

QUEENSLAND CHARACTERISTICS: A STATISTICAL DIVISION COMPARISON

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This bulletin contains comparisons between Queensland statistical divisions (Figure 1) and covers a broad range of demographic characteristics. All data are sourced from the 2001 and 2006 Censuses of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Census data in this bulletin are by place of usual residence unless otherwise stated. Data for 'undefined Queensland' and 'off-shore areas and migratory' are not detailed specifically, but are included in the Queensland totals. As such, the sum of statistical division components may not be equivalent to the Queensland total. The South East Queensland region comprises Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton statistical divisions.

Key points

- Just under half of the Queensland population resided in Brisbane.
- More than one in five persons in the North West identified themselves as Indigenous.
- South East Queensland had a lower proportion of family households than the remainder of Queensland.
- North West recorded the highest percentage of rented dwellings.
- The median weekly rent in Brisbane was more than three times that of the Central West.
- Other than English, the language most spoken at home in South East Queensland was Chinese, while for the remainder of Queensland it was Australian Indigenous Languages.
- Close to one in four persons residing in the Gold Coast were born overseas, while in the South West, less than one person in twenty was born overseas.
- The highest proportion of persons with non-school qualifications resided in Brisbane.
- Wide Bay-Burnett recorded the highest percentage of persons not in the labour force.
- Over one-quarter of employed persons in the Central West worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.
- North West recorded the highest median individual and family weekly income, while Wide Bay-Burnett recorded the lowest median individual and family weekly income.
- In the Central West, approximately one in three persons aged 15 years and over undertook volunteer work.

Population characteristics

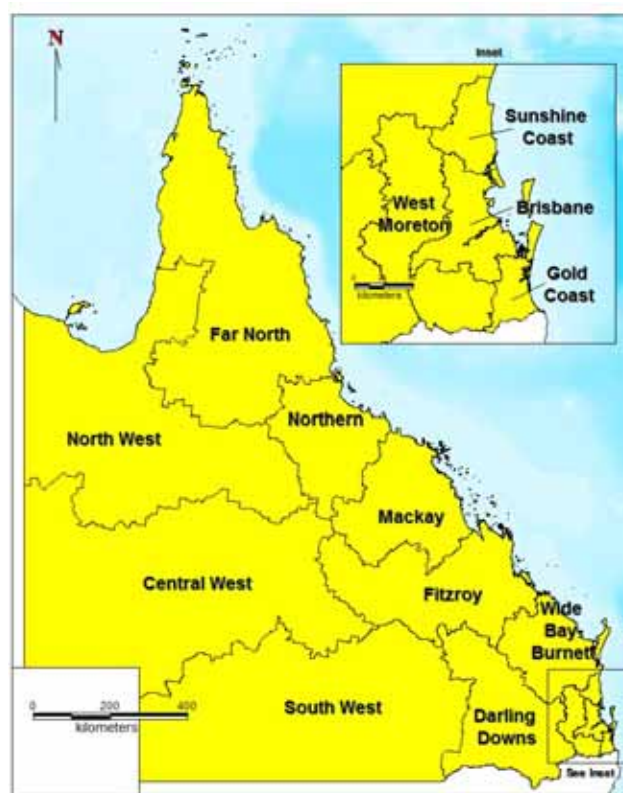
There were 3,904,534 usual residents of Queensland at the time of the 2006 Census, an increase of 382,490 persons since 2001 (Table 1). Brisbane's proportion of the Queensland population increased from 45.0% in 2001 to 45.2% in 2006. The median age in Brisbane was 35 years, while North West recorded the lowest median age (30 years) and Wide Bay-Burnett the highest median age (42 years).

