



Australian Government

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Australia's welfare 2015 in brief



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More paths to information online

Australia's welfare 2015—in brief is a companion report to *Australia's welfare 2015*. The *Australia's welfare 2015* main report has an expanded online presence (at www.aihw.gov.au), including links, where possible, to referenced publications and web pages. *Australia's welfare 2015* is available in HTML and PDF formats.

This mini report presents some of the key statistics and concepts from the main report, which are drawn from a range of data sources. Full details of these data sources can be found in *Australia's welfare 2015* and the online supplementary tables.



Australia's welfare 2015





Section 1

About us

**Let's take a look at some of the many aspects
that underpin 'who we are' as Australians
using the latest data available.**

Australia at a glance

Our population is **23.5 million people**:

4.4 million Australians are aged 0–14

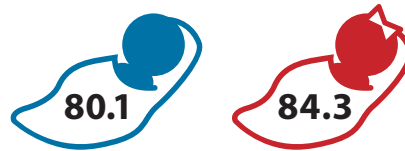
3.1 million Australians are aged 15–24

12.5 million Australians are aged 25–64

3.5 million Australians are aged 65 or older



A baby boy born between 2011 and 2013 can expect to live to 80.1 years and a baby girl to 84.3 years




There are almost **9 million households** in Australia:

74%—6.6 million—are family households

23%—2.1 million—are lone-person households

3% —0.3 million—are group households

68% of households own their home (with or without a mortgage) 

25% rent from a private landlord 

4% rent from a government housing authority 

105,200 people were homeless on Census night 2011



About us

3%—about 714,000 people—are
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

28%—about 6.6 million people—were
born overseas and come from
more than 200 countries

71% live in major cities



3%

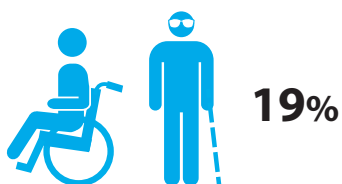


28%

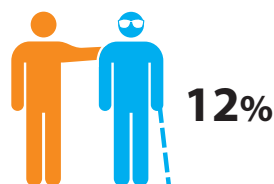


71%

4.2 million of us—just under 19% of the
population—have a disability



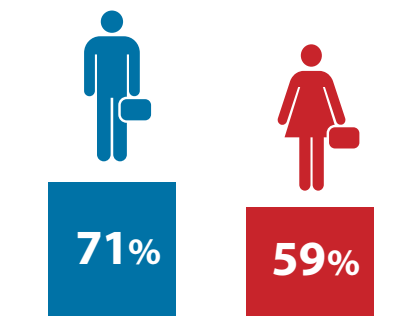
2.7 million informal carers—12% of the
population—help someone who has a disability,
health condition, or is ageing



Low-income households earn, on average \$475
a week, middle-income households \$793 a week,
and high-income households \$1,814 a week.



The labour force participation rate
for males aged 15 and over is 71%
and for females is 59%.

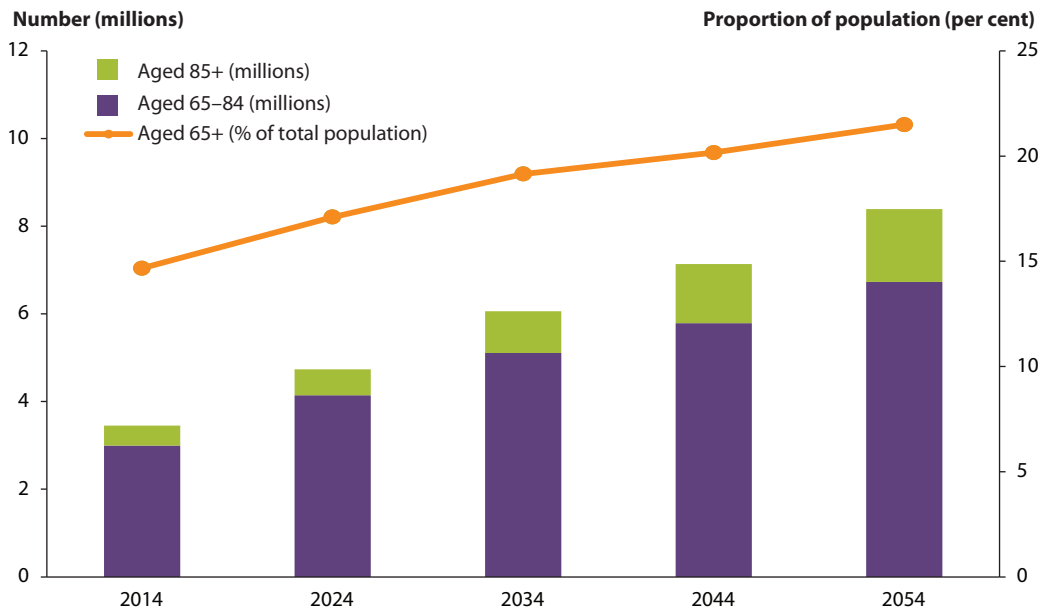


Australia's population is growing and getting older

Australia has a relatively small and growing population of about 23.5 million people. Our population grew by 1.6% in the year to June 2014 and based on medium-level growth is projected to increase to about 39 million by 2054.

As our population increases, with each year that passes older people make up a bigger share of the total population. In 2014, 15% (3.5 million people) of the population were aged 65 and over, and by 2054 this is expected to increase to 21% (8.4 million people). The number of Australians aged 85 and over is expected to more than double in the next 20 years, from 455,400 to 954,600 in 2034—growing from 2% to 3% of the population.

Overall, Australia's Indigenous population is considerably younger than the non-Indigenous population. In 2014, half of the Indigenous population was aged 22 or under compared with the non-Indigenous population where half was aged 37 or under. Just 4% of the Indigenous population was aged 65 and over, compared with 15% of the non-Indigenous population.



Number and proportion of the population aged 65 and over, 2014–2054

More than one-quarter of us were born overseas

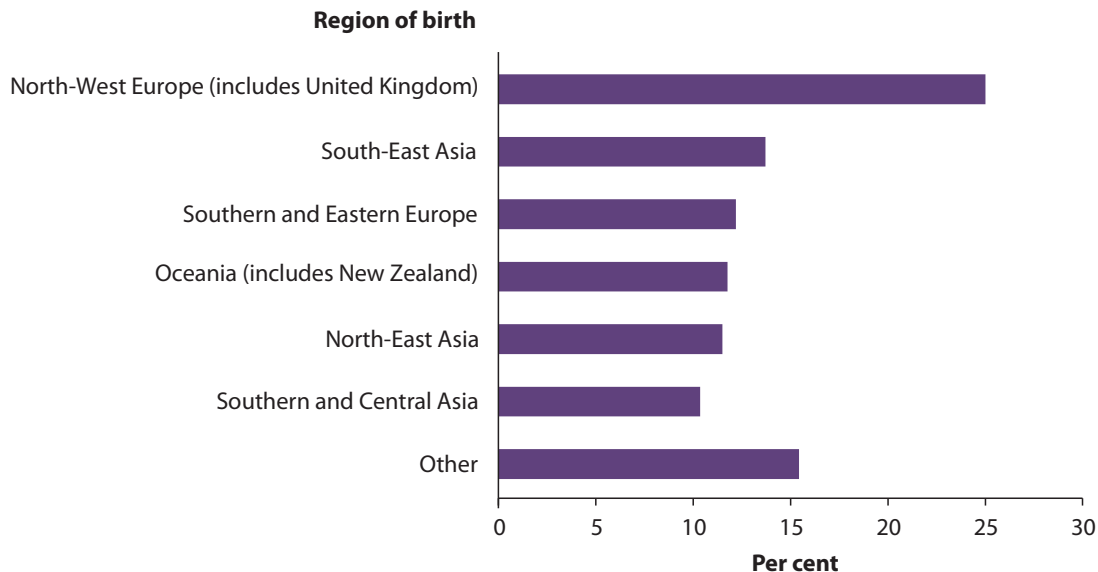
More than one-quarter of all Australians—that's 6.6 million people—were born overseas. The proportion of people born overseas has increased from 24% to 28% over the past decade.

These residents have migrated from more than 200 countries, with the largest number (1.2 million) being born in the United Kingdom, followed by New Zealand, China, India, the Philippines and Vietnam.

However, the proportion of Australian residents born in the United Kingdom has fallen over the past decade—from 5.6% in 2004 to 5.2% in 2014.

In contrast, proportions rose for people born in New Zealand (from 2.1% to 2.6%), China (from 1.0% to 1.9%) and India (from 0.7% to 1.7%).

Around 25% of Australian residents born overseas were from North-West Europe (including the United Kingdom); nearly 14% were from South-East Asia; about 12% were from Southern and Eastern Europe, Oceania (including New Zealand), and North-East Asia; and 10% were from Southern and Central Asia.

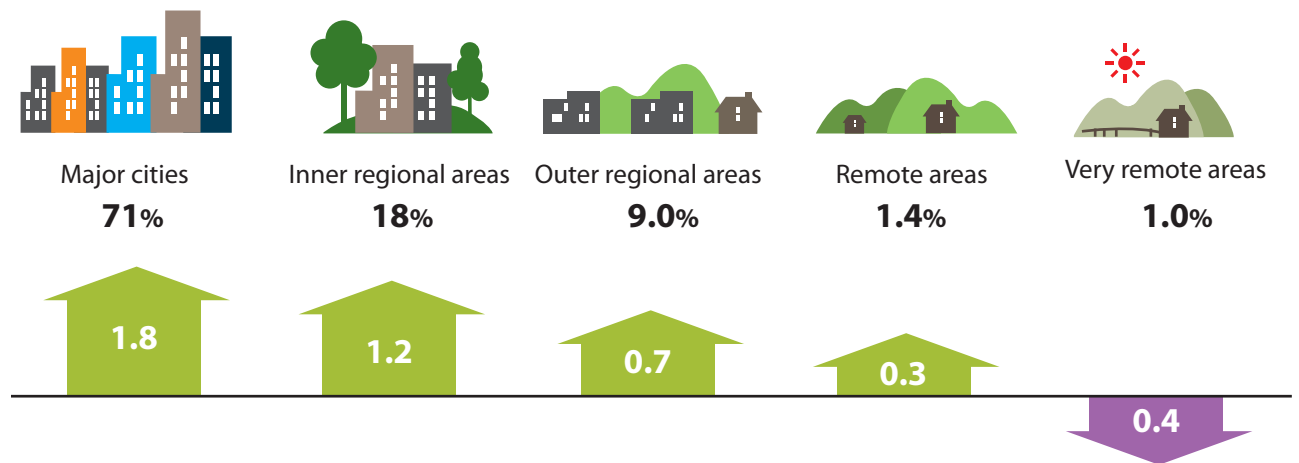


Region of birth, all overseas-born Australians, 2014

Most of us live in major cities

In 2014, nearly three-quarters of people lived in *Major cities* (71%), while 18% lived in *Inner regional* areas, 9% in *Outer regional* areas, 1.4% in *Remote* and 1% in *Very remote* areas.

In 2013–14, *Major cities* were the fastest growing area in Australia, with a population increase of 1.8% in the year to June 2014. *Inner regional* areas grew by 1.2%, *Outer regional* areas grew by 0.7% and *Remote* areas grew by 0.3%—all less than Australia's population growth as a whole of 1.6%. The population in *Very remote* areas fell by 0.4%.



Distribution and growth rate is highest in major cities

More people are living alone

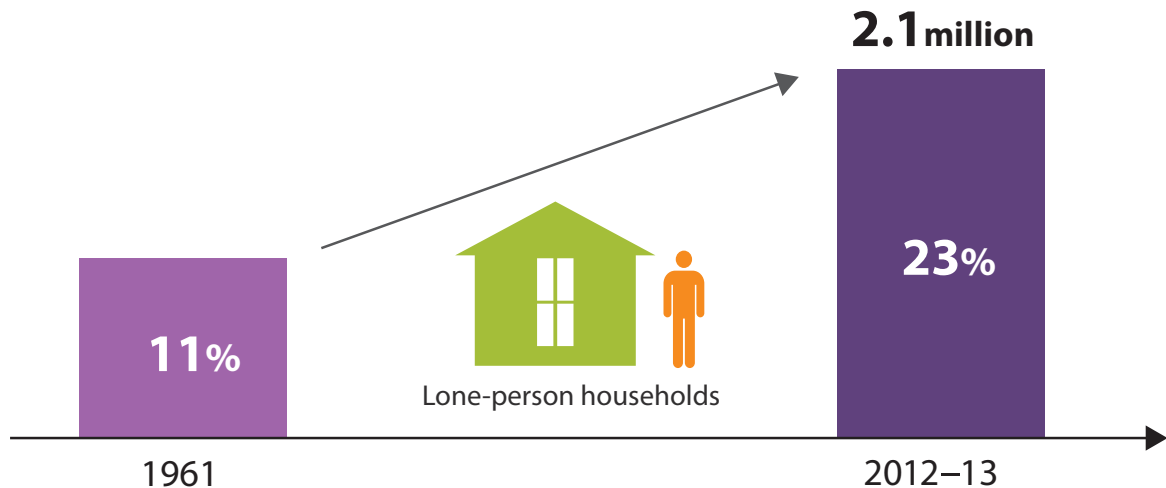
While most Australians live with family members, the number of people living alone has increased substantially over the past 50 years.

In 2012–13, an estimated 2.1 million people lived on their own—nearly one-quarter (23%) of all households. In 1961, just 11% of Australian households had only one resident.

There are a number of factors contributing to this trend, including: increasing numbers of people whose relationship or marriage has ended, or who have not partnered; and older people who are widowed.

In 2012–13, nearly three-quarters (74%) of the 8.9 million households in Australia were family households. About 3% of Australian households are group households.

While the vast majority of the 6.7 million families were couple families (5.7 million), nearly half of them (2.7 million, or 48%) had no children living in the household.



