

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement in VET and employment outcomes: trends, challenges and strategies

Chair and Panellists



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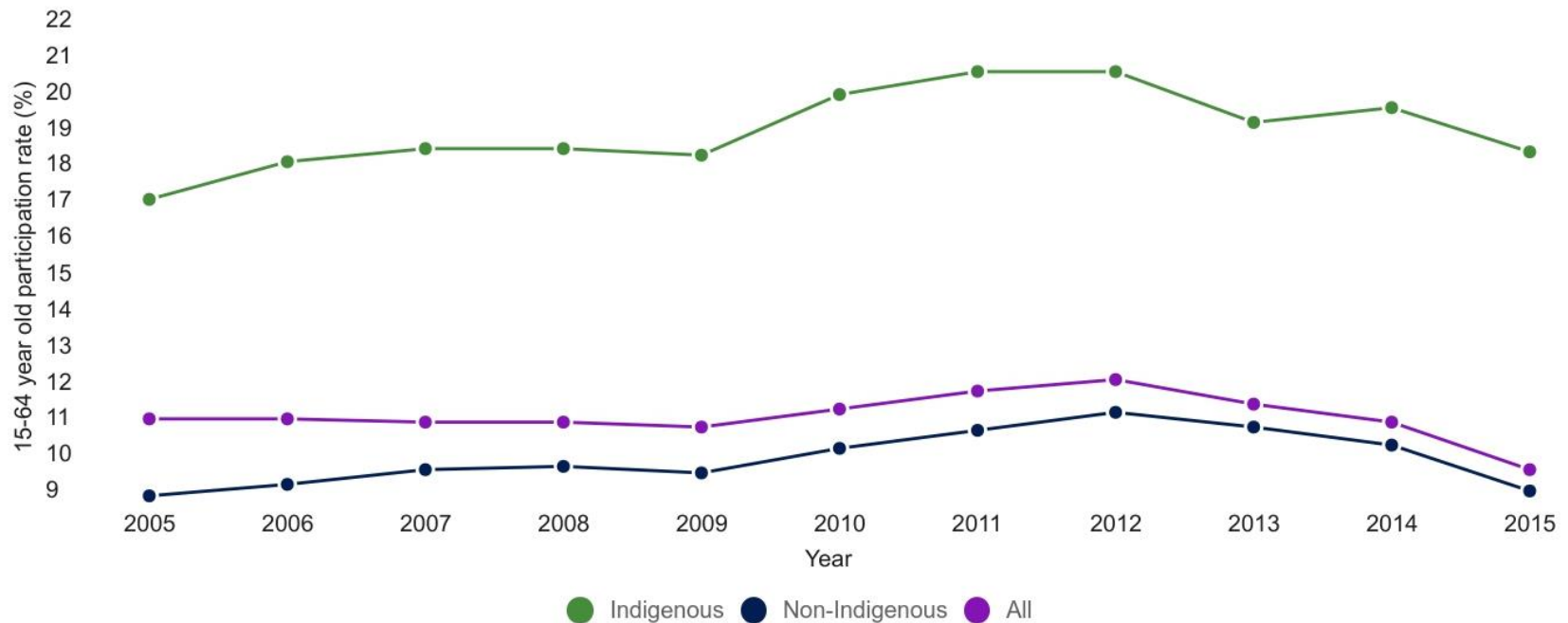


