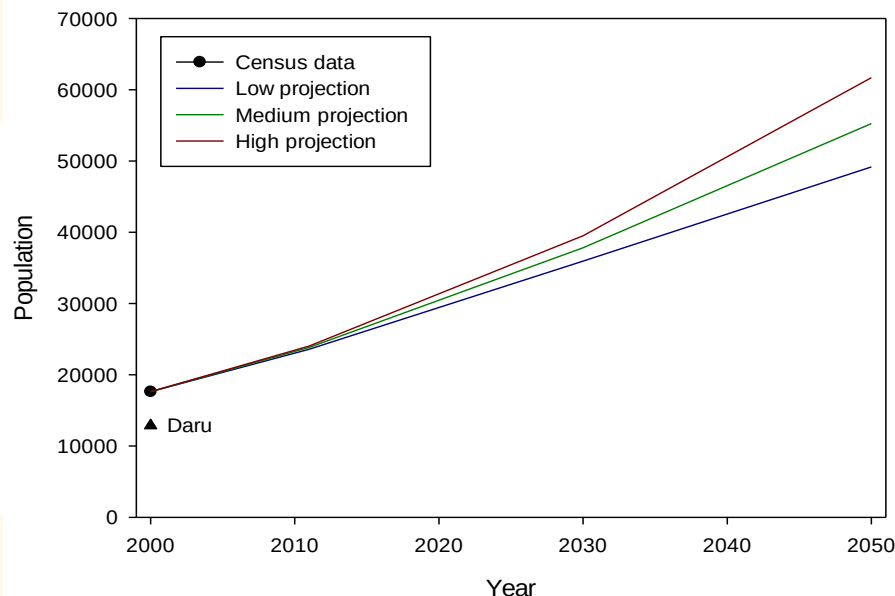


- Assuming a medium projection, the population in the WP will at least double from approximately 160,000 in 2011 to 400,000 by 2050*.

The populations of the 14 PNG Treaty Villages plus Daru will have increased from 17,641 in 2000 to approximately 23,000 in 2011*.

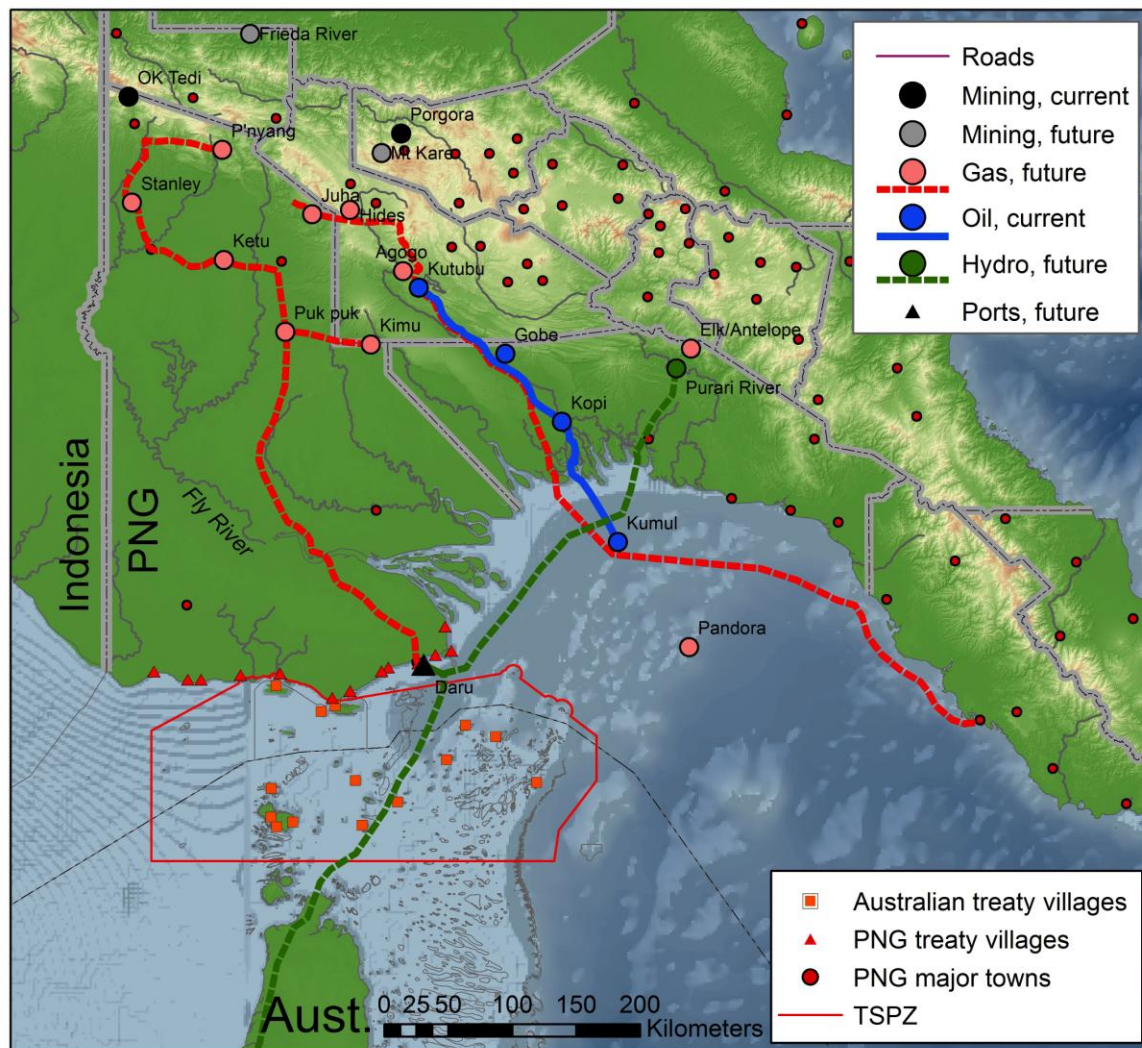
Assuming a medium projection the population will at least double to 55,000 in 2050. Based on the census data, the majority of these will be living in Daru.

