

## 4.2 Student attendance

### Key Facts:

In Australia in 2025:

- The attendance rate for students in Years 1–10 was 88.8%, up from 88.3% in 2024.
- The student attendance level (the percentage of students with attendance at or above 90 per cent) was 62.1%, up from 59.8% in 2024.
- Attendance rates and attendance levels:
  - increased with the level of socio-educational advantage of the school
  - were higher among students in major cities than in remote areas
  - were lower among students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds than for non-Indigenous students.

Between 2024 and 2025, increases in attendance rates and attendance levels were smaller for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students than for non-Indigenous students. This resulted in a widening of the gaps between attendance rates and attendance levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and non-Indigenous students.

While student attendance rates and attendance levels were higher in 2025 than in 2022–2024, they have not returned to pre-COVID levels. In 2019, the national attendance rate was 91.4% and the attendance level was 73.1%.

Like enrolment rates, the national KPMs for attendance in the Measurement Framework for Schooling in Australia 2025 relate to students in the compulsory years of schooling. However, attendance measures are specified in terms of school year (Years 1–10) rather than by student age. Where KPM 1(a) reports on the proportion of children enrolled in school, KPMs 1(b) and 1(c) report on the proportion of available time that students spend at school once enrolled.

### Key Performance Measure 1(b)

Attendance rate: The number of actual full-time equivalent student-days attended by full-time students in Years 1–10 in Semester 1 as a percentage of the total possible number of student-days attended in Semester 1

### Key Performance Measure 1(c)

Attendance level: The proportion of full-time students in Years 1–10 whose attendance rate in Semester 1 is equal to or greater than 90 per cent

All school sectors in all states and territories use a common reference period – Semester 1 in each school year – for the collection of attendance data for national reporting. This is consistent with the [National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting](#), which came into operation for the 2014 data collection period and onwards.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The NSW government sector implemented the national standards in 2018. Attendance rates for NSW (and hence for Australia) for 2018 onward are not fully comparable to previous years, due to changes in the calculation method for NSW government schools in 2018.

## Attendance rates

Table 4.2 reports KPM 1(b) by state and territory and school sector for 2025. The average school attendance rate for Years 1–10 across Australia in 2025 was 87.6% for government schools, 90.5% for Catholic schools, 91.5% for independent schools and 88.8% for schools overall.

**Table 4.2:** Student attendance rates, Years 1–10, by state/territory and school sector, Australia, 2025 (%)

State/territory	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Government	88.2	87.8	87.3	88.1	86.9	85.8	74.4	88.7	87.6
Catholic	91.4	89.8	90.7	90.2	90.9	89.3	80.8	89.5	90.5
Independent	91.7	91.9	91.0	91.1	91.5	91.1	85.7	91.1	91.5
All	89.5	88.8	88.6	89.1	88.3	87.3	76.9	89.4	88.8

Note: Excludes part-time students. For data definitions, see the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting.

Source: ACARA, National Student Attendance Data Collection.

The average attendance rate for Years 1–10 in 2025 exceeded 85% in all states and territories except the NT, where, as in previous years, the much lower average attendance rate (58.3%) for the high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students led to an average rate for all students of 76.9%.

