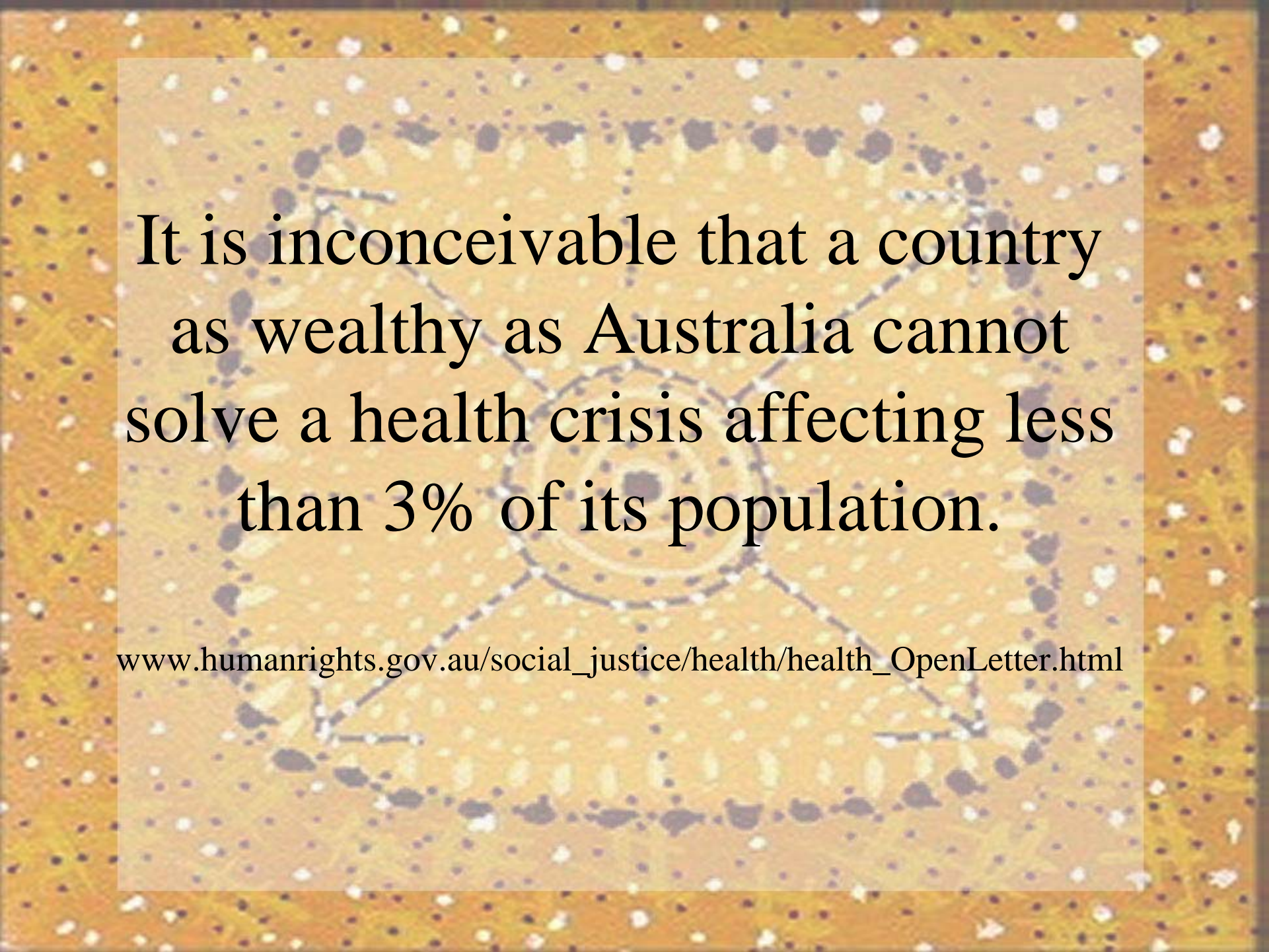


The background of the slide is a circular Aboriginal dot painting. It features a central spiral of white dots, from which four lines of white dots radiate outwards to form a square. The entire design is set against a light brown background with scattered white and dark brown dots. The text is centered over this design.

