

# Demographic Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders

## Census counts and estimated resident population

- At the time of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2006 Census, 127,600 people or 3.3 per cent of the total Queensland population identified as being of Indigenous origin (that is, people who are of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin).
- While the Census is an important source of information about the characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, a more accurate estimate of the Indigenous population at the state and territory level is provided by the estimated resident population, based on the Census but adjusted for net undercount and unknown Indigenous status.
- Taking these adjustments into account, the preliminary estimated resident Indigenous population in Queensland at 30 June 2006 was 144,885 or 3.5 per cent of all people in Queensland.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin

- According to the 2006 Census, the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders identified as being of Aboriginal origin (98,716 or 77 per cent). A further 18,374 (14 per cent) identified as being Torres Strait Islander and 10,488 (8 per cent) were of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

## Changes over time

- Between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, the number of people identifying as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin increased by 15,000 or 13 per cent. This is a larger increase than the eight per cent growth of the non-Indigenous population. The growth in the Indigenous population over time reflects not only natural population increase, but also other factors including improvement in data collection methods and people newly identifying their Indigenous origin in the Census.

## Regional distribution

- In 2006, Queensland had the second largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population after New South Wales. More than half (61 per cent) of Australia's Torres Strait Islander population and a quarter (26 per cent) of the Aboriginal population lived in Queensland.
- Estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resident population for 2006 developed by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research show that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are dispersed across the state with 28 per cent living in major cities, 51 per cent living in regional areas and 21 per cent living in remote and very remote areas of the state. In 2006, only 11 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lived in discrete Aboriginal mainland and Island communities. A further five per cent lived in the Torres Strait region (see Map 3).

