



# Australian Population Association

12th Biennial Conference

population and society: issues, research, policy

15-17 September 2004 - Canberra, Australia

## Indigenous Australians in the contemporary labour market

**Boyd Hamilton Hunter** (boyd.hunter@anu.edu.au)  
The Australian National University

### Abstract

In her 1995 ABS Occasional Paper, Anne Daly provided a comprehensive overview of the labour force status of Indigenous Australians at the time of the 1991 Census. While this continues to be an influential body of work it is now time to revisit and extend the Daly's analysis. Subsequent work on the 1996 census data examined major trends in Indigenous labour markets, but was largely piecemeal. Given the renewed focus on practical measures to address Indigenous disadvantage, it would seem timely to provide a comprehensive appraisal Indigenous labour force status. Rather than merely replicating Daly's results using more recent data, a recent ABS monograph (Hunter 2004, Indigenous Australians in the Contemporary Labour Market: cat no 2052.0) attempts to structure the economic analysis to enhance the interpretation of recent Indigenous involvement in the labour market in terms of supply and demand side factors. Hunter (2004) contains six chapters designed to build up a picture of the contemporary experience of Indigenous people in the Australian labour market which also contains a detailed analysis of discrimination in employment and an expanded profile of Indigenous business. This paper provides a detailed overview of the monograph's findings

Full papers from ACAP can be found on the ABS website. [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) (search for ACAP).

Paper prepared for the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Australian Population Association, 15-17 September 2004, Canberra.