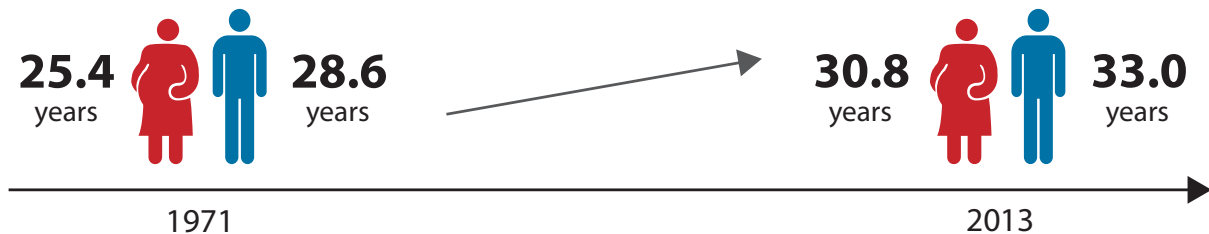
Mums and dads are older

Just over 308,000 births were registered in Australia in 2013, and just over half (52%) of these babies were boys.

The age at which Australians become mothers and fathers has gradually increased since the early 1970s.

In 1971, the median age of mothers was 25.4 and by 2013 it had risen to 30.8. The median age of fathers in 1971 was 28.6 and by 2013 it had risen to 33.0.

The fertility rate for women aged 40–44 has increased from 10.1 babies per 1,000 women in 2003 to 15.4 in 2013. This was also the only age group to record a rise in fertility rates in 2013.



Meanwhile, the fertility rate for teenage mothers has fallen to 14.6 babies per 1,000 women aged 15–19—down from 16.2 in 2003.

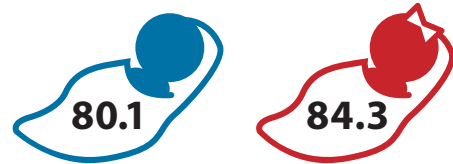


Living longer

Most Australians can expect to live a relatively long and healthy life—we have one of the highest life expectancies in the world and, on average, are living 25 years longer than a century ago.

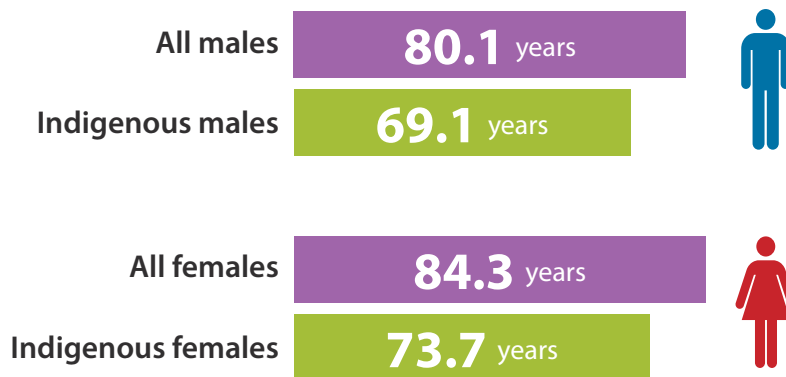
Females generally live longer than males.

A baby boy born between 2011 and 2013 can expect to live to 80.1 years and a baby girl to 84.3 years.



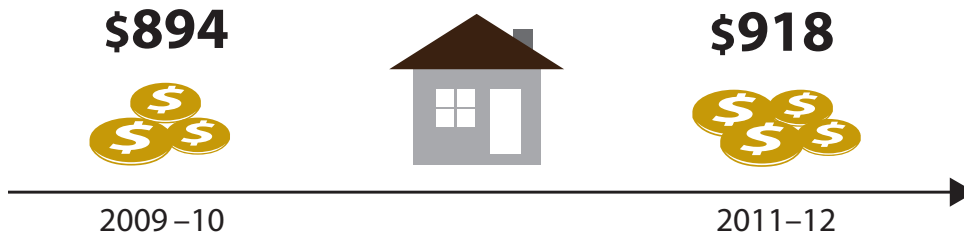
While life expectancy for Indigenous Australians is improving, it is still lower than that for other Australians.

In 2010–2012, the estimated life expectancy at birth for Indigenous boys was 69.1 years, and 73.7 years for girls.



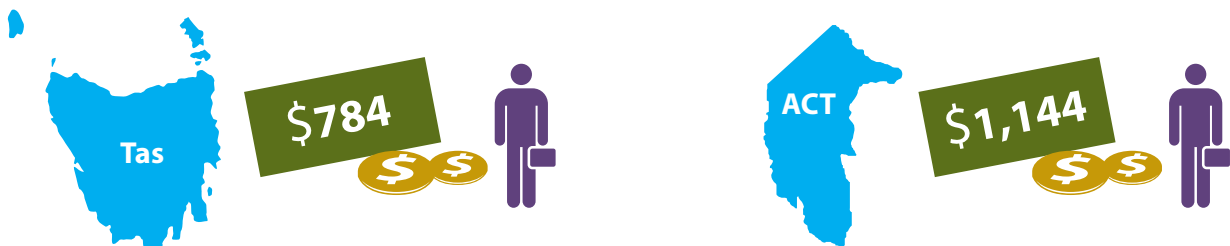
How much are we earning?

In 2011–12, the average equivalised disposable household income for people living in private dwellings was \$918 per week—slightly more (2.7%) than the \$894 in 2009–10 (adjusted for inflation).



Average equivalised **disposable household income** per week

The Australian Capital Territory had the highest average equivalised disposable household income in the country—\$1,144 per week—while Tasmania had the lowest—\$784.



Lowest and highest average equivalised **disposable household income**



Section 2

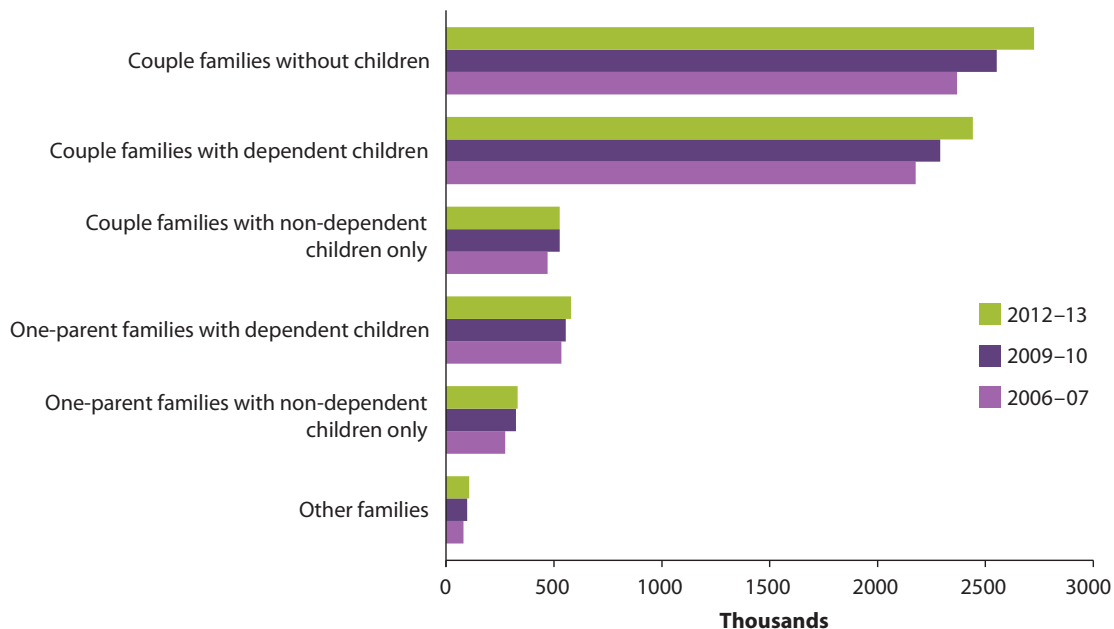
Children and youth

The first years of life provide the foundations for health, development and wellbeing. As a child gets older, early and continued engagement with, and successful completion of, primary and secondary schooling improves the likelihood of further study, and employment in adulthood. This section looks at some of the factors that affect the welfare of our young Australians.

We live in different types of families

In 2012–13, there were 2.8 million families in Australia with children aged 17 and younger living in the household. Of these, 81% were couple families and 19% were one-parent families.

Of the 5.2 million children aged 0–17, 1 in 5 had a natural parent living elsewhere.



Family composition in Australia, 2012–13

Most kids are 'on track' when they start primary school

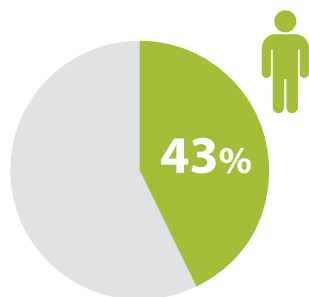
By the time they start primary school, around 4 in 5 children are developmentally 'on track'.



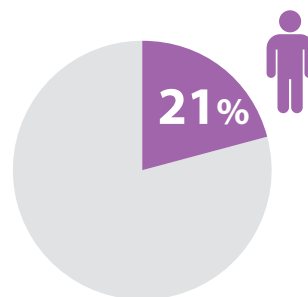
However, 22%—or about 60,000 children in 2012—were assessed as vulnerable on one or more domains:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- communication skills and general knowledge.

Indigenous children are more than twice as likely as non-Indigenous children (43% compared with 21%) to be assessed as developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains.



Indigenous children



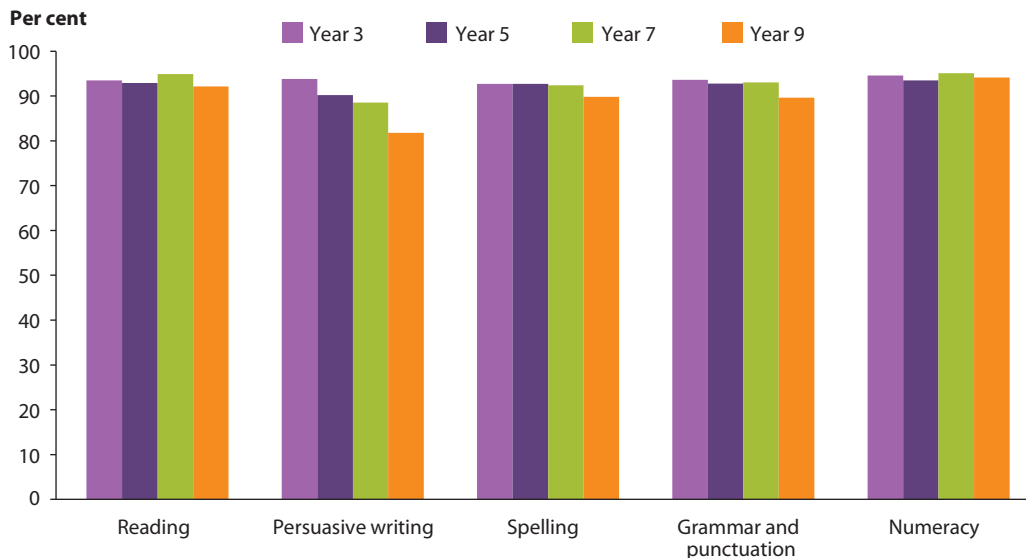
Non-Indigenous children

Most children achieve literacy and numeracy standards at school

In 2014, most students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 (82% to 95%) achieved at or above the national minimum standards in literacy and numeracy.

Indigenous students and students from *Very remote* areas achieved at or above the national minimum standards at much lower rates than for other student groups.

For example, in 2014, the rate of Indigenous students in Year 3 achieving at or above the national minimum standard was 20 percentage points lower than their non-Indigenous counterparts in reading and 18 percentage points lower in numeracy.



Students achieving at or above the **NAPLAN national minimum standards**, by Year level, 2014

4 in 5 young people are studying and/or working full-time

In Australia, schooling is compulsory until the completion of Year 10, and young people are obliged to participate in full-time education, employment or training (or a combination of these activities) until the age of 17.

The vast majority of young Australians will undertake tertiary education, begin an apprenticeship or traineeship, enter the workforce, or do a combination of these things. In 2014, 4 out of 5 (80%) young people aged 15–24 were fully engaged in education and/or employment.

While Indigenous young people aged 15–24 were less likely to be in education and training (44%) than non-Indigenous youth (59%) in 2011, their participation has increased slightly in recent years. In 2006, 42% of Indigenous young people were in education and training compared with 57% of non-Indigenous young people.

In 2014, the proportion of 20–24 year olds completing Year 12 or at least Certificate III was 85%, which was higher than in 2005 (80%). In 2013, 7% of all 15–24 year olds (219,500 people) were apprentices or trainees. This was slightly less than the 8% in 2004.



Completion of Year 12 or Certificate III and above among young people aged 20–24, by sex, 2005 and 2014

More young adults living with their parents

Young Australians are living at home with their parents for longer periods. They are also less likely to be marrying in their early 20s than a decade ago.

In 1997, 50% of young Australians aged 18–24 lived with their parents—by 2012–13, this had increased to 60%.



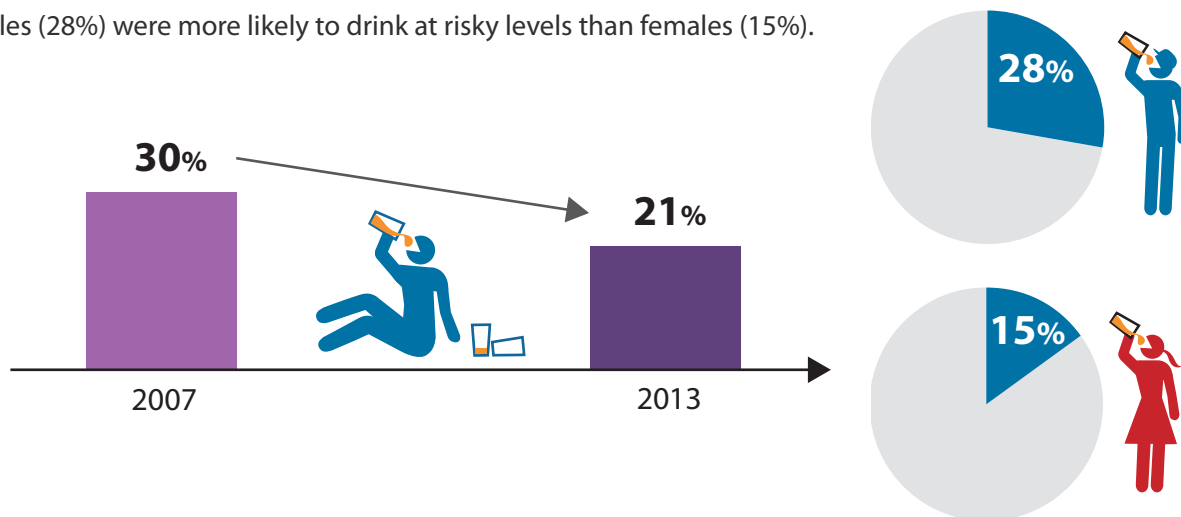
The rate of marriage for women aged 20–24 fell from 34 marriages per 1,000 in 2003 to 25 in 2013. For men, the rate dropped from 19 per 1,000 to 15 over the same period.



