



Factsheet 5

Footprints in Time: The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) has been following two cohorts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from across Australia since 2008.

This factsheet presents trajectories of social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB), culture and school safety over the first 14 years of the LSIC study.

Social and emotional wellbeing was measured using the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). SDQ scores were grouped into low risk and moderate/high risk categories for having clinically significant emotional or behavioural difficulties. Low risk indicates high social and emotional wellbeing.

The proportion of Study Children with positive SEWB (SDQ scores) increased overtime overall.

In major cities, it remained stable between 2010 and 2013, slightly decreased in 2015 before an increase in 2017 and then slight drop in 2019.

In regional areas, it increased between 2010 and 2013, remained stable between 2013 and 2015, and increased in 2017 and 2019.

In remote areas, it increased between 2010 and 2015 and slightly dropped in 2017 before showing a marked rise in 2019.

Who was surveyed?

2008 (Wave 1): 1671 children and families.

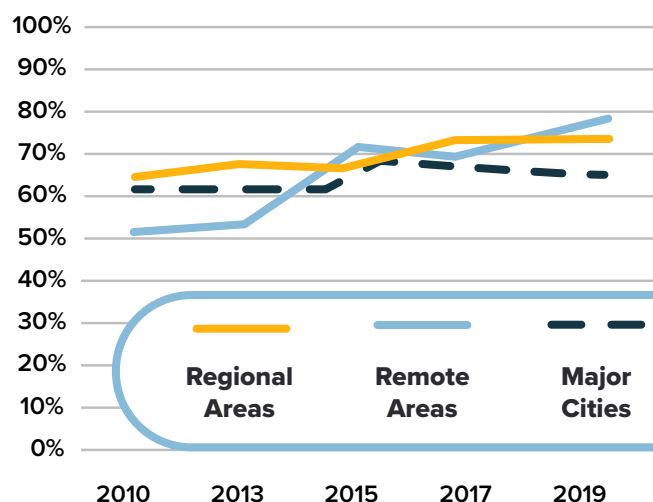
2009-2019 (Wave 9-12): Over 1,200 children and families.

2020-2021 (Wave 13-14): 755 and 936, respectively.
COVID-19 pandemic impacted participation.

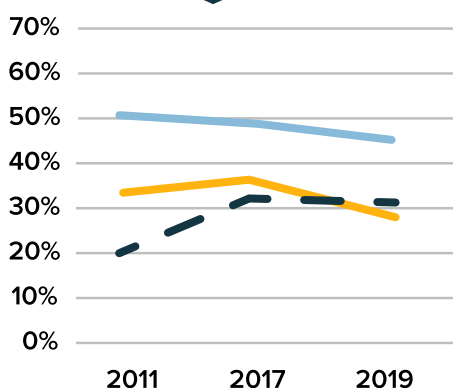
Where are these LSIC participants from?

2008: 26% lived in **major cities**, 38% lived in **regional areas** and 36% lived in **remote areas**.

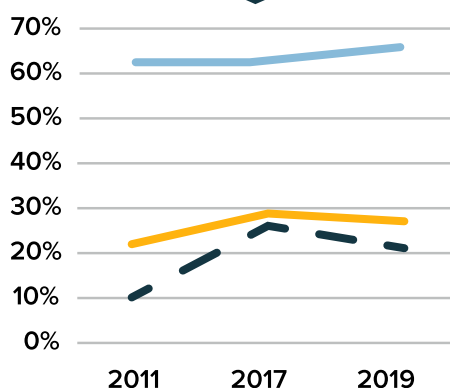
2021: 32% lived in major cities, 43% lived in **regional areas** and 25% lived in **remote areas**.



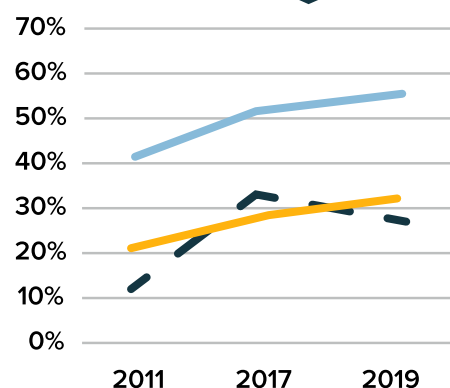
The proportion of Study Children participating in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural events over time



The proportion of Study Children learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural activities over time



The proportion of Study Children learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts over time