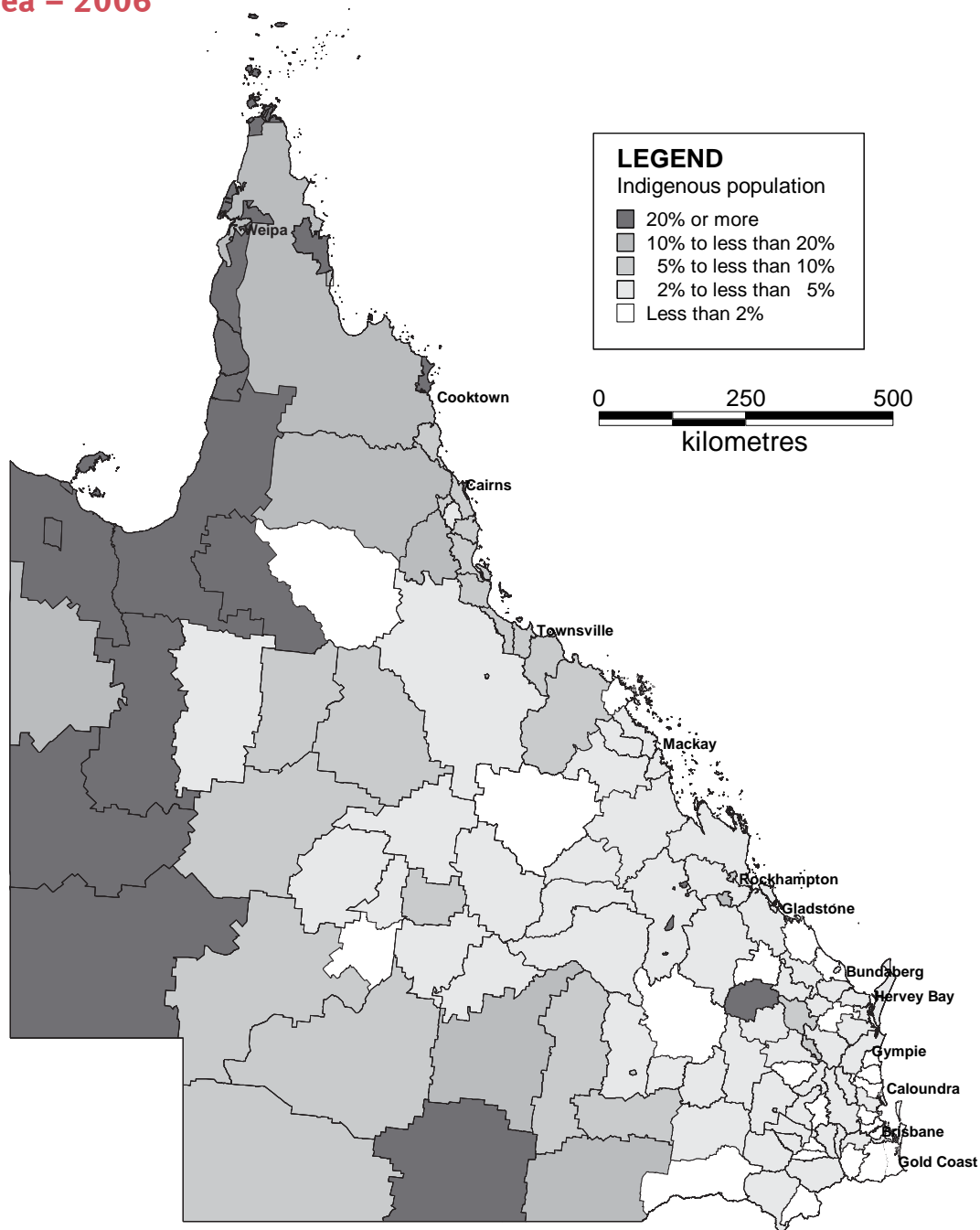
## Age

- The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population has a very young age structure, reflecting higher birth rates and shorter life expectancy. In 2006, the median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons was 20 years, considerably lower than the median age of 36 years for Queensland's non-Indigenous population.
- According to the 2006 Census, 39 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons were aged less than 15 years, compared with 20 per cent of the non-Indigenous population. Only three per cent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was aged 65 years and over, compared with 12 per cent of the non-Indigenous population.

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## Maps of Queensland

**Map 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a Proportion of the Population by Local Government Area – 2006**

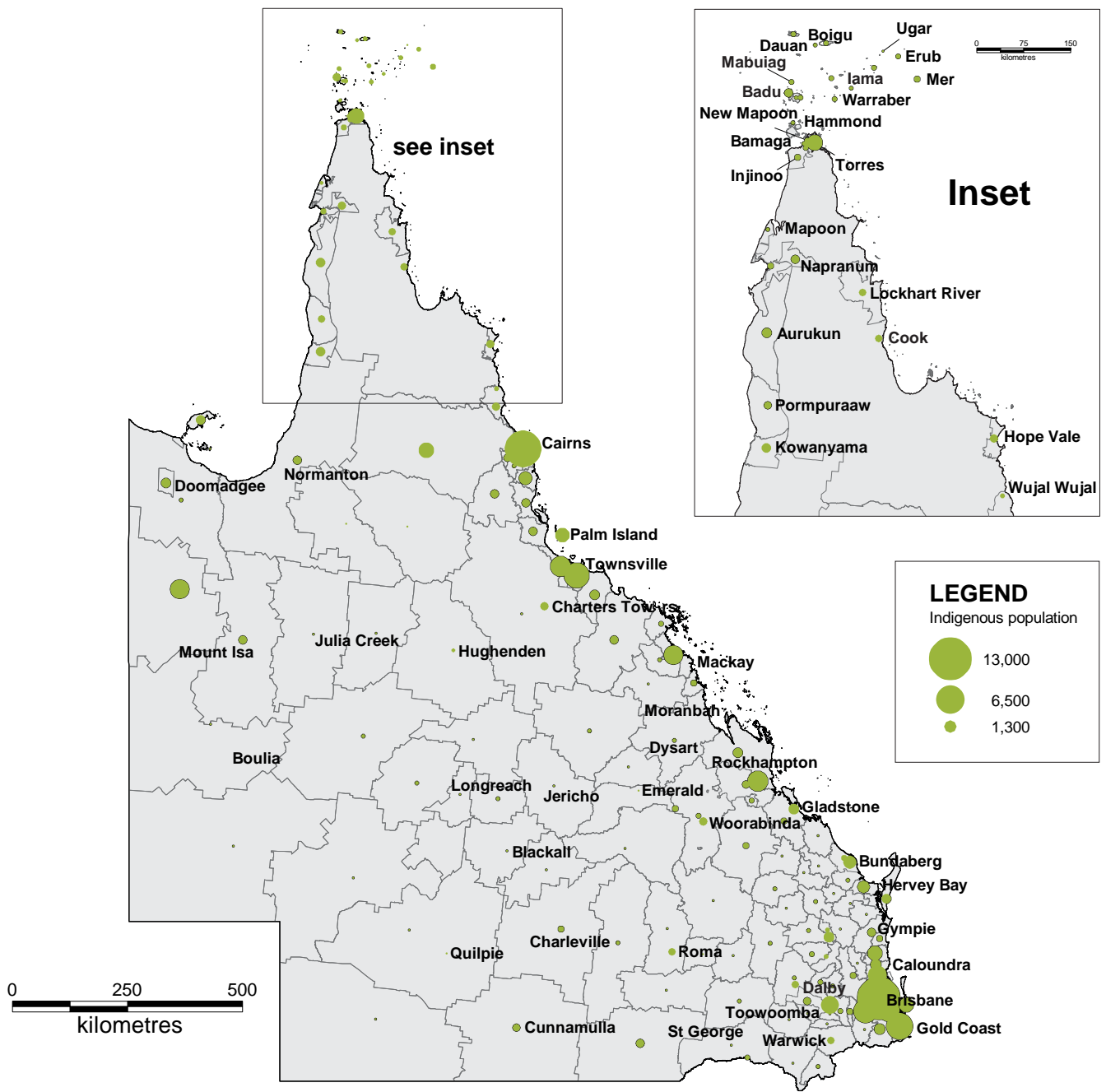


Note: Data are based on local government areas. Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006.