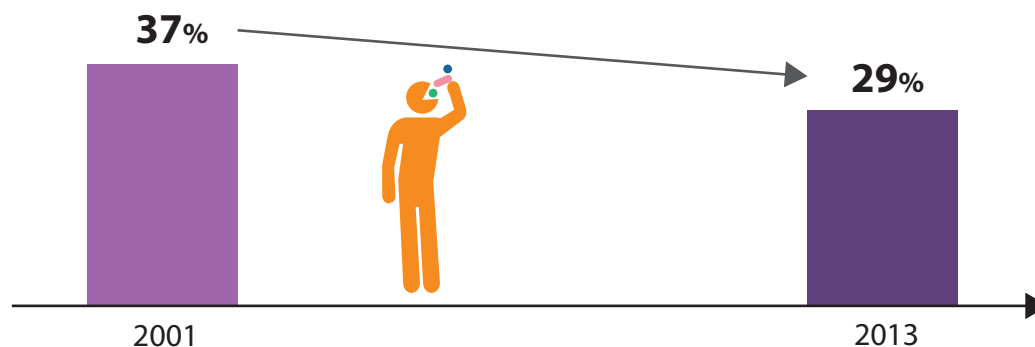
Fall in alcohol and drug use

While around 1 in 5 young people (21%) aged 18–24 years drank alcohol at risky levels for lifetime harm in 2013, this was less than the 2007 rate of 30%.

Males (28%) were more likely to drink at risky levels than females (15%).



Between 2001 and 2013, rates of recent illicit drug use for youth aged 18–24 fell from 37% to 29%. Use was higher among young males than among young females in 2013 (32% compared with 25%), and rates among youth were around twice as high as the population aged 25 and over (13%).



More children received child protection services

Children who are suspected of being abused, neglected or harmed, or whose parents are unable to provide adequate care or protection, may receive child protection services.

In 2013–14, about 143,000 Australian children aged 0–17 received child protection services, compared with 135,000 in 2012–13. In 2013–14, this was 1 in every 37 children.

Of these children, about 123,000 were aged 0–14.

Indigenous children aged 0–14 were 7 times as likely as non-Indigenous children to be receiving child protection services.



1 in 37 children received **child protection services**

Indigenous youth over-represented in justice system

In 2013–14, on an average day, 920 young people aged 10–14 were under youth justice supervision (rate of 7 per 10,000 population). This was less than the 1,031 young people under supervision (rate of 8 per 10,000 population) in 2009–10.

This drop was mainly due to a fall in the number of young males under supervision—from 840 to 712 on an average day. There was, however, a small overall increase in the number of young females under supervision—from 191 to 208 on an average day.



The vast majority (82%) of young people aged 10–14 who were under supervision on an average day were supervised in the community.

Indigenous young people aged 10–14 were 23 times as likely to be under supervision and 36 times as likely to be in detention as young non-Indigenous people.

In 2013–14, there were 8,027 young people aged 15–24 under youth justice supervision (excluding Western Australia and Northern Territory), with 6,364 or 79% of these aged 15–17.

Despite making up only 4% of those aged 15–24 in the population, Indigenous young people made up 31% of those aged 15–24 under youth justice supervision.

Changing job front for youth

The profile of youth employment has changed significantly in recent decades, reflecting changes in the wider labour market and increased youth participation in education.

Youth labour force participation has declined (from 71% in 2008 to 67% in 2014), and those who are in the labour force have had greater difficulty finding employment—youth unemployment increased from 8.8% to 13.3% between 2008 and 2014.

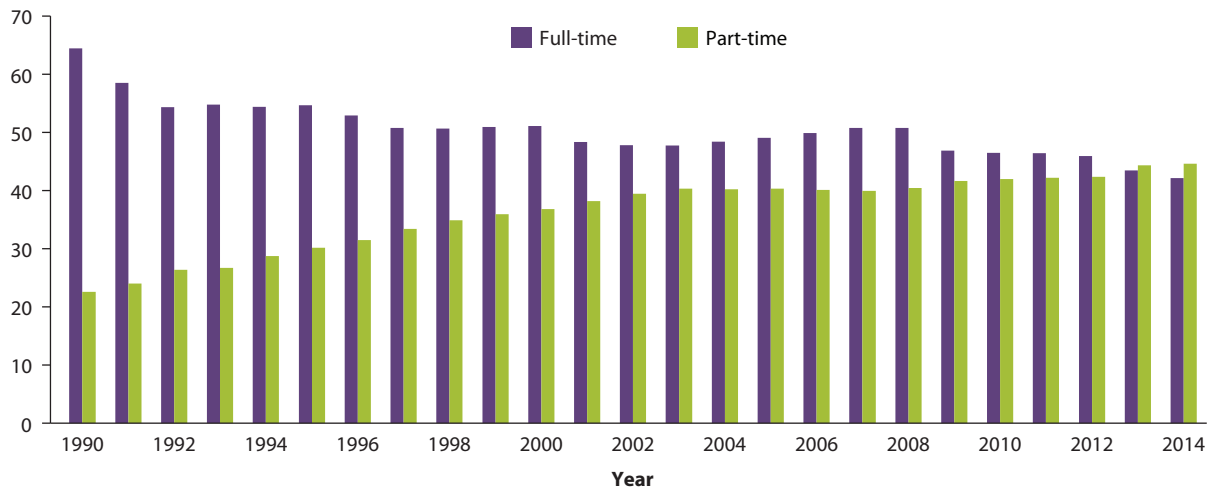


There have also been changes for employed youth. More employed youth are in casual jobs (rising from 35% in 1994 to 50% in 2013) and, for the first time, in 2013, the youth part-time employment rate (44%) exceeded the youth full-time employment rate (43%). This pattern continued in 2014 (45% and 42%, respectively).

These patterns mean that the move from education to full-time work is occurring later for youth—increasing from an average age of 21.8 years in 2008 to 23.4 in 2013.

Some young people combine paid employment with secondary or tertiary study to support themselves financially and to develop skills for long-term employment. In 2014, 29% of young people aged 15–24 combined study and work.

Per cent

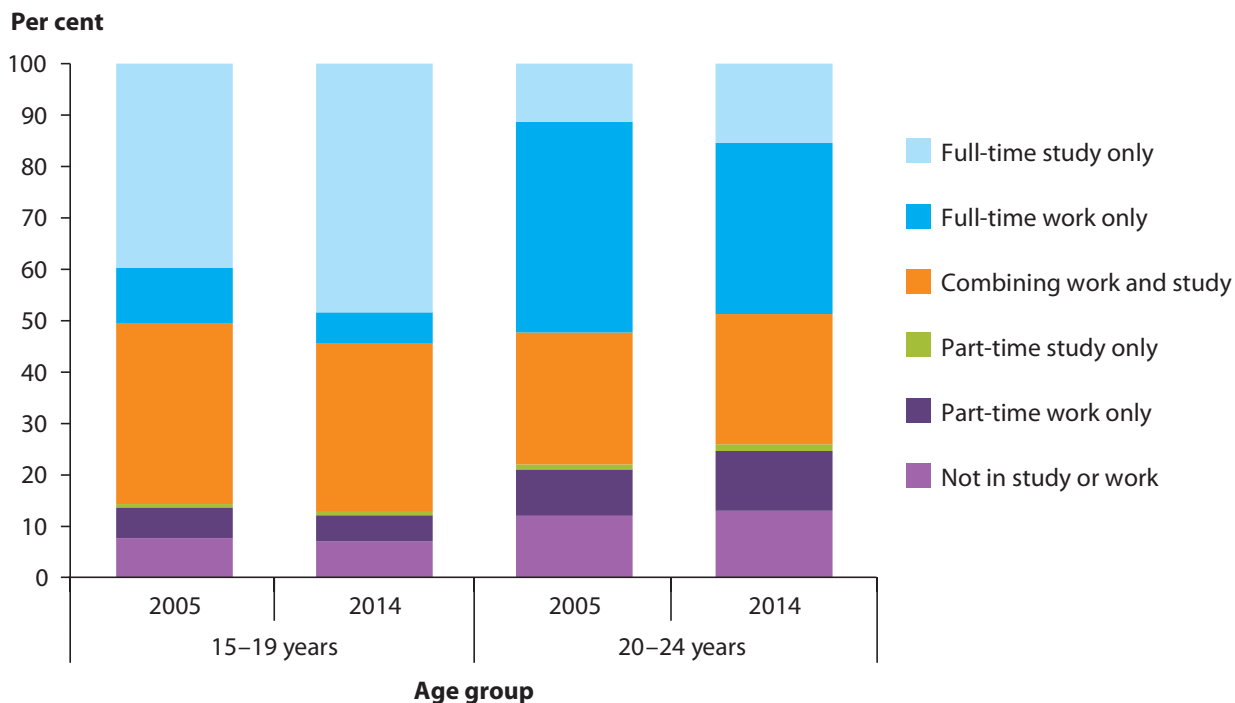


Full- and part-time youth employment rates, 1990 to 2014

Some young people are missing out

Young people who are not in education, employment or training are often referred to as the 'NEET' group.

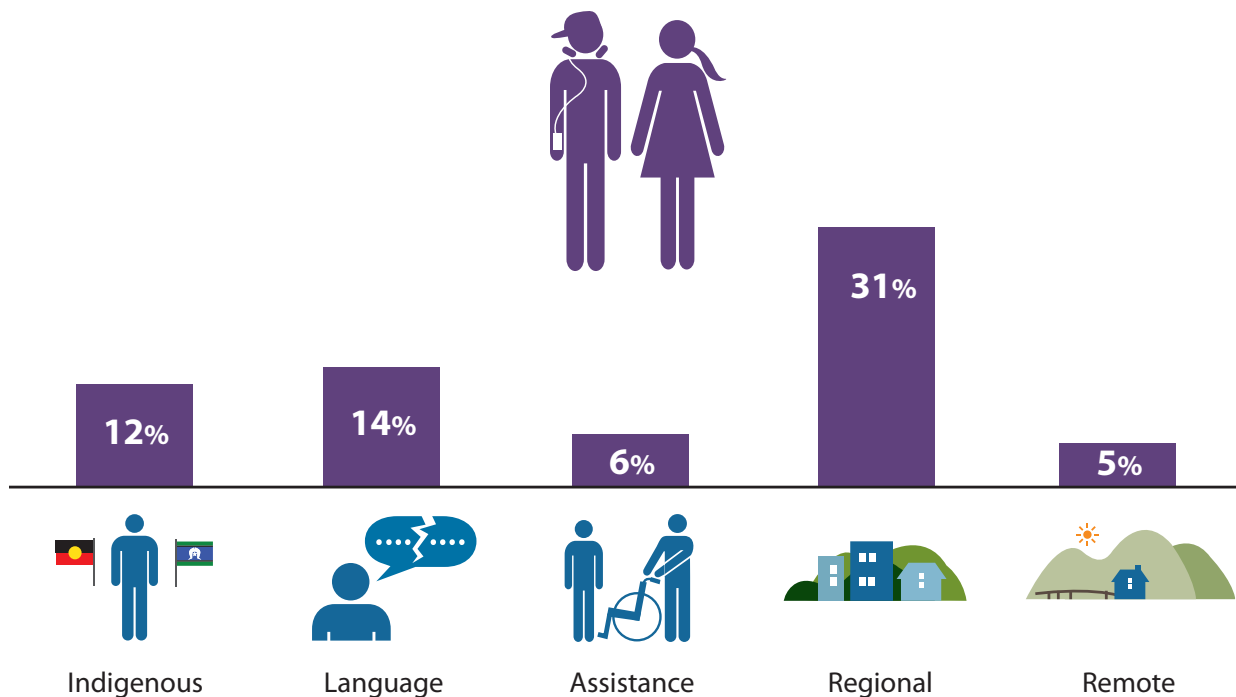
In 2014, 10% of 15–24 year olds (312,900 people) were not in employment, education and/or training—this was the same proportion as in 2005.



Participation in education and/or employment among young people aged 15 to 24, by age group, 2005 and 2014

In 2011, some 15–24 year olds were over-represented in the NEET group compared with their representation in the total youth population. These included:

- Indigenous youth (12% in the NEET group compared with 4% in the total youth population)
- youth who do not speak English well or at all (14% compared with 5%)
- youth needing assistance with basic activities of daily living (self-care, mobility or communication) (6% compared with 2%)
- those living in *Inner regional and outer regional* areas (31% in NEET compared with 25% in the total youth population) and *Remote and very remote* areas (5% in NEET, 2% in total youth population).



Proportion of young people in NEET group, by selected characteristics, 2011



Section 3

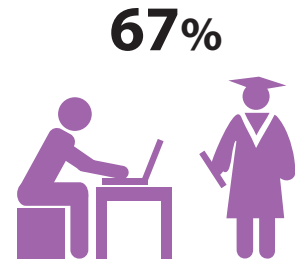
Working age

For most Australians, the working-age phase of their lives is a time for starting and establishing careers, buying a home, and raising a family. This section looks at some of the characteristics that define this group as they move through this stage and into their older years.

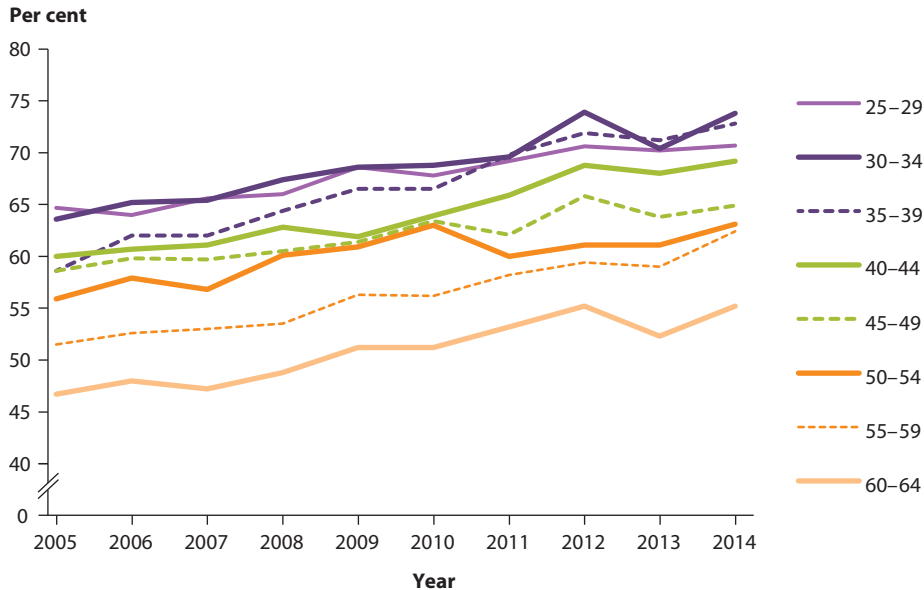
Better educated

More than half of the Australian population—53%, or 12.5 million people—are aged between 25 and 64.

