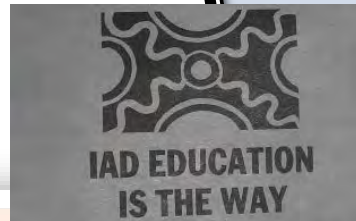


Education is the key, but do we need to change the locks?



✓ Western education and training is the key to operating effectively and as equals in the wider Australian society

Education is the Key
Education is the great engine of personal development.

New CLC Chair says education is the key

Education is the key to getting ahead in this world. For those far behind is putting them at risk of a future that is not

John Guenther

Presented to the NARU seminar series
Darwin, 20 November 2013



NINTI ONE REMOTE ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation

Goals:

1. To develop new ways to build resilience and strengthen regional communities and economies across remote Australia.
2. To build new enterprises and strengthen existing industries that, provide jobs, livelihoods and incomes in remote areas.
3. To improve the education and training pathways in remote areas so that people have better opportunities to participate in the range of economies that exist.



Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation projects

- **Regional economies**

- Population Mobility and Labour Markets
- Enduring Community Value from Mining
- Climate Change Adaptation and Energy Futures

- **Enterprise development**

- Aboriginal Cultural Enterprise
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Economies
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism Product
- Carbon Economies in Remote Australia
- Plant Business
- Precision Pastoral Management Tools

- **Investing in people**

- Pathways to Employment
- Interplay Between Health, Wellbeing, Education and Employment
- Remote Education Systems

Principal Partners



Australian Government
Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Department of Regional Australia, Regional
Development and Local Government



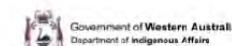
Project Partners



Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Office for the Arts
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations



everyone's family



Remote Education Systems sites

NODE LOCATIONS



Real training, real jobs and an end to disadvantage

"It's employment that allows Indigenous people to walk amongst the giants of their traditional cultures and also to have economic independence which brings self-reliance, freedom and pride"

"For too long we've had training for training's sake. If you don't know what's happening at the end of the training, you go through it, you do your best, but if nothing happens at the end of it you lose hope."