Anthony Dillon
Australian Indigenous Health
Sydney University
July 2008



It is inconceivable that a country
as wealthy as Australia cannot
solve a health crisis affecting less
than 3% of its population.

www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/health/health_OpenLetter.html

A demographic snapshot

Jurisdiction	Indigenous pop.	Proportion of total Indigenous pop. (%)	Proportion of jurisdiction population (%)
NSW	146,159	29.2	2.1
Vic	30,988	6.2	0.6
Qld	139,527	27.8	3.5
WA	72,243	14.4	3.5
SA	28,105	5.6	1.8
Tas	18,586	3.7	3.8
ACT	4,396	0.9	1.3
NT	61,232	12.2	29.7
Australia	501,236	100	2.4

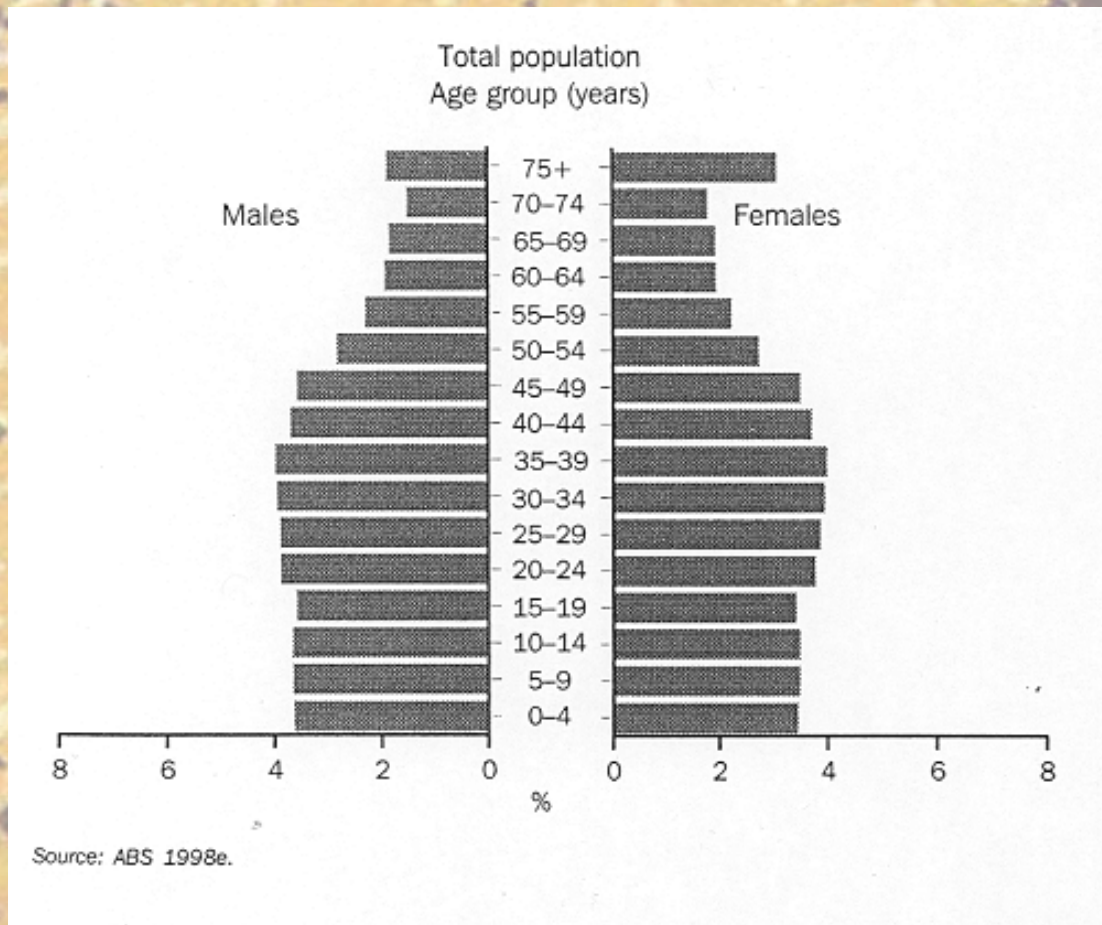
Source: ABS, 2004, 2006. www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au