# Maps of Queensland

**Map 2. Distribution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population – 2006**

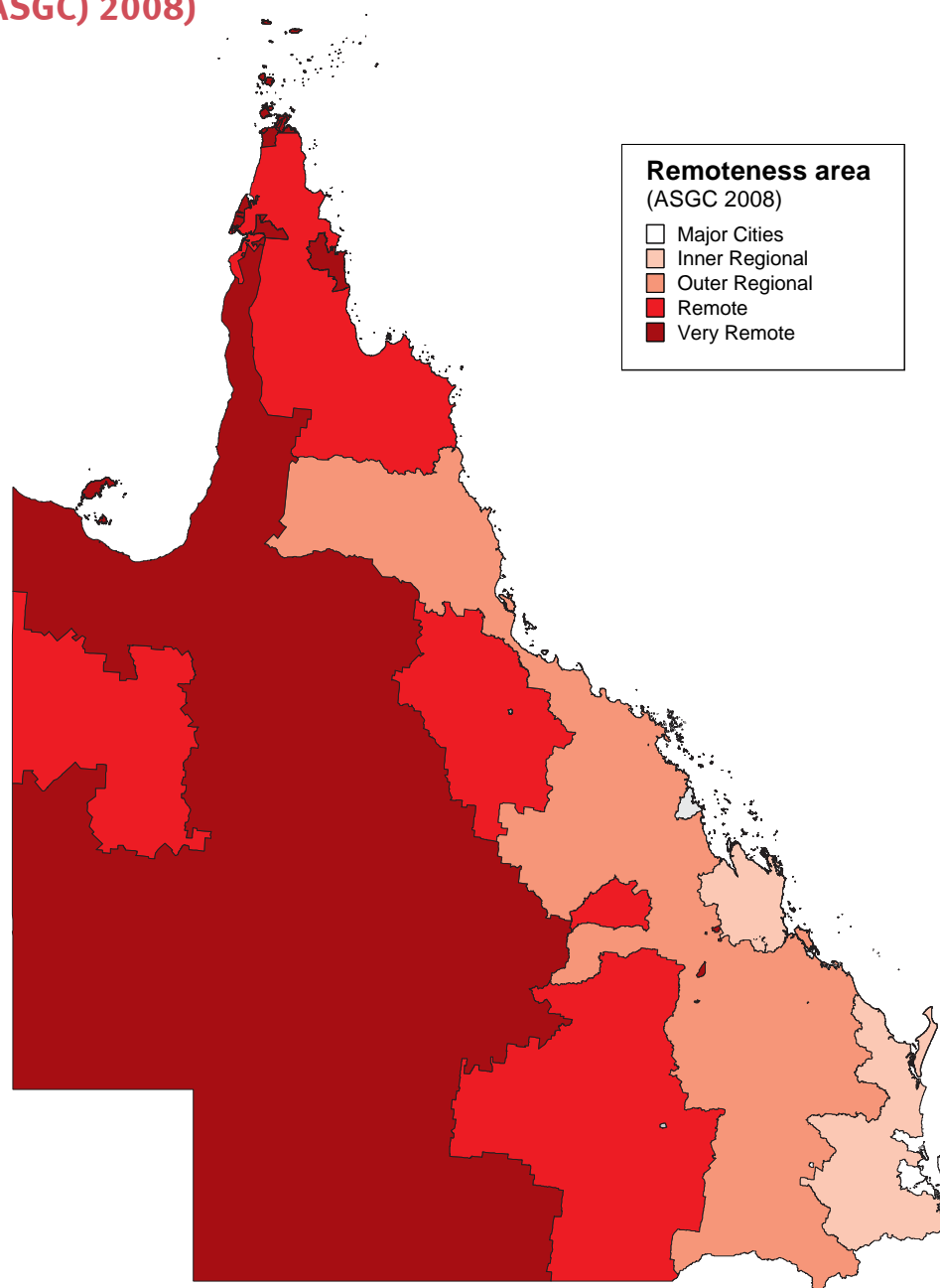


Note: Data are based on 2006 local government areas. Graduated symbols are based on centroids of LGAs Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006.

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## Maps of Queensland

**Map 3: Queensland by Remoteness Area – 2006 (Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2008)**



Note: Remoteness areas have been assigned to statistical local areas (Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) 2008) using the most populous method developed by OESR for reporting administrative data. This method assigns an SLA to the remoteness area that the majority of its population live within, based on aggregated collection district data.