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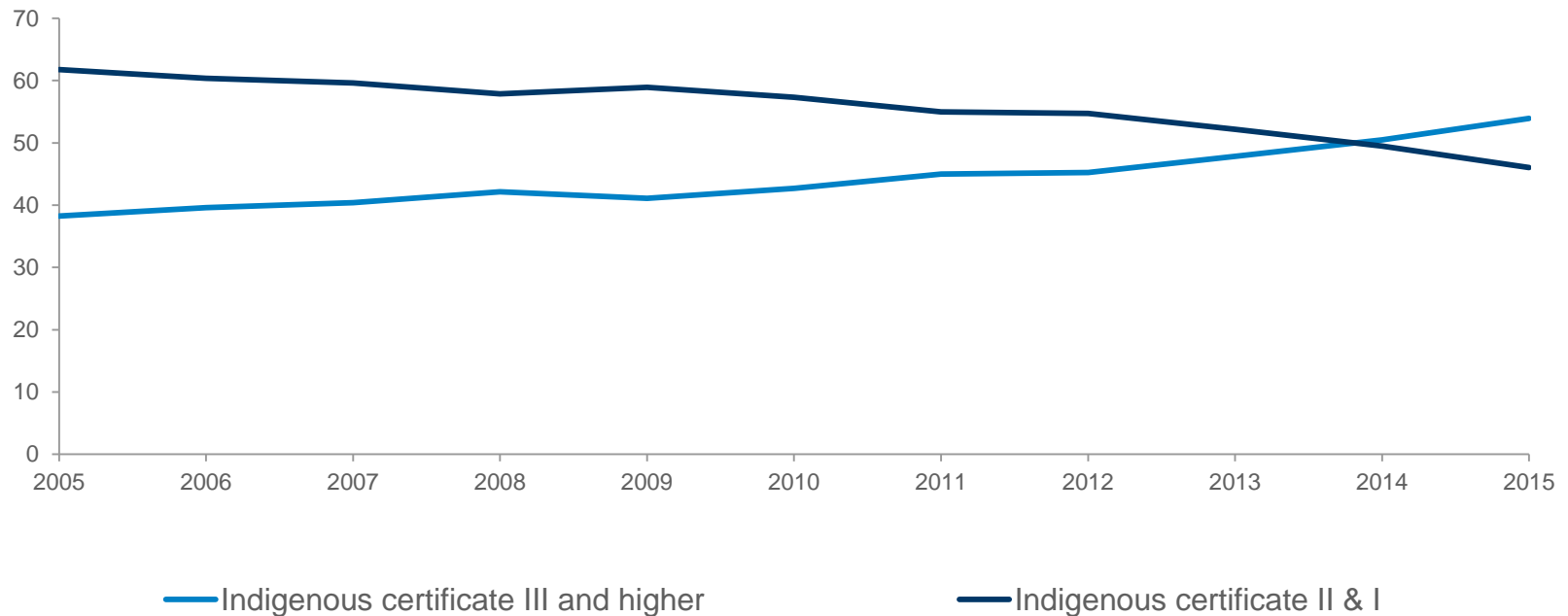
VET participation rate, 15-64 year old population



- Indigenous participation remains high compared to non-Indigenous
- In 2015, nearly 19% of Indigenous people aged 15-64 were enrolled in VET qualifications.