Table 1: Usual resident population by statistical division, Queensland, 2001 and 2006

Statistical division	Population		Proportion of Queensland		Median age
	2001 (a)	2006	2001	2006	2006
	number	number	%	%	years
Brisbane	1,584,967	1,763,132	45.0	45.2	35
Gold Coast	419,454	482,324	11.9	12.4	37
Sunshine Coast	239,289	276,266	6.8	7.1	41
West Moreton	59,426	68,626	1.7	1.8	39
Wide Bay-Burnett	228,045	254,662	6.5	6.5	42
Darling Downs	202,475	213,756	5.7	5.5	37
South West	25,951	24,779	0.7	0.6	35
Fitzroy	174,771	188,403	5.0	4.8	35
Central West	12,163	10,854	0.3	0.3	37
Mackay	132,533	150,177	3.8	3.8	35
Northern	183,290	196,671	5.2	5.0	34
Far North	214,364	231,051	6.1	5.9	35
North West	32,884	30,941	0.9	0.8	30
Queensland	3,522,044	3,904,534	100.0	100.0	36

(a) Data have been concorded from ABS ASGC 2001 to ASGC 2006.
Source: ABS, 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Figure 1: Queensland's statistical divisions, 2006



Based on ABS ASGC 2006.
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Indigenous status

In 2006, there were 127,581 usual residents of Queensland who identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin (Table 2). Far North contained the largest number of persons who were of Indigenous origin (33,122 persons), while North West contained the largest percentage of Indigenous persons (22.7%).

Table 2: Indigenous persons by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

Statistical division	Total	Percentage of
	Indigenous persons	Indigenous persons
	number	%
Brisbane	30,588	1.7
Gold Coast	5,764	1.2
Sunshine Coast	3,346	1.2
West Moreton	1,665	2.4
Wide Bay-Burnett	8,276	3.2
Darling Downs	6,532	3.1
South West	2,735	11.0
Fitzroy	8,923	4.7
Central West	721	6.6
Mackay	5,474	3.6
Northern	12,902	6.6
Far North	33,122	14.3
North West	7,014	22.7
Queensland	127,581	3.3

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Households, families and dwellings

In 2006, the number of households in South East Queensland totalled 933,207 (Table 3). Of these, 677,092 (72.6%) were family households, similar to the remainder of Queensland (73.1%). When compared with the remainder of Queensland, the south-east had a slightly lower proportion of lone person households (22.5% compared with 23.3%), but a higher proportion of group households (5.0% compared with 3.6%).

Table 3: Household type (a), South East Queensland and remainder of Queensland, 2006

Household type (a)	South East Queensland		Remainder of Queensland	
	number	%	number	%
Family households				
Couple family with no children (b)	257,187	27.6	135,518	29.6
Couple family with children (b)	299,269	32.1	144,244	31.5
One parent family	108,245	11.6	50,298	11.0
Other family	12,391	1.3	4,832	1.1
Total family households	677,092	72.6	334,892	73.1
Lone person households	209,822	22.5	106,963	23.3
Group households	46,293	5.0	16,577	3.6
Total	933,207	100.0	458,432	100.0

(a) Excludes visitors only, and other non-classifiable households.

(b) Includes same sex couple families.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

At the time of the 2006 Census, 31.6% of occupied private dwellings in Queensland were fully owned, while 31.1% were being rented (Table 4). North West recorded the highest percentage of rented dwellings (43.5%), Brisbane recorded the highest percentage of dwellings being purchased (36.3%), and Wide Bay-Burnett recorded the highest percentage of fully owned dwellings (41.0%).

Table 4: Tenure type, occupied private dwellings by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

Statistical division	Being						Total (a)
	Fully owned		purchased		Rented		
	dwellings	%	dwellings	%	dwellings	%	dwellings
Brisbane	186,189	29.6	228,014	36.3	194,213	30.9	628,216
Gold Coast	51,970	29.4	59,575	33.7	58,883	33.3	176,957
Sunshine Coast	37,254	35.9	32,875	31.7	29,328	28.3	103,673
West Moreton	9,552	39.2	8,553	35.1	5,370	22.0	24,360
Wide Bay-Burnett	39,134	41.0	27,573	28.9	24,601	25.8	95,335
Darling Downs	28,569	37.0	23,760	30.8	21,962	28.5	77,126
South West	3,298	37.1	2,249	25.3	2,921	32.9	8,888
Fitzroy	20,367	31.5	21,573	33.3	20,466	31.6	64,708
Central West	1,603	40.1	826	20.6	1,396	34.9	4,001
Mackay	16,254	32.5	15,901	31.8	15,964	31.9	50,025
Northern	20,131	29.3	23,200	33.8	22,926	33.4	68,681
Far North	23,113	28.8	23,453	29.2	30,185	37.6	80,270
North West	2,239	23.8	2,564	27.3	4,088	43.5	9,408
Queensland	439,677	31.6	470,114	33.8	432,296	31.1	1,391,632

(a) Includes other tenure type and tenure type not stated.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Table 5 shows the median monthly housing loan repayment and median weekly rent by statistical division in Queensland. Median monthly housing loan repayments ranged from \$672 in Central West to \$1,473 in Gold Coast. Median weekly rent was lowest in Central West (\$70) and highest in Gold Coast (\$260).

