

45 and Up Study Technical Note 2: Update to Q6: Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

The 45 and Up Study baseline questionnaire invites participants to self-report Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. This item features as Question 6 on both the male and female versions of the baseline questionnaire (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Question 6 in the 45 and Up Study baseline questionnaire

6. Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
(you can cross more than one box)

No Yes, Aboriginal Yes, Torres Strait Islander

The initial data capture and entry was performed over a period spanning 4 years (2006 to 2009), for three different versions of the questionnaire, using computerised methods with manual checking services provided by two different companies. There were no changes to Question 6 across different versions of the baseline questionnaire but each version required an overall change to data entry rules and systems.

Data were coded in each category based on the following responses:

Question 6 response classification sample	Questionnaire sample derivation
Missing	No response entered
NO	Entered response "No" only
YES – Aboriginal	Entered response "Yes, Aboriginal" only
YES – Torres Strait Islander	Entered response "Yes, Torres Strait Islander" only
YES – Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Entered response "Yes, Aboriginal" AND "Yes, Torres Strait Islander"
Invalid	Indecipherable marks, or a combination of "No" and "Yes" responses

As part of on-going reviews of data quality in the 45 and Up Study baseline questionnaire, a manual audit of responses to Q6 on 4148 questionnaires was conducted. This included 1000 records where the response recorded in the database was 'Missing'; 1000 records where the response recorded was 'No'; and the majority of records where the response recorded was either 'Yes-Aboriginal'; 'Yes-Torres Strait Islander'; 'Yes-both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander'; and 'Invalid'.

Following the audit, 353 records were recoded and the revised tabulations for Q6 in the current active database are as follows:

Revised tabulation of responses from eligible participants to Q6 following manual audit of 4148 records as at 26 March 2013		
Q6	Before review	After review
Missing	4774	4636
No	260241	260479
Aboriginal	1876	1754
Torres Strait Islander	245	166
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	31	29
Invalid	4	107
Total	267171	267171

In summary, there is a small decrease in the number of participants across all three categories identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, plus a decrease in the number of "Missing" values; however there are increases for each of the "No" and "Invalid" responses. This variable has been revised for all versions of the baseline questionnaire data released from 26 March 2013.

If further information is required, please contact the 45 and Up Study by email on 45andUp.research@saxinstitute.org.au or telephone the Infoline on 1300 45 11 45.