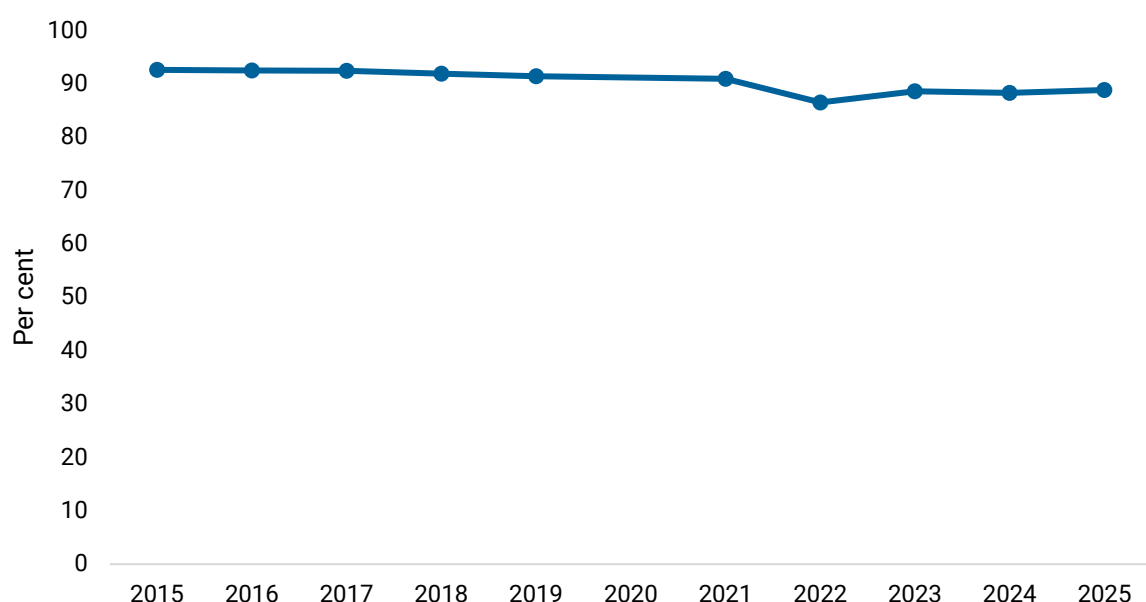
There was little difference in the national average attendance rate for girls (88.9%) and boys (88.7%) in 2025. Average attendance rates were highest in major cities (89.8%) and lowest in very remote areas (65.1%).<sup>2</sup> As in previous years, a common characteristic across all states and territories was lower average attendance rates in Years 7–10 than in Years 1–6. At the national level in 2025, the average attendance rate for Years 7–10 was 86.5% compared with 90.4% for Years 1–6.

Between 2024 and 2025, attendance rates increased in all states and territories except for Western Australia, where there was a slight decline of 0.1 percentage point. Increases ranged from 0.2 percentage points in Victoria and the Northern Territory to 0.9 percentage points in New South Wales.

Student attendance rates from 2015 to 2025 are shown in Figure 4.1. After a 4.4 percentage point decrease from 2021 to 2022 – which was a result of the impact of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, high Influenza season outbreaks and floods in certain regions across Australia – student attendance rates across Australia increased by 2.1 percentage points nationally in 2023 before a small decline in 2024. While student attendance rates were higher in 2025 than in 2022–2024, they have not returned to pre-COVID levels.

The [Key Performance Measures Dashboard](#) in the National Report on Schooling data portal reports a downward trend in student attendance rates over the period 2015–2025 of -0.5 percentage points per year. Further analysis of reasons for absences is required to determine the reason for this decline.

<sup>2</sup> Student attendance rates disaggregated by year level, gender and geolocation are available in the National Report on Schooling data portal, [Student Attendance](#) data set.

**Figure 4.1:** Student attendance rates, Years 1–10, Australia, 2015–2025 (%)

Note: See note for Table 4.2.

Attendance rates for NSW and Australia for 2018 onward are not fully comparable to previous years, due to changes in the calculation method for NSW government schools in 2018. Attendance data for 2021 to 2024 in NSW is not comparable with previous years due to changes to the attendance calculations for government schools to align with the revised 2020 National Standards for student attendance data reporting.

School attendance data for 2020 has not been published due to inconsistencies in the data as a result of the varying health advice and schooling arrangements across the country in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The inconsistencies in data collection have now been addressed through national agreement by schools and systems. However, the impact of the pandemic on the operation of individual schools varied considerably.

Source: ACARA, National Student Attendance Data Collection.

Table 4.3 reports KPM 1(b) by school sector, for 2015–2025. After small declines in national attendance rates in all sectors in 2024 (0.3 percentage points nationally), attendance rates increased by 0.5 percentage points nationally in 2025, with increases of 0.5 percentage points in government and independent schools and 0.4 percentage points in Catholic schools.