The Australian, 17 August 2013



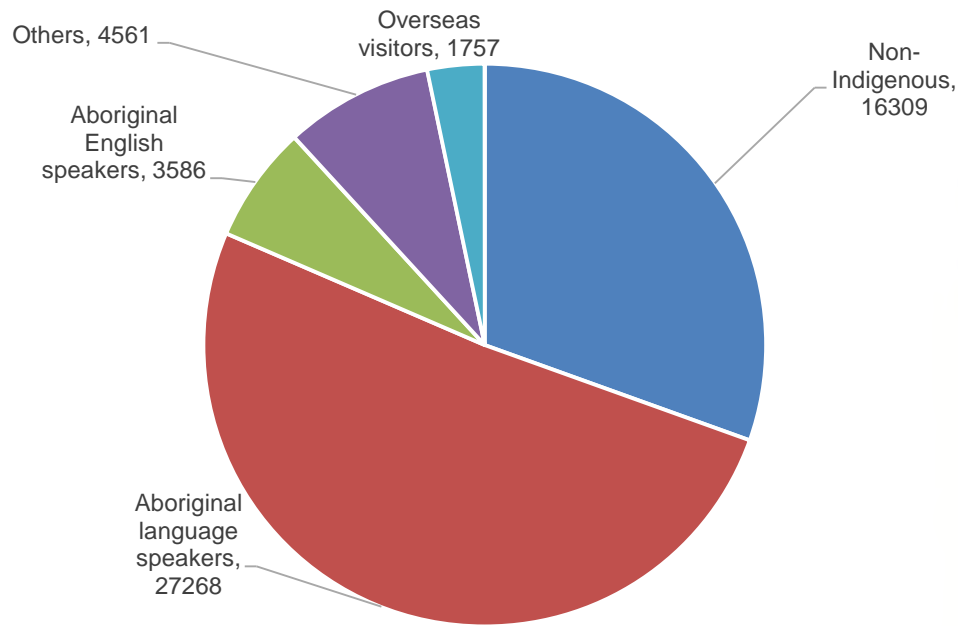
Photo: ABC News 31 July 2012

A cautionary note about Census data and its limitations

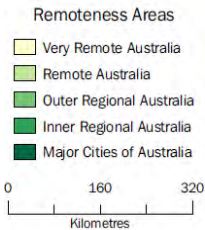
- Census data sets
 - POUR (Place of Usual Residence)
 - POW (Place of Work)
 - POE (Place of Enumeration)
- Impact on count of visitors, contractors, FIFO workers, seasonal variations
- Accuracy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander counts?

*...on is an independent non-profit charitable body. We are committed to giving In...
e. Literacy is the key to education. Education is the key to escaping poverty.*

Very Remote Northern Territory



Source ABS Census 2011
Based on place of enumeration



Note: The Remoteness Structure is composed of seven categories. Migratory - Offshore - Shipping and No usual address are not mapped. © Commonwealth of Australia 2013

