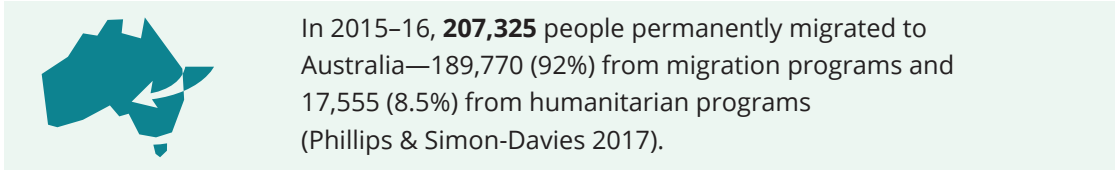
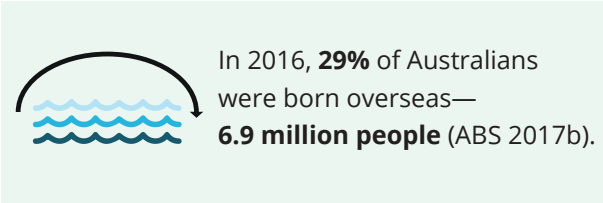
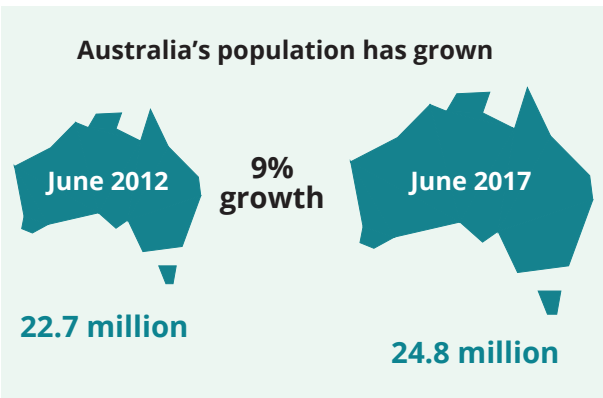
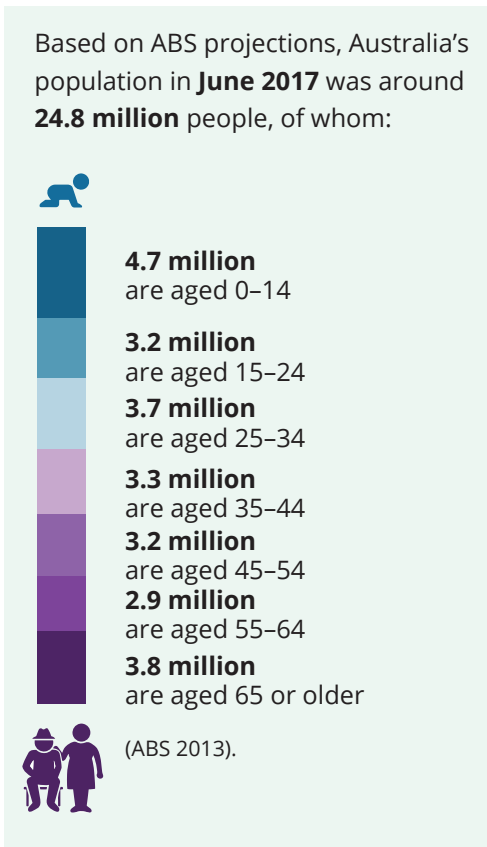




1.1 Who we are

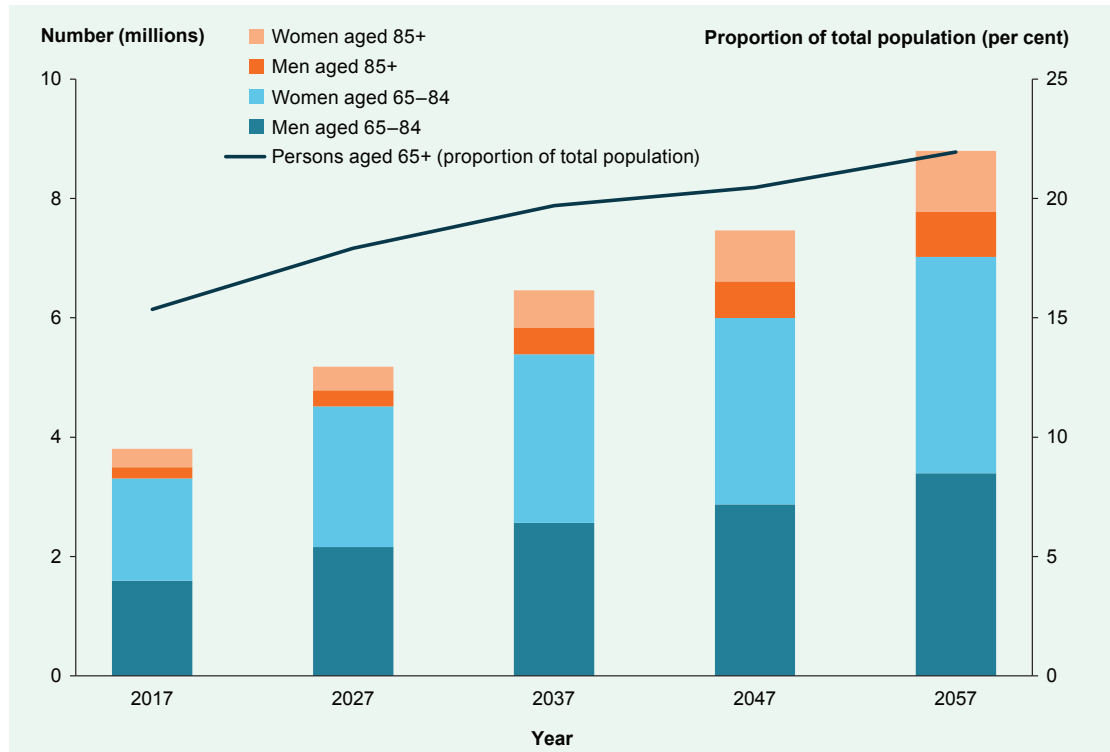
Australia's welfare 2017 draws on a variety of data sources, about people, their wellbeing, and the welfare services they access. Major data sources drawn on are national collections managed by the AIHW and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).





