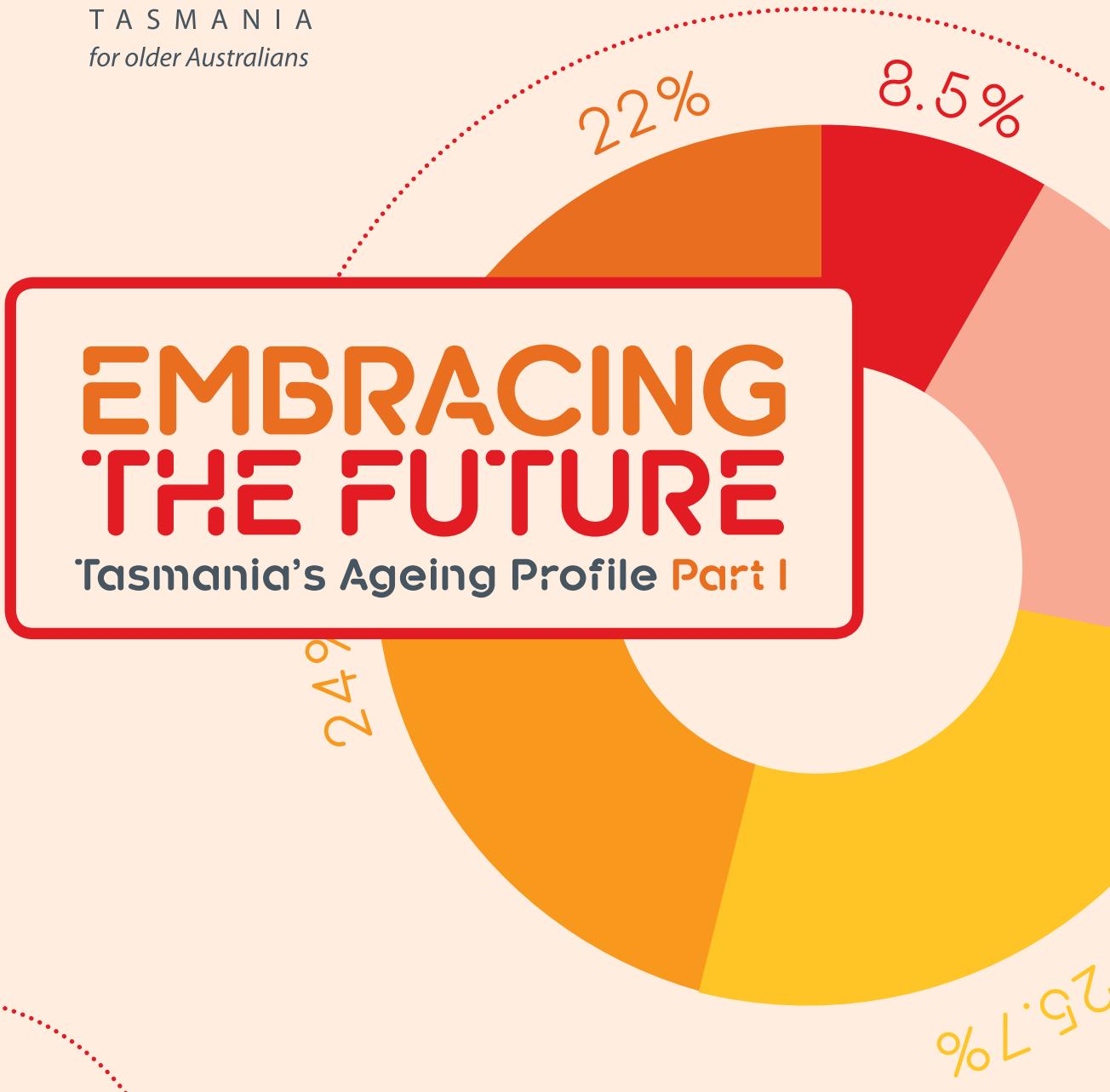
COTA TASMANIA
for older Australians



EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I

SUPPORTED BY

Tasmanian Government

COTA Tasmania would like to acknowledge the contribution from Naiche Hicks who provided statistical and analytical advice to this report.

COTA (Council on the Ageing Tasmania) and *Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I* is supported by the Tasmanian Government through *Strong, Liveable Communities: Tasmania's Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022*.

Foreword CEO

COTA Tasmania is the leading voice for Tasmanians as we age, both now and into the future. A key component of our work is to raise awareness about older Tasmanians and their contributions to our society, and identify those who need support the most. Ageing in Tasmania is something to look forward to as many people live longer but also healthier lives. Older people contribute significantly to our community, and Tasmania provides fantastic opportunities for older people to remain engaged and live meaningful lives.

The *Embracing the Future* series builds on COTA's *Facing the Future: A Baseline Profile on Older Tasmanians* report from 2013. This first report, *Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I*, identifies how and where our State is ageing. Responding to an ageing population is the responsibility of the State Government and local communities, and it must be a collaborative approach that takes individual and generational needs into account. Initiatives and policies that support an older population will benefit people of all ages, mobility and circumstance, so any well thought out planning for an ageing population will have far-reaching and long-lasting impact.

This report clearly demonstrates that Tasmania is the oldest state or territory in Australia and that our population structure is ageing the fastest. Rather than being viewed as something negative, there is great opportunity for Tasmania to take a lead in supporting its ageing population and setting a benchmark for the rest of Australia. Tasmania could be the experts for age-friendly planning, if it grabs the opportunity with two hands.

Yes, we need to accept that there are challenges that come with an ageing population. But rather than being concerned by this, Tasmania can ready itself and make the most of this change. Things will have to be done differently, we cannot continue to provide aged care as we have in the past, our attitudes towards ageing must change and we must keep pace with changes to how people live as technology changes. But all this is possible, if all Tasmanians can embrace the future and their part in it.

SUE LEITCH
CEO COTA Tasmania

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Executive Summary

Embracing the Future – Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I is the first publication in a series of reports that provide current data about older Tasmanians. These reports will improve understanding of Tasmania's ageing population and the opportunities and challenges that come with this demographic shift. This series will inform policy and initiatives across the State and aid government to identify priority areas for services, programs, education and development that supports Tasmanians as they age, now and in the future. *Embracing the Future – Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I* presents data about what Tasmania's ageing population looks like, where ageing is occurring and what it will look like in the future. In essence, this report reveals the 'what' and 'where' of ageing in Tasmania.

Population ageing is a global phenomenon and Tasmania is leading Australia in this trend. Of all Australian states and territories, Tasmania has the highest median age of 42 years, the highest proportion of the population aged over 65 years at 19.4% (almost 100,000 people), and the fastest growth in this population, which increased by 7.0% and almost 30,000 people from 1996 to 2016. As the State has the second lowest life expectancy and highest fertility rates in Australia, this shift is likely to be caused by migration of young people away from Tasmania and arrival of older people to it.

Despite Tasmania being a small sized state with one of the smallest populations in Australia, there are significant differences in the age profile of local government areas (LGAs), regions and remoteness areas across the state. Regions outside of major centres tend to have a higher proportion of the population aged over 65 years. Tasmania's population will continue to age and about 25% of the population is predicted to be aged over 65 years by 2037, with this proportion expected to exceed 40% in at least four LGAs. Almost a third of Tasmania's population is predicted to be over 65 years of age by 2060. Given that recent population projection series underestimated the number and proportion of Tasmania's population aged over 65 years in 2016, the actual numbers and proportions in the future may be higher as well.

Tasmania should embrace its ageing population, but also needs to plan for it. As the proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 year's increases, the proportion of people of 'working age' (15 to 64 years old) is decreasing. This has implications and presents challenges for Tasmania's social and economic prosperity, but population ageing also presents many opportunities.

Older Tasmanians contribute to their communities in a range of ways including caring for children and grandchildren, sharing knowledge with younger generations and supporting economic productivity. Older Tasmanians can continue to provide value to their communities and Tasmania as a whole even with changing capacity that may require activities to be adapted in order for them to engage successfully. Planning, policy and programs to support an ageing population must enable Tasmanians of any age, mobility, background or culture to engage meaningfully. A key issue that must be confronted to ensure that all Tasmanians can age well is ageism, which is one of the greatest barriers to older people's ability to effectively engage in employment and community life. Ageism exacerbates the challenges of an ageing population by reducing the opportunities for older people to engage and escalating negative physical and mental health issues associated with ageing.

It is important to acknowledge that there will be challenges associated with an ageing population. Even the healthiest person is likely to experience some level of physical or cognitive decline as they age, and the most engaged employee will want to retire at some point.

This will increase pressure on the health system, family and friend carers, formal aged care, community support services, demand for affordable and appropriate housing, and government income support. Many of these challenges can be eased with appropriate planning through government and community. Well-considered, place-based policies and initiatives that include the voices of older people and take a holistic view of ageing can effectively support people to age well and enable Tasmania to harness the life experience and contributions of an ageing population.

Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I provides insight into Tasmania's ageing population, enabling improved and targeted planning from government, services and community for this population shift. There are many examples of successful initiatives and policies across Australia and globally that Tasmania can learn from and adapt to plan for an ageing population. Well-considered action now will benefit current and future older Tasmanians. Only by embracing its ageing population can Tasmania thrive in the future.

Background

COTA Tasmania (Council on the Ageing Tasmania) is the peak body in Tasmania that advocates for and advances the rights, interests and futures of Tasmanians as they age, particularly those aged over 50 years. Our vision is that ageing in Australia is a time of possibility, opportunity and influence. We are guided by our values of respect, diversity, collaboration and integrity, and promote a positive view of ageing to challenge age stereotypes, foster inclusion and participation, and support independence and choice.

Part of COTA's valuable work is to understand the experiences of older Tasmanians through research, and by doing this, raise awareness of our ageing population and who they really are. Through data collection and developing a strong evidence base, we can better understand the characteristics of Tasmania's ageing population and begin to address the challenges and harness the opportunities of this. This can form the basis to assist government, services and community to target initiatives and allocate resources to areas of greatest change and need.

In 2013, COTA was funded by the Tasmanian Government to produce the research report *Facing the Future: A Baseline Profile on Older Tasmanians*. This report provided extensive analysis of the 2011 Australian Census and other Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Government data. This research provided a foundation to shape future State and Local Government policies and focus by better understanding Tasmania's ageing population, and the issues and concerns that older Tasmanians face.

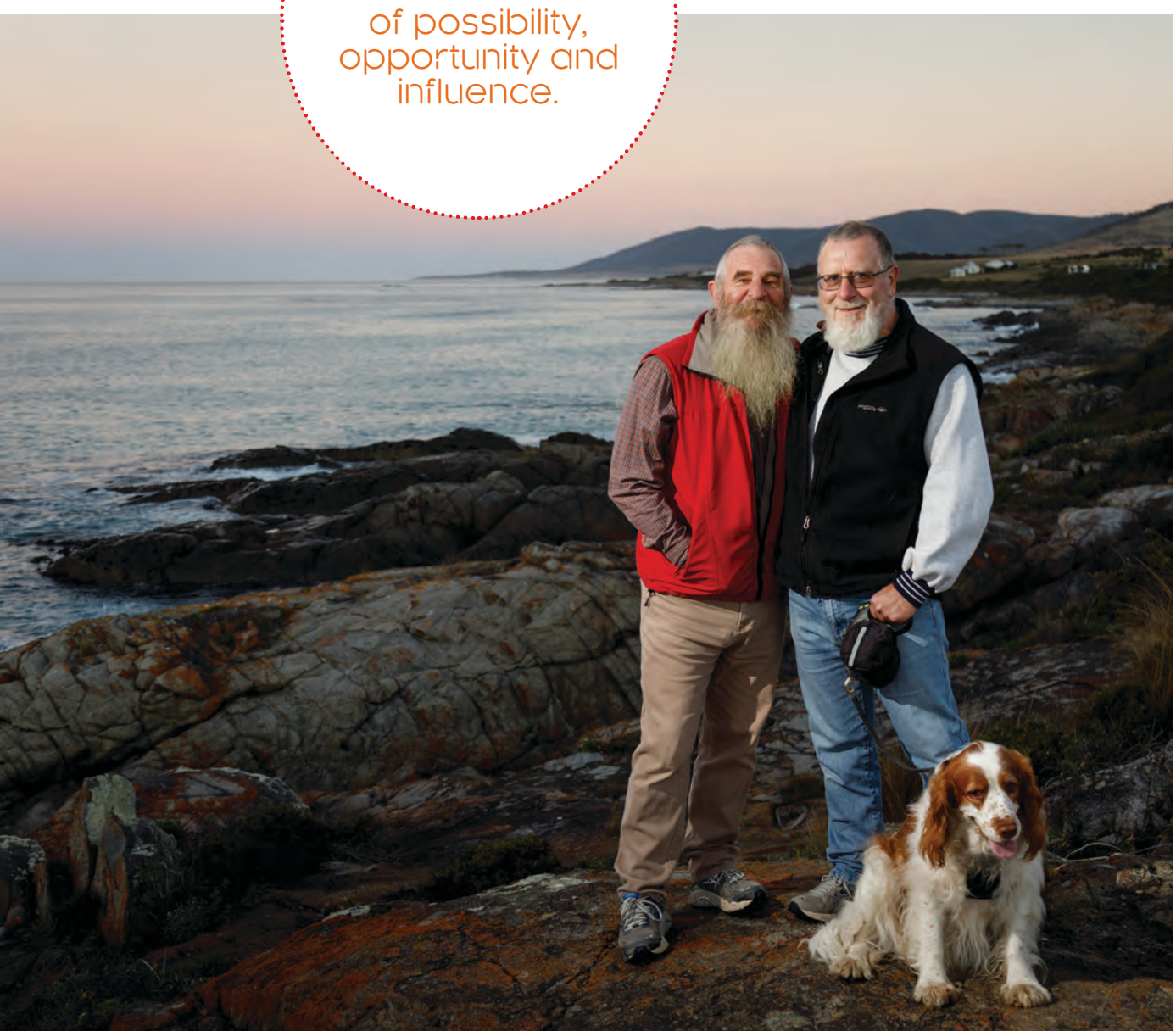
The *Embracing the Future* reports are sequels to *Facing the Future* and use 2016 ABS Census and other current data to better understand the experiences of older Tasmanians today. Though not as comprehensive as the 2013 *Facing the Future* report, *Embracing the Future* focusses on key research areas that were particularly popular in *Facing the Future* and other areas that have been raised as issues of interest to older Tasmanians since 2013.

Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I presents data about Tasmania's age structure, how it compares to other Australian states and territories, what it looks like in different regions and LGAs, and what it is predicted to look like in the future. The data in this report can support government, services and community to understand how Tasmania's population is ageing now and into the future, and what areas may require the greatest resources and initiatives to support this population shift.

Data presented in *Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I* and the future reports in the series will help inform policy and initiatives across the State, and aid government to identify priority areas for services, programs, education and development that supports current and future older Tasmanians. COTA hopes that this series will also help government and community to understand Tasmania's ageing population better, and to realise the opportunities this brings our state.

Embracing the Future is funded by the Tasmanian Government under the *Strong, Liveable Communities: Tasmania's Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022.*

Ageing in Australia is a time of possibility, opportunity and influence.



Introduction

Population ageing is a global phenomenon resulting from improved healthcare, increasing life expectancy and declining fertility rates[1]. In 2017, one in eight people worldwide were aged over 60 years and this is projected to increase to one in five by 2050. The majority of countries with the oldest populations are currently in Europe, some with over 25% of the population aged over 60 years in 2017.

Population structures in Asian countries are among those ageing the fastest, with 40% of Japanese, Korean and some Chinese populations expected to be aged over 60 by 2050. While its population structure is not as old or ageing as quickly, Australia is also experiencing this phenomenon and 21% of the population is currently aged over 60 years, expected to increase to 28.3% by 2050[2].

In 2017, one in eight people worldwide were aged over 60 years and this is projected to increase to one in five by 2050.

Tasmania currently leads Australia in the population ageing trend with the highest proportion of the population aged over 65 years and the highest median age of 42 years[3]. Current, previous and future projection data in this report demonstrates that Tasmania is older and it's population structure is ageing faster than Australia's as a whole.

Research and statistics demonstrate that this ageing is not associated with increased years living with disability. In essence, people today are "living younger" for longer.[4][5]

People today are "living younger" for longer.