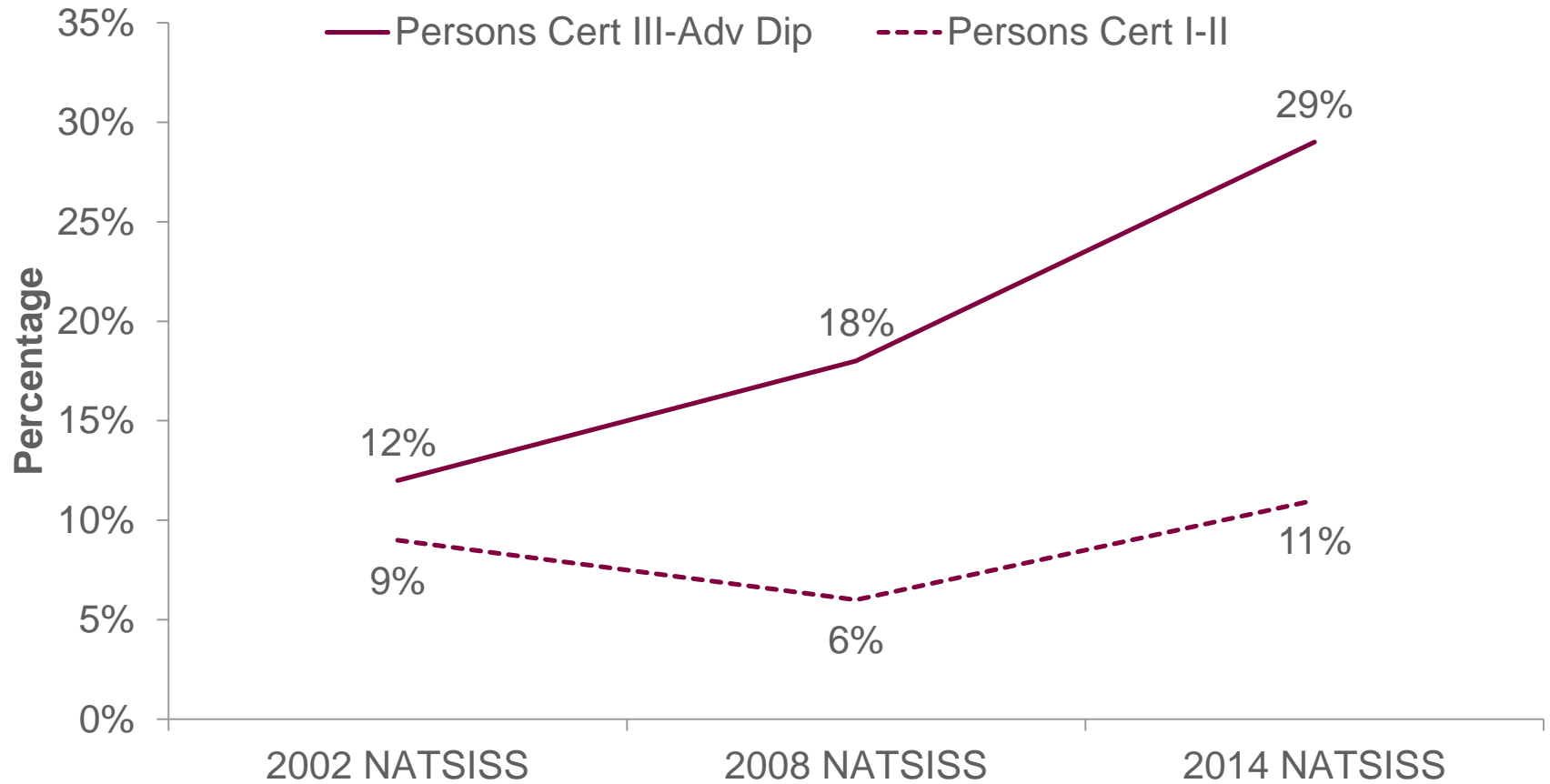
Indigenous VET enrolments as a proportion of all program enrolments, by qualification level, 2005–15, %



- Proportion of Indigenous enrolments in higher level certificates (Certificate III and above) is increasing
- In 2015 over half (54.0%) of enrolments were in higher level certificates