PNG Treaty Villages and Daru population projections





NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

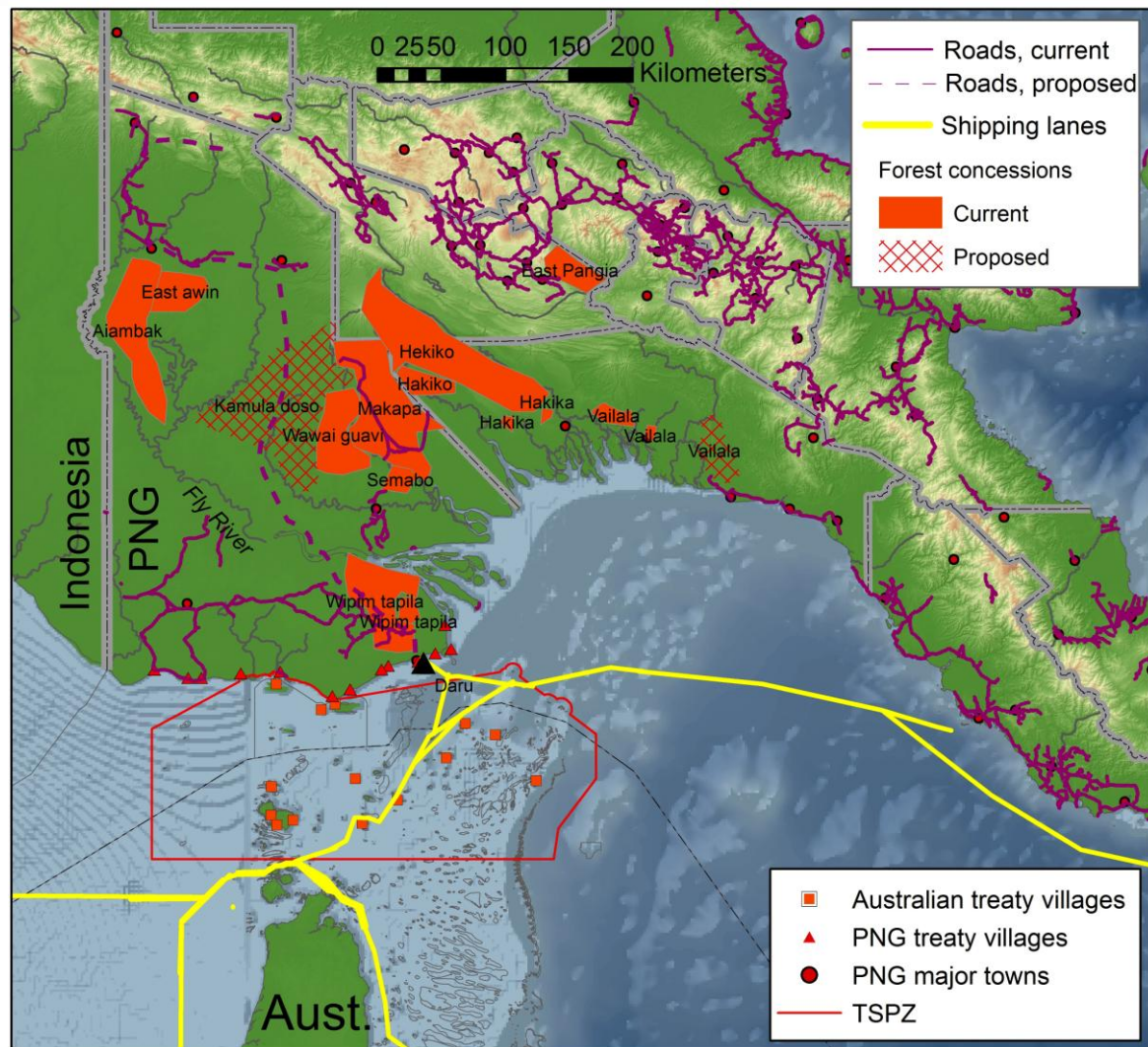


- **LNG PNG**- Southern Highlands/WP/Gulf - (LNG) – start 2014
- **Gulf LNG** - Gulf- (LNG) – start 2014
- **LNG consortium**- Western- (LNG) – start 2014
- **Mt Kare** – Enga – (Gold/Silver) – feasibility study
- **Frieda River** - Sepik – (Gold/Copper) - feasibility study
- **Purari River** – Gulf – (Hydro-electricity) – MoC* signed