The Very Remote NT Labour Force

Employed persons

17 189	
10 444	6 497
Non-Indigenous	Aboriginal

1 194	5 171
English speakers	Language speakers

Source ABS Census 2011
Based on place of enumeration

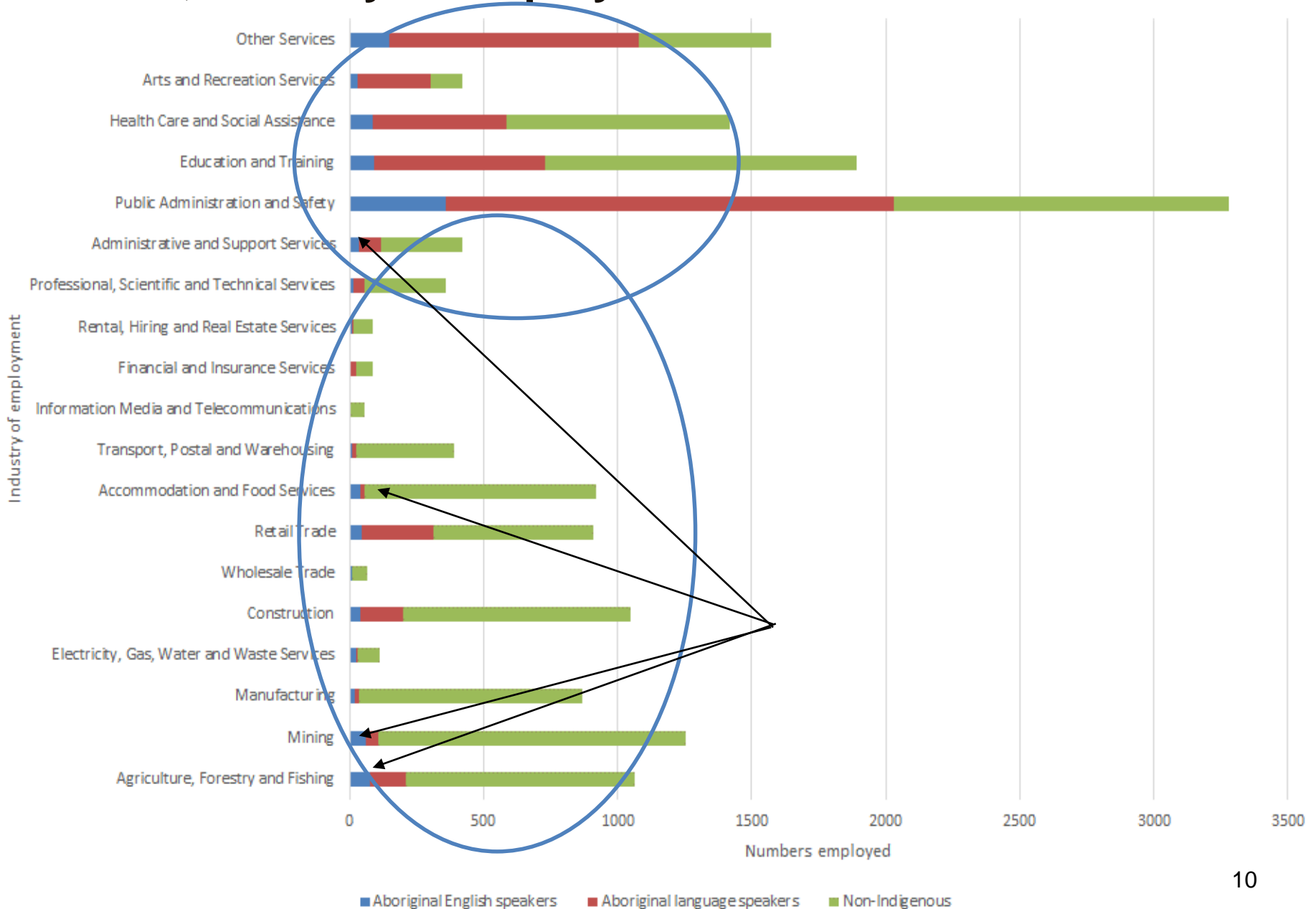
1818
CDEP

Unemployed persons

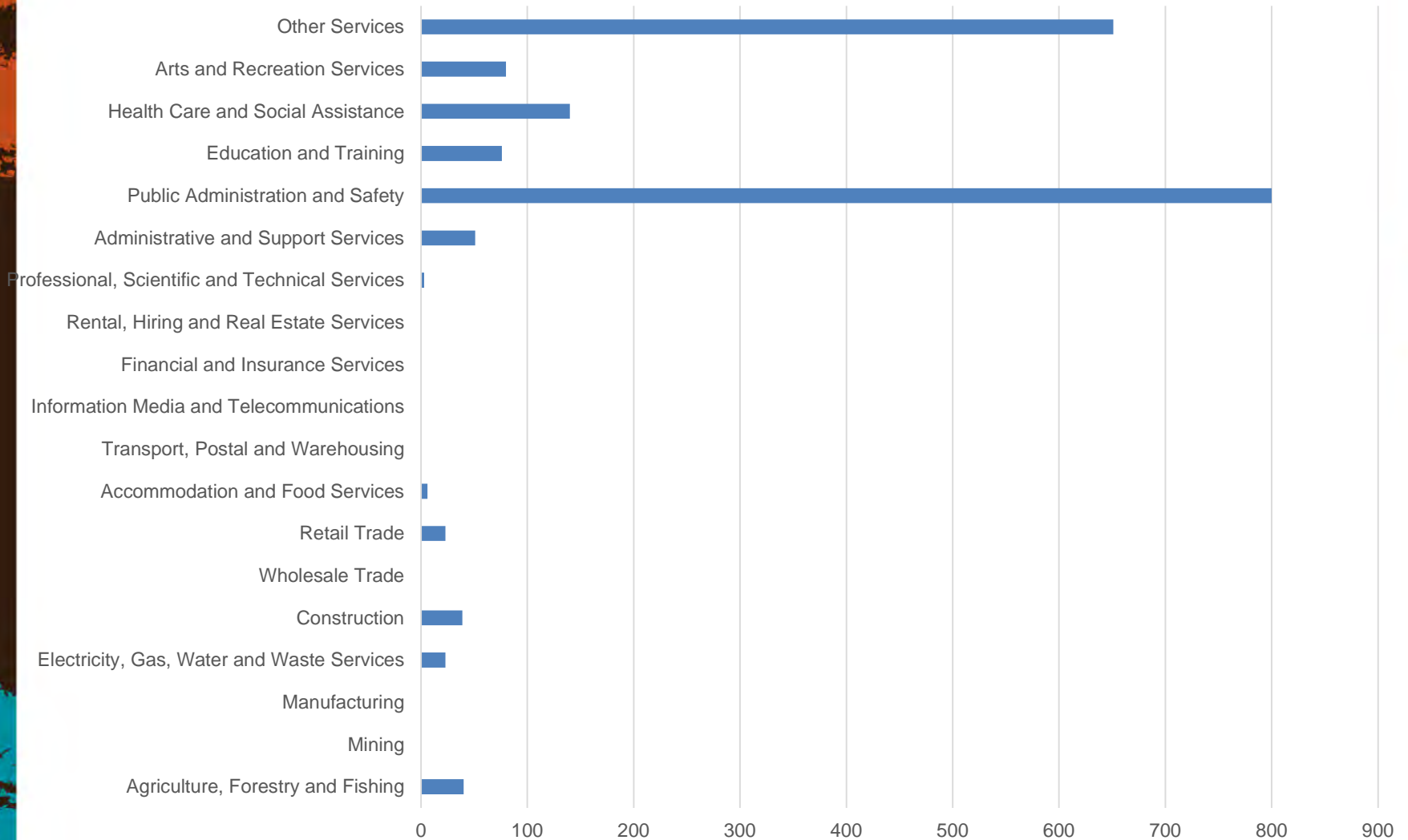
2147

1957

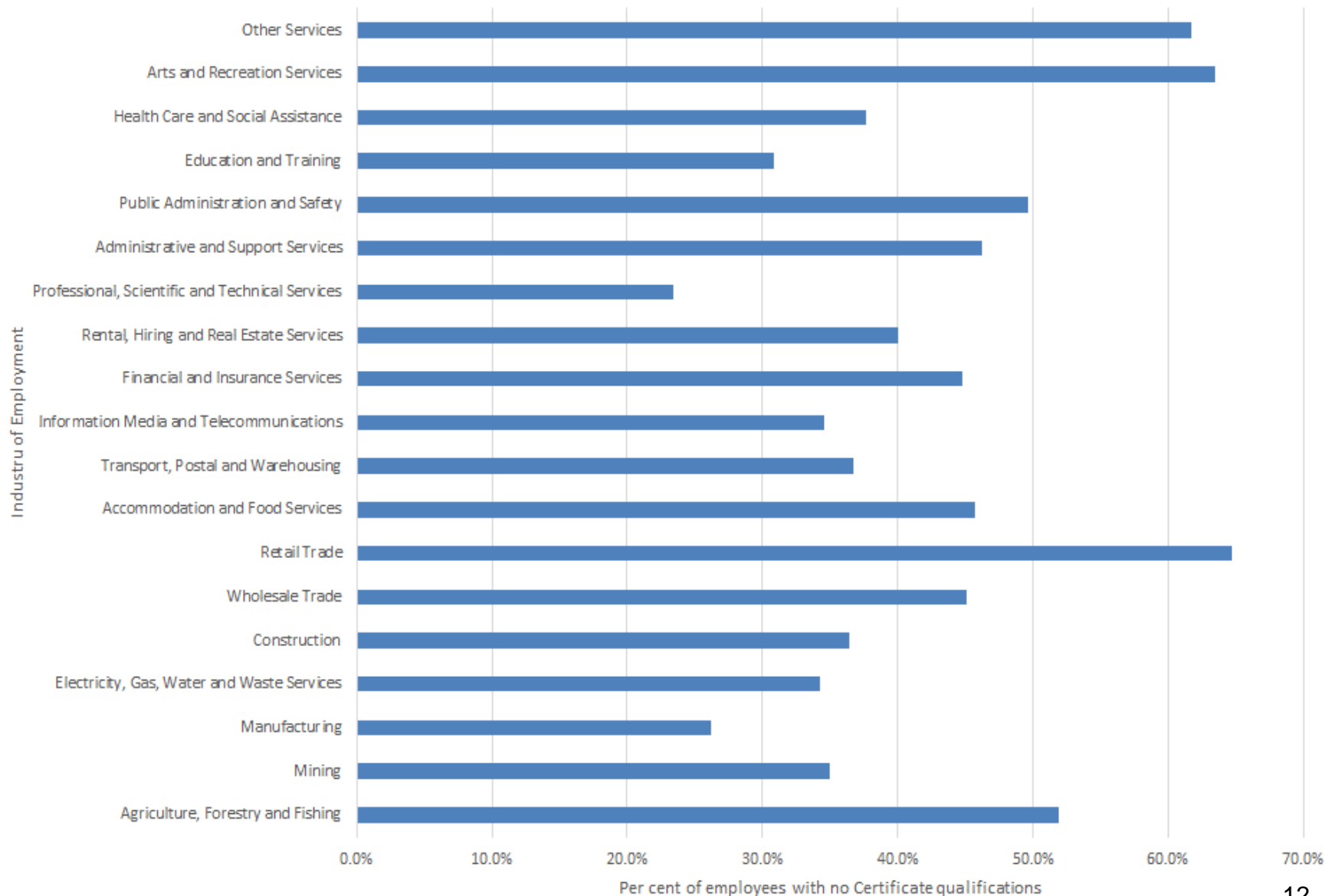
VR NT, Industry of employment



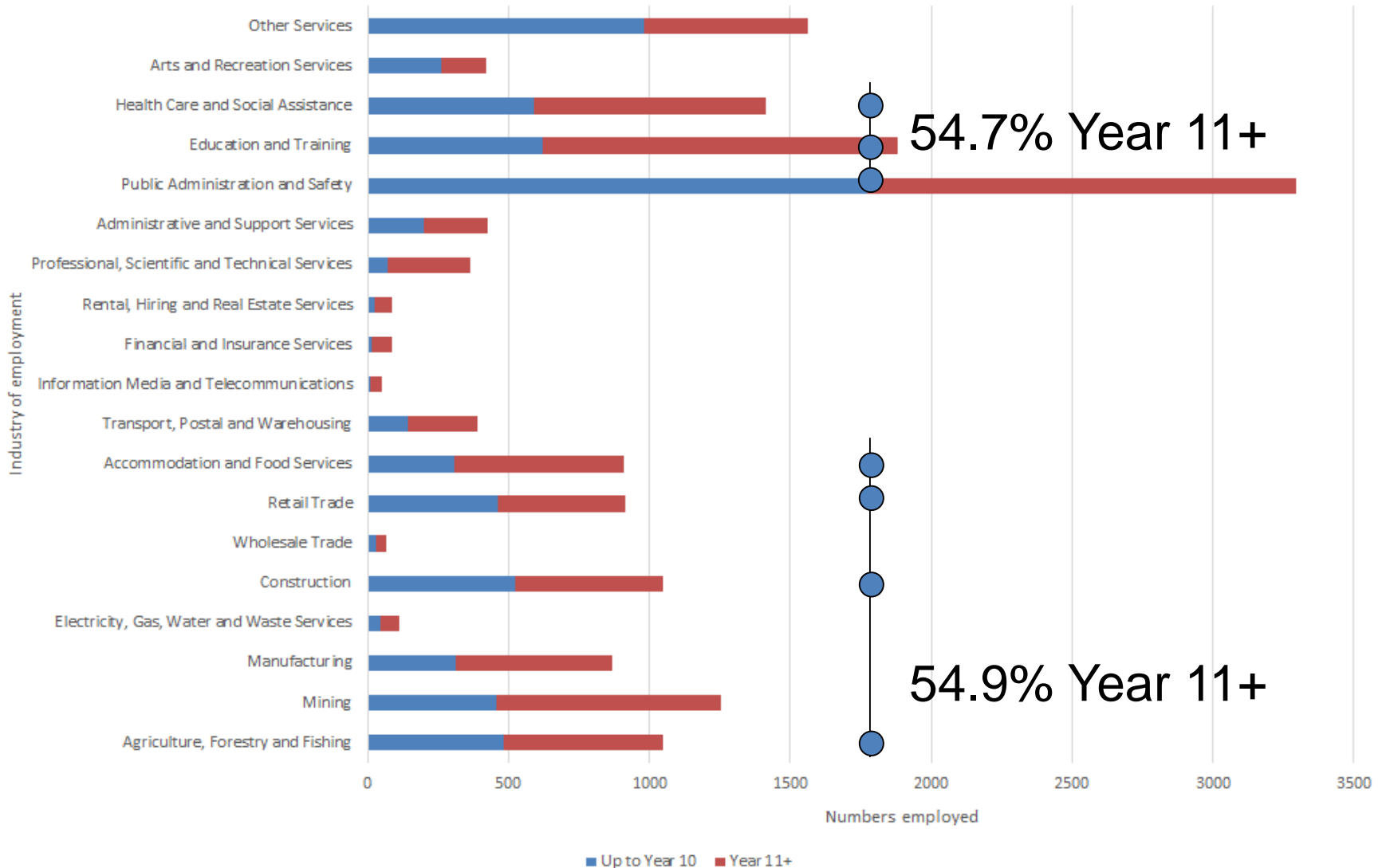
VR NT, CDEP



VR NT, Proportion of employees without qualifications



VR NT, School level attainment



Education is the key

- A good education is the key to wider participation in Australian society and the economy. ([Australian Government, 2012, p. 6](#))
- Education is the key to making peace, poverty alleviation and sustainability both a reality and a success. ([Maclean, 2013](#))