**Table 4.3:** Student attendance rates, Years 1–10, by school sector, Australia, 2015–2025 (%)

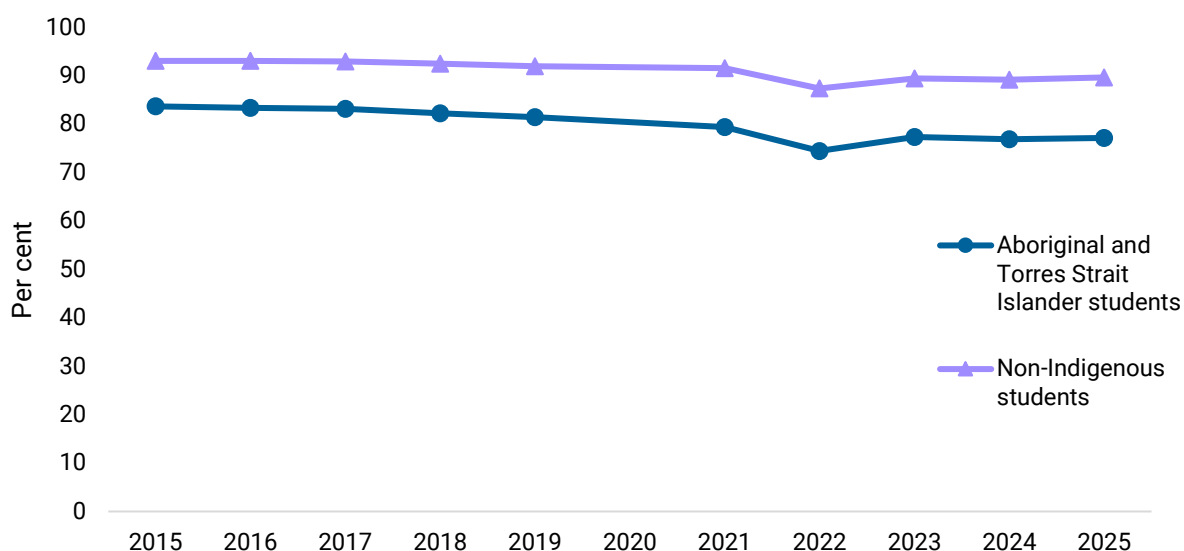
School sector	Government	Catholic	Independent	All
2015	92.0	93.6	93.9	92.6
2016	91.9	93.6	93.8	92.5
2017	91.8	93.4	93.7	92.4
2018	91.3	92.9	93.5	91.9
2019	90.7	92.4	93.1	91.4
2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021	90.0	92.3	93.0	90.9
2022	85.6	87.9	88.8	86.5
2023	87.5	90.3	91.2	88.6
2024	87.1	90.1	91.0	88.3
2025	87.6	90.5	91.5	88.8

Note: See notes for Figure 4.1.

Source: ACARA National Student Attendance Data Collection.

At a national level, the increase in attendance rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students between 2024 and 2025 (0.3 percentage points) was slightly smaller than that for non-Indigenous students (0.5 percentage points). This increased the national gap in attendance rates by 0.2 percentage points to 12.4 percentage points in 2025.

**Figure 4.2:** Student attendance rates, Years 1–10, Australia, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status, 2015–2025 (%)



Note: See notes for Figure 4.1.

Source: ACARA National Student Attendance Data Collection.

Table 4.4 shows comparative attendance rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous students in Years 1–10 by state and territory, and the gaps between them, in 2015, 2024 and 2025.<sup>3</sup> In all 3 years, above average gaps in attendance rates were recorded in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, and South Australia.

Between 2015 and 2025, the gap between attendance rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and non-Indigenous students widened in all states and territories. At a national level, the gap widened by 3.0 percentage points. The largest increases in the attendance gap were in the Northern Territory (9.6 percentage points) and Western Australia (4.7 percentage points).