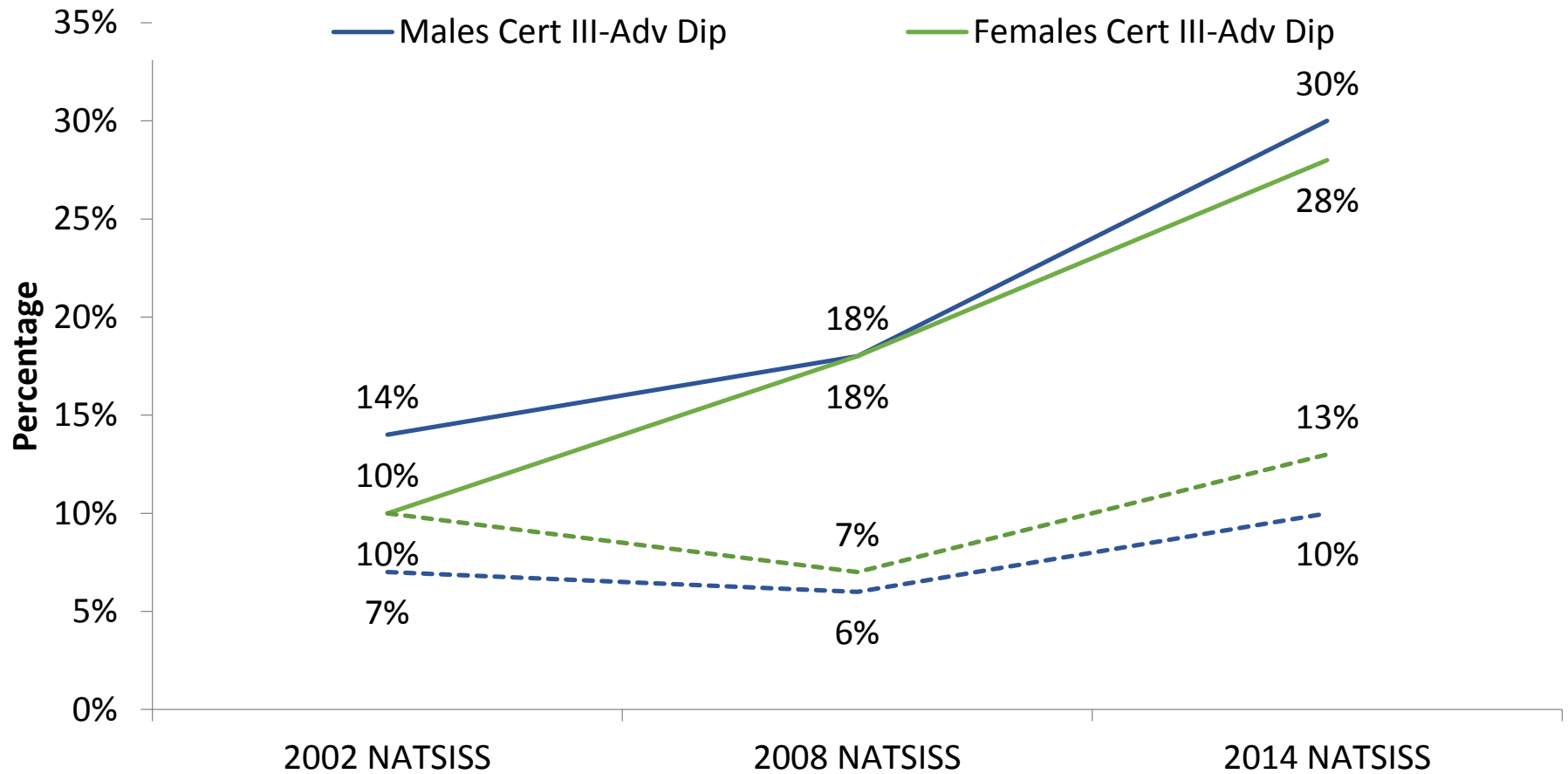
Attainment of Certificate III–Advanced Diploma, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander population aged 15-64