- Literacy is the key to education. Education is the key to escaping poverty. ([Aboriginal Literacy Foundation, 2012, p. 1](#))



But our research shows that

- Schooling and qualifications do not adequately explain participation in the economy
- Education is not the 'key' on its own (nor is attendance)
- CDEP is now a relatively small part of the economy in VR NT
- 3000+ non-Indigenous workers, no quals, minimal schooling



If education is not the key...

- What role do perception, preference and agency play?
- Scope for Aboriginal people to take over work currently carried out by low-skilled non-Indigenous people
- But we have to contend with a pervasive focus on service delivery
- And we could be building innovative hybrid models in a 'liminal space'
 - Caring for country, learning on country
 - Arts based industries
 - Enterprise Learning Projects
 - Healing Centre
 - Raypirri Rom
 - Hybrid justice models



Education is the key to future opportunity.
requires attention to infrastructure, teacher

Changing the locks

- Anangu Academy
- Short term intensive boarding school experiences
- Knowledge exchange partnerships
- Non-indigenous credentialing for work in remote communities
- Red Dirt Curriculum (RDC)
- Redirecting punitive strategies to ones that build capacity
- Informal, out of school learning spaces
- Strengthening local governance structures
- Separate learning spaces for young men and women, away from 'school'
- Aboriginal assistants as Red Dirt Educators



Additional reading

- Osborne, S., Lester, K., Minutjukur, M. and Tjitayi, K. (2013). *Red Dirt Curriculum: Reimagining Remote Education*. Sidney Myer Rural Lecture 3, Desert Knowledge Precinct, Alice Springs, Retrieved October 2013 from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=za6w8ph_VDg&feature=youtu.be.
- Osborne, S. and Guenther, J. (Forthcoming). "Red dirt thinking on aspiration and success." *Australian Journal of Indigenous Education (Special issue)*.
- Guenther, J. (2012). *Are we making education count in remote Australian communities or just counting education?* NARU public seminar series, Darwin, Retrieved January 2013 from http://naru.anu.edu.au/documents/seminars/seminar_paper_guenther.pdf.
- Guenther, J. (2013). *Towards educational advantage in very remote Australia: An analysis of 2012 NAPLAN data: what does it tell us about remote education in the last five years?* Paper presented at Australian Association for Research in Education Conference, Adelaide 1-5 December 2013

More at

<https://flinders.academia.edu/JohnGuenther>

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