In Western Australia, attendance rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students decreased by 0.7 percentage points between 2024 and 2025, resulting in a 0.6 percentage point increase in the gap in attendance rates. In the Northern Territory, there was no change in attendance rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students between 2024 and 2025, while attendance rates among non-Indigenous students increased by 0.2 percentage points, resulting in a slight increase in the gap in attendance rates in the Northern Territory.

<sup>3</sup> Changes in the gaps in attendance rates and attendance levels over time should be interpreted with caution. Over the past decade, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student cohort has increased at a higher proportional rate than the non-Indigenous cohort. As a result, observed changes in the attendance gap may partly reflect the increase in the number of students identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, rather than true shifts in attendance behaviour. The ABS (2025) has recently updated population estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, increasing the count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Census, noting that less than half (43.5%) of this increase can be accounted for by demographic factors (births, deaths and migration) with the remainder due to other factors, including changes in the propensity of people to identify as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person. For further information refer to: <https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/explain/population-revisions/>.

In all other states and territories, attendance rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students increased between 2024 and 2025. Increases ranged from 0.1 percentage point in Queensland to 1.2 percentage points in South Australia. These increases resulted in reductions in the gap in attendance rates in Victoria (0.1 percentage point), Tasmania (0.4 percentage points) and South Australia (0.5 percentage points).

**Table 4.4:** Student attendance rates, Years 1–10, by state and territory and Indigenous status, Australia, 2015, 2024 and 2025 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>2015</b>									
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	86.9	87.8	85.7	81.4	77.1	88.5	70.9	86.5	83.7
Non-Indigenous students	93.2	93.5	92.9	92.4	93.1	92.1	92.3	92.9	93.1
All students	92.8	93.4	92.3	91.9	92.0	91.8	83.5	92.7	92.6
Gap: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non-Indigenous students (percentage points)	6.3	5.7	7.2	11.0	16.0	3.6	21.4	6.4	9.4
<b>2024</b>									
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	79.8	79.4	78.7	75.8	69.8	81.5	58.3	79.2	76.9
Non-Indigenous students	89.4	88.8	89.1	89.2	89.9	87.5	89.2	88.9	89.2
All students	88.6	88.6	88.1	88.4	88.4	86.8	76.7	88.6	88.3
Gap: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non-Indigenous students (percentage points)	9.5	9.4	10.4	13.4	20.1	6.0	30.9	9.7	12.3
<b>2025</b>									
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	80.6	79.7	78.8	77.0	69.2	82.4	58.3	80.0	77.2
Non-Indigenous students	90.3	89.0	89.6	89.9	89.9	88.0	89.4	89.7	89.7
All students	89.5	88.8	88.6	89.1	88.3	87.3	76.9	89.4	88.8
Gap: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non-Indigenous students (percentage points)	9.7	9.3	10.9	12.9	20.7	5.5	31.0	9.8	12.4
<b>Change in gap 2015–25 (percentage points)</b>									
	3.4	3.6	3.7	1.9	4.7	1.9	9.6	3.4	3.0
<b>Change in gap 2024–25 (percentage points)</b>									
	0.1	-0.1	0.4	-0.5	0.6	-0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2

Note: See notes for Figure 4.1. Apparent inconsistencies in percentage differences for subpopulations can occur because values are rounded to one decimal place.

Source: ACARA, National Student Attendance Data Collection.