Significant disparities exist between Indigenous and non- Indigenous Australians

- Life expectancy (years)
 - Males: 59.4 Indigenous (1996-2001)
76.6 Total Australian (1998-2000)
 - Females: 64.8 Indigenous (1996-2001)
82.0 Total Australian (1998-2000)
- Self assessed health status “fair or poor”
 - Indigenous 33%
 - Other Australians 16%
- Infant mortality rate
 - Indigenous 3 times that of Other Australians (14 versus 5 per 1000)

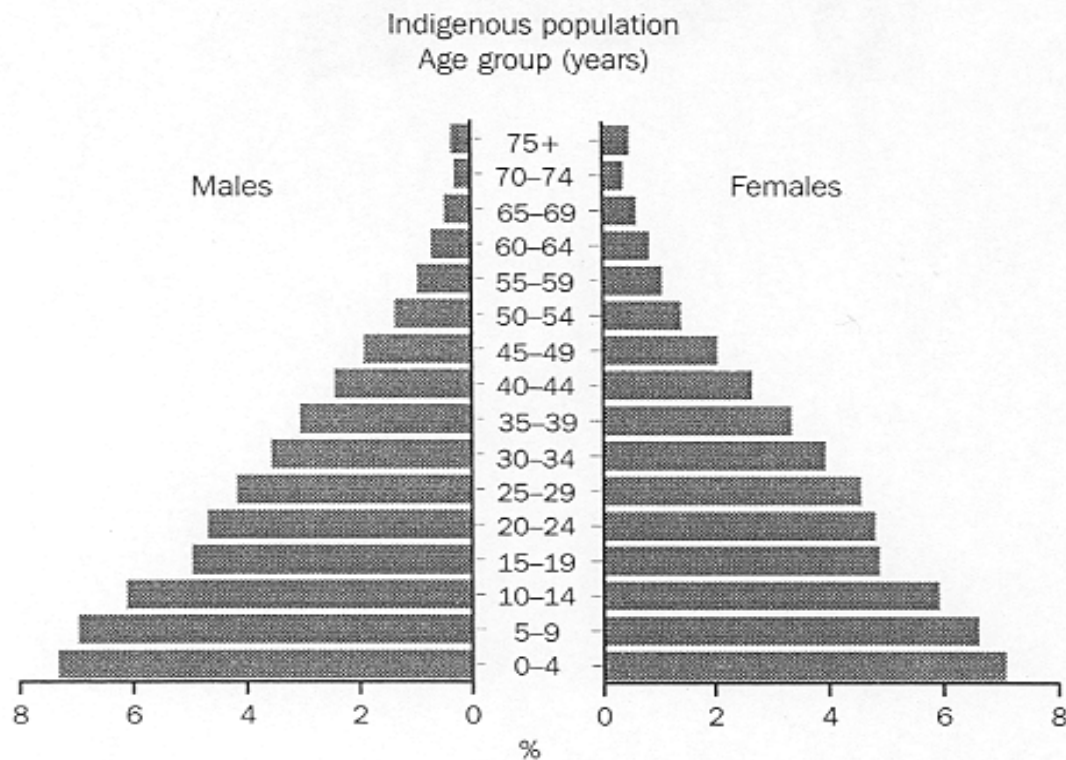
Source: ABS different sources

Age profile for the total population (1996)



Age profile for the Indigenous population (1996)

2.2 INDIGENOUS AND TOTAL AUSTRALIAN AGE PYRAMIDS—1996



Health & Welfare, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples, ABS 4704.0

Addressing the problems will require making unpopular decisions

- Balancing long-term strategies with short-term ones
- Aligning the people with the economy
- Improving education (truancy and boarding schools)
- Redefining empowerment
- Putting 'cultural effectiveness' ahead of 'cultural appropriateness'
- Mainstreaming the Indigenous curriculum

Resources:

Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal
(www.aihwj.com.au)

www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/media/files/CTG.pdf>