

QUEENSLAND CHARACTERISTICS: A STATE COMPARISON

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This bulletin presents comparisons between Queensland and other Australian states and territories. Topics covered include demographic characteristics, non-school qualifications, internet connections, industry and occupation, method of travel to work and unpaid work. The data come from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and are based on place of usual residence. Data for Other Territories are not detailed separately, but are included in the Australian totals. As such, the sum of the state and territory components may not be equivalent to the Australian totals. 'Not stated' responses have been included in totals when calculating percentages.

Key points

- Queensland had the third largest population of the states and territories in 2006, representing 19.7% of Australia's population.
- The population of Queensland was slightly younger than the rest of Australia, with a median age of 36 years.
- Indigenous persons made up 3.3% of the state's population in 2006, compared with 2.3% for Australia.
- Queensland had a greater proportion of family households and group households than the rest of Australia, but a smaller proportion of lone person households.
- The median housing loan repayment in Queensland was the same as that for Australia in 2006, although median rent was slightly higher.
- Only 17.9% of Queenslanders were born overseas, lower than the figure of 23.3% for the rest of Australia.
- Queensland had a lower proportion of residents who spoke a language other than English at home than any other state or territory except Tasmania.
- While half of the state's population aged 15 years and over had a non-school qualification, this proportion was third lowest of all states and territories.
- The internet was connected to 59.0% of occupied private dwellings in Queensland, third behind the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia.
- In Queensland, a greater proportion of persons were employed in 'retail, wholesale and accommodation', 'manufacturing, construction and utilities', and 'primary industries and mining' than in the rest of Australia.
- Queensland had the lowest proportion of 'managers and professionals', but a high proportion of people in the other broad occupation groups compared with other states and territories.
- Assistance was needed with core activities by 4.0% of Queenslanders and 4.2% of the rest of Australia in 2006.
- Queenslanders were more likely to do longer periods of unpaid domestic work than persons in the rest of Australia.
- Voluntary work was done by 18.3% of persons in Queensland, higher than the figure of 17.8% for the rest of the country.

Population characteristics

Queensland had 3.9 million usual residents at the time of the 2006 Census, an increase of 422,200 persons since 2001 (Table 1). As a proportion of the Australian population, Queensland's population increased from 18.7% in 2001 to 19.7% in 2006. Over this five-year period, Queensland's population growth of 12.1% was the largest of all states and territories, and almost twice that of the Australian population (6.8%).

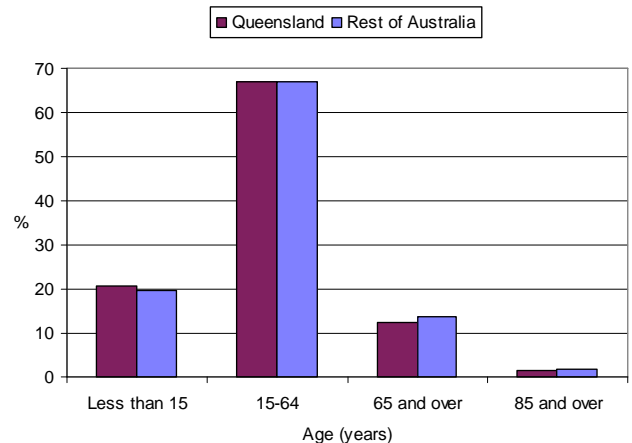
Table 1: Usual resident population, states and territories, 2001 and 2006

State/territory	2001		2006		Change %
	'000	% of Australia	'000	% of Australia	
New South Wales	6,270.8	33.7	6,549.2	33.0	4.4
Victoria	4,625.8	24.9	4,932.4	24.8	6.6
Queensland	3,482.3	18.7	3,904.5	19.7	12.1
South Australia	1,454.8	7.8	1,514.3	7.6	4.1
Western Australia	1,805.5	9.7	1,959.1	9.9	8.5
Tasmania	454.6	2.4	476.5	2.4	4.8
Northern Territory	183.8	1.0	192.9	1.0	5.0
Aust. Cap. Territory	308.2	1.7	324.0	1.6	5.1
Australia	18,588.3	100.0	19,855.3	100.0	6.8