Source: ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Surveys



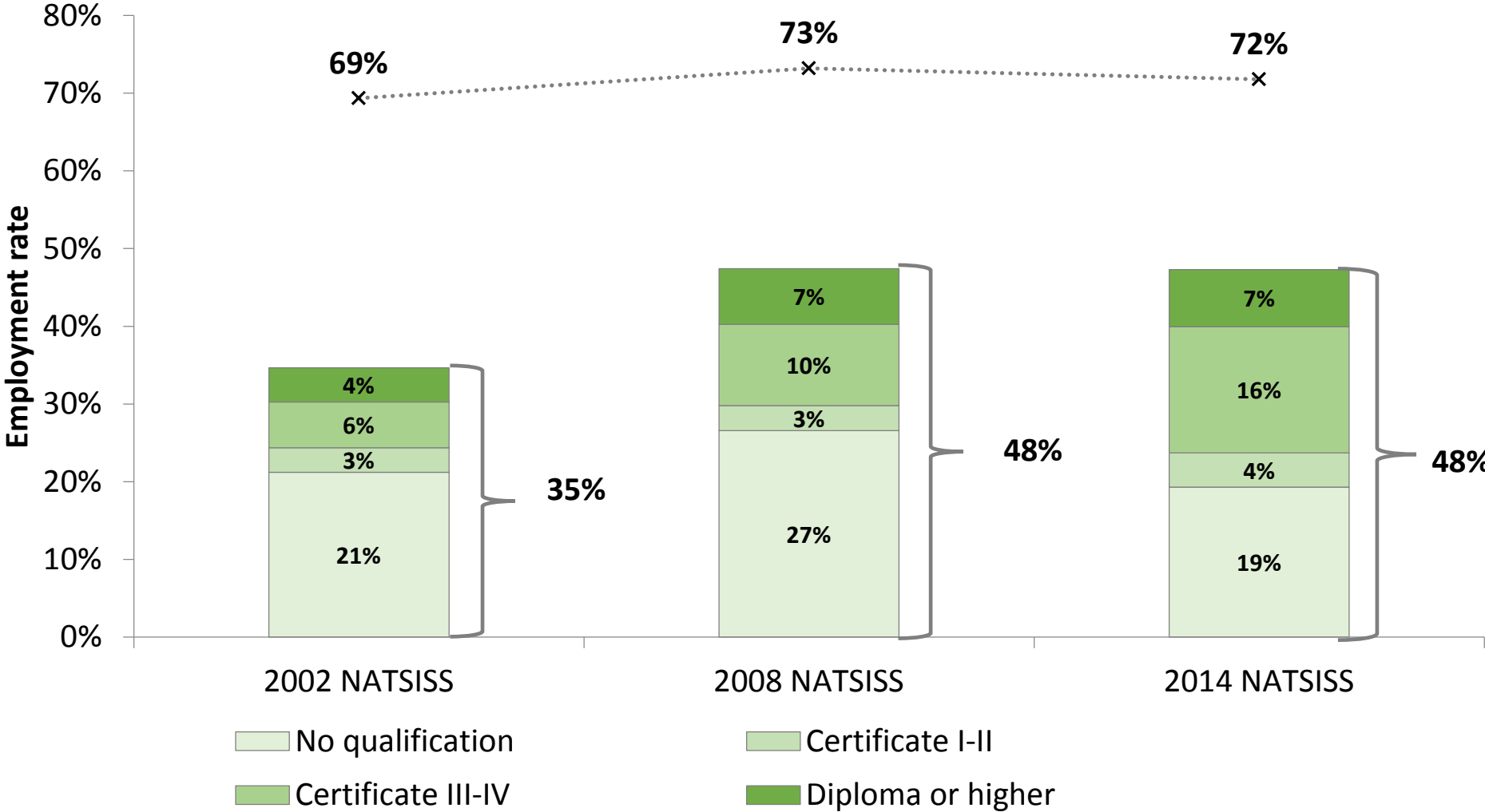
Attainment of Certificate III–Advanced Diploma, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander population aged 15-64