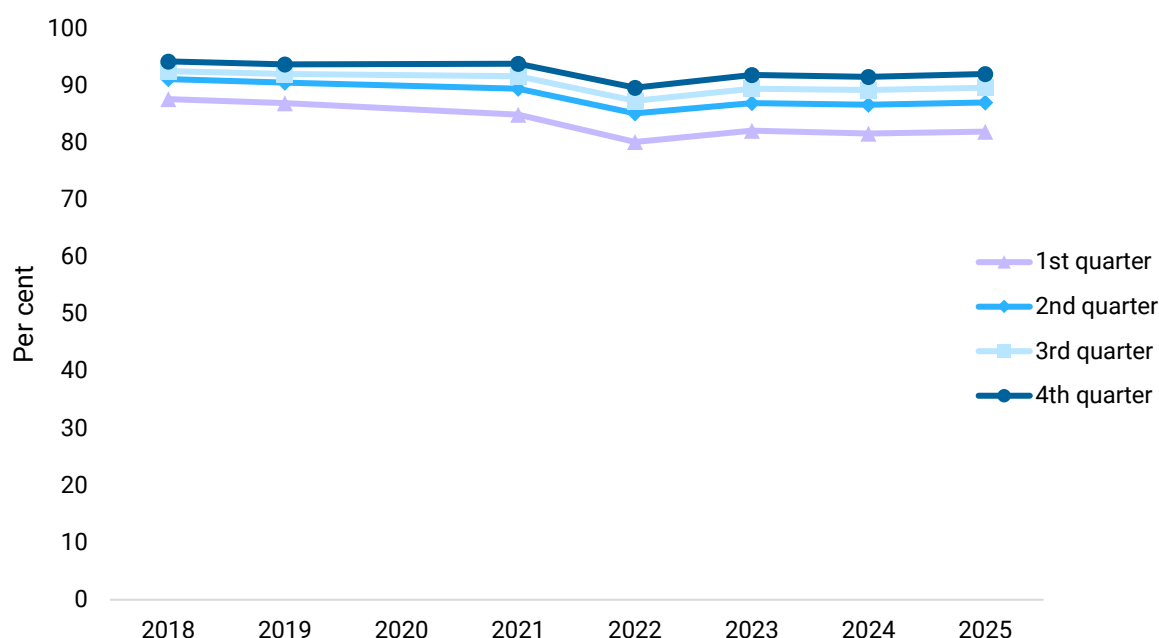
Geographic differences in attendance rates were much more marked for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students than for non-Indigenous students. For non-Indigenous students, the average attendance rate in 2025 was 90.1% in major cities, 88.7% in remote areas and 86.9% in very remote areas. Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, attendance rates were 80.4% in major cities, 66.6% in remote areas and 54.2% in very remote areas. This results in a difference of 9.7 percentage points between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and non-Indigenous students in major cities, 22.1 percentage points in remote areas, and 32.7 percentage points in very remote areas.<sup>4</sup>

The average attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students was lower for older year groups. In 2025, the average attendance rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students was 81.1% for Years 1–6, compared to 71.3% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 7–10.

Attendance rates in 2025 for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in remote and very remote areas were lower than for older students in other locations, with an average national attendance rate of only 39.1% for Year 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in very remote areas, compared to 79.7% for non-Indigenous Year 10 students in very remote areas. As a result, the attendance gap is larger at higher year levels in these areas.

Across all states and territories, attendance rates increased with socio-educational advantage (measured by the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)), as shown in Figure 4.3. In 2025, the average attendance rate for schools in the lowest ICSEA quarter was 81.9%, compared to 92.0% for students in schools in the highest ICSEA quarter. This difference was more pronounced in the Northern Territory than in other states and territories, with average attendance rates of 63.6% among students in schools in the lowest ICSEA quarter, compared to 91.6% for students in schools in the highest ICSEA quarter.

**Figure 4.3:** Student attendance rates, Years 1–10, by ICSEA quarter, Australia, 2018–2025 (%)



Note: See notes for Figure 4.1.

Source: ACARA, National Student Attendance Data Collection.

<sup>4</sup> National Report on Schooling data portal, [Student Attendance](#) data set.

## Attendance levels

The attendance level is a measure of the proportion of full-time students in Years 1–10, whose attendance rate in Semester 1 is greater than or equal to 90%. Several studies have shown that learning outcomes and educational achievement decline markedly when student attendance is below 90%.<sup>5</sup> KPM 1(c) aims to identify populations or groups for whom attendance is over 90%. Conversely, it identifies groups whose lower levels of attendance may put them at a disadvantage. Table 4.5 shows KPM 1(c) by state and territory, by school sector, for 2025.