Overall, Australians in this age group are better educated than a decade ago, with 67% of 25–64 year olds having a non-school qualification, up from 58% in 2005. This is likely due to a combination of factors, including that people are now moving into this age group who are more highly qualified as a result of improvements in educational attainment over recent decades, and that working-age Australians are undertaking further study and/or retraining.



Women, in particular, have made more gains. While more men (62%) than women (54%) aged 25–64 had a non-school qualification in 2005, the gap has narrowed, with 69% of men and 66% of women having a non-school qualification in 2014.



Population aged 25–64 with a non-school qualification, by age group, 2005 to 2014

Working Age

Women have changed the face of the workforce

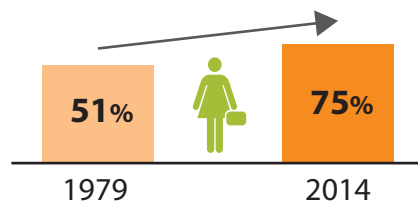
The labour force participation for people aged 25–64 rose from 74% to 79% between 1992 and 2014. During this period, the male labour force participation rate fell slightly from 87% to 86%, and the female labour force participation rate rose from 60% to 72%.



People aged 25–64

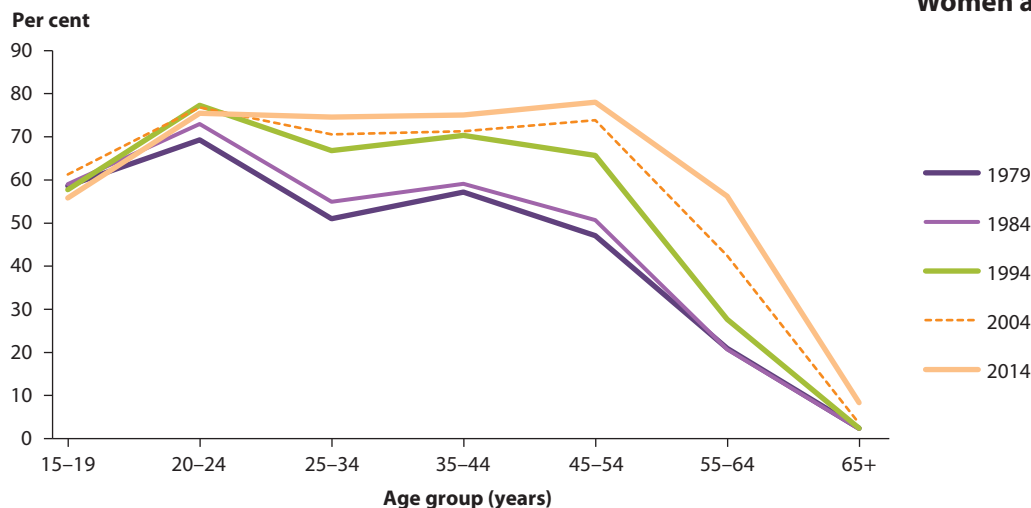
Labour force participation rates for women in the prime child-bearing years of 25–34 have risen in recent decades.

For example, in 1979, the labour force participation rate for women aged 25–34 was 51% compared with 69% for those aged 20–24. By 2014, the labour force participation rate for women aged 25–34 had climbed to 75%.



Women aged 25–34

Older women are also more likely than in previous years to be in the labour force. The participation rate for women aged 55–64 rose from 21% in 1979 to 56% in 2014, and the rate for women aged 65 and over rose from 2% to 8%.



Female labour force participation rate, by age, 1979, 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014

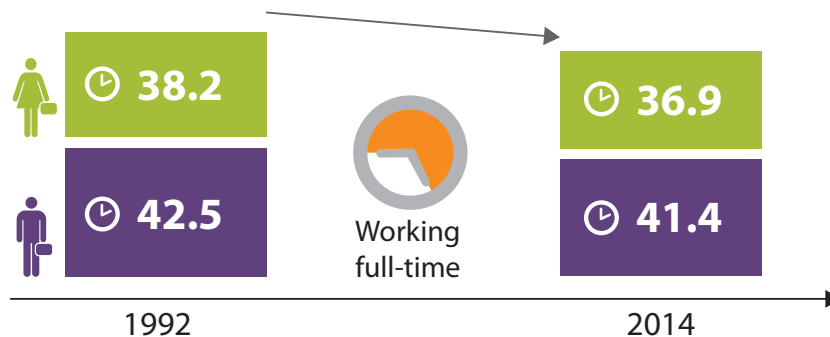
More of us working part-time

In 2014, although 75%—or 9.4 million—people aged 25–64 had a job, a higher proportion of people worked part-time than previously. In 2014, 25% of Australians aged 25–64 worked part-time, compared with 21% in 1992.



For both men and women aged 25–64, the average weekly full-time hours worked fell over this period, while the average weekly part-time hours increased.

In 2014, men aged 25–64 working full-time worked, on average, 41.4 hours a week compared with 42.5 hours in 1992, while women worked, on average, 36.9 hours in 2014 compared with 38.2 hours in 1992.

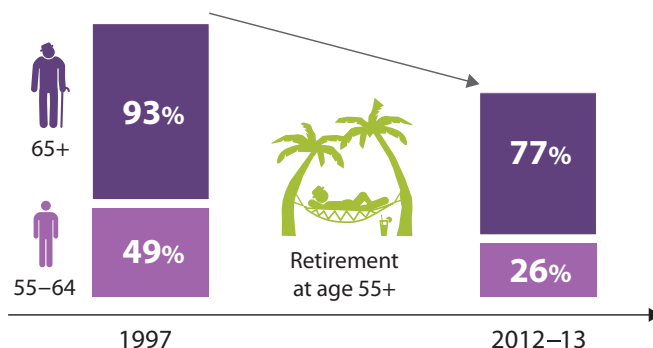


For men working part-time, the average weekly hours worked rose from 17.1 in 1992 to 18.8 in 2014, while for women they rose from 15.9 to 17.8 over the same period.

And we are staying at work

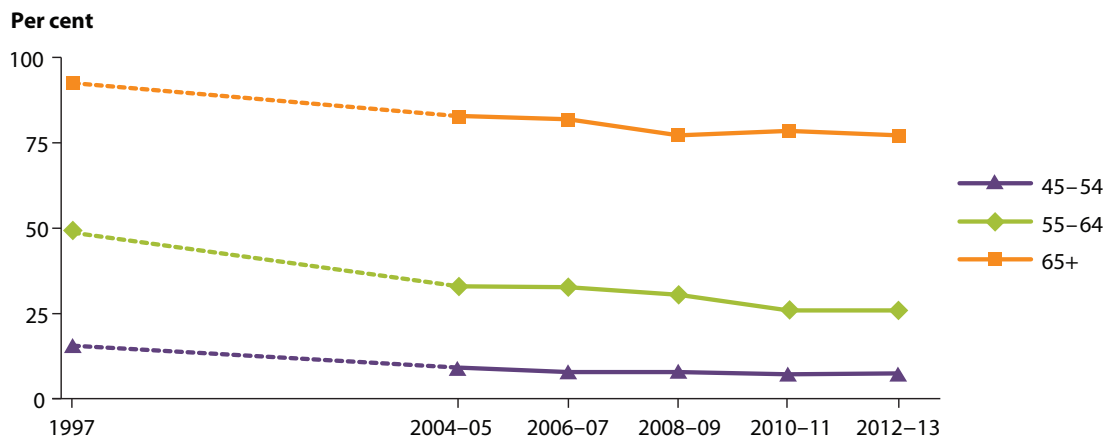
The labour force participation rate for those aged 55 and over rose steadily from 23% in 1984 to 35% in 2014.

The proportion of Australians aged 55 and over who have retired fell between 1997 and 2012–13—from 49% to 26% for those aged 55–64, and from 93% to 77% for those aged 65 and over.



The main reason people gave for retiring from all work was that they had reached retirement age or were eligible for superannuation or the pension (37%).

This was followed by their own sickness, injury or disability (23%), and being retrenched, dismissed or having no work available (10%). Around 1 in 20 people reported that their retirement was due to their own business being closed down, or that they had retired to care for an ill, disabled or elderly person (5% for each).



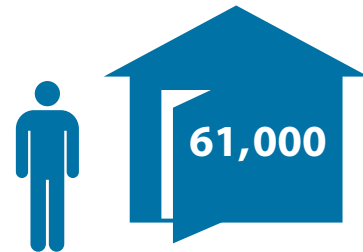
Retirement rate, people aged 45 and over, by age, November 1997 to 2012–13

More households have a mortgage

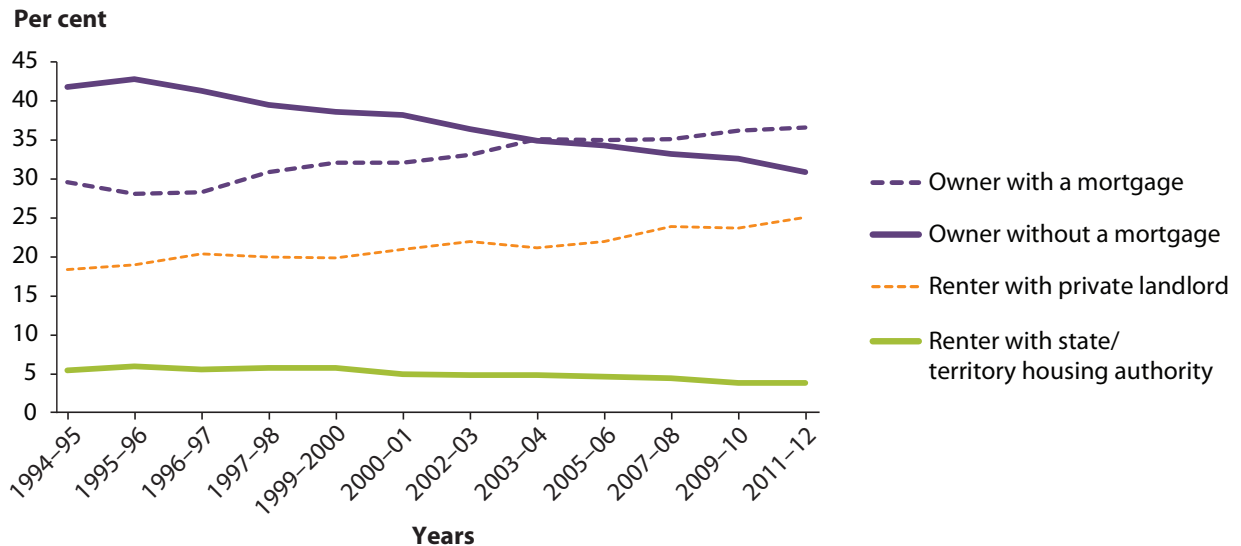
While most Australian households continue to own their own homes, there has been a significant decline in the proportion that own their home outright, and a corresponding rise in the proportion that own their home with a mortgage.

The proportion of households that owned their homes with a mortgage rose from just under 30% in 1994–95 to 37% in 2011–12. In contrast, the proportion of households that owned their homes outright fell from 42% in 1994–95 to 31% in 2011–12.

In 2013–14, about 61,000 first home owner grants were paid to help Australians buy a home.



First home owner grants, 2013–14



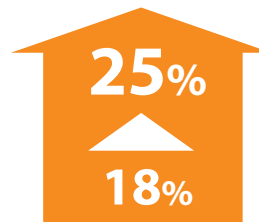
Housing tenure type, 1994–95 to 2011–12

And more of us are renting

The proportion of households that are renting has increased over the past decade. In 2011–12, around 25% of all Australian households were renting from a private landlord, up from 18% in 1994–95. This rise has been partly associated with the increased cost of housing ownership discouraging renters from making the transition.

In 2011–12, about 4% of Australian households rented from a state or territory housing authority.

At June 2014, more than 390,000 households were living in social housing, and there were more than 200,000 applicants on social housing waiting lists across Australia.

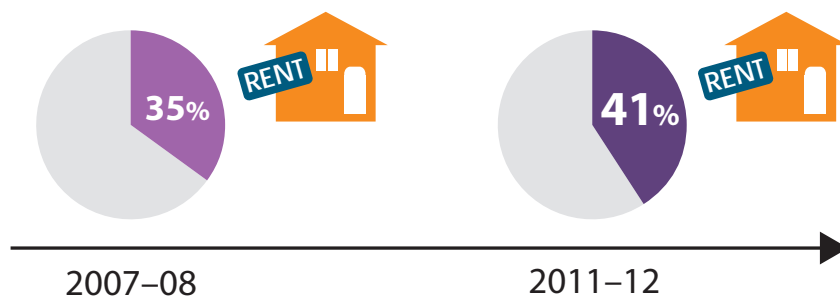


Increase in low-income households in rental stress

The proportion of Australian households paying more than 30% of their income on rent increased from 35% in 2007–08 to 41% in 2011–12.