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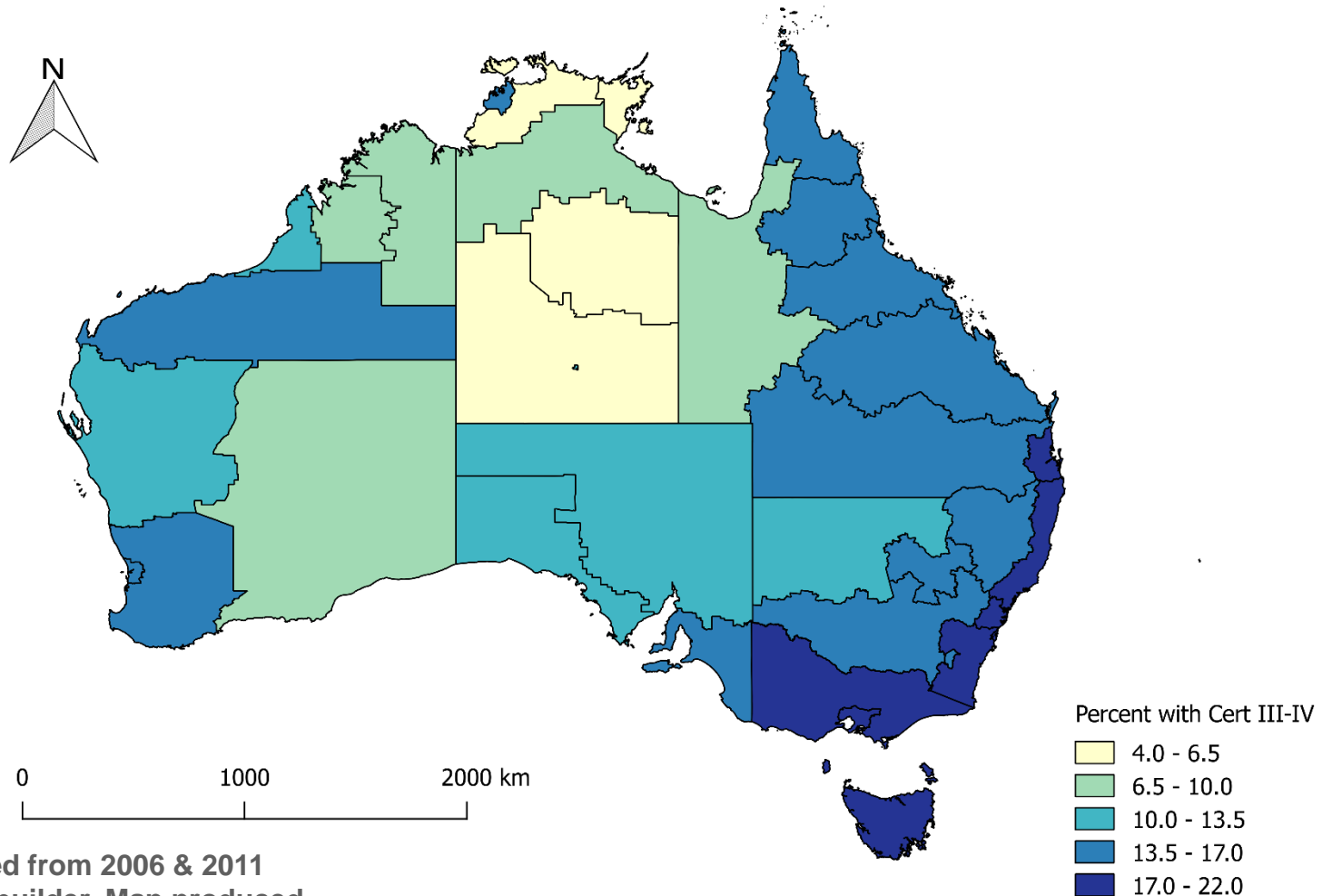
Contribution to Indigenous employment rate of each category of educational attainment



···x··· Employment rate total Australia

Source: ABS National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Surveys

Indigenous population aged 15-64, percentage with Certificate III-IV qualifications by Indigenous region



Source: ABS, generated from 2006 & 2011
Censuses using Tablebuilder. Map produced
using QGIS www.qgis.org

Remote retention

- Cost of delivery into community: secure funding
- Cost vs benefit for training participants: a question of priorities
- Philosophical alignment: purpose, values, identity, knowledge systems

Examples from the study: challenges

TAFE SA, APY Lands Aged Care, Home and Community Care training

- 7 completions from 44 enrolments
- Participant and community buy in
- Higher skills → positive attrition
- Learning for community not just industry

Batchelor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner Training

- 15% completion rate
- Is success really about completion, or other indicators such as confidence and community capability more important?
- The reality of competing priorities

Remote success

Definitions of success are much bigger than retention, completion and employability

- Foundation skills: essential for a range of every-day purposes
- Confidence: being able to speak up for yourself
- Connected to local culture and knowledge
- Employment: meaningful use of skills and knowledge

Examples from the study: alternative measures

Yes I Can

- Confidence and self-esteem are precursors to other outcomes

Karajarri Ranger Training

- Two-way learning, on country, using elders

Wontulp Bi Buya College

- Remaining connected to community
- A community of learners

Student Retention

- Participation
- Training Obligations
- Positive Associations
- Community of Learners
- Continuous Training
- Engagement



Cultural Sensitive Training

- Healthy Positioning
- Educational Patterning
- Aspiration and Expectation
- Educational Transitioning
- Community Connections
- Training Flexibility



Research reports

Vocational Education Participation and Attainment Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians: Trends 2002-2015 and Employment Outcomes - by Heather Crawford and Nicholas Biddle

Indigenous VET participation, completion and outcomes: change over the past decade - by Georgina Windley

Enhancing training advantage for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners - by John Guenther et al

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