Table 5: Median monthly housing loan repayment and median weekly rent by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

Statistical division	Median monthly housing	Median weekly
	loan repayment (a)	rent (b)
	\$	\$
Brisbane	1,300	220
Gold Coast	1,473	260
Sunshine Coast	1,300	235
West Moreton	1,000	150
Wide Bay-Burnett	910	155
Darling Downs	1,027	150
South West	820	90
Fitzroy	1,083	150
Central West	672	70
Mackay	1,300	160
Northern	1,148	170
Far North	1,153	160
North West	1,033	110
Queensland	1,300	200

(a) Of all occupied private dwellings being purchased.

(b) Of all occupied private dwellings being rented.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Language spoken at home

In 2006, 7.8% of the population in Queensland spoke a language other than English at home (Table 6). This proportion of persons was less than Far North (11.9%), which was the highest of all statistical divisions. Central West and South West contained the lowest proportion of persons who spoke a language other than English at home (1.3%).

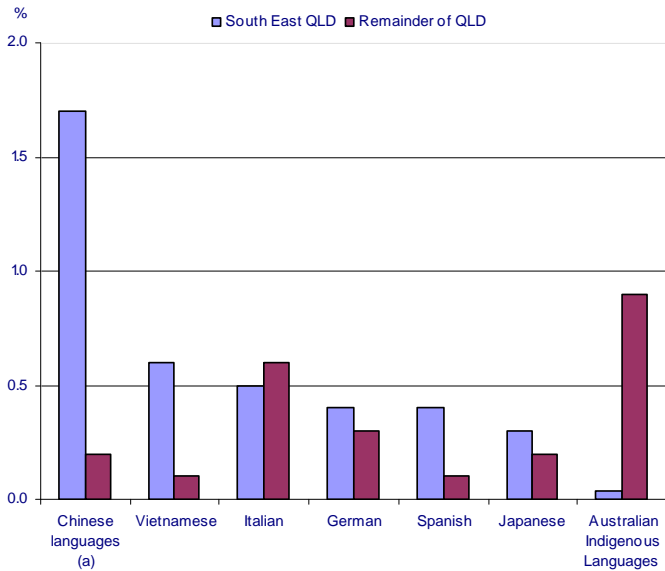
Table 6: Persons who spoke a language other than English at home by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

Statistical division	Spoke a language other than English at home		Total persons
	persons	%	
Brisbane	189,323	10.7	1,763,132
Gold Coast	40,485	8.4	482,323
Sunshine Coast	9,452	3.4	276,265
West Moreton	1,779	2.6	68,629
Wide Bay-Burnett	6,456	2.5	254,661
Darling Downs	6,656	3.1	213,757
South West	325	1.3	24,778
Fitzroy	4,743	2.5	188,402
Central West	141	1.3	10,854
Mackay	4,416	2.9	150,175
Northern	9,834	5.0	196,670
Far North	27,422	11.9	231,050
North West	1,195	3.9	30,942
Queensland	303,096	7.8	3,904,534

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

The top five languages spoken at home in South East Queensland were Chinese (1.7%), Vietnamese (0.6%), Italian (0.5%), German (0.4%) and Spanish (0.4%) (Figure 2). The top five languages spoken at home in the remainder of Queensland were Australian Indigenous Languages (0.9%), Italian (0.6%), German (0.3%), Chinese (0.2%) and Japanese (0.2%).

