



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Saving and Strengthening CDEP: A Remote Australian Policy Treasure

Will Sanders, Senior Fellow
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research

- Introduction
- Historical Origins of CDEP
- From History to Remote Area Socio-Economic Circumstances
- Strengths of CDEP
- Criticisms, Weaknesses and Ideas for Improvement
- Almost Losing CDEP: Five Complementary Explanations

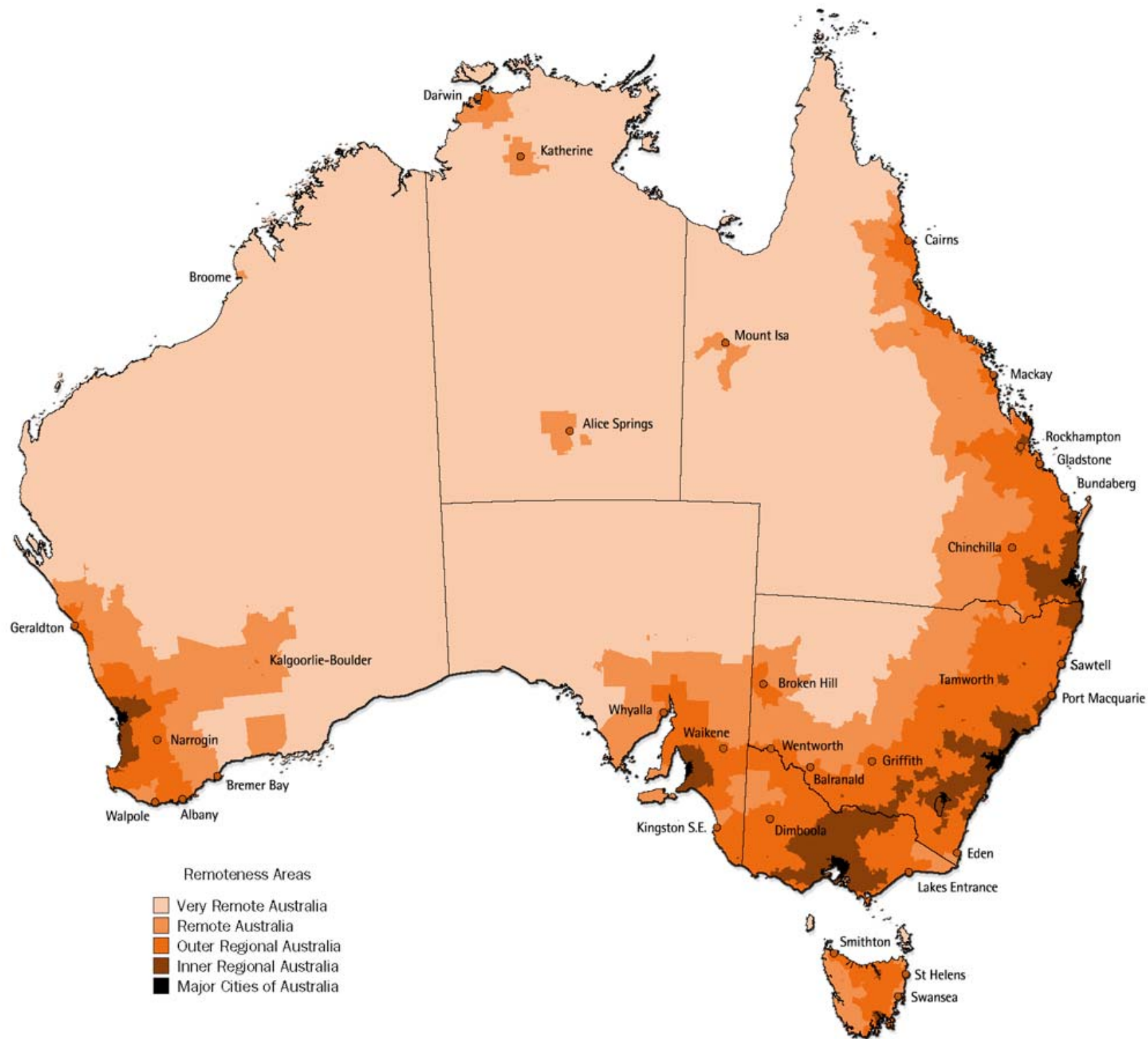


Table 1. Labour force status of Indigenous people aged 15 and over, by remoteness 2001 Census

LFS of Indigenous 15+	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote
Employed General	43.6	36.1	33.1	29.9	14.2
CDEP Employed	0.4	1.8	4.2	8.6	26.9
Unemployed	11.4	12.9	11.4	9.3	3.6
Not in Labour Force	41.9	47.2	47.7	46.8	53.2
Not stated	2.6	2.1	3.6	5.4	4.2
Per cent	100	100	100	100	100
Number	76,427	48,426	56,294	21,839	45,897

Table 2. Labour force status of Indigenous people aged 15 and over, by remoteness 2006 Census

LFS of Indigenous 15+	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote
Employed General	47.3	41.2	39.5	30.8	17.9
CDEP Employed	0.1	0.6	1.8	9.0	24.1
Unemployed	8.3	9.6	8.6	6.4	4.9
Not in Labour Force	39.5	43.9	43.9	45.0	45.5
Not stated	4.8	4.7	6.3	8.7	8.4
Per cent	100	100	100	100	100
Number	94,725	59,446	60,482	24,393	43,620

Almost Losing CDEP – Four Complementary Explanations

- Macro-Economic Circumstances
- Bureaucratic Politics
- Remote/Urban Dynamics in Australian Indigenous Affairs
- Generational Cycles in Australian Indigenous Affairs