Source: ABS, 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Within Queensland, 20.7% of the population was aged less than 15 years and 67.0% was aged 15–64 years. Persons aged 65 years and over accounted for 12.4% of the population with 1.5% aged 85 years and over. Overall, Queensland had a slightly larger proportion of its population aged less than 15 years and a slightly smaller proportion aged 65 years and over compared with the rest of Australia (Figure 1).

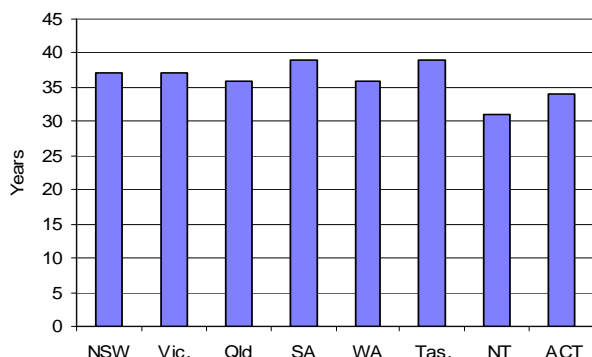
Figure 1: Proportion of population by age, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

At the time of the 2006 Census, Queensland's median age was 36 years, one year less than the Australian median age of 37 years. The population of the Northern Territory had the lowest median age (31 years) while the South Australian and Tasmanian populations both had a median age of 39 years, the highest of all the states and territories (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Median age, states and territories, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Indigenous status

In the 2006 Census, 127,600 usual residents of Queensland identified themselves as being of Indigenous origin, representing 3.3% of the total Queensland population (Table 2). Of this number, 98,700 were Aboriginal, 18,400 were Torres Strait Islander and the remaining 10,500 were of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. Queensland had the second largest Indigenous population after New South Wales. In terms of proportions, Queensland ranked third highest, after the Northern Territory (27.8%) and Tasmania (3.5%).

Table 2: Indigenous persons, states and territories, 2006

State/territory	Aboriginal '000	Torres Strait Islander '000	Both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander '000	Total Indigenous	
				'000	%(a)
New South Wales	130.8	4.8	3.0	138.5	2.1
Victoria	27.1	2.2	0.9	30.1	0.6
Queensland	98.7	18.4	10.5	127.6	3.3
South Australia	24.1	1.0	0.4	25.6	1.7
Western Australia	56.7	1.1	1.0	58.7	3.0
Tasmania	14.9	1.3	0.6	16.8	3.5
Northern Territory	51.7	0.6	1.3	53.7	27.8
Aust. Capital Territory	3.6	0.2	0.1	3.9	1.2
Australia	407.7	29.5	17.8	455.0	2.3

(a) Of the total population in each state or territory.
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Households and families

In 2006, the number of households in Queensland totalled 1.4 million (Table 3). Of this number, 1.0 million (72.7%) were family households, 316,800 (22.8%) were lone person households and 62,900 (4.5%) were group households.

When compared with the rest of Australia, a greater proportion of family households in Queensland were couple families with no children (28.2% compared with 26.0%), and a smaller proportion were couple families with children (31.9% compared with 33.1%). Queensland had a lower proportion of lone person households than the rest of Australia (22.8% compared with 24.7%), and a higher proportion of group households (4.5% compared with 3.8%).

Table 3: Household type, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006

Household type(a)	Queensland		Rest of Australia	
	'000	%	'000	%
Family household				
Couple family with no children	392.7	28.2	1,495.0	26.0
Couple family with children	443.5	31.9	1,902.1	33.1
One parent family	158.5	11.4	641.2	11.1
Other family	17.2	1.2	72.5	1.3
Total family households	1,012.0	72.7	4,110.8	71.5
Lone person household	316.8	22.8	1,423.7	24.7
Group household	62.9	4.5	218.0	3.8
Total all households	1,391.6	100.0	5,752.5	100.0

(a) Of occupied private dwellings. Excludes 'Visitors only' and 'Other not classifiable' households.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Queensland's median monthly housing loan repayment of \$1,300 was equivalent to the Australian median (Table 4). This amount was ranked third out of all the states and territories, behind New South Wales (\$1,517) and the Australian Capital Territory (\$1,500), and equivalent to the Northern Territory.

The median weekly rent amount of \$200 paid in Queensland was \$10 a week higher than the national median of \$190. The Australian Capital Territory (\$260) and New South Wales (\$210) recorded median weekly rent amounts higher than in Queensland while the lowest was recorded in Tasmania (\$135).

Table 4: Median monthly housing loan repayment and median weekly rent, states and territories, 2006

State/territory(a)	Median monthly housing loan repayment(b)	Median weekly rent(c)
	\$	\$
New South Wales	1,517	210
Victoria	1,252	185
Queensland	1,300	200
South Australia	1,018	150
Western Australia	1,213	170
Tasmania	867	135
Northern Territory	1,300	140
Australian Capital Territory	1,500	260
Australia	1,300	190

(a) Location of dwelling.

(b) Of occupied private dwellings being purchased.

(c) Of occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes rent-free.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Overseas-born persons

In 2006, there were 699,400 people usually resident in Queensland who were born overseas, representing 17.9% of Queensland's total population. Compared with other states and territories, this proportion was the third lowest. Western Australia ranked the highest, with 27.1% of the population being born overseas, while Tasmania ranked the lowest with 10.6%.

Table 5 shows the ten countries which contributed most to Queensland's overseas-born population. Persons born in the United Kingdom (193,100 persons) accounted for the largest proportion of Queensland's overseas-born population, representing 4.9% of the state's total population. New Zealand was the second largest contributor with 148,800 persons, or 3.8% of the Queensland population.

Table 5: Top 10 countries of birth, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006

Country of birth	Queensland		Rest of Australia
	'000	%	%
United Kingdom	193.1	4.9	5.3
New Zealand	148.8	3.8	1.5
South Africa	22.7	0.6	0.5
Germany	20.1	0.5	0.5
Philippines	18.7	0.5	0.6
Netherlands	15.3	0.4	0.4
China(a)	15.1	0.4	1.2
Italy	14.0	0.4	1.2
Vietnam	13.1	0.3	0.9
Papua New Guinea	12.6	0.3	0.1
<i>Total born overseas(b)</i>	<i>699.4</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>23.3</i>
Total persons(c)	3,904.5	100.0	100.0

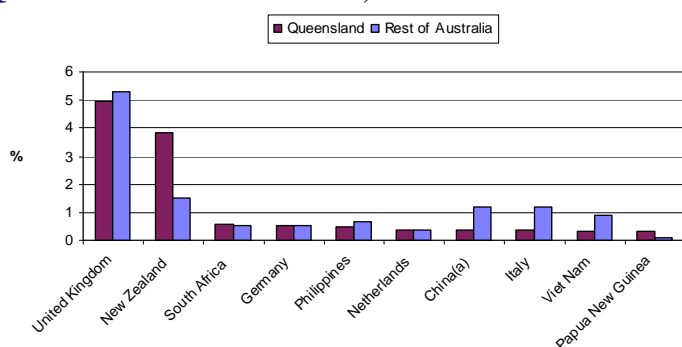
(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions (Hong Kong and Macau) and Taiwan Province.

(b) Includes 'Inadequately described', 'At sea', and 'Not elsewhere classified'.