Figure 2: Proportion of population who spoke a language other than English at home, selected languages, South East Queensland and remainder of Queensland, 2006

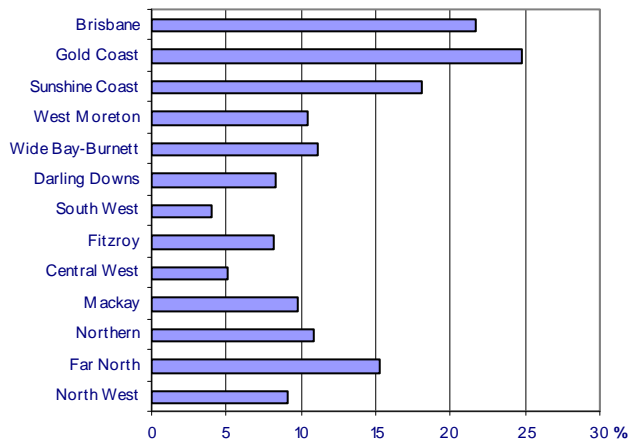


(a) 'Chinese languages' includes Cantonese, Mandarin, and Other Chinese Language.
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Overseas-born persons

Figure 3 shows the proportion of the population born overseas in 2006. Gold Coast contained the highest proportion of persons born overseas (24.8%), while South West contained the lowest proportion of persons born overseas (4.0%). In 2006, the number of overseas-born usual residents of South East Queensland totalled 559,719 or 21.6% of the total population in the region (Table 7). Of the total population in the remainder of Queensland, 10.5% were born overseas.

Figure 3: Percentage of population born overseas by statistical division, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Table 7 shows the ten countries which contributed most to South East Queensland's overseas-born population. South East Queensland contained a higher percentage of all listed countries, when compared with the remainder of Queensland.

Table 7: Overseas-born persons, top ten countries of birth, South East Queensland and remainder of Queensland, 2006

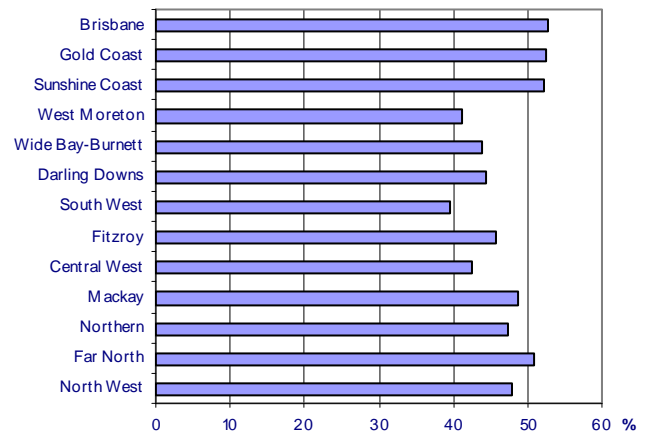
Country	South East Queensland		Remainder of Queensland	
	number	%	number	%
United Kingdom	150,002	5.8	42,042	3.2
New Zealand	121,955	4.7	26,045	2.0
South Africa	18,423	0.7	4,219	0.3
Germany	14,304	0.6	5,692	0.4
China (a)	13,708	0.5	1,317	0.1
Philippines	13,368	0.5	5,296	0.4
Vietnam	12,382	0.5	682	0.1
Netherlands	11,162	0.4	4,022	0.3
United States	9,204	0.4	2,924	0.2
India	9,083	0.4	1,843	0.1
Total overseas	559,719	21.6	136,723	10.5
Total persons	2,590,351	100.0	1,301,288	100.0

(a) Excludes special administrative regions and Taiwan Province.
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Non-school qualifications

At the time of the 2006 Census, a total of 1,560,869 persons in Queensland, or 50.4% of the population aged 15 years and over, stated that they had obtained a non-school qualification. Brisbane contained the highest proportion of persons with non-school qualifications (52.6%), followed closely by Gold Coast (52.5%) and Sunshine Coast (52.2%) (Figure 4). South West contained the lowest proportion of persons with non-school qualifications (39.6%).