**Table 4.5:** Student attendance levels: proportion of students in Years 1–10 whose attendance rate is equal to or greater than 90%, by state and territory and school sector, Australia, 2025 (%); Change 2024–2025 (percentage points)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>2025</b>									
<b>Government</b>	60.3	55.9	57.8	61.5	59.6	54.7	41.8	61.6	58.3
<b>Catholic</b>	69.8	63.6	66.9	65.2	69.0	61.8	46.8	61.4	66.6
<b>Independent</b>	71.4	72.8	69.5	69.2	71.9	69.8	58.6	68.6	71.1
<b>All</b>	64.2	60.0	61.4	63.7	63.3	58.4	44.9	63.0	62.1
<b>Change 2024–2025</b>									
<b>Government</b>	4.5	-0.5	2.2	3.1	0.0	1.0	0.5	4.8	2.0
<b>Catholic</b>	6.0	1.0	2.1	1.4	0.0	1.4	2.0	3.0	2.8
<b>Independent</b>	3.6	2.5	2.3	0.4	0.2	2.3	2.7	3.3	2.5
<b>All</b>	4.7	0.3	2.3	2.4	0.1	1.3	1.0	4.2	2.3

Note: See notes for Tables 4.2 and Figure 4.1.

Source: ACARA, National Student Attendance Data Collection.

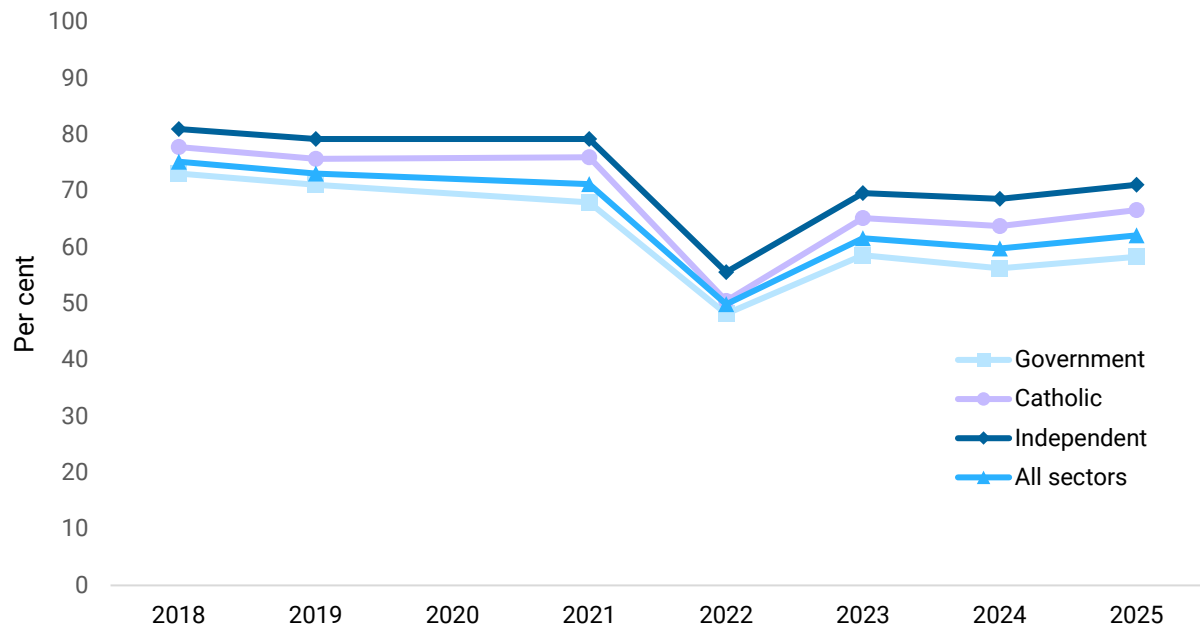
In 2025, 62.1% of Australian students in Years 1–10 attended school for at least 90% of school days (in Semester 1), up 2.3 percentage points from 59.8% in 2024. Attendance levels increased across all school sectors between 2024 and 2025, with larger increases for non-government schools (2.8 percentage points in Catholic schools and 2.5 percentage points in independent schools) than in government schools (2.0 percentage points).