(c) Includes 'Country of birth not stated'.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

When compared with the rest of Australia, Queensland's population had a higher proportion of New Zealand-born persons (3.8% compared with 1.5% of the rest of Australia's population). Conversely, Queensland's population had lower proportions of persons born in the United Kingdom, China, Italy and Viet Nam than the rest of Australia (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Proportion of population by country of birth, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006


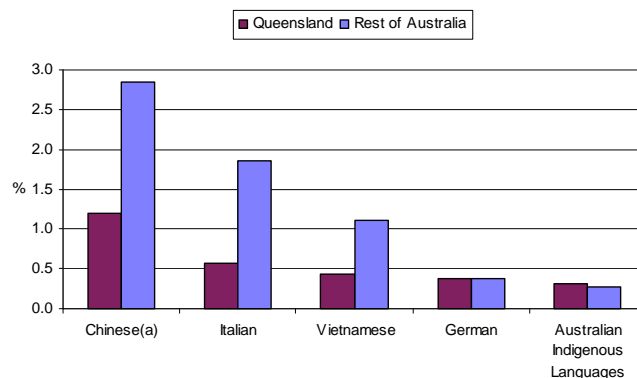
(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions (Hong Kong and Macau) and Taiwan Province.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Language spoken at home

In 2006, 303,100 usual residents of Queensland spoke a language other than English at home, representing 7.8% of the state's population. Proportionally, only Tasmania had fewer residents (3.5%) who spoke a language other than English at home, while the Northern Territory had the highest (23.2%).

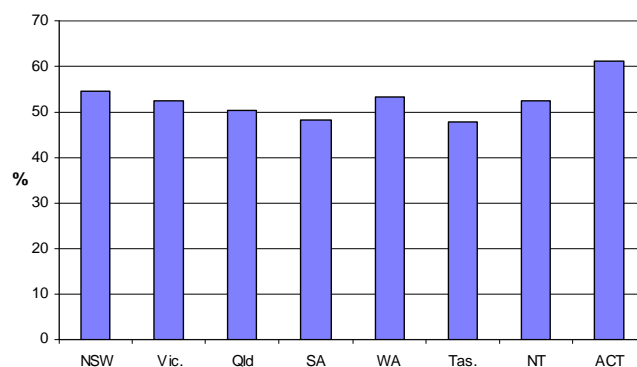
Chinese (1.2%) was the most common language spoken by Queenslanders who spoke a language other than English at home, followed by Italian (0.6%), Vietnamese (0.4%), German (0.4%) and Australian Indigenous Languages (0.3%). When compared with the rest of Australia, Queensland had lower proportions of persons who spoke Chinese, Italian and Vietnamese, and similar proportions who spoke German and Australian Indigenous Languages (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Proportion of population who spoke a language other than English at home by selected languages, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006


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

Non-school qualifications

At the time of the 2006 Census, a total of 1.6 million persons living in Queensland stated they had obtained a non-school qualification (50.4% of the population aged 15 years and over). Only Tasmania (47.9%) and South Australia (48.3%) had lower proportions, while the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of persons with non-school qualifications (61.3%) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Proportion of population aged 15 years and over with a non-school qualification, states and territories, 2006


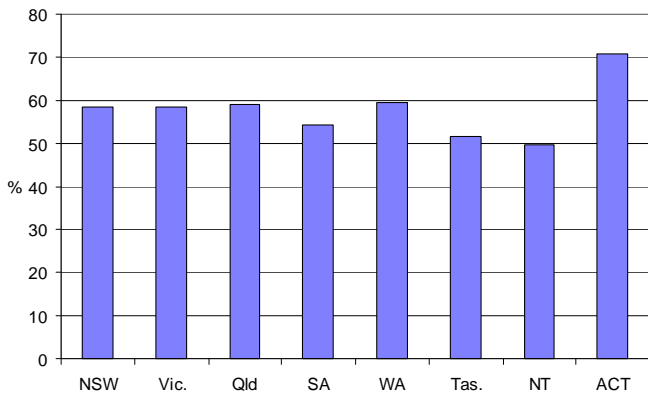
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Internet connection

At the time of the 2006 Census, 59.0% of occupied private dwellings in Queensland had an internet connection (Figure 6). The Australian Capital Territory had the highest rate of connection (70.8%) while the Northern Territory had the lowest connection rate (49.8%).

Of those occupied private dwellings in Queensland with an internet connection, 63.7% had broadband, 35.3% had dial-up and 1.0% had other types of connections. These rates were similar to those of the rest of Australia (64.0%, 35.0% and 1.0% respectively).

Figure 6: Proportion of occupied dwellings with internet connection, states and territories, 2006



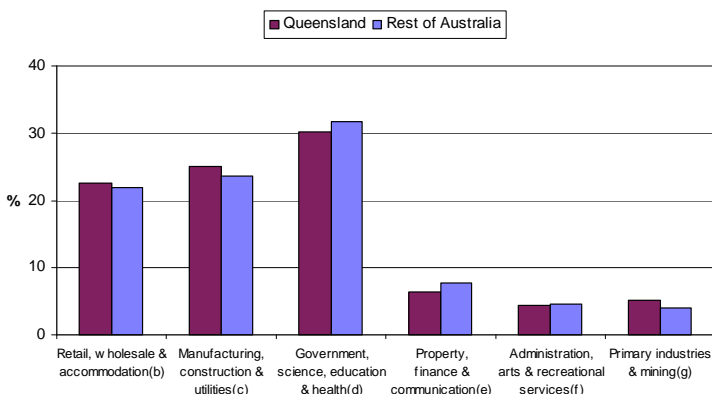
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Industry and occupation of employment

A total of 1.8 million persons aged 15 years and over were employed in Queensland at the time of the 2006 Census. Just under a third (550,300 persons or 30.2%) were employed in the ‘government, science, education and health’ industries, and a further 456,300 persons (25.0%) were employed in the ‘manufacturing, construction and utilities’ industries.

When compared with the rest of Australia, Queensland had a higher proportion of employed persons in the industries of ‘retail, wholesale and accommodation’ (22.6%), ‘manufacturing, construction and utilities’ (25.0%) and ‘primary industries and mining’ (5.1%). The ‘government, science, education and health’ (30.2%), ‘property, finance and communication’ (6.4%) and ‘administration, arts and recreational services’ (4.4%) industries were under-represented in Queensland compared with the rest of Australia (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Proportion of employed persons aged 15 years and over by industry(a), Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006

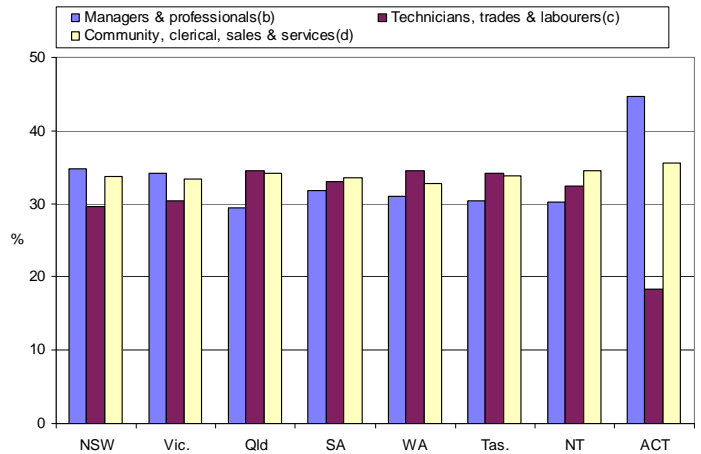


- (a) Industry of employment was coded to the 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).
- (b) Comprises ‘retail trade’, ‘wholesale trade’ and ‘accommodation and food services’.
- (c) Comprises ‘manufacturing’, ‘electricity, gas, water and waste services’, ‘construction’ and ‘transport, postal and warehousing’.
- (d) Comprises ‘professional, scientific and technical services’, ‘public administration and safety’, ‘education and training’ and ‘health care and social assistance’.
- (e) Comprises ‘information media and telecommunications’, ‘financial and insurance services’, and ‘rental, hiring and real estate services’.
- (f) Comprises ‘administrative and support services’ and ‘arts and recreation services’.
- (g) Comprises ‘agriculture, forestry and fishing’ and ‘mining’.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Queensland had the lowest proportion of employed persons aged 15 years and over in the ‘managers and professionals’ occupation groups (538,600 persons or 29.5%) of all the states and territories. The Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion of employed persons in these occupation groups (44.7%), followed by New South Wales with 34.8% (Figure 8). The proportion of Queensland’s employed persons in the ‘technicians, trades and labourers’ occupation groups (34.5%) was second to Western Australia (34.6%). At the time of the 2006 Census, 624,600 Queenslanders were employed in the ‘community, clerical, sales and services’ occupation groups, representing 34.2% of employed persons in the state.

Figure 8: Proportion of employed persons aged 15 years and over by occupation(a), states and territories, 2006



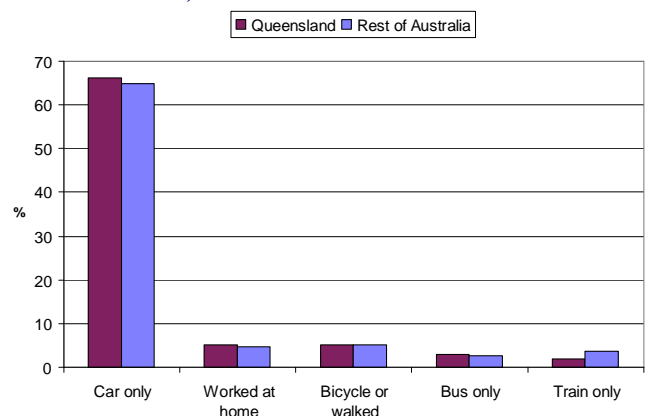
- (a) Occupation of employment was coded to the 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).
- (b) Comprises ‘managers’ and ‘professionals’.
- (c) Comprises ‘technicians and trades workers’, ‘machinery operators and drivers’ and ‘labourers’.
- (d) Comprises ‘community and personal service workers’, ‘clerical and administrative workers’ and ‘sales workers’.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Method of travel to work

The most popular method of travel to work on the day of the 2006 Census by employed persons aged 15 years and over located in Queensland was by car (either as a driver or as a passenger). About 1.2 million or 66.1% of all employed persons used this method of travel. This proportion was slightly higher than for the rest of Australia, where 65.0% of people travelled to work by car (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Proportion of employed persons aged 15 years and over(a) by method of travel to work, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006



- (a) Based on place of enumeration. Excludes overseas visitors.
- Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

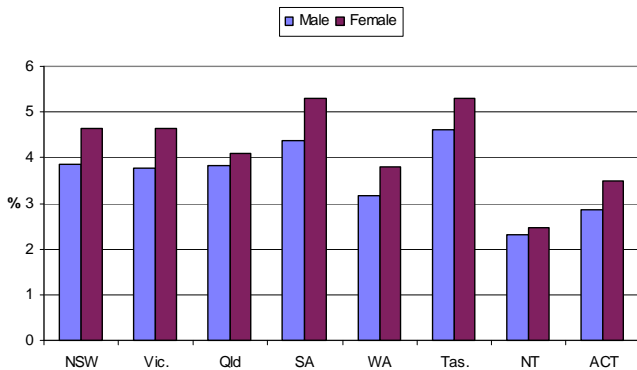
The proportions of persons in Queensland who either worked at home (5.1%), rode a bicycle or walked to work (5.1%), or took a bus to work (2.8%) were similar to those of the rest of Australia. However, compared with the rest of Australia, Queensland had a lower proportion of persons who took a train to work (2.0% compared with 3.7%).

Need for assistance with core activities

According to the 2006 Census, 4.0% of Queenslanders needed help or assistance with one or more of the three core activities: self-care, mobility and communication. This was slightly lower than the proportion for the rest of Australia (4.2%).

In every state and territory, females were more likely to need assistance with core activities than males (Figure 10). In Queensland, 4.1% of females and 3.8% of males needed assistance. Females living in South Australia and Tasmania (both 5.3%) and males living in Tasmania (4.6%) were most likely to need assistance, reflecting the older populations in these states.

Figure 10: Proportion of population needing assistance with core activities(a) by sex, states and territories, 2006

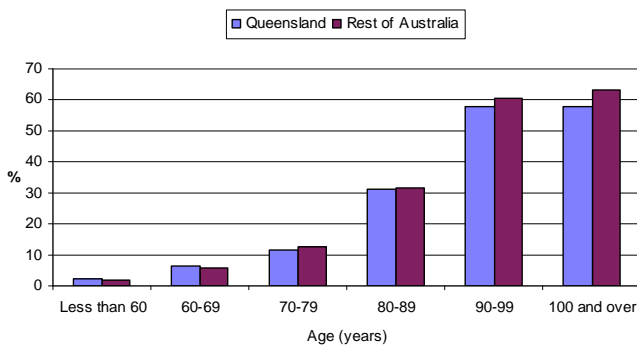


(a) Persons needing assistance with one or more of the three core activities (self-care, mobility and communication) because of a long term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability or old age.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

The need for assistance with core activities increased with age. In 2006, 2.0% of Queenslanders aged less than 60 years required assistance with core activities while the proportion needing assistance for each subsequent ten-year age group increased substantially: from 6.0% of those aged 60–69 years to 58.0% of those aged 100 years and over. This pattern was consistent with the rest of Australia (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Proportion of population needing assistance with core activities(a) by age, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006



(a) Persons needing assistance with one or more of the three core activities (self-care, mobility and communication) because of a long term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability or old age.

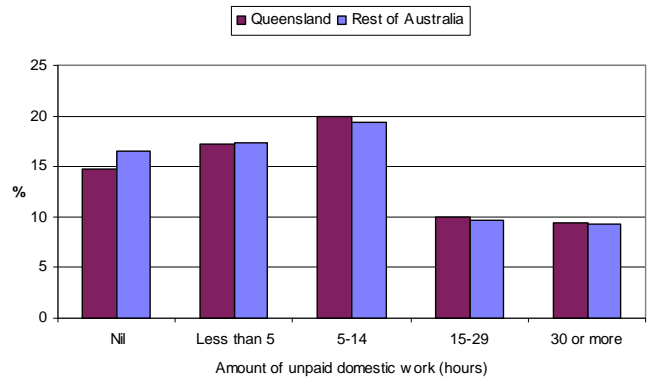
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Unpaid work

Unpaid domestic work

In the week prior to the 2006 Census, 40.2% of the Queensland population aged 15 years and over did less than 5 hours or no unpaid domestic work. Similarly, 42.1% of the rest of Australia's population undertook the same amount of unpaid domestic work within the same period. Longer periods of unpaid domestic work (15 or more hours) were undertaken by nearly one-quarter (24.4%) of the Queensland population aged 15 years and over and 23.6% of the population of the other states and territories (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Proportion of population aged 15 years and over by amount of unpaid domestic work(a), Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006



(a) Amount of unpaid domestic work done in the week prior to the census.
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Unpaid child care

In 2006, Queenslanders were relatively consistent with residents in the rest of Australia regarding the provision of unpaid child care. In the two weeks prior to the census, 20.1% of Queenslanders aged 15 years and over provided care for their own children only compared with 19.2% in the rest of Australia. A further 8.0% in both Queensland and the rest of Australia provided care for other children, or for both their own and other children.

In all states and territories, females tended to provide care more than males and both sexes were more likely to care for their own children than for other children. In 2006, 32.5% of females and 23.7% of males aged 15 years and over living in Queensland provided unpaid child care while in the rest of Australia 31.2% of females and 22.9% of males provided this care (Table 6).