Figure 4: Proportion of population aged 15 years and over with a non-school qualification (a) by statistical division, Queensland, 2006



(a) Includes level of education not stated or inadequately described.
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Labour force

In Queensland at the time of the 2006 Census, 1,915,947 persons were part of the labour force, and 971,828 persons were not in the labour force. South West recorded the highest labour force participation (69.3%), followed closely by Central West (68.5%) (Table 8). Wide Bay-Burnett recorded the highest percentage of persons not in the labour force (42.9%), followed by West Moreton (37.4%).

Table 8: Labour force by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

Statistical division	Labour force		Not in the labour force		Total (a)(b) persons
	persons	%	persons	%	
Brisbane	901,622	64.2	417,700	29.7	1,404,384
Gold Coast	235,331	60.0	123,177	31.4	392,163
Sunshine Coast	126,929	57.1	81,837	36.8	222,345
West Moreton	30,202	56.4	20,026	37.4	53,591
Wide Bay-Burnett	103,073	51.0	86,699	42.9	202,174
Darling Downs	101,290	60.9	56,228	33.8	166,443
South West	13,113	69.3	4,715	24.9	18,913
Fitzroy	91,753	63.3	42,861	29.6	145,008
Central West	5,827	68.5	2,109	24.8	8,510
Mackay	75,409	64.3	30,514	26.0	117,339
Northern	98,746	64.2	45,178	29.4	153,710
Far North	112,459	62.9	50,695	28.3	178,858
North West	15,126	66.1	4,913	21.5	22,880
Queensland	1,915,947	61.8	971,828	31.4	3,097,995

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes labour force status not stated.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Industry and occupation of employment

A total of 1,233,608 persons were employed in South East Queensland at the time of the 2006 Census (Table 9). Retail trade was the largest employing industry with 145,947 persons or 11.8%. A further 129,474 persons (10.5%) were employed in health care and social assistance. The statistical division with the largest proportion of its population working in a single industry was Central West with agriculture, forestry and fishing (28.0%).

Table 9: Employed persons (a) by industry, top two, South East Queensland and remainder of Queensland statistical divisions, 2006

Statistical division	Industry	Employed persons (a)	%
South East Qld	Retail trade	145,947	11.8
	Health care & social assistance	129,474	10.5
	Total (b)	1,233,608	100.0
Wide Bay-Burnett	Retail trade	12,108	12.7
	Health care & social assistance	10,540	11.1
	Total (b)	95,276	100.0
Darling Downs	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	11,745	12.1
	Retail trade	11,318	11.7
	Total (b)	96,762	100.0
South West	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	3,300	25.9
	Retail trade	1,247	9.8
	Total (b)	12,721	100.0
Fitzroy	Manufacturing	9,428	10.8
	Retail trade	9,276	10.6
	Total (b)	87,629	100.0
Central West	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	1,581	28.0
	Public administration & safety	745	13.2
	Total (b)	5,650	100.0
Mackay	Mining	8,502	11.7
	Retail trade	7,887	10.8
	Total (b)	72,759	100.0
Northern	Public administration & safety	10,556	11.2
	Retail trade	10,270	10.9
	Total (b)	94,374	100.0
Far North	Retail trade	12,441	11.6
	Public administration & safety	11,483	10.7
	Total (b)	107,469	100.0
North West	Mining	2,892	19.8
	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	1,469	10.1
	Total (b)	14,571	100.0
Queensland	Retail trade	212,423	11.6
	Health care & social assistance	186,332	10.2
	Total (b)	1,825,001	100.0