Between 2024 and 2025, attendance levels increased in all states and territories, with increases ranging from 0.1 percentage point in Western Australia to 4.7 percentage points in New South Wales. However, in Western Australia there was no change in attendance levels in government or Catholic schools, and in Victoria there was a 0.5 percentage point decline in attendance levels in government schools.

<sup>5</sup> For more information about the impact of student attendance on student outcomes, see: Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (2022), Understanding attendance – A review of the drivers of school attendance and best practice approaches, NSW Department of Education, [education.nsw.gov.au/cese](https://education.nsw.gov.au/cese).

Figure 4.4 shows changes in student attendance levels, by school sector, from 2018 to 2025.<sup>6</sup> The increase in attendance levels in 2025 follows a slight decline in 2024. In 2023, attendance levels rose significantly, after a substantial drop in 2022 resulting from the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on school operations in that year. This included public health advice that students with cold and flu symptoms should not attend school.

**Figure 4.4:** Student attendance levels: proportion of students in Years 1–10 whose attendance rate is equal to or greater than 90%, by school sector, Australia, 2018–2025 (%)



Notes: See notes for Table 4.2.

Source: ACARA, National Student Attendance Data Collection.

As was the case for student attendance rates, student attendance levels in 2025 are still lower than pre-COVID levels. While attendance levels have increased since 2022, the Key Performance Measures Dashboard in the National Report on Schooling data portal reports a downward trend in student attendance levels over the period 2018–2025 of -2.4 percentage points per annum.

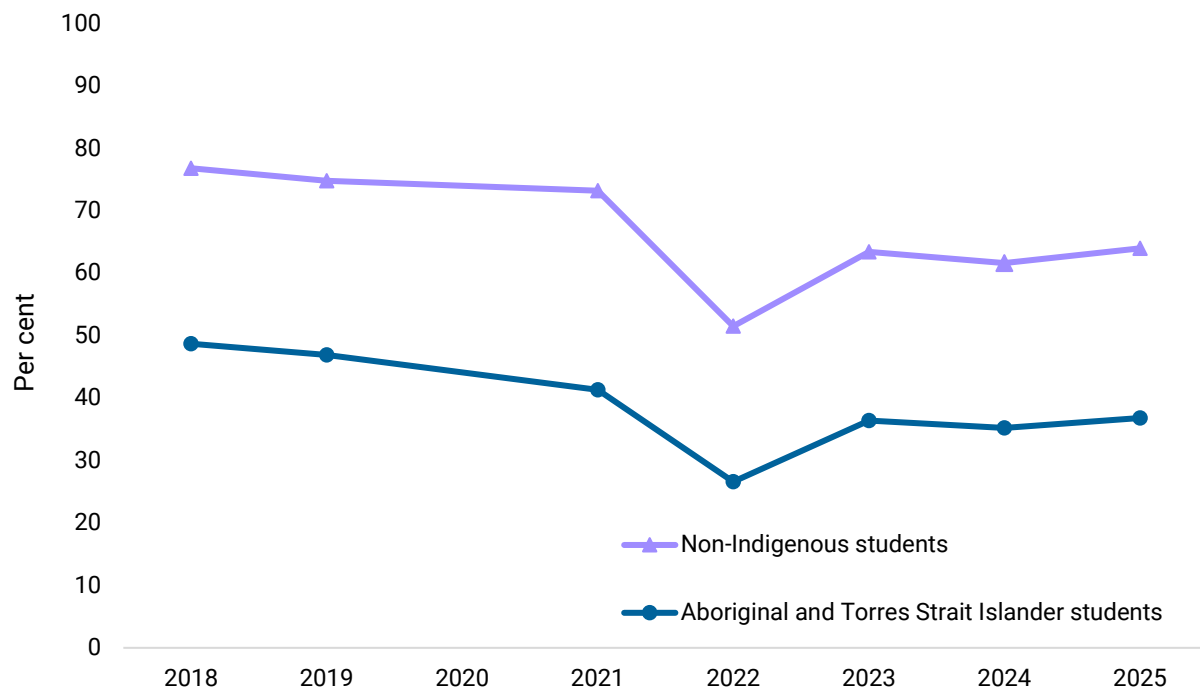
<sup>6</sup> For NSW government schools, attendance level data is only available from 2018. For this reason, changes in student attendance levels are only described for the 7-year period from 2018 to 2025.