While it is wonderful to celebrate that people today are living longer and healthier lives than ever before, it is important to acknowledge the challenges, opportunities and need for planning that this shift in population profile presents. Tasmania should embrace its ageing population, but also needs to plan for it.

Tasmania should embrace its ageing population, but also needs to plan for it.

Even the healthiest people, if they live long enough, are likely to suffer some physical or cognitive decline that is a natural part of the ageing process. This may lead to increased pressure on healthcare and community services, but also on family who want or need to care for their loved ones.

As more people require professional support, there will be greater expenditure on aged care, both at home and in residential care facilities. For those who receive care from families, carers may need to reduce or leave employment and spend less time with other family and friends, which added to the stress of seeing a loved one decline in health, can lead to significant mental and physical health issues. There may also be greater strain on the economy as more money is required to fund aged pensions, and people receiving these will require additional community and financial support to live with good quality of life while on low income. As a greater number of older people live in rental properties or retire with a mortgage[6], many will struggle to find affordable, appropriate housing and pay for increasing costs of living such as electricity, food and healthcare. Government and communities must find ways to fund the greater demand on income support, healthcare, and aged care at home and in residential facilities, while replacing lost workforce knowledge. But these issues can be moderated if opportunities are created for older people to remain engaged in community life and the workforce through appropriate and effective planning and education. It is important to remember that a decline in capacity often associated with ageing does not equal a decline in a person's value.

A decline in capacity often associated with ageing does not equal a decline in a person's value.

Tasmania's population is remaining healthier for much longer than previous generations and many older Tasmanians contribute to their community through volunteering, caring for children or grandchildren, sharing knowledge with younger generations and supporting economic productivity through purchasing power and employment.

While some activities, such as employment, may need to be adapted to cater to changing physical or cognitive capacity, many older people can continue to contribute albeit in a slightly different capacity. This may include using universally accessible facilities, adapting environments to cater to changing capabilities, adopting flexible working arrangements, taking on roles requiring less responsibility, or mentoring in a professional or casual capacity. With the right supports, infrastructure, attitudes and services in place, economic prosperity with an ageing population is possible.

One of the greatest barriers to older people's ability to engage with government, services and the community is ageism. Australia is an ageist society and while ageism exists, an ageing population will continue to be devalued and viewed as a burden rather than an opportunity, and as a result, will most likely live up to these expectations. Discrimination on the basis of age, in and of itself, creates many of the issues that are of greatest concern when considering an ageing population. It reduces the opportunities for older people who are able and want to continue working effectively to be able to do so, as employers, managers and co-workers foster attitudes that disregard contributions, destroy confidence and lead to disengagement from the workforce. Many older people want to continue working but feel forced out of employment because of their age, or face barriers to re-entering the workforce[7]. Ageism can also stop people from engaging in and contributing to community life, reduce mental and physical health, and increase morbidity and mortality[8]. In this way, ageism, rather than older age, contributes to loss of workers from the workforce, greater pressure on the health system and increased aged care costs.

Discrimination on the basis of age, in and of itself, creates many of the issues that are of greatest concern when considering an ageing population.

The Embracing the Future series aims to provide insight to government, services and community about what Tasmania's ageing population looks like, where ageing is occurring, how older people live, their characteristics and what they do. By doing this, realistic views of older people can be promoted, rather than the out-dated ageist views that do nothing but segregate communities. This information will also inform government and community

about where additional services and supports may need to be provided for an ageing population, and where the skills and experiences of older Tasmanians could be best used in employment, volunteering, learning, caring, community development and policy development.

Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I reveals the 'what' and 'where' of ageing in Tasmania, while *Part II* of the ageing profile will present the 'who' and 'how' of ageing. This will include the cultural diversity, income status, marital status, household structure, health and other characteristics of Tasmania's older population.

Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I reveals the 'what' and 'where' of ageing in Tasmania.

The current, previous and future population age profile of Tasmania is presented below using data from Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census from 1996 to 2016, and Tasmania's Department of Treasury and Finance.

Chapter 1:

What does Tasmania's population look like now and compared to previous years?

Tasmania's population in 2016

Almost 100,000 Tasmanians were aged over 65 years in 2016, just under 20% of the population or one in five people (Table 1). The 'working age' population, aged 15 to 64 years, comprised 321,015 people or 62.9% of Tasmania's population, and 90,213 people (17.7% of the population) were younger than 14 years[9].

Age dependency ratios measure the proportion of the population that is economically active through employment (those of 'working age'), and those that may rely on social support provided through this economic productivity (younger than 14 years and older than 65 years) to provide an indication of social and economic development in a population[10]. High dependency ratios may indicate that fewer people are employed in the workforce and contributing to economic productivity, and that a larger proportion of the population relies on financial support from government such as for school funding, pensions and services for older and younger members of the population.

Almost 100,000 Tasmanians were aged over 65 years in 2016, just under 20% of the population or one in five people.

Potentially, this may mean that less money is produced by the country and more is spent supporting vulnerable members of the community. It is important to note that this ratio is only a measure of dependency, as many people over 65 years remain productive members of society in employment or volunteering and may not rely on government funded supports or pensions, while some people of working age would be considered as vulnerable due to illness, injury or unemployment. However, the dependency ratio is a useful tool when considering potential challenges of an ageing population.

Tasmania's age dependency ratio, or the ratio of the population aged 0-14 and over 65 years (ages typically not in the workforce) and the working age, was 58.9 in 2016[11]. Adult dependency ratio, which is the ratio of only those aged over 65 years compared to working age, was 30.8 compared to an Australian adult dependency ratio of 22.6 in 2015[12]. For comparison, the global age dependency ratio in 2015 was 52.5 and the adult dependency ratio was 12.6, although this was higher in more developed nations (26.7)[13].

The countries with the highest adult dependency ratios include Japan (42.7), Italy (35.0) and Germany (32.1). While Tasmania has a relatively high adult dependency ratio, this does not necessarily mean that the state is socially or economically unstable.

It does suggest that the State needs to consider ways to retain older workers in employment or provide well-considered initiatives that support older people to remain financially secure into retirement, enabling them to contribute to their community through volunteering or social participation.

Tasmania's population is not only ageing, it is already older than Australia's as a whole. In 2016, 19.4% of Tasmania's population was aged over 65 years, compared to 15.7% of all Australians (Table 1). Despite both Tasmania and Australia having a median age of 34 years in 1996, Tasmania's median age increased to 42 years in 2016 to be four years higher than the Australian median age of 38 years (Figure 1).

Tasmania's high adult dependency ratio suggests that the State needs to consider ways to retain older workers in employment or provide well-considered initiatives that support older people to remain financially secure into retirement.

	Tasmania		Australia	
Age group (years)	Number of people	Proportion of population (%)	Number of people	Proportion of population (%)
0-14	90,213	17.7	4,364,616	18.7
15-29	89,642	17.6	4,652,993	19.9
30-49	123,676	24.3	6,430,239	27.5
50-64	107,697	21.1	4,277,285	18.3
65-84	86,981	17.1	3,189,925	13.6
85+	11,757	2.3	486,843	2.1
Total	509,966	100	23,401,901	100
65+	98,738	19.4	3,676,768	15.7

Table 1: Number and proportion of people in age groups in Tasmania and Australia in 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016.

Tasmania's median age increased from 34 years in 1996 to 42 years in 2016, to be four years greater than the Australian median age of 38.

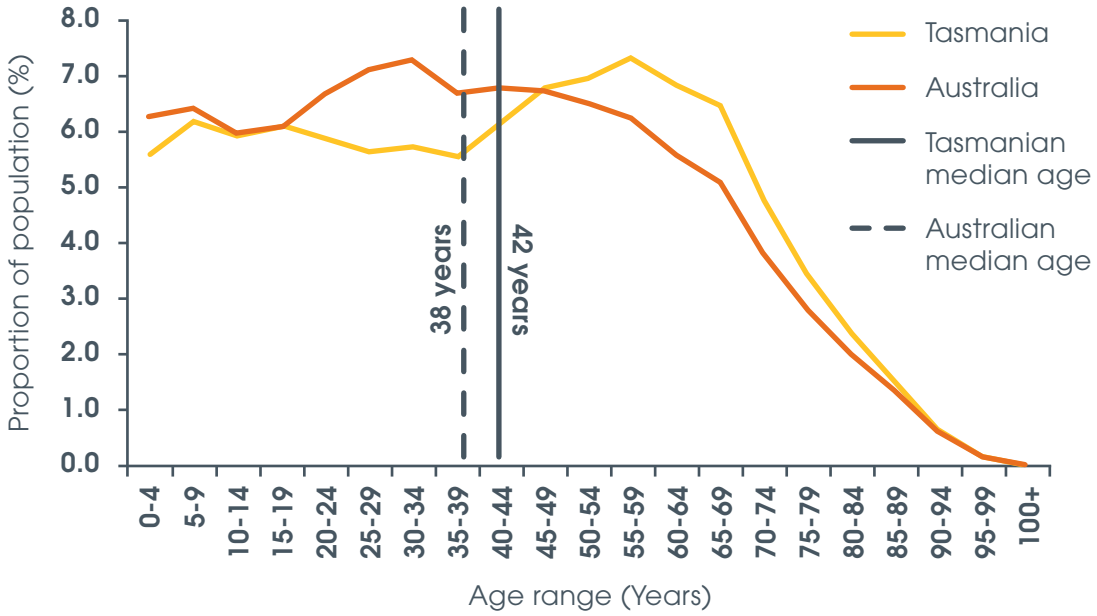


Figure 1: Age structure in Tasmania and Australia in 2016, with median age.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016

Tasmania's population from 1996 to 2016

Tasmania's population structure has aged significantly since 1996. From 1996 to 2016, the proportion of Tasmania's population younger than 50 years has decreased, while the population aged over 50 years has increased (Figure 2).

The proportion of Tasmania's population aged over 65 years increased from 12.4% in 1996 and 14.9% in 2006, to 19.4% in 2016.

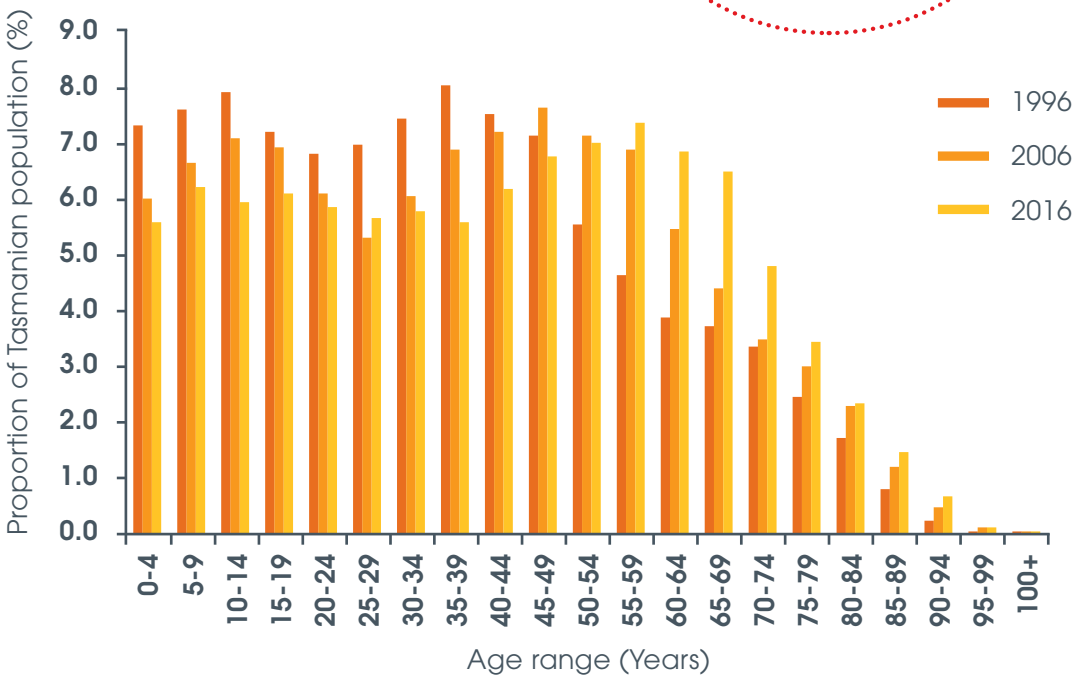


Figure 2: Age structure of Tasmania's population in 1996, 2006 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016; ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Tasmania, 1996

The proportion of Tasmania's population aged over 65 years increased from 12.4% in 1996 and 14.9% in 2006, to 19.4% in 2016 (Figure 3). This 7.0% increase was almost twice as large as the Australian increase of 3.6% during the same time-period.

Both Tasmania and Australia had decreases in the proportion of age groups younger than 50 years from 1996 to 2016, but this decrease was greater in Tasmania. Conversely, increases in the proportion of the population in age groups over 50 years were greater in Tasmania than for Australia as a whole.

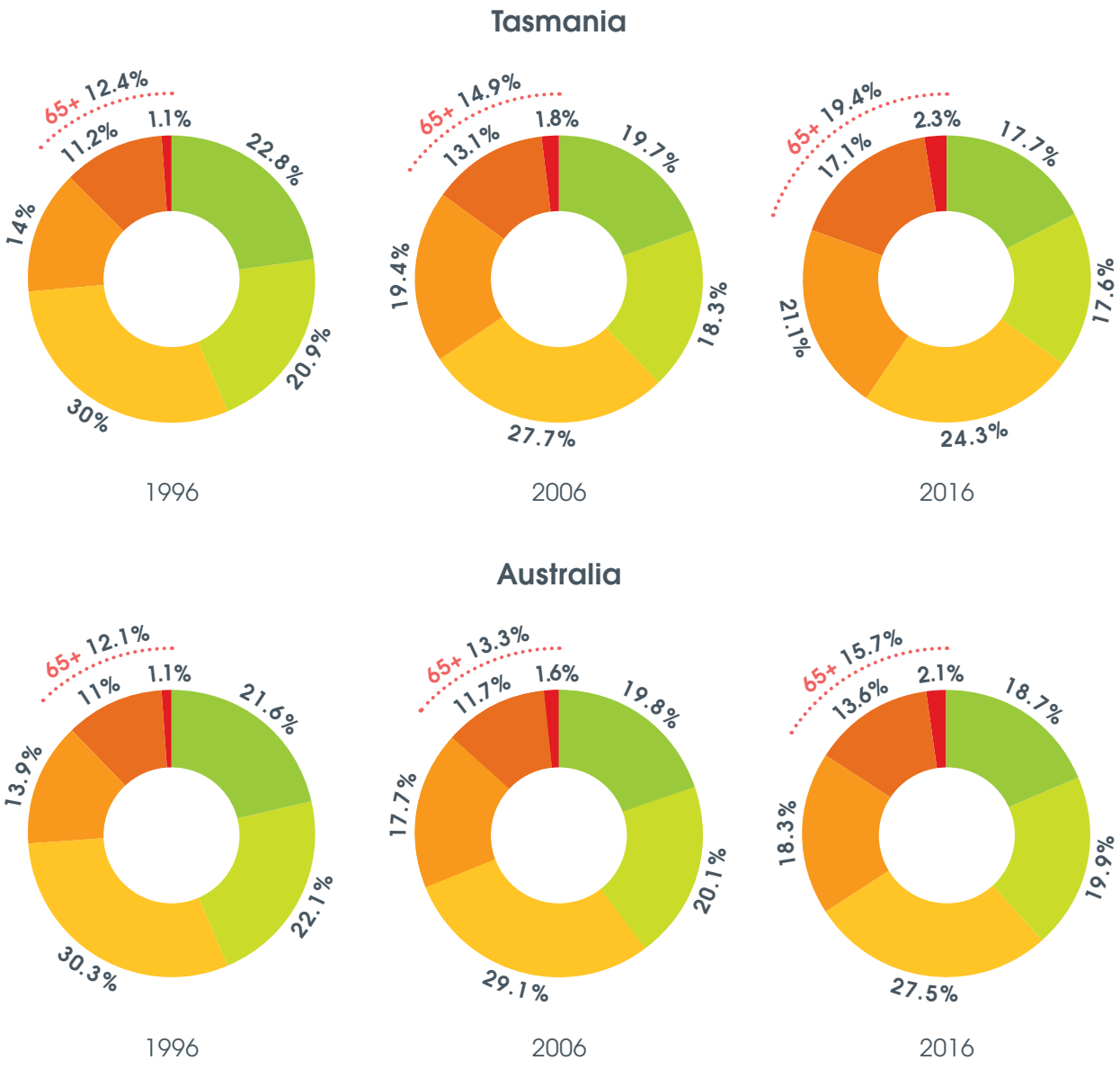


Figure 3: Change in age structure in Tasmania and Australia in 1996, 2006 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016; ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Tasmania & Australia, 1996

When looking at the change in age structure from 1996 to 2016, rather than the proportion, the shift in population structure from younger to older and the faster rate that this is occurring at in Tasmania compared to Australia is clear when expanding age structure out to five-year groups (Figure 4; Tables 2 & 3). Tasmania has seen a larger decline in age groups younger than 50 years, and larger increase in age groups over 50 years, from 1996 to 2016 than Australia's as a whole.

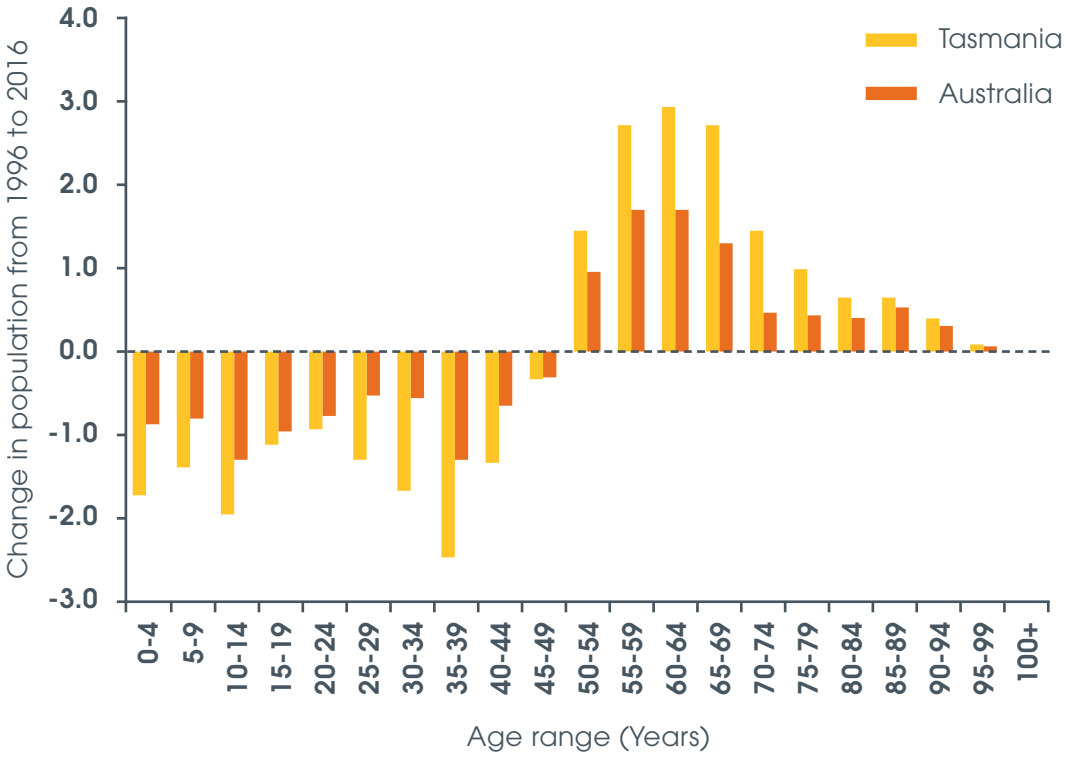


Figure 4: Change in age structure of Tasmania's and Australia's population from 1996 to 2016.

ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016; ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Tasmania & Australia, 1996

Age range (years)	Tasmania							
	Number of persons				Proportion of population (%)			
	1996	2006	2016	Change 1996 to 2016	1996	2006	2016	Change 1996 to 2016
0-4	33,542	28,662	28,475	-5067	7.31	6.02	5.58	-1.7
5-9	34,703	31,620	31,517	-3186	7.57	6.64	6.18	-1.4
10-14	36,116	33,743	30,221	-5895	7.88	7.08	5.93	-1.9
15-19	32,948	32,821	31,079	-1869	7.18	6.89	6.09	-1.1
20-24	31,124	28,945	29,864	-1260	6.79	6.07	5.86	-0.9
25-29	31,769	25,255	28,699	-3070	6.93	5.30	5.63	-1.3
30-34	33,982	28,783	29,328	-4654	7.41	6.04	5.75	-1.7
35-39	36,764	32,641	28,335	-8429	8.02	6.85	5.56	-2.5
40-44	34,414	34,255	31,499	-2915	7.50	7.19	6.18	-1.3
45-49	32,491	36,199	34,514	+2023	7.08	7.60	6.77	-0.3
50-54	25,270	33,832	35,539	+10269	5.51	7.10	6.97	+1.5
55-59	21,105	32,677	37,383	+16278	4.60	6.86	7.33	+2.7
60-64	17,726	25,909	34,775	+17049	3.87	5.44	6.82	+3.0
65-69	17,051	20,805	32,946	+15895	3.72	4.37	6.46	+2.7
70-74	15,312	16,645	24,433	+9121	3.34	3.49	4.79	+1.5
75-79	11,286	14,298	17,610	+6324	2.46	3.00	3.45	+1.0
80-84	7,719	10,854	11,992	+4273	1.68	2.28	2.35	+0.7
85-89	3,737	5,644	7,560	+3823	0.81	1.18	1.48	+0.7
90-94	1,210	2,271	3,388	+2178	0.26	0.48	0.66	+0.4
95-99	258	545	742	+484	0.06	0.11	0.15	+0.1
100+	67	76	67	0	0.01	0.02	0.01	-0.0
Total	**458,594**	**476,480**	**509,966**	**+51372**				

Table 2: Persons, proportions and changes in Tasmanian population in five-year age groups in 1996, 2006 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016; ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Tasmania, 1996

Age range (years)	Australia							
	Number of persons				Proportion of population (%)			
	1996	2006	2016	Change 1996 to 2016	1996	2006	2016	Change 1996 to 2016
0-4	1,264,906	1,260,405	1,464,782	+199,876	7.13	6.35	6.26	-0.9
5-9	1,283,313	1,308,866	1,502,647	+219,334	7.23	6.59	6.42	-0.8
10-14	1,289,713	1,367,941	1,397,187	+107,474	7.26	6.89	5.97	-1.3
15-19	1,249,688	1,356,905	1,421,597	+171,909	7.04	6.83	6.07	-1.0
20-24	1,322,457	1,347,361	1,566,790	+244,333	7.45	6.79	6.70	-0.8
25-29	1,353,261	1,276,924	1,664,606	+311,345	7.62	6.43	7.11	-0.5
30-34	1,390,066	1,399,471	1,703,846	+313,780	7.83	7.05	7.28	-0.5
35-39	1,412,011	1,466,186	1,561,682	+149,671	7.95	7.38	6.67	-1.3
40-44	1,315,280	1,471,660	1,583,255	+267,975	7.41	7.41	6.77	-0.6
45-49	1,255,612	1,446,730	1,581,456	+325,844	7.07	7.29	6.76	-0.3
50-54	981,812	1,315,789	1,523,556	+541,744	5.53	6.63	6.51	+1.0
55-59	800,049	1,234,599	1,454,329	+654,280	4.51	6.22	6.21	+1.7
60-64	683,766	958,079	1,299,400	+615,634	3.85	4.83	5.55	+1.7
65-69	670,754	757,385	1,188,999	+518,245	3.78	3.81	5.08	+1.3
70-74	587,441	616,051	887,715	+300,274	3.31	3.10	3.79	+0.5
75-79	415,715	543,602	652,661	+236,946	2.34	2.74	2.79	+0.4
80-84	277,732	404,479	460,550	+182,818	1.56	2.04	1.97	+0.4
85-89	137,867	214,316	308,961	+171,094	0.78	1.08	1.32	+0.5
90-94	47,903	85,732	140,398	+92,495	0.27	0.43	0.60	+0.3
95-99	10,739	19,649	33,919	+23,180	0.06	0.10	0.14	+0.1
100+	2,744	3,154	3,565	+821	0.02	0.02	0.02	-0.0
Total	**17,752,829**	**19,855,284**	**23,401,901**	**+5,649,072**				

Table 3: Persons, proportions and changes in Australian population in five-year age groups in 1996, 2006 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016; ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Australia, 1996

Tasmania's ageing structure by gender

Australians and Tasmanians are living longer and healthier than ever before, mainly due to improvements in diet and healthcare. While life expectancy at birth increased by almost 30 years for both Australian men and women from 1900 to 2016, women in Australia typically have greater life expectancy than men (Figure 5). In 2016, average life expectancy for women was 84.6 years compared to 80.4 years for men.

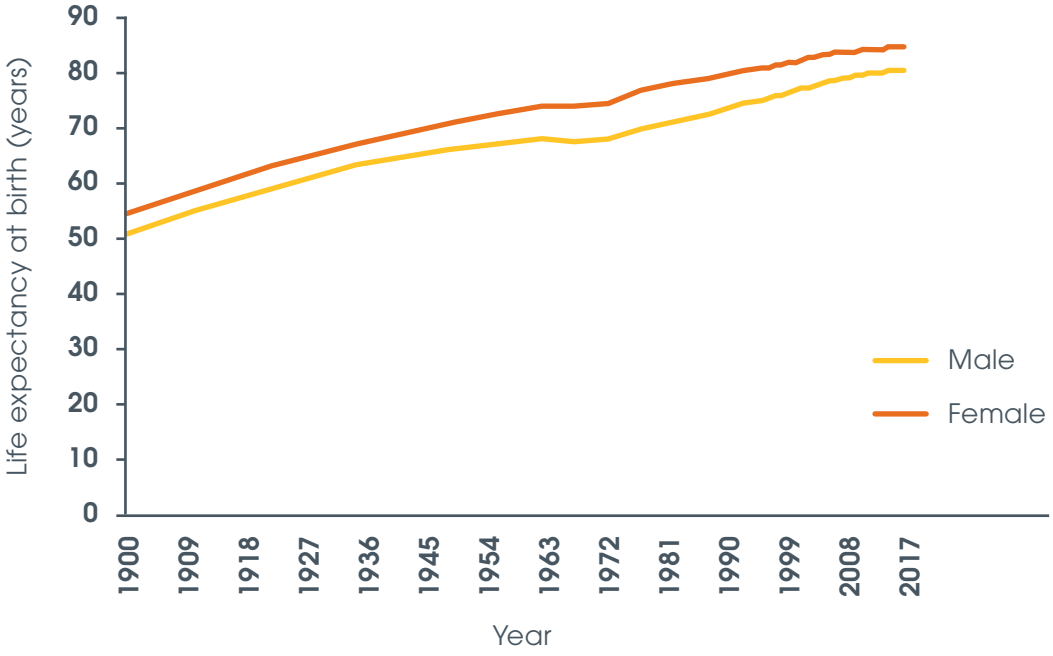


Figure 5: Life expectancy at birth in Australia from 1900 to 2016 for males and females.

Source: Deaths web report, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australian Government, July 2018 (Using data from ABS).

Despite having the oldest population, life expectancy at birth for both Tasmanian men and women in 2016 was the second lowest of all states and territories (Table 4). Increases in life expectancy were also the second lowest of all states and territories, only increasing by 1.4 years for women and 0.6 years for men from 2004-2006 to 2014-2016.

Despite having the oldest population, life expectancy at birth for both Tasmanian men and women is the second lowest of all states and territories.

	2004-2006		2014-2016		Increase over 10 years	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Tas	77.4	82.3	78.8	82.9	1.4	0.6
NSW	78.6	83.4	80.4	84.6	1.8	1.2
Vic	79.3	83.7	81.2	84.7	1.9	1
Qld	78.5	83.4	80.1	84.5	1.6	1.1
SA	78.6	83.6	80.4	84.5	1.8	0.9
WA	79.1	83.8	80.3	84.8	1.2	1
NT	72.1	78.1	75.6	78.7	3.5	0.6
ACT	80.0	83.9	81.3	85.2	1.3	1.3
Aus	78.7	83.5	80.4	84.6	1.7	1.1

Table 4: Life expectancy at birth (in years) of men and women in all Australian states and territories in 2004-2006 and 2014-2016, and the increase in life expectancy (in years) in this 10 year period.

Source: ABS 3302.0.55.001 - Life Tables, States, Territories and Australia, 2014-2016

Both male and female populations are ageing in Tasmania, and to a similar degree. The median age of Tasmanian men and women increased from 37.9 and 39.7 years in 2016, respectively, to 41.0 and 43.0 years in 2016[14]. Both Tasmanian male and female median ages were higher than the Australian median age in both 2006 (male: 35.9 years; female: 37.4 years) and 2016 (male: 36.4 years; female: 38.1 years)[15], and both increased by a greater amount from 2006 to 2016 than Australia's.

As a proportion of the total Tasmanian population, a higher proportion of male and female populations were in age groups over 55 years of age in 2016 compared to 1996, while the proportion of the population in younger age groups slowed (Figure 6). A higher proportion of men were in age groups younger than 30 years in 1996, 2006 and 2016 compared to women. Conversely, a higher proportion of women were in age groups over 30 years, with fastest growth in age groups over 75 years, when compared to men.

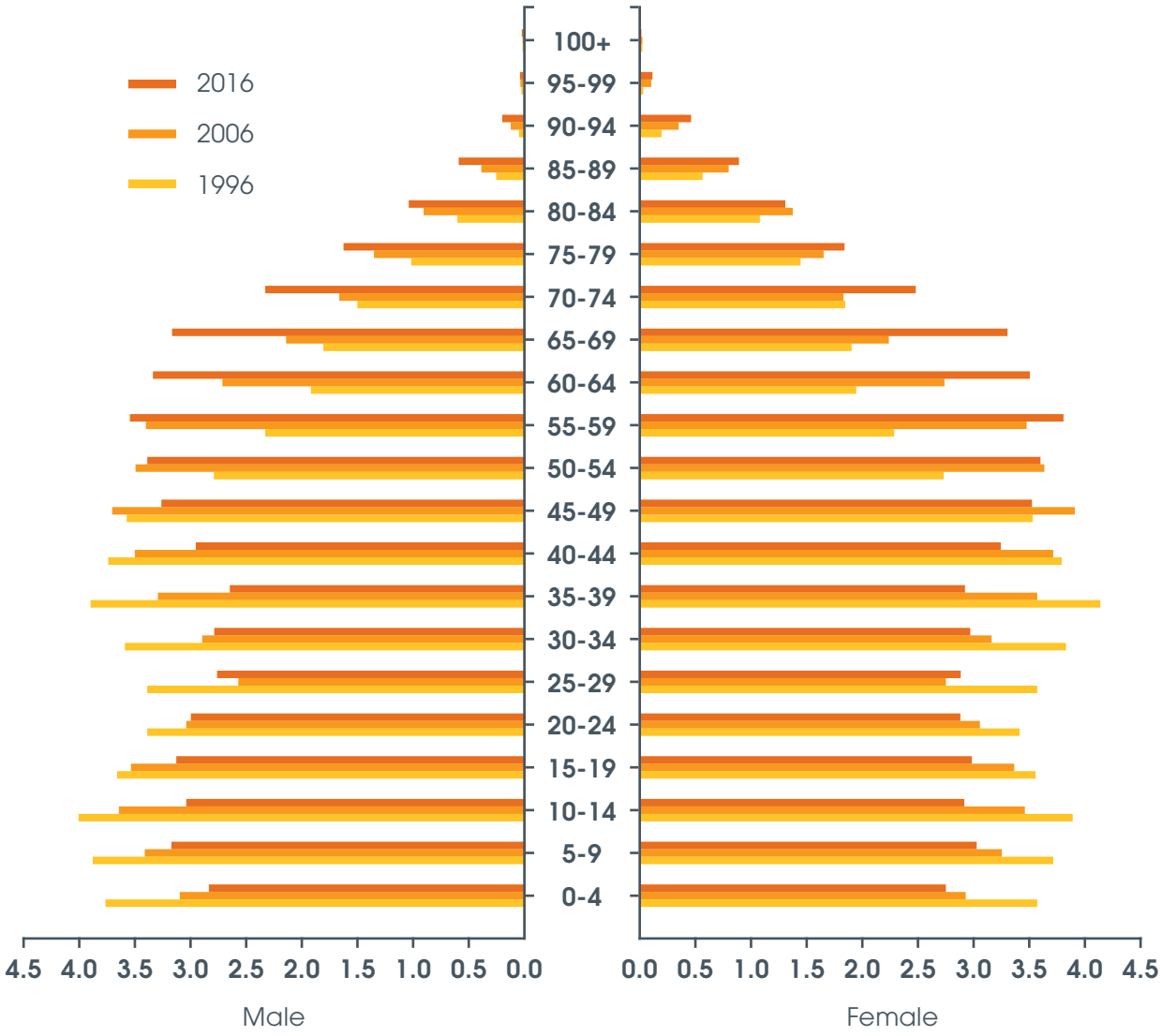


Figure 6: Age structure of Tasmania's population by gender in 1996, 2006 and 2016, as a proportion of the total Tasmanian population.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016; ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Tasmania, 1996

The change in proportion of Tasmanian male and female populations aged over 65 years from 1996 to 2016 were relatively similar between genders, though the proportion of the male population grew by 1.3% more than the female population (Table 5).

	Age range (years)	Tasmania					
		Male			Female		
		1996	2016	Change 1996-2016	1996	2016	Change 1996-2016
Number of persons	0-14	53,373	46,221	-7,152	50,988	43,984	-7,004
	15-29	47,853	45,341	-2,512	47,988	44,296	-3,692
	30-49	67,929	59,486	-8,443	69,722	64,180	-5,542
	50-64	32,312	52,325	+20,013	31,789	55,383	+23,594
	65-84	22,814	41,753	+18,939	28,554	45,234	+16,680
	85+	1,557	4,347	+2,790	3,715	7,411	+3,696
	Total	225,838	249,473	+23,635	232,756	260,488	+27,732
Proportion of population (%)	0-14	23.63	18.53	-5.1	21.91	16.89	-5.0
	15-29	21.19	18.17	-3.0	20.62	17.01	-3.6
	30-49	30.08	23.84	-6.2	29.95	24.64	-5.3
	50-64	14.31	20.97	+6.7	13.66	21.26	+7.6
	65-84	10.10	16.74	+6.6	12.27	17.37	+5.1
	85+	0.69	1.74	+1.1	1.60	2.85	+1.2

Table 5: Persons, proportions and changes in Tasmanian population by gender and age group in 1996 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016; ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Tasmania, 1996

Overview

Tasmania's population is ageing. The State's population is older and its population structure is ageing faster than Australia's as a whole. Despite this, Tasmania has the second lowest life expectancy at birth of all states and territories. Tasmanian women tend to live longer and a greater proportion of them are in older age groups than Tasmanian men, though the structure of the male population may be ageing slightly faster than the female population.

The proportion of 'working age' Tasmanians is decreasing as the proportion of older Tasmanians increases, creating a relatively high adult dependency ratio. Keeping older Tasmanians engaged and able to participate in their community is becoming increasingly important to ensure social and economic viability for the State.

This engagement may be through continued opportunities for employment, but also in supporting people to contribute through volunteering or social participation.

Older Tasmanians have a broad range of interests, backgrounds and experiences that benefit the community. Creating opportunities to share this knowledge can lead to better social cohesion, reduction of ageist stereotypes that form dysfunctional communities and creation of a more knowledgeable and inclusive workforce.

While Tasmania is the oldest population in Australia, it is not the oldest population in the world. We have many opportunities to learn how best to plan for an ageing population using examples from other countries and cities that are successfully embracing population ageing.

Chapter 2:

What does Tasmania's population look like compared to the rest of Australia's?

Not only is Tasmania's population older and its population structure ageing faster than Australia's as a whole, it is also the oldest of all states and territories. In 2016, Tasmania had the highest median age across Australia at 42 years and had the highest increase in median age from 1996 of eight years (Table 6). Tasmania's median age was two years greater than South Australia's, which was the second highest age, and 10 years greater than the Northern Territory's, which was the lowest median age of all Australian states and territories.

Tasmania is the oldest of all Australian states and territories.

Median age (years)	1996	2006	2016	Change 1996 to 2016
Tasmania	34	39	42	+8 years
New South Wales	34	37	38	+4 years
Victoria	33	37	37	+4 years
Queensland	33	36	37	+4 years
South Australia	35	39	40	+5 years
Western Australia	33	36	36	+3 years
Northern Territory	29	31	32	+3 years
Australian Capital Territory	30	34	35	+5 years
Australia	34	37	38	+4 years

Table 6: Median age of each state and territory in 1996, 2006 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census Quickstats, 2006 & 2016 (Datasets: Tasmania, NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, ACT & Australia); ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Tasmania, NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, ACT & Australia, 1996

Tasmania not only has the highest median age of all states and territories, but also the highest proportion of the population aged over 65 years (Figure 7). This proportion was 19.4% in 2016, followed by South Australia at 18.3%, New South Wales at 16.3% and Victoria at 15.6%. The Northern Territory had the lowest proportion of the population aged over 65 years in 2016 at 7.2%.

Tasmania had the fastest growth in the proportion of the population aged over 65 from 1996 to 2016, increasing by 7.0% compared to 5.5% in the ACT and 4.4% in South Australia (Table 7). The Northern Territory increased by just 2.3% during the same period.

Figure 7: Proportion of the population aged over 65 years in each Australian state and territory in 1996, 2006 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016; ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Tasmania, NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, ACT & Australia, 1996

Proportion (%)	1996	2006	2016	Change 1996 to 2016
Tasmania	12.4	14.9	19.4	+7.0
New South Wales	12.7	13.8	16.3	+3.6
Victoria	12.1	13.7	15.6	+3.5
Queensland	12.0	12.4	15.3	+3.3
South Australia	13.9	15.4	18.3	+4.4
Western Australia	10.5	12.0	14.0	+3.5
Northern Territory	4.9	4.8	7.2	+2.3
Australian Capital Territory	7.1	9.7	12.6	+5.5
Australia	12.1	13.3	15.7	+3.6

Table 7: Proportion (%) of the population aged over 65 years in each Australian state and territory in 1996, 2006 and 2016, and the change in proportion from 1996 to 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016; ABS Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile: Tasmania, NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, ACT & Australia, 1996

Tasmania has the highest proportion of the population aged over 50 years (40.5%) and the lowest proportion of people aged less than 50 years (59.5%) than any other state or territory.

When looking at broad age groups, it is clear that Tasmania has lower proportions of the population in younger age groups and higher proportions of the population in older age groups compared to other states and territories (Figure 8). Tasmania not only has the highest proportion of people aged over 65 years, but also the highest proportion aged 50-64 years at 21.1%.

Only South Australia had a higher proportion of the population aged over 85 years at 2.7% compared to Tasmania's 2.3%. Tasmania has the highest proportion of the population aged over 50 years at 40.5% and the lowest proportion of people aged less than 50 years at 59.5%. These values are 6.5% higher (for over 50 years) and 6.5% lower (for less than 50 years) than Australia's as a whole.

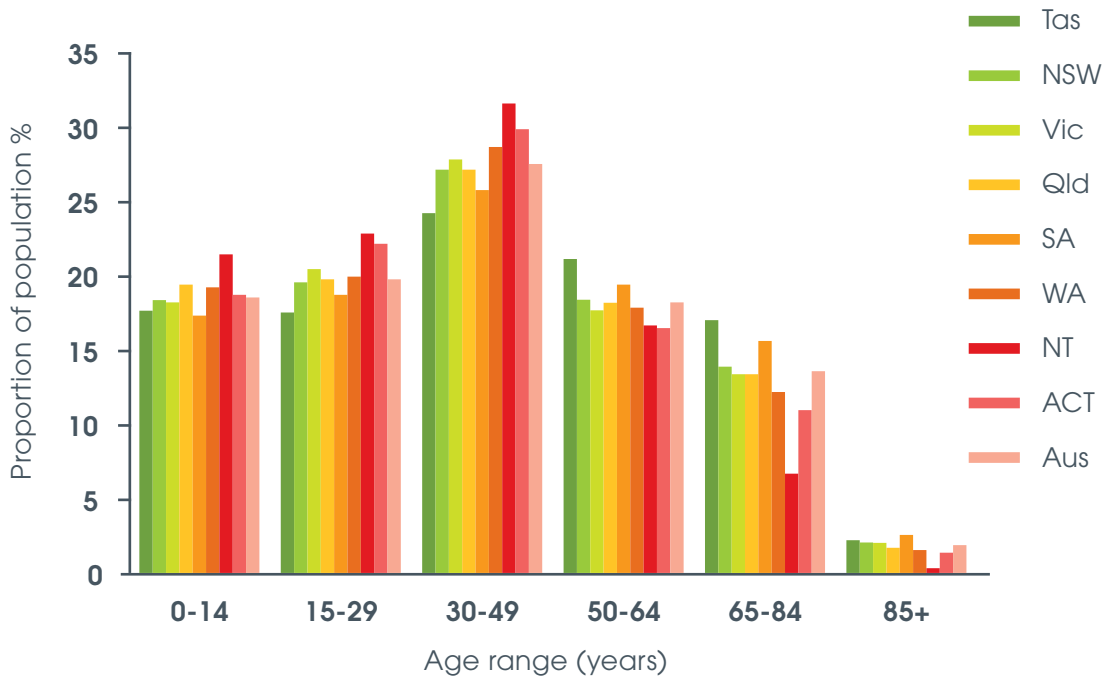


Figure 8: Proportion of population of each Australian state and territory in age brackets in 2016.

Source: ABS Census Quickstats, 2016 (Datasets: Tasmania, NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, ACT & Australia)

Why is Tasmania's population structure ageing faster than the rest of Australia's?

The main components of an ageing population are usually:

- Fewer younger people in the population, usually caused by:
  - fewer people being born due to decreasing fertility rates[16];
  - migration of young people moving from an area, due to career, education, lifestyle or travel opportunities.
- More older people in the population, usually caused by:
  - better healthcare and nutrition resulting in reduced child mortality and adults living for longer (increased life expectancy)[17];
  - migration of older people to an area for retirement, family or lifestyle opportunities.

Tasmania's population is the oldest in Australia and its population structure is ageing the fastest, but it has the highest fertility rates of all states and territories at 1.95 babies per woman[18], and the second lowest life expectancy at birth of all states and territories at 78.8 years for men and 82.9 years for women[19]. This would suggest that the ageing population is caused by migration.

The large number of young people leaving Tasmania has been identified as a major challenge for the State[20]. The main reasons that young people leave Tasmania include a desire to travel, greater study options, training or career opportunities, or to have access to a broader range of youth specific experiences[21]. Some Tasmanians who leave the State at a young age return in middle or older age, looking for a more relaxed lifestyle, milder weather or to reconnect with family and friends[22]. Older people who choose to move to Tasmania often do so for the quieter lifestyle and milder weather.

Analysis of interstate migration demonstrates that for every year from 1997 to 2017, there was an annual net interstate departure from Tasmania of people aged 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 years old[23]. For people aged 25 to 29, every year from 1997 to 2014 saw a net departure, but since 2014 there has been a slight net arrival for this age group. Conversely, every year since 1997 has seen a net arrival of people aged over 65 years, and apart from one or two years in the late 1990s, the same trend was seen in the 50 to 54, 55 to 59 and 60 to 64 year age groups.

Given Tasmania has the highest fertility rates and second lowest life expectancy of all states and territories, the ageing population is likely to be caused by migration.

On average, there has been a net departure of people aged 15 to 29 years from Tasmania from 1997 to 2017, though this number has decreased for the years from 1997-2001, to 2012-2017 (Table 8).

While average net arrivals of people aged 50 to 64 years has remained relatively stable since 2002-2006, arrivals of people aged over 65 years has increased.

Interstate: Average annual net migration for Tasmania (persons)				
Age group (Years)	1997 to 2001	2002 to 2006	2007 to 2011	2012 to 2017
0-14	-540	+258	+202	-7
15-29	-1816	-1008	-1196	-895
30-49	-714	+670	+536	+287
50-64	+94	+726	+564	+492
65+	+102	+148	+166	+215

Table 8: Average annual net interstate migration in Tasmania from 1997 to 2017. A negative value demonstrates an average annual departure of people in the age group, while a positive value demonstrates an average annual arrival of people in the age group.

Source: ABS 3101.0 - Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2017 (ABS.Stat: Quarterly Population Estimates, by State/Territory, Sex and Age; Interstate migration: Arrivals, departures and net - Calendar years, 1997 onwards)

While interstate migration demonstrates that younger people are departing and older people are arriving in Tasmania, overseas migration shows a different story.

The majority of net overseas arrivals in Tasmania are people younger than 50 years old (Table 9). In fact, the only annual net overseas departures since 2004 were in age groups over 50 years.

Overseas: Average annual net migration for Tasmania (persons)			
Age group (Years)	2004 to 2006	2007 to 2011	2012 to 2017
0-14	+343	+388	+397
15-29	+553	+702	+948
30-49	+427	+512	+443
50-64	0	+12	+50
65+	-20	-18	-5

Table 9: Average annual net overseas migration in Tasmania from 2004 to 2017. A negative value demonstrates an average annual departure of people in the age group, while a positive value demonstrates an average annual arrival of people in the age group.

Source: ABS 3101.0 - Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2017 (ABS.Stat: Quarterly Population Estimates, by State/Territory, Sex and Age; Net Overseas Migration, Arrivals, departures and net - Calendar years, 2004 onwards)

Overview

Tasmania has the oldest population in Australia, with the greatest median age and proportion of the population aged over 50 and 65 years than any other state or territory. The population structure is also ageing faster than all other states, with the greatest increase in proportion aged over 65 years from 1996 to 2016.

Tasmania has the oldest population and its population structure is ageing faster than all Australian states and territories.

As it has the highest fertility rates and second lowest life expectancy of all states and territories, the most likely reason for Tasmania's older population is interstate migration of younger people away from the state and older people migrating to it. Many young people leave the State for travel, education or career opportunities, and there has been a large focus by the Tasmanian Government on encouraging this population to remain in Tasmania[24]. But the trend is likely to continue unless opportunities in Tasmania can match those found on the mainland.

Tasmania should be proud of its ability to attract older people to the State, whether this is returning Tasmanians or people from other states who choose to live here. This migration is growing Tasmania's population and while it is contributing to population ageing, it is also increasing its knowledge, experience and diversity. Further work to identify where older people from interstate are choosing to live and their reasons for moving to Tasmania could help government understand and capitalise on the State's best assets and attractions. This work could also significantly boost the ability for government and community to identify and use the skills, interests and backgrounds of this growing population to support Tasmania to thrive socially and economically.

Tasmania should be proud of its ability to attract older people to the State but needs to capitalise on this to grow knowledge, experience and diversity.

Chapter 3:

What does Tasmania's population look like within itself?

Tasmania has the third smallest population in Australia, leading only the ACT and Northern Territory[25], and is the second smallest state or territory in terms of land mass after the ACT[26]. Over half the population lives outside Hobart, with the highest proportion living outside a capital city in Australia[27]. Tasmania's population is regionally dispersed[28], and while not separated by thousands of kilometres, poor public transport, the nature of rural roads and rugged terrain can make it difficult to connect rural, remote and regional communities. Tasmanians who live in rural or remote areas often face greater disadvantage than those who live in urban centres because of reduced access to services, healthcare, internet and housing options to age in place and familiar communities. Poor public transport links between many communities also make it difficult for people to travel between rural and urban areas, with many reliant on private transport.

Tasmania has 29 local government areas (LGAs) and can be split by region or remoteness area[29]. Further information about how regions and remoteness areas were determined in this report can be found under the relevant headings below. Determining population structures in different areas of Tasmania allows identification of the oldest and fastest ageing regions in the State that may need to implement initiatives that support ageing populations most urgently.

Tasmania's population is regionally dispersed, with over half of the population living outside Hobart, and those who live in rural or remote areas often face greater disadvantage than those who live in urban centres.

Local Government Areas: Median Age

All Tasmanian LGAs except Brighton had a higher median age than the national median age of 38 years (Figure 9). The LGA with the highest median age in 2016 was Glamorgan/Spring Bay at 56 years, followed by Tasman (55 years) and Break O'Day (54 years) (Table 10). The LGAs with the lowest median age were Brighton (34 years), Launceston (39 years), Hobart (39 years) and Glenorchy (39 years).

The largest increase in median age from 2006 to 2016 was 8 years in Break O'Day, Kentish and Tasman (Table 10).

The smallest increases were in Glenorchy (no change), Launceston (2 years) and Hobart (2 years).

Highest median age:

- Glamorgan/Spring Bay
- Tasman
- Break O'Day

Lowest median age:

- Brighton
- Launceston
- Hobart
- Glenorchy

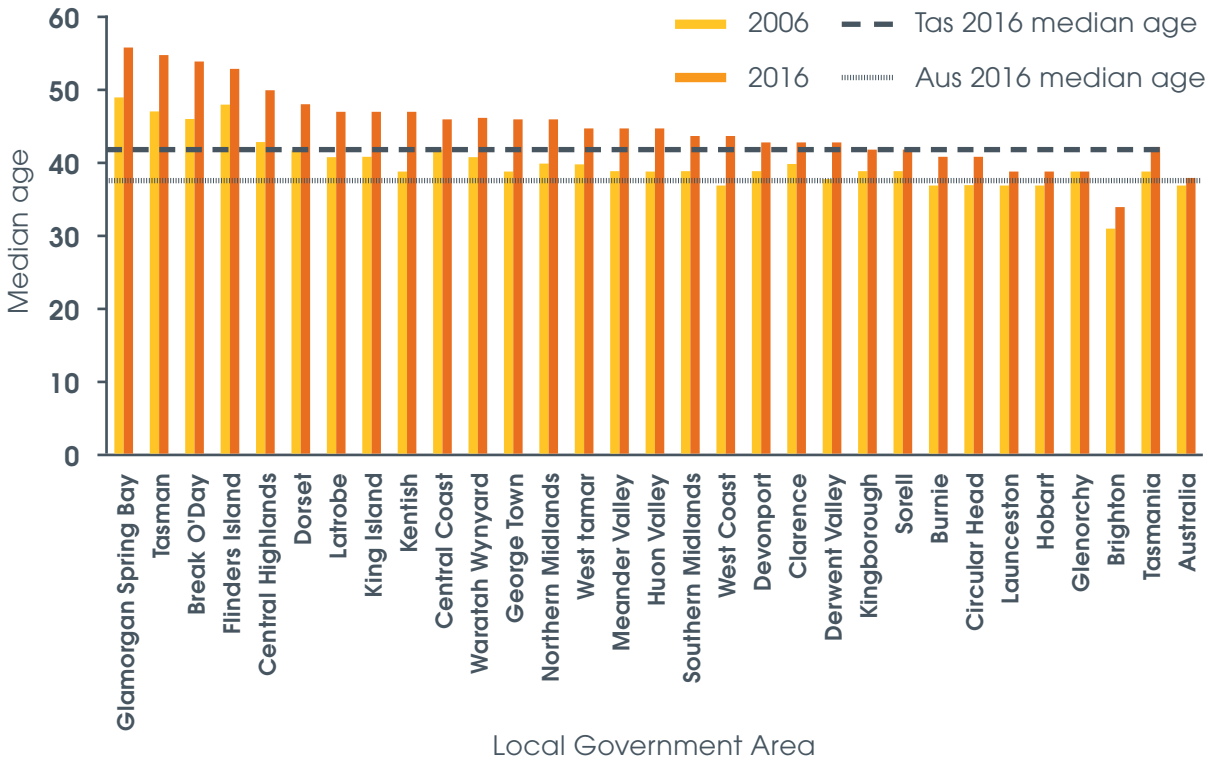


Figure 9: Median age of Tasmanian local government areas in 2006 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census QuickStats, 2006 & 2016

LGA	2006	2016	Change 2006 – 2016
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	49	56	+7
Tasman	47	55	+8
Break O'Day	46	54	+8
Flinders Island	48	53	+5
Central Highlands	43	50	+7
Dorset	42	48	+6
Kentish	39	47	+8
King Island	41	47	+6
Latrobe	41	47	+6
Central Coast	42	46	+4
George Town	39	46	+7
Northern Midlands	40	46	+6
Waratah Wynyard	41	46	+5
Huon Valley	39	45	+6
Meander Valley	39	45	+6
West Tamar	40	45	+5
Southern Midlands	39	44	+5
West Coast	37	44	+7
Clarence	40	43	+3
Derwent Valley	38	43	+5
Devonport	39	43	+4
Kingborough	39	42	+3
Sorell	39	42	+3
Burnie	37	41	+4
Circular Head	37	41	+4
Glenorchy	39	39	0
Hobart	37	39	+2
Launceston	37	39	+2
Brighton	31	34	+3
Tasmania	39	42	+3
Australia	37	38	+1

Table 10: Median age of Tasmanian local government areas in 2006 and 2016, and change during that ten-year period. Table is ordered from LGA with the greatest median age in 2016, to the lowest.

Source: ABS Census QuickStats, 2006 & 2016

Local Government Areas: People and proportion of the population aged over 65 years

The Tasmanian LGAs with the highest number of people aged over 65 years in 2016 were Launceston with 11,747 people, Clarence with 11,013 people, and Hobart with 8,572 people (Table 11). The LGAs with the largest increase in number of people aged over 65 years from 2006 to 2016 were Clarence, Launceston and Kingborough. Flinders Island (237 people), King Island (357 people) and Central Highlands (516 people) had populations with the smallest number of people aged over 65. Flinders and King Islands' also had the smallest increase in number of people in this age group from 2006 to 2016, followed by the West Coast.

Largest number of people over 65 years:

- Launceston
- Clarence
- Hobart

Smallest number of people over 65 years:

- Flinders Island
- King Island
- Central Highlands

LGA	2006 Persons over 65	2016 Persons over 65	LGA Rank 2016 Persons over 65	Change 2006-2016 Persons over 65	LGA Rank Change 2006-2016
Break O'Day	1090	1,736	18	646	17
Brighton	1021	1,973	16	952	11
Burnie	2823	3,475	10	652	16
Central Coast	3559	4,755	7	1,196	8
Central Highlands	329	516	27	187	26
Circular Head	946	1,306	22	360	23
Clarence	7866	11,013	2	3,147	1
Derwent Valley	1242	1,881	17	639	18
Devonport	4234	5,261	6	1,027	10
Dorset	1221	1,572	19	351	24
Flinders Island	143	237	29	94	29
George Town	893	1,457	20	564	20
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	824	1,420	21	596	19
Glenorchy	7384	8,206	4	822	14
Hobart	6641	8,572	3	1,931	4
Huon Valley	1838	3,246	11	1,408	6
Kentish	701	1,229	23	528	21
King Island	261	357	28	96	28
Kingborough	4248	6,628	5	2,380	3
Latrobe	1378	2,543	15	1,165	9
Launceston	9339	11,747	1	2,408	2
Meander Valley	2646	4,032	9	1,386	7
Northern Midlands	1830	2,724	13	894	13
Sorell	1634	2,561	14	927	12
Southern Midlands	664	1,039	24	375	22
Tasman	379	688	26	309	25
Waratah Wynyard	2212	3,017	12	805	15
West Coast	562	699	25	137	27
West Tamar	3147	4,753	8	1,606	5
Tasmania	71055	98,643	-	27,588	-

Table 11: Numbers of people in Tasmanian local government area populations aged over 65 years in 2006 and 2016, change in this number from 2006 to 2016, and ranking of LGAs from greatest (1) to smallest (29) number of persons aged over 65 years in 2016, and greatest change (1) to smallest change (29) in this number from 2006 to 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016

Despite Launceston and Hobart having the largest number of the population aged over 65 in 2016, they both rank in the lowest 10 LGAs of Tasmania in terms of proportion of the population aged over 65 (Table 12). Conversely, Flinders Island, King Island and the Central Highlands have the smallest number of people aged over 65 but are all in the top 10 LGAs with the highest proportion of the population of this age.

Eighteen of Tasmania's 29 LGAs had over 20% of their population aged over 65 in 2016 (Figure 10; Figure 11). The LGAs with the highest proportion of the population aged over 65 were Glamorgan/Spring Bay with 32.2%, Tasman with 29.0% and Break O'Day with 28.5%. Those with the lowest proportion of the population aged over 65 years were Brighton (12.0%), Circular Head (16.5%) and West Coast (16.9%). Brighton was the only LGA with a proportion lower than the Australian figure of 15.7%.

Nineteen LGAs had over 5% growth in the proportion of the population aged over 65 years from 2006 to 2016 (Table 12). Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Tasman and Break O'Day had the fastest growth in proportion aged over 65 years, all increasing by over 10% in the ten-year period to 2016. Glenorchy, with 0.7% growth, was the only LGA to have a slower growth from 2006 to 2016 than the Australian figure of 2.4%. The other LGAs with the slowest growth in the proportion aged over 65 years were Launceston (3.0%), Hobart (3.1%) and Burnie (3.6%).

Highest proportion over 65 years:

- Glamorgan/Spring Bay
- Tasman
- Break O'Day

Lowest proportion over 65 years:

- Brighton
- Circular Head
- West Coast

Fastest growth in proportion 2006 to 2016:

- Glamorgan/Spring Bay
- Tasman
- Break O'Day

Slowest growth in proportion 2006 to 2016:

- Glenorchy
- Launceston
- Hobart

LGA	2006 % over 65	2016 % over 65	LGA Rank 2016 % over 65	Change 2006-2016 % over 65	LGA Rank Change 2006-2016
Break O'Day	18.0	28.5	3	10.5	3
Brighton	7.2	12.0	29	4.7	20
Burnie	14.8	18.4	21	3.6	26
Central Coast	17.2	22.3	9	5.0	19
Central Highlands	14.7	24.0	5	9.3	5
Circular Head	11.9	16.5	28	4.6	22
Clarence	15.8	20.1	16	4.2	23
Derwent Valley	13.1	18.8	19	5.7	17
Devonport	17.6	21.3	12	3.7	25
Dorset	17.4	23.8	6	6.4	12
Flinders Island	16.6	26.4	4	9.8	4
George Town	13.7	21.5	11	7.9	6
Glamorgan /Spring Bay	19.7	32.2	1	12.4	1
Glenorchy	17.0	17.7	24	0.7	29
Hobart	13.9	17.0	26	3.1	27
Huon Valley	13.1	20.0	18	6.9	9
Kentish	12.2	20.0	17	7.8	8
King Island	16.0	22.5	8	6.5	10
Kingborough	13.8	18.5	20	4.7	21
Latrobe	15.9	23.8	7	7.9	7
Launceston	15.0	18.0	22	3.0	28
Meander Valley	14.4	20.9	15	6.5	11
Northern Midlands	15.1	21.2	13	6.1	13
Sorell	13.7	17.8	23	4.1	24
Southern Midlands	11.7	17.2	25	5.5	18
Tasman	17.0	29.0	2	12.0	2
Waratah Wynyard	16.5	22.2	10	5.8	15
West Coast	11.2	16.9	27	5.7	16
West Tamar	15.1	20.9	14	5.8	14
Tasmania	14.9	19.4	-	4.4	-
Australia	13.3	15.7	-	2.4	-

Table 12: Proportion of populations in Tasmanian Local Government Areas aged over 65 years in 2006 and 2016, change in this proportion from 2006 to 2016, and ranking of LGAs from highest (1) to lowest (29) proportion of persons over 65 years in 2016, and highest change (1) to lowest change (2) in this proportion from 2006 to 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016

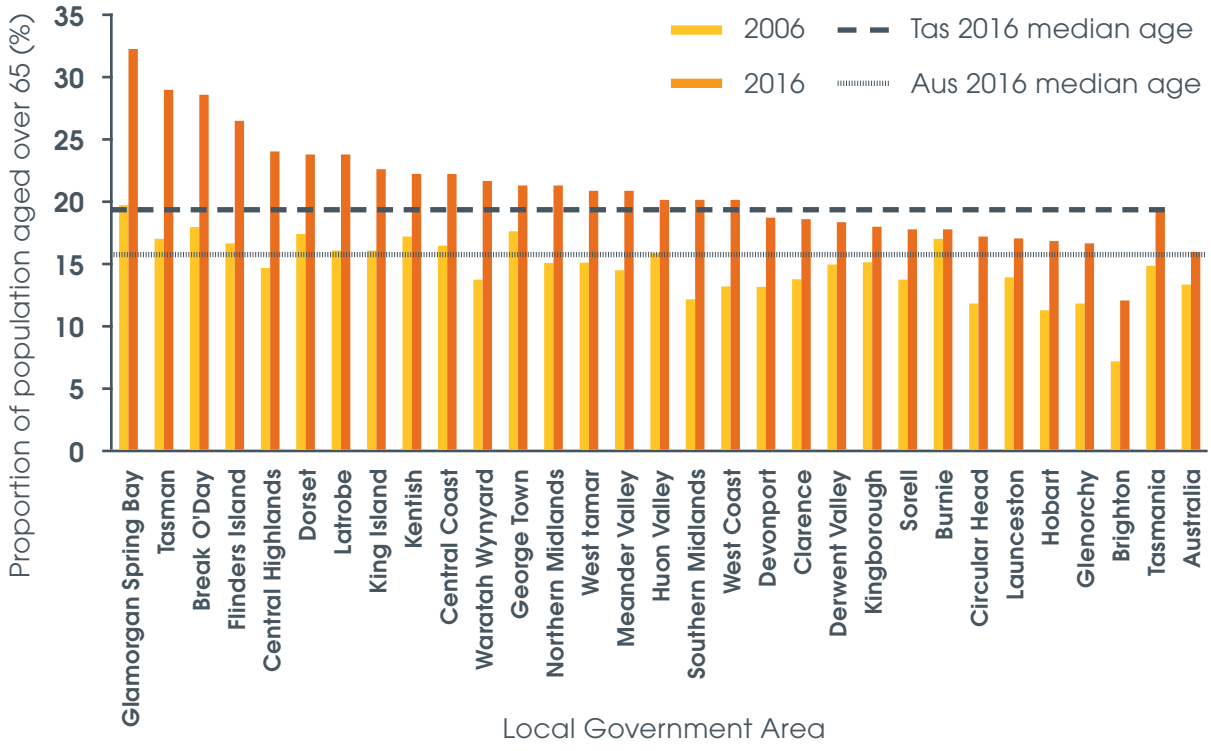


Figure 10: Proportion of Tasmanian local government area populations aged over 65 years in 2006 and 2016, ordered from highest proportion (left) to lowest proportion (right) in 2016).

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016

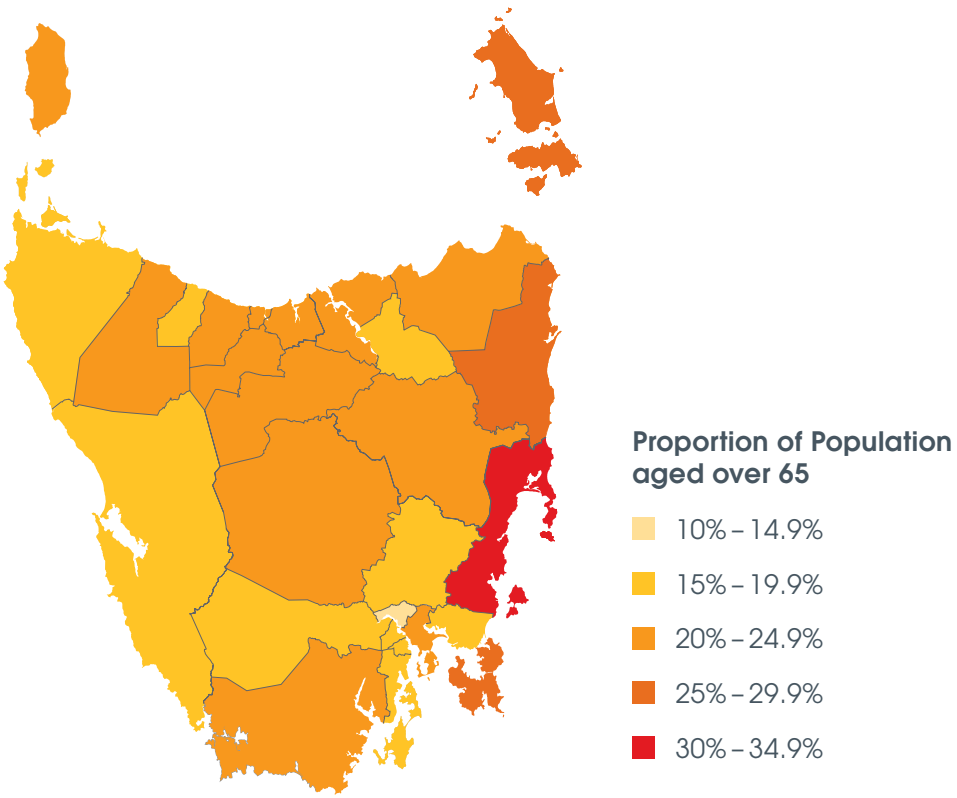


Figure 11: Map of proportion of population aged over 65 years in each Tasmanian LGA in 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016

Tasmanian Regions

The ABS classifies regions by geographical region. In Tasmania, this includes Greater Hobart, North & North East, South East and West & North West (Figure 12).

For a full breakdown of the areas included in these classifications, see Appendix 1. Figure 12 is a map of these regions.

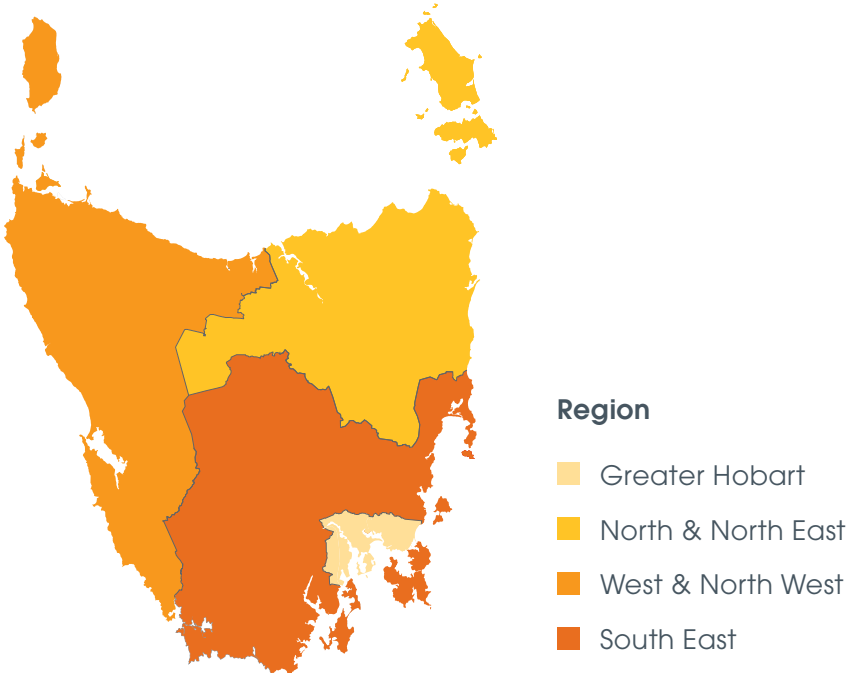


Figure 12: Map of Tasmanian region classifications.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016

The Greater Hobart area had the highest number of people aged over 65 years in Tasmania, and the largest increase in this number from 2006 to 2016 (Table 13). The South East had the lowest number and smallest increase. However, the South East was the Tasmanian region with the highest proportion of the population aged over 65 years in 2016 at 22.2%, and with the fastest growth from 2006 to 2016 of 8.4% (Figure 13; Figure 14). Greater Hobart had the lowest proportion of 18.3% and slowest growth of 3.7%.

The proportion of populations aged over 65 years in North & North East and West & North West were 20.4% and 21.0% respectively, with growths of 5.2% and 5.3% respectively.

Proportion of population aged over 65 years in Tasmanian regions:

1. South East (22.2%)
2. West & North West (21.0%)
3. North & North East (20.4%)
4. Greater Hobart (18.3%)

Population over 65 years (persons)	2006	2016	Change 2006 to 2016
Greater Hobart	29,253	40,741	+11,488
North & North East	20,302	28,627	+8,325
South East	4,807	8,232	+3,425
West & North West	16,702	22,886	+6,184

Table 13: Number of people aged over 65 years in Tasmanian regions from 2006 to 2016, and the change in this number.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016

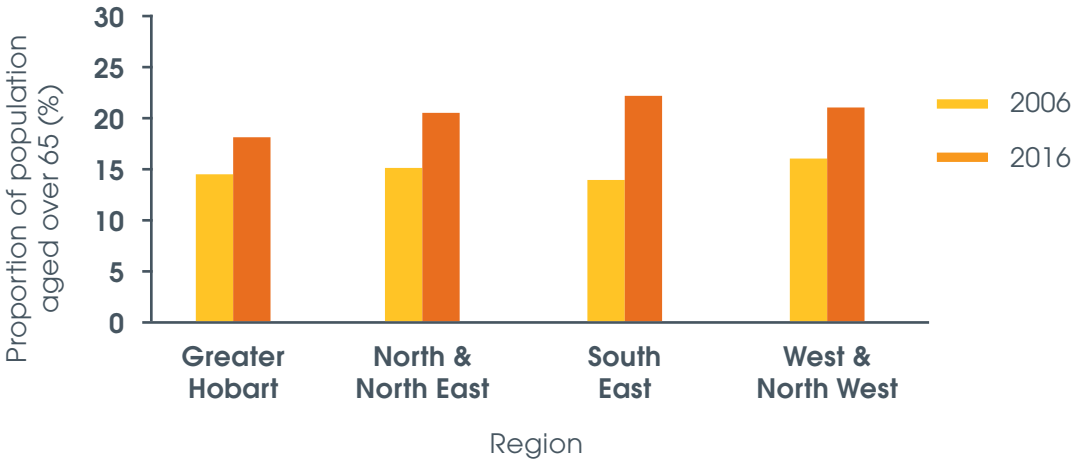
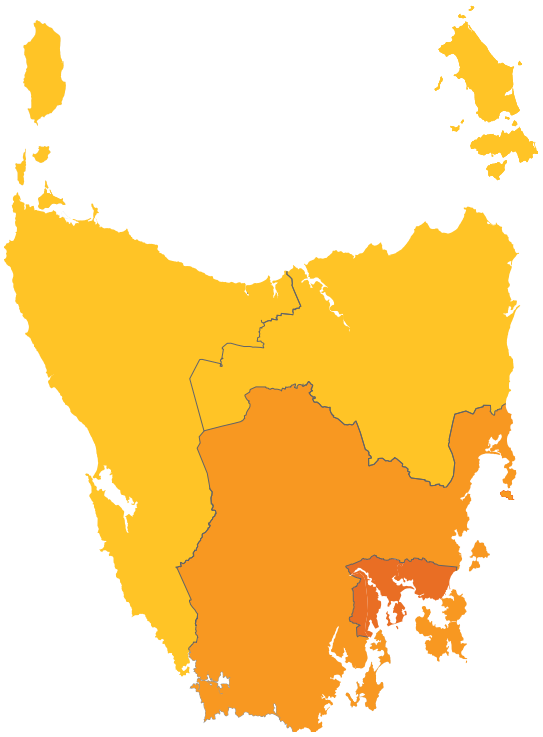


Figure 13: Proportion of populations in Tasmanian regions aged over 65 years in 2006 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016



Proportion of Population aged over 65

- 17% – 19.9%
- 20% – 22.9%
- 23% – 25.9%

Figure 14: Map of proportion of population aged over 65 years in each Tasmanian region in 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016

Tasmanian Remoteness Areas

The ABS classifies remoteness areas into five classes: major cities, inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote, using a measure of relative access to services[30]. Tasmania has only four of these classification areas, as it does not contain any areas that meet the major cities classification.

Access to services is measured using the Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA+), developed by the University of Adelaide's Hugo Centre for Migration and Population Research. In brief, ARIA+ is a continuous index with values from 0 (highly accessible) to 15 (highly remote) that are determined by road distance measurements from populated localities to the nearest Service Centres[31].

Service Centres are based on population sizes, with the assumption that more services will be accessible where there is a larger population. ARIA+ does not consider socio-economic status, rurality or population sizes in its calculations, and further information about methodology can be found on the University of Adelaide's website: **www.adelaide.edu.au/hugo-centre/spatial_data/aria/**

The trends in population number and proportion of population aged over 65 years are similar for Tasmanian remoteness areas as for regions. Remoteness areas with the largest and smallest numbers of people aged over 65 had the lowest and highest proportions of the population in this age group, respectively.

Inner regional areas had the highest number of people aged over 65 years in 2016 (Table 14), but these areas had the lowest proportion of the population in this age group at 18.7% and the slowest growth in this proportion from 2006 of 3.6% (Figure 15). Outer regional, remote and very remote areas of Tasmania all had over 20% of the population aged over 65 years. This was highest in very remote areas at 26.4%, growing by 10.1% from 2006 to 2016.

Proportion of population aged over 65 years in Tasmanian areas:

1. Very remote (26.4%)
2. Remote (23.2%)
3. Outer regional (21.7%)
4. Inner regional (18.7%)

Population over 65 years (persons)	2006	2016	Change 2006-2016
Inner Regional	46,469	64,372	+17,903
Outer Regional	23,120	33,642	+10,522
Remote	1,083	1,786	+703
Very Remote	406	657	+251

Table 14: Number of people aged over 65 years in Tasmanian remoteness areas from 2006 to 2016, and the change in this number.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016

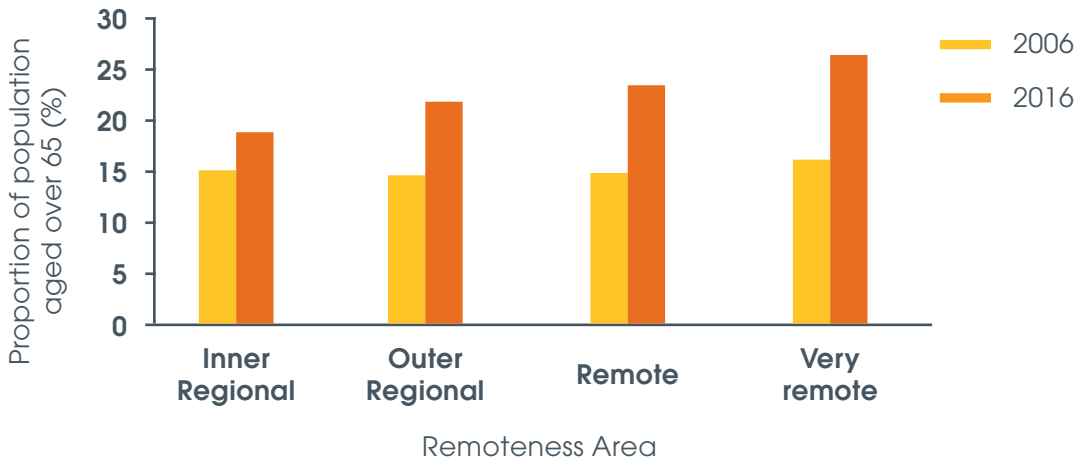


Figure 15: Proportion of populations in Tasmanian remoteness areas aged over 65 years in 2006 and 2016.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016

Tasmania has a very dispersed population of older people who need to be supported wherever they live.

There are clear differences in population age structure between different, but not particularly distant, areas across Tasmania.

Overview

Despite being a small sized state with one of the smallest populations in Australia, there are clear differences in population age structure between different, but not particularly distant, areas across Tasmania.

Tasmania's age structure between LGAs differs dramatically, with median age varying by as much as 22 years and up to 20.2% difference in the proportion of the population aged over 65 years. There are clear differences in population structure between Tasmanian regions and remoteness areas.

Despite being the region with the smallest population, the South East is notably older and its population structure is ageing faster than all other regions, in particular the Greater Hobart area. The North & North East and West & North West regions are reasonably similar in proportion and change in the population aged over 65 years, but also lead the Greater Hobart area in these measures.

The proportion of the population aged over 65 years in all remoteness areas increased from 2006 to 2016, but this was highest in remote and very remote communities. The total proportion of older people in populations living in very remote areas was over 25% in 2016, 7.7% higher than populations in inner regional areas. Proportions in very remote populations grew by 6.5% more than those in inner regional areas.

Remote and very remote areas have higher proportions of older people than regional areas.

While the largest numbers of Tasmania's population live in the Greater Hobart region and inner regional areas, the State has a very dispersed population that needs to be supported wherever they live. People living in less populated areas must not be forgotten. The data above demonstrates that populations in remote or very remote areas have high proportions of the population aged over 65 years. It is beyond the scope of this report to understand why this is the case, but it is an important question: Why are there high proportions of older Tasmanians living in remote areas and outside of major centres? And are services available for them to age in place and in communities with their families and friends?

The data above provide Councils with an understanding of their community's population structure, allowing them to identify the need to plan for an ageing population and utilise the benefits that this population presents.

Chapter 4:

What will Tasmania's population look like in the future?

Population ageing is not an issue that only concerns people who are older today. All Tasmanians are ageing and current trends demonstrate that our population will continue to age for at least the next few decades. Planning and initiatives developed now can affect older people today, tomorrow, in 10 years and in 30 years' time. It is vital that plans made now consider the needs, interests, characteristics and attitudes of older Tasmanians from a range of generations. This is no easy task as the world of today and the way people live is likely to look significantly different in 20 years' time, but it is vital that no generation is left to feel disenfranchised, devalued and unimportant.

All Tasmanians are ageing and current trends demonstrate that our population will continue to age for at least the next few decades.

One of the major drivers changing the way Australians live is rapidly developing technology. While we must plan for an ageing population that will have grown up with technology as part of their lives, it is important to recognise that there are many Tasmanians who are digitally excluded today and who will be digitally excluded in the future. It is not only older people who face this problem as people with low educational attainment, receiving low income, who live remotely

It is vital that no generation is left to feel disenfranchised, devalued and unimportant.

or have a disability commonly experience barriers to digital inclusion[32]. Planning must not focus solely on a population that will be digitally engaged but needs to consider people from a broad range of backgrounds, cultures and experiences both now and in the future.

Population projections in this report were sourced from Tasmania's Department of Treasury and Finance using 2011 ABS Census and LGA population data as at 30 June 2012, replacing the Demographic Change Advisory Council (DCAC) projections from 2008[33]. Projection data for Tasmania's population were calculated for the years 2012 to 2062, while LGA projections were available for 2012 to 2037. Values were calculated into three projection series (Low, Medium and High), based on different assumptions of fertility rates, mortality rates and interstate and international migration flows. Calculations do not include demographic impacts of Government policy or strategies. More information about the methodology of these projection data is available at the Department of Treasury and Finance website: **https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/economy/economic-data/2014-population-projections-for-tasmania-and-its-local-government-areas.**

Tasmanian Projections

Tasmania's total population in 2016 was just under 510,000 people. This is predicted to grow to just over 465,000, 589,000 or 756,000 people by 2060 under the Department of Treasury and Finance's low, medium and high series, respectively (Figure 16).

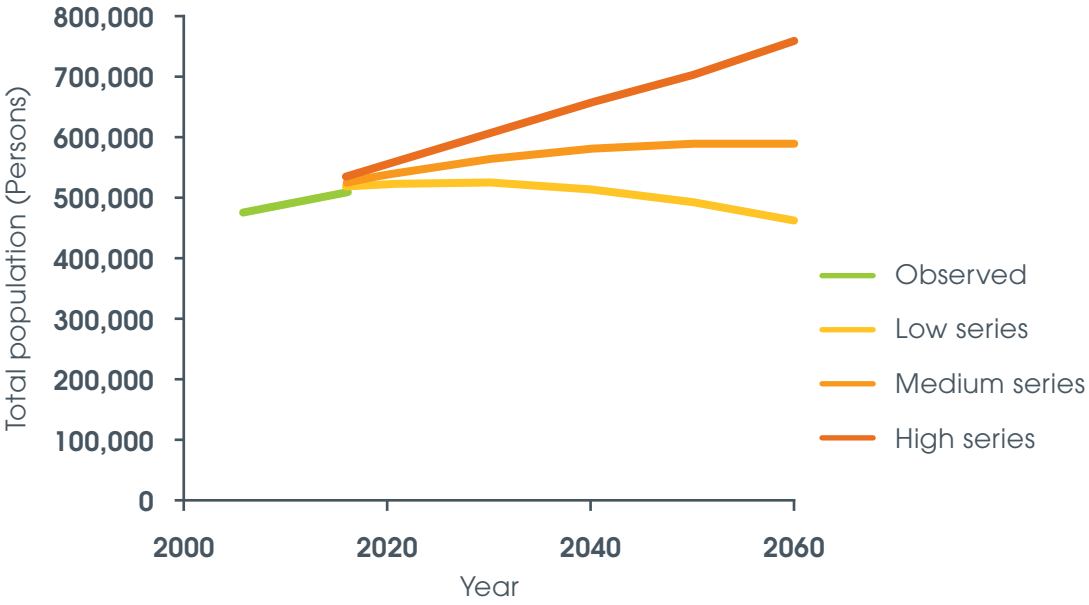


Figure 16: Observed and projected population for the whole Tasmanian population from 2006 to 2060.

ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016; Department of Treasury and Finance, Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, 2014

Tasmania's population aged over 65 years is predicted to grow from 98,738 people in 2016 to approximately 139,000, 179,000 and 247,000 people by 2060, under the low, medium and high series, respectively (Table 15; Figure 17). These projection series indicate that the number of Tasmanians aged over 65 years could increase by 40,000, 80,000 and 148,000 people, respectively.

All series projections currently predict that the proportion of the population aged over 65 years will grow at a similar rate to about 28.0% in 2040, after which the series' begin to diverge. The proportion of Tasmania's population aged over 65 is projected to grow from 19.4% in 2016 to 30.0% under the low series, 30.5% under the medium series, and 32.6% under the high series by 2060 (Table 15; Figure 18).

Projected number of Tasmanians over 65 years by 2060:

- Low series: 139,000 people
- Medium series: 179,000 people
- High series: 247,000 people

Projected proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years by 2060:

- Low series: 30.0%
- Medium series: 30.5%
- High series: 32.6%

	Proportion of population aged over 65 (%)			
Year	Observed	Low Series	Medium Series	High Series
2006	14.9			
2016	19.4			
2016		18.5	18.5	18.6
2020		20.4	20.4	20.5
2030		25.3	25.3	25.3
2040		27.8	28.1	28.4
2050		28.4	29.0	30.2
2060		29.9	30.5	32.6

	Population aged over 65 (Persons)			
Year	Observed	Low Series	Medium Series	High Series
2006	71138			
2016	98738			
2016		95570	97298	99110
2020		106162	109866	113689
2030		132612	142953	153820
2040		143124	162939	186013
2050		139969	170565	212549
2060		138979	179524	246997

Table 15: Observed and projected population and proportion of population aged over 65 years in Tasmania from 2006 to 2060.

ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016; Department of Treasury and Finance, Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, 2014

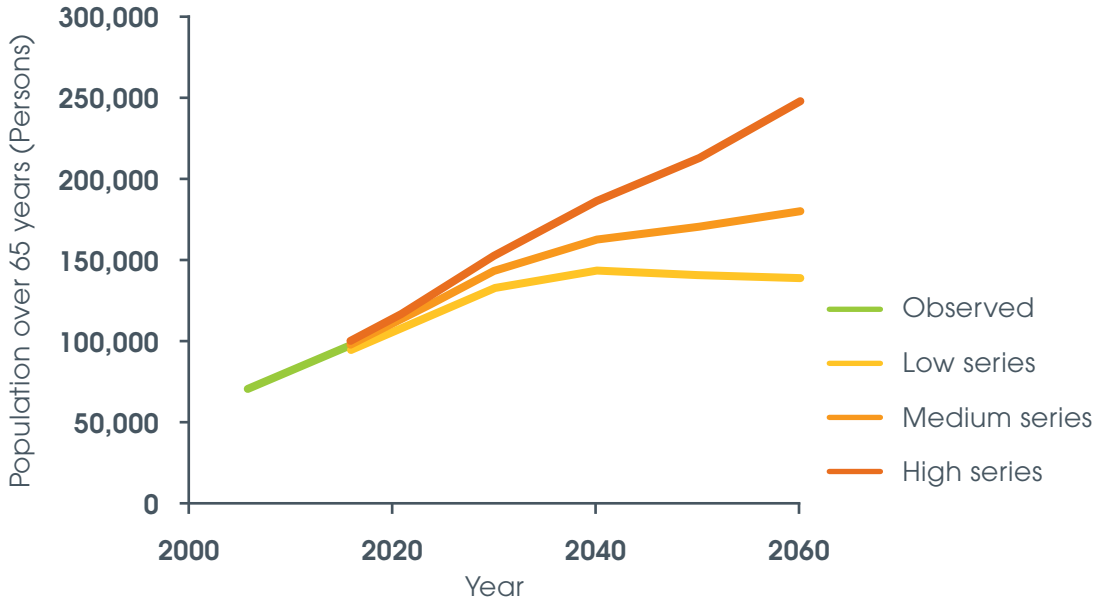


Figure 17: Number of people aged over 65 years observed and projected in Tasmania from 2006 to 2060.

ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016; Department of Treasury and Finance, Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, 2014

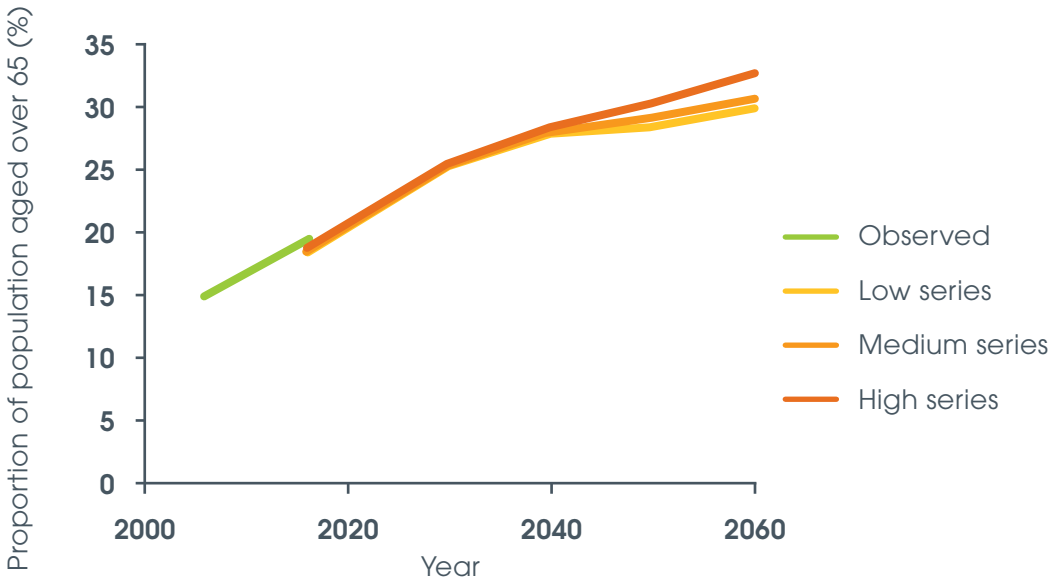


Figure 18: Proportion of population aged over 65 years using observed and projected population data from 2006 to 2060.

ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2006 & 2016; Department of Treasury and Finance, Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, 2014

LGA Projections

The number of Tasmanians aged over 65 years is projected to increase in every Tasmanian LGA from 2016 to 2037 in all projections series. The LGAs predicted to have the largest number of people aged over 65 years in 2037, under all projection series, are Launceston, Clarence and Hobart (Table 16). LGAs predicted to have the smallest number of people aged over 65 years in 2037 are Flinders Island, King Island and Central Highlands.

The largest increase in number of people aged over 65 years for all projection series from 2016 to 2037 is predicted to be in Brighton, increasing by 130.3%, 149.3% and 167.2% in low, medium and high series, respectively (Table 17).

Large increases are also expected for the Southern Midlands, Huon Valley and Kentish. LGAs with the smallest increases are predicted to be Glenorchy, Burnie and Devonport.

Largest number of people aged over 65 years by 2037:

- Launceston
- Clarence
- Hobart

Smallest number of people aged over 65 years by 2037:

- Flinders Island
- King Island
- Central Highlands

Population aged over 65 years (Persons)	Low Series			
	2016 actual	2025	2037	Change 2016 (actual) to 2037
Break O'Day	1,736	2,305	2,595	+859
Brighton	1,973	3,212	4,543	+2,570
Burnie	3,475	3,911	4,395	+920
Central Coast	4,755	5,828	6,832	+2,077
Central Highlands	516	643	727	+211
Circular Head	1,306	1,643	1,985	+679
Clarence	11,013	12,554	14,299	+3,286
Derwent Valley	1,881	2,027	2,528	+647
Devonport	5,261	6,098	6,824	+1,563
Dorset	1,572	2,139	2,438	+866
Flinders	237	311	318	+81
George Town	1,457	1,678	1,911	+454
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	1,420	1,798	1,895	+475
Glenorchy	8,206	8,956	10,246	+2,040
Hobart	8,572	9,911	11,314	+2,742
Huon Valley	3,246	4,417	5,613	+2,367
Kentish	1,229	1,588	2,090	+861
King Island	357	430	492	+135
Kingborough	6,628	8,429	10,024	+3,396
Latrobe	2,543	3,203	3,929	+1,386
Launceston	11,747	13,910	16,007	+4,260
Meander Valley	4,032	5,297	6,486	+2,454
Northern Midlands	2,724	3,410	4,094	+1,370
Sorell	2,561	3,308	4,335	+1,774
Southern Midlands	1,039	1,739	2,224	+1,185
Tasman	688	838	919	+231
Waratah-Wynyard	3,017	3,718	4,327	+1,310
West Coast	699	833	1,006	+307
West Tamar	4,753	6,296	7,694	+2,941
Tasmania	**98,643**	**120,437**	**142,095**	**+43,452**

Table 16: Observed and projected number of people aged over 65 in Tasmanian local government areas from 2016 to 2037 and the change over this period.

ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016; Department of Treasury and Finance, Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, 2014

Medium Series				High Series			
2016 actual	2025	2037	Change 2016 (actual) to 2037	2016 actual	2025	2037	Change 2016 (actual) to 2037
1,736	2,400	2,839	+1,103	1,736	2,508	3,151	+1,415
1,973	3,336	4,919	+2,946	1,973	3,437	5,272	+3,299
3,475	4,083	4,796	+1,321	3,475	4,287	5,328	+1,853
4,755	6,127	7,598	+2,843	4,755	6,450	8,490	+3,735
516	670	799	+283	516	705	884	+368
1,306	1,698	2,107	+801	1,306	1,767	2,266	+960
11,013	13,270	16,094	+5,081	11,013	14,020	18,153	+7,140
1,881	2,144	2,777	+896	1,881	2,273	3,123	+1,242
5,261	6,304	7,399	+2,138	5,261	6,527	8,069	+2,808
1,572	2,222	2,608	+1,036	1,572	2,329	2,884	+1,312
237	327	357	+120	237	335	383	+146
1,457	1,764	2,073	+616	1,457	1,907	2,410	+953
1,420	1,858	2,062	+642	1,420	1,927	2,268	+848
8,206	9,271	11,121	+2,915	8,206	9,578	12,075	+3,869
8,572	10,741	13,180	+4,608	8,572	11,640	15,420	+6,848
3,246	4,811	6,555	+3,309	3,246	5,198	7,561	+4,315
1,229	1,735	2,439	+1,210	1,229	1,899	2,838	+1,609
357	434	522	+165	357	501	619	+262
6,628	9,311	12,143	+5,515	6,628	10,138	14,250	+7,622
2,543	3,620	4,950	+2,407	2,543	3,982	5,863	+3,320
11,747	14,444	17,471	+5,724	11,747	14,961	19,051	+7,304
4,032	5,504	7,029	+2,997	4,032	5,714	7,667	+3,635
2,724	3,522	4,388	+1,664	2,724	3,640	4,757	+2,033
2,561	3,513	4,923	+2,362	2,561	3,650	5,358	+2,797
1,039	1,839	2,486	+1,447	1,039	1,941	2,767	+1,728
688	877	1,011	+323	688	924	1,137	+449
3,017	3,859	4,703	+1,686	3,017	4,014	5,154	+2,137
699	869	1,035	+336	699	934	1,125	+426
4,753	6,568	8,450	+3,697	4,753	6,818	9,216	+4,463
98,643	**127,119**	**158,818**	**+60,175**	**98,643**	**133,990**	**177,532**	**+78,889**

Projected percentage increase in number of people aged over 65 years 2016 to 2037 (%)						
Rank (Largest to smallest)	Low Series		Medium Series		High Series	
1	Brighton	130.3	Brighton	149.3	Brighton	167.2
2	Southern Midlands	114.1	Southern Midlands	139.3	Southern Midlands	166.3
3	Huon Valley	72.9	Huon Valley	101.9	Huon Valley	132.9
4	Kentish	70.1	Kentish	98.5	Kentish	130.9
5	Sorell	69.3	Latrobe	94.7	Latrobe	130.6
6	West Tamar	61.9	Sorell	92.2	Kingborough	115.0
7	Meander Valley	60.9	Kingborough	83.2	Sorell	109.2
8	Dorset	55.1	West Tamar	77.8	West Tamar	93.9
9	Latrobe	54.5	Meander Valley	74.3	Meander Valley	90.2
10	Circular Head	52.0	Dorset	65.9	Dorset	83.5
11	Kingborough	51.2	Break O'Day	63.5	Break O'Day	81.5
12	Northern Midlands	50.3	Circular Head	61.3	Hobart	79.9
13	Break O'Day	49.5	Northern Midlands	61.1	Central Coast	78.5
14	West Coast	43.9	Central Coast	59.8	Northern Midlands	74.6
15	Central Coast	43.7	Waratah-Wynyard	55.9	Circular Head	73.5
16	Waratah-Wynyard	43.4	Central Highlands	54.8	King Island	73.4
17	Central Highlands	40.9	Hobart	53.8	Central Highlands	71.3
18	King Island	37.8	Flinders	50.6	Waratah-Wynyard	70.8
19	Launceston	36.3	Launceston	48.7	Derwent Valley	66.0
20	Derwent Valley	34.4	West Coast	48.1	George Town	65.4
21	Flinders	34.2	Derwent Valley	47.6	Tasman	65.3
22	Tasman	33.6	Tasman	46.9	Clarence	64.8
23	Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	33.5	King Island	46.2	Launceston	62.2
24	Hobart	32.0	Clarence	46.1	Flinders	61.6
25	George Town	31.2	Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	45.2	West Coast	60.9
26	Clarence	29.8	George Town	42.3	Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	59.7
27	Devonport	29.7	Devonport	40.6	Devonport	53.4
28	Burnie	26.5	Burnie	38.0	Burnie	53.3
29	Glenorchy	24.9	Glenorchy	35.5	Glenorchy	47.1
	Tasmania	**44.0**	**Tasmania**	**61.0**	**Tasmania**	**80.0**

Table 17: The projected increase in number of people aged over 65 years (as a percentage) in Tasmanian local government areas from 2016 (actual) to 2037 (projected), ranked largest to smallest increase for each of the low, medium and high series.

ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016; Department of Treasury and Finance, Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, 2014

In 2037, all LGAs are predicted to have over 20.0% of the population aged over 65 years. At least four LGAs may grow to over 40.0% aged over 65 years.

As for total numbers of people aged over 65 years, the proportion of populations aged over 65 are predicted to grow in all LGAs from 2016 to 2037 under each projection series (Table 18). In 2037, all LGAs are predicted to have over 20.0% of the population aged over 65 years. The highest proportion is predicted to be in Flinders Island, with over 50% of the population over 65 years by 2037 under all projection series (Table 19). Glamorgan/Spring Bay is predicted to have around 50% of the population aged over 65 years, and Break O'Day and Dorset populations are projected to grow to over 40% in this age group. Glenorchy, Brighton, Launceston and Burnie are predicted to have the lowest proportions of population aged over 65.

The fastest growth in proportion of population aged over 65 years is predicted for Flinders Island, growing by more than 25% under each projection series (Table 18). Fast growth is also projected for Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Dorset and King Island. LGAs with the slowest projected growth of around 5.0% are Glenorchy, Devonport, Burnie and Launceston.

Highest proportion aged over 65 years by 2037:

- Flinders Island
- Glamorgan/Spring Bay
- Break O'Day

Lowest proportion aged over 65 years by 2037:

- Launceston
- Brighton
- Glenorchy

Both 2014 Department of Treasury and Finance and 2008 DCAC populations projections underestimated the number and proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 years in 2016 (Table 20). Conversely, both data sets overestimated the total Tasmanian population for 2016. This suggests that current projections presented above may underestimate the number and proportion of older Tasmanians in the future and that Tasmania's population structure may age even faster than currently predicted.

Current population projections may underestimate the proportion of Tasmania's population that will be aged 65 years or more into the future.

Proportion of population aged over 65 years (%)				
	Low Series			
	2016 (actual)	2025	2037	Change 2016 to 2037
Break O'Day	28.5	36.6	44.7	+16.2
Brighton	12.0	17.2	22.1	+10.1
Burnie	18.4	20.0	23.5	+5.2
Central Coast	22.3	25.9	31.3	+9.1
Central Highlands	24.0	28.5	36.2	+12.2
Circular Head	16.5	21.3	27.7	+11.1
Clarence	20.1	22.5	25.4	+5.3
Derwent Valley	18.8	21.1	27.9	+9.1
Devonport	21.3	23.3	26.2	+4.9
Dorset	23.8	33.1	42.8	+19.0
Flinders	26.4	44.9	57.7	+31.4
George Town	21.5	27.3	34.5	+12.9
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	32.2	43.6	53.2	+21.0
Glenorchy	17.7	19.0	21.2	+3.4
Hobart	17.0	20.2	24.0	+7.1
Huon Valley	20.0	25.9	33.4	+13.4
Kentish	20.0	23.7	31.9	+11.9
King Island	22.5	31.7	41.0	+18.5
Kingborough	18.5	21.7	24.6	+6.1
Latrobe	23.8	26.5	31.0	+7.2
Launceston	18.0	20.2	23.1	+5.1
Meander Valley	20.9	27.7	36.7	+15.8
Northern Midlands	21.2	27.8	36.4	+15.1
Sorell	17.8	21.4	26.0	+8.3
Southern Midlands	17.2	26.2	33.8	+16.6
Tasman	29.0	34.7	39.4	+10.4
Waratah-Wynyard	22.2	26.2	32.1	+9.9
West Coast	16.9	21.7	28.7	+11.8
West Tamar	20.9	27.2	34.7	+13.7
Tasmania	19.4	23.0	27.4	+8.0

Table 18: Observed and projected proportion of the population aged over 65 years in Tasmanian local government areas in 2016, 2025 and 2037 under low, medium and high series, and the change in this from 2016 to 2037.

ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016; Department of Treasury and Finance, Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, 2014

Medium Series				High Series			
2016 (actual)	2025	2037	Change 2016 to 2037	2016 (actual)	2025	2037	Change 2016 to 2037
28.5	36.0	43.4	+14.9	28.5	35.4	41.9	+13.5
12.0	17.2	22.2	+10.2	12.0	17.2	22.4	+10.4
18.4	20.1	23.9	+5.5	18.4	20.2	24.2	+5.8
22.3	25.9	31.3	+9.0	22.3	25.8	31.2	+9.0
24.0	28.3	35.8	+11.8	24.0	28.0	34.7	+10.7
16.5	21.3	27.8	+11.3	16.5	21.3	27.7	+11.1
20.1	22.7	25.8	+5.7	20.1	22.7	26.0	+6.0
18.8	21.2	28.0	+9.3	18.8	21.3	27.9	+9.1
21.3	23.4	26.5	+5.2	21.3	23.3	26.7	+5.4
23.8	32.7	42.3	+18.5	23.8	32.3	41.0	+17.2
26.4	43.5	54.6	+28.2	26.4	42.6	52.5	+26.1
21.5	26.6	33.0	+11.5	21.5	26.3	32.1	+10.6
32.2	42.8	51.3	+19.1	32.2	41.8	49.1	+17.0
17.7	19.1	21.6	+3.8	17.7	19.1	21.9	+4.1
17.0	20.4	24.4	+7.4	17.0	20.8	25.3	+8.3
20.0	25.9	32.7	+12.7	20.0	25.8	32.0	+12.0
20.0	23.8	31.3	+11.2	20.0	23.9	30.9	+10.8
22.5	30.4	38.0	+15.5	22.5	30.8	38.3	+15.8
18.5	22.0	25.1	+6.7	18.5	22.2	25.5	+7.0
23.8	26.4	30.3	+6.5	23.8	26.3	30.1	+6.3
18.0	20.3	23.6	+5.6	18.0	20.3	23.8	+5.8
20.9	27.6	36.4	+15.5	20.9	27.4	35.9	+15.0
21.2	27.8	36.2	+15.0	21.2	27.6	35.9	+14.6
17.8	21.5	26.1	+8.4	17.8	21.5	26.3	+8.5
17.2	26.1	33.4	+16.2	17.2	26.0	32.8	+15.6
29.0	34.0	37.8	+8.8	29.0	33.4	36.7	+7.7
22.2	26.2	32.1	+9.9	22.2	26.1	32.0	+9.7
16.9	21.6	28.5	+11.6	16.9	21.6	28.2	+11.3
20.9	27.1	34.4	+13.5	20.9	27.0	34.2	+13.3
19.4	23.0	27.5	+8.1	19.4	23.1	27.7	+8.3

Projected proportion of the population aged over 65 years in 2037 (%)						
Rank (Largest to smallest)	Low Series		Medium Series		High Series	
1	Flinders	57.7	Flinders	54.6	Flinders	52.5
2	Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	53.2	Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	51.3	Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	49.1
3	Break O'Day	44.7	Break O'Day	43.4	Break O'Day	41.9
4	Dorset	42.8	Dorset	42.3	Dorset	41.0
5	King Island	41.0	King Island	38.0	King Island	38.3
6	Tasman	39.4	Tasman	37.8	Tasman	36.7
7	Meander Valley	36.7	Meander Valley	36.4	Meander Valley	35.9
8	Northern Midlands	36.4	Northern Midlands	36.2	Northern Midlands	35.9
9	Central Highlands	36.2	Central Highlands	35.8	Central Highlands	34.7
10	West Tamar	34.7	West Tamar	34.4	West Tamar	34.2
11	George Town	34.5	Southern Midlands	33.4	Southern Midlands	32.8
12	Southern Midlands	33.8	George Town	33.0	George Town	32.1
13	Huon Valley	33.4	Huon Valley	32.7	Huon Valley	32.0
14	Waratah-Wynyard	32.1	Waratah-Wynyard	32.1	Waratah-Wynyard	32.0
15	Kentish	31.9	Kentish	31.3	Central Coast	31.2
16	Central Coast	31.3	Central Coast	31.3	Kentish	30.9
17	Latrobe	31.0	Latrobe	30.3	Latrobe	30.1
18	West Coast	28.7	West Coast	28.5	West Coast	28.2
19	Derwent Valley	27.9	Derwent Valley	28.0	Derwent Valley	27.9
20	Circular Head	27.7	Circular Head	27.8	Circular Head	27.7
21	Devonport	26.2	Devonport	26.5	Devonport	26.7
22	Sorell	26.0	Sorell	26.1	Sorell	26.3
23	Clarence	25.4	Clarence	25.8	Clarence	26.0
24	Kingborough	24.6	Kingborough	25.1	Kingborough	25.5
25	Hobart	24.0	Hobart	24.4	Hobart	25.3
26	Burnie	23.5	Burnie	23.9	Burnie	24.2
27	Launceston	23.1	Launceston	23.6	Launceston	23.8
28	Brighton	22.1	Brighton	22.2	Brighton	22.4
29	Glenorchy	21.2	Glenorchy	21.6	Glenorchy	21.9
	Tasmania	27.4	Tasmania	27.5	Tasmania	27.7

Table 19: Projected proportion of the population aged over 65 years in Tasmanian local government areas in 2037 under low, medium and high series ranked from highest proportion to lowest.

ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016; Department of Treasury and Finance, Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, 2014

	2016	2020	2030
Total population (persons)			
Observed	509,966	-	-
DCAC mid-series (2008)	522,579	534,398	559,489
DTF medium series (2014)	525,501	537,763	564,210
Population aged over 65 (persons)			
Observed	98,738	-	-
DCAC mid-series (2008)	95,527	107,860	139,975
DTF medium series (2014)	97,298	109,866	142,953
Proportion of population aged over 65 (%)			
Observed	19.4	-	-
DCAC mid-series (2008)	18.3	20.2	25.0
DTF medium series (2014)	18.5	20.4	25.3

Table 20: Observed population in 2016 and Demographic Change Advisory Council (DCAC) mid-series and Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) medium series projected Tasmanian population figures for 2020 and 2030.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016; Department of Treasury and Finance, Population projections for Tasmania and its Local Government Areas, 2014; DCAC projections (mid series) from Facing the Future: A Baseline Profile on Older Tasmanians (2012) COTA Tasmania

Overview

Tasmania's population will continue to age for several decades to come, no matter what projection calculation is used to predict population forecasts into the future.

The number and proportion of the population aged over 65 years in every LGA will increase, with the largest increase expected in Brighton, which is currently the States youngest LGA but is likely to be replaced by Glenorchy by 2037. Flinders Island is expected to overtake Glamorgan/Spring Bay to become the oldest population by 2037 with over 50% of the population aged over 65 years. Projections suggest that there will be at least four LGAs with over 40% of the population aged over 65 years by 2037, and over 25% of Tasmania's total population will be in this age group.

> Tasmania's population will continue to age for several decades to come.

While discrepancies between different projection data sets were observed in different LGAs, population projections from 2008 and 2014 both underestimated the actual population aged over 65 years in 2016, while overestimating Tasmania's total population. Tasmania's total population in 2016 aligns well with Treasury low series projections but the population aged over 65 years in 2016 best aligns with high series projections.

If population growth follows the Treasury high series, then almost 250,000 people or 32.6% of Tasmania's population would be over 65 years by 2060. Given underestimations in recent projections for the population aged over 65 years, it is possible that the number and proportion of people in this age group could be even higher and Tasmania's population structure will age even faster than currently predicted.

Almost 250,000 people or 32.6% of Tasmania's population would be over 65 years by 2060 if Tasmania population growth follows the Treasury high series.

At least four Tasmania LGAs are predicted to have over 40% of the population aged over 65 years by 2037, and over 25% of Tasmania's total population will be in this age group.

Planning for an ageing population requires broad and significant consultation, strong leadership, a clear and positive vision, robust collaboration, and a firm commitment to better the lives of all Tasmanians as they age.

Tasmania has an opportunity to lead Australia in development and implementation of planning for an ageing population.

Chapter 5:

What does an older population mean for Tasmania?

There are many opportunities to learn from and adapt Australian and international initiatives and programs to support ageing.

Tasmania's population is the oldest in Australia and the State has a significant opportunity to lead Australia in development and implementation of planning for an ageing population. The Tasmanian Government's *Strong, Liveable Communities: Tasmania's Active Ageing Plan 2017-2022* is a strong start to this, but initiatives in this and future Plan's must continue to develop, adapt to changing population needs, and be more than superficial 'tick-of-the-box' initiatives. Projects and programs must be planned and funded to generate far reaching, on-going and meaningful change. Ultimately, well-considered initiatives will benefit all members of community as they foster inclusion, intergenerational learning, community cohesion, improved infrastructure for people of all abilities and life-stages, and better opportunities for everyone to be involved in community and working life.

To demonstrate a statewide commitment to making its communities more age-friendly, Tasmania can follow the Western Australian Government's lead[34] and become a member of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities[35]. In doing this, the Tasmanian Government would join Clarence and Burnie Councils as part of this Network and demonstrate a precedent for all Tasmanian Councils to strive to be part of this Network and become accountable to being age-friendly. The WHO Network also offers the opportunity to learn from cities around the world about how to make Tasmania more age-friendly.

While Tasmania is the oldest state or territory in Australia, it is far from the oldest population in the world. There are many opportunities to learn from and adapt Australian and international initiatives, programs and age-friendly or liveable community plans that support ageing populations.

An ageing population will bring challenges to Tasmania, but the opportunities that come with this growing cohort are far-reaching and must be acknowledged and explored. While it is important both socially and economically that populations are composed of a broad range of ages, disregarding the older population as a burden on society is ignorant, unhelpful and will ultimately result in unproductive and disconnected communities. Initiatives to engage older people in community activities through participation and volunteering must be delivered alongside, and complementary to, those that attract young people and families to communities. Planning for an ageing population requires broad and significant consultation, strong leadership, a clear and positive vision, robust collaboration, and a firm commitment to better the lives of all Tasmanians as they age. While this is no easy task, it is possible if Tasmania's Government and Councils are proactive and committed to the cause.

Chapter 6:
Conclusion

Tasmania's population is ageing. Developing and implementing policies, initiatives and programs that support older people to remain valued, engaged and healthy are vital to ensure that communities benefit from this population shift. The data in this report presents information about how Tasmania compares to Australia as a whole and other states and territories; where the oldest and fastest ageing population structures are in the State; and what the population will look like in the future. From this report, the oldest Tasmanian populations in 2016 (in terms of proportion of the population aged over 65 years) are:

- LGAs
  - Glamorgan/Spring Bay
  - Tasman
  - Break O'Day
  - Flinders Island
  - Central Highlands
- South East Tasmania
- Very remote areas

Data presented here can be used to identify areas that may require the most urgent support to prepare for an ageing population.

This may be through increasing older person workforce participation, introducing or expanding services that benefit older people, funding programs that support older people to remain independent and healthy, or providing more aged care in home or residential living facilities. The most important initiative that must be implemented statewide and supported by Tasmanian Government and Councils is to actively fight ageism. Only by acknowledging the contributions that older people provide in our communities can Tasmania thrive as an ageing population. While people harbour negative views about others and their own ageing, older people will face barriers to engagement and participation that will only harm communities.

Only by acknowledging the contributions that older people provide in our communities can Tasmania thrive as an ageing population.

Appendix 1: Breakdown of areas included in Tasmanian region classification

Greater Hobart

Brighton

- Bridgewater — Gagebrook
- Brighton — Pontville
- Old Beach — Otago

Hobart - North East

- Bellerive — Rosny
- Cambridge
- Geilston Bay — Risdon
- Howrah — Tranmere
- Lindisfarne — Rose Bay
- Mornington — Warrane
- Risdon Vale
- Rokeby
- South Arm

Hobart — North West

- Austins Ferry — Granton
- Berriedale — Chigwell
- Claremont
- Derwent Park — Lutana
- Glenorchy
- Montrose — Rosetta
- Moonah
- New Norfolk
- West Moonah

Hobart — South and West

- Kingston — Huntingfield
- Kingston Beach — Blackmans Bay
- Margate — Snug
- Mount Wellington
- Taroona — Bonnet Hill

Hobart Inner

- Hobart
- Lenah Valley — Mount Stuart
- Mount Nelson — Dynnyrne
- New Town
- Sandy Bay
- South Hobart — Fern Tree
- West Hobart

Sorell — Dodges Ferry

- Dodges Ferry — Lewisham
- Sorell — Richmond

North & North East

Launceston

- Invermay
- Kings Meadows — Punchbowl
- Launceston
- Legana
- Mowbray
- Newnham — Mayfield
- Newstead
- Norwood
- Prospect Vale — Blackstone
- Ravenswood
- Riverside
- South Launceston
- Summerhill — Prospect
- Trevallyn
- Waverley — St Leonards
- West Launceston
- Youngtown — Relbia

Meander Valley — West Tamar

- Beauty Point — Beaconsfield
- Deloraine
- Grindelwald — Lanena
- Hadspen — Carrick
- Westbury

North East

- Dilston — Lilydale
- George Town
- Longford
- Northern Midlands
- Perth — Evandale
- St Helens — Scamander
- Flinders & Cape Barren Islands
- Scottsdale — Bridport

South East

Central Highlands

- Central Highlands
- Derwent Valley
- Southern Midlands
- Wilderness — East

Huon — Bruny Island

- Bruny Island — Kettering
- Cygnet
- Geeveston — Dover
- Huonville — Franklin

South East Coast

- Forestier — Tasman
- Triabunna — Bicheno

West & North West

Burnie — Ulverstone

- Acton — Upper Burnie
- Burnie — Ulverstone Region
- Burnie — Wivenhoe
- Parklands — Camdale
- Penguin — Sulphur Creek
- Romaine — Havenview
- Somerset
- Ulverstone
- West Ulverstone
- Wynyard

Devonport

- Devonport
- East Devonport
- Latrobe
- Miandetta — Don
- Port Sorell
- Quoiba — Spreyton
- Sheffield — Railton
- Turners Beach — Forth

West Coast

- King Island
- North West
- Smithton
- Waratah
- West Coast
- Wilderness — West

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder, 2016

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