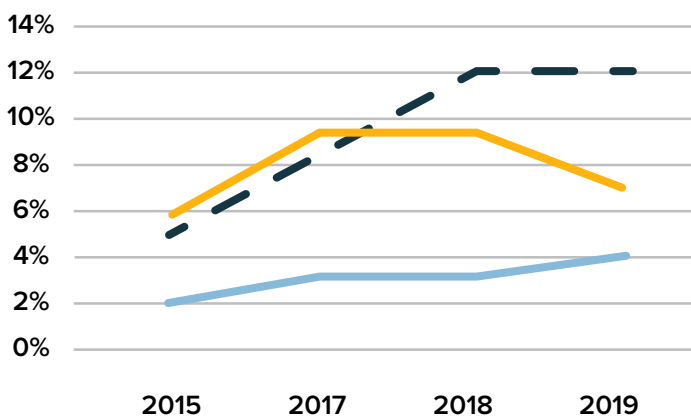
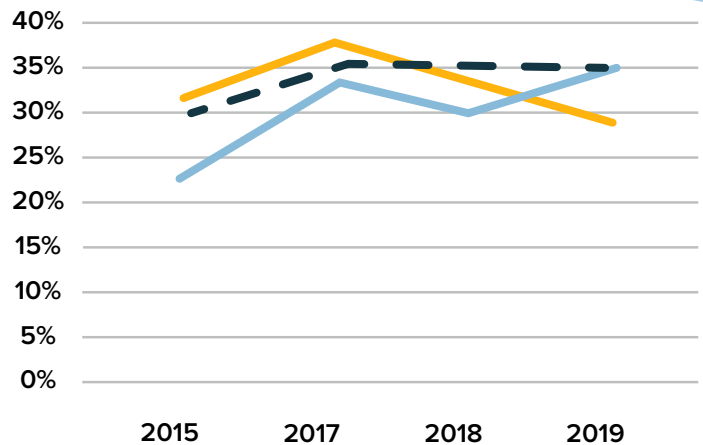


The proportion of Study Children who have experienced bullying or unfair treatment at school over time

Regional Areas

Remote Areas

Major Cities

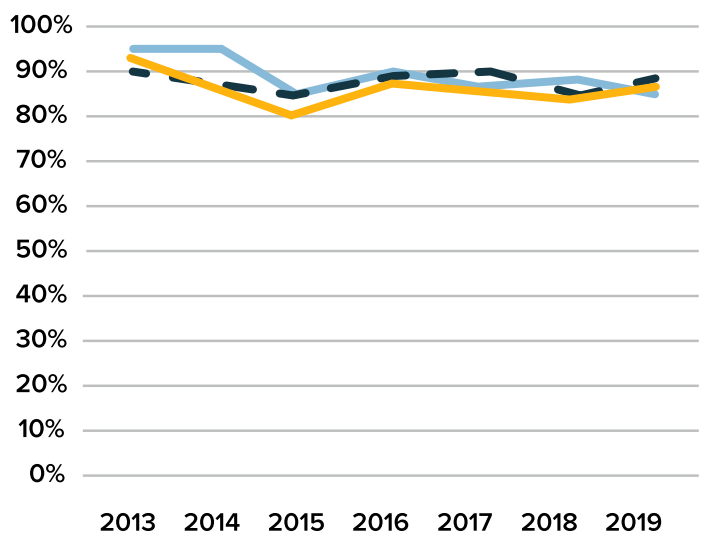


The proportion of Study Children who have experienced racism at school over time

Regional Areas

Remote Areas

Major Cities



The proportion of Study Children who felt safe at school over time

Regional Areas

Remote Areas

Major Cities

Summarised from:

Helping Spirits Stay Strong Research Report (doi.org/10.25911/6KKGK-RG76) Summary Report (doi.org/10.25911/AWN1-YZ78)
This fact sheet was published in 2024. DOI: doi.org/10.25911/XR3K-2612

Analysts behind this Fact Sheet: Dinku, Y., Howard-Wagner, D., Harrap, B., Wycisk, O., Cooms, V., Guthrie, J., Edwards, B., Somboonsin, P. & Yap, M.

The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children was initiated and is funded and managed by the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS). The findings and views expressed in this summary of the Helping Spirits Stay Strong Research Report Section Six were commissioned by DSS, however, are those of the authors and should not be attributed to DSS or the Indigenous peoples and their communities involved in the study.