KPM 1(c) is intended to monitor progress in Australia's priority to close the gaps in educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. The measure for 2025 confirms that a much lower proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander than non-Indigenous students were present at school for 90% or more of the expected number of days.

Figure 4.5 compares student attendance levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and non-Indigenous students, from 2015 to 2025.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 4.5:** Student attendance levels: proportion of students in Years 1–10 whose attendance rate is equal to or greater than 90%, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status, Australia, 2018–2025 (%)



Notes: See notes for Table 4.2.

Source: ACARA, National Student Attendance Data Collection.

Table 4.6 shows comparative attendance levels for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous students in Years 1–10 by state and territory, and the gaps between them, in 2018, 2024 and 2025.

In 2025, 36.8% of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students attended school for 90% of the time or more, with a gap of 27.2 percentage points between the attendance levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous students. The gaps in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia were above the national average.

<sup>7</sup> Changes in the gaps in attendance rates and attendance levels over time should be interpreted with caution. For more details please refer to footnote 3 above.

**Table 4.6:** Student attendance levels: proportion of students in Years 1–10 whose attendance rate is equal to, or greater than 90%, by state and territory and Indigenous status, Australia, 2018, 2024 and 2025 (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
<b>2018</b>									
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	53.9	56.2	50.7	43.4	39.7	63.3	23.0	48.0	48.7
Non-Indigenous students	77.3	77.9	74.8	75.7	79.0	75.4	71.0	73.7	76.8
All students	75.9	77.5	72.8	74.1	76.3	74.3	51.5	72.9	75.2
Gap: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non-Indigenous students (percentage points)	23.5	21.7	24.1	32.4	39.3	12.1	48.0	25.6	28.2
<b>2024</b>									
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	37.1	38.2	37.1	33.8	28.7	44.2	18.5	35.5	35.2
Non-Indigenous students	61.4	60.2	61.5	63.0	66.0	58.7	60.9	59.6	61.6
All students	59.5	59.7	59.1	61.3	63.2	57.1	43.9	58.8	59.8
Gap: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non-Indigenous students (percentage points)	24.3	22.0	24.4	29.1	37.2	14.6	42.4	24.1	26.4
<b>2025</b>									
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	40.7	37.8	37.9	35.8	28.5	44.5	19.0	39.9	36.8
Non-Indigenous students	66.3	60.5	64.0	65.4	66.1	60.2	62.3	63.9	64.0
All students	64.2	60.0	61.4	63.7	63.3	58.4	44.9	63.0	62.1
Gap: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander/non-Indigenous students (percentage points)	25.6	22.7	26.1	29.6	37.7	15.7	43.4	24.0	27.2
Change in gap 2018–2025 (percentage points)	2.1	1.0	2.0	-2.8	-1.6	3.6	-4.6	-1.6	-1.0
Change in gap 2024–2025 (percentage points)	1.3	0.7	1.7	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.0	-0.1	0.8

Note: See notes for Table 4.4.

Source: ACARA, National Student Attendance Data Collection.

At a national level, increases in attendance levels between 2024 and 2025 were larger for non-Indigenous students (2.4 percentage points) than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students (1.6 percentage points), resulting in a 0.8 percentage point increase in the gap in attendance levels since 2024. During this time, the gap in attendance levels widened in all states and territories except for the Australian Capital Territory, with Queensland and New South Wales experiencing the largest increases in the attendance level gap.

Over the 7-year period from 2018 to 2025, attendance levels among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students dropped by 11.9 percentage points, from 48.7% to 36.8%. Attendance levels among non-Indigenous students also declined during this period, from 76.8% in 2018 to 64.0% in 2025 (a 12.8 percentage point decrease). This has resulted in a 1.0 percentage point decrease in the gap in attendance levels since 2018.