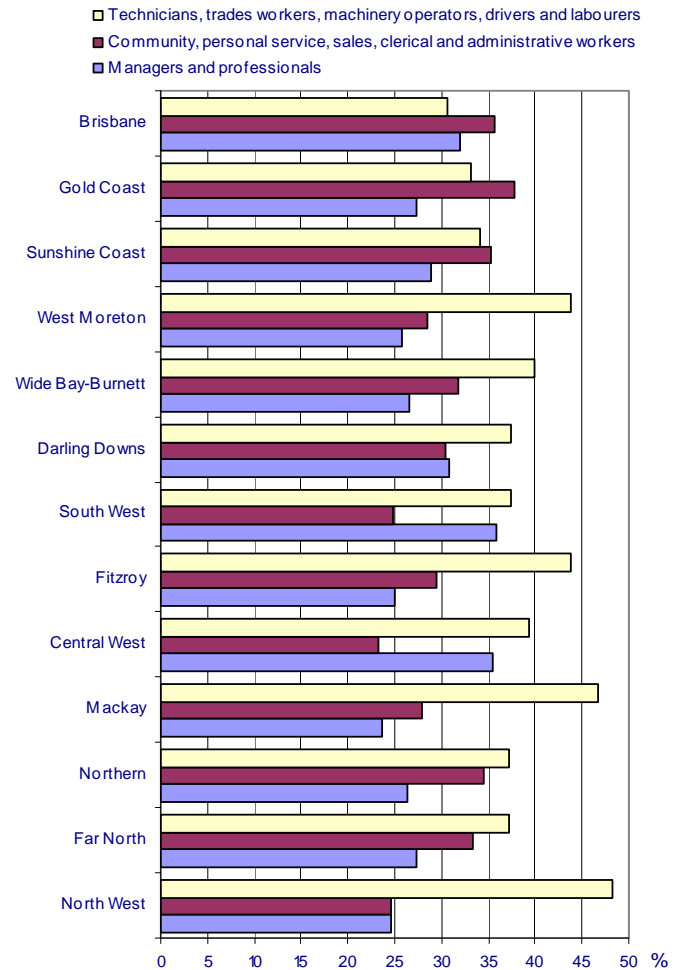
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Includes industry inadequately described / not stated.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

South West contained the highest proportion of employed persons who stated they had an occupation as a manager or a professional (35.9%), while Mackay recorded the lowest proportion with this occupation (23.6%) (Figure 5). Gold Coast contained the highest proportion of persons who stated they had an occupation in community, personal services, sales, clerical and administration (37.7%). North West contained the highest proportion of persons who were employed as technicians, trades workers, machinery operators, drivers and labourers (48.3%).

Figure 5: Employed persons (a) by occupation by statistical division, Queensland, 2006



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Income

At the time of the 2006 Census, North West recorded the highest median individual and family weekly income (\$578 and \$1,443 respectively), while Wide Bay-Burnett had the lowest median individual and family weekly income (\$349 and \$838 respectively) (Table 10).

Table 10: Median weekly individual (a) and family income by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

Statistical division	Median individual income per week (a)	Median family income per week
	— \$ —	
Brisbane	516	1,262
Gold Coast	475	1,132
Sunshine Coast	428	1,048
West Moreton	374	980
Wide Bay-Burnett	349	838
Darling Downs	420	1,059
South West	478	1,083
Fitzroy	481	1,202
Central West	477	1,081
Mackay	521	1,299
Northern	499	1,178
Far North	464	1,090
North West	578	1,443
Queensland	476	1,154

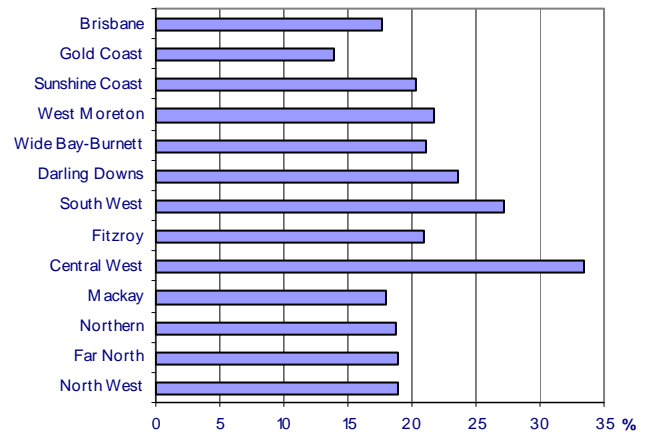
(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Volunteer work

In the 12 months prior to the 2006 Census, 568,230 persons aged 15 years and over in Queensland indicated that they had spent time undertaking unpaid voluntary work through an organisation or group. Central West recorded the highest percentage of persons who undertook volunteer work (33.4%), followed by South West (27.1%) (Figure 6). Gold Coast recorded the lowest percentage of persons who undertook volunteer work (13.9%).

Figure 6: Percentage of persons (a) who undertook volunteer work in the 12 months prior to the 2006 Census, by statistical division, Queensland



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Queensland Treasury

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