About 15–20% of Australian households currently receive some form of housing assistance, with the most common form being Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

In 2013–14, there were 1.3 million recipients of Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

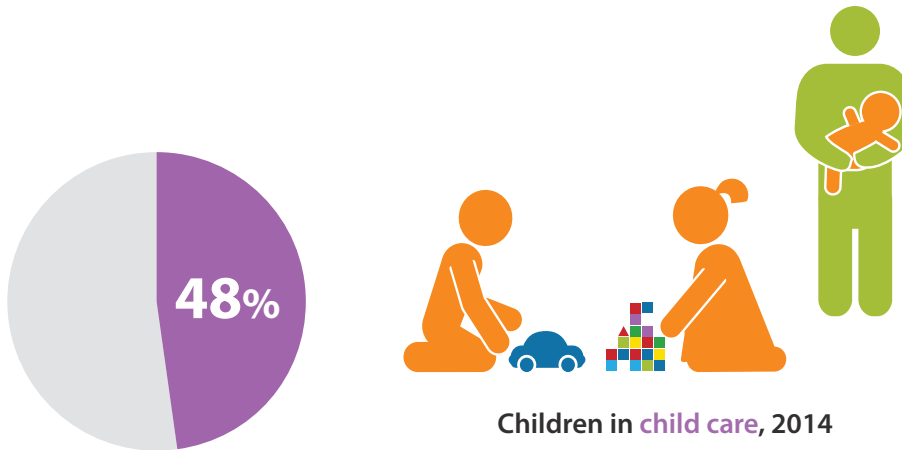


Proportion of low-income households paying more than 30% of their income on rent

Work and study are the top reasons for using child care

In 2014, an estimated 48% of all Australian children aged 0–12 (1.8 million children) regularly attended either formal or informal child care.

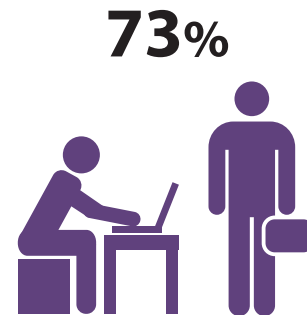
Families with higher weekly incomes were more likely to use formal child care than families with lower weekly incomes.



In 2014, parents used child care for:

- work and study reasons, or if they were looking for work (73%)
- benefits associated with preparing the child for school (18%)
- personal reasons, including entertainment, social reasons, or to give parents a break (8%).

It is estimated that grandparents provide informal care to nearly one-third of both working couple families and working one-parent families.





Section 4

Older Australians

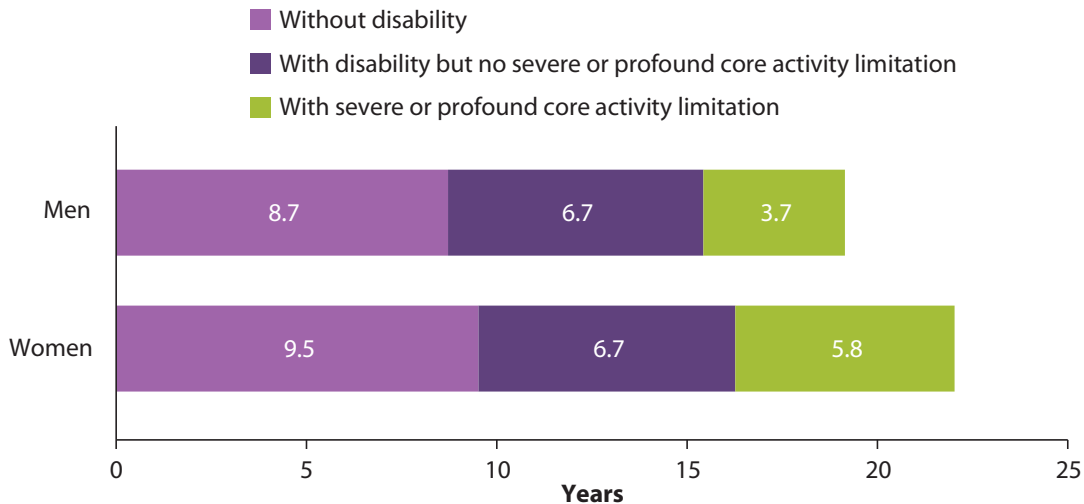
Australians are living longer than ever before and most of these 'extra' years are spent without disability. Here are some of the factors that influence our welfare as we grow older.

More years without disability for older Australians

Older Australians are not just living longer, they are also living longer without disability.

In 2012, men aged 65 could expect to live 8.7 additional years without disability and 6.7 further years with a disability, but without severe or profound core activity limitation. Core activity refers to the basic activities of daily living, namely self-care, mobility and communication.

Women aged 65 could expect to live 9.5 additional years without disability and 6.7 years with a disability, but without severe or profound core activity limitation.



Additional expected years at age 65, by sex, with and without disability, 2012

More qualifications, and working longer

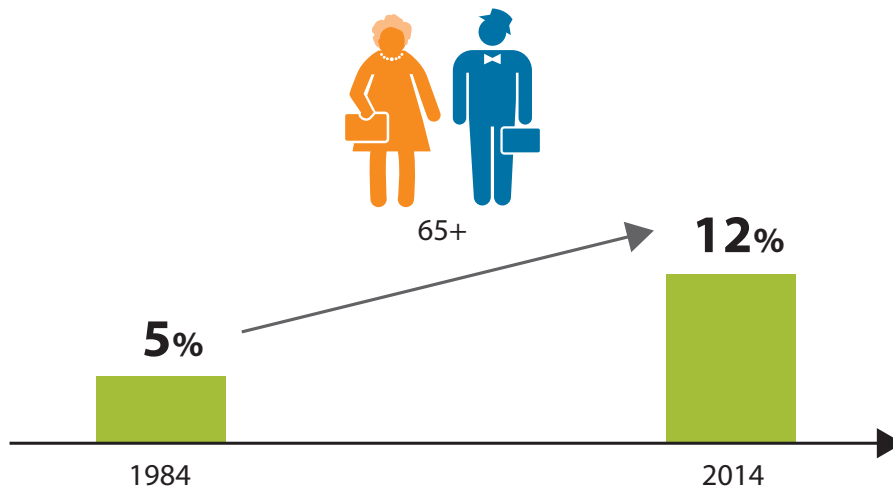
Older Australians are now more highly educated than in the past.

In 1981, less than 2% of people aged 65 and over had a bachelor degree or higher qualification and by 2011 this had risen to nearly 9%.



Older Australians are also more likely to stay working after the age of 65.

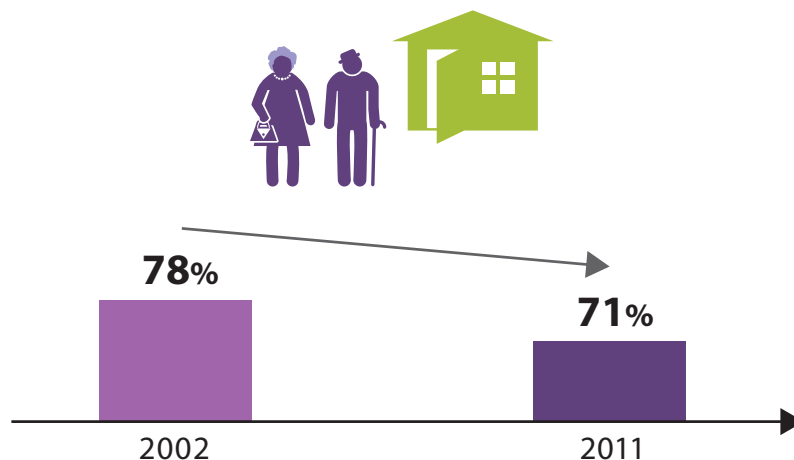
Between 1984 and 2014, the labour force participation rate for people aged 65 and over rose from 5% to 12%.



Fewer older households own their home outright

For many Australians, their home is their biggest asset. While most Australians aged 65 and over who are living in a private dwelling own their own home outright, this proportion has gradually fallen over the past decade, with corresponding increases occurring for older households that are renting or still paying off a mortgage.

In 2002, 78% of older households owned their homes without a mortgage. By 2011, this proportion had fallen to 71%.



The cost of housing can be a big concern for older people who do not own their home and cannot access social housing.

In 2011, older couples living in private rental accommodation paid, on average, 29% of their gross income to put a roof over their head. For older people living on their own, the relative cost was even higher—37% of their gross income.

In 2011–12, people aged 55–64 were more likely than any other age group to be renting with a state or territory housing authority (5% of households in this age group).

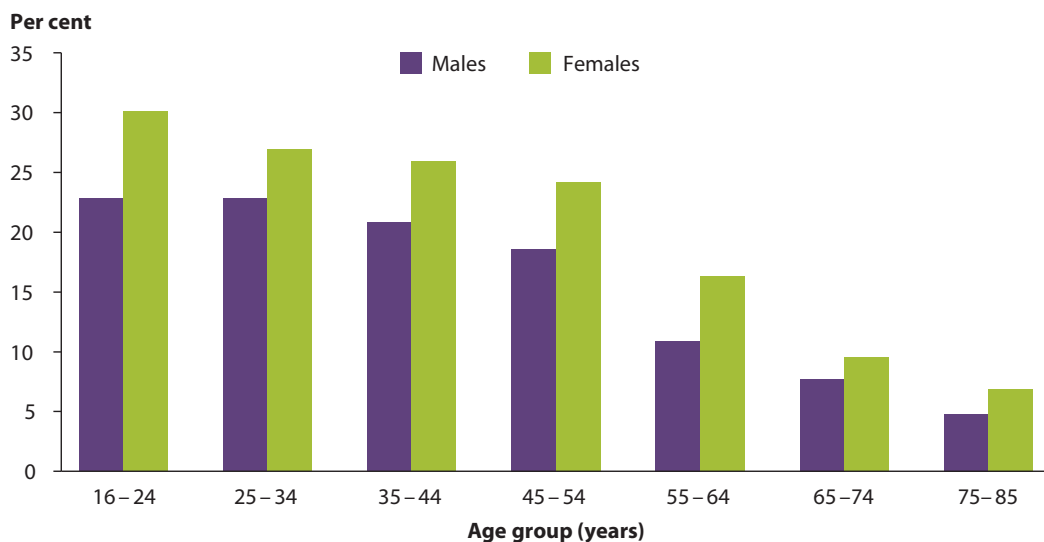
Some mental health concerns

Good mental health is one of the key factors associated with healthy ageing.

The prevalence of mental disorders is lowest in the 75–85 age group. Despite this, there are many factors that can influence the mental health of older Australians, such as the ability to live independently, the loss of a partner, and retirement.

Also, the increasing incidence of dementia as people age complicates the picture of their mental health.

In June 2012, more than half (52%) of all permanent residential aged care residents had symptoms of depression when they were last appraised.



Prevalence of common mental disorders, by age group and sex, 2007

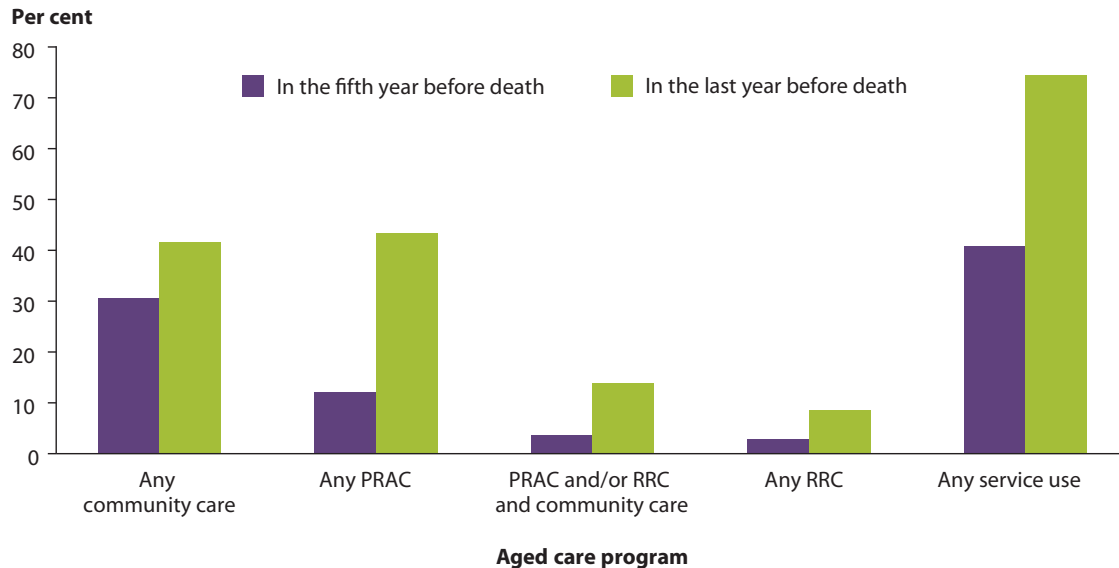
Majority are not using aged care services

The number of older people (65 and over) using aged care services over a year rose 36% from about 642,000 in 2002–03 to just over 874,000 in 2010–11, and the majority used community care only. This increase compares with a rise of 25% in the population aged 65 and over between 30 June 2002 and 30 June 2011.

Despite this, the majority of older Australians are not using aged care services. More than two-thirds of people aged 65 and over (71%) did not use an aged care service in 2010–11.

In 2010–11, around 70% of all aged care clients were women, partly due to women's higher life expectancy, and 2 in 5 clients were aged 85 and over.

People were more likely to use an aged care service as they got closer to the end of their lives—75% of older people who died in 2010–11 had used aged care in their last year of life. Many older people prefer to remain at home for as long as possible and this has influenced aged care program development over many years.



* PRAC = permanent residential aged care; RRC = respite residential aged care.

Aged care service use in the last and fifth year before death in 2010–11



Section 5

Not faring so well

While most Australians are doing well, some groups continue to face disadvantages that can affect their mental and physical health, employment opportunities and general feelings of community engagement and belonging.

This section profiles challenges facing some people in the following groups: Indigenous Australians, homeless Australians, people with mental illness, people experiencing domestic and family violence, and people with disability.