*MoC = Memorandum of Cooperation



LOGGING OPERATIONS



Existing:

- **Wipim Tapila** – 244,000 ha
- **Kiunga to Aimbak** - Not Known
- **Wawoi Guavi** – 448,300 ha
- **Makapa** – 301,500 ha
- **East Awin** – 184,000 ha
- **Semabo** – 54,000 ha

Proposed:

- **Kamula Doso**- 790,000 ha
- **Kiunga to nomad** – 2million ha
– logging road to become part of the Trans Papua Road



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IMPLICATIONS OF STATUS AND TRENDS

- Likely changes in access to fishing grounds and increases in exploitation levels of marine resources in the Province and the shared area of Torres Strait Region
- Environmental impacts on the Torres Strait Region
- Increases in immigration with impacts on the use of services and infrastructures





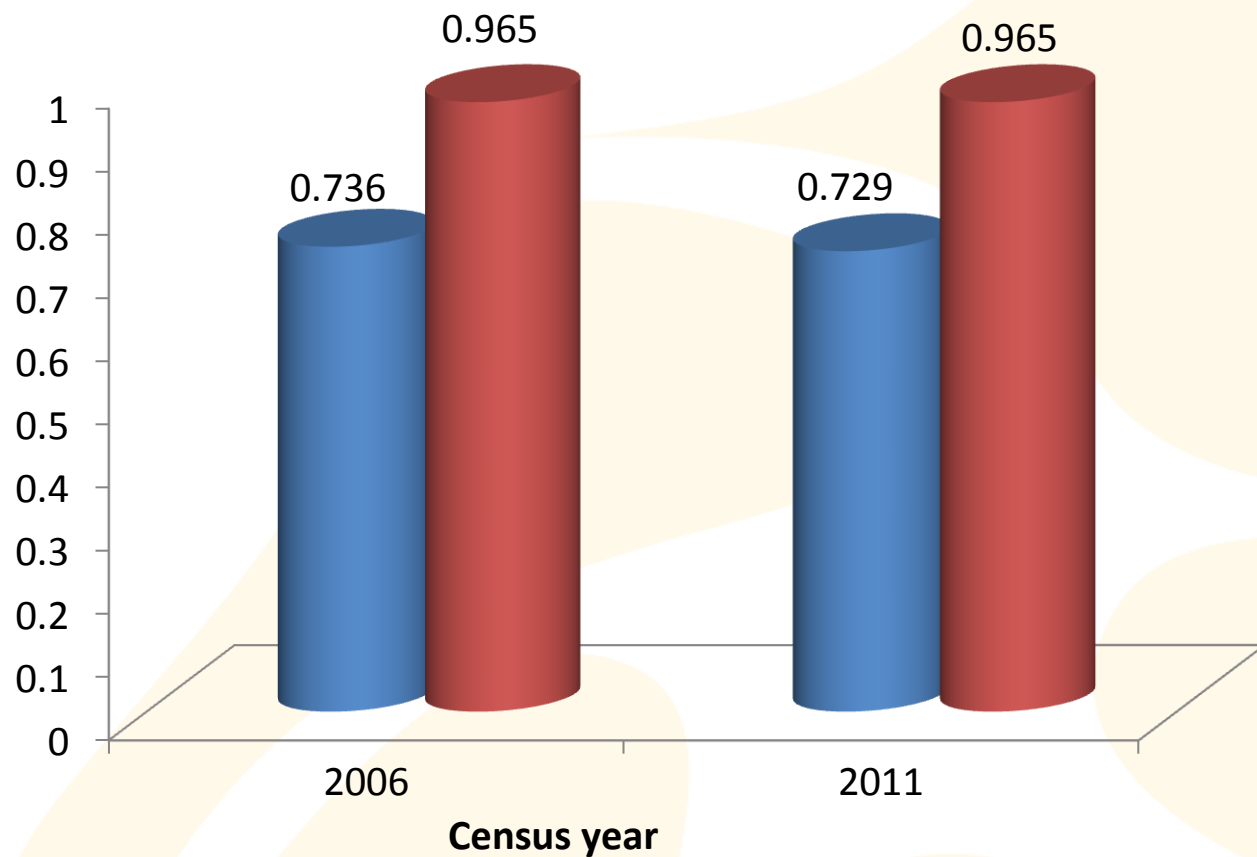


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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Human Development Index

(Estimated using ABS 2006 & 2011 census data)



- Torres Strait Islander - TS Indig. Region
- Non-Indigenous -Australia

- As measured by combined indicators of health, education and income there is a significant Human development gap between Torres Strait islanders in the region and non-indigenous Australians