Australia's welfare 2017

Australia's population is ageing. Both the number of older Australians and the proportion of Australia's population aged 65 and over are growing. ABS projections for 2017 show that the 3.8 million people in Australia aged 65 and over make up 15% of our total population of 24.8 million. By 2057, the number of people aged 65 and over is projected to more than double to 8.8 million, making up 22% of the total population of 40.1 million. In 2017, there are around half a million very old (aged 85 and over) Australians, making up 2.0% of the population. This proportion is projected to increase to 4.4% by 2057 (Figure 1.1.1) (ABS 2013).



Source: AIHW analysis of ABS 2013.

Figure 1.1.1: Number and proportion of the population aged 65 and over, by age group and sex, 30 June 2017, 2027, 2037, 2047 and 2057

18%

4.3 million Australians—around **18% of our population**—had a disability in 2015, of whom 1.4 million (5.8%) had a severe or profound core activity limitation (ABS 2016a).

In 2016, **31% (more than 1.2 million)** of children aged 0-12 attended an approved child care service. Nearly 17,700 approved child care services were offered (Productivity Commission 2017).





In 2016, nearly **3.8 million students** were enrolled in more than **9,400 schools across Australia** with nearly two-thirds of students (65%) in government schools, 20% in Catholic schools and 14% in independent schools (ABS 2017c).

In 2015, **78%** of children starting primary school were **'on track' developmentally**; **22%** were developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains, with this proportion being the same as in 2012, and an improvement on 2009 (24%). The rate of Indigenous children found to be developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains has fallen, from 47% in 2009 to 43% in 2012 and 42% in 2015 (AEDC 2016).

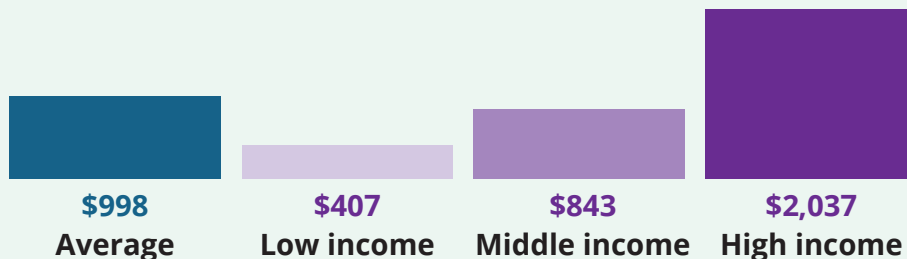


In 2016, around **3.3 million** (31%) of the 10.5 million Australians aged 15–74 with a non-school qualification had a Certificate III/IV and **4.6 million** (44%) had a **Bachelor degree or higher**. The proportion of the total population aged 15–74 holding a Bachelor degree or above has **more than tripled** in the last 30 years, from 7.2% in 1986 to 26% in 2016 (ABS 2016b).

As at April 2017, **77%** of Australians aged 15–64 were participating in the labour force (people working and actively looking for work). Almost **1 in 3** (31%) employed people in this age group worked part time, compared with 10% in 1966. The unemployment rate was **5.7%**—or an average of 730,000 unemployed Australians in this age group each month (ABS 2017a).



In 2013–14, in real terms, the average disposable household income (after adjusting for the number of people in the household) was **\$998 per week**, compared with \$746 in 2003–04 (in 2013–14 dollars). Low-income households had an income of \$407 per week (\$323 in 2003–04), middle-income households \$843 per week (\$657) and high-income households \$2,037 per week (\$1,432) (ABS 2015).





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