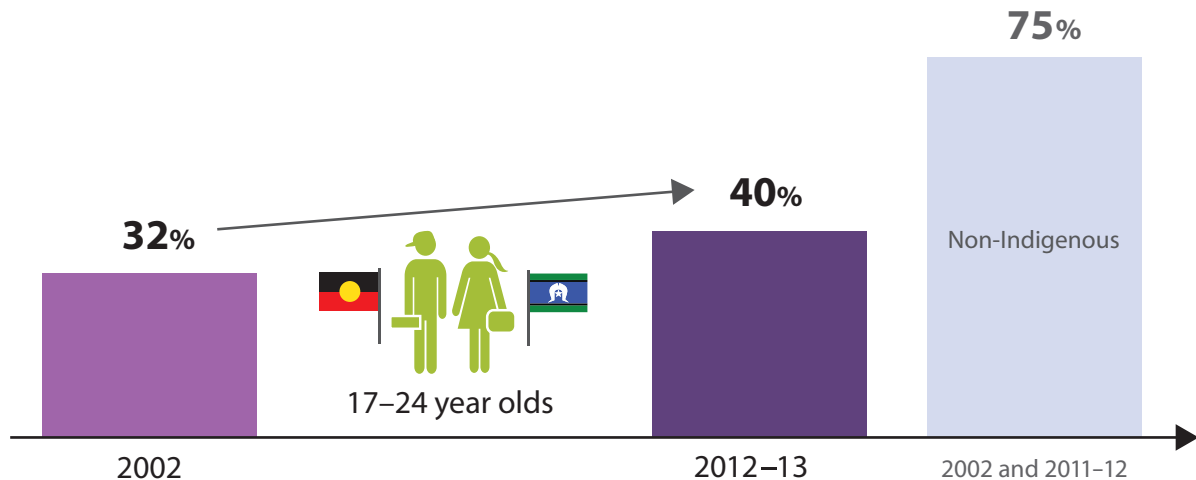
Gaps in Indigenous education and employment

Even though outcomes for Indigenous people have improved in a number of key areas in recent years, there are still large gaps between average outcomes for Indigenous and other Australians, including in education, employment, household income and disability.

Indigenous children are less likely than non-Indigenous children to be enrolled in preschool, and are more likely to be developmentally vulnerable when starting primary school.

In 2012–13, just under half (48%) of Indigenous people aged 15–64 were employed, compared with 76% of the non-Indigenous working-age population.

However, between 2002 and 2012–13, the proportion of Indigenous 17–24 year olds who were in post-school education or training and/or were employed increased from 32% to 40%. This compares with a non-Indigenous rate of about 75% over the same period.



Indigenous adults relying less on government payments

For disadvantaged Australians, access to government income support is important to ensure their social and economic wellbeing.

Lower employment rates among Indigenous Australians lead to a higher proportion relying on a government payment as their main source of personal income.

In 2012–13, about 50% of Indigenous Australians (aged 18–64) said their main source of income was government payments. While this was more than 3 times the rate for non-Indigenous people (16%), the proportion was lower than the 63% in 2002.

The proportion of Indigenous 18–64 year olds who reported their main source of income was from employment increased from 32% in 2002 to 41% in 2012–13.

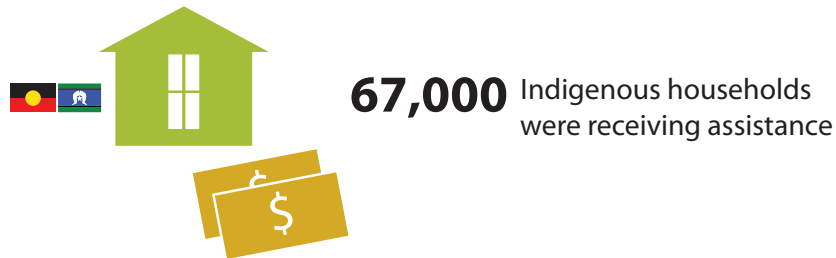


After including the income from government payments, the median weekly income for Indigenous households was \$465 in 2012–13. This equates to just over half of the \$869 median income that non-Indigenous households received (after adjusting for differences in household size and composition).

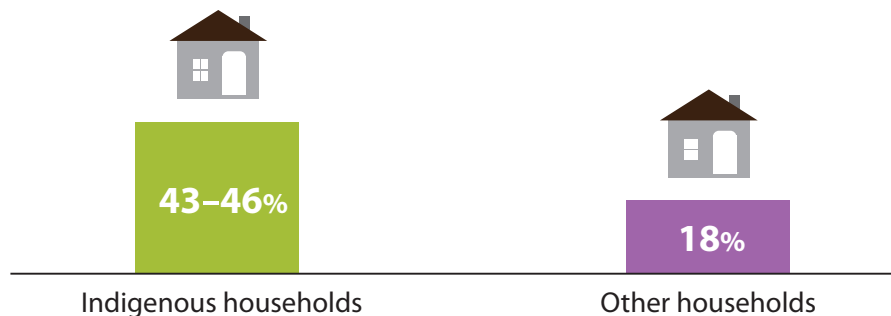
Greater need for housing assistance for Indigenous Australians

Home ownership has improved for Indigenous Australians. The proportion of Indigenous adults living in a home owned or being bought by a member of their household rose from 22% in 1994 to 30% in 2012–13.

However, Indigenous Australians are still more likely to receive housing assistance than non-Indigenous Australians. In 2013, around 67,000 Indigenous households were receiving assistance through a range of social housing programs.



Overall, an estimated 43% to 46% of all Indigenous households received help from at least one major housing assistance program, compared with around 18% of other households.



More homeless people

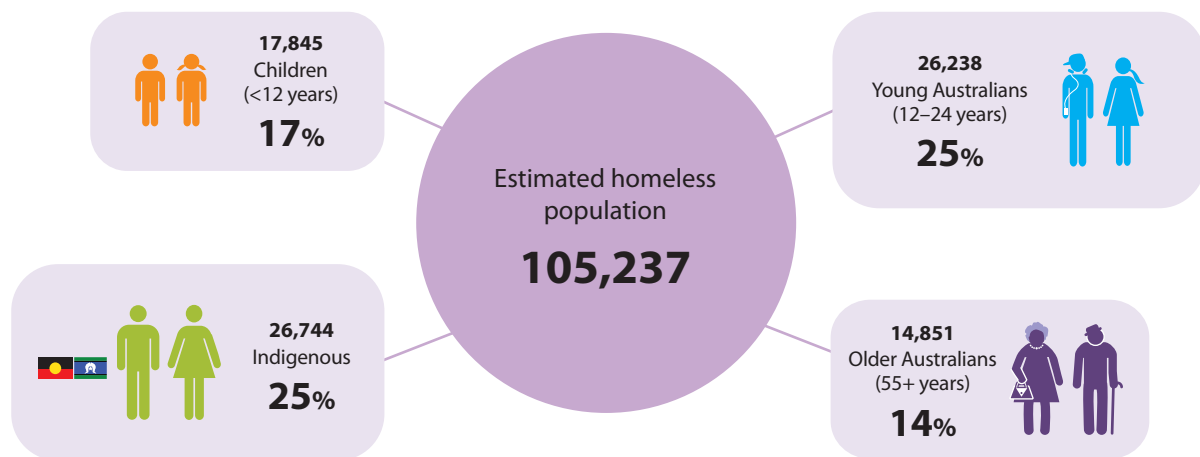
Although almost anyone can find themselves at risk of homelessness, some people are more vulnerable than others, including Indigenous Australians; women and children fleeing domestic violence; and people with drug, alcohol or mental health issues.

On Census night 2011, just over 105,200 people in Australia were counted as being homeless, up from 89,700 in 2006.

Of these people, 25% were Indigenous Australians, 25% were aged 12–24 and 17% were under 12. The majority of those under 24 were in severely overcrowded households or supported accommodation for the homeless.

While some homeless people spent the night in short-term or emergency accommodation, others were sleeping in the open without shelter.

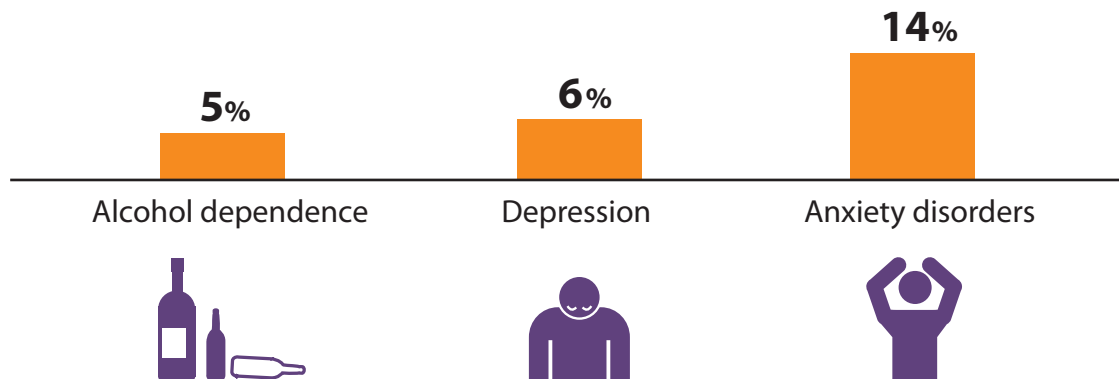
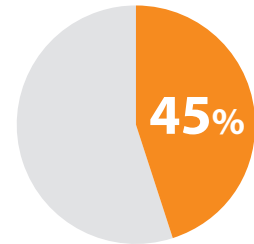
In 2013–14, about 254,000 people used specialist homelessness services—4% more than in 2012–13. About 57,500 young people aged 15–24 used specialist homelessness services, and about 44,400 of them were on their own when they sought help.



Mental illness linked with higher unemployment

It has been estimated that about 45% of Australians will experience a mental illness at some time in their lives.

In 2007, anxiety disorders were the most common (14%), followed by affective disorders such as depression (6%) and substance-use disorders such as alcohol dependence (5%).



People with a mental illness are more likely to be unemployed or on a low income or a government pension than people without mental illness, and are also at greater risk of being homeless. In 2007, the unemployment rate for people with a mental illness in the previous 12 months was higher than for people without a mental illness (4% and 2% respectively).

People with a mental illness in the previous 12 months were also more likely to report their main source of income as government pensions and allowances than people without a mental illness (26% and 22% respectively). About 8% of people with mental illness in the previous 12 months had a history of homelessness, compared with 2% of people without a mental illness.

Disability increases with age

In 2012, about 4.2 million Australians had a disability and, of those, about 43% relied on a government pension or benefit as their main source of income.

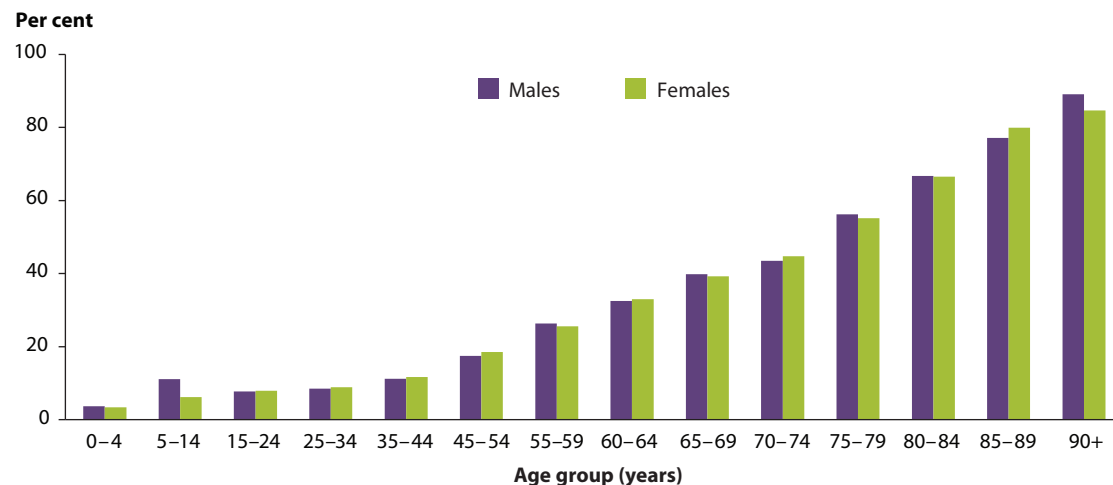
The proportion of the population with disability has remained stable over time at just under 19%. The likelihood of having a disability rises with age, ranging from 4% of those aged 0–4 to 86% of those aged 90 or over.

Of Australians who reported having a disability in 2012:

- 33% had a severe or profound core activity limitation (that is, they always or sometimes needed help with the day-to-day activities of self-care, mobility and/or communication)
- 15% had a moderate core activity limitation
- 33% had a mild core activity limitation.

People with disability may also have schooling or employment restrictions, or limitations in other activities such as cognitive or emotional tasks or health care.

Indigenous people are 1.7 times as likely as non-Indigenous people to have a disability, after adjusting for the fact that the Indigenous population is younger.



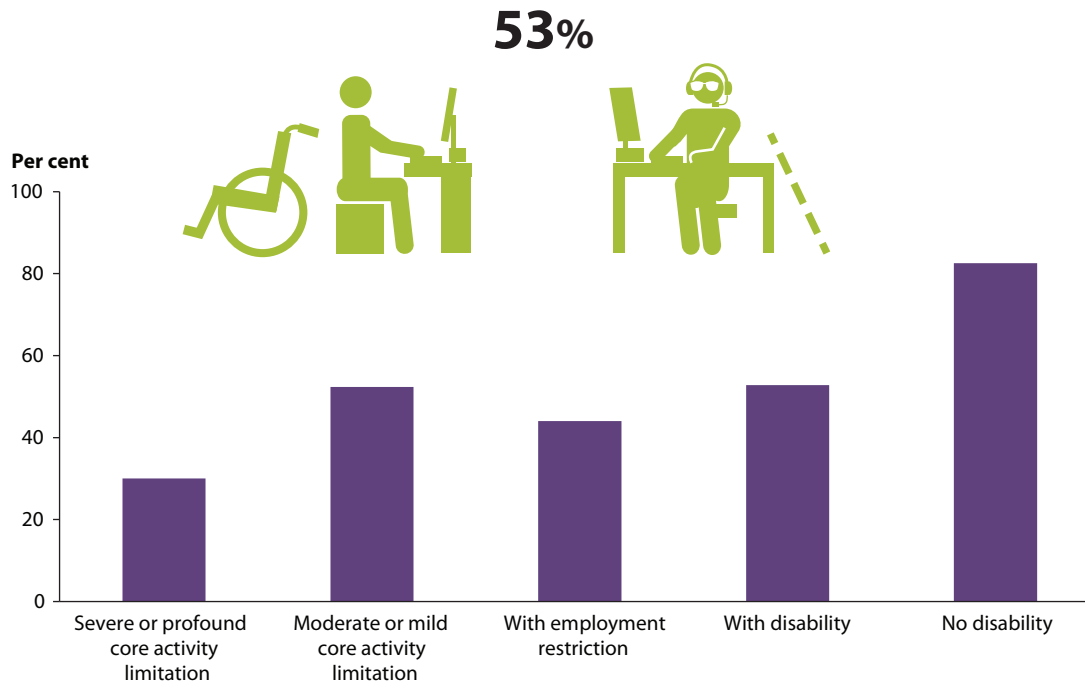
Proportion of the population with disability, by age group and sex, Australia, 2012

People with disability are less likely to have a job

In 2012, the labour force participation rate of people with disability (aged 15–64) was 53%, compared with 83% of people without disability.

In 2012, the unemployment rate for people with disability was 9.4%, compared with 4.9% for people without disability.

Levels of participation in the labour force vary depending on the type and severity of disability a person has. For example, people with severe or profound core activity limitations were less likely to be in the labour force (30%) than those with moderate or mild core activity limitations (52%).



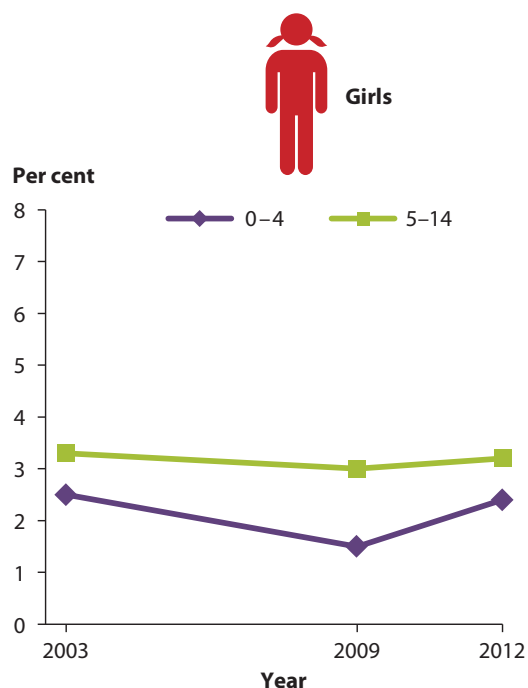
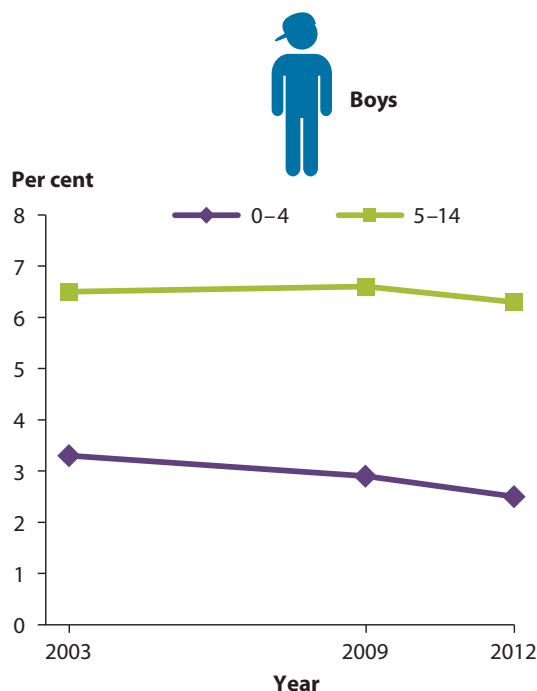
Labour force participation rate, people aged 15–64, by disability status, 2012

Boys more likely to have severe or profound disability

In 2012, there were about 171,000 children aged 0–14 with severe or profound disability in Australia. These children are among the most vulnerable in the community.

Of children aged 5–14, more boys than girls had severe or profound disability (6.3% compared with 3.2%).

In 2012, for children aged 0–14, the main types of disability were intellectual (3.8%) followed by sensory/speech (2.9%), physical/diverse (2.8%), psychiatric (2.5%) and acquired brain injury (0.5%).



Severe or profound disability among children aged 0–14, by age group, 2003, 2009, 2012

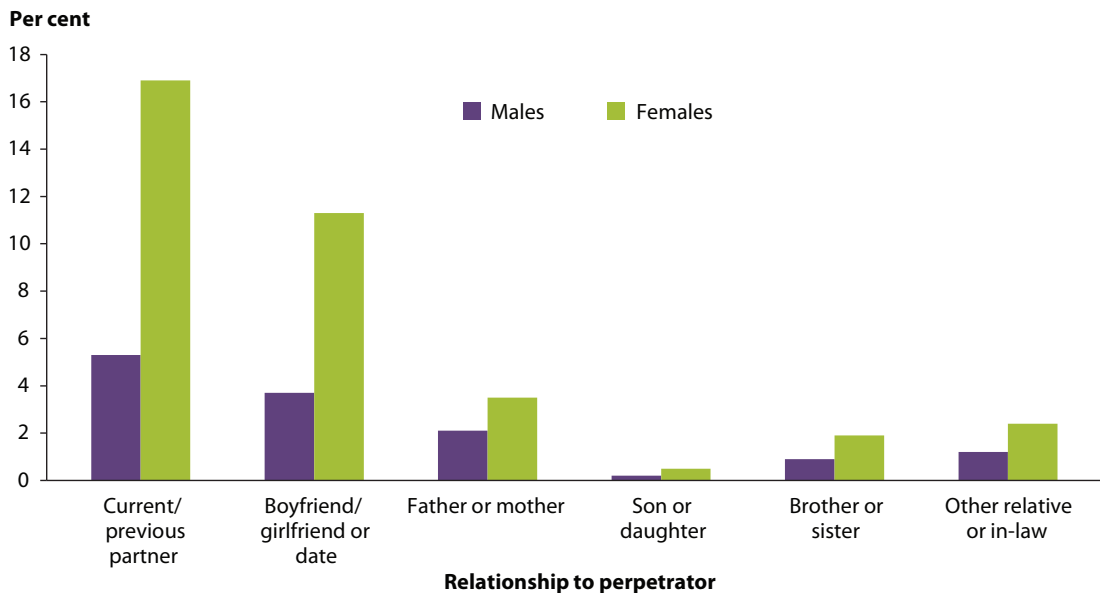
Women more likely to experience domestic and family violence

In 2012, the majority of domestic violence was against women. For example, 85% (51,500) of partner assaults were against women.

Almost 2 million Australians have experienced partner violence since the age of 15, and just over 1 million have experienced physical or sexual violence from another family member.

In 2012–13, Indigenous females were hospitalised for family violence-related assaults at 34 times the rate of non-Indigenous females—and Indigenous males were hospitalised at 28 times the rate of non-Indigenous males.

Domestic violence is a major cause of housing instability and homelessness. In 2013–14, 33% of clients (84,700) were seeking support from specialist homelessness services for domestic violence, and most of these were females aged over 15 (66%). More than one-quarter (26%) were children aged 14 and under.



Experience of violence since the age of 15, by relationship to the perpetrator, by sex, 2012



Section 6

Expenditure and workforce

Australia's welfare system is a complex mix of services, payments and government and non-government providers. This section looks at two of the main components of service delivery: the government spending that funds the services, and the workforce—both paid and voluntary—that helps to deliver them.

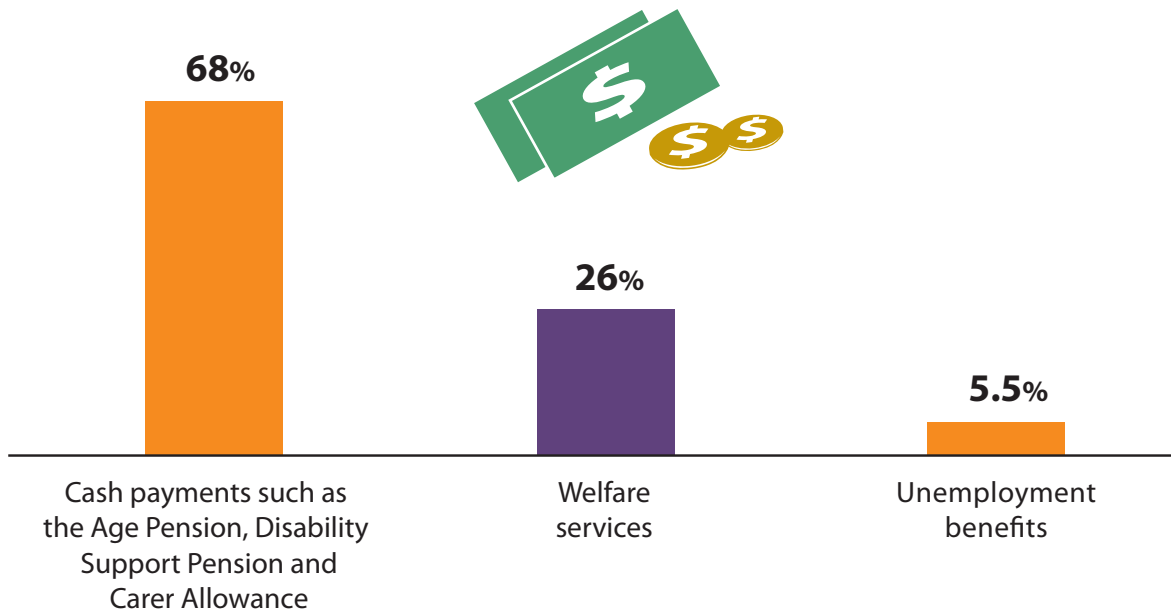
Welfare spending up an average of 2.6% a year

In 2012–13, the Australian and state and territory governments spent \$136.5 billion on welfare.

Welfare spending grew at an average rate of 2.6% per year from 2003–04 to 2012–13 (adjusted for inflation). The growth in welfare spending was slightly lower than overall economic growth of 2.9% per year over the same period.

The biggest portion of government spending in 2012–13—\$93.1 billion (68%)—was in cash payments such as the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Allowance (not including unemployment benefits).

This was followed by \$35.9 billion (26%) for welfare services and \$7.5 billion (5.5%) for unemployment benefits.

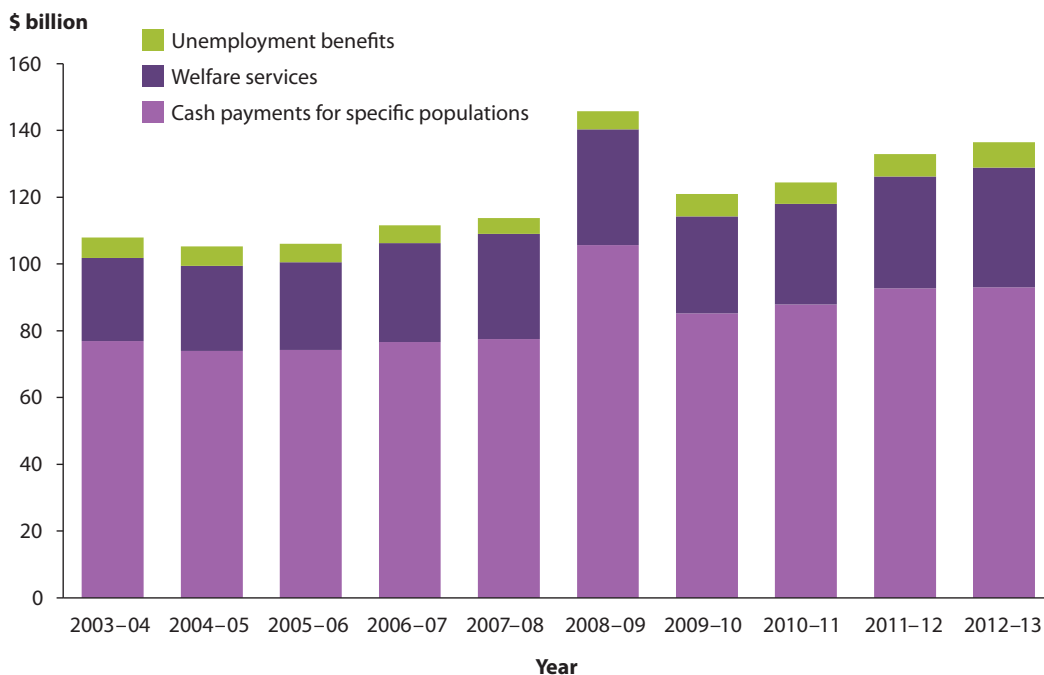
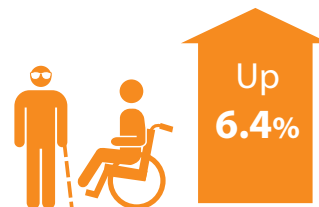


Expenditure and
workforce

Spending on cash payments (excluding unemployment benefits) was up from \$92.8 billion in 2011–12 and \$77.0 billion in 2003–04 (adjusted for inflation).

In 2012–13, the largest share of cash payments—\$40.1 billion—was for older people. Families and children received \$28.2 billion and people with disability received \$22.8 billion.

Between 2003–04 and 2012–13, cash payments grew by 6.4% per year for people with disability and by 2.8% for older people, while it fell by 0.7% per year for families and children.



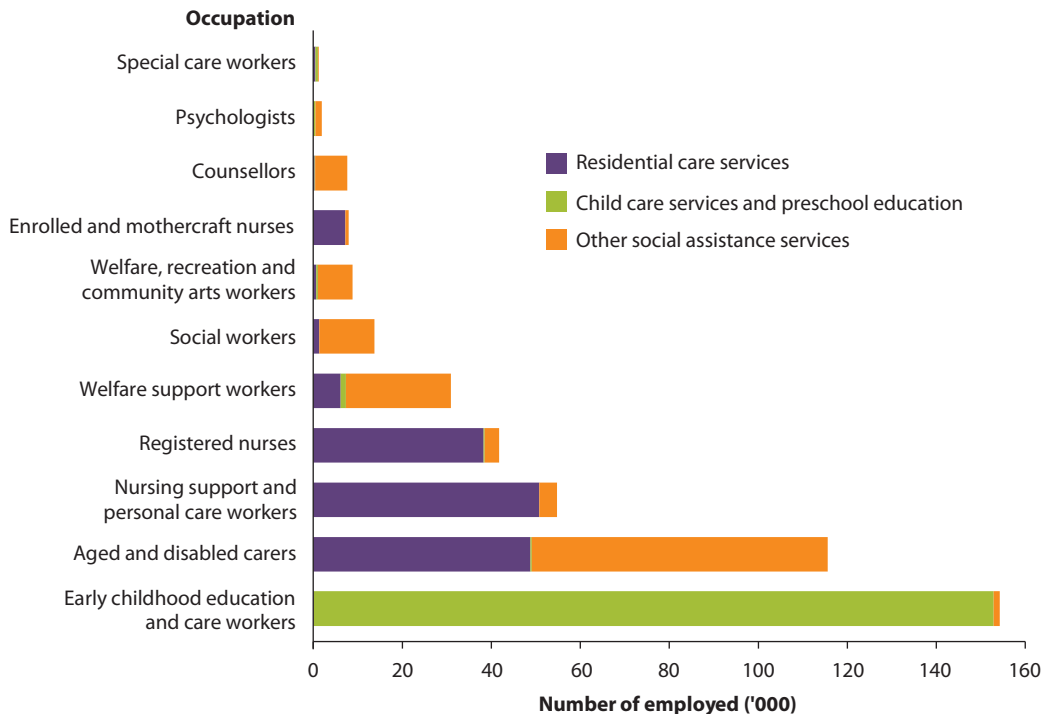
Government welfare expenditure, by type of expenditure, adjusted for inflation, 2003–04 to 2012–13

A diverse welfare workforce

The welfare workforce is made up of people employed in both public and private organisations delivering welfare services, including early childhood education and care, residential care services, and a wide range of other social assistance services.

The workforce includes people in roles involved in direct service provision, and others, such as clerical and management workers. In 2014, there were about 449,000 paid workers in direct service provision roles in organisations providing welfare services. More than one-third of these people (34%) were early childhood education and care workers, mostly working in child care services and preschools.

The next largest group was aged and disabled care workers (26%), mainly working in residential care services and other social assistance services; followed by nursing support and personal care workers (12%), and registered nurses (9%), who were all mostly employed in residential care services.



People employed in direct service provision in welfare services, 2014

Majority of welfare workforce is female

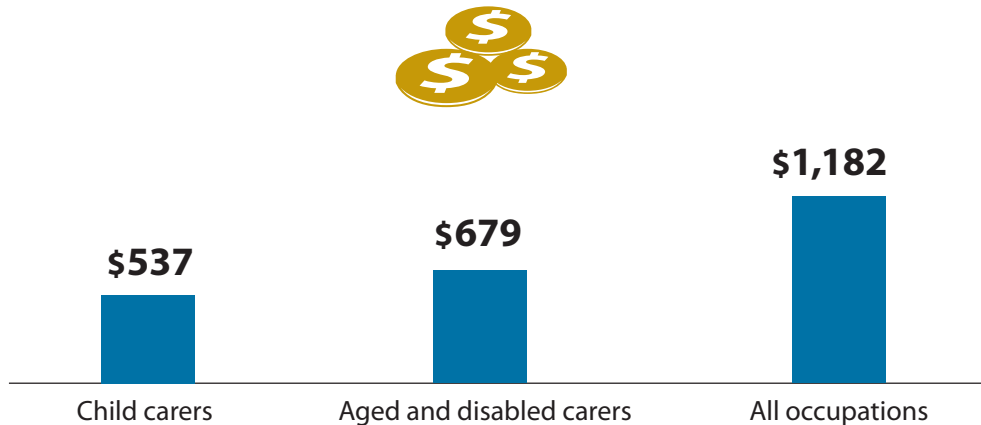
Most welfare workers are female. For example, 94% of workers in child care centres, 90% in aged care services, 84–89% in child protection services and 77% in homelessness services, are female.



The pay earned by some workers in welfare-related fields is less, on average, than in other occupations.

For example, in 2014, the average weekly cash earnings of child carers (\$537) and aged and disabled carers (\$679) were substantially lower than cash earnings of workers across all occupations (\$1,182).

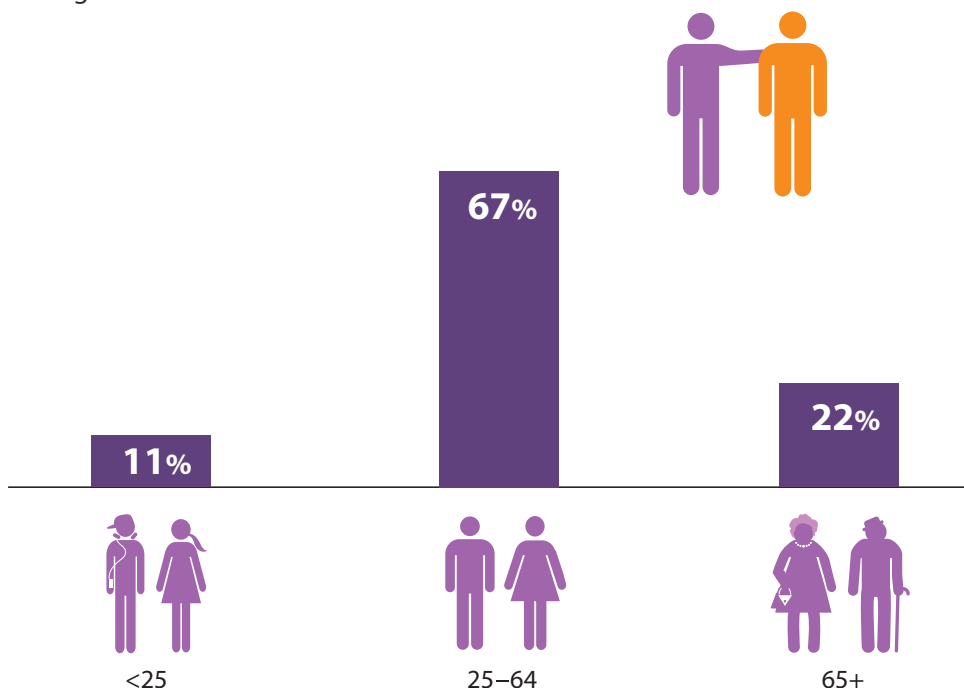
While this gap is partly related to higher numbers of part-time workers, full-time workers in these occupations also tend to earn far less than their counterparts in other occupations.



Most informal carers are of working age

In 2012, about 2.7 million Australians were informal carers, providing help, support or supervision to family members, friends or neighbours with a range of physical and mental health conditions, and disability.

Informal care can include personal care (such as showering and support with eating), in-home supervision, transport, and help with shopping and medical needs. Most informal carers were aged 25–64 (67%), while 22% were aged 65 and over, and 11% were under the age of 25. More women (1.5 million) were carers than men (1.2 million), and most carers (71%) lived with the person receiving care.



The person responsible for the majority of informal caring is called the primary carer. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of primary carers aged 25–64 found it hard to meet everyday living costs because of their caring role.

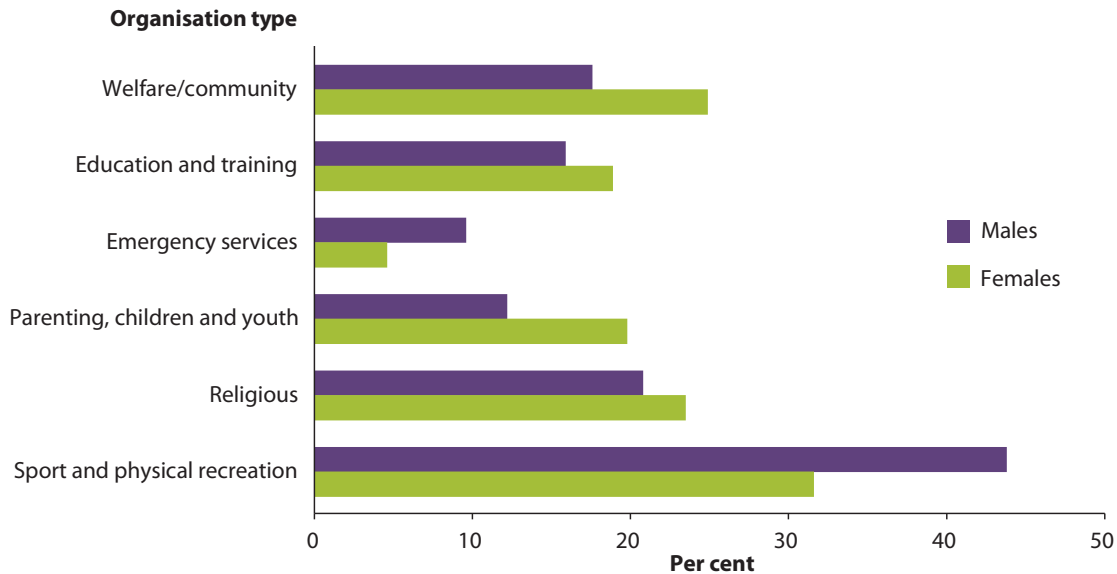
Many people volunteer their time

Australians have a tradition of volunteering in many aspects of community life such as education, sport, safety and emergency services, and welfare services.

In 2010, about 6.1 million people did some voluntary work for an organisation in the previous 12 months. Volunteering rates were highest among people aged 45–54 (44%), followed by those aged 55–64 (43%) and 35–44 (42%).

Women (38%) were more likely to volunteer than men (34%).

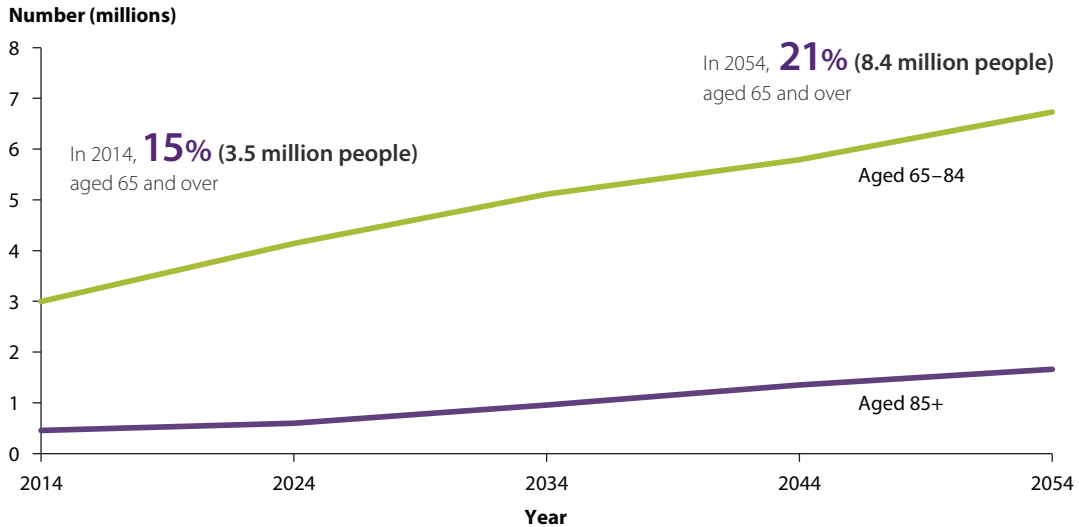
Most volunteers gave their time to sporting and recreation groups (44% of men volunteering, 32% of women), religious groups (21% of men, 24% of women) and welfare and community services (18% of men, 25% of women).



Volunteers aged 18 and over, by selected organisation type and sex, 2010

Key trends in Australia's welfare

Ageing of the population

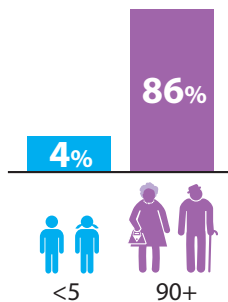


People with disability

In 2012, about 1 in 5 Australians had a disability.



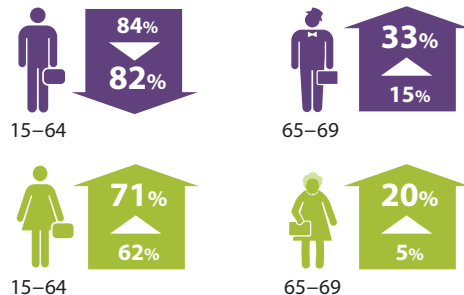
The proportion of the population with disability has remained stable at 19% since 2009.



The prevalence of disability increases with age

Changing workforce

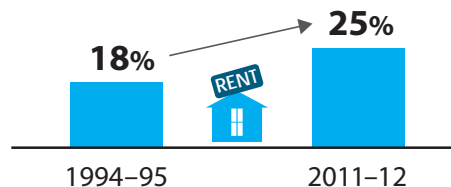
Between 1992 and 2014, the labour force participation rate has changed.



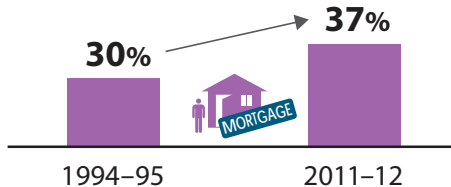
Men retire, on average, at 58 and women at 50. While this has changed little for men since 2004-05, it has increased from 47 years for women.

Home ownership

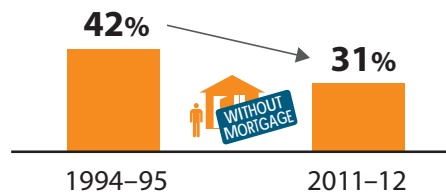
The proportion of households renting



The proportion of households with a mortgage

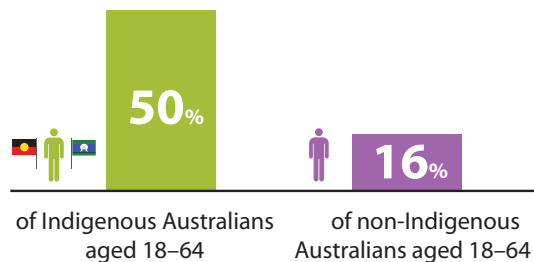


The proportion of households without a mortgage



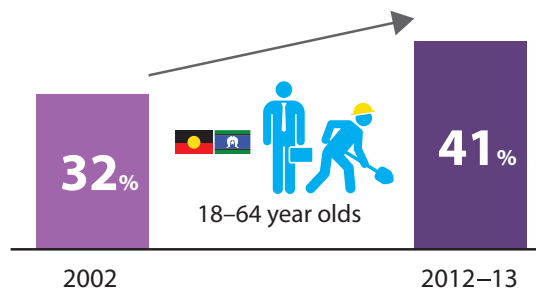
Indigenous Australians

In 2012-13, government payments were the main source of income for



For Indigenous Australians, this proportion is down from 63% in 2002.

Indigenous Australians aged 18-64 whose main source of income was from employment





Australia's welfare 2015—in brief presents highlights from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 12th biennial report on the nation's welfare.