Table 6: Proportion of population aged 15 years and over by type of unpaid child care and sex, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006

Type of unpaid child care(a)	Queensland			Rest of Australia		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	— % —					
Cared for own child/children	18.3	21.9	20.1	17.6	20.7	19.2
Cared for other child/children	4.8	9.0	6.9	4.8	9.1	7.0
Cared for own child/children and other child/ children	0.6	1.6	1.1	0.6	1.4	1.0
Did not provide child care	66.1	58.9	62.5	67.3	60.1	63.6
Total (b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	— persons ('000) —					
Total (b)	1,521.5	1,576.5	3,098.0	6,256.4	6,563.7	12,820.1

(a) Type of unpaid child care provided for a child or children, including own or other children, in the two weeks prior to the census.

(b) Includes not stated.

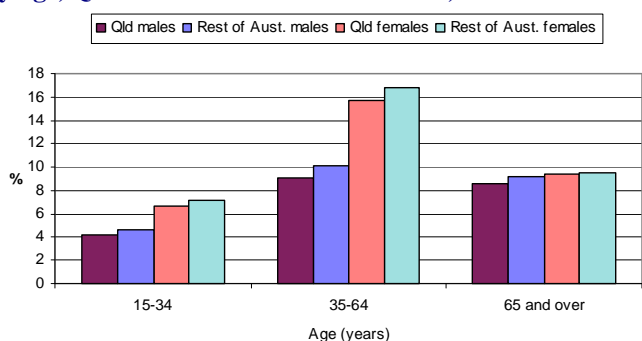
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Unpaid assistance to a person with a disability

In the two weeks prior to the 2006 Census, 9.5% of Queenslanders and 10.2% of other Australians aged 15 years and over provided unpaid assistance to one or more persons with a disability, a long term illness or a problem related to old age. Comparing Queensland with the rest of Australia, both males (7.3%) and females (11.6%) in Queensland were slightly less likely to provide such care than males (8.1%) and females (12.3%) in the rest of Australia.

Persons aged 35–64 years were more likely to provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, illness or age-related problems than other age groups (Figure 13). The proportion of care providers in Queensland across all age groups was slightly lower than the corresponding proportions for the rest of Australia.

Figure 13: Proportion of population aged 15 years and over providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability(a) by age, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006



(a) Provided unpaid assistance to one or more persons with a disability, a long term illness or a problem related to old age to assist them with daily activities in the two weeks prior to the census.

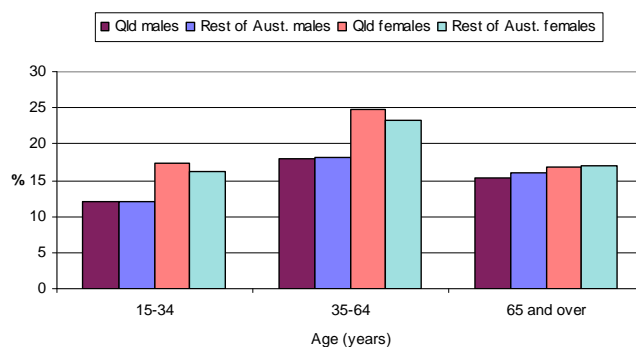
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Voluntary work

In the 12 months prior to the 2006 Census, 18.3% of Queenslanders aged 15 years and over did some voluntary work through an organisation or group compared with 17.8% of persons in the rest of Australia. In Queensland, females were more likely than males to do volunteer work (21.1% of females and 15.5% of males) and this pattern was consistent with the rest of Australia (19.8% of females and 15.7% of males).

Both males and females aged 35–64 years were more likely to do volunteer work than other age groups (Figure 14) and this was true for both Queensland and the rest of Australia.

Figure 14: Proportion of population aged 15 years and over who did unpaid voluntary work(a) by age, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2006



(a) Did unpaid voluntary work through an organisation or group in the 12 months prior to the census.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Queensland Treasury

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

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