Reference No. 69

Responsibility for the preparation of this research summary rests with the authors of the MCEETYA report *Education, Training and Indigenous Futures: CAEPR Policy Research 1990–2007* and not the original author(s) of the summarised material.

Title of Research:
Indigenous Employment Forecasts: Implications for Reconciliation

Research Publication:
Agenda, Volume 11, Number 2, 2004 pp179-192 2004

Name of Researcher(s):
B.H. Hunter and J. Taylor

Time period:
The paper mainly covers the period 2001-2011

Geographic location:
Forecasts are presented at the national level only.

Methodology:
This paper draws upon information from the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Censuses to establish recent trends in population growth, labour force participation and employment growth. Projected estimates of Indigenous employment, labour force and working age population for the 2001-2011 period are then made.

Aims:
This paper aims to identify the implications for the Australian Government’s policy of practical reconciliation on Indigenous employment forecasts for the current decade.

Selected findings and insights:
This paper is based upon a previous CAEPR Discussion Paper (No. 251/2003). Those wanting easy access to forecasts of the size of the Indigenous working-age population by the year 2011 and the projected increases in numbers of jobs required to either maintain 2001 Indigenous employment levels or to approach employment levels of non-Indigenous Australians are referred to that paper. In summary:

- The size of the Indigenous working-age population will almost double between 2001 and 2011 and require an additional 101,000 jobs to approach non-Indigenous employment levels. Yet only an additional 17,800 jobs were projected for the period, leaving a deficit of some 83,000 additional jobs required to establish parity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

To sum up this paper’s analysis of the implications of employment forecasts for practical reconciliation:

- There was a distinct prospect that in the coming decade the employment situation for Indigenous people will continue to deteriorate due to population growth, lack of competitive skills in emergent high-growth industries and locational disadvantage restricting mainstream employment growth. The effects of continuing unemployment on social exclusion will lead to further deterioration of the social conditions of Indigenous people, with high unemployment being, for example, correlated with higher arrest rates and lower levels of social capital and civic engagement.
Educational implications:

The major implication for education is that it raises the question as to the capacity of educational authorities to meet the challenge of developing a sufficiently skilled Indigenous workforce that will be able to compete effectively for future jobs in order to approach parity with non-Indigenous working-age people. If the levels of educational attainment and skill levels do not increase significantly, then the Indigenous workforce will become even more marginalised and concentrated in low paid occupations and vulnerable industries. [policy]

Relevance:

Domain 5: Pathways to training, employment and higher education

The challenge for pathways to training, employment and higher education

Related papers:
