



EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Tasmania's Ageing Profile **Part II**

SUPPORTED BY



Foreword CEO

COTA Tasmania is the voice of current and future older Tasmanians.

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. Tasmanians are living longer and healthier lives than ever before, enabling ageing to be a time of possibility, opportunity and influence. Older Tasmanians are a crucial part of our community's relationships, diversity, civic and economic productivity.

Part I of Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile reported how and where Tasmania's population is ageing. It highlighted how an older population can be both an opportunity and a

challenge for government, business, services and community, and how providing an opportunity for everyone to age well can only occur through collaboration.

Older Tasmanians are a diverse cohort, but this population can experience unique trends and challenges that come with older age in health, relationships, cultural diversity, income, housing and employment. *Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part II* presents data on these areas, with a specific focus on how these factors impact a person's risk of social isolation.

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CEO COTA Tasmania

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COTA Tasmania, 2019



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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACOSS	Australian Council of Social Services
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Aus	Australia
BMI	Body Mass Index
COTA	Council on the Ageing Tasmania
LGA	Local Government Area
nfd	Not further defined
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas
Tas	Tasmania
Vic	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

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 are. Through data collection and by 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 it brings. These opportunities can include:

- reduced ageism and discrimination, leading to improved mental and physical health and wellbeing.
- improved intergenerational relationships, skills sharing and social cohesion across generations.
- increased volunteering and civic participation.
- retention of valuable industry knowledge, life experience, efficiency and opportunities for mentoring in the workforce.

Understanding Tasmania's older population can assist government, services and community to target initiatives and allocate resources to areas of greatest change and need.

COTA's 2013 report *Facing the Future: A Baseline Profile on Older Tasmanians* presented extensive analysis of Tasmania's older population using 2011 Australian Census and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data. *Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I* was a partial update of this report using 2016 ABS Census data. It showed how and where Tasmania's population is ageing.

Embracing the Future Part II builds on *Part I* by presenting detailed analyses of older Tasmanians' health, relationships, cultural diversity, income, housing and employment, with a specific focus on how these factors impact the risk of social isolation. Each chapter in this report begins with an Overview that highlights key data and research in these areas. COTA hopes that both parts of *Embracing the Future* will help government and community understand Tasmania's ageing population better, and to realise the opportunities that this cohort brings to our State. This report uses 2016 ABS Census data and a range of other ABS, government and other data.

Introduction

Understanding who older people are and how they live enables communities and government to ensure that appropriate and adequate services and supports are in place so people can age safely and with informed choice and autonomy. One of the key roles of these services and supports must be to provide opportunities and capacity for people to remain connected to others, their culture and their community.

Older Tasmanians are a diverse population with a range of interests, backgrounds and needs. However, some life events and changes in lifestyle are unique to, and become

more common in, older age and can impact a person's social connections, increasing their risk of social isolation and loneliness. These factors include death of friends or family, age-related physical or cognitive decline, divorce or separation, loss of a driver's licence, retirement and reduced income¹. A growing body of research is demonstrating that social isolation and loneliness have a significant impact on health and wellbeing, to the extent that people who experience loneliness are more likely to have chronic health conditions and increased risk of death than those who do not².

A person may have a broad range of social connections but still feel lonely, and someone who has a small number of high quality social connections may not feel lonely.

Why is it important to understand risk factors for loneliness?

It is important to note that while social isolation and loneliness are associated, they are distinct concepts. Social isolation is regarded as an "objective state, where an individual has minimal contact with others and/or a generally low involvement in community life", whereas loneliness is "a more subjective experience... relates to a person's perception of their social relationships or level of social engagement as being deficient in some way, in terms of quantity and/or quality"³. Therefore, a person may have a broad range of social connections but still feel lonely, and someone who has a small number of high quality social connections may not feel lonely. Loneliness is often considered to be the psychological embodiment of social isolation⁴. Loneliness, in particular, is associated with reduced health and quality of life, though social isolation can also decrease quality of life, place burden on the health system and community services and increase mortality risk independent of loneliness⁵.

Loneliness can occur at any age and is being increasingly recognised as a public health issue⁶. Feeling lonely can increase the risk of death to a similar degree as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, and to a greater degree than obesity⁷. Loneliness increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke⁸, and older people who are lonely have reduced cognitive function, though the causality of this relationship is yet to be determined⁹.

Loneliness can increase the risk of death to a similar degree as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and to a greater degree than obesity, and increases risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Increased morbidity associated with loneliness and social isolation could be explained in part by depression experienced during loneliness¹⁰.

A 2016 survey conducted by Lifeline found that 60% of Australians often felt lonely, and this was despite many of them living with other people¹¹. Research has demonstrated that despite widowed or divorced people tending to have greater feelings of loneliness and decreased life satisfaction than married people¹², many older people who are married or live with others experience loneliness¹³. Types and quality of relationships also appear to be a factor in a person's wellbeing, with gender differences observed in older populations¹⁴.

Social isolation and loneliness are not normal experiences of ageing, but age-related events and changes in lifestyle can increase the risk of older people experiencing these. While these factors cannot be directly measured using ABS Census and other data, some variables can be used to provide an indication of social isolation and loneliness risk within the older Tasmanian population. Identifying areas that have high proportions of older people who have risk factors for social isolation, and therefore, are at risk of experiencing loneliness, enables communities and governments to consider and implement opportunities to support these populations.

**Embracing the Future:
Tasmania's Ageing Profile
Part II investigates the older
population and risk factors
for social isolation in:**

- Health
- Relationships
- Cultural Diversity
- Income
- Housing
- Employment

In this report, variables that may be risk factors for social isolation include:

- Health indicators
 - Engagement in less healthy behaviours;
 - Living with a disability;
 - Caring for someone living with a disability.
- Relationships
 - Widowed, divorced or separated;
 - Living alone.
- Culturally diverse populations
 - From a culturally diverse background;
 - Poor English proficiency.
- Income
 - Low income;
 - Dependence on Government payments;
 - Experiencing poverty.
- Housing
 - Renting;
 - Homelessness.
- Employment
 - Unemployed or retired;
 - Workplace ageism.

Greater detail about these variables is provided in the following chapters and overviews. It is important to note that these variables provide only an indication of social isolation risk and that having a risk factor for social isolation does not mean that someone will experience it.

In addition to providing information about older Tasmania's risk of social isolation and loneliness, this report presents general trends and information about who older Tasmanians are and how they are ageing. Some of the State's most vulnerable older populations

are identified, with a call for state and local government, services and community to support these populations to age well.

An ageing population does present health, financial and social challenges for government, but these concerns can be moderated if opportunities are provided for older people to remain engaged in community, civic and professional life through appropriate planning and education. Enabling older Tasmanians to feel empowered and valued benefits the whole community through transfer of knowledge and increased social cohesion.

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. Ageism reduces the opportunities for older people who are able and want to continue working effectively to be able to do so. Employers, managers and co-workers may exhibit 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 workforce¹⁵.

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.

Ageism can also stop people from engaging in and contributing to community life, reduce mental and physical health, and increase morbidity and mortality¹⁶. 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.

Tasmania has been built and bettered by our older population, and with any luck, we will all become older. Tasmanian governments and communities must plan ways to engage our older people and enable them to age with the best mental and physical health possible. Reducing the risk of social isolation by recognising risk factors and supporting people who experience them can contribute to positive ageing in Tasmania.

Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part II presents the 'who' and 'how' of ageing in Tasmania. By investigating older Tasmanians' health, relationships, cultural diversity, income, housing and employment, government and community can better plan and implement effective strategies, services and supports to enable all Tasmanians, current and future, to age with dignity, opportunity and respect.

Chapter 1

Health and Disability

This chapter explores the health behaviours, prevalence of disability and caring responsibilities of older Tasmanians.

These provide a picture of the health of older Tasmanians and the numbers and proportion of this population who may be at risk of social isolation due to reduced health or disability.

Health and disability data was sourced from the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, National Health Survey 2017-2018, Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW) life expectancy and disability data, and the ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers data.

Health & Disability Overview

Improved health and life expectancy is a huge achievement to be celebrated in Australia. People who live to age 65 demonstrate significant health advantages over previous generations. Despite this, there are unique health challenges that face people as they age, and age-related physical and cognitive decline are likely to occur in even the healthiest person. But the longer and healthier lives that many Tasmanians experience should be embraced and celebrated.

Healthy behaviours and disability among older Tasmanians provides an indication of the capacity of this population to continue to engage in their community and remain independent. People who have healthy behaviours are less likely to experience disease and illness, and have greater capacity to participate in their community and social networks.

Healthy behaviours include eating an appropriate and balanced diet, engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy weight, getting adequate sleep, limiting drug taking and smoking behaviours, and participating in public health initiatives¹⁷.

Maintaining healthy social connections is also recognised as an important component of health and wellbeing¹⁸. Engaging in these behaviours can improve both physical and mental health, reducing risk of disease, illness and injury.

People who face challenges in adopting healthy behaviours may be at increased risk of disease, illness and injury, and this can lead to reduced capacity to travel, socialise and participate in desired activities, resulting in reduced wellbeing and quality of life.

While healthy behaviours may reduce risk, many Tasmanians who adopt these may still experience disease, illness or injury due to genetic or environmental factors. Equally, Tasmanians who adopt less healthy behaviours may live many years without disease, illness or injury. Therefore, while behaviours provide an indication of disease and disability, they do not definitively prevent this from occurring.

Australians who live with physical or mental disability are at increased risk of social isolation due to physical, financial, attitudinal and social barriers that reduce capacity to engage with their community¹⁹. People with disability can also face challenges in engaging in healthy behaviours such as regular physical activity²⁰. As a result, many people living with disability are at increased risk of physical and mental illness.

Improved health and life expectancy is a huge achievement to be celebrated in Australia.

This causes a cycle of disability and disease that can be difficult to exit without appropriate care and support. Provision of informal care is often provided by family and friends of people living with disability, and while this is often viewed as a purposeful and rewarding experience, carers often experience significant physical, emotional and financial stress²¹.

In this chapter, health behaviours of older Tasmanians are explored to gain insight as to the proportion and number of this population who may be at risk of social isolation due to increased risk of disease and illness. This data provides information that can guide local and state government policy and interventions to improve health outcomes of older Tasmanians.

This chapter also explores older Tasmanians who live with disability and require assistance for everyday activities, and those who provide care for someone requiring assistance. Older Tasmanians regarded as being at increased risk of social isolation are those who:

- live with profound or severe limitation;
- require assistance with core activities; and/or
- provide unpaid care for someone living with disability.

See Appendix 1 for more information about limitations and core activities.

Australians who live with physical or mental disability are at increased risk of social isolation due to physical, financial, attitudinal and social barriers.



Health Behaviours

Health behaviours of older Tasmanians were investigated using data from the Tasmania Population Health Survey 2016 (Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania)²² and the National Health Survey 2017-2018.

Overview

Tasmanians in the over 65 years' age group had some of the greatest levels of engagement in healthy behaviours of all Tasmanian age groups in 2016. Older Tasmanians had the lowest proportion of all Tasmanian age groups that smoked, consumed alcohol or avoided the dentist. This age group had the highest proportion of people who engaged in health preventative measures including screening and consuming adequate amounts of fruit and vegetables, and also engaging in minimal weekday sedentary behaviour. However, this age group had the highest proportions of people who are overweight or obese based on Body Mass Index (BMI), who did not engage in active transport (such as walking running or cycling to travel

It is incredibly encouraging that many older Tasmanians engage in healthy behaviours even if there are opportunities to further improve health behaviours of this cohort.

to and from work, shopping or public transport²³) and had not visited the dentist in the previous two years.

In many health measures, Tasmanians aged over 65 had the lowest proportions of Tasmanian age groups engaging in less health behaviours. It is incredibly encouraging that many older Tasmanians engage in healthy behaviours even if there are opportunities to further improve health behaviours of this cohort.

Tasmania has the highest rates of smoking of Australian states and territories, with the two highest ranked LGAs in Australia for smoking rates²⁴. The proportion of older Tasmanians who smoked remained stable for men and increased for women from 2013 to 2016, which is surprising given the prevalence of health-focused public awareness campaigns about the risks and harms of smoking.

A quarter of older men drank enough in 2016 to be at risk of lifetime alcohol-related harm compared to just 6.5% of women. These proportions could be higher or lower for both men and women as the Health Survey calculated lifetime risk using alcohol consumption over the past 12 months and did not measure consumption in younger age which would contribute to lifetime alcohol-related harm.

Over a third of men over 65 years drank enough on at least one occasion to be at risk of short-term alcohol-related harm in 2016, and this could have significant implications for health as recovery from alcohol-related injury or illness can be much longer as people become older.

Survey data on BMI and bodyweight needs clarification when it comes to older Tasmanians because it does not distinguish between the healthy BMI ranges for younger and older adults. Though not widely recognised, the health requirements of a person over 65 years varies from younger ages and loss of weight can be more harmful than weight gain; in any case, maintaining an active lifestyle is crucial²⁵.

Research suggests that a BMI of between 23 and 28 points is beneficial for people over 60 years^{26,27}, compared to 18.5 to 24.9 points for younger age groups. As higher BMI in later life is associated with better health outcomes, older Tasmanians who have a BMI up to 28 points may be healthier than those with lower BMI. Data from the Health Survey was unable to be adapted

The health requirements of a person over 65 years varies from younger ages and loss of weight can be more harmful than weight gain, though this should be teamed with a healthy diet and active lifestyle.

to identify the proportion of older Tasmanians with BMI in this range. For older Tasmanians of any weight, the adoption of healthy diets and maintenance of active lifestyles remains of prime importance. Future Population Health Surveys should consider the differences in weight requirements of older Tasmanians and use BMI ranges appropriate for this age group to accurately identify areas of concern.

The proportion of older Tasmanians who were underweight in 2016 was not reported in the Tasmanian Population Health Survey, though total Tasmanian proportions of this BMI group were below 2%. While the proportion of older Tasmanians who are underweight is unlikely to be high, it may be higher than the Population Health Survey suggests due to survey design. Data for the Health Survey was collected through phone survey and may have excluded many frail older Tasmanians who were unable to take phone calls, understand the questions or respond with appropriate answers when surveyed.

Tasmanians over 65 years had the highest proportion of all age groups who met daily fruit and vegetable consumption guidelines, and the lowest and second lowest proportion who spent more than 8 hours sitting per day on weekdays or weekends, respectively. Despite high proportions relative to other age groups, over half of older Tasmanians did not meet daily fruit consumption guidelines, and over 90% did not meet vegetable guidelines. In addition, almost two thirds of older Tasmanians did not engage in active transport, though the definition for this may have caused this low number.

Physical activity of older Tasmanians was, disappointingly, not reported by the Tasmanian Health Survey, so where this age group would rank in comparison to other age groups is unknown.

This population may not engage in active transport for work, shopping or to get to public transport, but may engage in other physical activity for recreation, particularly as they enter retirement.

Physical activity of older Tasmanians was, disappointingly, not reported by the Tasmanian Health Survey, but ABS National Health Survey data found that Tasmanians aged 65 to 74 years had the highest proportion of all age groups who met physical activity guidelines in 2017-18. This could be because this population have more time available to engage in physical activity as they enter retirement. The proportion of Tasmanians over 75 years who met physical activity guidelines fell substantially from those aged 65 to 74, possibly as age-related physical decline increases in this age group. Both aerobic and resistance training are important for healthy ageing and may improve cognitive function in older adults^{28,29}.



Future Tasmanian Population Health Surveys need to provide an indication of physical activity participation of this age group, which is vital for health in later age.

The majority of older Tasmanians participated in preventative health behaviours including discussing health concerns with healthcare professionals and health screening. Healthy behaviours towards oral care were mixed, as older Tasmanians had the highest proportion of all age groups who had not visited a dentist in two or more years but the second highest proportion that had visited a dentist in the last 12 months. Over a quarter of Tasmanians aged over 65 self-reported fair or poor oral health. Oral health is of real concern for older people, particularly those living with cognitive impairment³⁰. Not only has poor oral health been hypothesised to increase the risk of cognitive decline³¹, but the act of chewing and swallowing can become difficult if a person has poor oral health and cannot adequately describe these issues to others. This increases the risk of weight loss, malnutrition and deterioration in health.

Communicating oral health issues can be difficult for people with cognitive impairment, causing chewing and swallowing difficulties, weight loss and deterioration of health.

Maintaining physical and mental health is a lifelong process, and prevention of disease, illness and injury in older age must begin in younger age.

In future Health Surveys, it would be useful to disaggregate the over 65 age group to gain better understanding of whether people over 85 years, who have increased risk of cognitive decline, have greater risk of poor oral health than younger age groups.

The Tasmanian Population Health Study provides useful data for understanding health and health behaviours of Tasmanians of all ages. But lack of disaggregation of the over 65-years age group, possibility that the most vulnerable members of our community may be under-represented, and failing to consider differences in health BMI ranges from younger to older age limits the conclusions that can be drawn from the Survey. Tasmanians aged over 65 are a heterogeneous group that can span up to 35 or more years. Physical and cognitive capacity can vary dramatically between people aged 65 and those aged older than 85. Disaggregating age groups over 65 years provides a much greater indication of which age groups might be at highest risk of certain behaviours and be in need of targeted support.



Empowering older Tasmanians to engage in positive health behaviours is important, but it remains crucial that Tasmanians of all ages are able to understand, access and engage in these behaviours. Health in older age is closely linked to health behaviours in younger age³². The physical and social environments that people grow up in significantly impact physical and mental health in older age.

Initiatives for health need to acknowledge health as a lifelong process, and that prevention of disease, illness and injury in older age must begin in younger age. By engaging all Tasmanians in preventative health initiatives, the rates and severity of disability in Tasmania, and the number of people who provide primary care, could be reduced.

Despite limitations, the Tasmanian Population Health Survey provides important information about the health and behaviours of Tasmania's older population. Comparison to other Australian populations would prove useful in order to better understand how older Tasmanians compare to others of the same age across the country, but differences in survey design and methodology prevent this comparison.

Overall, it is encouraging that older Tasmanians engage in fewer less healthy behaviours in comparison to other Tasmanian age groups, but improvements are needed in all age groups to ensure that current and future older Tasmanians has the opportunity to age healthily and in the way they want.

Less healthy behaviour	Total				Men			Women		
	No.	%	% Comparison to other age groups	% Change 2013-2016	No.	%	% Change 2013-2016	No.	%	% Change 2013-2016
Smoker	7,700	7.8	Lowest	+0.8	3,300	7.1	0	4,400	8.4	+1.5
Alcohol Consumption	Increased Lifetime Risk	15,100	15.5	Second Lowest		11,700	25.3	3,400	6.5	
	Increased One Occasion Risk	22,500	23.0	Lowest		17,100	37.1	5,400	10.2	
BMI	Overweight	35,100	40.9	Highest	+0.7					
	Obese	24,000	24.5	Middle	+4.1					
Preventative Health	Difficult to discuss health concerns	8,500	8.6	Lowest		4,000	8.6	4,500	8.5	
	Did not participate in BP screening	3,700	3.8	Lowest						
	Did not participate in cholesterol screening	15,400	15.6	Lowest						
	Did not participate in diabetes screening	26,500	26.9	Lowest						
	Did not participate in bowel cancer screening	40,200	40.8	Lowest						
	Did not meet daily fruit guidelines	55,300	56.3	Lowest	+3.8					
Physical	Did not meet daily vegetable guidelines	89,900	91.1	Lowest	+2.2					
	More than 8 hours sitting (weekday)	7,700	7.8	Lowest						
	More than 8 hours sitting (weekend)	8,300	8.4	Second lowest						
Oral Health	Did not engage in active transport	63,000	63.9	Highest						
	Fair or poor oral health (self-assessed)	25,900	26.3	Middle						
	Visited dentist in last 12 months	53,700	54.4	Second highest						
	1 to 2 years since dental visit	14,600	14.8	Lowest						
	2 or more years since dental visit	29,300	29.7	Highest						
Avoided dental visit due to cost	15,800	16.0	Lowest							

Table 1: The proportion (%), estimated number (no.) and change from 2013 to 2016 in health behaviours of Tasmanians aged over 65, and comparison of proportion to other Tasmanian age groups.

(BMI = Body Mass Index; BP = Blood Pressure; Physical = Physical Activity)

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart; COIA Tasmania (2018) Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I.

Comments on data

The Tasmania Population Health Survey 2016 (Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania) reported a range of health indicators for Tasmanians using survey data³³. Older Tasmanian data from this report is presented below, though disaggregated data for the population aged over 65 was limited in the Health Survey report. The estimated number of Tasmanians over 65 years who engaged in health behaviours was calculated using percentages from the Health Survey and population data from 2016³⁴.

Disaggregated age data for some health behaviour was available from the ABS National Health Survey 2017-18 and presented below. However, the majority of data analysed was from the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, which sampled a greater number of Tasmanians in total and aged over 65 years than the National Health Survey 2017-18 (Table 2). Comparison of data between surveys was not possible due to differences in sampling and data collection, but the National Survey provides an indication of health behaviours within the over 65 age group that is of interest.

Survey	All Tasmanians (People)	Tasmanians Over 65 Years (People)	Tasmanian Sample Over 65 Years (%)
Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016	6,300	2,810	44.6
National Health Survey 2017-18	2,016	486	24.1

Table 2: Number of all Tasmanians and Tasmanians aged over 65 sampled in the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016 and the National Health Survey 2017-18, and the proportion of the Tasmanian sample who were aged over 65.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart; Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18, ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001

Due to rounding, some numbers and proportions presented on the following pages may appear one decimal place in error.

Smoking

People who smoked daily or occasionally were included as smokers in the Tasmanian Population Health Survey. Tasmanians over 65 had the lowest proportion of people who smoked of all age groups in 2013 and 2016 (Table 3).

In 2016, 7.8% of Tasmanians aged over 65, an estimated 7,700 people, were smokers.

The proportion of current smokers increased from 2013 to 2016 for the over 65-year age group by 0.8%.

The proportion Tasmanians aged over 65 who smoked was slightly higher in Tasmania's north west (8.1%) compared to the north (7.7%) and south (7.6%)³⁵.

Age (Years)	2013	2016	Change 2013 to 2016
18 to 24	19.7	18.3	-1.4
25 to 34	22.5	20.8	-1.7
35 to 44	16.9	20.4	+3.5
45 to 54	16.2	20.0	+3.8
55 to 64	12.2	12.1	-0.1
Over 65	7.0	7.8	+0.8
All Ages	15.0	15.7	+0.7

Table 3: Proportion of Tasmanians in each age group who were current smokers in 2013 and 2016, and the change in this from 2013 to 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

The proportion of older Tasmanian women who smoked increased by 1.5% from 2013 to 2016 (Table 4). The proportion of men aged over 65 who smoked did not change from 2013 to 2016. It was estimated that almost 3,300 men and just over 4,400 women over the age of 65 were smokers in 2016.

Age (Years)	Male			Female		
	2013	2016	Change 2013 to 2016	2013	2016	Change 2013 to 2016
18 to 24	18.9	17.1	-1.8	20.6	19.6	-1.0
25 to 34	24.8	21.4	-3.4	20.2	20.3	+0.1
35 to 44	19.0	22.2	+3.2	14.9	18.7	+3.8
45 to 54	15.8	22.7	+6.9	16.6	17.5	+0.9
55 to 64	11.5	13.1	+1.6	12.9	11.0	-1.9
Over 65	7.1	7.1	0	6.9	8.4	+1.5
All Ages	15.5	16.5	+1.0	14.5	15.0	+0.5

Table 4: Proportion of Tasmanian men and women in each age group who smoked in 2013 and 2016, and the change from 2013 to 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

A higher estimated proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 74 years were current smokers compared to those aged over 75 in 2017-18 (Figure 1). The proportion of men aged over 75 who smoked was less than half of men aged 65 to 74 years.

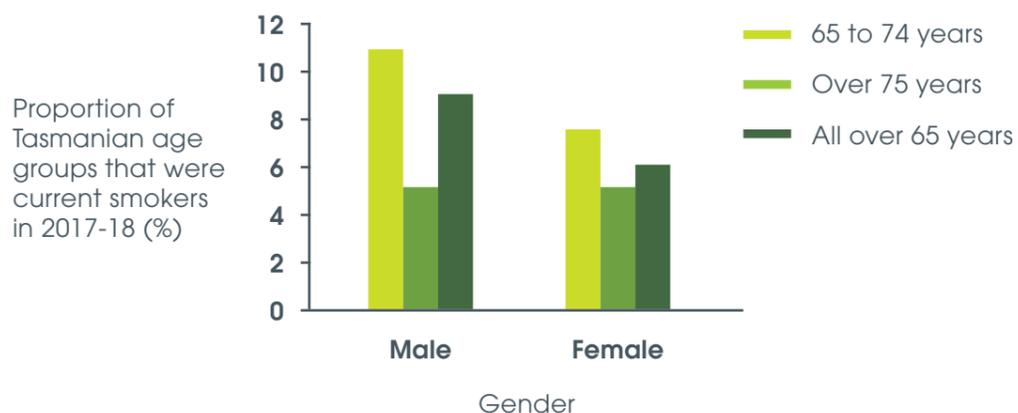


Figure 1: The estimated proportion of Tasmanian men and women aged 65 to 74, over 75 and over 65 years who were current smokers in 2017-18.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18 – Tasmania, ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001.

Alcohol consumption

The Tasmanian Population Health Survey used National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines to calculate the risk of alcohol-related harm³⁶. This uses 'lifetime risk' and 'single occasion risk' indicators for alcohol-related harm.

Regular, high level and long-term alcohol consumption can lead to a lifetime risk of alcohol-related chronic illness such as liver cirrhosis, pancreatitis and some types of cancer. The Health Survey classified Tasmanians as at lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm if they consumed more than two (2) standard alcoholic drinks on any day at least monthly or weekly in the last 12 months. Drinking behaviours during younger age were not captured in this measure for older Tasmanians, and therefore, this provides only an indication of lifetime risk.

Tasmanians aged over 65 years had the second lowest proportion of all age groups with lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm in 2016 (Table 5). A greater proportion of Tasmanian men were at risk of lifetime alcohol-related harm than women in all age groups. This was statistically significant in the over 65 age group, in which a 25.3% of older men consumed more than two standard drinks on any day at least monthly or weekly compared to 6.5% of older women. An estimated 11,700 men and 3,400 women over the age of 65 were at risk of lifetime harm from alcohol consumption in 2016.

The highest proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years at lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm lived in the south (17.4%) compared to 13.3% in the north and 14.1% in the north west (Figure 2).

Age (Years)	Male	Female	Total People
18 to 24	19.4	9.8	14.8
25 to 34	26.6	19.7	23.1
35 to 44	33.8	16.0	24.7
45 to 54	37.1	12.3	24.5
55 to 64	27.0	18.0	22.5
Over 65	25.3	6.5	15.5
All Ages	28.5	13.3	20.8

Table 5: The proportion of Tasmanians in each age group and gender who were at lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

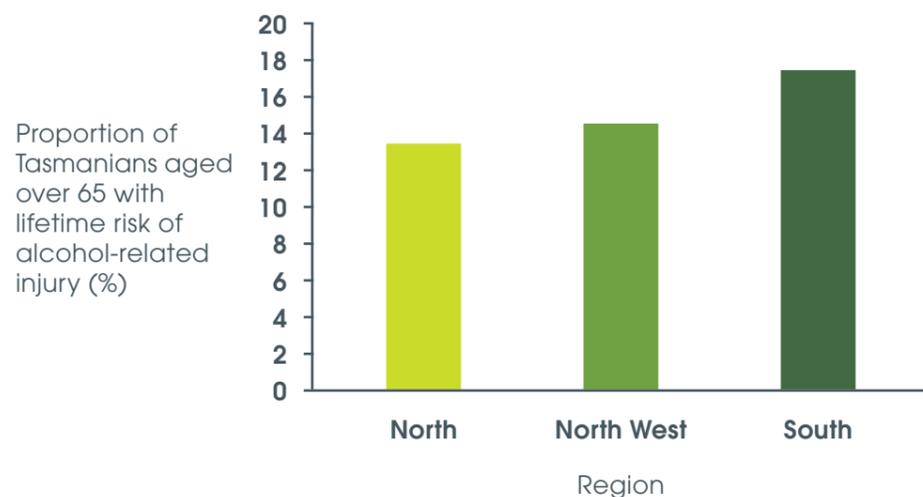


Figure 2: Proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 with lifetime risk of alcohol-related injury in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Excessive alcohol consumption on single occasions can have negative, short-term consequences and increases the risk of road injury, suicide and violence³⁷. This may have serious implications for Tasmanians over 65 years who may not recover quickly from injury or illness.

The Health Survey classified Tasmanians as at alcohol-related risk of harm on a single occasion if they had more than four (4) standard drinks on at least one occasion either daily, weekly, monthly or yearly in the last 12 months.

A greater proportion of Tasmanian men were at risk of alcohol-related harm on a single occasion than women in 2016 (Table 6).

This was statistically significant in the over 65-year age group, in which 37.1% of older men consumed over four standard drinks at least once compared to 10.2% of women. This was estimated to be about 17,100 men and 5,400 women aged over 65 years. A lower proportion of older Tasmanians were at risk of single occasion alcohol-related harm compared to younger age groups.

The region with the highest proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who were at single occasion alcohol-related harm in 2016 was the south at 26.7%, compared to 20.0% in the north west and 19.4% in the north (Figure 3).

Age (Years)	Male	Female	Total People
18 to 24	73.6	63.5	68.9
25 to 34	72.0	50.2	61.0
35 to 44	60.3	47.8	54.0
45 to 54	65.2	31.3	48.2
55 to 64	47.0	21.2	34.1
Over 65	37.1	10.2	23.0
All Ages	57.0	33.2	45.0

Table 6: Proportion of Tasmanians in each age group and gender who consumed more than four (4) standard alcoholic drinks on a single occasion in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

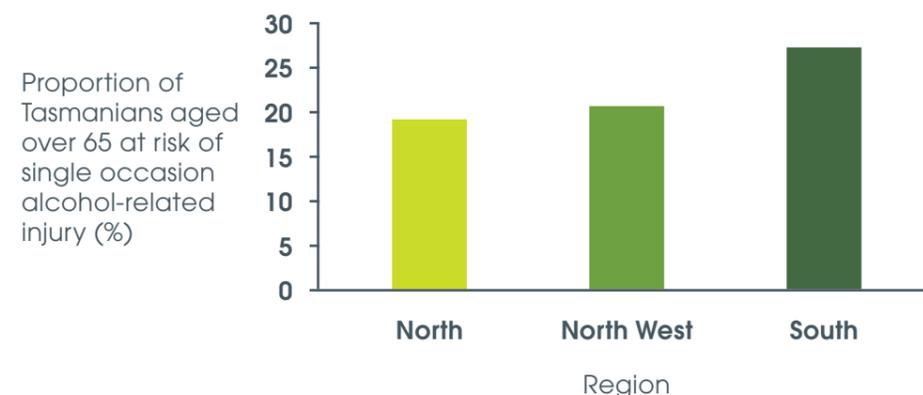


Figure 3: Proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 at risk of single occasion alcohol-related injury in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

A higher proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 74 consumed alcohol that exceeded lifetime and single-occasion risk in 2017-18 compared to those aged over 75 years (Figure 4).

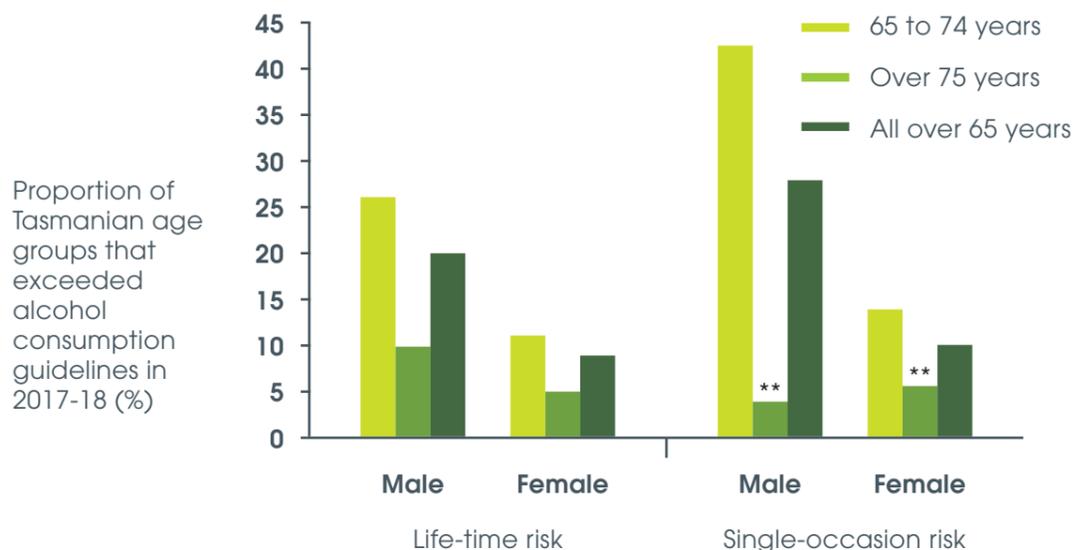


Figure 4: The estimated proportion of Tasmanian men and women aged 65 to 74, over 75 and over 65 years who consumed alcohol that exceeded lifetime and single-occasion alcohol-related risk in 2017-18.

***Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.*

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18 – Tasmania, ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001.

BMI data

Tasmanian Population Health Survey respondents self-reported height and weight, which was used to calculate their BMI. An overweight BMI was calculated as a score between 25.0-29.9, and obese BMI as a score over 30.0, as per Government guidelines³⁸. The healthy BMI range for older people is recognised as being between 23 and 28 points³⁹, rather than the 18.5 to 24.5 points used in the Health Survey, but data presented in the Survey did not allow this range to be investigated.

The proportion of each age group that were underweight in 2016 was not reported in the Population Health Survey. Overall proportions of this BMI group were below 2% and had high relative standard errors and could not be used with confidence. Though the proportion of who were underweight was unlikely to be high, Survey methods may exclude this population and underestimate the prevalence of underweight older Tasmanians.

Tasmanians over 65 years was the age group with the highest proportion of people who reported an overweight BMI in 2016 at 40.9%, equal with the 55 to 64-year age group (Table 7). The proportion of older Tasmanians who had an overweight BMI increased slightly from 2013 to 2016. Almost a quarter of Tasmanians over 65 years reported an obese BMI in 2016 (Table 8). The over 65 age group had the second fastest growth in proportion who had an obese BMI from 2013 to 2016, increasing by 4.1%.

Using these proportions, it was estimated that over 35,100 Tasmanians over 65 years had an overweight BMI and 24,000 had an obese BMI in 2016. Overall, around 59,100 or 65.4% of older Tasmanians had an overweight or obese BMI in 2016. This was higher than Tasmania as a whole, in which 60.0% of the population had an overweight or obese BMI in 2016.

Age (Years)	2013	2016	Change 2013 to 2016
18 to 24	32.5	20.3	-12.2
25 to 34	35.2	41.3	+6.1
35 to 44	38.4	38.4	0
45 to 54	38.6	35.1	-3.5
55 to 64	38.4	40.9	+2.5
Over 65	40.2	40.9	+0.7
All Ages	36.9	35.6	-1.3

Table 7: The proportion of Tasmanians by age group who self-reported an overweight BMI in 2013 and 2016, and the change in this from 2013 to 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Age (Years)	2013	2016	Change 2013 to 2016
18 to 24	9.7	17.2	+7.5
25 to 34	24.1	21.5	-2.6
35 to 44	24.2	26.5	+2.3
45 to 54	30.1	31.5	+1.4
55 to 64	28.8	29.3	+0.5
Over 65	20.4	24.5	+4.1
All Ages	22.0	24.3	+2.3

Table 8: The proportion of Tasmanians by age group who self-reported an obese BMI in 2013 and 2016, and the change in this from 2013 to 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Data from the ABS National Health Survey 2017-18 reported disaggregated age data for the population over 65 years⁴⁰. This data showed that a higher proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 74 years had an overweight or obese BMI than

those aged over 75 years for both men and women (Figure 5). A higher proportion of older men had an overweight BMI compared to women, while a higher proportion of older women had an obese BMI compared to men.

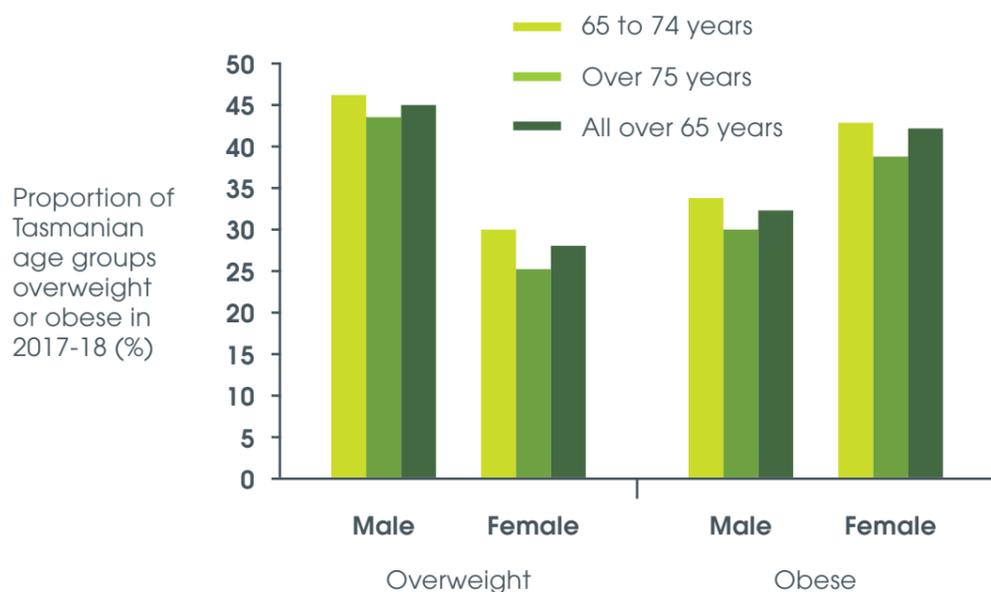


Figure 5: The estimated proportion of Tasmanian age groups and genders whose measured BMI was overweight or obese in 2017-18.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18 – Tasmania, ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001.

Preventative health: literacy, screening and diet

The Tasmanian Population Health Survey reported that Tasmanian women in most age groups had better health literacy than their male counterparts in 2016, including for those aged over 65 years⁴¹.

A very similar proportion of older Tasmanian men and women felt they could usually or always discuss

health concerns with healthcare providers easily, the highest of all age groups in 2016 (Table 9). Less than 10% of older Tasmanians felt that discussing health concerns was sometimes, usually or always difficult, an estimated 4,000 men and 4,500 women.

Age (Years)	Male	Female	Total People
18 to 24	80.8	85.8	83.2
25 to 34	76.5	86.0	81.3
35 to 44	82.5	87.6	85.1
45 to 54	81.0	85.8	83.4
55 to 64	86.3	87.0	86.7
Over 65	91.4	91.5	91.4
All Ages	83.9	87.7	85.8

Table 9: Proportion of Tasmanians by age group who could usually or always discuss health concerns easily with healthcare providers in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Participation in preventative health screening increased with older age groups in 2016⁴². Tasmanians aged over 65 had the highest proportion of people who participated in blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes (hyperglycaemia) and bowel cancer screening. Over 95% of older Tasmanians had participated in

blood pressure screening and over 80% has cholesterol screening in 2016 (Table 10). Almost three quarters of Tasmanians over 65 years had diabetes screening, though over 25,000 of people in this age group did not. Over 40,000 older Tasmanians (40.5%) did not participate in screening for bowel cancer.

Screening Type	Participated		Did not participate	
	Proportion (%)	Estimated People	Proportion (%)	Estimated People
Blood Pressure	96.2	94,900	3.8	3,700
Cholesterol	84.4	83,300	15.6	15,400
Diabetes/ Hyperglycaemia	73.1	72,100	26.9	26,500
Bowel Cancer	59.2	58,400	40.8	40,200

Table 10: Proportion and number of Tasmanians aged over 65 who did or did not participate in preventative health screening in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart; Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I (2018) COTA Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Population Health Survey used NHMRC dietary guidelines for fruit and vegetable consumption to calculate

whether Tasmanians met dietary recommendations⁴³. The 2013 guidelines recommend daily serves of vegetables and fruits as follows:

One serve (g)	Vegetables		Fruit	
	75		150	
	Vegetable serves per day		Fruit serves per day	
Age (Years)	Male	Female	Male	Female
14 to 18	5.5	5	2	2
19 to 50	6	5	2	2
51 to 70	5.5	5	2	2
Over 71	5	5	2	2

Table 11: Recommended daily serves of vegetables and fruit for Australian men and women in age groups.

Source: National Health and Medical Research Council, Eat for Health: Australian Dietary Guidelines, 2013, Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government.

Although only 43.9% of Tasmanians aged over 65 met the guidelines for fruit consumption of two (2) serves per day in 2016, this was the highest of all age groups (Table 12). An estimated 55,300 older Tasmanians were not meeting recommended fruit consumption.

The only age group in which there was an increase in proportion of fruit consumption from 2013 to 2016 was the 25 to 34-year age group, though the over 65-age group had the smallest decrease in fruit consumption of all other age groups for this period.

Age (Years)	2013	2016	Change 2013 to 2016
18 to 24	47.0	38.8	-8.2
25 to 34	40.4	41.1	+0.7
35 to 44	42.9	35.8	-7.1
45 to 54	42.8	36.3	-6.5
55 to 64	44.2	38.2	-6.0
Over 65	47.7	43.9	-3.8
All Ages	44.2	39.3	-4.9

Table 12: Proportion of Tasmanians by age group who met recommended fruit consumption guidelines in 2013 and 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Tasmanians over 65 years had the highest proportion of all age groups who met guidelines for vegetable consumption of five (5) serves per day in 2016, though this was only 8.9% (Table 13).

An estimated 89,900 older Tasmanians did not meet the vegetable consumption guidelines. The proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who met these guidelines decreased by 2.2% from 2013 to 2016.

Age (Years)	2013	2016	Change 2013 to 2016
18 to 24	6.5	4.9	-1.6
25 to 34	5.0	6.2	+1.2
35 to 44	6.7	8.0	+1.3
45 to 54	8.9	7.7	-1.2
55 to 64	10.8	7.4	-3.4
Over 65	11.1	8.9	-2.2
All Ages	8.5	7.5	-1.0

Table 13: Proportion of Tasmanians by age group who met recommended vegetable consumption guidelines in 2013 and 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Estimated proportions of Tasmanian women aged 65 to 74 years and over 75 years whose daily fruit and vegetable consumption exceeded guidelines were similar, but a slightly

higher proportion of Tasmanian men aged over 75 met guidelines compared to those aged 65 to 74 years (Figure 6).

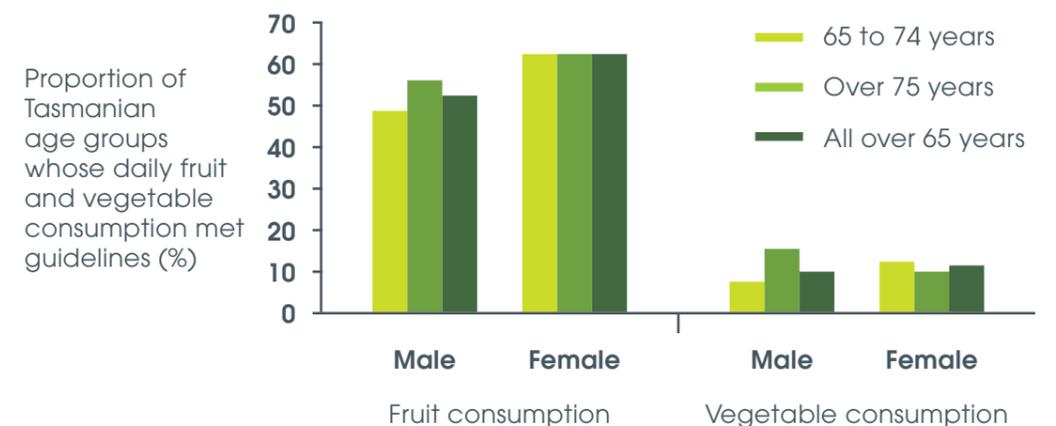


Figure 6: The estimated proportion of Tasmanian men and women who consumed fruit and vegetables daily that met recommended guidelines in 2017-18.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18 – Tasmania, ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001.

Physical activity

Australian physical activity guidelines for older Australians differ to other ages to account for changing levels of physical ability⁴⁴. Unfortunately, physical activity levels of Tasmanians aged over 65 years were not reported in the Tasmanian Population Health Survey. This is disappointing given the State's ageing population and the importance of physical activity for people of all ages, particularly to reduce falls risk, injury and illness in older age and to aid in recovery. Both aerobic and resistance training are important for healthy ageing and may improve cognitive function in older adults^{45,46}.

Data from the National Health Survey 2017-18 (using 2014 physical activity guidelines) found that an estimated 22.9% of Tasmanians aged 65 to 74 years met physical activity guidelines, the highest of all Tasmanian age groups (Figure 7). This fell to 14.4% in the over 75 age group. Overall, an estimated 19.9% of Tasmanians over 65 years met physical activity guidelines.

Physical activity levels of older Tasmanians were not reported in the Health Survey. This is disappointing given the State's ageing population and the importance of physical activity for all ages.

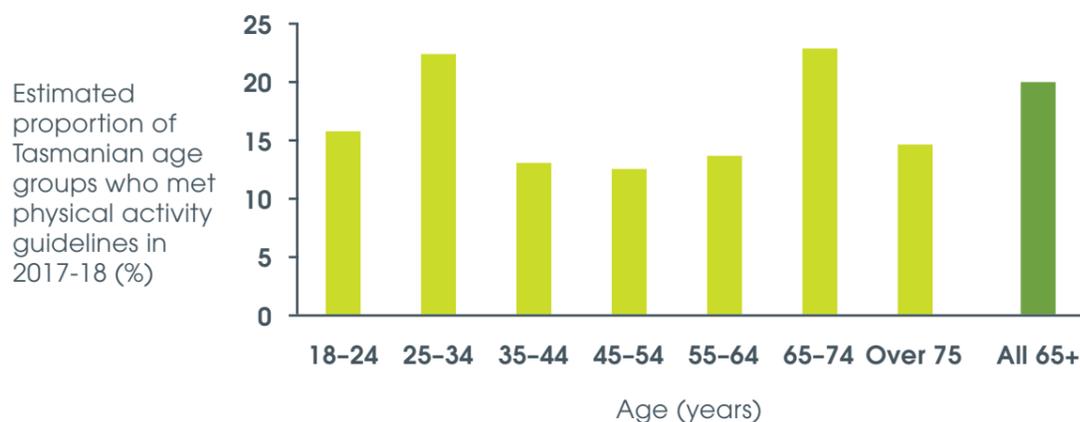


Figure 7: The estimated proportion of Tasmanian age groups who met physical activity guidelines in 2017-18.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18 - Tasmania, ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001.

Not only did Tasmanians over 65 have one of the highest proportions of age groups who met physical activity guidelines, but this age group had the lowest proportion of people who spent more than eight hours sitting on weekdays at 7.8%, and

equal second lowest proportion for weekends at 8.4% in 2016 (Table 14). An estimated 7,700 older Tasmanians spent more than eight hours sitting on weekdays and 8,300 spent more than eight hours sitting on weekends.

Age (Years)	Weekdays	Weekends
18 to 24	18.2	17.1
25 to 34	25.2	12.3
35 to 44	24.0	8.4
45 to 54	19.8	8.8
55 to 64	15.3	7.5
Over 65	7.8	8.4
All Ages	17.4	9.9

Table 14: Proportion of Tasmanians by age group who spent more than 8 hours sitting on weekdays and weekends in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Active transport was defined in the Tasmanian Population Health Survey as walking, running or cycling for at least 10 minutes continuously to travel to and from work, shopping or public transport in the previous week⁴⁷.

Tasmanians over 65 years had the highest proportion who did not engage in active transport in 2016 at 63.9% (Figure 8), equalling an estimated 63,000 people.

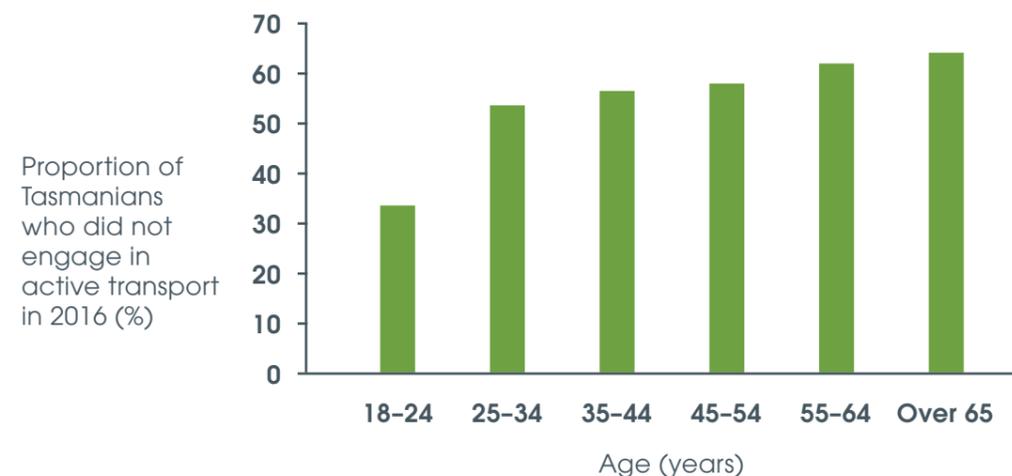


Figure 8: The proportion of Tasmanians by age group who did not engage in active transport for at least 10 minutes continuously in the previous week in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Oral health

Tasmanians over 65 years had the lowest proportion of all age groups in 2016 who reported excellent or very good oral health, but the highest proportion with good oral health (Table 15). A quarter of older Tasmanians felt they had fair or poor oral health, equalling an estimated 25,900 people.

Age (Years)	Excellent or Very Good	Good	Fair or Poor
18 to 24	53.7	31.9	14.4
25 to 34	40.5	37.4	22.1
35 to 44	42.7	33.4	23.8
45 to 54	35.3	33.5	31.2
55 to 64	33.6	35.4	30.7
Over 65	33.3	40.0	26.3
All Ages	38.8	35.5	25.5

Table 15: The proportion of Tasmanians by age group and their self-assessed oral health in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Over half of Tasmanians over 65 years had seen the dentist in the last 12 months in 2016, the second highest proportion of all age groups (Table 16). However, this age group also had the second highest proportion

who had not had a dental visit in the last two or more years at 29.7%, an estimated 29,300 people. 16.0% of older Tasmanians, about 15,800 people, had avoided visiting the dentist in the last year due to cost⁴⁸.

Age (Years)	Less than 12 months	1 to 2 years	2 or more years
18 to 24	50.6	22.4	25.2
25 to 34	43.7	22.7	33.3
35 to 44	51.1	22.2	26.4
45 to 54	52.3	20.1	27.2
55 to 64	60.1	16.2	23.5
Over 65	54.4	14.8	29.7
All Ages	52.5	19.1	27.7

Table 16: The proportion of Tasmanians by age group and the time since their last dental visit in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Health and Disability

Overview

Data from the ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey 2015⁴⁹ and Census of Population and Housing 2016⁵⁰ were the primary datasets used to investigate the health and disability of older Tasmanians.

Overall, Australians are living healthier for longer, with more disability-free years. However, Tasmania had a higher proportion of people in every age group, including over 65 years, who lived with a disability compared to Australia as a whole in 2015. The proportion of older Tasmanians living with disability is declining at a slower rate than their Australian counterparts, and grew in the over 85-years age group.

Almost 75% of Tasmanians over 65 years felt they had good, very good or excellent health in 2016. This is despite an estimated 57.3% of older Tasmanians living with a disability in 2015, the majority of which were physical conditions. Almost 6,000 Tasmanians lived with a mental or behavioural disorder in 2015 and the proportion of older Tasmanians who experienced very high or high

Tasmania has a higher proportion of people in every age group, including over 65 years, who lived with a disability in 2015 compared to Australia.

psychological distress grew from 2013 to 2016 and remained stable to 2017-18. Men aged over 65 were more likely than women to experience very high or high psychological distress in 2017-18, the only Tasmanian age group in which this occurred. Reduced physical capacity can affect mental health and increase psychological distress, and in turn, mental health can negatively impact physical ability⁵¹. Older people, and particularly older men, can be hesitant to acknowledge mental illness or disorders due to generational stigma⁵², and this may be one reason why older men appear to suffer greater psychological distress than older women.

A much higher proportion of Tasmanians aged over 85 years lived with a disability, particularly with a profound or severe disability, than those aged 65 to 84 years in 2015. Consequently, a much higher proportion of Tasmanians over 85 years required assistance with every day activities than the younger age group. Property maintenance, personal activities and household chores were activities in which people were more likely to have their needs only partly met, or not at all.

Almost 75% of Tasmanians over 65 years felt they had good, very good or excellent health despite 57.3% living with a disability.

Tasmanian local government areas (LGAs) with the highest proportion of people aged over 65 who required assistance with core activities in 2016 were Glenorchy, Brighton and Launceston. These LGAs are among those with the lowest proportion of older people in Tasmania⁵³, and Brighton and Glenorchy are among the most disadvantaged Tasmanian LGAs⁵⁴. Therefore, while these LGAs have some of the lowest proportions of older people in Tasmania, the older population in these areas are more likely to require assistance with core activities. Services and support are required throughout Tasmania to ensure that people can age within their community, but particularly in areas with high proportions of the older population living with disability.

Almost a third of Tasmanians over 80 years living with a profound or severe disability, and 17.0% of 65 to 79 year olds, lived alone in 2015. A person with living profound and severe disabilities require help at least sometimes with core activities, which include basic activities such as getting in or out of bed, showering, toileting, communicating with others, or moving around a residence⁵⁵. People who live alone with this level of disability are particularly vulnerable to injury or illness if they cannot access appropriate care from others.

About half of all Tasmanian primary carers provided care because they felt they could provide better care than what was available, suggesting that there were limits to people being able to access appropriate formal care in 2015.

Almost 8,000 Tasmanians over 65 years were primary carers, the majority of whom were a partner of the person they cared for, and almost two-thirds were female.

Almost 8,000 Tasmanians over 65 years were primary carers, the majority of whom were a partner of the person they cared for, and almost two thirds were female. One in five Tasmanians who provided primary care were women aged between 55 and 64 years, the highest proportion of all Tasmanian age groups and genders. Older caregivers have worse mental health and wellbeing than non-caregivers of the same age, particularly when there is lack of positive support or the presence of family conflict⁵⁶.

The experience of primary caregivers aged over 65 can differ from those of younger caregivers. Reduced childrearing activities and transition from work to retirement may mean older caregivers do not have as many conflicting commitments and can have better wellbeing than younger carers⁵⁷. But while they may not be caring alongside other commitments, older carers can face greater challenges as they themselves begin to experience age-related physical or cognitive decline⁵⁸. This population is at increased risk of isolation as mental and physical health deteriorates and more time is spent caring for the other person, who may have restricted ability to access the community.

Tasmanian LGAs with the highest proportion of older people who provided unpaid assistance to someone living with disability were Tasman, Kingborough and Sorell. Supports for carers are required across Tasmania but areas with high proportions may require specific services and supports.

Older primary carers can face greater challenges as they themselves begin to experience age-related physical or cognitive decline.

Tasmania is lagging behind Australian trends of reduced disability in the population aged over 65 years. Physical, financial, attitudinal and social barriers can limit the ability of a person who lives with a disability to access community, services and social networks⁵⁹ and increase risk of isolation, particularly if governments and communities do not provide appropriate leadership, infrastructure and services that allow and encourage access. Over half of Tasmanians aged over 65 live with a disability, and the proportion of this population with profound or severe disability increased significantly with age. People living with profound or severe disability are particularly at risk of isolation if they cannot access appropriate support to remain engaged in their community.

Governments and communities need to provide adequate support for older people with disability and their carers to ensure that they can safely age in place, access services and social networks, and remain engaged in their community.

This risk increases for those living in outer regional and remote areas, where supports may be restricted compared to inner regional areas, and for those who live alone. The majority of older Tasmanians who are primary carers provide care to their partner, and the risk of both the carer and the recipient of care becoming isolated is high.

Governments and communities need to provide adequate support for older people with disability and their carers to ensure that they can safely age in place, access services and social networks, and remain engaged in their community. Appropriate supports in place could limit decline in mental and physical health among older people living with disability.

Older Tasmanian age groups at greatest risk of isolation due to

- Living with profound or severe limitations; or
- Being the primary carer of someone else.

	Estimated Number (People)	Estimated Proportion of Age Group (%)
Living with profound or severe limitation in Tasmania		
65 to 84 years	11,200	13.6
Over 85 years	5,400	49.2
Over 65 years	16,600	17.8
Living with profound or severe limitation in outer regional/remote areas		
Over 65 years	2,300	58.0
Living with profound or severe limitation and living alone		
65-84 years	1,500	17.0
Over 85 years	2,400	31.2
Over 65 years	3,900	23.6
Primary carers aged over 65		
65-74 years	5,000	9.3
Over 75 years	2,900	8.1
Over 65 years	7,900	8.8

LGAs with highest proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 at risk of isolation due to

- Requiring assistance with core activities; or
- Providing unpaid assistance to someone living with disability.

	Estimated Number (People)	Estimated Proportion of Age Group (%)
LGAs with highest proportion who required assistance with core activities		
Glenorchy	1,625	19.8
Brighton	385	19.5
Launceston	2,182	18.6
LGAs with highest proportion who provided unpaid assistance		
Tasman	94	13.7
Kingborough	854	12.8
Sorell	328	12.8

Comments on data

The majority of the following data was sourced from the ABS Disability, Ageing and Carers 2015 dataset, which provides estimates in number of people and proportions. The ABS definitions of disability limitations and restrictions are in Appendix 1.

Self-assessed health

Almost 75% of Tasmanians aged over 65 felt they had excellent, very good or good health in 2016 (Table 17). This was a higher proportion than those aged 45 to 54 years and 55 to 64 years.

Some data from 2016 and 2017 is included below and is cited.

Due to rounding, some numbers and proportions presented below may appear one decimal place in error.

A lower proportion of older Tasmanians reported fair or poor health (24.9%) compared to people aged 45 to 54 years and 55 to 64 years, and Tasmania as a whole.

Age (Years)	Excellent/ Very Good	Good	Fair/Poor
18 to 24	39.3	45.5	14.5
25 to 34	39.9	39.1	21.1
35 to 44	37.0	38.6	23.9
45 to 54	36.0	34.6	29.4
55 to 64	35.9	36.0	28.0
Over 65	38.1	36.4	24.9
All Ages	37.5	37.8	24.4

Table 17: Proportion of Tasmanians by self-assessed health and age in 2016.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart.

Disability-free years

One of the greatest triumphs of the modern era is that people are living longer and healthier than ever before. Research shows that Australians are not only living longer but that the number of years they

are living without disability are also increasing. Men and women born in 2015 could expect to live 3.9 and 3.0 years longer without disability than those born in 2003, respectively (Figure 9).

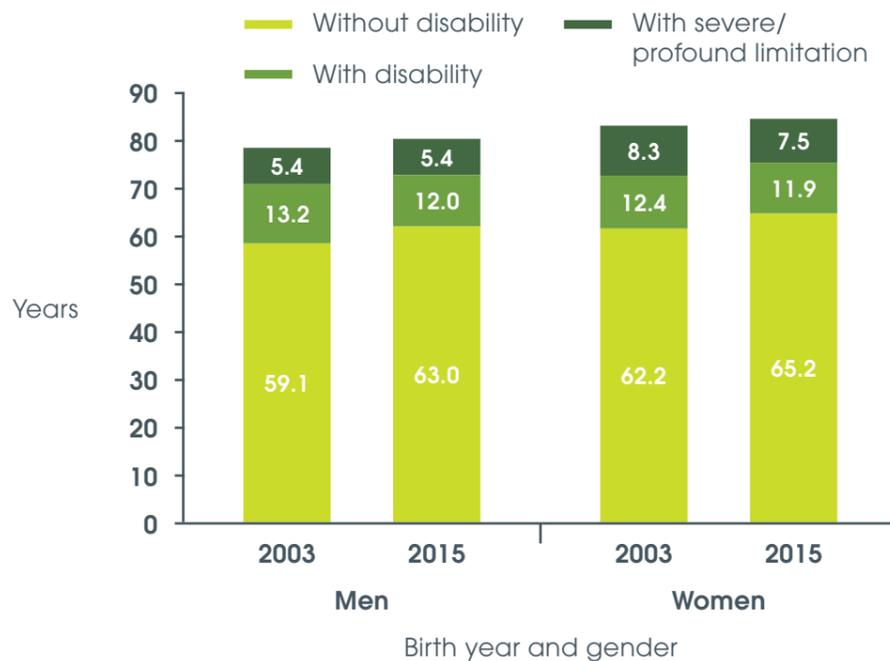


Figure 9: Number of years that Australian men and women born in 2003 and 2015 could expect to live with or without a disability.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. *Life expectancy and disability in Australia: expected years living with and without disability*. Cat. no. DIS 66. Canberra: AIHW.

Health expectancies for older people, which are a strong indicator of healthy ageing, are also improving. The number of years living without disability for men and women aged 65 in 2015 increased

by 1.6 and 1.2 years from 2003, respectively (Figure 10). This is despite very little change in the number of expected years living with any type of disability.

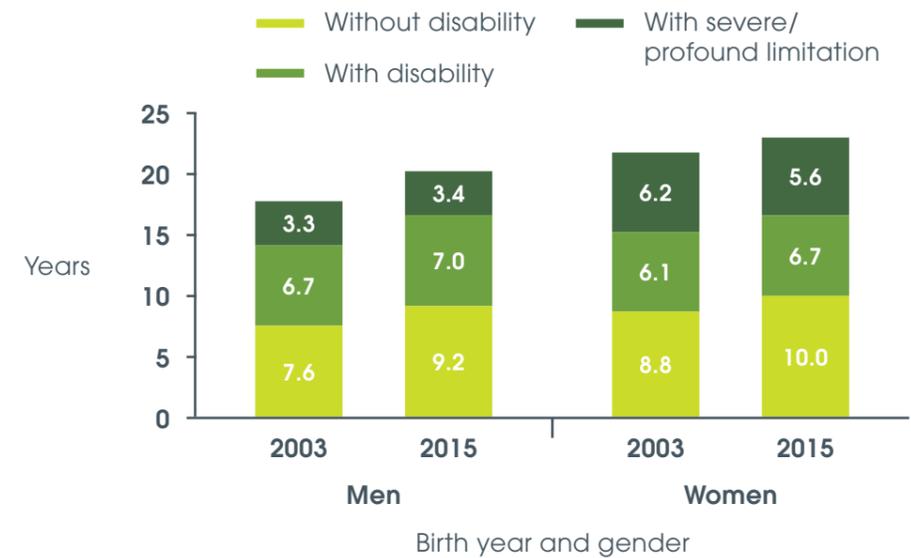


Figure 10: Number of years that Australian men and women aged 65 in 2003 and 2015 could expect to live with or without a disability.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2017. *Life expectancy and disability in Australia: expected years living with and without disability*. Cat. no. DIS 66. Canberra: AIHW.

Though Australians are living longer with lower rates of disability, older Australians and Tasmanians are likely to experience disease and illness. The leading cause of death for older Australians from 2014 to 2016 was coronary heart disease⁶⁰.

This was also the case in Tasmania, with the leading cause of death of Tasmanians over 65 years in 2017 being coronary heart disease, followed by cancers of the digestive system (Table 18).

Age (Years)	Leading cause of death	%	2nd leading cause of death	%
65 to 74	Cancer (Digestive Organs)	19.8	Cancer (Lung)	19.3
75 to 84	Coronary Heart Disease	16.7	Cancer (Digestive Organs)	15.2
85 to 94	Coronary Heart Disease	20.4	Organic Mental Disorders (including Dementia)	14.7
Over 95	Organic Mental Disorders (including Dementia)	24.5	Coronary Heart Disease	15.4
All over 65	Coronary Heart Disease	17.9	Cancer (Digestive Organs)	12.5

Table 18: The leading and second leading cause of death in Tasmanians aged over 65 years in 2017, and the proportion of deaths attributable to the disease in age groups.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Causes of Death, Tasmania, 2017*, ABS cat. no. 3303.0.

Older Tasmanians living with and without a disability.

An estimated 130,500 Tasmanians were living with a disability in 2015, and the proportion of Tasmanians with a disability increased from 24.7% in 2012 to 25.6% in 2015 (Table 19).

The estimated proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who lived with a disability decreased slightly from 58.0% in 2012 to 57.3% in 2015, but the proportion of people over 85 years with a disability grew by 3.8% from 82.9% in 2012 to 86.7% in 2015, the fastest growth of all age groups.

Tasmania had a higher estimated proportion of people living with a disability than Australia as a whole, both overall and in each age group in 2015. The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 living with a disability in 2015 was 6.6% higher than Australia overall (57.3% Tasmania versus 50.7% Australia).

The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 85 living with disability increased from 2012 to 2015, while the proportion decreased for their Australian counterparts.

The proportion of Australians over 65 with a disability decreased by an estimated 2.0% from 2012 to 2015, compared to decrease of just 0.7% for Tasmanians of the same age. Of concern is that the proportion of Tasmanians over 85 years living with a disability increased by 3.8% from 2012 to 2015, while the proportion of Australians aged over 85 decreased by 2.2% for the same period.

Age (Years)	Tasmania			Australia		
	2012	2015	Change (2012 to 2015)	2012	2015	Change (2012 to 2015)
0 to 14	10.3	10.6	+0.4	7.0	7.4	+0.4
15 to 44	13.2	15.0	+1.8	9.3	9.5	+0.2
45 to 64	29.8	28.2	-1.5	23.2	21.5	-1.7
65 to 84	54.6	53.4	-1.2	48.3	46.5	-1.9
Over 85	82.9	86.7	+3.8	81.2	79.0	-2.2
All Ages	24.7	25.6	+0.9	18.5	18.3	-0.2
All over 65	58.0	57.3	-0.7	52.7	50.7	-2.0

Table 19: Estimated proportion of Tasmanians and Australians living with a disability in 2012 and 2015, and the change in this from 2012 to 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

Of the estimated 130,500 Tasmanians who had a disability in 2015, about 53,400, or 40.9%, of were over the age of 65 (Figure 11). 43,800 people living with disability (33.6%) were aged between 65 to 84 years and 9,600 people aged over 85 years made up 7.4% of all Tasmanians with a disability.

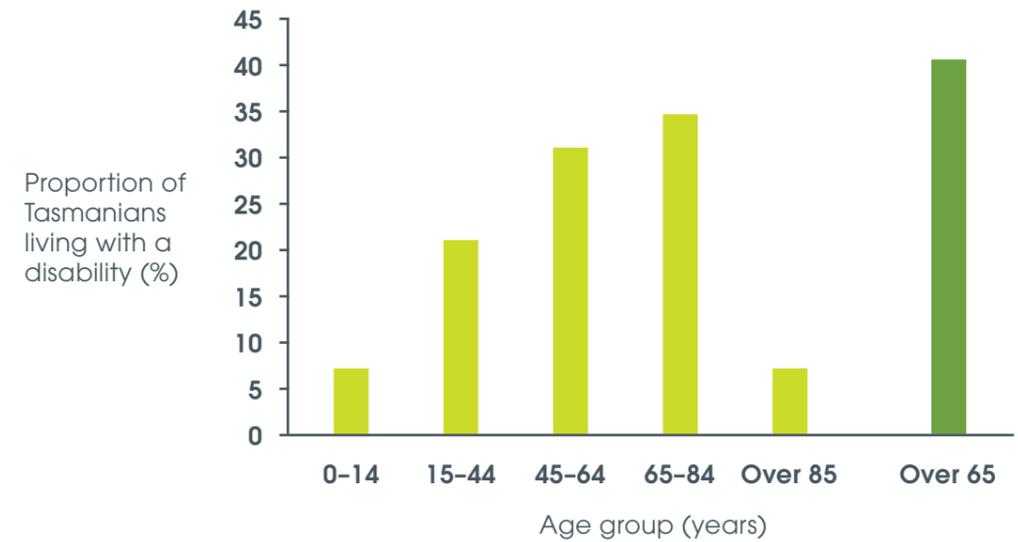


Figure 11: The estimated proportion of Tasmanians with a disability distributed across age groups in 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

The majority of Tasmanians over 65 years, whether living with a disability or not, were living with a physical long-term health condition in 2015 (Figure 12). An estimated 6.4% of older Tasmanians had a long-term mental or behavioural disorder, while 10.1% did not have a long-term health condition.

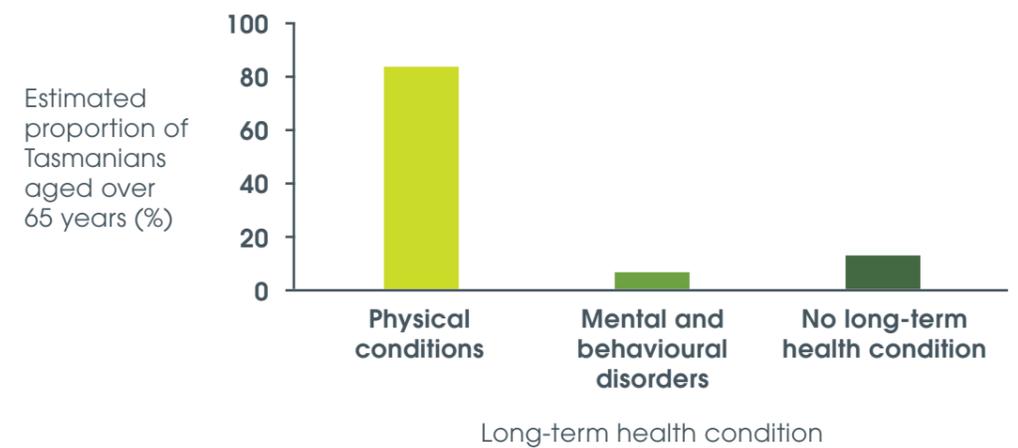


Figure 12: The estimated proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 living with long-term health conditions in 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

Despite the majority of older Tasmanians living with a physical limitation or restriction, a lower proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 reported psychological distress than other age groups. An estimated 8.4% of older Tasmanians experienced high or very high levels

of psychological distress in 2016, equalling over 8,000 people (Table 20). The proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who experienced very high or high psychological distress grew by 1.2% from 2013 to 2016, and remained stable from 2016 to 2017-18.

Age (Years)	2013	2016	2017-18	Change 2016 to 2017-18
18 to 24	16.6	22.4	23.0	+0.6
25 to 34	10.8	15.4	14.6	-0.8
35 to 44	12.4	13.7	11.2	-2.5
45 to 54	12.9	15.4	12.6	-2.8
55 to 64	10.9	12.1	15.1	+3.0
Over 65	7.2	8.4	8.4	0
All Ages	11.4	13.7	13.3	-0.4

Table 20: Proportion of Tasmanians in each age group who experienced very high or high psychological distress in 2013 and 2016, and estimated proportion who experience very high or high distress in 2017-18, and the change distress from 2016 to 2017-18.

Source: Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania 2016, Report on the Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2016, Hobart; Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18 – Tasmania, ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001.

A higher proportion of men aged 65 to 74, over 75 and all over 65 years experienced very high or high psychological distress than women of the same age in 2017-18 (Figure 13).

These were the only Tasmanian age groups in which men were more likely to experience very high or high psychological distress than women.



Figure 13: The proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 74, over 75 and over 65 years who experienced very high or high psychological distress in 2017-18.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18 – Tasmania, ABS cat. no. 4364.0.55.001.

An estimated 42.7% of Tasmanians aged over 65 did not live with a disability in 2015, just under 40,000 people. 33.4% of older Tasmanians were estimated to be living with a moderate or mild limitation (31,200 people) and 17.8% lived with a profound or severe limitation (16,600 people). About half of Tasmanians over 85 years lived with profound or severe limitation in 2015, which was

significantly higher than Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years at 13.6% (Figure 14). In comparison, the 46.6% of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years who lived without disability was much higher than the 13.3% of Tasmanians aged over 85 years who lived without disability. About a third of each age group had a moderate or mild limitation.

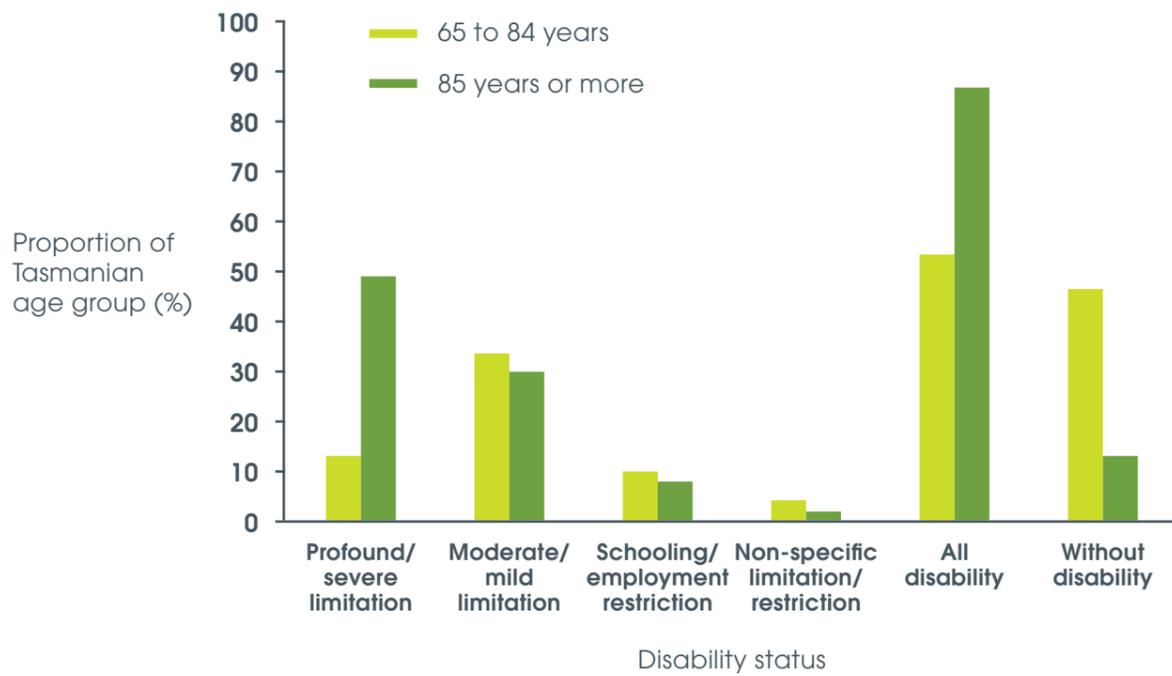


Figure 14: The estimated proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years or over 85 years with or without a disability, and that disability status, in 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

Over half of Tasmanians aged over 65 lived with a disability in 2015 and of this population, 58.4% were estimated to have a moderate or mild limitation (Table 21). Older Tasmanians were more likely to have a moderate or mild, or profound or severe limitation than younger age groups.

Older Tasmanians were less likely to have a schooling or employment restriction than younger age groups, probably as less people in older age groups engage in schooling or employment. The proportion of Tasmanians over 85 years living with disability who had a profound or severe limitation was more than double of those aged 65 to 84 years (56.3% versus 25.6%).

Age (Years)	Profound or Severe Limitation	Moderate or Mild Limitation	Schooling or Employment Restriction	Without Specific Limitation/Restriction
0 to 14	55.0	17.0	64.0	14.0
15 to 44	25.6	39.6	75.1	17.9
45 to 64	24.6	50.8	76.9	11.1
65 to 84	25.6	63.5	21.2	8.7
Over 85	56.3	35.4	6.3	2.1
All ages	29.8	49.0	51.6	11.3
All over 65	31.1	58.4	18.5	7.5

Table 21: The estimated proportion of Tasmanians in each age group living with a disability in each disability status, in 2015.

Note: totals may be greater than 100% as a person may have both a limitation and restriction.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

An estimated 42.0% of Tasmanians over 65 years required assistance with everyday activities in 2015 (Figure 15). The proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years who required assistance was 36.7%,

with almost a third of this age group requiring no assistance. The proportion requiring assistance increased dramatically in the over 85-year age group to 83.2%.

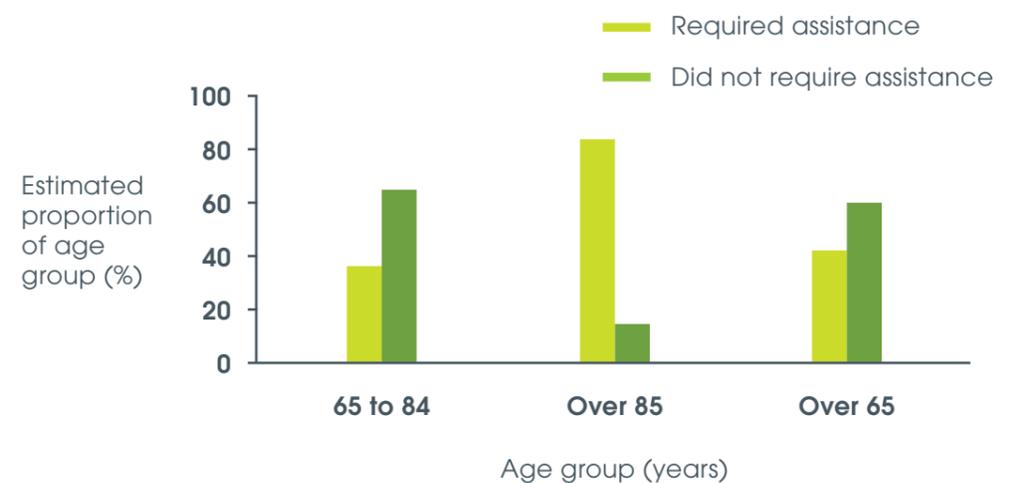


Figure 15: Estimated proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 years who did or did not require assistance for everyday activities in 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

If it is assumed that all the estimated 39,300 Tasmanians over 65 years who required assistance with everyday activities in 2015 also lived with a disability, then 73.6% of older Tasmanians with a disability required assistance (Table 22). Using the same assumption, about 70% of people aged 65 to 84 with

a disability required assistance, and this increased to 92.7% of Tasmanians over 85 years. Therefore, Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 who lived with a disability in 2015 were less likely to require assistance with daily activities, while the majority of Tasmanians over 85 years with a disability required assistance.

Age (Years)	People Living With Disability	People Required Assistance	Living With Disability Requiring Assistance (%)
65 to 84	43,800	30,400	69.4
Over 85	9,600	8,900	92.7
All over 65	53,400	39,300	73.6

Table 22: Estimated number of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84, over 85 and over 65 years who were living with a disability, and those who required assistance with every day activities, in 2015, and the estimated proportion of those with disability who required assistance (assuming all people requiring assistance lived with a disability).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

An estimated 43.2% of Tasmanians aged over 65 years who required assistance with at least one everyday activity had their needs partly or not at all met in 2015. A third of people requiring assistance with property maintenance, and almost a quarter of people requiring assistance with household chores or personal support, did not have their needs fully met (Figure 16). Within personal activities, the activity with the highest proportion of older people who had their needs partly or not at all met was healthcare.

An estimated 43.2% of Tasmanians aged over 65 years who required assistance with at least one everyday activity had their needs partly or not at all met in 2015.

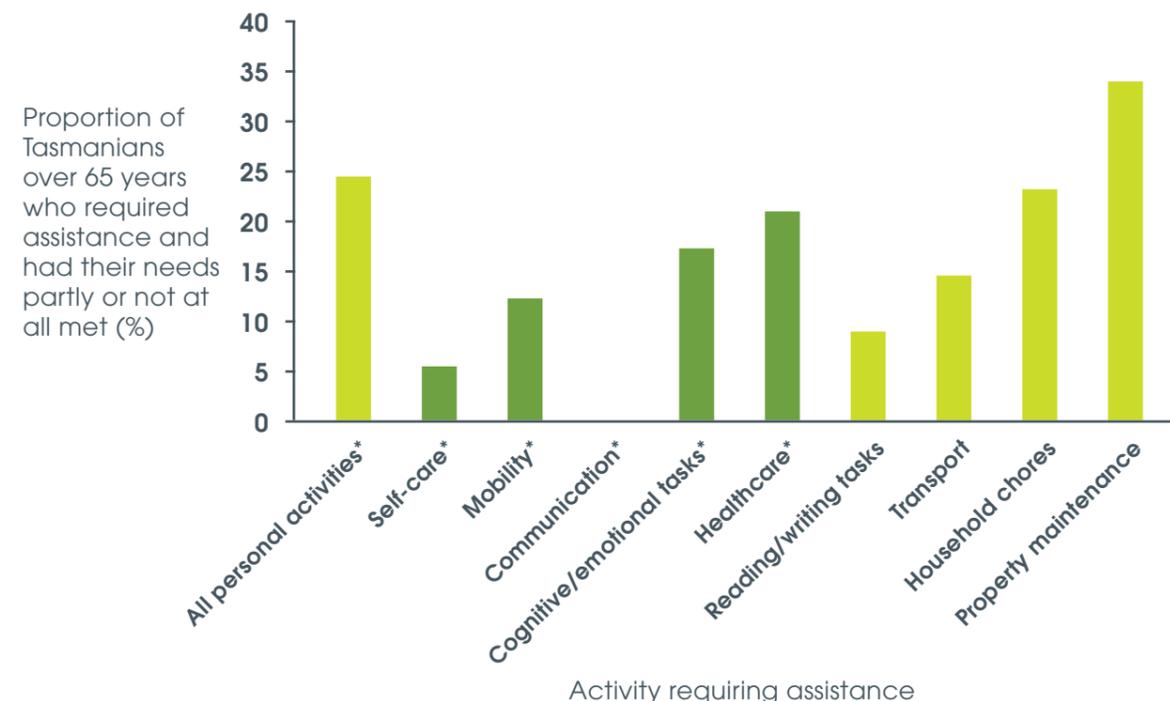


Figure 16: Estimated proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who required assistance with everyday tasks and had their needs partly or not at all met in 2015, but the activity in which they required assistance.

*Activities and orange bars indicate activities included under 'Personal Activities'

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

Where older Tasmanians with a disability lived, and with whom.

The Census of Population and Housing 2016 collected LGA specific data on the need for assistance with core activities due to a disability (see Appendix 1). This data provides important insight about disability in Tasmanian LGAs to allow for planning and provision of appropriate services. In 2016, Tasmanian LGAs with the highest proportion of people aged over 65 who required assistance

with core activities were Glenorchy (19.8%; 1,625 people), Brighton (19.5%; 385 people) and Launceston (18.6%; 2,182 people; Table 23). LGAs with the lowest proportion of older people who required assistance were Flinders Island (9.4%; 22 people), Central Highlands (11.4%; 58 people) and King Island (12.5%; 42 people).

	People (Number)	Proportion (%)
Glenorchy	1,625	19.8
Brighton	385	19.5
Launceston	2,182	18.6
Devonport	954	18.1
Burnie	618	17.7
Waratah-Wynyard	534	17.7
Derwent Valley	331	17.6
Sorell	444	17.4
George Town	255	17.3
West Coast	120	17.3
Southern Midlands	180	17.0
Central Coast	803	16.9
Hobart	1445	16.8
Clarence	1,815	16.5
Meander Valley	661	16.4
Break O'Day	279	16.0
Latrobe	399	15.6
Kentish	184	15.0
Kingborough	962	14.5
Huon	464	14.3
West Tamar	669	14.1
Northern Midlands	372	13.8
Circular Head	170	13.0
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	185	13.0
Dorset	201	12.8
Tasman	87	12.6
King Island	42	12.5
Central Highlands	58	11.4
Flinders Island	22	9.4

Table 23: The proportion of population aged over 65 who required assistance with core activities in Tasmanian LGAs in 2016, ordered from highest proportion of population who required assistance to lowest proportion.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

According to the Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey, about two thirds of Tasmanians aged 65 to 79 years living with a disability lived in a household with other people in 2015 (Table 24). The only people in this age group who lived in cared-accommodation⁶¹ had profound or severe limitation. Tasmanians aged 65 to 79 with schooling or employment restriction were more likely to live alone than people living with other disabilities. Over a third of people aged 65 to 79 with moderate or mild limitation lived alone, and an estimated 17.0% with profound or severe limitation lived alone in 2015.

The proportion of Tasmanians over 80 years living with a disability who also lived alone (41.6%) was higher than for those aged 65 to 79 in 2015 (30.5%).

An estimated 31.2% of Tasmanians over 80 years with profound or severe limitation, and over half with moderate or mild limitations, lived alone. An estimated 40.3% of Tasmanians over 80 years with profound or severe limitation lived in cared-accommodation. Of all Tasmanians aged over 80 years who lived alone, a quarter had a profound or severe limitation⁶².

Over a third of people aged 65 to 79 with moderate or mild limitation lived alone in 2015, and an estimated 17.0% with profound or severe limitation lived alone.

Living Arrangements	Profound or Severe Limitation		Moderate or Mild Limitation		Schooling or Employment Restriction		Without Specific Limitation or Restriction		Total With Disability	
	65-79	80+	65-79	80+	65-79	80+	65-79	80+	65-79	80+
Alone	17.0	31.2	37.3	54.1	46.1	30.8	20.0	0.0	30.5	41.6
With others	72.7	28.6	62.7	44.7	53.9	69.2	80.0	0.0	67.0	40.4
Cared-accommodation	10.2	40.3	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	18.0

Table 24: The estimated proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 79 years and over 80 years in each disability status by their living arrangements (either in household alone or with others, or in cared-accommodation) in 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

Carers in Tasmania

An estimated 84,500 Tasmanians were carers in 2015, 28,600 of whom were primary carers (Table 25). Tasmanians aged 55 to 64 years had the highest proportion of people who were primary carers in 2015 at 11.2%, followed by the 65 to 74-year age group at 9.3%.

Overall, an estimated 8.8% of Tasmanians aged over 65 years provided primary care in 2015, and 14.1% provided care but were not primary carers. Over three quarters of older carers were partners to the person they provided care to (Table 26). An estimated 17.1% of primary carers over 65 years provided care to a parent.

Age (Years)	Primary Carer		Carer (Not Primary)		Not a Carer	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Less than 15	0	0.0	1,200	1.3	91,500	98.7
15 to 24	400	0.6	5,100	8.2	56,700	91.2
25 to 34	2,500	4.3	4,800	8.3	50,700	87.4
35 to 44	4,800	7.8	7,300	11.9	49,300	80.3
45 to 54	5,000	7.1	13,800	19.6	51,500	73.3
55 to 64	8,000	11.2	10,400	14.6	52,800	74.2
65 to 74	5,000	9.3	8,400	15.6	40,500	75.1
Over 75	2,900	8.1	4,300	11.9	28,800	80.0
All Ages	28,600	5.7	55,300	10.9	421,800	83.4
All over 65	7,900	8.8	12,700	14.1	69,300	77.1

Table 25: The estimated number and proportion (%) of each Tasmanian age group who provided primary care, care (not primary) or were not carers in 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

Age (Years)	Partner	Child	Parent	Other
15 to 64 years	33.0	21.1	33.0	12.9
65 years and over	76.3	17.1	6.6	0.0
All aged over 15	44.6	20.0	26.0	9.5

Table 26: The estimated proportion of primary carers in each age group by relationship to the main recipient of care.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

An estimated 38.3% of Tasmanian were recipients of care from a primary carer, of these around 11,000 people were aged over 65 years in 2015 (Table 27). Half of primary carers provided care to a Tasmanian over 65 years because they felt they could provide better care than what was available (Table 28).

One in five of primary carers for Tasmanians aged over 65 provided care because they felt they had no other choice, and an estimated 80.0% felt they had a family responsibility to provide care.

	Age of main recipient of care		
	0 to 64 years	Over 65 years	All Ages
Estimated number of persons	17,700	11,000	28,700
Estimated proportion of care recipients (%)	61.7	38.3	100.0

Table 27: The estimated number and proportion of Tasmanians who received care from a primary carer in 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

	Age of main recipient of care		
	0 to 64 years	Over 65 years	All Ages
Could provide better care	48.0	50.0	51.7
Family responsibility	59.9	80.0	63.2
No other family or friends available	29.2	31.6	31.2
No other family or friends willing	21.2	25.0	21.3
Emotional obligation	43.3	64.9	47.9
Alternative care too costly	25.0	15.2*	20.8
No other care arrangements available	12.2*	13.9*	14.8
Had no other choice	25.2	19.4*	22.3
Other reason	14.3	0.0	10.7

Table 28: The estimated proportion of Tasmanian primary carer's reason for providing care for people aged 0 to 64 years, over 65 years and all ages in 2015, and the number and proportion of care recipients by age.

*Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

It was estimated that the majority of primary carers in Tasmania in 2015 were female (73.7%) though this proportion evened out between men and women from the age of 75 years (Table 29).

Tasmanian men made up a slightly higher proportion of carers who were not primary carers. The average age of male and female carers was around 50 years.

Age (Years)	Primary Carer		Carer (Not Primary)		Total Carers		Not a carer	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Less than 15	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7	33.3	66.7	51.9	48.1
15 to 24	0.0	100.0	45.1	54.9	41.8	58.2	52.9	47.1
25 to 34	12.0	88.0	60.4	39.6	43.8	56.2	50.1	49.9
35 to 44	16.7	83.3	58.9	41.1	42.1	57.9	51.7	48.3
45 to 54	28.0	72.0	52.2	47.8	45.7	54.3	49.7	50.3
55 to 64	31.3	68.8	50.0	50.0	41.8	58.2	51.7	48.3
65 to 74	24.0	76.0	54.8	45.2	43.3	56.7	51.6	48.4
Over 75	51.7	48.3	55.8	44.2	54.2	45.8	45.8	54.2
All Ages	26.9	73.1	53.0	47.0	44.1	55.9	51.1	48.9
All over 65	34.2	65.8	55.1	44.9	47.1	52.9	49.2	50.8
Average age (years)	58.7	53.0	49.3	48.9	51.3	50.7	37.5	38.4

Table 29: The estimated proportions of Tasmanian men and women in all age groups in each caring role in 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

Tasmanian women aged between 55 and 64 years made up the highest proportion of all Tasmanians who provided primary care in 2015, estimated at 19.2% (Figure 17).

Women made up a higher proportion of primary carers than men in all age groups except for people aged over 75 years.

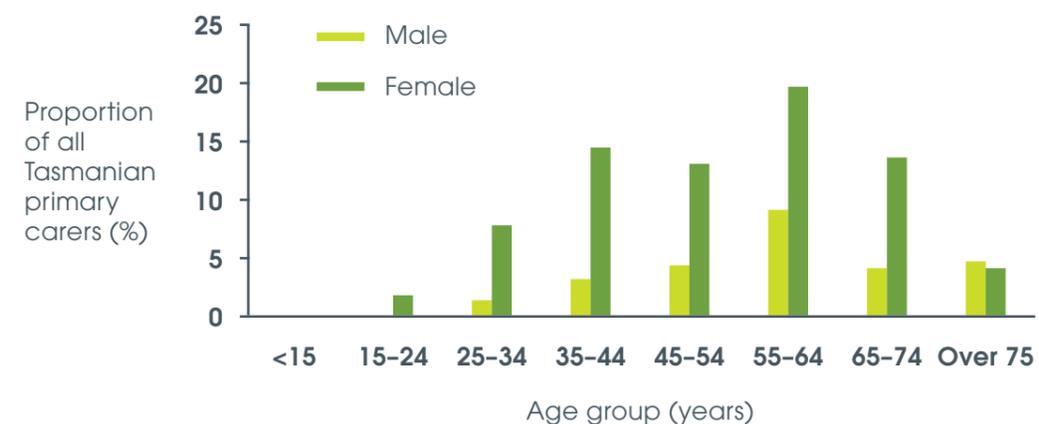


Figure 17: Estimated Proportion of all Tasmanian primary carers distributed across gender and age groups in 2015.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0.

Data from the 2016 Census found that Tasmanian LGAs with the highest proportion of people aged over 65 who provided unpaid assistance to someone living with a disability were Tasman (13.7%; 94 people), Kingborough (12.8%; 854 people) and Sorell (12.8%; 328 people; Table 30).

LGAs with the lowest proportion of older Tasmanians who provided unpaid assistance were Circular Head (7.9%; 104 people), King Island (9.1%; 32 people) and Derwent Valley (9.2%; 173 people).

	People (Number)	Proportion aged over 65 (%)
Tasman	94	13.7
Kingborough	854	12.8
Sorell	328	12.8
Southern Midlands	131	12.4
Clarence	1,340	12.2
Break O'Day	212	12.1
Flinders Island	27	11.9
Waratah-Wynyard	356	11.8
Central Highlands	59	11.7
Glenorchy	953	11.6
Latrobe	294	11.5
Hobart	975	11.4
West Tamar	532	11.2
Meander Valley	452	11.1
Central Coast	528	11.1
Devonport	572	10.9
Launceston	1,259	10.7
Brighton	208	10.6
Dorset	160	10.3
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	145	10.3
Huon	326	10.1
George Town	145	10.0
Northern Midlands	273	10.0
Kentish	120	9.8
Burnie	335	9.6
West Coast	66	9.4
Derwent Valley	173	9.2
King Island	32	9.1
Circular Head	104	7.9

Table 30: The proportion of population and number of people aged over 65 years who provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in each Tasmanian LGA in 2016, ordered from highest proportion of population who provided unpaid assistance to lowest proportion.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Hospital separations

With regard to hospital statistics, the term separation refers to the process by which an episode of care for an admitted patient ceases⁶³, such as when a patient is discharged from hospital. In essence, separations provide an indication of hospital admissions.

The AIHW is unable to collect data for Tasmanian private hospitals. Therefore, only public hospital data is presented.

From 2016-17, 124,383 Tasmanian separations were recorded in public hospitals. Of these, over 50,000 were for people over the age of 65 years, making up 41.3% of all Tasmanian hospital separations (Table 31). This was the second highest of all states and territories, lower only than NSW at 42.1%. Tasmania had the highest proportion of hospital separations for people aged 65 to 84 years at 35.1%, but one of the lowest proportion of separations for people aged over 85 years at 6.2%.

Age (Years)	Tas	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	ACT	NT	Aus
0 to 14	6.6	9.3	7.5	8.8	8.0	8.6	8.4	6.1	8.4
15 to 44	24.7	25.0	25.8	29.2	25.7	25.3	30.5	30.5	26.4
45 to 64	27.5	23.6	25.7	26.8	28.2	25.3	22.6	45.9	26.0
65 to 84	35.1	33.5	34.2	29.4	31.6	31.9	31.4	16.7	32.1
Over 85	6.2	8.6	6.7	5.8	6.6	8.9	7.1	0.7	7.1
All over 65	41.3	42.1	40.9	35.2	38.1	40.8	38.4	17.5	39.2

Table 31: The proportion of separations by age in each state and territory in 2016-17.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2018) Admitted Patient Care 2016-17: Australian Hospital Statistics, Australian Government.

Chapter 2

Relationships

The relationships that older Tasmanians have access to provide an indication to their risk of being or becoming socially isolated. This chapter investigates older Tasmanian marital status, those who live alone and those who provide unpaid childcare. These are not definitive measures of isolation, as people who have access to social networks can still be at risk of social isolation and loneliness⁶⁴, particularly if relationships are dysfunctional. Alternatively, people who may appear to have limited social networks may actually

have a broad range of connections, or a few strong relationships, that reduce their risk of social isolation and loneliness.

In this chapter, older Tasmanians regarded as being at reduced risk of social isolation were:

- Married; or
- Provide unpaid childcare.

Older people at risk of social isolation were:

- Widowed, divorced or separated; or
- Live in a lone person household.

Marital Status

Overview

Older people who are widowed, divorced or separated are at particular risk of social isolation⁶⁵ as social networks decline through death or relocation. People who are single and have never married may also be at risk of isolation, but capturing this population in statistics is difficult as ABS data for 'Never Married' also includes heterosexual and homosexual partnerships who are not married. Of course, being married does not mean that a person is not isolated or lonely, or at risk of becoming so. People in relationships may be at risk of isolation if their partner is the only person with whom they have consistent contact, and isolation and poor wellbeing in a married partnership is likely to be high in cases where relationships are abusive or dysfunctional. While marital status provides some information about a person's risk of isolation, it does not capture the broad range of a person's social network, or the strength and quality of their relationships.

Tasmanians aged over 85 years were 3 times as likely to be widowed, and half as likely to be married, than those aged 65 to 84 years.

Over 50% of Tasmanians aged over 65 were married, with 22.8% widowed and 15.3% divorced or separated in 2016. The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 85 years who were widowed was three times higher than those aged 65 to 84 years, and the proportion of the older age group who were married was half of the younger age group. About two thirds of Tasmanians over 85 years were widowed, divorced or separated, compared to 38.0% of Tasmanians aged over 65 years.

Tasmanian women aged over 65 were more likely to be widowed than men, who were more likely to be married than women. These differences were particularly high in the over 85 age group, and suggest that older women could be at particular risk of social isolation through widowhood if they have limited social networks outside their marriage. The proportion of older Tasmanians who were widowed decreased from 2011 to 2016, possibly due to an increase in life expectancy over this time⁶⁶. In comparison, the proportions of Tasmanians over 65 years who were divorced or separated grew and there was a greater proportion of older people who were married in the over 85 age group.

Marital status can have a significant impact on an older person's wellbeing, but differences have been observed between men and women. Marital quality can affect mortality of older women, with poorer quality relationships increasing risk of death. Male mortality was more likely to be affected by a man's marital status rather than the quality of that relationship⁶⁷. This suggests that women in poor quality marital relationships and widowed or divorced older men may be at risk of reduced wellbeing. These gender differences are important when considering approaches in recognising and supporting older Tasmanians who may be at risk of loneliness or social isolation.

Tasmania had the highest proportion of people aged 65 to 84 and over 85 years who were widowed of all states and territories and Australia as a whole, with the second lowest proportion that were married in both age groups. The relatively high rates of widows in Tasmania's older population may be due to a lower life expectancy compared with other states and territories, and Australia as a whole.

Tasmanian LGAs in which populations over 65 years may be at highest risk of isolation, based on marital status, were Launceston, Glenorchy, Central Highlands, West Coast, Kentish and King Island. Interestingly, while people aged over 85 in Kentish appeared to have a high risk of isolation based on marital status, those aged 65 to 84 years may be at lower risk in this LGA.

The reverse was observed for the Central Highlands in which people aged 65 to 84 years appeared to be at higher risk of isolation based on marital status, but those aged over 85 years may be at lower risk.

Tasmanians over 65 years, and particularly those over 85 years, are at greater risk of isolation caused by widowhood, divorce or separation than younger age groups. Of course, marital status does not define a person's social connections and the strength of these connections, but it can provide an indication as to these.

While LGAs with high proportions of older people at risk of isolation have been identified, it is important that support services and programs for people who are grieving for the loss of a relationship, whether through death or separation, are provided throughout Tasmania. Services must be available to support people in all types of relationships. These services and programs must ensure that people can access help and information, and have the opportunity to form new connections, when they need it the most.

Services and programs that support people who are grieving, in the process of separation or in dysfunctional relationships need to be located throughout Tasmania to support older people to access help and information, and have the opportunity to form new connections when they need it most.

LGAs with people over 65 years at greatest risk of isolation, based on marital status in 2016:

Largest number of people aged over 65 years who were widowed, divorced or separated:

- Launceston (4,902 people)
- Clarence (4,097 people)
- Glenorchy (3,768 people)
- Hobart (3,351 people)

Highest proportion of people over 65 years who were widowed, divorced or separated:

65 to 84 years old:	Over 85 years:	Over 65 years:
• Glenorchy (42.1%)	• King Island (86.8%)	• Glenorchy (45.9%)
• Central Highlands (38.6%)	• Kentish (72.9%)	• Launceston (41.8%)
• Launceston (37.5%)	• Break O'Day (71.6%)	• Burnie (39.8%)
• West Coast (37.2%)	• Sorell (69.8%)	• Central Highlands (39.2%)

Lowest proportion of people over 65 years who were married:

65 to 84 years old:	Over 85 years:	Over 65 years:
• Glenorchy (52.3%)	• King Island (0%)	• Glenorchy (48.6%)
• West Coast (55.1%)	• Kentish (23.4%)	• Launceston (52.8%)
• Central Highlands (56.4%)	• Southern Midlands (25.8%)	• Hobart (53.3%)
• Launceston (56.9%)	• Burnie (26.2%)	• King Island (54.2%)

Comments on data

ABS data for Registered Marital Status is applicable only for people aged 15 years or over. Therefore, data below only includes people over the age of 15 years. The variable 'Never Married' includes people who are single and have never married, as well as heterosexual and homosexual partnerships who are not married.

Some of the following proportions were calculated including data from Census respondents who did not respond to relevant questions, meaning they may not add up to 100%.

Due to rounding, some numbers and proportions presented below may appear one decimal place in error.

Marital status of older Tasmanians

In 2016, 46.1% of Tasmanians aged over 15 years were married, 33.7% had never married, 6.4% were widowed and 13.8% were divorced or separated.

Tasmanians over 65 years were more likely to be married or widowed and less likely to have never married than Tasmania as a whole (Figure 18).



Figure 18: Proportion of all Tasmanians and Tasmanians aged over 65 by marital status in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Over 56,500, or 57.3%, of Tasmanians aged over 65 were married in 2016, and the proportion of people aged over 85 who were married was significantly lower compared to those aged 65 to 84 years (29.7% vs 61.0%, respectively; Table 32). Just under 22,500 older Tasmanians were widowed. A much higher proportion of Tasmanians aged over 85 years were widowed (60.8%) than married (29.7%), with the reverse true for those aged 65 to 84 years (17.6% widowed, 61.0% married).

A lower proportion of people over 85 years were divorced or separated (5.4%) than those aged 65 to 84 years (16.6%). In total, 37,524 Tasmanians over 65 years were widowed, divorced or separated in 2016, equalling 38.0% of this age group. About two-thirds of Tasmanians were aged over 85 years were widowed, divorced or separated.

Age (Years)	Number (People)			Proportion (%)		
	65 to 84	Over 85	All over 65	65 to 84	Over 85	All over 65
Never married	4,167	479	4,646	4.8	4.1	4.7
Widowed	15,304	7,153	22,457	17.6	60.8	22.7
Divorced/ Separated	14,427	640	15,067	16.6	5.4	31.3
Married	53,095	3,499	56,594	61.0	29.7	57.3

Table 32: The number of people and proportion of Tasmanian age groups aged over 65 by marital status in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

A significantly higher proportion of Tasmanian women aged over 65 were widowed at 33.0% compared to Tasmanian men at 11.0% in 2016 (Table 33). In contrast, a higher proportion of older men were married compared to older women, particularly in the over 85 age group.

Marital Status	65 to 84 years		Over 85 years		All over 65 years	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never married	5.8	3.9	4.4	3.8	5.6	3.9
Widowed	8.4	26.1	35.9	75.3	11.0	33.0
Divorced/ Separated	16.1	17.0	6.6	5.0	15.2	15.3
Married	69.7	53.0	53.2	15.9	68.1	47.8

Table 33: The proportion of Tasmanian men and women aged 65 to 84, over 85 and over 65 years by marital status in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 decreased from 26.5% in 2011 to 22.7% in 2016, while the proportion of those divorced or separated grew from 12.2% to 15.3% (Table 34).

The proportion of Tasmanians over 85 years who were married grew by 1.5% from 2011 to 2016, compared to a 0.2% fall for those aged 65 to 84 years.

%	65 to 84 years			Over 85 years			All over 65 years		
	2011	2016	Change	2011	2016	Change	2011	2016	Change
Never married	4.3	4.8	+0.5	3.9	4.1	+0.2	4.3	4.7	+0.4
Widowed	21.1	17.6	-3.5	63.9	60.8	-3.1	26.5	22.7	-3.8
Divorced/ Separated	13.4	16.6	+3.2	4.0	5.4	+1.4	12.2	15.3	+3.1
Married	61.2	61.0	-0.2	28.2	29.7	+1.5	57.0	57.3	+0.3

Table 34: The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 by marital status in 2011 and 2016, and the change in proportion from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmania compared to the rest of Australia

The marital status of Tasmanians over 65 years were similar to their Australian counterparts in 2016 (Table 35). A slightly higher proportion of Tasmanians aged over 85 years were widowed and a slightly lower proportion were married compared to Australians aged over 85 years.

%	65 to 84 years			Over 85 years			All over 65 years		
	Tas	Aus	Difference	Tas	Aus	Difference	Tas	Aus	Difference
Never married	4.8	5.2	-0.4	4.1	3.9	+0.2	4.7	5.0	-0.3
Widowed	17.6	16.6	+1.0	60.8	59.1	+1.6	22.7	22.3	+0.5
Divorced/ Separated	16.6	16.2	+0.4	5.4	5.8	-0.4	15.3	14.8	+0.4
Married	61.0	62.0	-1.0	29.7	31.2	-1.4	57.3	57.9	-0.6

Table 35: The proportion of Tasmanians and Australians aged 65 to 84 years, over 85 and over 65 years by marital status, and the difference between Tasmania and Australia in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmania had the second lowest proportion of people aged over 65 who were married of all states and territories in 2016 (Table 36).

The State also had the highest proportion of people aged 65 to 84 and over 85 years who were widowed.

%	65 to 84 years									
	Tas	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Vic	WA	Aus	
Never Married	4.8	4.8	5.7	9.6	4.9	4.5	5.1	4.5	5.2	
Widowed	17.6	15.3	17.0	17.2	15.9	16.7	17.0	15.6	16.6	
Divorced/ Separated	16.6	16.5	16.0	22.4	17.7	15.7	15.1	16.7	16.2	
Married	61.0	63.4	61.3	50.8	61.5	63.1	62.8	63.2	62.0	
%	Over 85 years									
	Tas	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Vic	WA	Aus	
Never Married	4.1	3.1	4.2	8.3	4.1	3.1	4.0	3.1	3.9	
Widowed	60.8	57.3	59.2	52.9	58.7	60.0	59.3	58.3	59.1	
Divorced/ Separated	5.4	6.0	6.0	11.3	6.5	5.5	5.1	6.2	5.8	
Married	29.7	33.7	30.7	27.5	30.7	31.4	31.6	32.4	31.2	
%	All over 65 years									
	Tas	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Vic	WA	Aus	
Never married	4.7	4.6	5.5	9.6	4.8	4.3	5.0	4.3	5.0	
Widowed	22.7	20.4	22.8	19.3	21.0	23.0	22.9	20.8	22.3	
Divorced/ Separated	15.3	15.2	14.7	21.7	16.3	14.2	13.7	15.4	14.8	
Married	57.3	59.8	57.1	49.4	57.8	58.5	58.5	59.4	57.9	

Table 36: Proportion of each Australian state and territory that were aged 65 to 84 years, over 85 and over 65 years by marital status in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Marital status in Tasmanian LGAs

LGAs with the largest number of Tasmanians over 65 years who were married were Clarence, Launceston and Hobart (Table 37). Launceston (4,902 people), Clarence (4,097 people) and Glenorchy (3,768 people) had the largest number of older people who were widowed, divorced or separated.

The smallest numbers of married older Tasmanians were in Flinders Island (84 people), King Island (128 people) and Central Highlands (197 people). These three LGAs also had the smallest number of older people who were widowed, divorced or separated.

In 2016, over half of people aged over 65 years in every Tasmanian LGA were married except Glenorchy, though this fell to less than half of people who were aged over 85 years (Table 38). Glenorchy and Launceston had the highest proportions of people over 65 years who were widowed, divorced or separated.

65 to 84 year olds

In 2016, LGAs with the highest proportion of people aged 65 to 84 who were married were Latrobe (67.9%), West Tamar (67.3%), Kentish (65.7%) and Central Coast (65.7%; Table 38). LGAs with the lowest proportion of married 65 to 84 year olds were Glenorchy (52.3%), West Coast (55.1%), Central Highlands (56.4%) and Launceston (56.9%).

LGAs with the highest proportions of 65 to 84 year olds who were married had the lowest proportions of this age group who were widowed, divorced or separated (West Tamar, Kentish and Latrobe).

Conversely, LGAs with the lowest proportions of married 65 to 84 year olds had the highest proportions of this age group who were widowed, divorced or separated (Glenorchy, Central Highlands, Launceston and West Coast).

Over 85 years

LGAs with the highest proportion of people over 85 years who were married were Tasman (50.0%), Central Highlands (45.0%) and Circular Head (41.9%; Table 38). LGAs with the lowest proportion of over 85 year olds who were married were King Island (0%), Kentish (23.4%), Southern Midlands (25.8%) and Burnie (26.2%).

More than half the population aged over 85 years were widowed, divorced or separated in all LGAs except Tasman. The highest proportions were in King Island (86.8%), Kentish (72.9%), Break O'Day (71.6%) and Sorell (69.8%). The lowest proportions of people over 85 years who were widowed, divorced or separated were in Tasman (43.1%), Central Highlands (55.0%), Brighton (55.6%) and the Southern Midlands (58.1%).

Over half of the population aged over 65 years were married in all LGAs except Glenorchy in 2016, but this fell to less than half for the over 85 age group in all LGAs.

Over half of the population aged over 85 years were widowed, divorced or separated in all LGAs except Tasman in 2016.

	Never married		Widowed		Divorced/ Separated		Married	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Break O'Day	98	5.6	321	18.4	302	17.3	1,021	58.6
Brighton	74	3.8	411	21.0	334	17.1	1,137	58.1
Burnie	145	4.2	886	25.6	491	14.2	1,942	56.1
Central Coast	160	3.4	1,118	23.5	539	11.3	2,937	61.8
Central Highlands	24	4.8	87	17.3	110	21.9	281	56.0
Circular Head	68	5.1	333	25.2	161	12.2	760	57.5
Clarence	381	3.5	2,546	23.1	1,551	14.1	6,535	59.3
Derwent Valley	83	4.4	407	21.8	283	15.1	1,096	58.6
Devonport	232	4.4	1,297	24.7	732	13.9	2,994	57.0
Dorset	76	4.9	334	21.5	211	13.6	929	59.9
Flinders Island	9	4.0	34	15.2	50	22.4	130	58.3
George Town	42	2.9	302	20.9	206	14.2	897	62.0
Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	62	4.4	274	19.5	197	14.0	874	62.1
Glenorchy	446	5.4	2,316	28.2	1,452	17.7	3,987	48.6
Hobart	646	7.5	1,908	22.3	1,443	16.9	4,561	53.3
Huon	191	5.9	586	18.1	578	17.9	1,877	58.1
Kentish	53	4.3	217	17.8	193	15.8	756	62.0
King Island	26	7.7	76	22.6	52	15.5	182	54.2
Kingborough	266	4.0	1,307	19.8	1,009	15.3	4,034	61.0
Latrobe	58	2.3	539	21.2	313	12.3	1,635	64.2
Launceston	626	5.3	3,021	25.8	1,881	16.0	6,192	52.8
Meander Valley	194	4.8	937	23.3	571	14.2	2,317	57.7
Northern Midlands	125	4.6	574	21.1	356	13.1	1,662	61.2
Sorell	117	4.6	514	20.0	468	18.2	1,467	57.2
Southern Midlands	64	6.1	210	19.9	170	16.1	610	57.9
Tasman	36	5.2	118	17.2	108	15.7	426	61.9
Waratah-Wynyard	103	3.4	664	22.0	405	13.4	1,842	61.1
West Coast	51	7.3	150	21.3	121	17.2	381	54.2
West Tamar	152	3.2	938	19.8	639	13.5	3,008	63.5
Tasmania	4,608	4.7	22,425	22.8	14,926	15.2	56,470	57.4

Table 37: The number (no.) and proportion (%) of Tasmanians aged over 65 years by marital status in Tasmanian LGAs in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Proportion (%)	Never married		Widowed		Divorced/ Separated		Married	
	65-84	85+	65-84	85+	65-84	85+	65-84	85+
Age (Years)								
Break O'Day	6.0	2.0	14.1	65.5	18.4	6.1	61.6	26.4
Brighton	3.7	4.5	18.7	52.6	18.1	3.0	59.5	39.8
Burnie	4.1	5.2	20.5	61.6	15.2	7.0	60.3	26.2
Central Coast	3.3	3.9	18.8	62.3	12.2	3.9	65.7	29.9
Central Highlands	5.0	0.0	15.8	55.0	22.8	0.0	56.4	45.0
Circular Head	5.6	0.0	22.0	58.1	13.4	0.0	59.0	41.9
Clarence	3.7	1.8	16.7	63.9	15.6	4.2	63.9	30.0
Derwent Valley	4.5	3.8	18.1	62.2	15.9	6.4	61.5	27.6
Devonport	4.5	4.2	19.5	58.8	15.1	6.3	61.0	30.6
Dorset	5.1	3.7	16.7	62.2	14.9	3.0	63.3	31.1
Flinders Island	4.3	0.0	12.3	66.7	23.7	0.0	59.7	33.3
George Town	3.2	0.0	17.9	51.1	14.5	11.5	64.4	37.4
Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	4.0	8.6	16.0	57.8	14.9	4.3	65.1	29.3
Glenorchy	5.6	4.4	22.5	63.0	19.6	6.3	52.3	26.4
Hobart	8.1	5.0	15.0	59.6	19.1	5.2	57.8	30.3
Huon	6.0	5.1	14.8	57.3	18.8	6.7	60.4	31.0
Kentish	4.4	3.7	13.3	64.5	16.5	8.4	65.7	23.4
King Island	7.0	13.2	15.4	78.9	16.4	7.9	61.1	0.0
Kingborough	4.0	4.1	15.3	57.3	16.5	4.7	64.2	33.9
Latrobe	2.1	3.5	16.7	61.4	13.2	3.9	67.9	31.1
Launceston	5.6	4.0	19.6	63.6	18.0	4.2	56.9	28.1
Meander Valley	4.9	4.6	18.2	61.3	15.4	5.3	61.5	28.8
Northern Midlands	4.3	7.6	17.3	61.9	14.1	2.1	64.3	28.4
Sorell	4.9	1.6	15.1	64.3	19.6	5.5	60.3	28.6
Southern Midlands	5.1	16.1	17.1	49.5	16.9	8.6	61.0	25.8
Tasman	5.1	6.9	15.2	37.9	16.7	5.2	63.0	50.0
Waratah-Wynyard	3.4	3.3	18.0	58.0	14.5	3.9	64.1	34.9
West Coast	7.7	0.0	19.0	61.5	18.2	0.0	55.1	38.5
West Tamar	3.2	3.3	15.1	61.1	14.5	5.1	67.3	30.5
Tasmania	4.8	4.0	17.6	61.2	16.5	5.0	61.1	29.8

Table 38: The proportion of people aged 65 to 84 and over 85 years by their marital status in each Tasmanian LGA in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Relationship in Household and Living Alone

Overview

Many older Tasmanians live in households with other people, whether it be a partner, child, grandchild, family member or friend. But over 40% of Tasmanians (two in five people) who lived in lone person households in 2016 were aged over 65 years. A quarter of Tasmanians over 65 years lived alone, increasing to over a third of people over 85 living alone. The majority of Tasmanians aged over 65 who lived alone were widowed, and older women were more likely to live alone compared to older men. Tasmania had the highest proportion of people aged over 65 who lived alone of all states and territories.

The proportion of older Tasmanians living in lone person households decreased from 2011 to 2016, though at a slower rate than Australia as a whole. The number of Tasmanians aged over 65 who lived alone increased despite the proportion of this age group who lived alone decreased. While the proportion of older Tasmanians living alone decreased, this age group made up a greater proportion of all Tasmanians who lived alone from 2011 to 2016.

Over 40% of Tasmanians who lived in lone person households in 2016 were aged over 65 years, and a quarter of people over 65 years lived alone, increasing to over a third of people over 85 living alone.

Tasmanian LGAs in which older populations may be at higher risk of isolation based on lone person household data were Launceston, Glenorchy, Hobart and Dorset, and to a lesser degree, Clarence and the West Coast. LGAs with older populations at lower risk were Flinders Island, Brighton, King Island, and to a lesser degree, Tasman.

While lone person household data does not directly indicate the number or strength of a person's social connections, it does provide some indication of whether a person could be at risk of social isolation and loneliness. Older Tasmanians made up a higher proportion of people who lived alone in 2016 compared to 2011, suggesting that community services and programs that aim to reduce social isolation may need to cater to an increasingly older client cohort.

The majority of older Tasmanians who lived alone were widowed, and therefore community and support services may need to include support groups for grief and bereavement, as well as having an opportunity to meet new people and make friends, or learning new ways to remain in touch with family or friends who have moved away.

Services and programs for older people who live alone, and are at risk of isolation or loneliness, need to address the issues that may contribute to their living alone. This may include groups that focus on:

- Grief and bereavement.
- Meeting new people and making friends.
- Learning to keep in touch with family or friends living away.

LGAs with people over 65 years at greatest risk of isolation, based on living in a lone person household in 2016:

Largest number of people aged over 65 years who lived in lone person households

- Launceston (3,256 people)
- Clarence (2,672 people)
- Glenorchy (2,552 people)
- Hobart (2,367 people)

Highest proportion of people who lived in lone person household:

65 to 84 years old:

- Glenorchy (29.4%)
- Launceston (26.5%)
- Hobart (26.0%)
- West Coast (26.0%)

85+ years:

- Central Highlands (52.6%)
- West Coast (51.4%)
- King Island (48.8%)
- Dorset (47.6%)

65+ years:

- Glenorchy (31.1%)
- King Island (28.6%)
- Launceston (27.7%)
- Hobart (27.6%)

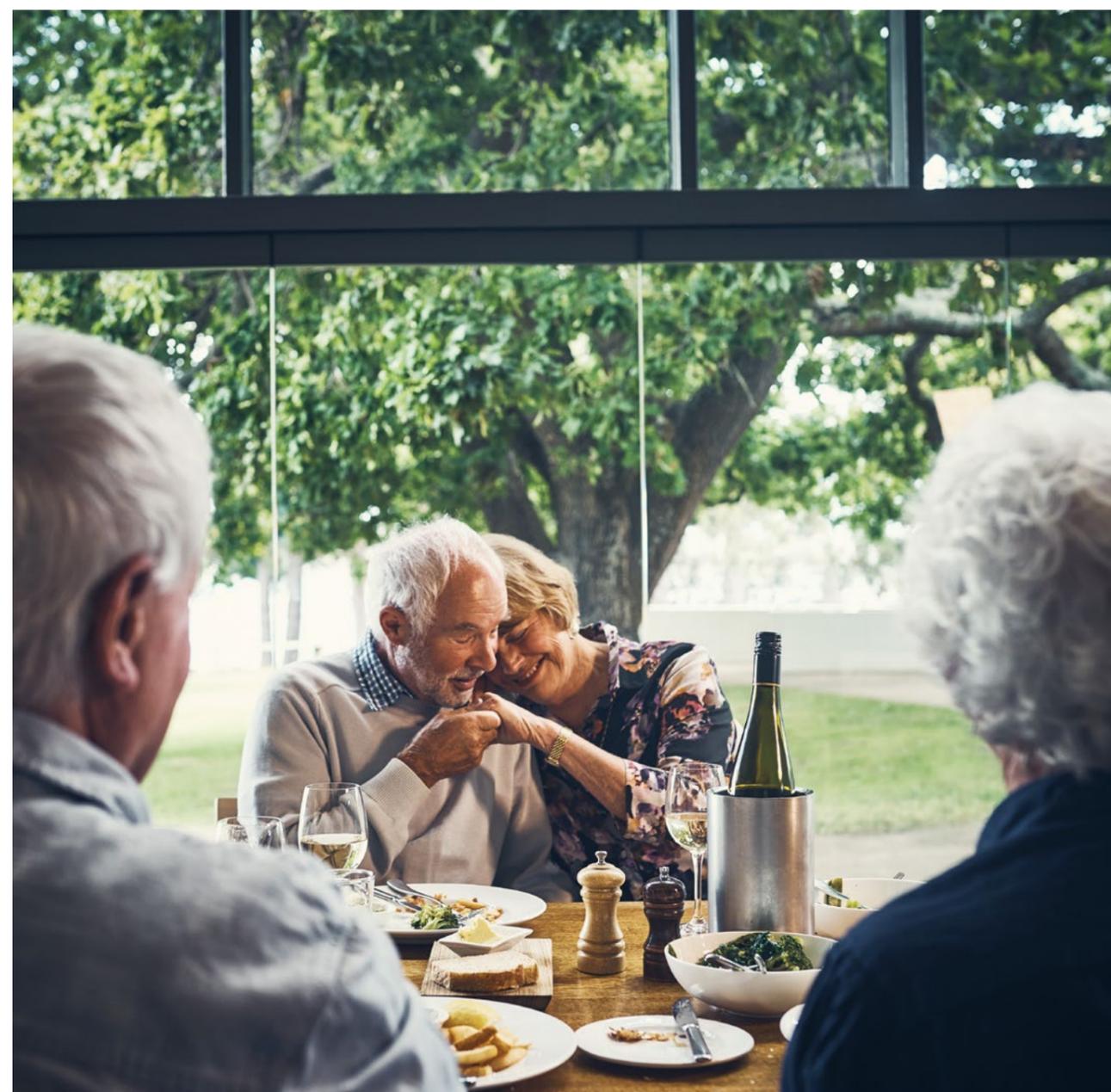
Comments on data

The ABS 2016 Census 'Relationship in Household' variable described the relationship of each person in the household to the household reference person on census night⁶⁸. For more information about this variable, visit the ABS website⁶⁹.

It is important to recognise that the 'lone person' household variable in the Census is only an indication of whether a person lives alone.

A person who was home alone on Census night would be recorded as a lone person household, even if they lived with others who were away that night. The 0 to 14-year age group was omitted from below data as none of this age group were recorded as living in a lone person household in recent Census'.

Due to rounding, some numbers and proportions presented below may appear one decimal place in error.



Older Tasmanian household relationships

Half of Tasmanians aged over 65 years were in an opposite-sex partnership, but this proportion fell to less than a quarter for those aged over 85 (Table 39).

A quarter of people over 65 years were in lone person households, equalling 24,827 people. This proportion increased to 36.4% of people over 85 years, the highest proportion of any age group.

	Age (Years)						
	0-14	15-29	30-49	50-64	65-84	Over 85	Over 65
Husband, wife or partner (opposite-sex)	0.0	21.9	62.3	60.4	53.8	23.1	50.1
Husband, wife or partner (same-sex)	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2
Grandfather/Grandmother	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Father/Mother	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	1.0	2.4	1.2
Brother/Sister	0.0	1.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.5
Uncle/Aunt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nephew/Niece	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cousin	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lone parent	0.0	3.2	9.5	5.4	2.8	5.3	3.1
Natural or adopted child	85.0	37.5	3.8	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.1
Step child	6.0	5.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grandchild	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Foster child	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other related individual	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Unrelated individual living in household	0.2	2.5	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2
Group household member	0.0	8.0	2.5	2.3	1.7	0.8	1.6
Lone person	0.0	5.3	9.4	16.1	23.6	36.4	25.1
Other non-classifiable relationship	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	2.8	3.6
Visitor (from within Australia)	2.5	5.4	3.3	4.8	6.4	3.0	6.0
Not applicable*	0.7	3.7	3.0	3.4	5.7	25.3	8.0

Table 39: Proportion of each Tasmanian age group by relationship in household in 2016.

*The 'not applicable' category of relationship in household includes people in non-private dwellings, such as hotels, residential care homes, corrective institutions, staff quarters and hospitals, and persons in migratory, off-shore or shipping statistical areas.⁷⁰

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Older Tasmanians living in lone person households

Data about lone person households provides an indication of how isolated a person may be, or is at risk of becoming. However, it is important to note that people who live alone may have many regular contact with meaningful social connections. A 2016 Australian survey found that many people who reported feeling alone actually lived with other people⁷¹. However, changing lifestyle factors in older age such as reduced mobility, illness, loss of a driver's licence and smaller social networks, can limit older people's capacity to access their community and increase susceptibility to isolation⁷².

Almost 60,000, or 13.9%, of all Tasmanians aged over 15 lived in a lone person household in 2016,

an increase of 4,463 people from 2011 (Table 40). Of Tasmanians who lived alone, just under 25,000 were aged over 65 years, making up a quarter of this age group. Despite an increase of 3,301 older Tasmanians living alone from 2011 to 2016, the proportion decreased from 26.7% to 25.1%. Tasmanians over 85 years had the highest proportion of people who lived alone of all age groups at 36.4% in 2016 (Figure 19).

Of all Tasmanians who lived alone in 2016, 42.4% were aged over 65 years, increasing by 2.6% from 2011⁷³. This means that older Tasmanians made up a greater proportion of all lone person households in 2016 than in 2011.

Age (Years)	2011		2016		Change 2011 to 2016	
	Number (People)	Proportion (%)	Number (People)	Proportion (%)	Number (People)	Proportion (%)
15 to 29	4,902	5.4	4,769	5.3	-133	-0.1
30 to 49	11,890	9.4	11,610	9.4	-280	+0.0
50 to 64	15,726	15.2	17,301	16.1	+1,575	+0.8
65 to 84	17,627	25.0	20,552	23.7	+2,925	-1.4
Over 85	3,899	38.0	4,275	36.4	+376	-1.7
All Ages	54,044	13.5	58,507	13.9	+4,463	+0.5
Over 65	21,526	26.7	24,827	25.1	+3,301	-1.5

Table 40: The number and proportion of Tasmanians in each age group who lived in a lone person household in 2011 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.



Figure 19: The proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84, over 85 or over 65 years who lived in a lone person household in 2011 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Over half of Tasmanians aged over 65 who lived alone were widowed and a third were divorced or separated (Table 41).

The proportion of people aged over 85 who lived alone and were widowed was 84.2%, significantly higher than younger age groups.

Age (Years)	Never married	Widowed	Divorced/ Separated	Married
15 to 29	96.6	0.3	2.2	0.9
30 to 49	71.2	1.1	25.1	2.5
50 to 64	32.2	9.6	55.1	3.1
65 to 84	11.3	47.5	38.3	2.9
Over 85	4.6	84.2	7.8	3.3
All Ages	35.8	25.9	35.5	2.8
All over 65	10.1	53.8	33.0	3.0

Table 41: Proportion of Tasmanians who lived alone by age group according to their marital status in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

From 60 years of age, there was a marked increase in the number and proportion of Tasmanian women who lived in lone person households in 2016 (Figure 20 & Figure 21).

The magnitude of this change is greater than can be explained by the larger numbers of females than males from this age.



Figure 20: Number of Tasmanian men and women who lived in lone person households by age group in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

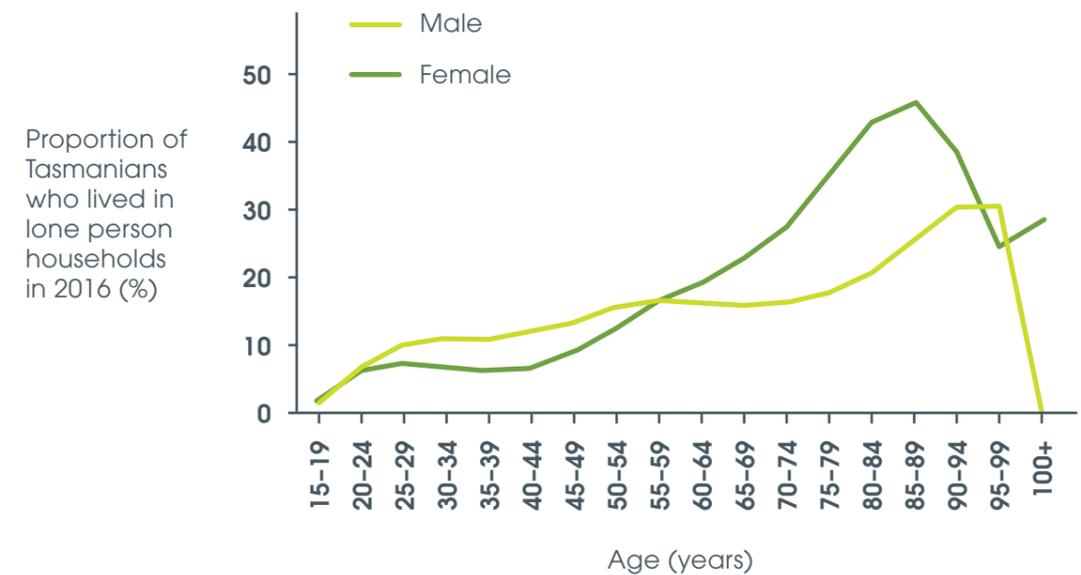


Figure 21: Proportion of Tasmanian men and women who lived in lone person households by age group in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmania compared to the rest of Australia

The proportion of Tasmanians who lived in lone person households was 2.8% higher than Australia as a whole in 2016 (Table 42). The proportion of Tasmanians that lived alone in 2016 was higher than Australia for every age group, and the difference between Tasmania and Australia grew in every age group from 2011 to 2016.

The proportion of Australians living in lone person households decreased in every age group from 2011 to 2016, and this change was greater

than Tasmania, suggests that the proportion of Australians living alone has decreased at a faster rate than Tasmania.

The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 85 who lived in lone person households was 4.6% higher than their Australian counterparts in 2016. The proportion of all Tasmanians over 65 years who lived alone was 2.8% higher than Australians over 65 years, but this difference did not change from 2011 to 2016.

Age (Years)	Tasmania		Australia		Difference Tasmania vs Australia	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
15 to 29	5.4	5.3	4.2	4.0	+1.2	+1.4
30 to 49	9.4	9.4	7.9	7.4	+1.5	+2.1
50 to 64	15.2	16.1	12.9	12.7	+2.3	+3.4
65 to 84	25.0	23.6	22.4	20.9	+2.6	+2.7
Over 85	38.0	36.4	33.5	31.7	+4.5	+4.6
All Ages	13.5	13.9	10.9	10.6	+2.6	+3.3
All over 65	26.7	25.1	23.9	22.4	+2.8	+2.8

Table 42: The proportion of each age group in Tasmania and Australia that lived in a lone person household in 2011 and 2016, and the difference in this between Tasmania and Australia for 2011 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmania had the highest proportion of people in total and in each age group who lived in lone person households of all Australian states and territories (Table 43).

36.4% of Tasmanians over 85 years lived alone, 1.6% higher than the next highest state of South Australia at 34.8%.

Age (Years)	Tas	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Vic	WA	Aus
15 to 29	5.3	5.1	3.4	3.5	3.8	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.0
30 to 49	9.4	9.0	6.8	6.1	6.9	9.1	7.9	7.1	7.4
50 to 64	16.1	13.7	12.1	12.3	12.5	15.2	12.6	12.4	12.7
65 to 84	23.6	21.1	20.5	19.7	20.6	22.7	20.8	21.1	20.9
Over 85	36.4	31.0	30.6	24.4	31.7	34.8	31.3	33.1	31.7
All Ages	11.5	11.0	10.2	7.9	10.3	12.9	10.8	10.2	10.6
All over 65	25.1	22.3	21.9	20.0	21.9	24.5	22.3	22.5	22.4

Table 43: The proportion of each age group that lived in a lone person households in each Australian state and territory in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Lone person households across Tasmania

Tasmanian LGAs with the largest number of people aged over 65 years who lived in lone person households in 2016 were Launceston (3,256 people), Clarence (2,672 people), Glenorchy (2,552 people) and Hobart (2,367 people; Table 44). The smallest number were in Flinders Island (55 people), King Island (102 people), Central Highlands (138 people) and Tasman (147 people). The number of older Tasmanians living alone increased in all LGAs from 2011 to 2016 by an average of 115 people.

Despite increases in the number of older Tasmanians living in lone person households in all LGAs, the proportion of older Tasmanians who lived alone decreased in 24 of the 29 LGAs from 2011 to 2016 (Figure 22). Increases were observed in Brighton, Central Highlands, Dorset, Huon and Kentish. Glenorchy had the highest proportion of people over 65 years who lived alone at 31.1%, followed by King Island (28.6%), Launceston (27.7%) and Hobart (27.6%; Table 44). Kentish was the only LGA in which less than 20% of people over 65 years lived in a lone person household. Other LGAs with lower proportions were in Glamorgan/Spring Bay (20.0%), Latrobe (20.2%) and Tasman (21.4%).

The proportion of people over 65 years who lived alone increased from 2011 to 2016 in Brighton, Central Highlands, Dorset, Huon and Kentish.

	Number of people over 65 years who lived alone			Proportion of people over 65 years who lived alone (%)		
	2011	2016	Change	2011	2016	Change
Break O'Day	338	421	+83	24.7	24.3	-0.5
Brighton	289	445	+156	20.2	22.6	+2.4
Burnie	840	940	+100	27.2	27.1	-0.2
Central Coast	997	1,135	+138	25.2	23.9	-1.3
Central Highlands	97	138	+41	24.7	26.7	+2.0
Circular Head	284	331	+47	26.6	25.3	-1.2
Clarence	2,239	2,672	+433	25.4	24.3	-1.1
Derwent Valley	359	433	+74	25.7	23.0	-2.7
Devonport	1,251	1,412	+161	27.4	26.8	-0.6
Dorset	348	433	+85	26.6	27.5	+1.0
Flinders Island	49	55	+6	28.3	23.2	-5.1
George Town	251	320	+69	23.3	22.0	-1.3
Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	246	284	+38	22.5	20.0	-2.5
Glenorchy	2,452	2,552	+100	32.7	31.1	-1.6
Hobart	2,109	2,367	+258	29.4	27.6	-1.7
Huon	517	732	+215	22.0	22.6	+0.6
Kentish	169	239	+70	18.6	19.4	+0.9
King Island	87	102	+15	30.0	28.6	-1.4
Kingborough	1,255	1,488	+233	24.4	22.5	-2.0
Latrobe	424	513	+89	23.5	20.2	-3.3
Launceston	3,037	3,256	+219	30.0	27.7	-2.2
Meander Valley	872	1,004	+132	27.3	24.9	-2.4
Northern Midlands	538	629	+91	25.5	23.1	-2.4
Sorell	481	620	+139	25.2	24.2	-1.0
Southern Midlands	217	250	+33	25.1	24.1	-1.0
Tasman	115	147	+32	22.1	21.4	-0.7
Waratah-Wynyard	648	731	+83	26.0	24.2	-1.7
West Coast	189	191	+2	29.6	27.3	-2.3
West Tamar	828	1,019	+191	22.1	21.4	-0.6
Tasmania	21,526	24,827	+3,301	26.7	25.2	-1.5
Australia	719,257	822,022	+102,765	23.9	22.4	-1.5

Table 44: The number of people and proportion of people aged over 65 years who lived in lone person households in Tasmanian LGAs in 2011 and 2016, and the change in these from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

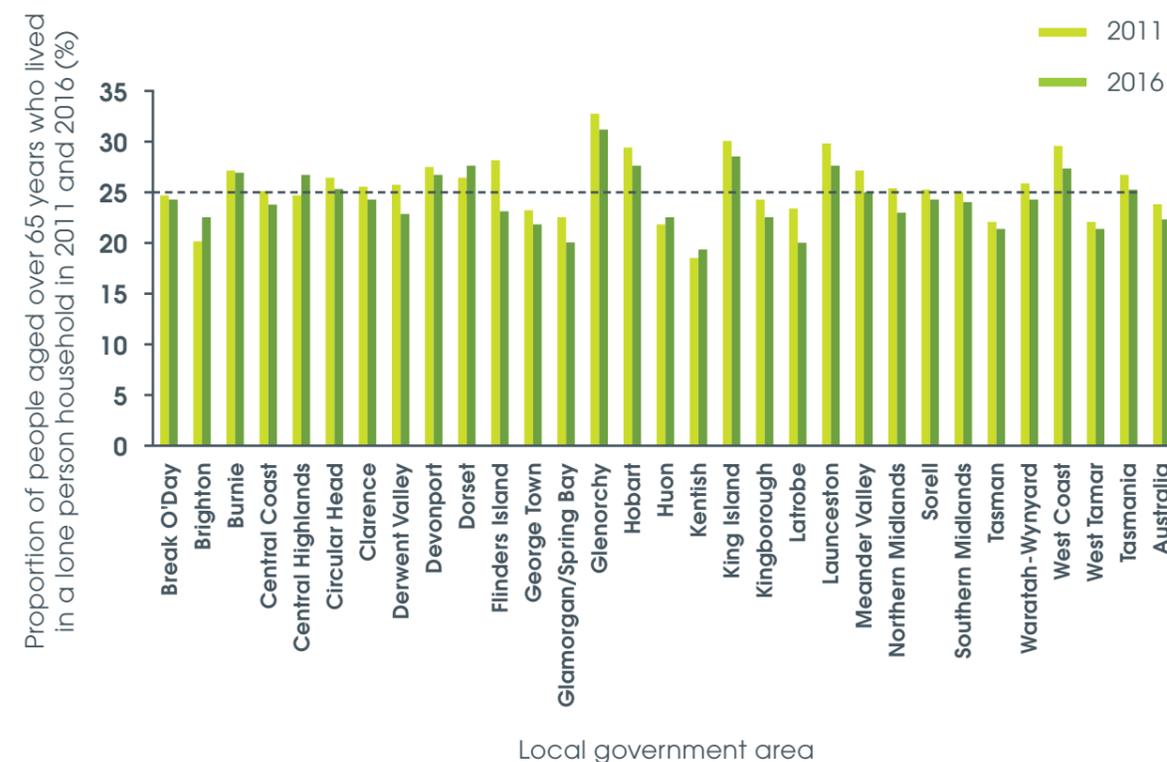


Figure 22: The proportion of people over 65 years who lived in lone person households in 2011 and 2016 in Tasmanian LGAs, compared to the Tasmanian proportion in 2016 (dashed line).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Disaggregating Tasmanian age groups aged over 65 shows that a higher proportion of people over 85 years lived in lone person households than those aged 65 to 84 years in 2016 (Table 45). The LGAs with the highest proportion of 65 to 84 year olds who lived alone were Glenorchy (29.4%), Launceston (26.5%), Hobart (26.0%) and West Coast (26.0%). The lowest proportions were in Kentish (18.1%), Glamorgan/Spring Bay (18.4%), Latrobe (18.8%) and West Tamar (19.5%).

More than half the population aged over 85 lived alone in the Central Highlands and West Coast, followed by King Island (48.8%) and Dorset (47.6%). LGAs with the lowest proportion of people aged over 85 who lived in lone person households were Flinders Island (23.1%), Brighton (23.1%) and George Town (27.3%).

Over a quarter of all Tasmanians in each LGA who lived alone were aged 65 to 84.

	65 to 84 years	Over 85 years	All over 65 years
Break O'Day	22.9	38.6	24.3
Brighton	22.5	23.1	22.6
Burnie	25.9	35.3	27.1
Central Coast	22.3	36.8	23.9
Central Highlands	25.8	52.6	26.7
Circular Head	24.2	38.3	25.3
Clarence	22.1	38.2	24.3
Derwent Valley	21.3	42.4	23.0
Devonport	25.1	38.4	26.8
Dorset	25.1	47.6	27.5
Flinders Island	23.2	23.1	23.2
George Town	21.4	27.3	22.0
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	18.4	38.1	20.0
Glenorchy	29.4	41.2	31.1
Hobart	26.0	35.6	27.6
Huon	21.8	30.8	22.6
Kentish	18.1	34.3	19.4
King Island	25.8	48.8	28.6
Kingborough	21.2	33.1	22.5
Latrobe	18.8	32.2	20.2
Launceston	26.5	35.0	27.7
Meander Valley	23.4	35.4	24.9
Northern Midlands	21.7	37.9	23.1
Sorell	23.4	31.3	24.2
Southern Midlands	22.8	37.1	24.1
Tasman	20.1	35.1	21.4
Waratah-Wynyard	22.6	38.4	24.2
West Coast	26.0	51.4	27.3
West Tamar	19.5	37.6	21.4
Tasmania	23.7	36.4	25.2
Australia	20.9	31.7	22.4

Table 45: Proportion of people 65 to 84 and over 85 years who lived in lone person households in Tasmanian LGAs in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Provision of unpaid childcare

Overview

Provision of unpaid childcare by older Tasmanians provides an indication of a person's trusting, social and intergenerational relationships. An older person who provides unpaid childcare for children other than their own is likely to have strong social connections with other people, families and, importantly, multiple generations.

Intergenerational relationships developed through child caring can foster greater understanding and reduce ageism across generations. Both younger and older people benefit from intergenerational connection, including increased self-worth and learning new skills. The impact of positive intergenerational relationships extend beyond the direct individuals into their community, which can experience improved respect, development, productivity and interpersonal connections, along with decreased antisocial behaviour⁷⁴.

The majority of older Tasmanians provide unpaid childcare to children who are not their own, most likely grandchildren or friends' children. This suggests that these people have trusting relationships with others, and as a result, may have reduced risk of isolation. Of course, this may not be the case for every person who provides childcare as these relationships may be the only social connections a person can access.

The vast majority of older Tasmanians who provided unpaid childcare were aged 65 to 84 years and cared for children other than their own.

In addition, if these relationships are dysfunctional and a person is forced or manipulated to provide care that they may not want to, or do at the expense of their own wellbeing, they are at greater risk of isolation. Conversely, someone who does not provide childcare may not be at risk of isolation. These people may not live near children that they could care for, or may be busy with other social groups or activities to provide childcare. Therefore, data presented below indicates older Tasmanians who are unlikely to be isolated due to trusting, social connections that enable them to care for children, rather than indicating that those who do not care for children are at risk of isolation.

Over a quarter of Tasmanians provided unpaid childcare in 2016, and 8.6% of these people were aged over 65 years. The majority of older Tasmanians who provided unpaid childcare were women.

Less than 10% of Tasmanians aged over 65 years provided unpaid childcare in 2016, the lowest proportion of all states and territories. The vast majority of older people who provided childcare were aged between 65 and 84 years and cared for a child or children who were not their own. The low proportion of older Tasmanians who provide unpaid childcare compared to other states and territories may be because of limited opportunity to care for grandchildren as family may move away from the State for career or lifestyle opportunities.

The proportion of older Tasmanians providing unpaid childcare increased from 2011 to 2016, and older Tasmanians made up a higher proportion of all people who provided childcare in all LGAs from 2011 to 2016. This suggests that more Tasmanians aged over 65 are taking on informal caring roles for children and this is likely to continue to grow as the population structure continues to age.

Tasmanian LGAs that appeared to be at reduced risk of social isolation based on provision of unpaid childcare in 2016 were Clarence, Hobart, Kingborough and Flinders Island.

More Tasmanians aged over 65 are taking on informal caring roles for children, and this is likely to continue to grow as the population structure continues to age.

Government and community cannot assume that older Tasmanians will or must take the role of informal caregiver for family and friends. In some cases, this is not possible or practical.

The opportunity for older Tasmanians to care for children provides them with access to social connections and intergenerational relationships, both of which can bring joy and meaning to a person's life. Intergenerational connections significantly benefit younger people, older people and the community by reducing ageism towards both younger and older people⁷⁵. But government and community cannot assume that as Tasmania's population structure ages that older Tasmanians will or must take the role of informal caregiver for family and friends. In some cases, it is not possible or practical for older Tasmanians to take on this role. In addition, COTA Tasmania is aware of cases of elder abuse in which older Tasmanians are blocked from contacting grandchildren unless they provide money or other items to the child's parents⁷⁶. While child caring by older Tasmanians can be encouraged, formal methods that are appropriate and affordable must be available for all families.

LGAs with people over 65 years at reduced risk of isolation, based on provision of unpaid childcare in 2016:

Largest number of people aged over 65 years who provided unpaid childcare

- Clarence (1,487 people)
- Hobart (1,227 people)
- Launceston (1,101 people)
- Kingborough (961 people)

Proportion of people aged over 65 who provided unpaid childcare:

Highest proportion:

- Kingborough (14.5%)
- Hobart (14.3%)
- Clarence (13.5%)
- Sorell (10.8%)

Fastest growth from 2011 to 2016:

- Flinders Island (+7.2%)
- Central Highlands (+3.4%)
- Sorell (+2.8%)
- Hobart (+2.5%)

Comments on data

Childcare data below excludes data for people aged 0 to 14 years, who were not eligible for providing childcare in ABS data.

The following proportions were calculated including data from Census respondents who did not

state whether they provided child care or not, meaning they may not add up to 100%.

Due to rounding, some numbers and proportions presented below may appear one decimal place in error.

Older Tasmanians providing unpaid childcare

Just over a quarter of Tasmanians over 15 years provided unpaid childcare to their own or another child or children in 2016 (Table 46). Just over 9,500 Tasmanians over 65 years provided unpaid childcare, equalling 9.7% of this age group and 8.6% of all Tasmanians who provided childcare in 2016.

The vast majority of people over 65 years who provided unpaid childcare were aged between 65 and 84 years.

Over 90% of Tasmanians over 65 years who provided unpaid childcare in 2016 cared for a child or children other than their own.

Age (Years)	Cared for own and/or other child/children		Did not provide childcare	
	People (Number)	Proportion of age group (%)	People (Number)	Proportion of age group (%)
15 to 29	15,990	17.8	66,708	74.4
30 to 49	65,205	52.7	50,326	40.7
50 to 64	20,773	19.3	79,146	73.5
65 to 84	9,418	10.8	67,652	77.8
Over 85	159	1.4	9,746	82.9
All Ages	111,545	26.6	273,578	65.2
All over 65	9,577	9.7	77,398	78.4

Table 46: The number and proportion of Tasmanians in each age group that did or did not provide unpaid childcare in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Women were more likely to provide unpaid childcare than men in every age group over 15 years in 2016 (Table 47). 60% of women over 65 years provided unpaid childcare compared to 40% of men.

Age (Years)	Male		Female	
	Number	Proportion (%)	Number	Proportion (%)
15 to 29	5,604	35.1	10,376	64.9
30 to 49	28,528	43.8	36,674	56.2
50 to 64	8,567	41.2	12,214	58.8
65 to 84	3,759	40.0	5,642	60.0
Over 85	63	40.9	91	59.1
All Ages	46,521	41.7	64,997	58.3
All over 65	3,822	40.0	5,733	60.0

Table 47: The number and proportion of Tasmanians by gender and age who provided unpaid childcare in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmania compared to the rest of Australia

The proportion of all Tasmanians providing childcare decreased from 27.9% in 2011 to 26.6% in 2016 (Table 48). This was due to slower growth in the proportion of people aged 15 to 29 years who provided unpaid care. The proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who provided childcare increased by 1.3% from 2011 to 2016.

Of all Tasmanians who provided unpaid childcare in 2016, 8.6% were aged over 65 years, an increase from 6.0% in 2011, meaning that older Tasmanians made up a greater proportion of Tasmanians who provided unpaid childcare in 2016 compared to 2011.

The proportion of people providing unpaid childcare in Tasmania was lower than Australia as a whole in 2016 (26.6% compared to 27.6%). Australia had faster growth in all age groups of people providing childcare from 2011 to 2016 than Tasmania. The proportion of Australians aged over 65 years who provided unpaid childcare increased from 10.7% in 2011 to 12.4% in 2016, to be 2.7% higher than their Tasmanian counterparts in 2016.

Age (Years)	Tasmania			Australia		
	2011	2016	Change (2011 to 2016)	2011	2016	Change (2011 to 2016)
15 to 29	19.8	17.8	-2.0	15.2	13.8	-1.4
30 to 49	52.9	52.7	-0.2	50.6	50.8	+0.3
50 to 64	19.2	19.3	+0.1	20.1	20.9	+0.7
65 to 84	9.5	10.8	+1.4	12.2	14.1	+1.8
Over 85	0.7	1.4	+0.6	1.0	1.3	+0.3
All Ages	27.9	26.6	-1.3	27.8	27.6	-0.2
All over 65	8.4	9.7	+1.3	10.7	12.4	+1.6

Table 48: The proportion of each Tasmanian and Australian age group that provided childcare in 2011 and 2016, and the change in this from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmania had the lowest proportion of the population who provided unpaid childcare in 2016 of all states and territories (Table 49). Younger age groups in Tasmania had some of the highest proportions of people who provided childcare, but older age groups had lower

proportions compared to other states and territories.

Tasmania had the lowest proportion of people aged over 65 years who provided unpaid childcare of states and territories, with a particularly low proportion of people aged 65 to 84 years providing childcare.

Age (Years)	Tas	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Vic	WA	Aus
15 to 29	17.8	11.3	13.9	22.2	16.3	14.7	11.7	15.1	13.8
30 to 49	52.7	50.3	53.5	43.3	51.9	52.3	50.7	50.5	50.8
50 to 64	19.3	22.5	22.4	20.0	20.1	20.9	21.2	20.7	20.9
65 to 84	10.8	19.7	15.7	13.5	11.8	14.9	15.4	13.8	14.1
Over 85	1.4	1.9	1.6	3.0	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.3
All Ages	26.6	28.9	29.2	29.4	28.1	27.6	27.4	28.5	27.6
All over 65	9.7	17.5	13.8	12.9	10.5	12.9	13.5	12.2	12.4

Table 49: The proportion of age groups in each state and territory that provided unpaid childcare for their own or another child or children in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Unpaid childcare across Tasmania

In 2016, the largest number of Tasmanians aged over 65 who provided unpaid childcare were in Clarence (1,487 people), Hobart (1,226 people), Launceston (1,101 people) and Kingborough (961 people; Table 50). These LGAs also had the largest increase in the number of older Tasmanians who provided unpaid childcare from 2011 to 2016. LGAs with the smallest number of older Tasmanians who provided childcare in 2016 were King Island (20 people), Tasman (24 people), Flinders Island (24 people) and the West Coast (33 people). Tasman and King Island were among the LGAs with the small increase from

2011 to 2016, along with Southern Midlands and George Town.

The highest proportions of older Tasmanians who provided unpaid childcare were in Kingborough (14.5%), Hobart (14.3%), Clarence (13.5%) and Sorell (10.8%). Tasman (3.5%), Break O'Day (4.4%), West Coast (4.7%) and George Town (5.3%) had the lowest proportions in Tasmania. Flinders Island, the Central Highlands, Sorell and Hobart had the fastest growth in the proportion of older Tasmanians providing unpaid childcare from 2011 to 2016, and Tasman, Southern Midlands, King Island and George Town had the slowest growth.

	Number of people over 65 years who provided childcare			Proportion of people over 65 years who provided childcare (%)		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
Break O'Day	51	76	+25	3.7	4.4	+0.7
Brighton	116	169	+53	8.1	8.7	+0.6
Burnie	205	219	+14	6.7	6.3	-0.4
Central Coast	276	362	+86	7.0	7.6	+0.6
Central Highlands	13	34	+21	3.2	6.7	+3.4
Circular Head	63	91	+28	5.9	6.9	+1.0
Clarence	1,019	1,487	+468	11.6	13.5	+2.0
Derwent Valley	81	137	+56	5.8	7.2	+1.5
Devonport	322	373	+51	7.1	7.1	+0.0
Dorset	64	98	+34	4.9	6.2	+1.3
Flinders Island	5	24	+19	3.1	10.3	+7.2
George Town	65	76	+11	6.0	5.3	-0.7
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	50	82	+32	4.6	5.9	+1.3
Glenorchy	619	817	+198	8.2	10.0	+1.7
Hobart	843	1,226	+383	11.7	14.3	+2.5
Huon	179	260	+81	7.6	8.0	+0.4
Kentish	42	74	+32	4.6	6.1	+1.5
King Island	19	20	+1	6.8	5.7	-1.1
Kingborough	665	961	+296	13.0	14.5	+1.5
Latrobe	97	181	+84	5.4	7.1	+1.7
Launceston	761	1,101	+340	7.5	9.4	+1.9
Meander Valley	231	345	+114	7.2	8.6	+1.4
Northern Midlands	144	206	+62	6.8	7.6	+0.7
Sorell	151	277	+126	7.9	10.8	+2.8
Southern Midlands	65	68	+3	7.7	6.5	-1.2
Tasman	26	24	-2	4.9	3.5	-1.4
Waratah-Wynyard	138	182	+44	5.6	6.1	+0.5
West Coast	20	33	+13	3.1	4.7	+1.6
West Tamar	298	414	+116	8.0	8.8	+0.8
Tasmania	6,742	9,577	+2,835	8.4	9.7	+1.3
Australia	323,531	455,455	+131,924	10.7	12.4	+1.6

Table 50: The number of people and proportion of people aged over 65 years who provided unpaid childcare in Tasmanian LGAs in 2011 and 2016, and the change in these from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Chapter 3

Cultural Diversity

This chapter explores the cultural diversity of Tasmanians aged over 65. This includes older Tasmanians who:

- Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander;
- Were born in another country;
- Speak a language other than English, and their English proficiency.

Cultural diverse communities enable the sharing of knowledge, skills, experiences and perspectives that strengthen social cohesion and respect. Overviews for both the Tasmanian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and migrant communities are presented separately in this chapter.

Tasmania's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Overview

The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander almost doubled from 2006 to 2016. Despite a relatively small number of Indigenous people, the proportion of Tasmanians who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander was higher than for Australia in 2016, and increased in every age group from 2006. Tasmania had almost twice the proportion of the population aged over 65 years who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander compared to Australia, the majority of which identified as Aboriginal.

Some of the Tasmanian LGAs that had the highest number and proportion of people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, including the West Coast, Brighton, Glenorchy and the Central Highlands, also rate highly in measures of disadvantage⁷⁷. Glenorchy, Launceston, Central Coast and Clarence had the highest number of Tasmanians aged over 50 who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and eligible to access aged care service and support. All Tasmanian LGAs need to ensure that culturally appropriate services are in place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to age well.

It is vital that services, programs and supports are culturally appropriate and allow older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to age within their culture.

Tasmania's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is growing and as historical disadvantage and discrimination is addressed and health outcomes continue to improve⁷⁸, it is expected that the number of older Tasmanians who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander will increase. Tasmanian governments and communities need to ensure that there are adequate and appropriate services, programs and supports to engage all older people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is vital that these supports are culturally appropriate and allow older Tasmanian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to age within their culture.

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have faced generational discrimination and barriers to accessing services and support in the community.

Though these barriers are beginning to break down as cultural awareness and sensitivity in Australia improves, challenges remain and a concerted effort to improve access and equity must continue and build.

One area of particular focus for the Australian Association of Gerontology's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing Advisory Group is aged care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people⁷⁹. Services and supports in aged care that are culturally specific, appropriate and safe are important to ensure older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people retain cultural identity, especially at a time when they become increasingly vulnerable. Australia's aged care sector must have appropriate policies and services that allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to remain informed and able to actively participate in the care they receive.

Ageing policy and planning must ensure that Tasmanians who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander are supported to age well, and this requires strong collaboration and co-design with Elders, advocates and communities.

Older Tasmanians who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander can be at risk of social isolation if they are unable to access and engage with their cultural community as they age. Intersection of racism and ageism can significantly increase a person's risk of disadvantage⁸⁰ and negatively impact their ability to age with respect, choice and autonomy. This in turn can reduce a person's physical and mental wellbeing, limiting the opportunity to engage with their community and increasing the risk of social isolation⁸¹.

Ageing policy and planning in the community and aged care must ensure that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people are supported to age with respect and dignity within their culture. Data in this chapter provides only an indication of the demand for culturally appropriate services and supports in Tasmanian LGAs, and specific needs and demand must be identified in each community. This requires strong collaboration and co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, advocates and communities.

LGAs with the largest number of Tasmanians who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in 2016 who were aged:

Over 50 years:

- Glenorchy (415 people)
- Launceston (363 people)
- Central Coast (350 people)
- Clarence (342 people)

Tasmanian LGAs with the:

Highest proportion of people aged over 65 who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in 2016:

- Circular Head (5.5%)
- Huon (3.4%)
- Flinders Island (3.2%)
- Brighton (2.9%)

Comments on data

The following proportions were calculated including data from Census respondents who did not state their Indigenous status, meaning they may not add up to 100%.

Over 65 years:

- Glenorchy (143 people)
- Launceston (115 people)
- Central Coast (109 people)
- Huon (108 people)

Fastest growth of people aged over 65 who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander from 2006 to 2016:

- Circular Head (+3.1%)
- Brighton (+2.6%)
- Central Highlands (+2.0%)
- Southern Midlands (+1.8%)

Due to rounding, some numbers and proportions presented below may appear one decimal place in error.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Despite some recent improvements in outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, discrimination and trauma across generations has meant that Indigenous Australians face disadvantage in education, income, employment, housing and health^{82,83}. Poorer health outcomes have contributed to lower life expectancy and younger age profiles of this community compared to non-Indigenous Australians.

Life expectancy of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 65 years in 2012 was almost 5 years less than non-Indigenous men and women.

Life expectancy data for Tasmanian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is unavailable due to low numbers of recorded deaths⁸⁴, but Australian data shows that life expectancy of male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is about 10 years lower than their non-Indigenous counterparts (Table 51). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 65 in 2010-2012 were expected to live another 13.9 years for men and 15.8 years for women, almost 5 years fewer than non-Indigenous men and women, respectively.

There were 23,560 people who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander living in Tasmania in 2016 (Table 52). This included 1,458 people aged over 65 years, representing 6.2% of Tasmanian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

This proportion was lower than for non-Indigenous Tasmanians, of which 19.8% were aged over 65 years in 2016.

Age (Years)	Non-Indigenous people	Tasmanian Aboriginal people	Torres Strait Islander people	Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Total Indigenous people
0 to 14	77,463	7,155	295	332	7,782
15 to 29	78,595	5,412	236	219	5,867
30 to 49	111,353	4,877	242	169	5,288
50 to 64	97,833	2,870	200	95	3,165
65 to 84	79,292	1,184	122	47	1,353
Over 85	10,604	85	11	9	105
All Ages	455,140	21,583	1,106	871	23,560
All over 65	89,896	1,269	133	56	1,458

Table 52: The number of Tasmanians who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people in each age group in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Age (Years)	Men			Women		
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous	Difference (Years)	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous	Difference (Years)
0	69.1	79.7	10.6	73.7	83.1	9.4
25	45.7	55.5	9.8	49.8	58.7	8.9
50	24.5	31.7	7.2	27.2	34.4	7.2
65	13.9	18.6	4.7	15.8	20.6	4.8
85	4.2	4.6	0.4	4.4	4.8	0.4

Table 51: Life expectancy (years) in 2010-2012 at selected ages for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous men and women, and the difference (years) between these.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010-2012, ABS cat. no. 3302.0.55.003.

In 2016, 23,560 people, equalling 4.6% of all Tasmanians, identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and this proportion decreased as the ages covered by the groups advanced (Table 53).

1.6% of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years and 0.9% of those aged over 85 years, equalling a total of 1.5% of Tasmanians aged over 65 (1,458 people), identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in 2016.

Age (Years)	Non-Indigenous people	Tasmanian Aboriginal people	Torres Strait Islander people	Both Tasmanian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Total Indigenous people
0 to 14	85.9	7.9	0.3	0.4	8.6
15 to 29	87.7	6.0	0.3	0.2	6.5
30 to 49	90.0	3.9	0.2	0.1	4.3
50 to 64	90.8	2.7	0.2	0.1	2.9
65 to 84	91.2	1.4	0.1	0.1	1.6
Over 85	90.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.9
All Ages	89.3	4.2	0.2	0.2	4.6
All over 65	91.0	1.3	0.1	0.1	1.5

Table 53: The proportion of Tasmanians who identified as non-Indigenous, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in each age group in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander almost doubled from 2006 to 2016.

The number of Tasmanians who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander increased by almost 7,000 people from 2006 to 2016, with an increase in proportion from 3.5% in 2006 to 4.6% in 2016 (Table 54). The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander almost doubled from 0.8% in 2006 to 1.5% in 2016. The number of older Tasmanian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people increased by more than 2.5 times from 560 people to 1,458 people over this same period.

The growth in proportion of Tasmanians who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander from 2006 to 2016 was greater than the Australia-wide growth from 2.3% to 2.8% for the same period. The proportion of Tasmanians identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in each age group was higher in both 2006 and 2016 when compared to Australia, and Tasmania had almost twice the proportion of people over 65 years who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people than Australia in 2016 (1.5% of Tasmanians vs 0.8% of Australians).

Age (Years)	Tasmania			Australia		
	2006	2016	Change (2006 to 2016)	2006	2016	Change (2006 to 2016)
0 to 14	6.5	8.6	+2.2	4.3	5.0	+0.7
15 to 29	5.1	6.5	+1.4	2.9	3.7	+0.8
30 to 49	3.1	4.3	+1.2	1.9	2.3	+0.4
50 to 64	1.8	2.9	+1.2	1.1	1.8	+0.7
65 to 84	0.9	1.6	+0.7	0.6	0.9	+0.3
Over 85	0.3	0.9	+0.6	0.3	0.4	0.0
All Ages	3.5	4.6	+1.1	2.3	2.8	+0.5
All over 65	0.8	1.5	+0.7	0.6	0.8	+0.3

Table 54: The proportion (%) of people who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in Tasmania and Australia by age group, in 2006 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Most Tasmanians who identified as Indigenous identified as Aboriginal (91.6%). 87% of Indigenous Tasmanians over the age of 65 identified as Aboriginal compared

to 9.1% who identified as Torres Strait Islander and 3.8% as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Figure 23). These proportions were similar to Australian figures.



Figure 23: The proportion of Indigenous Tasmanians aged over 65 years who identified as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

In 2016, Tasmanian LGAs with the largest number of people aged over 65 who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander were Glenorchy (143 people), Launceston (115 people), Central Coast (109 people) and Huon (108 people). The smallest numbers of Tasmanian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people aged over 65 years were in Tasman (three people),

King Island (three people), Flinders Island (seven people) and the Central Highlands (10 people)⁸⁵.

Circular Head (5.5%), Huon (3.4%) and Flinders Island (3.2%) had the highest proportions of the population aged over 65 who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (Figure 24).

LGAs with the lowest proportions of the older population who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander were Hobart (0.4%), Tasman (0.4%) and West Tamar (0.6%).

The fastest growth was in Circular Head (+3.1%), Brighton (+2.6%) and Central Highlands (+2.0%). Slowest growth was in Flinders Island (-2.1%), Derwent Valley (-0.4%) and Tasman (-0.3%).

The proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander grew in 24 of the States 29 LGAs from 2006 to 2016.

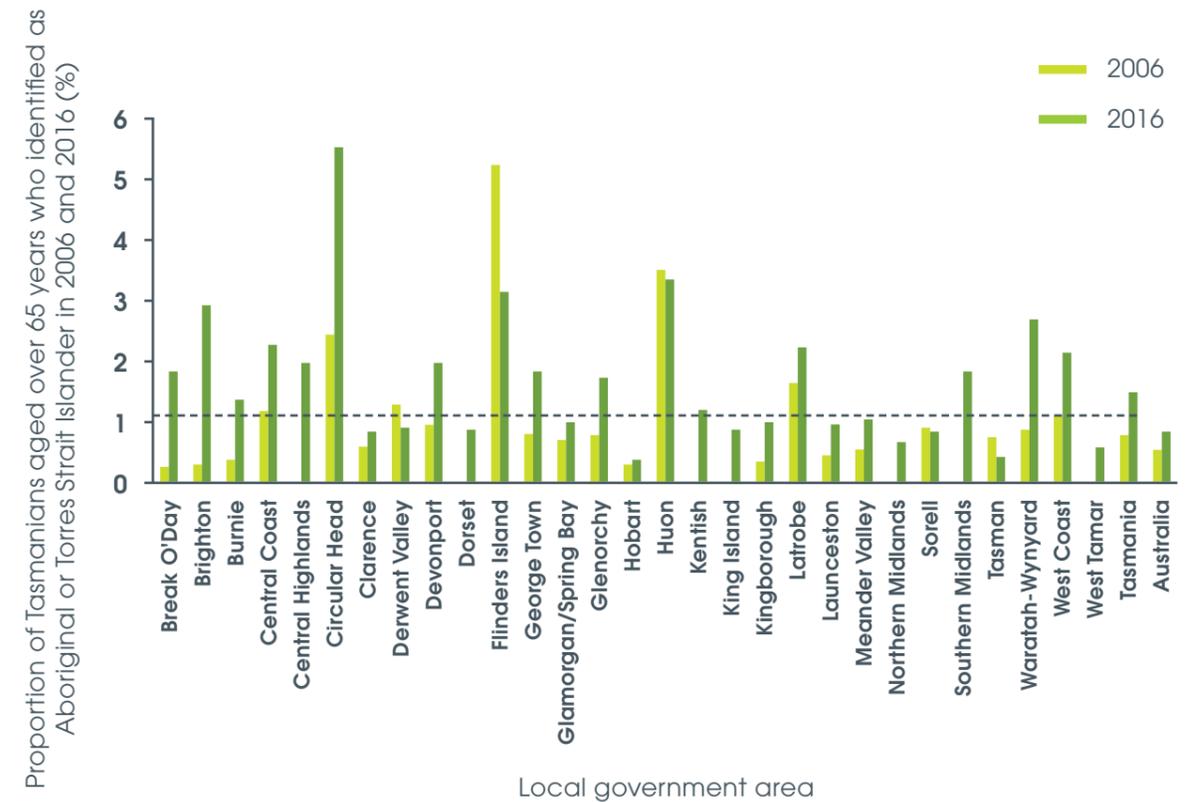


Figure 24: The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 years who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people in LGAs in 2006 and 2016, compared to the total Tasmanian proportion in 2016 (dashed line).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The age at which Tasmanians who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people can access aged care services is 50 years⁸⁶. Tasmanian LGAs need to consider whether culturally appropriate services and supports are available both in aged care and the community for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50 years.

Tasmanian LGAs with the largest number of Tasmanians aged over 50 years who identified as Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander people in 2016 were Glenorchy (415 people), Launceston (363 people), Central Coast (350 people) and Clarence (342 people; Figure 25). LGAs with the smallest number of Tasmanian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 50 were King Island (17 people), Central Highlands (31 people), Glamorgan/Spring Bay (32 people) and Tasman (35 people)

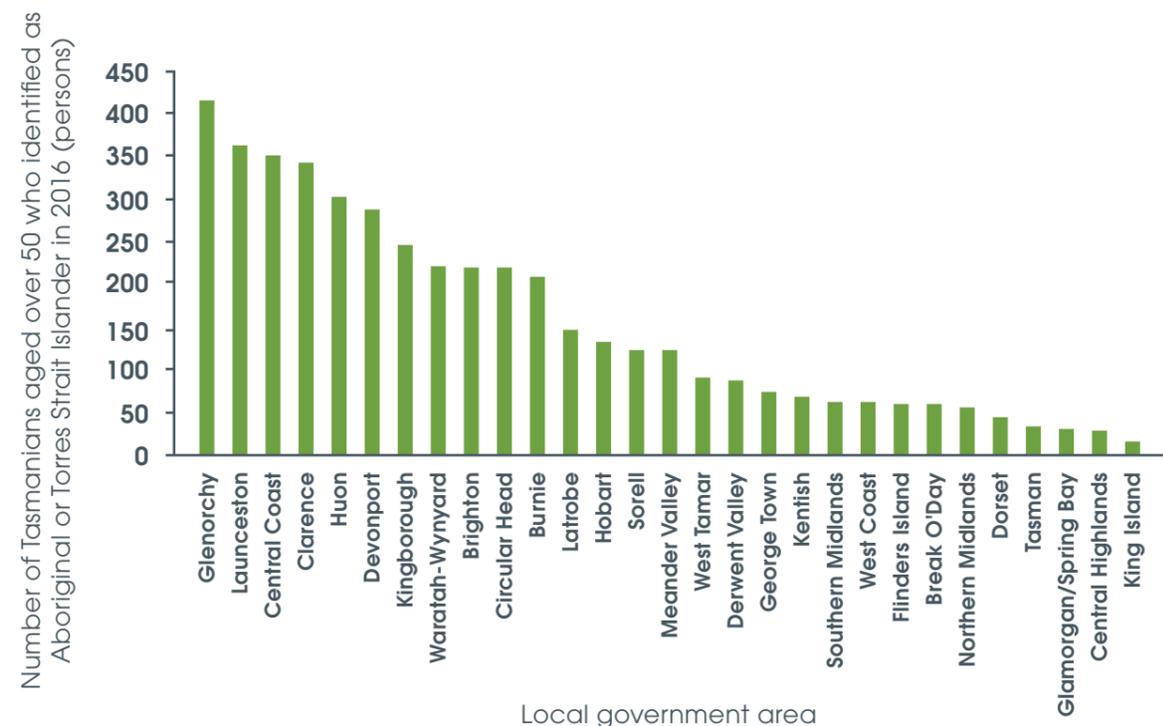


Figure 25: The number of Tasmanians aged over 50 who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in each Tasmanian LGA in 2016, ordered from largest to smallest number.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmania's migrant population

Overview

Almost 20,000 Tasmanians aged over 65 were born in a country other than Australia in 2016, equalling one in five people in this age group. Most older Tasmanians who were born in a country outside Australia were born in a European country, and the majority of those who spoke a language other than English spoke a European language. Older Tasmanians were less likely to be of Asian culture compared to younger age groups. This suggests that culturally appropriate services and supports for older culturally diverse Tasmanians may be different from those of younger culturally diverse Tasmanians.

A greater proportion of older Tasmanians were born in a country other than Australia compared to younger Tasmanians, but a smaller proportion of them spoke a language other than English in 2016. This is probably because a higher proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who were born outside Australia were born in English-speaking countries such as England, Scotland and New Zealand. Tasmanians aged over 65 were more likely to speak a European language than younger Tasmanians, who were more likely to speak an Asian language. However, English proficiency between the younger and older Tasmanians was very similar. 85.8% of Tasmanians over 65 years who spoke a language other than English at home also spoke English very well or well.

Most older Tasmanians born in a country other than Australia or who speak a language other than English were of European culture in 2016.

Within the older cohort, there were differences in cultural diversity indicators. Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years were slightly more likely to be born in another country, less likely to speak a language other than English, and had greater English proficiency than those aged over 85 years in 2016. Older Tasmanians who did not speak English well tended to speak European languages including Greek, Italian or Polish, while a greater proportion of those who did not speak English at all tended to speak Asian languages including Nepali, Mandarin and Cantonese.

85.8% of Tasmanians over 65 years who spoke a language other than English at home also spoke English very well or well.

There was a small increase in the proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who were born in a country other than Australia from 2006 to 2016. The proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years who spoke a language other than English decreased from 2006 to 2016, while the proportion of Tasmanians over 85 years who spoke another language grew. English proficiency of older Tasmanians who spoke a language other than English remained relatively stable from 2006 to 2016.

There has been an average annual net departure of people aged over 65 years from Tasmania to overseas since 2004, while there has been an average annual net arrival of people aged 50 to 64 years from overseas to Tasmania (Table 55). It is possible that cultural diversity of older Tasmanians may increase as net arrivals of younger cohorts increase and these younger populations age.

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 55: 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: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Demographic Statistics, December 2017*, ABS cat. no. 3101.0.

Some of the most culturally diverse LGAs in Tasmania are Hobart, Glenorchy, Kingborough and West Tamar.

Hobart, Glenorchy, Kingborough and West Tamar LGAs had some of the highest proportions of older Tasmanians who were born in a country outside Australia, spoke a language other than English or had poor English proficiency. It is crucial that all Tasmanian LGAs understand and plan for cultural diversity in their older populations to ensure that Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people are included and empowered as they age.

This is important in LGAs that have large CALD communities, but also for those with smaller culturally diverse communities, especially as people become older and these small networks may become even smaller with age. This may also occur as many Tasmanian migrants, particularly non-English and non-European migrants, choose to move to the mainland where there are larger communities that support their culture and language, a greater number of cultural facilities, or because of greater acceptance of migrants⁸⁷. It is in Tasmania's best interest to create communities that include and support CALD communities to support population growth and diversity.

Increased risk of social isolation teamed with ageism and racism experienced by older CALD people can significantly impact health and wellbeing, and well-developed and informed support is important to ensure that this community can age well. Considering the cultural diversity of older people throughout Tasmania is important to ensure that appropriate services, supports and programs are established in communities in which these people live.

Many culturally diverse older Tasmanians are grateful to live in Tasmania, but have concerns about cultural inclusion as they age.

There are several organisations, events and activities in Tasmania that celebrate cultural diversity, and many older Tasmanians from culturally diverse backgrounds are grateful that they have the opportunity to live and grow older in Tasmania. In one older culturally diverse Tasmanian's words:

"We are deeply grateful for everything that Australia provides for us. We live in the best place in the world."⁸⁸

Having services and supports that understand cultural diversity and can speak or identify with specific cultures is very important and valued by Tasmania's migrant community.

Culturally diverse older Tasmanians are concerned about being able to engage with other people who share their language and culture in the community, services and aged care⁸⁹. Older CALD Tasmanians in small communities can begin to lose capacity to speak their first language if they do not have opportunities to use it regularly with others, and teamed with limited English skills, this can result in isolation from both their original and Tasmanian culture. Alternatively, older people can revert to their first language as they experience cognitive decline, particularly if they had poor English skills, creating difficulties in communicating with younger family members or members of the community who do not speak this language, including healthcare professionals and aged care workers⁹⁰.

Older culturally diverse Tasmanians can be at increased risk of social isolation if they have limited access to people who share their culture, poor English skills or experience racism. Poor English skills or misinterpretation due to accent often make it difficult for older CALD Tasmanians to access information and services, and communicate health or other issues. This can make older CALD people particularly vulnerable to elder abuse if they are dependent on children or other family members to complete transactions or access their community. It can also lead to misdiagnosis of dementia and other health conditions as family and healthcare professionals may not be able to effectively communicate with someone to ascertain an accurate understanding of cognitive or physical function.

A very real concern of CALD Tasmanians is not being able to access culturally appropriate aged care. There is a fear that as people become frail and need to live in residential aged care, that carers and staff will not be able to engage with older CALD residents, particularly if they begin to revert to their first language. Racism and misunderstanding is of real concern in these settings.

Tasmania's older CALD community brings a wealth of experiences, knowledge and diversity to Tasmania, and communities need to continue to embrace cultural diversity.

Tasmania's older CALD community brings a wealth of experiences, knowledge and diversity to Tasmania. Communities need to continue to embrace cultural diversity and ensure that appropriate services, supports and programs are in place to support people with culturally diverse backgrounds as they age. This requires significant consultation with CALD communities within LGAs to reduce the risk of social isolation and associated physical and mental illness. This report presents some of the broad demographic information about cultural diversity in Tasmania, but specific issues, concerns and opportunities for inclusion in each LGA must be explored in deeper detail with members of the community to create truly inclusive and accepting communities.

LGAs with Tasmanians aged over 65 at greatest risk of isolation, based on poor English proficiency in 2016:

Largest number of people aged over 65 who:

Did not speak English well:

- Hobart (135 people)
- Glenorchy (93 people)
- Launceston (40 people)
- Clarence (29 people)

Did not speak English at all:

- Launceston (51 people)
- Glenorchy (40 people)
- Hobart (26 people)
- Clarence (12 people)

Highest proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who:

Did not speak English well:

- Hobart (36.1%)
- Glenorchy (24.9%)
- Launceston (10.7%)
- Clarence (7.8%)

Did not speak English at all:

- Launceston (36.2%)
- Glenorchy (28.4%)
- Hobart (18.4%)
- Clarence (8.5%)

Comments on data

The following proportions were calculated including data from census respondents who did not respond to cultural diversity questions, meaning they may not add up to 100%.

Due to rounding, some numbers and proportions presented below may appear one decimal place in error.



Country of birth

A list of ABS country of birth classifications can be found in Appendix 2.

In 2016, 12.0% of Tasmanians, or 61,116 people, were born in a country other than Australia. Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years had the highest proportion (20.2%)

and number (17,612 people) of Tasmanians born in another country of all age groups (Figure 26). In total, 20.1% of Tasmanians over 65 years, equalling 19,867 people, were born in a country other than Australia in 2016, a higher proportion than for Tasmanians younger than 65 years (10.0%).

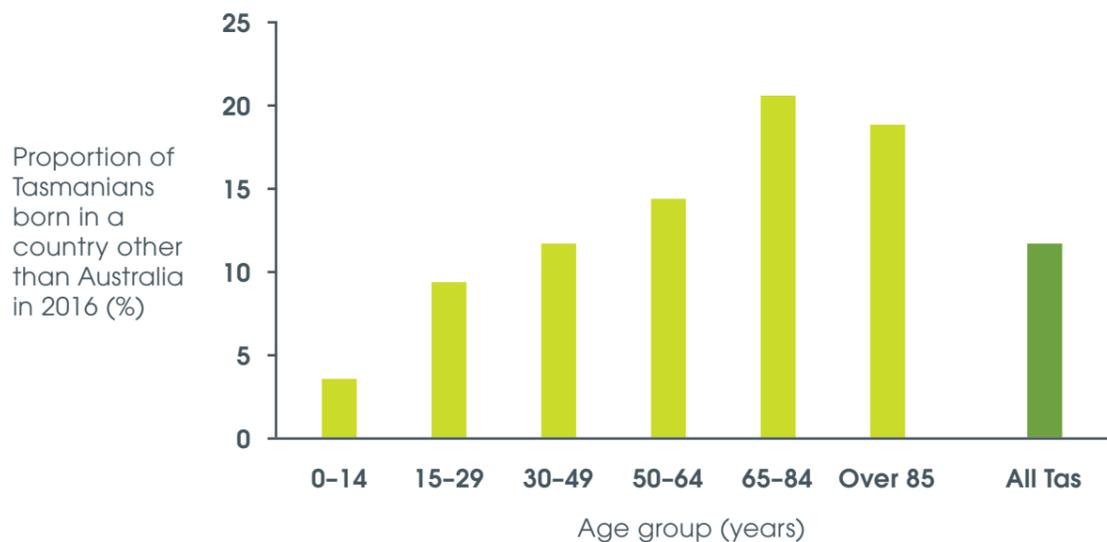


Figure 26: The proportion of Tasmanians born in a country other than Australia by age group in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

A lower proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 were born in a country other than Australia than their Australian counterparts in 2016, and this grew at a slower rate from 2006 to 2016 (Figure 27). 20.1% of Tasmanians over 65 years were born in a country other than Australia compared to 33.4% of Australians.

The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 years who were born in another country grew 0.5% from 2006 to 2016 (almost 6,000 people), while the proportion for Australians grew 1.6% (31.7% to 33.4%).

A lower proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 were born in a country other than Australia than their Australian counterparts.

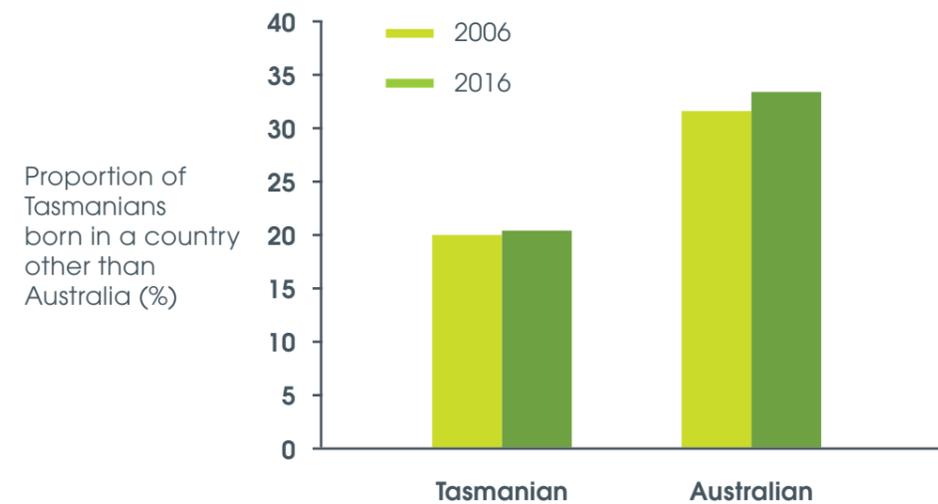


Figure 27: The proportion of Tasmanians and Australians aged over 65 years who were born in a country other than Australia in 2006 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmanian LGAs with the largest number of people aged over 65 who were born outside Australia were Hobart (2,349 people), Kingborough (2,024 people), Launceston (1,950 people) and Clarence (1,936 people; Table 56). The smallest number were in Flinders Island (41 people), King Island (49 people) and the Central Highlands (64 people). The number of Tasmanians over 65 years born in another country increased in all LGAs except King Island from 2006 to 2016. The largest increases in people aged over 65 born overseas from 2006 to 2016 were in Hobart, Kingborough and Clarence, with the smallest increases in Flinders Island, West Coast and Tasman.

LGAs with the highest proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who were born outside Australia were Kingborough (30.8%), West Tamar (27.9%), Hobart (27.4%) and Huon (26.9%; Table 56).

The smallest proportions were in the Southern Midlands (11.4%), Circular Head (11.8%) and Central Highlands (12.6%). The proportion of people aged over 65 who were born overseas grew in 18 of Tasmania's 29 LGAs from 2006 to 2016.

LGAs with the highest proportion of people aged over 65 born overseas:

- Kingborough (30.8%)
- West Tamar (27.9%)
- Hobart (27.4%)
- Huon (26.9%)

The fastest growth occurred in Huon, Dorset and the Central Highlands, with the slowest growth in George Town, King Island and Tasman.

	Number of people			Proportion of population aged over 65 (%)		
	2006	2016	Change 2006 to 2016	2006	2016	Change 2006 to 2016
Break O'Day	218	391	+173	20.1	22.5	+2.4
Brighton	125	274	+149	12.3	13.7	+1.4
Burnie	431	524	+93	15.4	15.2	-0.2
Central Coast	578	850	+272	16.3	17.9	+1.6
Central Highlands	28	64	+36	8.8	12.6	+3.8
Circular Head	98	155	+57	10.5	11.8	+1.3
Clarence	1,445	1,936	+491	18.4	17.7	-0.7
Derwent Valley	193	298	+105	15.5	15.8	+0.3
Devonport	654	813	+159	15.6	15.5	-0.0
Dorset	116	210	+94	9.7	13.7	+4.0
Flinders Island	27	41	+14	18.4	18.8	+0.4
George Town	281	327	+46	31.6	22.9	-8.8
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	105	201	+96	12.8	14.4	+1.6
Glenorchy	1,365	1,447	+82	18.5	17.7	-0.7
Hobart	1,682	2,349	+667	25.5	27.4	+1.9
Huon	393	869	+476	21.4	26.9	+5.5
Kentish	156	270	+114	22.1	22.3	+0.2
King Island	57	49	-8	22.1	15.4	-6.7
Kingborough	1,427	2,024	+597	33.5	30.8	-2.8
Latrobe	238	416	+178	17.4	16.4	-1.0
Launceston	1,494	1,950	+456	16.0	16.6	+0.6
Meander Valley	526	781	+255	20.0	19.5	-0.4
Northern Midlands	299	461	+162	16.5	17.0	+0.5
Sorell	245	460	+215	15.3	17.9	+2.7
Southern Midlands	57	119	+62	8.7	11.4	+2.7
Tasman	80	114	+34	21.7	16.8	-4.9
Waratah-Wynyard	431	580	+149	19.7	19.4	-0.3
West Coast	82	105	+23	14.5	15.1	+0.6
West Tamar	874	1,327	+453	27.8	27.9	+0.1
Tasmania	13,912	19,827	+5,915	19.6	20.1	+0.5
Australia	838,767	1,226,246	+387,479	31.7	33.4	+1.6

Table 56: Number of people and proportion of the population aged over 65 who were born in a country other than Australia in each Tasmanian LGA, Tasmania and Australia in 2006 and 2016, and the change from 2006 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Of Tasmanians born in another country, a higher proportion of people aged over 65 years were born in European countries (83.0%) compared to people younger than 65 years (38.6%; Figure 28). Tasmanians younger than 65 years born outside Australia were more likely to have been born in an Asian country (33.6% vs 5.4% of Tasmanians over 65 years). Of the Tasmanian population aged over 65 who were born overseas, almost half arrived in the 20 years after World War II, with just under a third arriving between 1966 to and 1975⁹¹.

The top fifteen countries of birth for Tasmanians over 65 years born in a country other than Australia were dominated by European countries including England, the Netherlands and Scotland (Table 57).

The majority of Tasmanians over 65 years born outside Australia were born in European countries, including England, the Netherlands and Scotland.

While the top two countries of birth for Tasmanians younger than 65 years born outside Australia were England and New Zealand, the top fifteen countries of birth included many more Asian countries than for those aged over 65 years, including China, India and the Philippines. The majority of older Tasmanians born in Africa were from southern Africa and had English ancestry.

Proportion of Tasmanians born in a country other than Australia in 2016 (%)

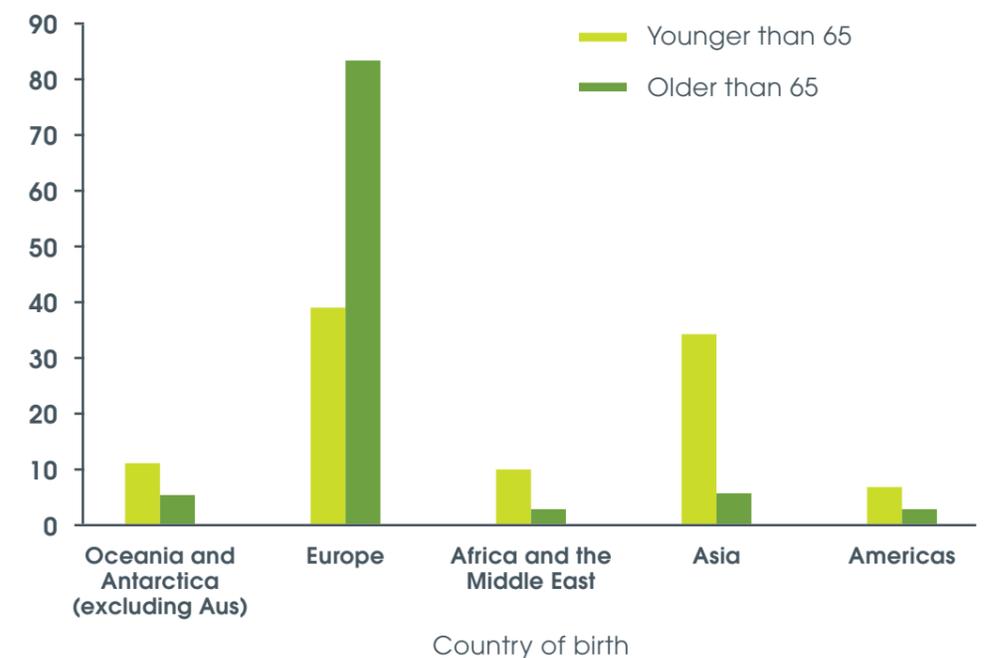


Figure 28: Region of birth for Tasmanians born in a country other than Australia aged less than or greater than 65 years in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Country of Birth	Over 65 years	Country of Birth	Younger than 65 years
England	46.9	England	23.3
Netherlands	7.4	New Zealand	9.7
Scotland	6.2	China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	7.0
Germany	5.9	India	4.4
New Zealand	5.1	Philippines	3.5
Italy	2.9	Malaysia	3.2
United States of America	1.9	United States of America	3.1
South Africa	1.6	South Africa	2.9
Greece	1.5	Scotland	2.6
Poland	1.5	Germany	2.3
Wales	1.4	Nepal	2.0
Ireland	1.2	Netherlands	1.8
Austria	1.1	Bhutan	1.7
India	1.0	Canada	1.7
Northern Ireland	0.9	Thailand	1.4

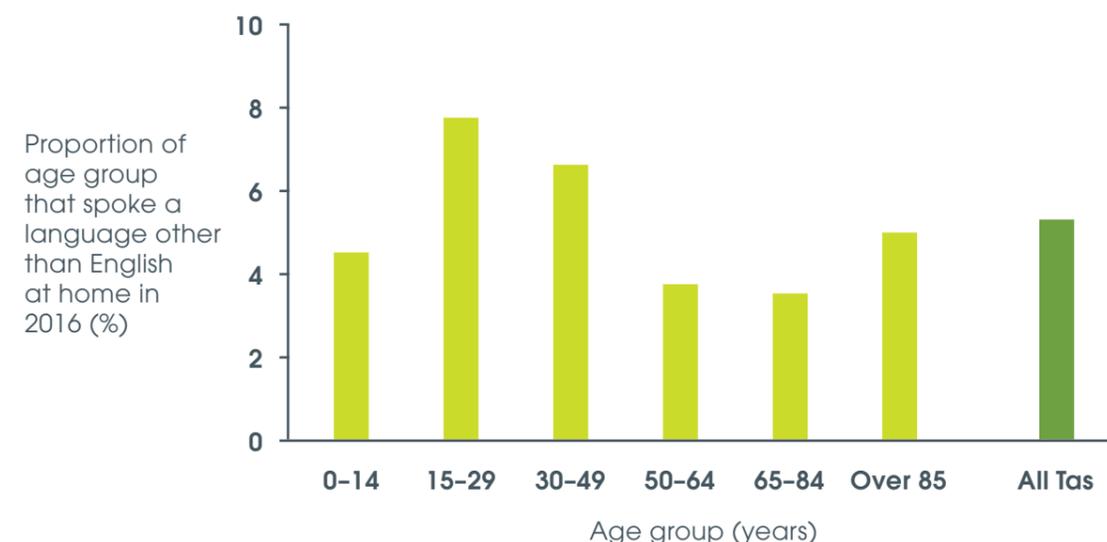
Table 57: The top 15 countries of birth for Tasmanians born in a country other than Australia aged over 65 years and younger than 65 years in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Language spoken at home

Just over 5% of Tasmanians, or 26,579 people, spoke a language other than English at home in 2016 (Figure 29). The age group with the highest proportion was 15 to 29 years old at 7.7%. A higher proportion of Tasmanians aged over 85 spoke a language other than English at home compared to those aged 65 to 84 years (4.9% vs 3.5%).

In total, 3.7% of Tasmanians aged over 65 years spoke a language other than English at home, equalling 3,625 people. A higher proportion of Tasmanians younger than 65 years spoke a language other than English at home at 5.6%, compared to Tasmanians over 65 years.



Proportion of age group that spoke a language other than English at home in 2016 (%)

Figure 29: The proportion of Tasmanian age groups that spoke a language other than English at home in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who spoke a language other than English at home decreased from 4.1% in 2006 to 3.7% in 2016 (Figure 30). This was caused by a decrease in the proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years that spoke another language by 0.8%, as the proportion of Tasmanians over 85 years who spoke another language increased 1.5% during this same period.

The proportion of the total population that spoke a language other than English at home in 2016 was lower for Tasmania than Australia (5.2% vs 20.6%) and in every age group. The proportion of Australians over 65 years that spoke another language at home was 16.2%, over four times higher than for Tasmania at 3.7%.

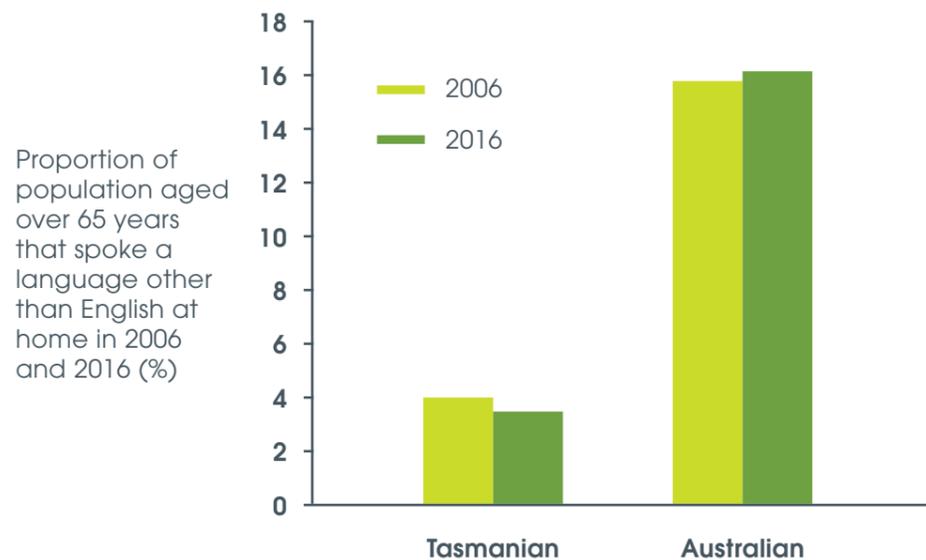


Figure 30: The proportion of Tasmanians and Australians aged over 65 years who spoke a language other than English at home in 2006 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The majority of Tasmanians aged over 65 who spoke a language other than English at home spoke a European language (Figure 31), particularly Northern or Southern European languages (31.5% and 29.7% of people aged over 65 who spoke another language, respectively; see Appendix 3 for languages included under these classifications). This aligns with findings above that a large proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who were born in a country other than Australia were born in a European country, particularly the Netherlands and Germany (Table 57).

Of Tasmanians aged 64 to 85 years who spoke a language other than English at home in 2016, 77.0% spoke a European language and 20.4% spoke an Asian language. A higher proportion of Tasmanians older than 85 years spoke a European language at 88.9%, with 11.1% speaking an Asian language. Overall, 78.9% of Tasmanians over 65 years who spoke a language other than English at home spoke a European language, compared to 28.9% of Tasmanians younger than 65 years. Tasmanians younger than 65 years who spoke a language other than English were more likely to speak an Asian language (64.6%) than the older age group (18.9%).

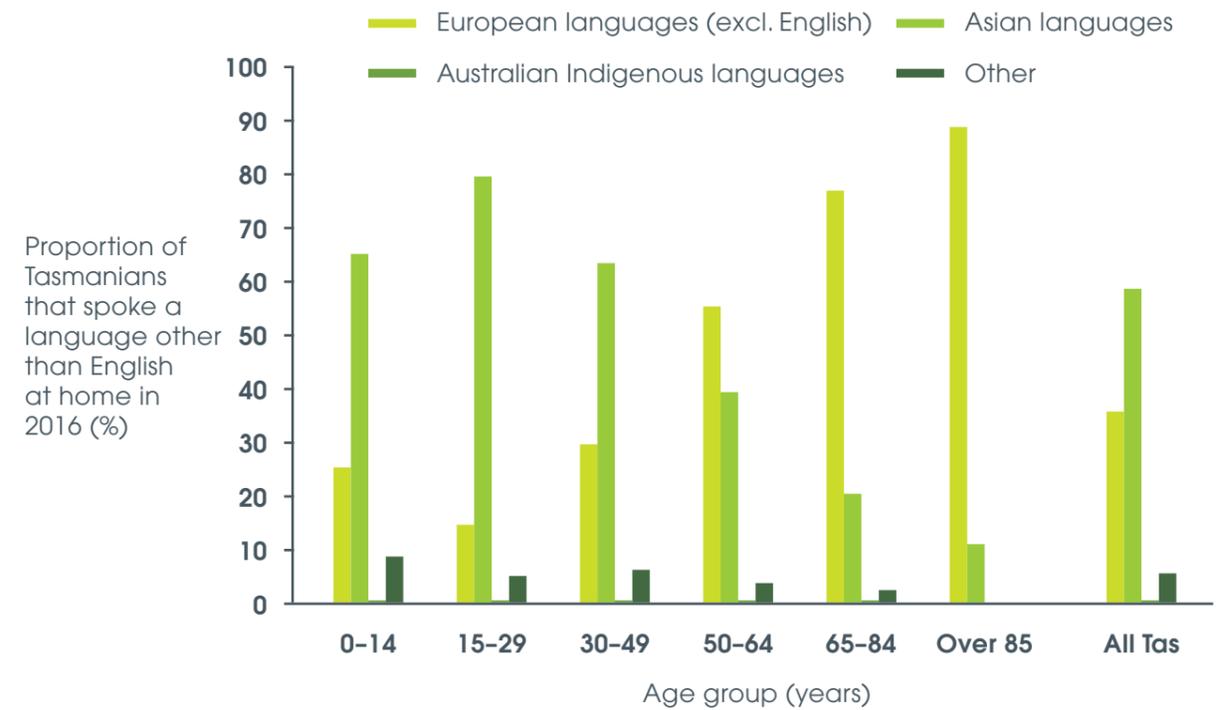


Figure 31: Languages spoken by Tasmanian age groups that spoke a language other than English at home in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

A higher proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who spoke a language other than English at home spoke a European language (78.9%) than their Australian counterparts (63.3%; Figure 32). This difference was particularly notable for Northern European languages, of which 31.5%

of older Tasmanians spoke these languages compared to 8.0% of Australians. A higher proportion of Australians over 65 years who spoke a language other than English at home spoke an Asian language (34.7%) than Tasmanians (18.9%).

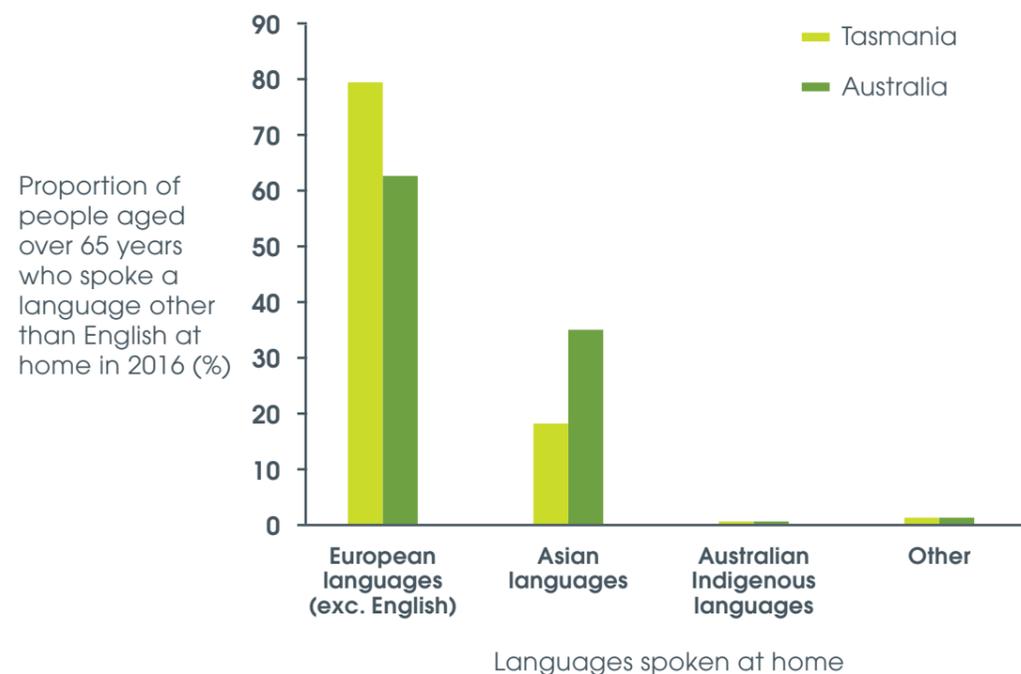


Figure 32: Languages spoken by Tasmanians and Australians aged over 65 years who spoke a language other than English at home in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmanian LGAs with the largest number of people aged over 65 who spoke a language other than English at home in 2016 were Hobart (769 people), Glenorchy (576 people), Launceston (389 people) and Clarence (381 people; Table 58). LGAs with the smallest number of people included the Southern Midlands, Central Highlands (both 0 people), Flinders Island (3 people), Tasman (6 people) and King Island (9 people). The number of older Tasmanians who spoke another language increased in 20 of the 29 LGAs from 2006 to 2016, with the largest increases in Clarence, Hobart, West Tamar and Kingborough. Break O'Day, Brighton and Burnie had the largest decreases in this population.

LGAs with the highest proportion of people aged over 65 who spoke a language other than English were Hobart (9.0%), Glenorchy (7.0%), Kingborough (4.5%) and West Tamar (4.2%). The smallest proportion of older people that spoke another language were in the Southern Midlands (0%), Central Highlands (0%), Break O'Day (0.6%) and Circular Head (0.8%). The proportion of older Tasmanians who spoke a language other than English grew in less than half of Tasmania's LGAs from 2006 to 2016. Flinders Island, Dorset, Derwent Valley and Huon had the fastest growth, while Brighton, George Town and Break O'Day had the slowest growth.

	Number of people			Proportion of population aged over 65 (%)		
	2006	2016	Change 2006 to 2016	2006	2016	Change 2006 to 2016
Break O'Day	21	10	-11	1.9	0.6	-1.3
Brighton	47	34	-13	4.5	1.7	-2.8
Burnie	70	51	-19	2.5	1.5	-1.0
Central Coast	74	89	+15	2.1	1.9	-0.2
Central Highlands	4	0	-4	1.2	0.0	-1.2
Circular Head	12	10	-2	1.3	0.8	-0.5
Clarence	234	381	+147	3.0	3.5	+0.5
Derwent Valley	13	32	+19	1.1	1.7	+0.7
Devonport	83	105	+22	2.0	2.0	+0.0
Dorset	1	20	+19	0.1	1.3	+1.2
Flinders Island	0	3	+3	0.0	1.4	+1.4
George Town	34	30	-4	3.8	2.1	-1.8
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	7	14	+7	0.8	1.0	+0.2
Glenorchy	531	576	+45	7.2	7.0	-0.2
Hobart	631	769	+138	9.5	9.0	-0.5
Huon	41	93	+52	2.2	2.9	+0.7
Kentish	5	12	+7	0.7	1.0	+0.3
King Island	10	9	-1	3.8	2.6	-1.2
Kingborough	236	297	+61	5.6	4.5	-1.1
Latrobe	20	35	+15	1.5	1.4	-0.1
Launceston	368	389	+21	3.9	3.3	-0.6
Meander Valley	61	97	+36	2.3	2.4	+0.1
Northern Midlands	37	42	+5	2.0	1.5	-0.5
Sorell	33	43	+10	2.0	1.7	-0.4
Southern Midlands	1	0	-1	0.2	0.0	-0.2
Tasman	2	6	+4	0.5	0.9	+0.4
Waratah-Wynyard	35	51	+16	1.6	1.7	+0.1
West Coast	20	17	-3	3.6	2.4	-1.1
West Tamar	132	201	+69	4.2	4.2	+0.0
Tasmania	2,934	3,632	+698	4.1	3.7	-0.4
Australia	419,219	593,493	+174,274	15.9	16.2	+0.3

Table 58: The number of people and proportion of the population aged over 65 years who spoke a language other than English at home in each Tasmanian LGA in 2006 and 2016, and the change from 2006 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Disaggregation of the population over 65 years showed that while the proportion of Tasmanians who spoke a language other than English decreased in the 65 to 84-year age group, it increased in the population aged over 85 years (Figure 33).

The proportion of people aged 65 to 84 years who spoke a language other than English at home decreased in 19 LGAs from 2006 to 2016. In comparison, the proportion of people aged over 85 years who spoke a language other than English decreased in only 4 LGAs, with increases in 15 LGAs.

The fastest growth for people over 85 years was observed in West Tamar with an 8.2% increase, followed by Hobart increasing by 5.7% and Glamorgan/Spring Bay increasing by 5.2%.

The proportion of Tasmanians who spoke a language other than English from 2006 to 2016 decreased in the 65 to 84-year age group but increased in the over 85 age group.

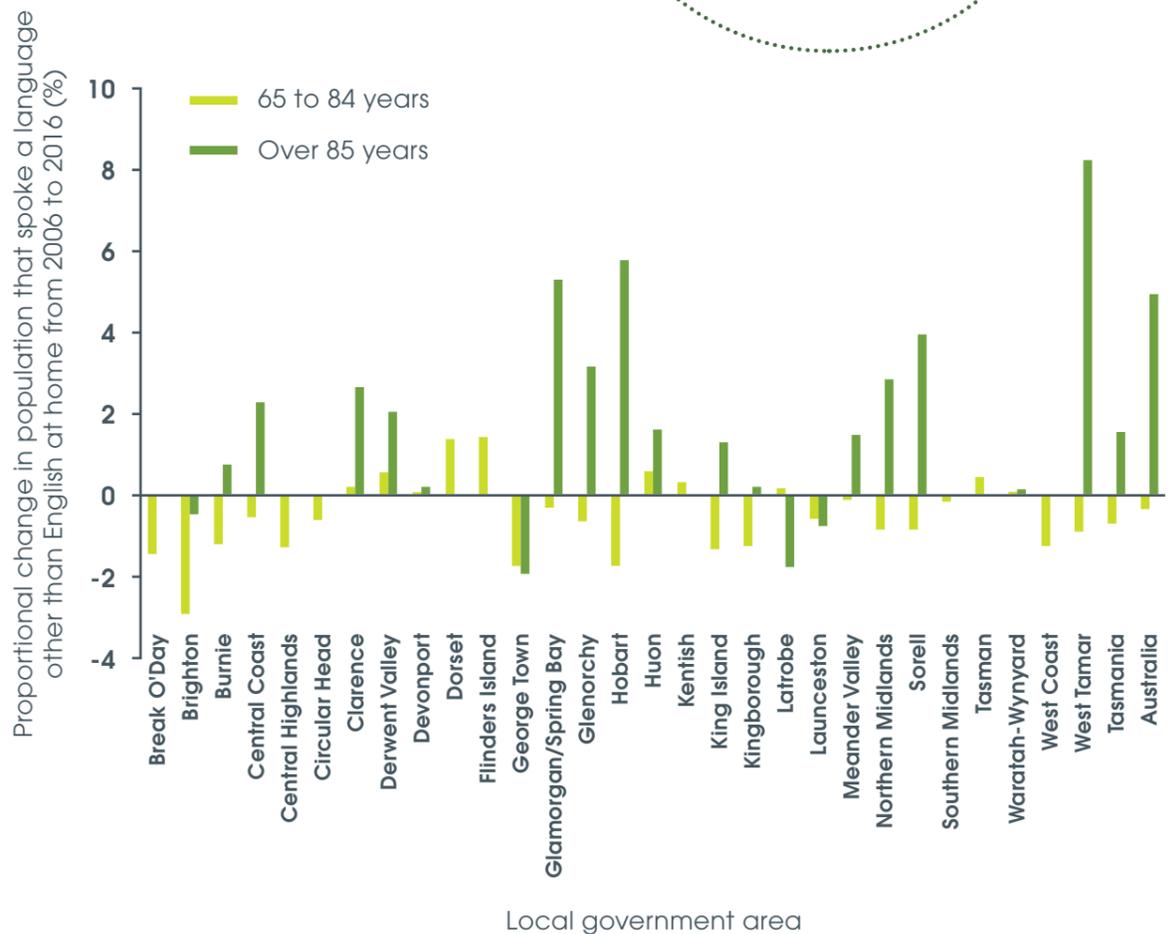


Figure 33: Proportional change in population aged 65 to 84 years and over 85 years that spoke a language other than English from 2006 to 2016 in Tasmanian LGAs.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Proficiency in English

Of the 28,356 Tasmanians who spoke a language other than English in 2016, 84.7% spoke English very well or well, which was slightly higher than Australia as a whole (83.2%; Table 59). The majority of the 4,072 Tasmanians aged over 65 who spoke another language at home also spoke English very well or well (85.8%), but this proportion was lower in the over 85-year age group (79.6%). The proportion of people

who spoke English very well or well was very similar between Tasmanians younger than 65 years (84.5%) and those older than 65 years.

Tasmanians over 65 years who spoke a language other than English had much greater English proficiency than their Australian counterparts, with only 66.0% of Australians over 65 who spoke a language other than English speaking English very well or well.

Age (Years)	Tasmania		Australia	
	Very well/ Well	Not well/ Not at all	Very well/ Well	Not well/ Not at all
0-14	70.7 (3,198)	29.3 (1,324)	77.4	22.6
15-29	87.8 (6,255)	12.2 (866)	91.7	8.3
30-49	88.3 (7,476)	11.7 (991)	89.3	10.7
50-64	86.0 (3,589)	14.0 (585)	77.6	22.4
65-84	86.9 (2,976)	13.1 (448)	67.8	32.2
85+	79.6 (516)	20.4 (132)	54.4	45.6
All Ages	84.7 (24,010)	15.3 (4,346)	83.2	16.8
65+	85.8 (3,492)	14.2 (580)	66.0	34.0

Table 59: The proportion of Tasmanians and Australians, and number of Tasmanians (in brackets), who spoke a language other than English, who spoke English very well/well or not well/not at all in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

English proficiency of older Tasmanians who spoke a language other than English changed slightly from 2006 to 2016. The proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years that spoke

English very well or well decreased by 0.2% from 2006 to 2016. This change was very similar for both populations aged 65 to 84 years and those aged over 85 years (Figure 34).

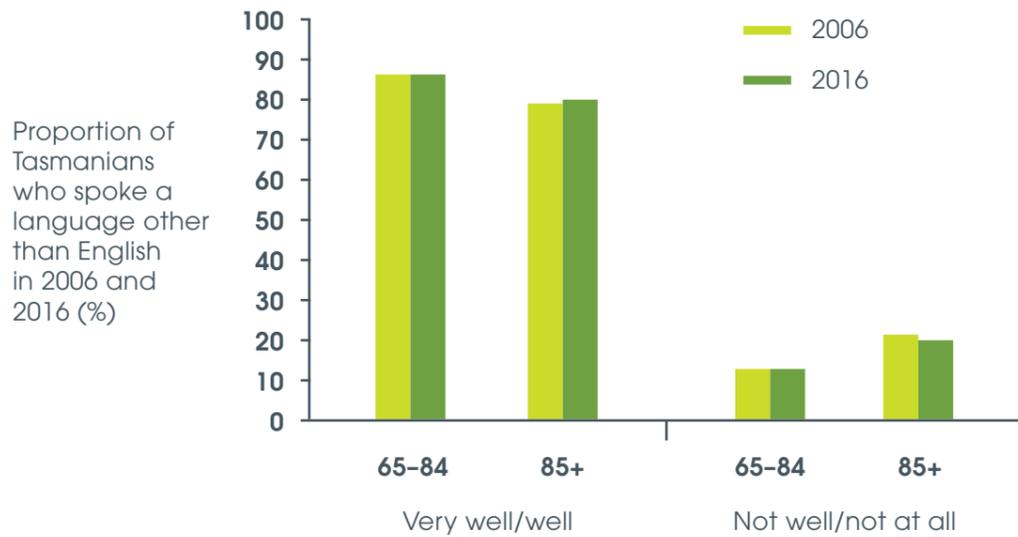


Figure 34: The proportion of Tasmanians who spoke a language other than English who spoke English very well/well or not well/not at all in 2006 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The majority of Tasmanians over 65 years who did not speak English well or at all in 2016 lived in Hobart (36.1%), Glenorchy (24.9%) or Launceston (10.7%).

The LGAs with the highest proportion of people who did not speak English at all were Launceston (36.2%), Glenorchy (28.4%) and Hobart (18.4%; Figure 35).

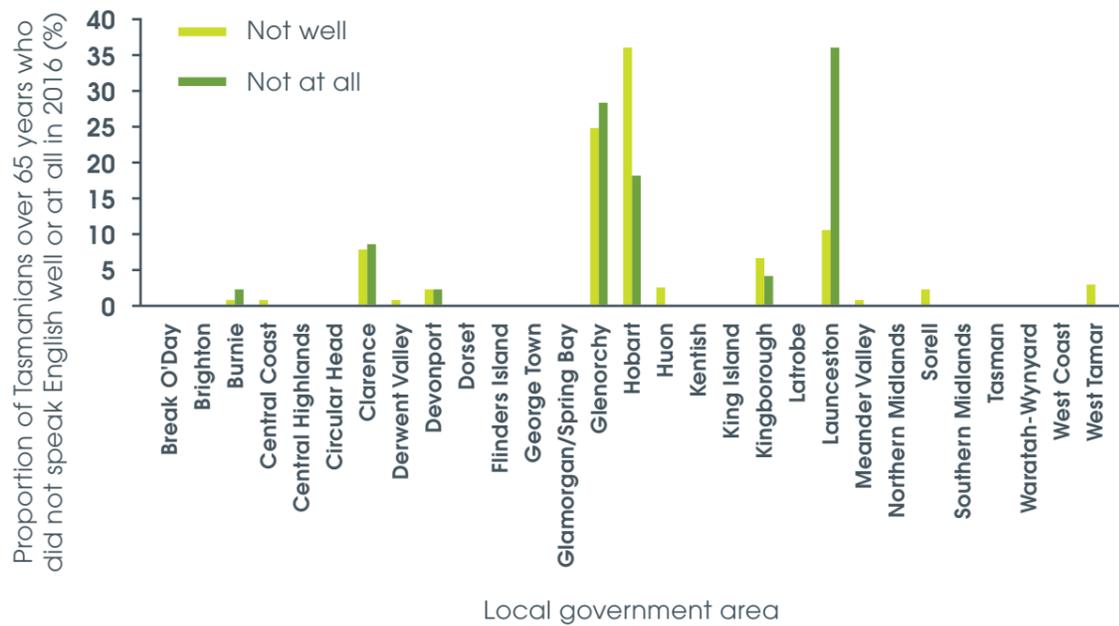


Figure 35: LGAs where the proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who did not speak English well, or did not speak English at all, lived in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The five most common languages spoken by Tasmanians who did not speak English well in 2016 were Greek, Italian, Polish, Cantonese and Spanish (Figure 36).

This population was dispersed throughout Tasmania, but predominantly in Clarence, Glenorchy, Hobart, Launceston, Meander Valley and Kentish (Figure 37).

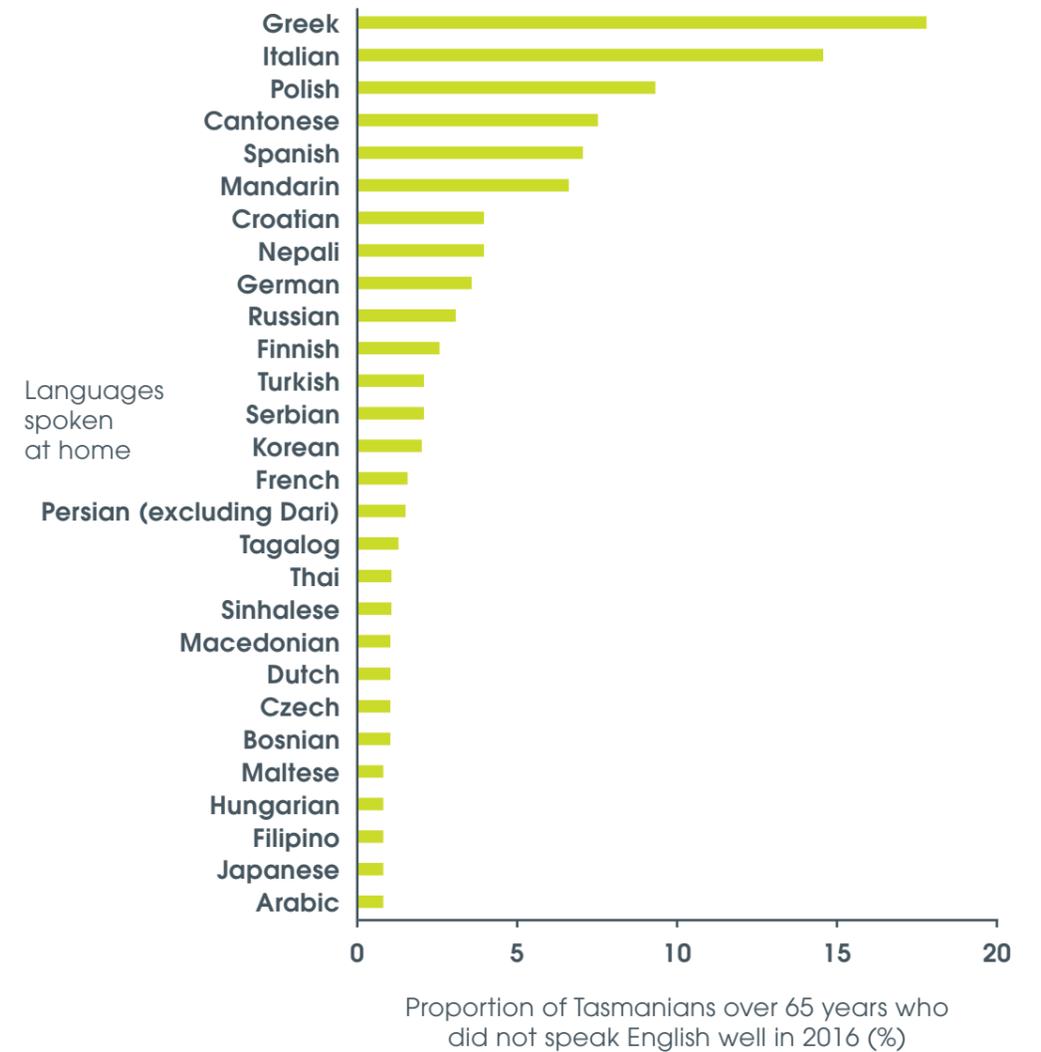


Figure 36: The proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who did not speak English well in 2016, and the language they spoke at home.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

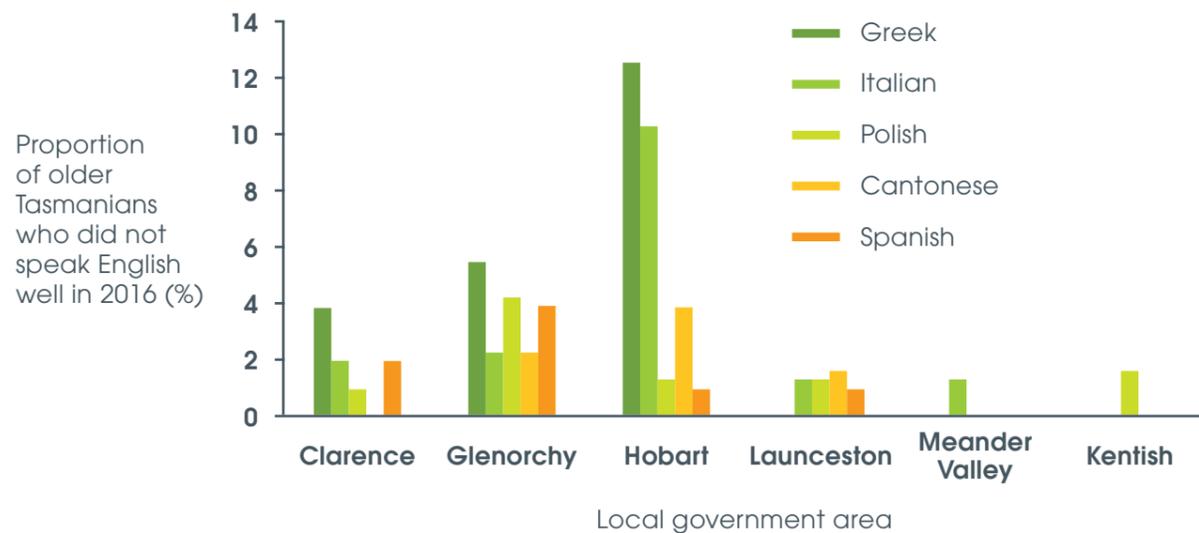


Figure 37: The language spoken by Tasmanians aged over 65 who did not speak English well, and their distribution through Tasmanian LGAs in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

A large proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who did not speak English at all in 2016 spoke an Asian language, with over half of this population speaking Nepali at home (53.9%; Figure 38). The top five languages spoken by Tasmanians

who did not speak English were Nepali, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian and Arabic. This population primarily lived in the Derwent Valley, Glenorchy, Hobart and Launceston (Figure 39).

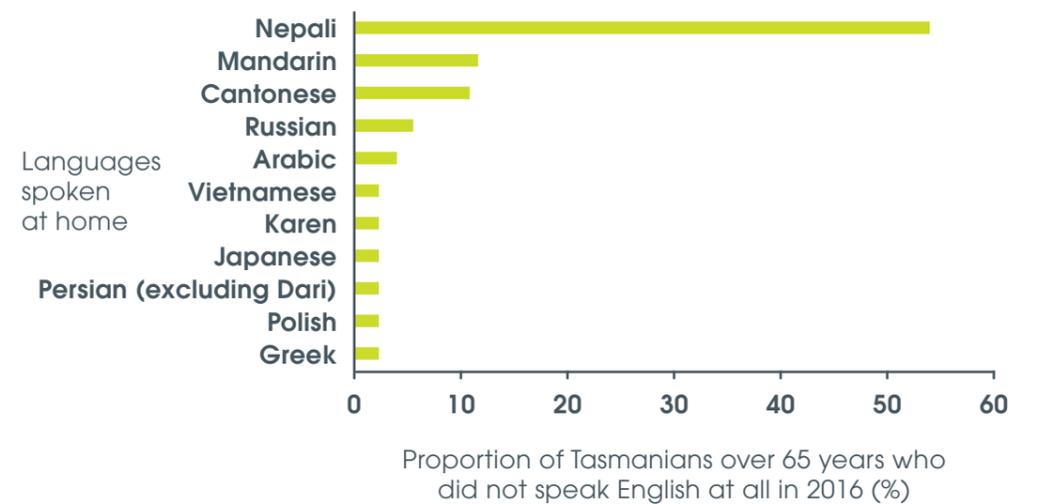


Figure 38: Proportion of Tasmanians over 65 years who did not speak English at all in 2016, and the language they spoke at home.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

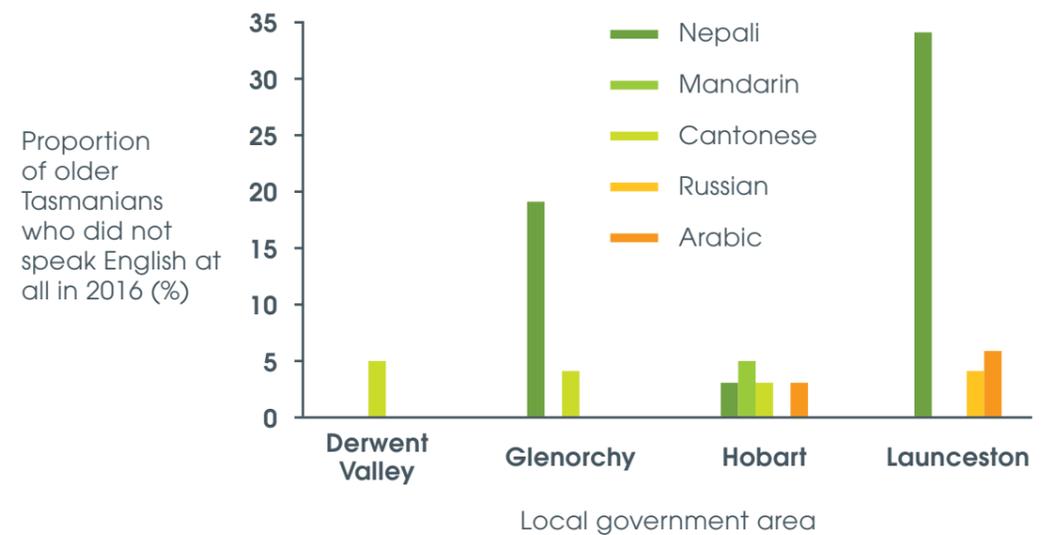


Figure 39: The language spoken by Tasmanians aged over 65 who did not speak English at all, and their distribution through Tasmanian LGAs in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Chapter 4

Income

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This chapter explores the personal and household income, government payments and poverty risk of older Tasmanians. These provide insight to the financial security of older Tasmanians and Tasmanians who may enter older age in financial stress, and therefore, those who may be at risk of social isolation due to financial insecurity.

Older Tasmanians income was investigated using data from the ABS Census, ABS Survey of Income and Housing, Department of Social Services Payment Demographics, Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) and the Grattan Institute.

Both personal and household income of older Tasmanians was analysed. Personal income provides an indication of how much an

individual earns, whereas household income provides information about how much income the household type, or the household in which the individual lives, earns in total, mean and equivalised. Equivalised disposable household income is an ABS measure calculated using a household's disposable income after deducting personal income tax and the Medicare levy from gross income⁹². Equivalised disposable income allows direct comparison of economic wellbeing of households of different size and composition.

See Appendix 4 for weekly income and corresponding annual income brackets used by the ABS.

Overview

Older Tasmanians have some of the lowest incomes in Australia and of Tasmanian age groups. Though a higher proportion of Tasmanians aged 15 to 29 years had very low incomes (less than \$299 weekly personal and household income), older Tasmanians had the highest proportion of their state and territory counterparts and all Tasmanian age groups earning low income (less than \$499 weekly personal and household income). In addition, Tasmanians aged over 65 had the lowest proportion of people on high income of state and territory counterparts and Tasmanian age groups (more than \$2,000 weekly personal and household income).

A higher proportion of Tasmanian women earned less than \$500 weekly personal income, and a lower proportion earned more than \$650 weekly personal income, compared to men in every age group. This suggests that discrepancies in the gender income gap continue into older age and older women are more likely to experience financial stress as a result.

Couple households that included a Tasmanian aged over 65 had the lowest weekly disposable household income of older populations in Australia, and older lone person households in Tasmania had the second lowest disposable household income in Australia. Both types of older person households had the lowest disposable household income of all Tasmanian age groups.

Older Tasmanians have some of the lowest incomes in Tasmania and Australia.

Tasmanian LGAs with the highest proportion of people aged over 65 who earned less than \$500 weekly personal income were the West Coast, Brighton, George Town and Kentish, of which the first three rank highly in terms of disadvantage⁹³. Central Highlands, Brighton, Tasman and Glenorchy had the lowest proportion of older Tasmanians who earned more than \$2,000 weekly personal income.

While older Tasmanians tend not to have the very lowest incomes in Tasmania, a large proportion have low incomes and very few earn high incomes compared to other states and territories, and other Tasmanian age groups. This suggests that the older population could be at significant risk of social isolation, poor wellbeing and housing stress due to financial insecurity. The risk of financial insecurity appears to be particularly strong for Tasmanians who rely on the Age Pension or Newstart.

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12% of Australian households that receive the Age Pension live below the poverty line.

Government Payments

The Age Pension in Australia is used as a social contract to provide older people a quality of life consistent with appropriate living conditions, but falls short of providing decent standards of living⁹⁴. People who receive the Pension are at particular risk of financial insecurity if they do not own their own home, and 12% of Australian households that receive the Age Pension live below the poverty line (50% median income)⁹⁵.

More than two-thirds of older Tasmanians received the Age Pension in 2018⁹⁶, equalling almost 71,000 people aged over 65 and the highest proportion of Australian states and territories. Three-quarters of Tasmanians aged over 65 received a Pensioner Concession Card, the highest proportion in Australia, and older Tasmanians were the second highest proportion in Tasmania to receive Rental Assistance and the highest proportion to receive a Carer Allowance (highest of all states and territories)⁹⁷.

Australians aged over 65 years and 6 months are ineligible for Newstart Allowance, but Tasmanians aged 45 to 65.5 years who receive this payment are on low income⁹⁸ and at risk of entering older age in financial insecurity.

This is of particular concern as people aged over 45 often have difficulty re-entering the workplace due to ageist practices in recruitment and workplaces^{99,100}. People receiving Newstart often describe the need to choose between essentials including food, paying utility bills, clothing, housing costs and healthcare, and an inability to 'get ahead' or save money¹⁰¹. Almost 10,000 Tasmanians aged 45 to 64 years received Newstart in 2018 at 6.8%, the second highest proportion of both Tasmanian age groups and state and territory counterparts.

Almost 10,000 Tasmanians aged 45 to 64 years received Newstart in 2018 at 6.8% and are at risk of entering older age with financial insecurity.

Poverty

Poverty lines in Australia are defined as either 50% or 60% of median household disposable income according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)¹⁰² and European Commission¹⁰³, respectively. Using 2015-16 data from the Grattan Institute¹⁰⁴ and ACOSS¹⁰⁵, the 50% poverty line in Australia can be determined as \$432 for single and \$647 for couple households weekly, and the 60% poverty line can be determined as \$518 for single and \$777 for couple households weekly (Table 60).

The 60% median income definition is the most commonly used measure in wealthy countries^{106,107}, such as Australia, and therefore is the most

appropriate definition to use when investigating poverty in Tasmania. Both 50% and 60% poverty lines are explored in this chapter.

Household type	Poverty line (50%)		Poverty line (60%)	
	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Single	\$432	\$22,442	\$518	\$26,931
Couple	\$647	\$33,664	\$777	\$40,397

Table 60: Australian weekly and annual poverty line at 50% and 60% of median disposable income for households made of single people and couples in 2015-16.

Source: Jericho, G (2019) Australian poverty in graphs: it's a desperate state of affairs, *The Guardian*. Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/apr/15/australian-poverty-in-graphs-its-a-desperate-state-of-affairs>; Grattan Institute: A 2019-20 Budget cheat sheet: How much do Australians earn? Retrieved from: <https://blog.grattan.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/income%20cheat%20sheet.pdf>; Davidson, P, Saunders, P, Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), *Poverty in Australia, 2018. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2*, Sydney: ACOSS.

When using the 50% poverty line, 11.5% of Tasmanians lived in poverty in 2015-16, just less than 59,000 people. These values increase significantly when using the 60% poverty line to 23.5% and more than 120,000 people. Interestingly, Tasmania had the third lowest proportion of the population living below the poverty line using the 50% definition and is below the national proportion but was the second highest proportion of states and territories and higher than the Australian proportion when using the 60% definition. This suggests that the definition of poverty is particularly important when discussing Tasmanian demographics as many people appear to sit between the 50% and 60% poverty lines. This is particularly significant for Tasmanians aged over 65.

Poverty risk was particularly high for older Australians who rented.

Australians aged over 65 were the lowest proportion of Australian age groups that lived below the 50% poverty line at 12% in 2015-16. However, the over 65-year age group had the highest proportion of Australian age groups living below the 60% poverty line at 28%. Poverty risk was particularly high for older people who rented. While just 7.5% and 23.6% of older homeowners lived below the 50% and 60% poverty line, respectively, 43.5% and 64.9% of older renters were below 50% and 60% poverty lines, respectively.

Financial insecurity can place people at risk of social isolation due to inability to socialise through leisure activities or by inviting people to visit them at home.

Mean weekly equivalised disposable income of older Tasmanian lone person households was \$577 in 2015-16, above the 50% and 60% poverty lines of \$432 and \$518, respectively. But couple households that included a person aged over 65, with a mean weekly equivalised disposable income of \$647, were equal to the 50% poverty line and below the 60% poverty line of \$777.

In 2018, both single people and couples who received the Age Pension would have received an income just above the 50% median income poverty line, but both fell below the 60% poverty line. Single people and couples on Newstart received significantly less than either poverty line.

Financial insecurity and poverty leave many older people at risk of social isolation¹⁰⁸, which can be both a cause of financial insecurity and a result of it¹⁰⁹. People on low income often cannot afford leisure activities associated with socialising with friends or family¹¹⁰ such as meals, entertainment and public or private transport. In addition, people on low income may avoid heating their homes and avoid inviting family or friends to visit them as either their

guests will be uncomfortably cold, they will have to spend money to heat the house, or they feel that they cannot afford to cater adequately.

People on low income often have to choose between essential items to manage their income. In some cases, this includes choosing between food, medications¹¹¹, utilities and other essential items¹¹². Welfare-dependent Australians need to spend 40% of their income to afford adequately healthy food compared to an acceptable spending of 25%¹¹³. People receiving welfare are, therefore, more likely to choose unhealthy, cheaper dietary options that put them at risk of illness and disease. These choices, and the mental and physical stress associated with financial insecurity, can often lead to poor health outcomes that place further burden on household finances. Therefore, people on low income are not only at risk of social isolation because of the expense of leisure activities, but also from risk of adverse health due to poor diet, under-medicating and poor living conditions.

People on low income are at risk of social isolation due to the expense of leisure activities and risk of adverse health due to poor diet, under-medicating and poor living conditions.

The capacity for low income earners to control their spending is limited due to reduced ability to use public or private transport or find community information to access cheaper services, businesses and food options¹¹⁴. Poorer wellbeing and inability to access cheaper options can create a cycle of financial insecurity that can be incredibly difficult to break free from.

Older Tasmanians on low income need to be supported to access affordable and appropriate social activities to reduce their risk of becoming socially isolated. This is not an easy fix, and requires a co-ordinated response in transport, community access, dispersion of information, and availability of appropriate activities in which to engage. State and local governments must consider the impact of financial insecurity on Tasmanians health and social connectivity.

Reducing the risk of people on low income from becoming socially isolated requires solutions in transport, community access, dispersion of information, and availability of appropriate activities in which to engage.



Tasmanians aged over 65 compared to other states and territories	Ranking	Tas 65+ %/Value	Aus 65+ %/Value
Personal income			
Weekly median personal income	Lowest	\$573	\$662
Earning <\$500/week personal income	Highest	56.8%	54.7%
Earning >\$2,000/week personal income	Lowest	1.8%	2.9%
Household income			
Weekly median household income	Lowest	\$1,100	\$1,438
Earning <\$500/week household income	Highest	43.3%	38.0%
Earning >\$2,000/week household income	Lowest	1.4%	2.7%
Couple household - mean weekly equivalised disposable income	Lowest	\$647	\$802
Lone person household - mean weekly equivalised disposable income	Second lowest	\$577	\$629

Older Tasmanians compared to other Tasmanian age groups	Ranking	Older Tas %/Value	Total Tas %/Value
Personal income			
Earning <\$500/week personal income	Highest	56.8%	41.3%
Earning >\$650/week personal income	Lowest	20.6%	41.1%
Household income			
Earning <\$500/week equivalised household income	Highest	41.3%	25.1%
Earning >\$650/week equivalised household income	Lowest	33.4%	53.5%
Couple household - mean weekly equivalised disposable income	Lowest	\$647	\$909
Lone person household - mean weekly equivalised disposable income	Lowest	\$577	\$677

Table 61: The ranking, proportion (%) and value of Tasmanians aged over 65 incomes in 2015-16 compared to other states and territories, and Tasmanian age groups.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Household income and wealth, Australia 2015-16, ABS cat. no. 6523.0.

LGAs with the highest proportion of age group earning less than \$500 weekly personal income:

65 to 84 years

- West Coast (66.6%)
- Brighton (64.8%)
- George Town (64.6%)
- Meander Valley (63.7%)

Over 85 years

- Central Highlands (81.8%)
- Circular Head (75.0%)
- Brighton (73.1%)
- Kentish (73.1%)

All over 65 years

- West Coast (66.9%)
- Brighton (65.4%)
- George Town (65.2%)
- Kentish (64.0%)

LGAs with the highest number of people in age group earning less than \$500 weekly personal income:

65 to 84 years

- Launceston (5,706 people)
- Clarence (4,935 people)
- Glenorchy (4,300 people)
- Kingborough (3,016 people)

Over 85 years

- Launceston (848 people)
- Clarence (724 people)
- Glenorchy (636 people)
- Hobart (588 people)

All over 65 years

- Launceston (6,554 people)
- Clarence (5,659 people)
- Glenorchy (4,936 people)
- Hobart (3,448 people)

LGAs with lowest proportion of age group earning more than \$2,000 weekly personal income:

65 to 84 years

- Central Highlands (0.0%)
- Brighton (0.3%)
- Tasman (0.5%)
- Glenorchy (0.7%)

Over 85 years

- 20 of 29 LGAs had 0%

All over 65 years

- Central Highlands (0.0%)
- Brighton (0.3%)
- Tasman (0.4%)
- Glenorchy (0.7%)

LGAs with lowest number of people in age group earning more than \$2,000 weekly personal income:

65 to 84 years

- Central Highlands (0 people)
- Flinders Island (3 people)
- Tasman (3 people)
- Brighton (6 people)

Over 85 years

- 20 of 29 LGAs had 0 people

All over 65 years

- Central Highlands (0 people)
- Flinders Island (3 people)
- Tasman (3 people)
- Brighton (6 people)

Government Payments

Tasmanians aged over 65 compared to other states and territories				
Government Payment	Ranking	Tasmanians over 65		Australians over 65
		People	%	%
Age Pension	Highest	70,862	68.1	64.0
Pensioner Concession Card	Highest	77,989	75.0	66.9
Rental Assistance	3rd highest	8,224	7.9	8.0
Carer Allowance	Highest	5,384	5.2	4.6
Newstart (45 to 64 years)	= 2nd highest	9,718	6.8	5.6
Tasmanians aged over 65 compared to all Tasmanians				
Government Payment	Ranking	Tasmanians over 65		All Tasmanians
		People	%	%
Pensioner Concession Card	Highest	77,989	75.0	29.7
Rental Assistance	2nd highest	8,224	7.9	8.1
Carer Allowance	Highest	5,384	5.2	3.9
Newstart (45 to 64 years)	2nd highest	9,718	6.8	5.0

Table 62: The ranking, number of people and proportion (%) of Tasmanians aged over 65 (or 45 to 64 years for Newstart) receiving Government payments in 2015-16 compared to other states and territories, and all Tasmania.

Source: Department of Social Services Payment Demographic Data: DSS Demographics December 2018; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, September 2018, ABS cat. no. 3010.0; Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census QuickStats.

Comments on data

Data below was sourced from the ABS 2016 Census, ABS 2015-16 Survey of Income and Housing data and 2018 Department of Social Services Payment Demographics. 2018 reports published by ACOSS and Grattan institute used 2015-16 data.

Proportions were calculated including data from Census respondents who did not state their income, meaning they may not add up to 100%.

Due to rounding, some numbers and proportions presented below may appear one decimal place in error.

Personal income

The median weekly personal income for Tasmanians aged over 15 years increased from \$499 in 2011 to \$573 in 2016 (Figure 40). Median weekly personal income for Australia as a whole was \$662.

Tasmania's median weekly personal income grew by 14.8% from 2011 to 2016, compared to 7.8% national growth (Figure 41).



Figure 40: Percentage change in median weekly personal income of Australian states and territories from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census QuickStats.



Figure 41: Percentage change in median weekly personal income of Australian states and territories from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census QuickStats.

Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years had the highest proportion of people who earned less than \$500 personal weekly income (up to \$25,999 annual income) of all Australian states and territories at 57.2% in 2016 (Figure 42).

The proportion of Tasmanians over 85 years with a weekly personal income of less than \$500 was the second highest of all states and territories at 53.6%. In total, 56.8% of older Tasmanians earned less than \$500 weekly personal income, the highest of all states and territories.

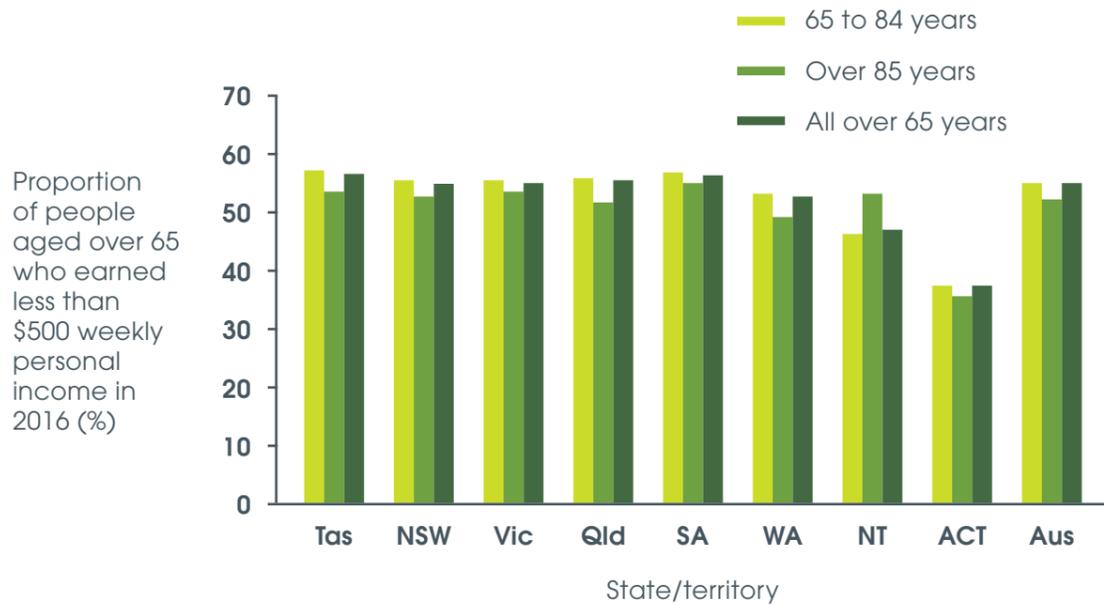


Figure 42: The proportion of people aged 65 to 84, over 85 years and all over 65 years who earned less than \$500 weekly personal income in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The proportion of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years and over 85 years who earned more than \$2,000 weekly personal income (more than \$104,000 annual income) were the

lowest of all states and territories at 1.9% and 1.4%, respectively (Figure 43). Overall, 1.8% of Tasmanians aged over 65 earned more than \$2,000 weekly personal income.

Proportion of age groups over 65 years who earned more than \$2,000 weekly personal income in 2016 (%)

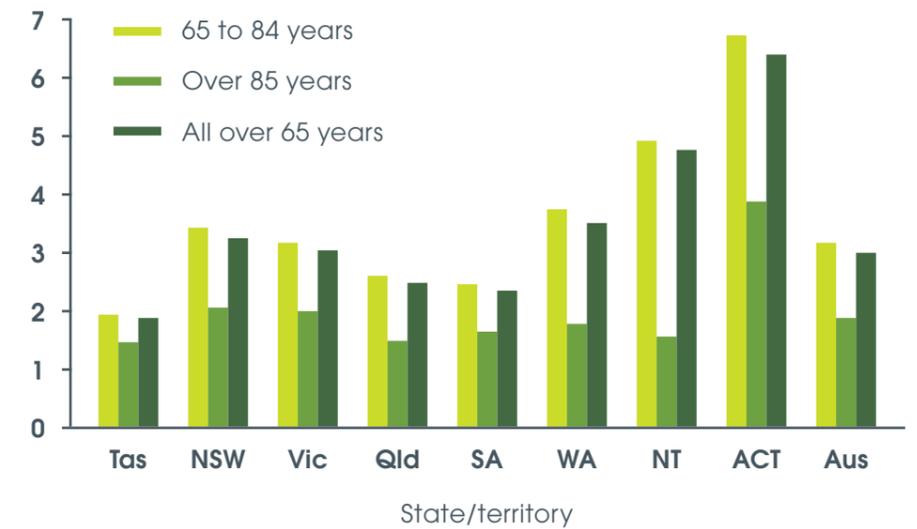


Figure 43: The proportion of people aged 65 to 84, over 85 years and all over 65 years who earned more than \$2,000 weekly personal income in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.



Almost a quarter of Tasmanians aged 65 to 84 years earned between \$300 and \$399 a week, and 28.1% of Tasmanians over 85 years earned between \$400 and \$499 in 2016 (Figure 44).

Tasmanians over 65 years had the highest proportion of all Tasmanian age groups who earned less than \$500 weekly personal income at 56.8%, compared to 41.3% of Tasmania as a whole. Older Tasmanians had the lowest proportion of all age groups who

earned more than \$650 weekly personal income (more than \$33,800 annually) at 20.6%, just on half the State proportion of 41.1%.

While the majority of older Tasmanians earn low incomes, Tasmanians aged 15 to 29 years had the highest proportion of all age groups who earned less than \$299 weekly personal income (less than \$15,599 annually) at 40.6%, compared to 19.7% of Tasmania as a whole and 12.9% of older Tasmanians.



Figure 44: The proportion of Tasmanians in each age group and personal weekly income bracket in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

A higher proportion of Tasmanian women earned less than \$500 weekly personal income compared to men in every age group in 2016, though this gap reduced in the over 85 age group (Figure 45). Conversely, a higher proportion of men earned more than \$650 weekly personal income than women in every age group.

This gap was still evident in the over 85-age group in which there was a 7.5% difference.

About half of Tasmanian men aged over 65 earned less than \$500 weekly personal income compared to 60.5% women of the same age. A quarter of older men earned more than \$650 weekly personal income compared to 15.8% of older Tasmanian women.

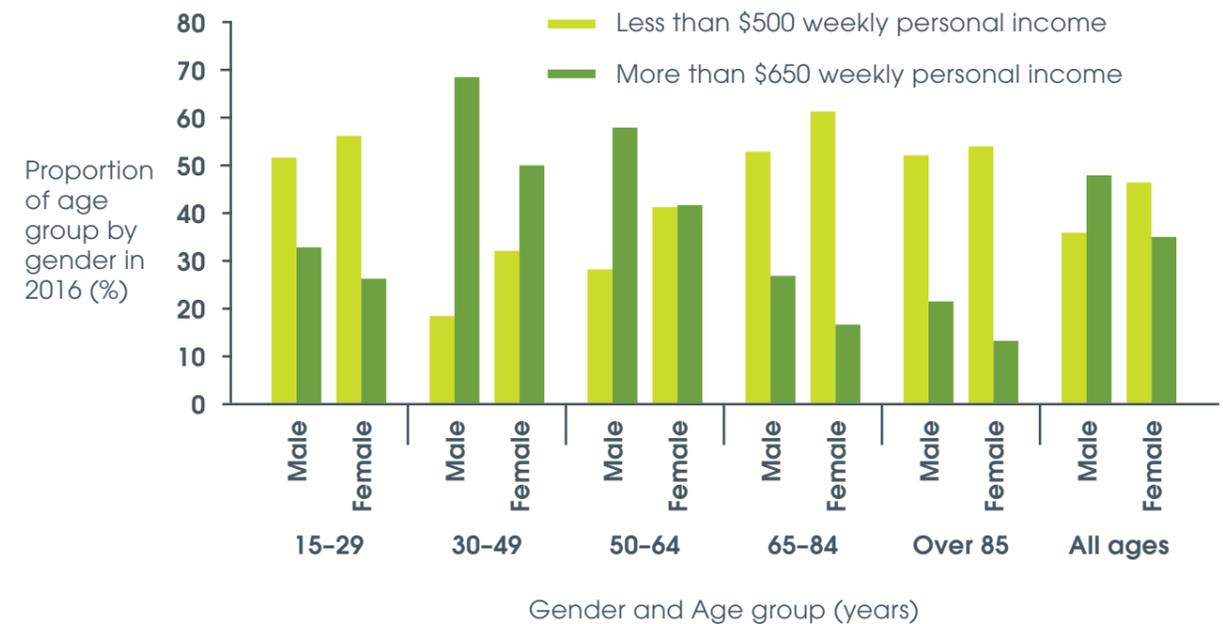


Figure 45: The proportion of men and women in each age group who earned less than \$500 weekly personal income and more than \$650 weekly personal income in Tasmanian in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Women made up 68.1% of older Tasmanian lone person households that earned less than \$500 weekly personal income, while men made up just 31.9%¹¹⁵.

Of Tasmanian households that earned less than \$500 weekly personal income and included a person over 65 years, 25.2% were lone person households compared to 15.1% for all Tasmania (Table 63).

30.2% of older women who earned less than \$500 weekly personal income lived alone, compared to 18.6% of older men. Of all older Tasmanians who earned less than \$500 weekly personal income, a quarter lived in lone person households.

	Total Households (Number)	Lone Households (Number)	Lone Households (%)
Younger than 65 years	117,250	12,058	10.3
Older than 65 years	56,054	14,128	25.2
All ages	173,304	26,186	15.1
Male older than 65 years	24,209	4,502	18.6
Female older than 65 years	31,851	9,628	30.2
Total older than 65 years	56,060	14,130	25.2

Table 63: Number and proportion of Tasmanian lone person households that earned less than \$500 weekly personal income by age and gender in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

A higher proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 earned less than \$500 per week compared to Tasmania's population as the whole (41.3%) in all LGAs except in Hobart (40.1%; Figure 46).

More than 50% of Tasmanians aged over 65 earned less than \$500 weekly personal income in 26 of 29 LGAs in 2016. Tasmanian LGAs with the highest proportion of older people who had weekly personal income less than \$500 were the West Coast

(66.9%; 450 people), Brighton (65.4%; 1,289 people), George Town (65.2%; 918 people) and Kentish (64.0%; 768 people). This corresponds with LGAs that have some of the highest disadvantage in Tasmania, including the West Coast, Brighton and George Town¹¹⁶. Hobart, Flinders Island and King Island had the lowest proportion of the age group who earned less than \$500 a week with 40.1% (3,448 people), 45.5% (97 people) and 49.5% (157 people), respectively.

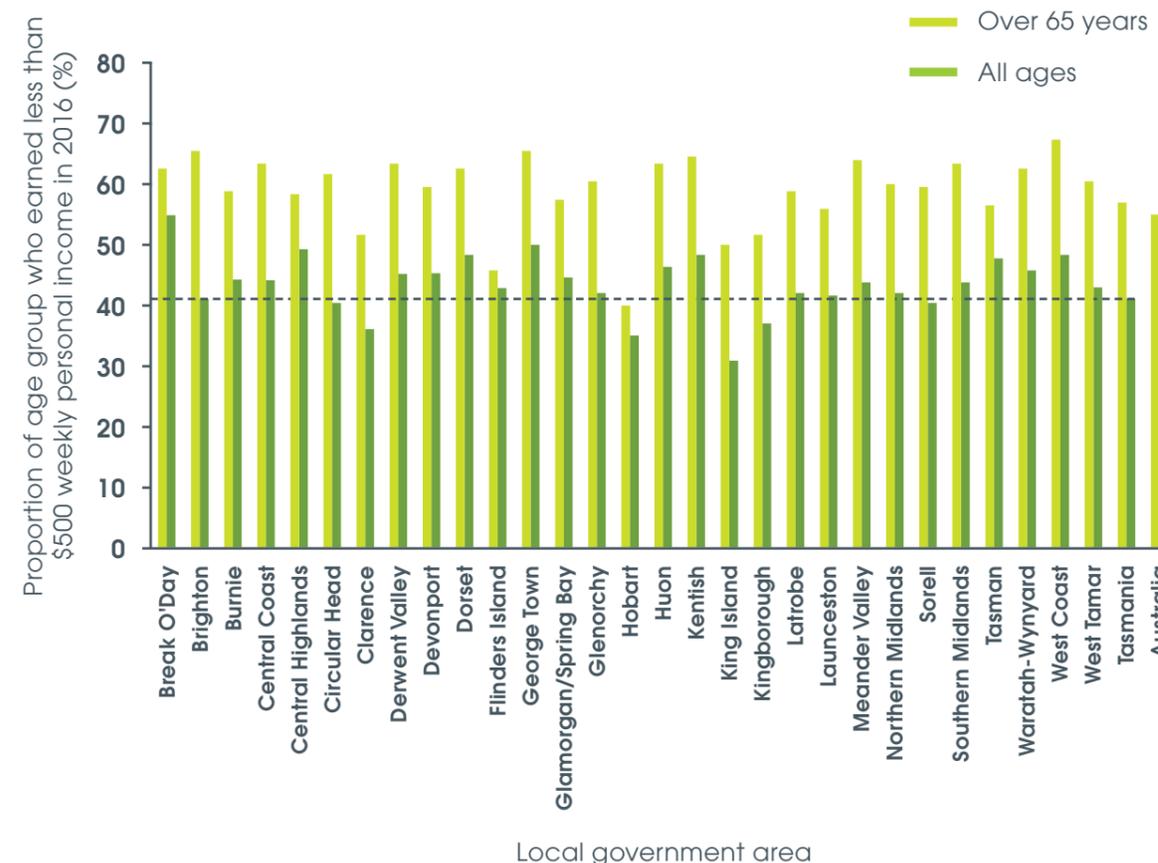


Figure 46: Proportion of people aged over 65 and of all ages who earned less than \$500 weekly personal income in Tasmanian LGAs in 2016, compared to the proportion of all Tasmanians who earned less than \$500 weekly personal income (dashed line).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

A lower proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 earned more than \$2000 weekly personal income compared to total LGA populations in 2016 (Figure 47).

Hobart had by far the highest proportion of people aged over 65 years who had a weekly personal income greater than \$2,000 at 6.0%, compared to all Tasmanians aged over 65 at 1.8%. King Island (2.5%), Kingborough (2.1%) and Northern Midlands (2.0%) also had high proportions.

Central Highlands (0%), Brighton (0.3%), Tasman (0.4%) and Glenorchy (0.7%) had the lowest proportion of older people who earned more than \$2,000 weekly personal income. Central Highlands, Brighton and Glenorchy are among the 8 most disadvantaged LGAs in Tasmania¹¹⁷.

The only LGA that had a higher proportion of people aged over 65 who earned more than \$2,000 personal income than all Tasmanian ages (4.4%) was Hobart.

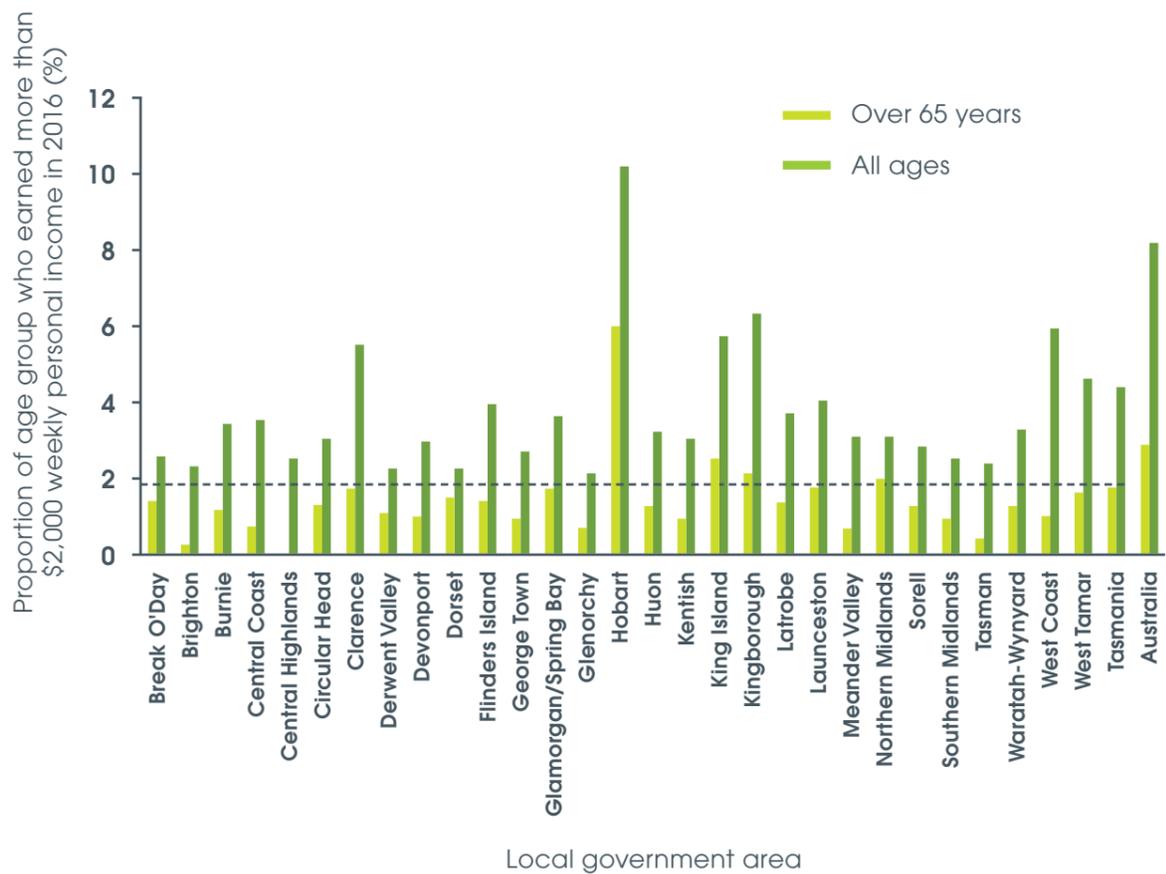


Figure 47: Proportion of people aged over 65 and of all ages who earned more than \$2,000 weekly personal income in Tasmanian LGAs in 2016, compared to the proportion of all Tasmanians aged over 65 who earned more than \$2,000 weekly personal income (dashed line).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Household income

While personal income provides an indication of how much a person earns alone, many Tasmanians live in households in which multiple incomes are earned. This provides an indication of a household's financial security as one member may earn a small income and another may earn a large income.

Equivalised disposable household income is an ABS measure calculated using a household's disposable income after deducting personal income tax and the Medicare levy from gross income¹¹⁸.

Equivalised disposable income allows direct comparison of economic wellbeing of households of different size and composition. For more information about these measures, visit the ABS website.

Tasmania's median weekly household income increased from \$948 in 2011 to \$1,100 in 2016, the lowest of all Australian states and territories and lower than the national median of \$1,438 (Figure 48). This was a growth of 16.0%, just slightly slower than national growth of 16.5% (Figure 49).





Figure 48: The median weekly household income of Australian states and territories in 2011 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census QuickStats.



Figure 49: Percentage change in median weekly household income of Australian states and territories from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census QuickStats.

By individual in household

At 42.4%, a higher proportion of Tasmanian households with a person aged over 85 earned less than \$500 weekly equivalised household income compared to households with people aged 65 to 84 years at 41.2% (Figure 50).

Tasmania had the highest proportion of households with someone aged 65 to 84 years that earned less than \$500 weekly equivalised household income of Australian states and territories in 2016. The proportion of Australian households with residents in this age group that earned less than \$500 weekly household income was 36.0%.

Tasmanian households with a person aged over 85 had the second highest proportion (42.4%) of states and territories that earned under \$500 a week, behind South Australia at 43.8%. 40.3% of all Australian households with someone aged over 85 earned this amount weekly.

Overall, 41.3% of Tasmanian households with a person aged over 65 earned less than \$500 weekly equivalised household income, the lowest of all states and territories and the national proportion of 36.4%.



Figure 50: The proportion of households with people aged 65 to 84 years, over 85 years and all over 65 years who earned less than \$500 weekly equivalised household income in Australian states and territories in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

In 2016, a slightly lower proportion of Tasmanian households with a person aged over 85 earned more than \$2,000 weekly equivalised household income at 2.2% when compared to households with someone aged 65 to 84 at 2.5% (Figure 51).

Tasmanian households with a person aged 65 to 84 years had the lowest proportion of all states and territories that earned \$2,000 or more weekly equivalised household income in 2016. The proportion of Australian households with a person aged 65 to 84 years who earned more than \$2,000 weekly household income was 4.6%.

Tasmanian households with someone aged over 85 had the lowest proportion that earned more than \$2,000 weekly household income at 2.2%, compared to the Australian proportion of 3.4%.

In total, Tasmanian households with a person over 65 years had the lowest proportion that earned more than \$2,000 weekly equivalised household income at 2.5% compared to all other states and territories and the national proportion of 4.4%.



Figure 51: The proportion of people aged 65 to 84 years, over 85 years and all over 65 years who earned more than \$2,000 weekly equivalised household income in Australian states and territories in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

In 2016, 27.0% of Tasmanian households with a person aged 65 to 84 years and 28.5% of those with someone aged over 85 years earned between \$400 and \$499 equivalised household weekly income (Figure 52).

Households with at least one Tasmanian aged over 65 had the highest proportion of all Tasmanian age groups who earned less than \$500 weekly equivalised household income at 41.3%, compared to 25.1% of all Tasmanians. One-third of older Tasmanian households earned more than \$650 weekly equivalised

household income, the lowest proportion of all age groups and compared to 53.5% of Tasmania as a whole.

While the majority of older Tasmanian households earn low incomes, this cohort had the lowest proportion of people who earned less than \$299 weekly equivalised household income at 4.3%, compared to 5.9% of all Tasmanian households. Tasmanian households with people aged 15 to 29 years had the highest proportion in this income bracket at 8.0%.



Figure 52: The proportion of Tasmanians in each age group and weekly equivalised household income bracket in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

By household composition

Mean weekly equivalised disposable income of Tasmanian couples including someone over 65 years was the lowest of all states and territories and Australia as a whole (Figure 53). Older Tasmanian couple households earned \$647 a week, 80.7% of the weekly disposable income of Australia as a whole.

The Northern Territory had the lowest disposable income for lone person households at \$480 weekly, followed by Tasmania with \$577, the latter which was 91.7% of Australian lone person households as a whole.



Figure 53: The mean weekly equivalised disposable income of couple (by age of reference person) and lone person households with people aged over 65 in Australian states and territories in 2015-16.

^NT households defined as very remote were excluded, accounting for over 22% of the population.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Household income and wealth, Australia 2015-16, ABS cat. no. 6523.0.

The weekly equivalised disposable income of couple households that included a Tasmanian aged over 65 years was \$647 in 2016, the lowest of all Tasmanian age groups and 71.2% of total Tasmanian couple income (Figure 54).

Older Tasmanian lone person households earned \$577 mean weekly equivalised disposable income, also the lowest of all Tasmanian age groups.



Figure 54: The mean weekly equivalised disposable household income of Tasmanian households in 2015-16.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Household income and wealth, Australia 2015-16, ABS cat. no. 6523.0.

The Age Pension and government payments

The role of the Age Pension can be viewed from a number of positions and these impact the rate at which it is set. The Benevolent Society reported four such roles¹¹⁹:

- **Minimum safety net approach:** very low rate as a safety net of last resort.
- **Complementary saving approach:** low rate designed to incentivise building private savings.
- **Savings vehicle approach:** a contributory system in which workers and employers pay into a pension pool.
- **Social contract approach:** high rate as a form of social insurance, independent of any contributions.

In Australia, the Age Pension is a social contract that provides older people a quality of life consistent with appropriate living standards.

However, it has been reported as failing to provide older Australians who rely on it as their main source of income with decent standards of living, particularly those who do not own their home¹²⁰.

To receive the Age Pension in April 2019, a person must be over 65 years and 6 months, an Australian resident, and meet income and asset requirements¹²¹. The total maximum Age Pension rate per fortnight, including supplements, as at April 2019 was \$926.20 for a single person and \$1,396.20 combined for a couple living together (Table 64). A single person is able to earn a maximum additional income of \$172 per fortnight, and a couple can earn up to a combined \$304 additional income per fortnight, before the Age Pension is reduced. However, many older Australians may not be able to work and earn this additional income, and those who do may be unable to earn this income consistently.

	Maximum Age Pension payment (fortnight)	Maximum additional income (fortnight)
Single	\$926.20	\$172
Couple (combined)	\$1,396.20	\$304

Table 64: Maximum Age Pension fortnightly payments, including supplements, for single Australians and couples, and maximum additional income before Age Pension payments are reduced, in 2018.

Source: Department of Human Services: Age Pension, Australian Government.

The full Age Pension and Supplements for a single person was 66.5% of the minimum wage in June 2016¹²², but this had fallen to 64.4% in December 2018 (Table 65).

	Age Pension (maximum)	Minimum wage (before tax)*
Weekly	\$463.10	\$719.20
Fortnight	\$926.20	\$1,438.40
Annual	\$24,081.20	\$37,398.40

Table 65: Maximum Age Pension and minimum wage income fortnightly and annually in 2018.

*Minimum wage per 38-hour week.

Source: Department of Human Services: Age Pension, Australian Government; Fair Work Ombudsman: Minimum wages, Australian Government.

In 2018, 70,862 Tasmanians aged over 65 received either a full or part Age Pension (Table 66). This equalled 68.1% of this age group, the highest of all states and territories.

	Persons (Number)	Proportion (%)
Tasmania	70,862	68.1
NSW	785,746	61.1
Vic	602,735	61.0
Qld	485,378	63.0
SA	213,489	66.8
WA	226,340	60.5
NT	9,557	50.9
ACT	24,468	45.6
Australia	2,506,968	64.0

Table 66: The number and proportion of people aged over 65 who received the Age Pension in each Australian state and territory in 2018.

Source: Department of Social Services Payment Demographic Data: DSS Demographics December 2018; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, September 2018, ABS cat. no. 3101.0.

Older Australians receiving the Age Pension may also be eligible to receive a number of other Government payments¹²³. These include a Pensioner Concession Card, which reduces medical costs and utility bills in some states and territories; Rental Assistance, which subsidises the cost of rent; and Carer Allowance, which provides financial support to a person caring for someone with disability, severe illness or frailty (see Appendix 5 for a brief description of eligibility and benefits).

Three quarters of Tasmanians aged over 65, almost 78,000 people, had a Pensioner Concession Card in 2018 (Table 67). This is greater than the proportion of people receiving the Age Pension (68.1%) as people receiving other Government payments, including Bereavement Allowance and Carer Payment, are also eligible for this Card.

Age (Years)	Pensioner Concession Card		Rental Assistance		Carer Allowance	
	Number (People)	%	Number (People)	%	Number (People)	%
16 to 24	2,869	5.0	2,343	4.1	216	0.4
25 to 44	18,672	15.1	14,022	11.3	4,406	3.6
45 to 64	27,852	19.5	9,923	6.9	6,815	4.8
Over 65	77,989	75.0	8,224	7.9	5,384	5.2
All Ages	127,382	29.7	34,512	8.1	16,821	3.9

Table 67: Proportion of Tasmanian age groups that received a Government payment in 2018.

Source: Department of Social Services Payment Demographic Data: DSS Demographics December 2018; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, Estimated resident population: preliminary estimates subject to revision, September 2018, ABS cat. no. 3101.0.

Tasmania had the highest proportion of people over 65 who received the Pensioner Concession Card of all states and territories (Table 68).

Older Tasmanians had the second highest proportion of Tasmanian age groups who received Rental Assistance at 7.9%, equalling 8,224 people, with 25 to 44 year olds having a higher proportion at 11.3% (Table 67). Older Tasmanians were the third highest proportion across all states and territories who received Rental Assistance, almost equal with the Australian proportion as a whole (Table 68).

Tasmanians over 65 years were the highest proportion of Tasmanian age groups receiving a Carer Allowance at 5.2% and 5,384 people (Table 67). This age group was also the highest proportion receiving this payment of all states and territories (Table 68).

	Pensioner Concession Card	Rental Assistance	Carer Allowance
Tasmania	75.0	7.9	5.2
NSW	66.2	8.3	4.5
Vic	66.2	6.5	5.0
Qld	68.3	10.6	4.7
SA	71.9	7.1	4.6
WA	64.6	7.0	3.5
NT	53.4	6.6	2.6
ACT	49.1	2.9	2.9
Australia	66.9	8.0	4.6

Table 68: Proportion of people aged over 65 who received a Government payment in each Australian state and territory in 2018.

Source: Department of Social Services Payment Demographic Data: DSS Demographics December 2018; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, September 2018, ABS cat. no. 3101.0.



Just over 21,000 Tasmanians, 5.0% of the population, received Newstart Allowance in 2018, the second highest proportion of Australian states and territories (Table 69).

To be eligible for Newstart, people need to be unemployed and looking for work, and aged between 22 years to 65 years and 6 months (see Appendix 5).

The 345 Tasmanians aged over 65 who received Newstart Allowance were aged between 65 years and 65 years and 6 months (Table 70). Almost 10,000 Tasmanians aged 45 to 64 years, 6.8% of this age group and 45.5% of all people receiving Newstart, were receiving Newstart Allowance in 2018. This has implications for Tasmania's ageing population as these people may have difficulty finding new work due to ageism¹²⁴ and enter older age on low income.

Age (Years)	16-24	25-44	45-64	Over 65	Total
Tasmania	3.7	7.4	6.8	0.3	5.0
NSW	1.6	3.5	5.3	0.2	3.1
Vic	1.8	3.6	5.2	0.3	3.2
Qld	2.6	5.3	6.0	0.3	4.1
SA	3.0	6.3	6.8	0.3	4.6
WA	2.7	5.3	5.9	0.3	4.2
NT	4.5	10.1	9.1	0.5	8.0
ACT	1.2	2.2	2.5	0.2	1.8
Australia	2.1	4.4	5.6	0.3	3.6

Table 69: The proportion of age groups who received Newstart Allowance in Australian states and territories in 2018.

Source: Department of Social Services Payment Demographic Data: DSS Demographics December 2018; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, September 2018, ABS cat. no. 3101.0.

Age (Years)	Number (People)	Proportion (%)
16 to 24	2,121	3.7
25 to 44	9,154	7.4
45 to 64	9,718	6.8
Over 65	345	0.3
All Ages	21,338	5.0

Table 70: The number of people and proportion of Tasmanian age groups who received Newstart Allowance in 2018.

Source: Department of Social Services Payment Demographic Data: DSS Demographics December 2018; Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Demographic Statistics, September 2018, ABS cat. no. 3101.0

Living in poverty

Poverty lines in Australia are defined as either 50% or 60% of median household disposable income^{125,126}. A 2018 Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) report¹²⁷ and the Grattan Institute¹²⁸ (reported by Jericho, G, 2019¹²⁹) reported Australian 50% and 60% poverty lines for 2015-16 (Table 71).

Poverty lines for this report were calculated as the average of these two reports (Table 72).

In 2015-16, the 50% median income poverty line for a single person was \$432 per week and the 60% median income poverty line was \$518 (Table 72). For a couple combined, these values were \$647 and \$777 per fortnight, respectively.

Household type	Jericho, G. (2019) & Grattan Institute (2019)			ACOSS (2018)	
	Median	Poverty line (50%)	Poverty line (60%)	Poverty line (50%)	Poverty line (60%)
Annual household income					
Single	\$44,766	\$22,383	\$26,860	\$22,502	\$27,003
Single, 2 children	\$71,626	\$35,813	\$42,975	\$36,003	\$43,204
Couple	\$67,149	\$33,575	\$40,289	\$33,753	\$40,504
Couple, 2 children	\$94,009	\$47,004	\$56,405	\$47,254	\$56,705
Fortnightly household income					
Single	\$1,721	\$861	\$1,033	\$865	\$1,039
Single, 2 children	\$2,755	\$1,377	\$1,653	\$1,385	\$1,662
Couple	\$2,583	\$1,291	\$1,550	\$1,298	\$1,558
Couple, 2 children	\$3,616	\$1,808	\$2,169	\$1,817	\$2,181
Weekly household income					
Single	\$861	\$430	\$517	\$433	\$519
Single, 2 children	\$1,377	\$689	\$826	\$692	\$831
Couple	\$1,291	\$646	\$775	\$649	\$779
Couple, 2 children	\$1,808	\$904	\$1,085	\$909	\$1,090

Table 71: Australian median and poverty line household fortnightly income for single people and couples in 2015-16. Note: All sources use 2015-16 data.

Source: Jericho, G (2019) Australian poverty in graphs: it's a desperate state of affairs, The Guardian; Grattan Institute: A 2019-20 Budget cheat sheet: How much do Australians earn?; Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), Poverty in Australia, 2018. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.

Household type	Poverty line (50%)		Poverty line (60%)	
	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Single	\$432	\$22,442	\$518	\$26,931
Couple	\$647	\$33,664	\$777	\$40,397

Table 72: Australian weekly and annual poverty lines at 50% and 60% of median disposable income for single and couple households in 2015-16, calculated using the average of the values reported in Grattan Institute and ACOSS reports.

Source: Jericho, G (2019) Australian poverty in graphs: it's a desperate state of affairs, The Guardian; Grattan Institute: A 2019-20 Budget cheat sheet: How much do Australians earn?; Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), Poverty in Australia, 2018. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.

In 2015-16, more than 120,000 Tasmanians or 23.6% of the population lived below the poverty line at 60% of median disposable household income (Table 73), the second highest of Australian states and territories (Figure 55).

When using the 50% median income poverty line, 58,646 people or 11.5% of Tasmanians were living below the poverty line in 2015-16, the third lowest of all states and territories. This means that the definition of poverty in Tasmania is particularly important.

	People	Proportion (%)
Total population (2016)	509,965	-
Below 50% poverty line	58,646	11.5
Below 60% poverty line	120,352	23.6

Table 73: Number of people and proportion of Tasmanians who lived below the poverty line as 50% of median income or 60% of median income in 2015-16.

Source: Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), Poverty in Australia, 2018. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS; Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census QuickStats.

Proportion of population living below the poverty line in 2015-16 (%)



Figure 55: Proportion of populations who lived below the poverty line as 50% of median income or 60% of median income in 2015-16.

Source: Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), Poverty in Australia, 2018. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.



Using the 60% median income poverty line, 28% of older Australians lived in poverty in 2015-16, over double the proportion of older Australians who lived below the 50% poverty line at 12% (Figure 56). This reflects the Age Pension rate that is just above 50% median income (Table 74). Using the 50% median income definition, older Australians have the lowest proportion of age groups that live below the poverty line, but using the 60% median income definition, they have the highest proportion of all age groups.

Home ownership appears to be a significant factor in whether older Australians live in poverty or not. Using the 60% median income definition, 23.6% of Australians over age 65 who owned their own home lived in poverty compared to 64.9% of those who rented (Figure 56). Even when using the 50% median income definition, 43.5% of older Australians who were renting lived below the poverty line.

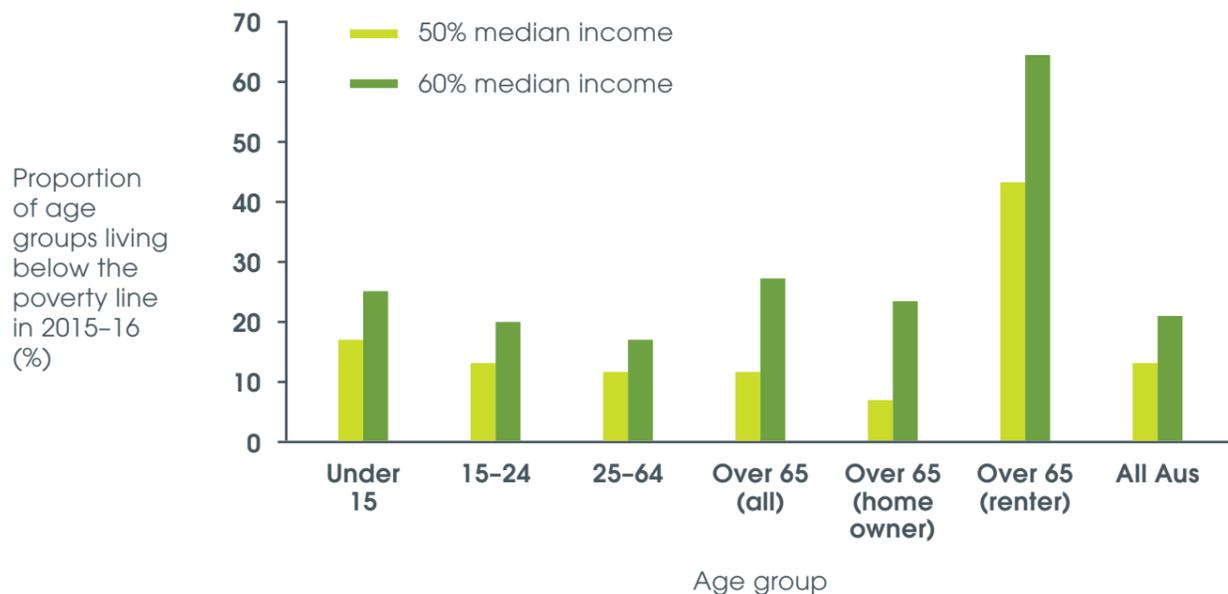


Figure 56: Proportion of Australian age groups who lived below the poverty line as 50% of median income or 60% of median income in 2015-16.

Source: Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), *Poverty in Australia, 2018*. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.

	Maximum Age Pension payment (fortnight)	50% poverty line (fortnightly)	60% poverty line (fortnightly)
Single	\$926.20	\$864	\$1,036
Couple (combined)	\$1,396.20	\$1,294	\$1,554

Table 74: Maximum Age Pension fortnightly payments, including supplements, for single Australians and couples in 2018 compared to 50% and 60% poverty lines in 2015-16.

Source: Department of Human Services: *Age Pension*, Australian Government; Jericho, G (2019) *Australian poverty in graphs: it's a desperate state of affairs*, The Guardian; Grattan Institute: *A 2019-20 Budget cheat sheet: How much do Australians earn?*; Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), *Poverty in Australia, 2018*. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.

It is important to note that mean income and median income, and therefore poverty lines, are different calculations and, in this case, comparing them only provides an indication of incomes that may fall below the poverty line. Mean income can be significantly affected by very high and low incomes, while median income is less likely to be affected by these. Poverty lines are calculated using median income.

Older Tasmanians living in lone person households had a mean weekly equivalised disposable income of \$577 in 2015-16 (Figure 53). While only an indication of how likely people are to have income below the poverty line, comparison of mean weekly equivalised disposable household

income and 50% and 60% poverty lines shows that the average older Tasmanian living in a lone person household had income above 50% and 60% poverty lines of \$432 and \$518, respectively (Figure 57).

In comparison, mean weekly equivalised disposable household income for couple households that included a person aged over 65 at \$647 was on the 50% poverty line (\$647) and below the 60% poverty line (\$777; Figure 58). This suggests that the average older Tasmanian living in a couple household have incomes on or below the poverty line. As mentioned above, this finding is indicative only and should be treated with caution.



Figure 57: The mean weekly equivalised disposable household income for lone person households made of people aged over 65 of Australian states and territories compared to 50% and 60% poverty lines in 2015-16.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household income and wealth, Australia 2015-16*, ABS cat. no. 6523.0; Jericho, G (2019) *Australian poverty in graphs: it's a desperate state of affairs*, *The Guardian*; Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), *Poverty in Australia, 2018*. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.



Figure 58: The mean weekly equivalised disposable household income for couple only households that included a person aged over 65 of Australian states and territories compared to 50% and 60% poverty lines in 2015-16.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Household income and wealth, Australia 2015-16*, ABS cat. no. 6523.0; Jericho, G (2019) *Australian poverty in graphs: it's a desperate state of affairs*, *The Guardian*; Davidson, P., Saunders, P., Bradbury, B. and Wong, M. (2018), *Poverty in Australia, 2018*. ACOSS/UNSW Poverty and Inequality Partnership Report No. 2, Sydney: ACOSS.

Poverty & the Age Pension

A single older Australian receiving the maximum Age Pension rate and supplements earned just \$62.20 more per fortnight than the 50% median income poverty line (Table 75). If a person receiving the full Age Pension earns the maximum additional income of \$172 per fortnight, they earn \$234.20 more per fortnight than the poverty line. A couple living together who receive the Age Pension earn a combined \$102.20 more than the 50% median income poverty line. If able to earn the additional \$304 combined additional income allowed before the pension is reduced, this couple earns \$406.20 per fortnight higher than the poverty line.

While the Age Pension is close to the 50% median income poverty line, using the 60% median income poverty line adopted by the European Commission places the Pension below the poverty line.

A single person receiving the full Age Pension and supplements earns \$109.80 less per fortnight than the 60% median income poverty line (Table 75). If earning the maximum additional income of \$172 per fortnight, this person receives just \$62.20 a fortnight more than the 60% median income poverty line. A couple living together on the full Age Pension earns \$157.80 less per fortnight than the 60% median income poverty line. If earning the maximum combined additional income of \$304 per fortnight, this couple earns \$146.20 more per fortnight than the 60% median income poverty line.

These data suggest that the 68.1% or 70,862 older Tasmanians who received the Age Pension in 2018 (Table 66) could be at significant risk of poverty.



Age Pension Rate (as at April 2019)*		
	Single	Couple (combined)
Basic rate (max.)	\$843.60	\$1,271.80
Pension Supplement (max.)	\$68.50	\$103.20
Energy Supplement (max.)	\$14.10	\$21.20
Total (max.)	\$926.20	\$1,396.20
Australian Poverty Line (as at 2015-16)**		
Poverty line (50% median income)	\$864	\$1,294
Poverty line (60% median income)	\$1,036	\$1,554
Difference (Maximum Age Pension Rate minus 50%/60% Median Income)		
Difference (50% median)	+\$62.20	+\$102.20
Difference (60% median)	-\$109.80	-\$157.80

Table 75: The maximum Age Pension rates including Supplements per fortnight for single people and couples as of April 2019, Australian poverty line fortnightly income for single people and couples in 2015-16, and the difference between these values per fortnight.

Source: *Department of Human Services: Age Pension, Australian Government; **see Table 72.

Poverty & Newstart

It is important to consider the effect of Newstart Allowance on poverty in older age. People receiving Newstart Allowance earn significantly less per fortnight than either the 50% median income or 60% median income poverty lines (Table 76).

Almost 10,000 Tasmanians aged 45 to 64 years were receiving Newstart Allowance in 2018 (Table 70) and this population is at significant risk of entering older age in poverty, particularly as ageism can limit their capacity to engage in employment from as young as 45 years¹³⁰.

Newstart Rate (as at April 2019)*			
	Single	Single (Over age 60)^	Couple (combined)
Maximum	\$555.70	\$601.10	\$1,003.40
Australian Poverty Line (as at 2015-16)**			
Poverty line (50% median income)	\$864	\$864	\$1,294
Poverty line (60% median income)	\$1,036	\$1,036	\$1,554
Difference (Maximum Newstart Rate minus 50%/60% Median Income)			
Difference (50% median)	-\$308.30	-\$262.90	-\$290.60
Difference (60% median)	-\$480.30	-\$434.90	-\$550.60

Table 76: The maximum Newstart Allowance rates per fortnight for single people and couples as of April 2019, Australian poverty line fortnightly income for single people and couples in 2015-16, and the difference between these values per fortnight. ^after 9 consecutive months on Newstart.

Source: *Department of Human Services: Age Pension, Australian Government; **see Table 72.

Chapter 5 Housing

This chapter explores housing and homelessness of older Tasmanians. Housing is a key component of financial security and these data provide some insight into how financially stable older Tasmanians may be, given their housing situation.

The housing market in Tasmania has changed dramatically since the 2016 Census and a housing crisis has now been declared¹³¹. This has been driven by population growth, a reduced supply of new housing, fewer private rental vacancies, and increased demand for social and affordable housing¹³².

There has been significant discussion and awareness raised about the causes of, and possible solutions to, the Tasmanian housing crisis^{133, 134, 135}. But it is difficult to measure homelessness accurately due to a poor understanding of its definition and categories, the movement of people in and out of homelessness, and underreporting due to stigma. This limits the collection of reliable, age-segregated homelessness data for Tasmania and Australia¹³⁶.

It is important that the reliability of current homelessness data, particularly age-segregated data, is improved so that homelessness in Australia and Tasmania can be accurately reported and appropriate responses delivered.

ABS Census data, which provides an estimation of homelessness, are currently the most comprehensive homelessness data in Australia. It is important that the reliability of current homelessness data, particularly age-segregated data, is improved so that homelessness in Australia and Tasmania can be accurately reported and appropriate responses delivered.

Many reports about the growth in homelessness in Tasmania since 2016 have used 2011 and 2016 Census data, but there has been a growing base of anecdotal evidence that housing stress and homelessness has increased significantly in Tasmania¹³⁷, particularly the proportion of older women seeking support^{138, 139}. Given this anecdotal evidence and the difficulty in acquiring accurate homelessness data, it is expected that the data presented in this chapter underestimates the extent of homelessness currently in Tasmania.

This chapter presents data from the ABS Census' Tablebuilder and Estimating Homelessness dataset to investigate housing and estimate homelessness of older Tasmanians.

This provides further information to be used in current and future discussions about housing stress and homelessness in Tasmania, and how the older population is affected by these.

Homelessness is classified by the ABS as a state of 'home'lessness rather than rooflessness¹⁴⁰. A 'home', in this instance, is a place that provides security, stability, privacy, safety and the ability to control living space. A person is considered to be experiencing homelessness by the ABS if their current living arrangement¹⁴¹:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate;
- has no tenure, or initial tenure that is short and not extendable; or
- does not allow the person to have control of, and access to, space for social relations.

Shelter Tasmania categorises homelessness as either¹⁴²:

- **Primary homelessness:** without conventional accommodation (e.g. sleeping rough or in improvised dwellings such as tents);
- **Secondary homelessness:** frequently moving from one temporary shelter to another (e.g. emergency accommodation, refuge or shelter, couch-surfing);
- **Tertiary homelessness:** staying in accommodation that falls below minimum community standards (e.g. boarding houses, caravan parks).

This chapter presents ABS homelessness data according to categories of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary homelessness (see Appendix 6).

Overview

Housing is integral to a person's capacity to engage with their community, but a roof over one's head alone is not enough to enable this to occur. Housing must meet a person's physical, social and mental needs. Criteria for appropriate housing include¹⁴³:

- affordability;
- accessibility to community, services, education, employment, public transport and social connections;
- adaptability to meet changing physical and lifestyle needs;
- keeping people safe, comfortable and healthy;
- provision of a place to socialise;
- legal and long-term security of tenure.

For older people, inappropriate housing can force a person to move away from their community and social connections to more affordable areas, or into residential aged care¹⁴⁴.

Tasmania's housing situation has changed dramatically since the 2016 ABS Census and the State has been declared to be in a housing crisis¹⁴⁵. House and rental prices in Tasmania, particularly in Greater Hobart, have increased significantly since 2016 and made it difficult for Tasmanians on lower income to find affordable and appropriate housing, increased demand for social and public housing¹⁴⁶.

Inappropriate housing can force an older person to move away from their community and social connections.

In December 2018, 3,233 Tasmanians were listed on the Housing Register and priority applicants waited an average of 56 weeks before being housed for the December 2018 quarter¹⁴⁷.

Very low private rental vacancy rates have increased competition in the rental market and driven up weekly rents. While Australian weekly rents increased by 1.6% from 2017 to 2018, rents in the Greater Hobart area increased by over 10% for the same period¹⁴⁸. Hobart was the least affordable capital city in Australia to rent in 2018, while areas outside of Hobart tended to range from relatively affordable rent to moderately unaffordable¹⁴⁹. Rent for single pensioners was deemed severely unaffordable in the Greater Hobart area and unaffordable for the rest of Tasmania, while rent for a single person receiving Newstart was extremely unaffordable in the Greater Hobart area and severely unaffordable for the rest of Tasmania. Just 122 rental properties in Tasmania were affordable and appropriate for a single person on the Age Pension in 2019, and only eight properties were affordable for people on Newstart¹⁵⁰.

Home ownership is a significant factor in a person's financial security and significantly impacts poverty risk in older age. As discussed in Chapter 4: Income, 64.9% of older Australians who were renting lived below the 60% median income poverty line in 2015-16 compared to 23.6% of those who owned their own home¹⁵¹ (Figure 56).

Over three quarters of Tasmanians aged over 65 owned their own home in 2016, but the proportion of this age group who own their home with a mortgage grew from 2011 to 2016. The number of older Tasmanians renting increased by 1,887 people from 2011 to 2016 to equal over 10,000 older Tasmanians in 2016, though the overall proportion of this cohort who rented remained relatively stable at about 12.5% from 2011 to 2016.

In 2016, 11.7% of Tasmanian renters were aged over 65 and this age group tended to pay lower weekly rent compared to other Tasmanian age groups and Australian counterparts. However, the proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 paying less than \$119 weekly rent decreased the most of all Tasmanian age groups and Australian state and

Over three quarters of older Tasmanians owned their own home in 2016, but the proportion who owned their home with a mortgage grew from 2011 to 2016.

While older Tasmanians tend to pay lower weekly rents, the rent they pay is increasing. This is of concern as many older Tasmanians rely on fixed income.

territory counterparts from 2011 to 2016, as a higher proportion paid between \$120 and \$449 weekly rent. These findings suggest that while older Tasmanians tend to pay lower weekly rents, the rent they pay is increasing. This is a particular concern as many Tasmanians aged over 65, particularly those that are retired, rely on a fixed income that may not increase to the same extent as rent.

Poor understanding of its definition and categories, movement of people in and out of homelessness, and underreporting due to stigma makes it difficult to collect accurate age-segregated homelessness data in Australia and Tasmania¹⁵². Homelessness estimations calculated through the ABS Census' are currently the most reliable data available. Given the significant increase in housing stress reported anecdotally in Tasmania since 2016¹⁵³, the following data is likely to underestimate homelessness in the State. Collection of valid and reliable data needs to improve so that the homelessness in Tasmania can be effectively understood and appropriate responses delivered.

70% of older Tasmanians experiencing homelessness were in secondary homelessness on Census night 2016.

While Tasmania had the lowest number of people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people of Australian states and territories, it was one of only 3 states and territories in which this rate grew from 2011 to 2016, albeit by only 0.2%.

Of the 1,600 Tasmanians experiencing homelessness on Census night 2016, 120 people or 7.5% were aged over 65, and 70% of this age group who were experiencing homelessness were in secondary homelessness. The number and proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness who were aged over 65 increased from 2011 to 2016. The fastest growth in Tasmanians experiencing any type of homelessness was in the 45 to 64-year age group, growing by 2.5%. The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing primary homelessness and aged 45 to 64 years grew by 13.5%. Overall, the proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness and aged over 45 grew by 3.4% from 2011 to 2016. Tasmanians aged over 45 who experience homelessness are at significant risk of entering older age in homelessness, especially if they experience difficulty in retaining or re-entering the labour force due to ageism¹⁵⁴.

Tasmanian men in every age group made up a greater proportion of people experiencing homelessness, and in every homelessness classification, compared to women. However, the proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness who were women grew slightly from 2011 to 2016, while the proportion of men fell slightly.

Age groups younger than 44 years made up a lower proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness while the proportion of those older than 45 years grew from 2011 to 2016. The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness who were aged over 65 grew from 2011 to 2016, and the proportion of older women made up a slightly higher proportion of all homelessness classifications from 2011 to 2016. The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing primary and secondary homelessness and who were women aged over 45 grew at a faster rate than men aged over 45 from 2011 to 2016. These findings agree with reports that older women are the fastest growing population experiencing homelessness in Tasmania and Australia^{155, 156}.

Tasmanian age groups younger than 44 years made up a lower proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness while the proportion of those older than 45 years grew from 2011 to 2016.

This is believed to be due to financial insecurity caused by low superannuation, often resulting from the gender pay gap and large periods of part-time and casual work to undertake unpaid caring roles. Domestic and financial violence, unexpected crisis and elder abuse are also believed to be contributing factors¹⁵⁷.

Tasmanian LGAs that had the highest number and proportion of people experiencing homelessness on Census night 2016 were Hobart, Launceston, Glenorchy and Clarence. The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness grew in 13 LGAs from 2011 to 2016, with the fastest growth in Kingborough, Hobart, Latrobe and Sorell.

Tasmanian community organisations have reported a doubling of clients requiring housing support and an increasing number of professional people seeking assistance in the last two years¹⁵⁸, suggesting that data from 2016 presented above underestimates the number and proportion of Tasmanians who are currently experiencing homelessness. Over 6,000 Tasmanians accessed specialist homelessness services in 2017-18¹⁵⁹, and 63% of these people had received services previously, the highest proportion of states and territories along with South Australia¹⁶⁰. Tasmania had the third highest rate of clients who accessed specialist homelessness services of states and territories at 125 clients per 10,000 population in 2017-18, behind the Northern Territory (377 clients) and Victoria (185 clients)¹⁶¹.

Homelessness can be particularly challenging for older people who may be at greater risk of health complications and injury due to age-related physical and cognitive decline.

According to the Australian Human Rights Commission, "access to safe and secure housing is one of the most basic human rights", and every person has the right to an adequate standard of living, such as appropriate housing¹⁶². Homelessness at any age is a devastating position to find oneself in, but it can be particularly challenging for older people who may be at greater risk of health complications and injury due to age-related physical and cognitive decline. Older people may also have reduced ability to exit homelessness as their capacity to engage in employment can be reduced¹⁶³ (see Chapter 6: Employment).

The Tasmanian Government needs to ensure that any response to the Tasmanian housing crisis considers all aspects of appropriate housing and that public and social housing abide by these criteria. In Tasmania it is particularly important that all new housing, private or public, also adhere to high levels of energy efficiency and consider universal design to ensure the dwelling will be adaptable over the life course.

This not only considers older age, but also changes in family structures, disability and the incidence of injury or illness¹⁶⁴.

Tasmanian communities need to be aware of the rise in homelessness and the growth in older women who experience this. Stigma around homelessness needs to be challenged to ensure that all people experiencing homelessness, whether sleeping rough or relying on temporary accommodation, can feel safe and respected when seeking support. People who experience financial stress due to unaffordable mortgage repayments or rent must also be supported to maintain wellbeing and social connection, which generally suffer in these circumstances.

Given limitations in current homelessness data, it is important that methods to collect age-segregated homelessness data are improved to ensure accurate reporting on homelessness in Tasmania and ensure appropriate responses can be delivered effectively.

The Tasmanian Government needs to ensure that any response to the Tasmanian housing crisis considers all aspects of appropriate housing.

Home ownership and tenure

Just over three quarters of Tasmanians aged over 65 owned their own home in 2016, equalling 68,006 people (Table 77). Of this age group, 68.2% owned their home outright. Over 10,000 older Tasmanians rented a property, 987 of whom were over 85 years of age.

The age group with the highest proportion of Tasmanians who owned their home was 65 to 84 years at 78.2%. The proportion of people in each age group who rented decreased as the ages covered by the groups advanced.

Age (Years)	Owned						Rented	
	Outright		With mortgage		Total		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
15 to 29	12,401	14.3	34,633	39.8	47,034	54.1	32,995	37.9
30 to 49	16,607	13.8	61,994	51.6	78,601	65.5	32,416	27.0
50 to 64	42,667	41.7	36,017	35.2	78,684	76.8	16,173	15.8
65 to 84	53,890	68.3	7,822	9.9	61,712	78.2	9,793	12.4
Over 85	5,916	68.0	378	4.3	6,294	72.3	987	11.3
All ages	131,481	33.1	140,844	35.5	272,325	68.6	92,364	23.3
All over 65	59,806	68.2	8,200	9.4	68,006	77.6	10,780	12.3

Table 77: The number and proportion of Tasmanians by age groups who owned or rented a dwelling in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The number of older Tasmanians who owned their own home increased by 11,868 people from 2011 to 2016, though this amounted to a fall of 1.0% of this age group during this period (Table 78). The proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who owned their own home outright decreased

by 2.9% from 2011 to 2016, while the proportion of those who owned a house with a mortgage grew by 1.8%. Despite an increase of 1,887 people, the proportion of older Tasmanians who rented remained relatively stable from 2011 to 2016, decreasing by just 0.2%.

Comments on data

Data below exclude people over the age of 15 who were classified as 'Not Applicable' for housing tenure responses. Proportions were calculated including data from census respondents who did not state their tenure type and tenure

types other than home owners and renters, meaning they may not add up to 100%.

Homelessness data from the ABS 2016 Census used in this chapter provide only an estimate of homelessness.

		Number of people			Proportion of people (%)		
		2011	2016	Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	Change 2011-2016
Owned	Outright	50,773	59,806	+9,033	71.1	68.2	-2.9
	With mortgage	5,365	8,200	+2,835	7.5	9.4	+1.8
	Total	56,138	68,006	+11,868	78.6	77.6	-1.0
	Rented	8,893	10,780	+1,887	12.5	12.3	-0.2
	Occupied rent-free	633	614	-19	0.9	0.7	-0.2

Table 78: The number and proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 years who owned, rented or occupied a dwelling rent-free in 2011 and 2016, and the difference between these years.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

In 2016, 68.6% of Tasmanians owned their home, the highest proportion of all states and territories (Table 79). Tasmania had the lowest proportion in Australia of people who rented their home at 23.3%.

Tasmania had the third highest proportion of the population aged over 65 who owned their home, with the second highest proportion that owned their home outright and the lowest who owned a home with a mortgage. The State ranked about middle for the proportion of the older population who rented.

	Owned						Rented	
	Outright		With mortgage		Total		All Ages	Over 65
	All Ages	Over 65	All Ages	Over 65	All Ages	Over 65		
Tasmania	33.1	68.2	35.5	9.4	68.6	77.6	23.3	12.3
NSW	29.5	65.8	34.1	10.9	63.6	76.7	27.9	12.6
Vic	29.6	68.3	36.9	10.9	66.5	79.2	25.2	10.3
Qld	26.2	63.0	34.6	11.7	60.7	74.7	30.2	13.6
SA	30.1	65.4	37.5	10.5	67.6	75.9	24.7	12.7
WA	26.2	64.3	39.7	11.9	66.0	76.1	24.7	11.6
NT	15.1	46.2	25.0	14.3	40.1	60.5	42.7	21.4
ACT	25.1	67.7	39.6	12.1	64.7	79.9	28.6	11.4
Australia	28.4	65.6	35.8	11.1	64.2	76.7	27.2	12.2

Table 79: The proportion of people of all ages and aged over 65 who owned or rented a home in Australian states and territories in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Weekly rent

Of Tasmania's 92,364 renters in 2016, 10,780 were aged over 65, equalling 11.7% of renters¹⁶⁵.

Of all Tasmanians who rented, 36.2% paid between \$120 and \$249 rent per week and 33.4% paid between \$250 and \$349 per week in 2016 (Table 80). Half of Tasmanians aged over 65 who rented paid between \$120 and \$249 per week in rent.

The majority of older Tasmanian renters paid less than \$249 in rent per week at 71.7%, the highest proportion of any age group. Conversely, this age group had the lowest proportion of renters paying between \$250 and \$549, or more than \$550, per week on rent at 22.9% and 0.6% respectively. About 40.0% of age groups younger than 50 years paid less than \$250 in rent per week.

Weekly rent	15 to 29 years	30 to 49 years	50 to 64 years	65 to 84 years	Over 85 years	All Ages	All over 65 years
\$0-\$119	7.8	9.6	16.8	21.8	26.8	11.7	22.2
\$120-\$249	33.0	32.6	41.1	50.1	43.3	36.2	49.5
\$250-\$349	38.0	37.1	26.8	18.1	15.7	33.4	17.9
\$350-\$449	12.4	13.2	7.9	4.0	4.2	10.9	4.0
\$450-\$549	3.9	3.2	2.2	1.1	0.5	3.0	1.0
\$550+	2.3	1.5	1.3	0.6	0.0	1.7	0.6

Table 80: Proportion of Tasmanians by age group who paid weekly rent in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Despite paying some of the lowest rents in Tasmania, the proportion of older Tasmanians paying between \$0 and \$119 rent per week reduced by 13.5% from 2011 to 2016, the largest decrease of all age groups (Table 81).

This reduction was particularly high in the over 85 age group at 17.9%. The fastest growth in proportion of Tasmanians aged over 65 who rented was in those paying between \$250 and \$349 per week on rent, similar to other age groups.

Weekly rent	15 to 29 years	30 to 49 years	50 to 64 years	65 to 84 years	Over 85 years	All Ages	All over 65 years
\$0-\$119	-3.7	-5.2	-7.5	-12.9	-17.9	-5.6	-13.5
\$120-\$249	-6.8	-8.6	-3.7	+1.9	+6.3	-5.7	+2.5
\$250-\$349	+6.3	+7.8	+7.5	+7.9	+7.4	+6.9	+7.9
\$350-\$449	+2.8	+4.7	+2.8	+2.2	+3.9	+3.3	+2.4
\$450-\$549	+1.1	+1.2	+0.9	+0.7	+0.5	+1.0	+0.7
\$550+	+0.5	+0.3	+0.1	+0.2	-0.6	+0.3	+0.1

Table 81: Change in proportion of Tasmanian age groups who paid weekly rent from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

A higher proportion of Tasmanian renters aged over 65 paid less than \$249 rent per week compared to Australian states and territories (Table 82). Despite this, older Tasmanians had the highest decrease in proportion that paid less than \$119 in rent from

2011 to 2016, and second fastest growth in the proportion who paid between \$250 and \$349 rent per week. Tasmanians over 65 years had the slowest growth in proportion who paid more than \$350 in rent per week.

Proportion of renters aged over 65 and weekly rent paid in 2016									
Weekly rent	Tas	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	NT	ACT	Aus
\$0-\$119	22.2	19.8	20.1	16.0	28.1	24.1	45.9	27.1	20.5
\$120-\$249	49.5	28.7	30.3	27.6	38.1	30.0	14.7	28.2	30.1
\$250-\$349	17.9	16.3	23.8	25.5	18.8	17.7	6.1	9.5	20.1
\$350-\$449	4.0	13.1	12.0	15.9	6.2	13.9	7.2	14.6	12.7
\$450-\$549	1.0	7.7	4.2	5.8	1.5	4.9	6.4	8.4	5.6
\$550+	0.6	9.2	4.2	4.7	1.5	4.0	9.4	5.8	5.8
Change in proportion of renters aged over 65 and weekly rent paid from 2011 to 2016									
	Tas	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	NT	ACT	Aus
\$0-\$119	-13.5	-8.9	-9.0	-8.5	-13.3	-10.9	-8.6	-10.4	-9.7
\$120-\$249	+2.5	-6.1	-8.1	-5.6	+0.2	-3.1	-1.1	-1.3	-5.3
\$250-\$349	+7.9	+1.7	+7.3	+5.3	+8.8	+3.4	-1.6	+0.9	+4.6
\$350-\$449	+2.4	+5.0	+6.3	+5.7	+3.6	+7.1	+2.1	+3.3	+5.5
\$450-\$549	+0.7	+4.0	+2.3	+2.6	+0.9	+2.8	+3.2	+4.2	+2.9
\$550+	+0.1	+4.9	+1.9	+1.3	+0.6	+1.4	+4.4	+3.2	+2.7

Table 82: Proportion of renters aged over 65 and weekly rent paid in 2016, and the change in this from 2011 to 2016, in Australian states and territories.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Homelessness

In 2016, 1,600 Tasmanians were estimated to be experiencing homelessness on Census night (Table 83). This included 120 Tasmanians aged over 65 years. The majority of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness were in secondary homelessness, living in temporary lodging and supported accommodation.

The highest proportion of Tasmanians estimated as experiencing homelessness on Census night in 2016 were aged 25 to 44 years. Almost a third of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness were aged over 45, and 7.5% were aged over 65 years.

	Age (Years)							
	0-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75+	All Ages	45+	65+
Number of Tasmanians by homelessness classification (people)								
Primary homelessness	22	59	51	6	3	141	60	9
Secondary homelessness	400	313	260	64	19	1,056	343	83
Tertiary homelessness	173	119	83	20	8	403	111	28
Total homelessness	595	491	394	90	30	1,600	514	120
Proportion of Tasmanians by homelessness classification (%)								
Primary homelessness	15.6	41.8	36.2	4.3	2.1	100.0	42.6	6.4
Secondary homelessness	37.9	29.6	24.6	6.1	1.8	100.0	32.5	7.9
Tertiary homelessness	42.9	29.5	20.6	5.0	2.0	100.0	27.6	6.9
Total homelessness	37.2	30.7	24.6	5.6	1.9	100.0	32.1	7.5

Table 83: Estimated number and proportion of Tasmanians by age group and homelessness classification on Census night in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016, ABS cat. no. 2049.0.

The number of Tasmanians estimated to be experiencing homelessness on Census night 2016 increased by 19 people from 2011 to 2016 (Figure 59). The largest increase for this period was in people experiencing secondary homelessness, which increased by 55 people.

The number of Tasmanians aged over 65 who experienced homelessness increased by 16 people from 2011 to 2016, and the number of Tasmanians aged over 45 years increased by 60 people.

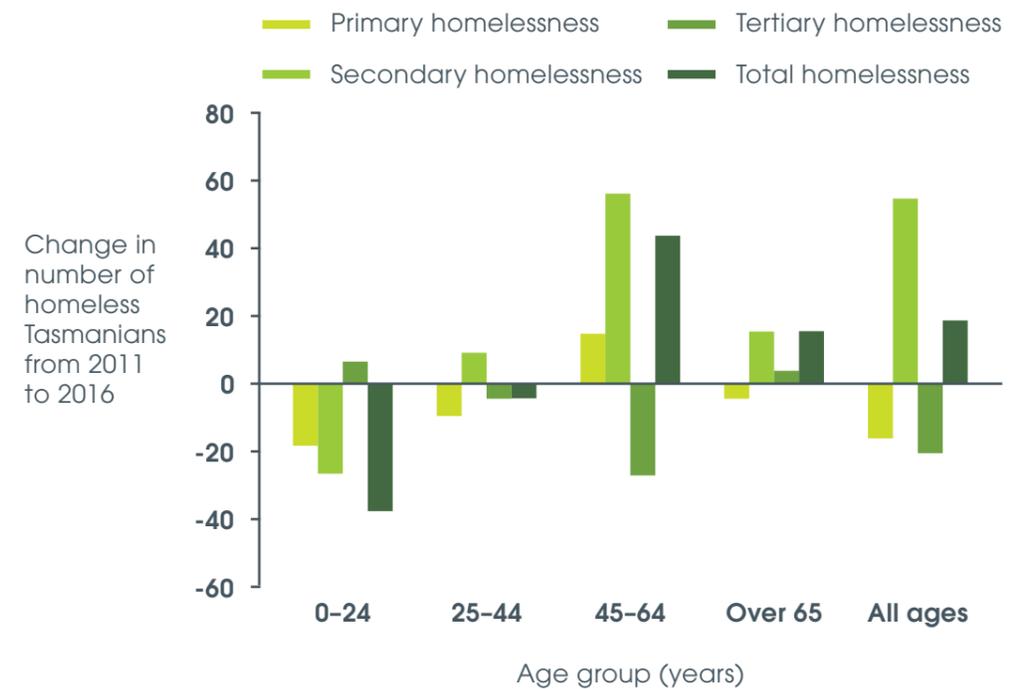


Figure 59: Estimated change in number of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness in homelessness classifications from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016, ABS cat. no. 2049.0.

The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing any type of homelessness and aged over 65 grew by 0.9% from 2011 to 2016, equalling the total State population growth rate for this period (Figure 60). The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing secondary or tertiary homelessness and aged over 65 grew from 2011 to 2016, while the proportion experiencing primary homelessness who were older decreased by 1.9%.

The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing any type of homelessness and aged 45 to 64 years grew by 2.5% from 2011 to 2016, the fastest of all age groups. The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing primary homelessness aged 45 to 64 years grew by 13.2%.

Overall, the proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness and aged over 45 grew by 3.4% from 2011 to 2016¹⁶⁶.

Tasmanian men made up a higher proportion than women experiencing homelessness in every age group and homelessness classification in 2016 (Table 84).

		Age (Years)				
		0 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	Over 65	All Ages
Primary homelessness	Male	81.8	83.1	64.7	66.7	75.2
	Female	18.2	16.9	35.3	33.3	24.8
Secondary homelessness	Male	51.5	57.5	58.8	54.2	55.3
	Female	48.5	42.5	41.2	45.8	44.7
Tertiary homelessness	Male	50.9	61.3	68.7	67.9	58.8
	Female	49.1	38.7	31.3	32.1	41.2
Total homelessness	Male	52.4	61.5	61.7	58.3	57.9
	Female	47.6	38.5	38.3	41.7	42.1

Table 84: Estimated proportion of Tasmanian men and women in each homelessness classification and age group on Census night in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016, ABS cat. no. 2049.0.

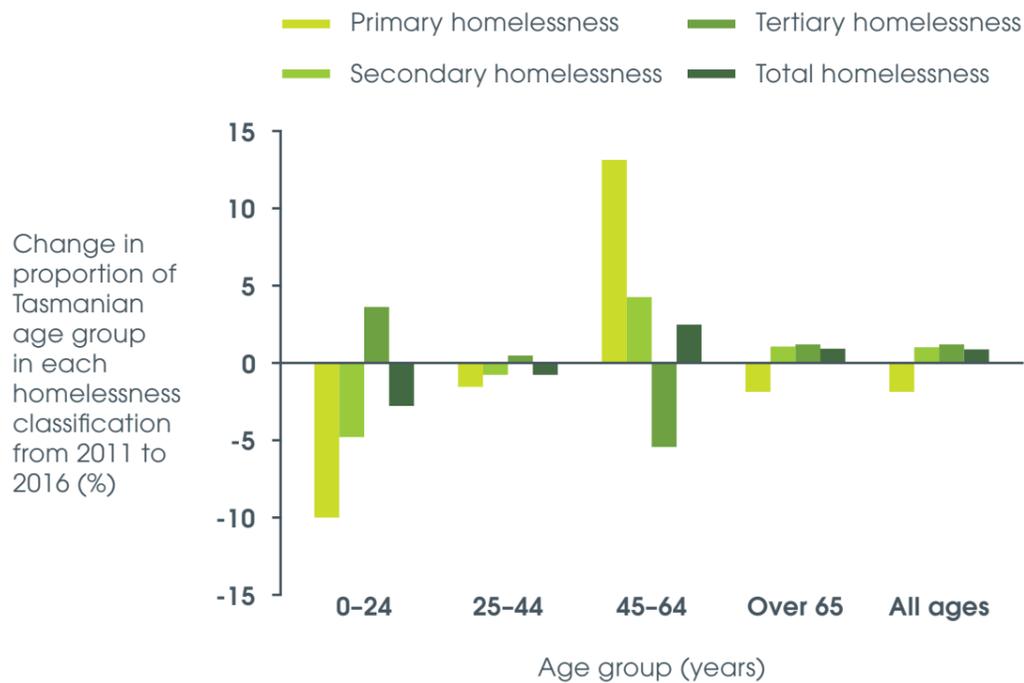


Figure 60: Estimated change in proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness in homelessness classifications from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016, ABS cat. no. 2049.0.

The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness who were women grew by 0.3% from 2011 to 2016, while the proportion of men fell by 0.3% (Table 85). While age groups younger than 44 years made up lower proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness, the proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness who were aged over 45 grew from 2011 to 2016.

The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness who were aged over 65 grew by 0.9% from 2011 to 2016. Older Tasmanians made up a higher proportion of Tasmanians experiencing secondary and tertiary homelessness, while the proportion of Tasmanians experiencing primary homeless who were over 65 years decreased.

Older women made up a slightly higher proportion of all homelessness classifications from 2011 to 2016, while the proportion of older men experiencing primary homelessness decreased by 2.1%.

Tasmanians aged over 45 made up a higher proportion of people experiencing homelessness in 2016 compared to 2011, growing by 3.4%. The proportion of people experiencing primary homelessness who were aged over 45 grew by 11.3%. The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing primary, secondary and tertiary homelessness who were women aged over 45 grew at a faster rate than for men of the same age.

		0 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	Over 65 years	All Ages	All over 45 years
Primary homelessness	Male	-2.5	+2.9	+5.6	-2.1	+3.8	+3.5
	Female	-7.4	-4.4	+7.7	+0.2	-3.8	+7.9
	Total	-9.9	-1.5	+13.2	-1.9	-	+11.3
Secondary homelessness	Male	-2.3	+0.3	+2.5	+0.8	+1.3	+3.3
	Female	-2.4	-1.0	+1.7	+0.4	-1.3	+2.1
	Total	-4.7	-0.7	+4.2	+1.2	-	+5.4
Tertiary homelessness	Male	+0.1	-0.6	-4.3	+0.5	-4.3	-3.8
	Female	+3.6	+1.0	-1.1	+0.8	+4.3	-0.3
	Total	+3.7	+0.5	-5.4	+1.3	-	-4.1
All types of homelessness	Male	-1.6	+0.1	+0.9	+0.4	-0.3	+1.3
	Female	-1.2	-0.7	+1.6	+0.5	+0.3	+2.1
	Total	-2.8	-0.6	+2.5	+0.9	-	+3.4

Table 85: Change in proportion of Tasmanians in primary, secondary, tertiary or any type of homelessness from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016*, ABS cat. no. 2049.0.

At 309 people, Hobart had the largest number of Tasmanians estimated to be experiencing homelessness on Census night 2016, followed by Launceston (236 people), Glenorchy (192 people) and Clarence (174 people; Table 86). These LGAs also had the highest proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness, and almost one in five Tasmanians experiencing homelessness were in Hobart on Census night 2016.

The number of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness increased in 13 of Tasmania's 29 LGAs, remained stable in four and decreased in 12 LGAs.

The largest increase in number of people experiencing homelessness from 2011 to 2016 were in Kingborough (+58 people), Hobart (+42 people), Glenorchy (+24 people) and Latrobe (+21 people). Largest decreases were in Burnie (-36 people), Derwent Valley (-21 people), Southern Midlands (-15 people) and Brighton (-15 people).

Homelessness grew in 13 Tasmanian LGAs. The fastest growth in homelessness from 2011 to 2016 were in Kingborough (+3.3%), Hobart (+1.4%), Latrobe (+1.3%) and Sorell (+0.8%). The proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness fell in Burnie (-2.8%), Launceston (-1.6%), Derwent Valley (-1.4%) and Brighton (-1.1%) from 2011 to 2016.

	Number (People)			Proportion (%)		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
Break O'Day	22	20	-2	1.5	1.2	-0.2
Brighton	44	29	-15	2.9	1.8	-1.1
Burnie	128	92	-36	8.4	5.7	-2.8
Central Coast	52	59	+7	3.4	3.6	+0.2
Central Highlands	4	6	+2	0.3	0.4	+0.1
Circular Head	13	25	+12	0.9	1.5	+0.7
Clarence	158	174	+16	10.4	10.7	+0.3
Derwent Valley	30	9	-21	2.0	0.6	-1.4
Devonport	88	86	-2	5.8	5.3	-0.5
Dorset	13	3	-10	0.9	0.2	-0.7
Flinders Island	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0
George Town	13	13	0	0.9	0.8	-0.1
Glamorgan/ Spring Bay	9	3	-6	0.6	0.2	-0.4
Glenorchy	168	192	+24	11.1	11.8	+0.8
Hobart	267	309	+42	17.6	19.1	+1.4
Huon	19	31	+12	1.3	1.9	+0.7
Kentish	18	9	-9	1.2	0.6	-0.6
King Island	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0
Kingborough	58	116	+58	3.8	7.2	+3.3
Latrobe	3	24	+21	0.2	1.5	+1.3
Launceston	245	236	-9	16.2	14.5	-1.6
Meander Valley	17	25	+8	1.1	1.5	+0.4
Northern Midlands	31	44	+13	2.0	2.7	+0.7
Sorell	19	33	+14	1.3	2.0	+0.8
Southern Midlands	30	15	-15	2.0	0.9	-1.1
Tasman	6	3	-3	0.4	0.2	-0.2
Waratah-Wynyard	29	21	-8	1.9	1.3	-0.6
West Coast	9	9	0	0.6	0.6	-0.0
West Tamar	23	36	+13	1.5	2.2	+0.7

Table 86: Estimated number and proportion of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness in Tasmanian LGAs in 2011 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016, ABS cat. no. 2049.0.

Tasmania had the smallest number of people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people of Australian states and territories at 32.1 people per 10,000 (Table 87).

However, Tasmania was one of only three states and territories that had an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people from 2011 to 2016, though this was a small increase (Table 88).

	0 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	Over 65 years	All Ages
Tasmania	40.9	42.0	28.1	12.7	32.1
NSW	55.9	66.4	43.7	22.9	50.4
Vic	52.6	52.5	32.1	16.2	41.9
Qld	48.7	54.2	46.0	26.2	46.1
SA	47.6	47.0	32.2	13.9	37.2
WA	40.1	43.6	34.0	17.5	36.5
NT	834.7	536.1	430.2	314.1	599.6
ACT	41.0	49.1	40.4	16.6	40.3
Australia	59.3	61.4	42.6	21.5	49.8

Table 87: Estimated number of people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people in Australian states and territories on Census night in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016, ABS cat. no. 2049.0.

	0 to 24 years	25 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	Over 65 years	All Ages
Tasmania	+0.4	+0.8	+2.8	-0.2	+0.2
NSW	+8.5	+18.1	+7.3	+3.5	+9.7
Vic	-4.1	+1.9	+1.2	+1.5	-0.7
Qld	-6.5	+5.0	+5.8	+1.1	+0.3
SA	-0.6	+0.1	+1.1	+1.9	-0.2
WA	-10.3	-5.6	-1.1	-5.4	-6.4
NT	-171.8	-116.1	-20.9	-163.4	-131.0
ACT	-21.3	-7.7	+1.3	+0.6	-9.7
Australia	-3.6	+5.4	+3.8	+0.9	+0.8

Table 88: Estimated change in the number of people experiencing homelessness per 10,000 people in Australian states and territories from 2011 to 2016 Census nights'.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016, ABS cat. no. 2049.0.

Chapter 6 Employment

This chapter explores employment of older Tasmanians and older workers in industries, regions and LGAs. Employment can provide social connection and positive self-esteem in addition to financial support, and unemployment and retirement can increase a person's risk of social isolation due to reduced income and workplace social connections.

Employment and labour force data was sourced from the ABS Census and the Department of Jobs and Small Business, Australian Government.

The definition of an older worker can vary from 45, 50 or 55 years and older^{167, 168, 169, 170}. COTA Tasmania is aware of Tasmanians in their 40s feeling that they have been discriminated against in the workplace because of their age¹⁷¹, and therefore, this report considers a worker aged over 45 as being an 'older worker'. People aged between 15 and 64 years are deemed to be of 'working age'¹⁷².

Overview

Tasmania had the oldest workforce of all Australian states and territories in 2016, with the highest median age of 43 years and highest proportion of the labour force aged over 45 at 45.5%. From 2011 to 2016, the proportion of the labour force younger than 55 years fell as the proportion of labour force aged over 55 years grew. The proportion of Tasmania's labour force aged over 45 and aged over 65 grew from 2011 to 2016, while the proportion of the labour force of working age fell. Following Tasmania-wide trends, a higher proportion of older workers were employed in part-time work and a lower proportion were engaged in full-time work in 2016 compared to 2011. A higher proportion of older male workers were employed in full-time work compared to older female workers.

Tasmania had the oldest workforce of all Australian states and territories in 2016.

Over a third of Tasmanian workers aged over 45, and 42.2% of workers aged over 65, were employed as Managers or Professionals in 2016. 22.9% of workers aged over 45 and 19.5% aged over 65 were employed in Technician & Trades or Labourer roles, which can require physical labour.



Tasmanians in their 40s have experienced workplace age discrimination, and therefore, this report considers a worker aged over 45 as being an 'older worker'.

Almost 60% of Tasmanian Managers and over 50% of Machinery Operators & Drivers and Community & Personal Service Workers were aged over 45. These findings demonstrate that a large proportion of older workers are employed in highly skilled work, and about one in five people in this age group are employed in physical jobs that could require adaption to enable the worker to remain employed as they age.

The proportion of older workers grew in 15 of Tasmania's 19 industries from 2011 to 2016, and six industries had more than 50% of the labour force aged over 45. Industries with the highest proportion of older workers were Transport, Postal & Warehousing; Health Care & Social Assistance; Education & Training; Rental, Hiring & Real Estate; and Public Administration & Safety. Over 50% of the labour force were aged over 45 in three of Tasmania's largest four industries, and in three of the top five industries projected to have the fastest growth from 2017 to 2022 (i.e. Health Care & Social Assistance; Education & Training; and Public Administration & Safety).

From 2011 to 2016, the proportion of workers aged over 45 grew in 15 of Tasmania's 19 industries, and the proportion of Tasmanians working beyond the traditional retirement age of 65 grew in all Tasmanian industries.

The proportion of Tasmanians working beyond the traditional retirement age of 65 increased in all Tasmanian industries from 2011 to 2016. Seven industries had more than 5% of the labour force aged over 65 years. The highest proportions were in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; Rental, Hiring & Real Estate; Transport, Postal & Warehousing; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; and Arts & Recreation Services.

The proportion of workers aged over 45 grew in all LGAs except Flinders Island, and the proportion of workers aged over 65 grew in every LGA, from 2011 to 2016.

Male workers aged over 45 and aged over 65 made up a higher proportion of the Tasmanian workforce than older female workers in 2016. Men dominated Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; Mining; Manufacturing; Electricity Gas, Water & Waste; Wholesale Trade; Construction; and the Transport, Postal & Warehousing industries. Women more than doubled male workers in fast growing industries of Health Care & Social Assistance and Education & Training. Four of the industries in which men dominated (Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; Manufacturing; Electricity Gas, Water & Waste; Wholesale Trade) are projected to have zero or

negative growth to 2022, which could negatively affect job security for older male workers in these industries.

The south east of Tasmania had the highest proportion of older workers of all regions in 2016, and the fastest growth from 2011 to 2016. Very remote areas of Tasmania had the highest proportion of older workers, and remote areas had the fastest growth in older workers from 2011 to 2016.

The proportion of workers aged over 45 grew in all LGAs except Flinders Island, and the proportion of workers aged over 65 grew in every LGA, from 2011 to 2016. In 2016, over 50% of the labour force in 14 of Tasmania's 29 LGAs were aged over 45 and over 5% of the labour force was aged over 65 in 16 LGAs. 12 of the 15 LGAs with the highest proportion of workers aged over 45 were also in the top 15 LGAs that had the highest proportions of workers aged over 65. Flinders Island, Tasman, Glamorgan/Spring Bay and Break O' Day had the highest proportion of older workers in Tasmania.

Supporting older workers to remain employed not only supports economic productivity but also retains valuable industry knowledge, life experience, efficiency, and opportunities for mentoring in the workforce.



Ageist attitudes negatively impact older Tasmanian workers in the workplace and hinder them from re-entering the workforce.

Of Tasmanians aged over 45 in the labour force, 4.7% were unemployed in 2016. Unemployment of older workers was over 10% in Break O'Day and the West Coast. The West Coast also had the highest proportion of workers aged over 65 who were unemployed at 6.3%, compared to the Tasmanian proportion of 2.4%.

An ageing labour force presents both challenges and opportunities for Tasmania. The increasing number of people leaving the labour force and receiving government support in retirement could significantly impact economic growth by reducing government income and increasing spending on health care and social benefits. It is expected that 50% of workers in Tasmania's industries will leave the workforce in the next 15 to 20 years¹⁷³. However, 'working age' is increasingly extending beyond 65 years as health improves and people are able to work for longer. In 2017, 50% of Australian workers aged over 45 intended to retire between 65 and 69 years, and 20% intended to retire after age 70¹⁷⁴.

Supporting older workers to remain employed not only supports economic productivity but also retains valuable industry knowledge, life experience, efficiency, and opportunities for mentoring in the workforce. But significant barriers, particularly ageism, prevent people from remaining in and finding new employment as they age¹⁷⁵.

COTA Tasmania is aware of ageist attitudes negatively impacting older Tasmanian workers in the workplace and in hindering them from re-entering the workforce^{176, 177}. Over a quarter of Australian workers aged over 50 had experienced age discrimination in the workplace in 2015, and the majority of enquiries about age discrimination in 2014-15 to the Australian Human Rights Commission were related to workplace ageism¹⁷⁸. While older worker unemployment tends to be lower than younger age groups, the time in which older workers remain unemployed is significantly longer. In 2015, workers aged over 55 spent an average of 68 weeks looking for work, compared 30 weeks for workers aged 15 to 24¹⁷⁹. Disturbingly, one in three employers have admitted that they will not consider recruiting people aged over 50 years¹⁸⁰.

The effects of workplace ageism can be devastating on a person's mental and physical health, financial security and relationships.



It would be unwise to ignore the fact that changes in lifestyle and capacity will impact how an older person engages in work, and that workplaces need to adapt, either in environment or culture, to support these changes.

The effects of workplace ageism can be devastating on a person's mental and physical health, financial security and relationships¹⁸¹. Ageism can lead to workers feeling that they have to achieve more than younger workers to be positively recognised by their organisation and maintain value. They often feel they need to fight stereotypes that label them as losing function and efficiency, and are concerned that their own behaviour will confirm these stereotypes.

This can lead to increased stress and disengagement, decreasing productivity and, ultimately, resulting in the worker leaving employment¹⁸².

The effects of workplace ageism often continue to impact a person once they become unemployed. While social connections may increase for some people in retirement as they have more time for leisure activities, some people are at greater risk of social isolation as connections with co-workers reduce. People with many social connections outside of work are more likely to retire earlier than those with few connections¹⁸³. However, the choice to leave the workplace is sometimes out of an older workers' control. If the loss of colleague connection is teamed with reduced social networks outside of work, long-term unemployment and decreased self-esteem and confidence due to ageism, a person can become even more withdrawn.

Retirement in and of itself creates challenges for many older people. Changes in lifestyle structure, social connections, income, identity, purpose and meaningful engagement in community that come with retirement can create disruption and psychological distress¹⁸⁴. Even when people plan and choose their retirement, many require support to transition to this next stage of their life.

In order to retain older workers, workplaces need to support workers to remain engaged and productive. This requires acknowledgement that a person's lifestyle (including factors such as increased caring responsibilities or a desire to reduce working hours), and levels of physical or cognitive capacity are likely to change as they age. It would be unwise to ignore the fact that changes in lifestyle and capacity will impact how an older person engages in work, and that workplaces need to adapt, either in environment or culture, to support these changes.

If a workplace fails to adopt practices to support older workers' changing needs, a worker may begin to feel devalued, disengage from work and eventually leave employment¹⁸⁵, taking with them a broad range of knowledge and skills.

As Tasmania's labour force ages, older workers will face challenges in remaining and re-entering employment, and transitioning to retirement, which can significantly impact a person's self-worth, sense of purpose, financial security and social connectedness. This can lead to increased risk of social isolation and poor wellbeing. Workplaces need to adopt strategies that specifically support older workers to transition to retirement or remain employed, including increased flexibility, redesigning jobs to accommodate physical or cognitive needs, and opportunities for mentoring, reskilling and upskilling¹⁸⁶.



All Tasmanian LGAs, particularly those that have high rates of older workers in the labour force or who are unemployed, need to consider how to best support this cohort as they leave the labour force for retirement, or to re-enter the workplace. This includes ensuring people maintain social support as they leave the labour force and have strategies to re-enter and engage with the labour force. A significant component of this is implementation of strategies to reduce workplace ageism, beginning with changed attitudes at management level. The Tasmanian Government needs to take an active stand against ageism in the workplace and community. This starts by ensuring that government policies and affiliations do not engage in ageist campaigns or allow ageism to occur unchallenged.

Supporting older workers to remain employed by adapting to physical, cognitive or lifestyle changes provides economic and social opportunities for Tasmania. Enabling people to remain engaged in work provides them with confidence, self-assurance, sense of purpose and financial security.

The Tasmanian Government needs to take an active stand against ageism in the workplace and community.

It also allows them to pass critical industry knowledge and life experience to younger colleagues to promote workplace productivity. As is the case with discrimination against older people, many of the concerns that arise from an ageing population are exacerbated, and in some cases caused, by ageism. Only by challenging these stereotypes in the workplace can Tasmania continue to grow economically with an ageing population.

Workplaces need to adopt strategies that specifically support older workers to transition to retirement or remain employed.

Labour force aged over 45 years in Tasmanian industries:**Highest proportion in 2016:**

- Transport, Postal & Warehousing (59.7%)
- Health Care & Social Assistance (54.6%)
- Education & Training (54.3%)
- Rental, Hiring & Real Estate (53.2%)
- Public Administration & Safety (52.9%)

Fastest growth from 2011 to 2016:

- Wholesale Trade (+9.6%)
- Rental, Hiring & Real Estate (+6.4%)
- Mining (+5.3%)
- Manufacturing (+4.7%)
- Public Administration & Safety (+4.6%)

Largest number in 2016:

- Health Care & Social Assistance (16,751 people)
- Education & Training (10,924 people)
- Public Administration & Safety (8,971 people)
- Retail Trade (8,281 people)
- Manufacturing (7,029 people)

Largest increase from 2011 to 2016:

- Construction (+3,810 people)
- Health Care & Social Assistance (+2,595 people)
- Administrative & Support Services (+557 people)
- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (+417 people)
- Education & Training (+311 people)

Labour force aged over 65 years in Tasmanian industries:**Highest proportion in 2016:**

- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (11.5%)
- Rental, Hiring & Real Estate (8.7%)
- Transport, Postal & Warehousing (7.4%)
- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (6.8%)
- Arts & Recreation Services (5.3%)

Fastest growth from 2011 to 2016:

- Rental, Hiring & Real Estate (+3.5%)
- Administration & Support Services (+2.3%)
- Transport, Postal & Warehousing (+2.2%)
- Wholesale Trade (+2.0%)
- Arts & Recreation Services (+1.7%)

Largest number in 2016:

- Health Care & Social Assistance (1,329 people)
- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (1,310 people)
- Education & Training (870 people)
- Retail Trade (835 people)
- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (693 people)

Largest increase from 2011 to 2016:

- Health Care & Social Assistance (+539 people)
- Construction (+344 people)
- Education & Training (+330 people)
- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (+206 people)
- Transport, Postal & Warehousing (+198 people)

Labour force aged over 45 in Tasmanian LGAs:**Highest proportion in 2016:**

- Flinders Island (62.8%)
- Tasman (61.7%)
- Glamorgan/Spring Bay (59.7%)
- Break O'Day (59.2%)

Fastest growth from 2011 to 2016:

- West Coast (+6.6%)
- Kentish (+4.8%)
- Break O'Day (+4.4%)
- George Town (+4.3%)

Largest number of workers:

- Launceston (12,538 people)
- Clarence (11,734 people)
- Hobart (10,673 people)
- Glenorchy (8,395 people)

Largest increase from 2011 to 2016:

- Clarence (+597 people)
- Launceston (+595 people)
- Glenorchy (+472 people)
- Kingborough (+451 people)

Highest proportion unemployed:

- West Coast (13.5%)
- Break O'Day (11.1%)
- Dorset (7.5%)
- George Town (7.5%)

Labour force aged over 65 in Tasmanian LGAs:**Highest proportion in 2016:**

- Flinders Island (11.7%)
- Glamorgan/Spring Bay (9.7%)
- King Island (9.5%)
- Central Highlands (9.2%)

Fastest growth from 2011 to 2016:

- Tasman (+3.7%)
- King Island (+3.7%)
- Central Highlands (+2.8%)
- Glamorgan/Spring Bay (+2.6%)

Largest number of workers:

- Hobart (1,245 people)
- Launceston (1,155 people)
- Clarence (1,091 people)
- Kingborough (740 people)

Largest increase from 2011 to 2016:

- Hobart (+386 people)
- Launceston (+316 people)
- Clarence (+294 people)
- Kingborough (+245 people)

Highest proportion unemployed:

- West Coast (6.3%)
- Circular Head (5.3%)
- Dorset (4.2%)
- George Town (4.0%)

Industries with over 50% labour force aged over 45 years in 2016:

- Transport, Postal & Warehousing
- Health Care & Social Assistance
- Education & Training
- Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services
- Public Administration & Safety
- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing

Comments on data

ABS data for employment is applicable only for people aged 15 years or over. Therefore, data below only includes people over the age of 15 years. Data calculations include non-responses, which is why some proportions may not equal 100%.

Employed and unemployed persons looking for work are defined as part of the labour force. People not in the labour force are unemployed, not looking for work and are deemed as not currently economically active.

Industries with over 5% labour force aged over 65 years in 2016:

- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing
- Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services
- Transport, Postal & Warehousing
- Professional, Scientific & Technical Services
- Arts & Recreation Services
- Administration & Support Services
- Other Services

Not all people defined as not in the labour force are voluntarily economically inactive, but may not meet the requirements to be classified as participating in the labour force such as actively searching for work and availability to begin working¹⁸⁷.

ABS Labour Force Survey data was not included in this analysis as this set does not publish age segregated data for older age groups.

Tasmania's ageing workforce

Older workers are defined as being older than 45 years, and people of working age are deemed to be between 15 and 64 years¹⁸⁸.

The median age of Tasmania's workforce increased from 42 years in 2013 to 43 years in 2018¹⁸⁹.

The proportion of age groups younger than 55 years that were in the labour force decreased from

2011 to 2016, while the proportion of age groups over 55 in the labour force grew (Figure 61; Figure 62).

In total, 44.0% of Tasmanians aged over 45 years were in the labour force in 2016, a fall of 46.1% from 2011 (Figure 63). 10.6% of Tasmanians aged over 65 years were in the labour force in 2016, compared to 9.1% in 2011.

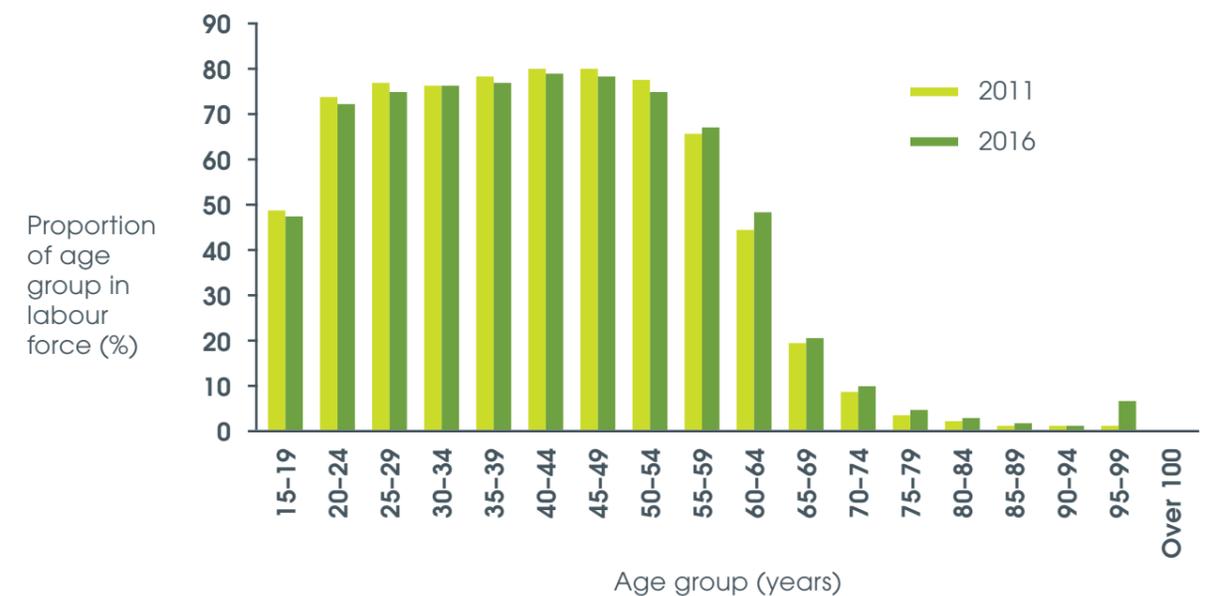


Figure 61: Proportion of Tasmanian age groups in the labour force in 2011 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

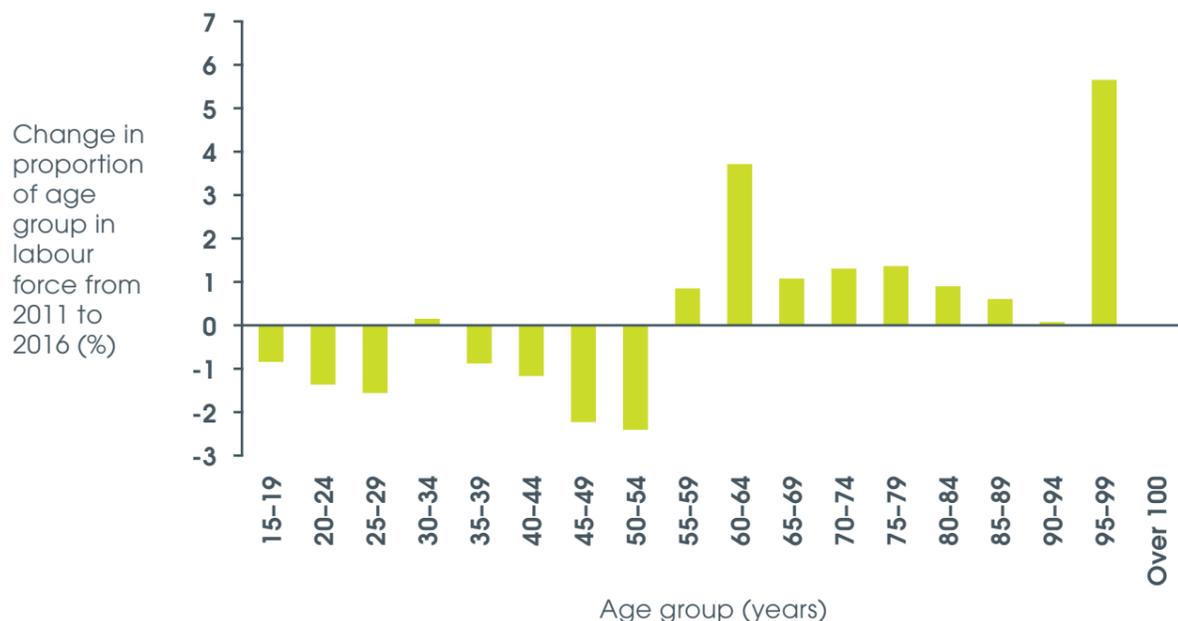


Figure 62: Change in proportion of Tasmanian age group in the labour force from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

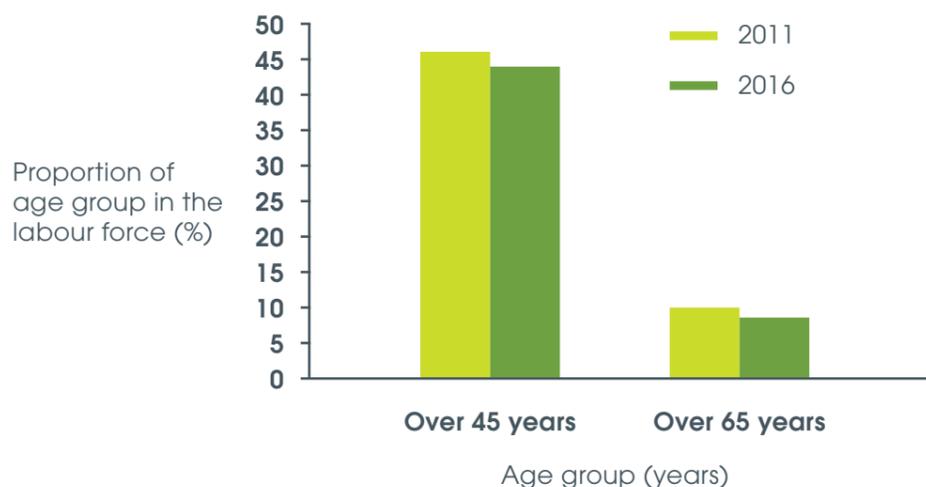


Figure 63: Proportion of Tasmanians aged over 45 and over 65 years in the labour force in 2011 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Type of employment

In 2016, 55.5% of all Tasmanians aged over 15 years and 44.0% of Tasmanians aged over 45 years were in the labour force¹⁹⁰.

Tasmanians of working age (15 to 64 years) made up 95.5% of the labour force. Over 10,000 Tasmanians aged over 65 made up the remaining 4.5% of the labour force.

Almost 106,000 people in the labour force in 2016 were aged over 45, equalling 45.5% of the labour force (Table 89).

Age (Years)	Total labour force		Not in the labour force	
	Number (People)	Proportion (%)	Number (People)	Proportion (%)
15 to 29	58,024	24.9	26,668	16.7
30 to 44	69,012	29.6	15,165	9.5
45 to 64	95,440	41.0	38,190	23.9
65 to 84	10,313	4.4	69,726	43.6
Over 85	180	0.1	10,305	6.4
All Ages	232,969	100	160,054	100
15 to 64*	222,476	95.5	80,023	50.0
Over 45	105,933	45.5	118,221	73.9
Over 65	10,493	4.5	80,031	50.0

Table 89: Number and proportion of Tasmanians in the labour force (employed and unemployed) and not in the labour force in 2016.

*working age

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The proportion of Tasmanians in the labour force aged over 45 increased by 2.0% from 2011 to 2016 (Table 90). This age group made up 46.6% of employed Tasmanians, increasing by 2.1% from 2011 to 2016, and 30.5% of unemployed Tasmanians, an increase of 2.0% from 2011 to 2016. The proportion of Tasmania's labour force aged over 65 grew by 1.3% from 2011 to 2016, while the proportion of people of working age fell by 1.3%.

Tasmanians aged 15 to 29 made up a quarter of all Tasmanians in the labour force, but made up the highest proportion of unemployed people at 46.1% in 2016. Tasmanians aged 45 to 64 years made up the highest proportion of employed Tasmanians at 41.9%, but this age group had the fastest growth in people unemployed of 1.5% from 2011 to 2016.

Age (Years)	Employed			Unemployed			Total labour force		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
15-29	24.2	23.3	-0.9	45.3	46.1	+0.8	25.5	24.9	-0.6
30-44	31.3	30.1	-1.2	26.3	23.4	-2.9	31.0	29.6	-1.4
45-64	41.2	41.9	+0.7	27.5	29.0	+1.5	40.3	41.0	+0.7
65-84	3.3	4.7	+1.4	1.0	1.5	+0.5	3.1	4.4	+1.3
Over 85	0.0	0.1	+0.0	0.0	0.0	+0.0	0.0	0.1	+0.0
All Tas	100	100	-	100	100	-	100	100	-
15-64*	96.7	95.3	-1.4	99.0	98.5	-0.5	96.8	95.5	-1.3
Over 45	44.5	46.6	+2.1	28.4	30.5	+2.0	43.5	45.5	+2.0
Over 65	3.3	4.7	+1.4	1.0	1.5	+0.5	3.2	4.5	+1.3

Table 90: The proportion of Tasmanians employed, unemployed, in the labour force (employed and unemployed) in 2011 and 2016.

*working age

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

59.8% of Tasmanians over 45 years who were employed in 2016 worked in full-time work (Table 91). A third of employed people aged over 65 were in full-time work.

Tasmanians aged over 65 were more likely to be in part-time work and less likely to be in full-time work than Tasmania as a whole.

	Part-time		Full-time	
	Number	%	Number	%
Over 45 years	36,882	36.5	57,870	57.3
Over 65 years	5,700	55.6	3,568	34.8
All Employed Tasmanians	81,604	37.7	121,826	56.2

Table 91: Number and proportion (%) of employed Tasmanians aged over 45, over 65 years or all ages who were in part-time or full-time work in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The gender balance of Tasmanians aged over 45 in each labour force category and not in the labour force was similar to proportions observed in all labour force ages (Table 92). While the ratio of men and women aged over 65 not in the labour force was similar to proportions of the whole labour force, the gender balance was very different for those in the labour force.

A higher proportion of people aged over 65 who worked full-time were men at 72.6% compared to 27.4% of women, and the proportion of unemployed workers who were men was also higher than for the total labour force.

	Over 45 years		Over 65 years		All Ages	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Part-time	33.0	67.0	53.9	46.1	31.9	68.1
Full-time	63.4	36.6	72.6	27.4	64.3	35.7
All Employed	51.5	48.5	60.6	39.4	51.0	49.0
Unemployed	58.4	41.6	68.1	31.9	57.9	42.1
Total labour force	51.8	48.2	60.7	39.3	51.5	48.5
Not in the labour force	44.0	56.0	45.0	55.0	43.8	56.2

Table 92: Proportion of Tasmanians men and women aged over 45 and over 65 years who were in part-time or full-time work in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Of all Tasmanians employed in the labour force in 2016, 56.2% were employed full-time and 37.7% were part-time (Figure 64). From 2011 to 2016, the proportion of employed Tasmanians who worked full-time fell by 2.0% while the proportion in part-time work grew by 2.5%.

Similar trends were observed for workers aged over 45 and over 65 years, with the proportion of both age groups in full-time employment decreasing and part-time employment growing.

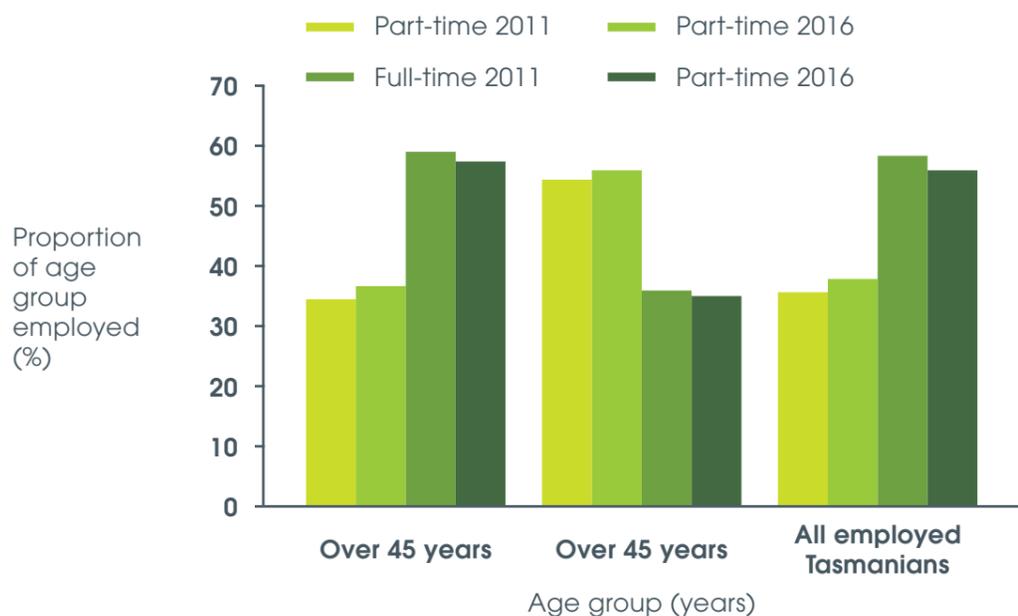


Figure 64: Proportion of employed Tasmanians in part-time or full-time work in 2011 and 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

In 2016, 35.0% of workers aged over 45, and 42.2% of workers aged over 65, were Managers or Professionals compared to 31.0% of the total labour force (Table 93). 22.9% of workers aged over 45 were employed in Technicians & Trades

or Labourer roles, both of which can require significant manual or physical work (see Appendix 7 for ABS labour force classifications). Almost 1 in 5 workers over 65 years were employed in these occupations.

	15-29	30-44	45-64	Over 65	All Ages	Over 45
Managers	5.4	13.0	14.3	22.5	12.2	15.1
Professionals	11.7	22.9	19.8	19.7	18.8	19.8
Technicians & Trades Workers	17.5	14.5	12.2	9.0	14.0	11.9
Community & Personal Service Workers	16.0	11.5	11.5	7.5	12.4	11.1
Clerical & Administrative Workers	9.2	13.5	14.8	12.9	13.0	14.6
Sales Workers	19.2	7.3	6.9	6.9	9.9	6.9
Machinery Operators & Drivers	4.3	5.9	7.7	7.3	6.4	7.7
Labourers	15.2	9.9	11.0	10.5	11.6	11.0

Table 93: Proportion of Tasmanian age groups in each labour force occupation in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

57.8% of Tasmanian Managers, 56.2% of Machinery Operators & Drivers, and 52.4% of Community & Personal Service Workers were aged over 45 in 2016 (Figure 65). 49.0% of Professionals and 44.1% of Labourers were aged over 45.

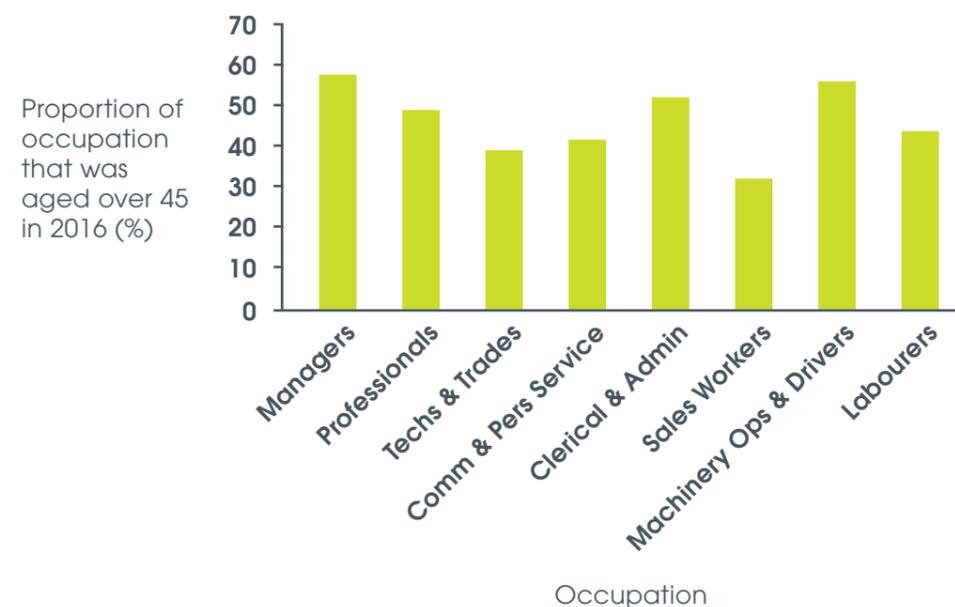


Figure 65: Proportion of Tasmanian labour force occupations that were aged over 45 in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmania compared to the rest of Australia

Tasmania had the highest Australian state and territory workforce median age of 43 years in 2018, which was three years older than the national median age (Table 94).

Tasmania and South Australia were the only two state and territories that had an increase in the median age of the workforce from 2013 to 2018.

	2013	2018	Change 2013 to 2018
Tasmania	42	43	+1
NSW	40	40	0
Vic	40	40	0
Qld	40	40	0
SA	41	42	+1
WA	40	40	0
NT	39	39	0
ACT	38	38	0
Australia	40	40	0

Table 94: Median age of Australian state and territory workforces in 2013 and 2018, and the change in this.

Source: Australian Jobs 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business, Australian Government.

Tasmania had the highest proportion of workers aged over 45 years in the labour force at 45.5% of all Australian states and territories in 2016, 5.6% higher than the national proportion of 39.9% (Table 95). The 2.0% growth in workers aged over 45 from 2011 to 2016 was also the highest in Australia.

Tasmania also had the highest proportion of workers aged over 65 years in the labour force in 2016, and the fastest growth in this from 2011 to 2016, of all states and territories. Again, this was higher than the national proportion.

	Over 45 years			Over 65 years		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
Tas	43.5	45.5	+2.0	3.2	4.5	+1.3
NSW	39.7	39.9	+0.2	3.3	4.2	+0.9
Vic	38.6	39.2	+0.6	3.1	4.0	+0.9
Qld	38.4	39.8	+1.4	3.0	3.8	+0.9
SA	41.2	42.8	+1.6	3.2	4.4	+1.2
WA	38.9	39.8	+0.9	3.1	4.0	+0.9
NT	35.6	36.7	+1.1	2.4	3.3	+0.9
ACT	35.4	35.0	-0.4	2.5	3.1	+0.6
Aus	39.1	39.9	+0.8	3.1	4.0	+0.9

Table 95: Proportion labour force aged over 45 and over 65 years in 2011 and 2016, and the change from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmanian industries

ABS industry classifications are in Appendix 8.

The following industry name abbreviations are used in tables and graphs.

Industry Name	Abbreviated Industry Name
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Ag, Forestry & Fishing
Mining	Mining
Manufacturing	Manufacturing
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	Elec, Gas, Water & Waste
Wholesale Trade	Wholesale Trade
Construction	Construction
Retail Trade	Retail Trade
Accommodation and Food Services	Accom & Food
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Trans, Postal & Warehousing
Information Media and Telecommunications	Info Media & Telecomms
Financial and Insurance Services	Financial & Insurance
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	Rental, Hiring & Real Estate
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	Professional, Sci & Technical
Administrative and Support Services	Admin & Support
Public Administration and Safety	Public Admin & Safety
Education and Training	Education & Training
Health Care and Social Assistance	Health Care & Social Assistance
Arts and Recreation Services	Arts & Recreation
Other Services	Other Services

Table 96: ABS industry names and abbreviations used in this chapter.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The proportion of older workers grew in 15 of Tasmania's 19 industries from 2011 to 2016, and the number of older workers increased in 12 of Tasmania's 19 industries (Table 97). Six industries had more than 50% of the labour force aged over 45 years.

The Tasmanian industries with the highest proportion of workers aged over 45 years were Transport, Postal & Warehousing (59.7%), Health Care & Social Assistance (54.6%), Education & Training (54.3%), Rental, Hiring & Real Estate (53.2%), and Public Administration & Safety (52.9%).

The fastest growth in older workers from 2011 to 2016 was in Wholesale Trade (+9.6%), Rental, Hiring & Real Estate (+6.4%), Mining (+5.3%), Manufacturing (+4.7%) and Public Administration & Safety (+4.6%).

Industries with the largest number of older workers were Health Care & Social Assistance (16,751 people), Education & Training (10,924 people),

Public Administration & Safety (8,971 people), Retail Trade (8,281 people) and Manufacturing (7,029 people). The largest increases in older workers from 2011 to 2016 were in Construction (+3,810 people), Health Care & Social Assistance (+2,595 people), Administrative & Support Services (+557 people), Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (+417 people) and Education & Training (+311 people).

	Workers aged over 45			Proportion aged over 45 (%)		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
Trans, Postal & Warehousing	5,263	5,462	+199	56.7	59.7	+2.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	14,156	16,751	+2,595	54.4	54.6	+0.2
Education & Training	10,613	10,924	+311	54.6	54.3	-0.2
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	1,314	1,428	+114	46.8	53.2	+6.4
Public Admin & Safety	9,462	8,971	-491	48.3	52.9	+4.6
Ag, Forestry & Fishing	5,592	6,009	+417	54.0	52.8	-1.2
Admin & Support	2,637	3,194	+557	45.6	49.9	+4.3
Elec, Gas, Water & Waste	1,664	1,718	+54	46.2	48.9	+2.7
Wholesale Trade	6,478	2,361	-4,117	39.2	48.8	+9.6
Mining	1,178	1,059	-119	42.4	47.7	+5.3
Manufacturing	8,080	7,029	-1,051	42.6	47.2	+4.7
Professional, Sci & Technical	4,570	4,754	+184	44.6	46.6	+2.0
Other Services	3,324	3,508	+184	41.2	43.2	+2.1
Info Media & Telecomms	1,282	1,234	-48	39.5	42.1	+2.6
Construction	3,102	6,912	+3,810	43.7	42.1	-1.6
Arts & Recreation	1,452	1,688	+236	40.7	41.9	+1.2
Financial & Insurance	1,946	1,882	-64	37.1	41.3	+4.2
Retail Trade	8,147	8,281	+134	33.2	35.1	+1.9
Accom & Food	4,302	4,246	-56	27.3	25.7	-1.6

Table 97: Number of people and proportion of industry labour force aged over 45 years in 2011 and 2016, and the change in this, ordered from highest to lowest proportion of the workforce aged over 45 in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The proportion of Tasmanians in the labour force working beyond the traditional 'retirement age' of 65 years increased by 1.3% from 2011 to 2016 (Table 90). The proportion of workers aged over 65 grew in every Tasmanian industry from 2011 to 2016 (Table 98). The number of workers in this age group increased in all industries except Wholesale Trade. Seven of Tasmania's 19 industries had more than 5% of the labour force aged over 65 years.

Industries with the highest proportion of workers aged over 65 were Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (11.5%), Rental, Hiring & Real Estate (8.7%), Transport, Postal & Warehousing (7.4%), Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (6.8%) and Arts & Recreation Services (5.3%).

Fastest growth in this age group from 2011 to 2016 was observed in Rental Hiring & Real Estate (+3.5%), Administration & Support Services (+2.3%), Transport, Postal & Warehousing (+2.2%), Wholesale Trade (+2.0%) and Arts & Recreation Services (+1.7%).

The largest number of workers aged over 65 were in Health Care & Assistance (1,329 people), Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (1,310 people), Education & Training (870 people), Retail Trade (835 people) and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (693 people). The largest increases in workers from 2011 to 2016 were in Health Care & Assistance (+539 people), Construction (+344 people), Education & Training (+330 people), Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (+206 people) and Transport, Postal & Warehousing (+198 people).



	People aged over 65			Proportion aged over 65 (%)		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
Ag, Forestry & Fishing	1,104	1,310	+206	10.7	11.5	+0.9
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	146	234	+88	5.2	8.7	+3.5
Trans, Postal & Warehousing	477	675	+198	5.1	7.4	+2.2
Professional, Sci & Technical	529	693	+164	5.2	6.8	+1.6
Arts & Recreation	128	212	+84	3.6	5.3	+1.7
Admin & Support	169	337	+168	2.9	5.3	+2.3
Other Services	283	411	+128	3.5	5.1	+1.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	790	1,329	+539	3.0	4.3	+1.3
Education & Training	540	870	+330	2.8	4.3	+1.6
Wholesale Trade	354	199	-155	2.1	4.1	+2.0
Retail Trade	669	835	+166	2.7	3.5	+0.8
Financial & Insurance	114	157	+43	2.2	3.4	+1.3
Construction	211	555	+344	3.0	3.4	+0.4
Manufacturing	466	493	+27	2.5	3.3	+0.9
Mining	54	71	+17	1.9	3.2	+1.3
Accom & Food	306	492	+186	1.9	3.0	+1.0
Public Admin & Safety	348	504	+156	1.8	3.0	+1.2
Info Media & Telecomms	65	87	+22	2.0	3.0	+1.0
Elec, Gas, Water & Waste	53	77	+24	1.5	2.2	+0.7

Table 98: Number of people and proportion of industry labour force aged over 65 years in 2011 and 2016, and the change in this, ordered from highest to lowest proportion of the workforce aged over 65 in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Some of Tasmania's largest industries had some of the largest numbers and highest proportions of workers aged over 45 and over 65 years in 2016 (Table 99).

These include Health Care & Social Assistance, Education & Training and Public Administration & Safety.

	Proportion of Tasmania's labour force (%)	Number of workers		Proportion of industry workforce (%)	
		Over 45 years	Over 65 years	Over 45 years	Over 65 years
Health Care & Social Assistance	14.7	16,751	1,329	54.6	4.3
Retail Trade	11.3	8,281	835	35.1	3.5
Education & Training	9.6	10,924	870	54.3	4.3
Public Admin & Safety	8.1	8,971	504	52.9	3.0
Accom & Food	7.9	4,246	492	25.7	3.0
Construction	7.9	6,912	555	42.1	3.4
Manufacturing	7.1	7,029	493	47.2	3.3
Ag, Forestry & Fishing	5.4	6,009	1,310	52.8	11.5
Professional, Sci & Technical	4.9	4,754	693	46.6	6.8
Trans, Postal & Warehousing	4.4	5,462	675	59.7	7.4
Other Services	3.9	3,508	411	43.2	5.1
Admin & Support	3.1	3,194	337	49.9	5.3
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2,361	199	48.8	4.1
Financial & Insurance	2.2	1,882	157	41.3	3.4
Arts & Recreation	1.9	1,688	212	41.9	5.3
Elec, Gas, Water & Waste	1.7	1,718	77	48.9	2.2
Info Media & Telecomms	1.4	1,234	87	42.1	3.0
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate	1.3	1,428	234	53.2	8.7
Mining	1.1	1,059	71	47.7	3.2

Table 99: Number of people and proportion of industry labour force aged over 65 years in 2011 and 2016, and the change in this, ordered from highest to lowest proportion Tasmania's total labour force in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Some Tasmania's industries project to have the fastest growth from May 2017 to May 2022 had the highest proportions of workers aged over 45 in 2016 (Figure 66).

These include Health Care & Social Assistance, Education & Training, and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services.

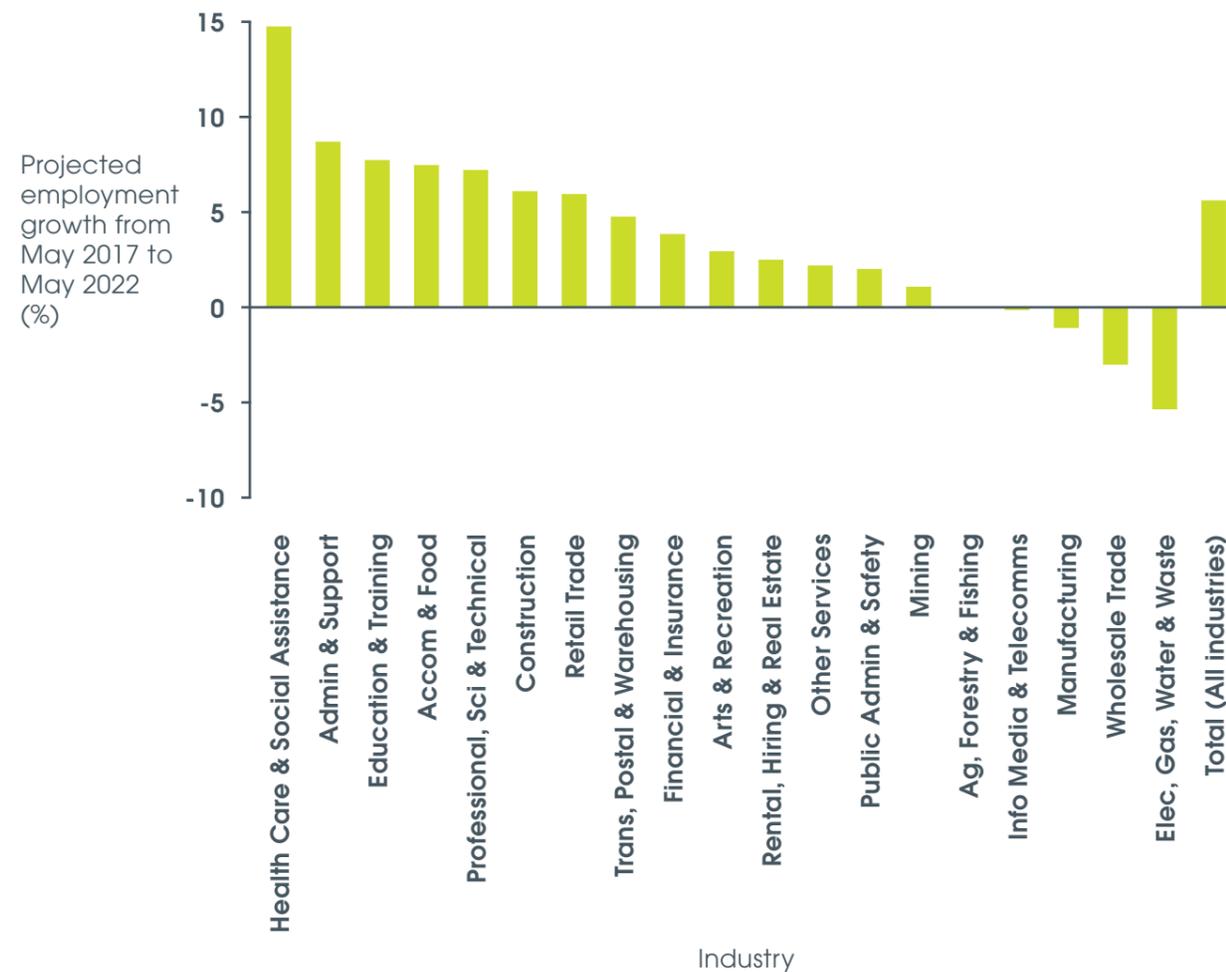


Figure 66: Projected employment growth in Tasmanian industries from May 2017 to May 2022.

Source: Australian Jobs 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business, Australian Government.

Men represented a higher proportion of workers aged over 45 in Tasmania at 51.1% compared to 48.9% of older female workers in 2016 (Figure 67). Older male workers made up a higher proportion of the workforce in 12 of Tasmania's 19 industries. The proportion of men aged over 45 was more than double the proportion of women in seven industries including

Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; Mining; Manufacturing; Electricity Gas, Water & Waste; Wholesale Trade; Construction; and Transport, Postal & Warehousing. The proportion of older female workers more than doubled the proportion of older male workers in Education & Training and Health Care & Social Assistance industries.

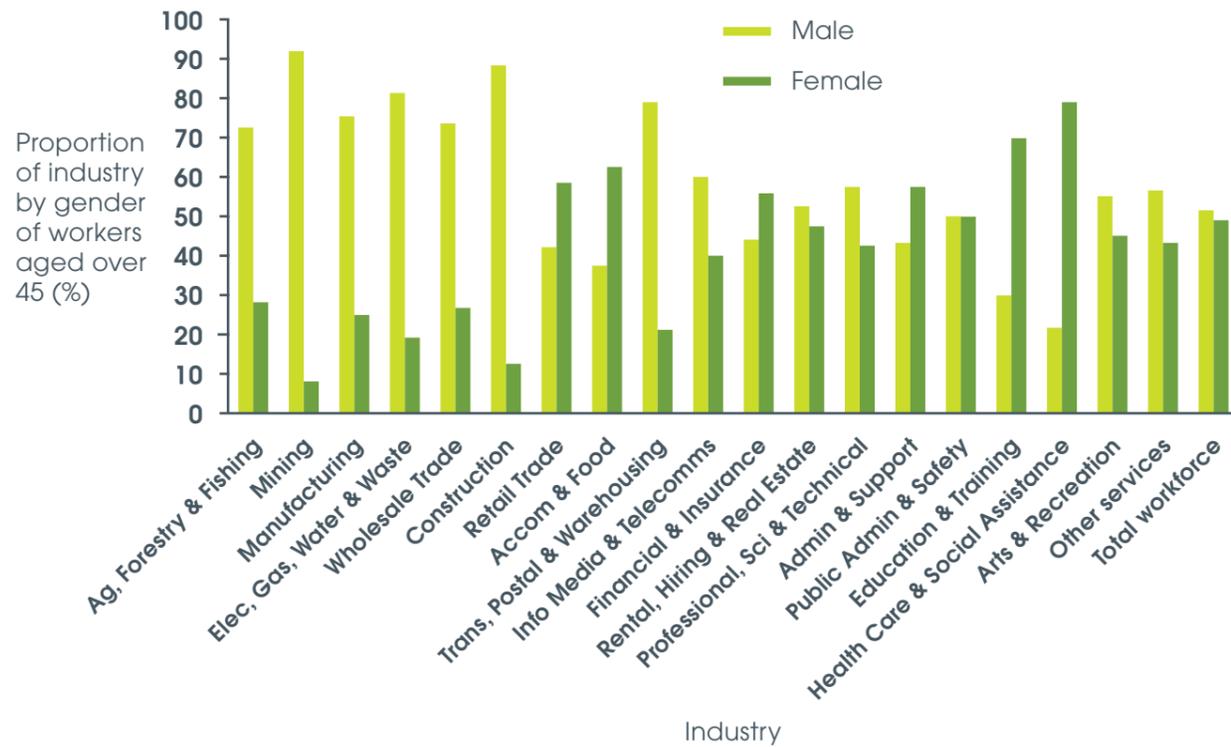


Figure 67: The proportion of each industry by gender of workers aged over 45 years in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Male workers made up 60.9% of the workforce aged over 65 compared to 39.1% of female workers in 2016 (Figure 68). 17 industries had a higher proportion of men compared to women. As for workers aged over 45, the proportion of men was

more than double the proportion of women in seven industries. The proportion of female workers aged over 65 was more than double the proportion of male workers in Health Care & Social Assistance.

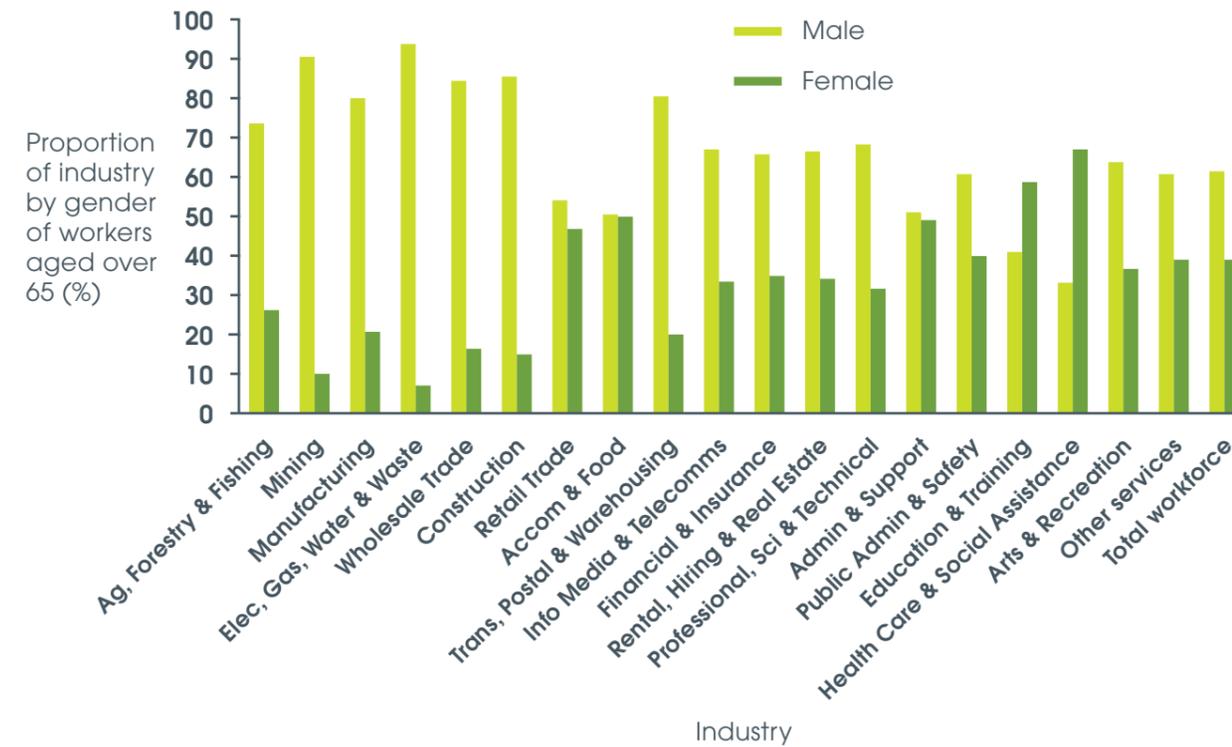


Figure 68: The proportion of each industry by gender of workers aged over 65 years in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The five Tasmania's industries with the highest proportion of older workers were further investigated, along with Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing which had the highest proportion of workers aged over 65 in 2016. Four of these industries have been identified as priority industries by the Tasmanian Government (Table 100).

Industries investigated further include:

- Transport, Postal & Warehousing;
- Health Care & Social Assistance;
- Education & Training;
- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing;
- Rental, Hiring & Real Estate;
- Public Administration & Safety.

Government Priority Industries	Corresponding ABS Industries
Aged and Community Services	Health Care & Social Assistance
Disability Services	Health Care & Social Assistance
Construction	Construction
Agriculture	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing
Hospitality	Accommodation & Food Services
Information & Communication Technology	Professional, Scientific & Technical Services
Manufacturing	Manufacturing
Seafood	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing
Transport	Transport, Postal & Warehousing

Table 100: Tasmanian Government priority industries and corresponding ABS industries.

Source: Workforce Development Program: 2017-18 Guidelines (2017) Department of State Growth, Tasmanian Government.

Transport, Postal & Warehousing

Transport, Postal & Warehousing had the highest proportion of older workers in Tasmania, and the third highest proportion of workers over 65 years.

Almost half of the older workers in Transport, Postal & Warehousing were employed in Road Transport (Table 101).

Sub-industry	Number of workers over 45 in sub-industry	Proportion of total industry workers over 45 years (%)
Road Transport	2,710	49.6
Rail Transport	144	2.6
Water Transport	318	5.8
Air and Space Transport	219	4.0
Other Transport	138	2.5
Postal and Courier Pick-up and Delivery Services	835	15.3
Transport Support Services	670	12.3
Warehousing and Storage Services	154	2.8
Transport, Postal and Warehousing, nfd	277	5.1

Table 101: The number and proportion of workers aged over 45 in sub-industries of the Transport, Postal & Warehousing industry.

nfd = not further defined

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Over half of older workers in Transport, Postal & Warehousing were Machinery Operators & Drivers in 2016 (Table 102).

	Over 45 years	Over 65 years
Managers	9.5	9.9
Professionals	3.9	3.3
Technicians & Trades Workers	3.7	1.5
Community & Personal Service Workers	2.8	2.4
Clerical & Administrative Workers	19.4	18.8
Sales Workers	3.9	3.3
Machinery Operators & Drivers	50.6	57.1
Labourers	5.7	3.2

Table 102: Proportion of workers aged over 45 and over 65 years by occupation in Transport, Postal & Warehousing.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Health Care & Social Assistance

Health Care & Social Assistance had the second highest proportion of older workers in Tasmania, and the largest number of workers aged over 45 and over 65. There was a fairly even spread of older workers

in Health Care & Social Assistance sub-industries (Table 103). The highest proportion of older workers were employed in Medical and Other Health Care Services, closely followed by Hospitals.

Sub-industry	Number of workers over 45 in sub-industry	Proportion of total industry workers over 45 years (%)
Hospitals	4,205	25.1
Medical and Other Health Care Services	4,369	26.1
Residential Care Services	4,137	24.7
Social Assistance Services	3,713	22.2
Health Care and Social Assistance, nfd	311	1.9

Table 103: The number and proportion of workers aged over 45 in sub-industries of the Health Care & Social Assistance industry.

nfd = not further defined

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

In 2016, 24.3% of workers aged over 45 in Health Care & Social Assistance were employed as Professionals and 29.6% were in Clerical & Administrative roles (Table 104). Just over 25% of workers aged over 65

were employed in Professional or Clerical & Personal Service roles, 12.3% were Community & Personal Service Workers, and almost 10% were Labourers.

	Over 45 years	Over 65 years
Managers	13.1	14.5
Professionals	24.3	25.3
Technicians & Trades Workers	5.7	6.9
Community & Personal Service Workers	16.3	12.3
Clerical & Administrative Workers	29.6	25.5
Sales Workers	0.4	0.0
Machinery Operators & Drivers	2.7	3.4
Labourers	5.3	9.1

Table 104: Proportion of workers aged over 45 and over 65 years by occupation in Health Care & Social Assistance.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.



Education & Training

Education & Training had the third highest proportion of older workers in Tasmania, the second largest number of workers aged over 45, and the third largest number of workers aged over 65 years.

The majority of older workers in Education & Training were employed in Preschool and School Education (Table 105).

Sub-industry	Number of workers over 45 in sub-industry	Proportion of total industry workers over 45 years (%)
Preschool and School Education	7,738	70.9
Tertiary Education	2,419	22.2
Adult, Community and Other Education	561	5.1
Education and Training, nfd	198	1.8

Table 105: The number and proportion of workers aged over 45 in sub-industries of the Education & Training industry.

nfd = not further defined

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Almost half of older workers in Education & Training were employed as Sales Workers in 2016 (Table 106). 17.9% of workers aged over 45 were employed as Clerical & Administrative Workers, and 12.5% were Managers.

	Over 45 years	Over 65 years
Managers	12.5	12.2
Professionals	8.2	9.0
Technicians & Trades Workers	3.7	2.7
Community & Personal Service Workers	0.7	0.0
Clerical & Administrative Workers	17.9	14.4
Sales Workers	46.8	49.5
Machinery Operators & Drivers	3.0	2.3
Labourers	6.1	8.6

Table 106: Proportion of workers aged over 45 and over 65 years by occupation in Education & Training.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing

Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing had the highest proportion of workers aged over 65 of Tasmanian industries. The majority of older workers in this industry were employed in Agriculture (Table 107).

Sub-industry	Number of workers over 45 in sub-industry	Proportion of total industry workers over 45 years (%)
Agriculture	4,334	72.0
Aquaculture	541	9.0
Forestry and Logging	422	7.0
Fishing, Hunting and Trapping	321	5.3
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Support Services	309	5.1
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, nfd	90	1.5

Table 107: The number and proportion of workers aged over 45 in sub-industries of the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing industry.

nfd = not further defined

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

In Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, 52.2% of workers aged over 45 and 73.8% of workers aged over 65 were Managers in 2016 (Table 108). Almost a quarter of workers aged over 45 were Labourers.

	Over 45 years	Over 65 years
Managers	52.2	73.8
Professionals	4.4	2.3
Technicians & Trades Workers	5.4	2.1
Community & Personal Service Workers	0.4	0.0
Clerical & Administrative Workers	6.1	4.4
Sales Workers	1.3	0.8
Machinery Operators & Drivers	6.4	2.9
Labourers	23.0	13.0

Table 108: Proportion of workers aged over 45 and over 65 years by occupation in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Rental, Hiring & Real Estate

Rental Hiring & Real Estate had the fourth highest proportion of older workers and second fastest growth in this age group, and the second highest proportion of workers over 65 years and fastest growth of this age group.

Three-quarters of older workers in Rental, Hiring & Real Estate were employed in Property Operators and Real Estate Services (Table 109).

Sub-industry	Number of workers over 45 in sub-industry	Proportion of total industry workers over 45 years (%)
Rental and Hiring Services (except Real Estate)	338	23.8
Property Operators and Real Estate Services	1,079	75.9
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services, nfd	4	0.3

Table 109: The number and proportion of workers aged over 45 in sub-industries of the Rental, Hiring & Real Estate industry.

nfd = not further defined

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Over half of older workers in Rental Hiring & Real Estate were employed as Professionals, with the second highest proportion of workers in Community & Professional Service roles (Table 110).

	Over 45 years	Over 65 years
Managers	7.7	4.3
Professionals	52.5	56.1
Technicians & Trades Workers	4.9	6.5
Community & Personal Service Workers	15.6	13.2
Clerical & Administrative Workers	11.7	9.1
Sales Workers	0.2	0.0
Machinery Operators & Drivers	0.4	1.9
Labourers	6.4	7.9

Table 110: Proportion of workers aged over 45 and over 65 years by occupation in Rental Hiring & Real Estate.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Public Administration & Safety

Public Administration & Safety had the fifth highest proportion of older workers in Tasmania, the fifth fastest growth in this cohort, and third highest number of older workers.

Almost 80% of older workers in Public Administration & Safety were employed in Public Administration (Table 111).

Sub-industry	Number of workers over 45 in sub-industry	Proportion of total industry workers over 45 years (%)
Public Administration	7,137	79.5
Defence	152	1.7
Public Order, Safety and Regulatory Services	1,668	18.6
Public Administration and Safety, nfd	18	0.2

Table 111: The number and proportion of workers aged over 45 in sub-industries of the Public Administration & Safety industry.

nfd = not further defined

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

About a third of workers aged over 45 in Public Administration & Safety were employed as Professionals or as Community & Personal Service Workers (Table 112).

39.2% of workers aged over 65 were Professionals, and 29.0% were Community & Personal Service Workers.

	Over 45 years	Over 65 years
Managers	5.4	4.9
Professionals	33.0	39.2
Technicians & Trades Workers	3.1	2.8
Community & Personal Service Workers	35.3	29.0
Clerical & Administrative Workers	13.9	14.4
Sales Workers	0.5	0.3
Machinery Operators & Drivers	0.7	0.8
Labourers	7.3	8.3

Table 112: Proportion of workers aged over 45 and over 65 years by occupation in Public Administration & Safety.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmanian regions

Tasmanian regions include Greater Hobart, North & North East, West & North West and South East (Figure 69). See Appendix 9 for full region breakdown.

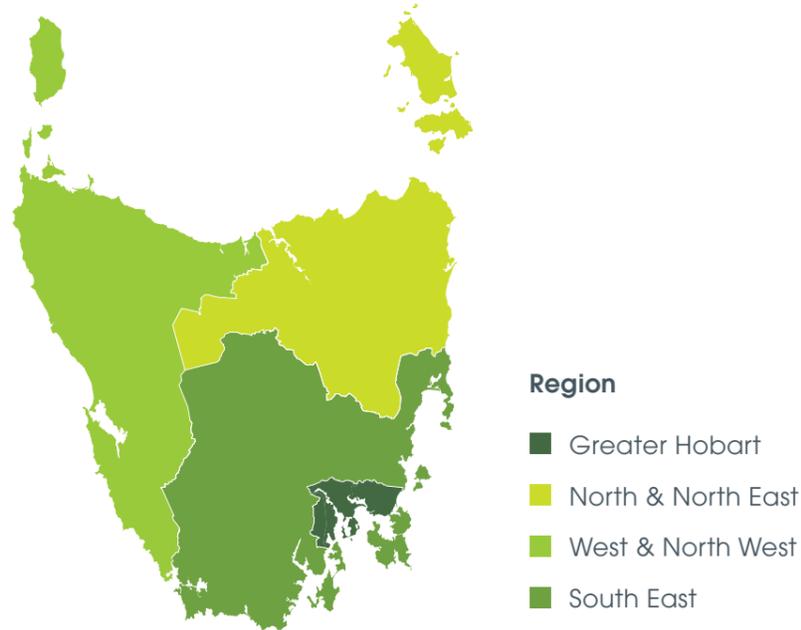


Figure 69: Map of Tasmanian region classifications.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

The south east of Tasmania had the highest proportion of the labour force aged over 45 years in Tasmania at 54.0% in 2016 (Table 113). This region also had the fastest growth in

older workers from 2011 to 2016 at 3.3%. Greater Hobart had the lowest proportion of the labour force aged over 45 at 42.6%, and the slowest growth in this from 2011 to 2016.

Region	Persons in labour force aged over 45			Proportion in labour force aged over 45 (%)		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
Greater Hobart	42,770	45,056	+2,286	41.6	42.6	+1.0
North & North East	28,176	29,615	+1,439	44.0	46.8	+2.8
West & North West	21,895	22,706	+811	44.4	47.3	+2.9
South East	7,880	8,429	+549	50.8	54.0	+3.3
Tasmania	100,917	105,933	+5,016	43.5	45.5	+2.0

Table 113: Number and proportion of people aged over 45 in the labour force in Tasmanian regions in 2011 and 2016, and the change in this from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

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 services¹⁹¹. Tasmania has only four of these classification areas, as it does not contain any areas that meet the major cities classification. More information about remoteness area classifications is available in *Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I* (page 51)¹⁹² or

through the University of Adelaide¹⁹³. Over half of the labour force in outer regional, remote and very remote areas of Tasmania were aged over 45 years in 2016 (Table 114). Very remote areas in Tasmania had the highest proportion of people in the labour force aged over 45 at 57.6%. The fastest growth of older workers was in remote areas, which grew by 5.8% from 2011 to 2016, despite a small decrease in the number of older workers in this area.

Remoteness Area	Persons in labour force aged over 45			Proportion in labour force aged over 45 (%)		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
Inner Regional	64,396	69,198	+4,802	41.2	42.8	+1.7
Outer Regional	33,838	34,113	+275	48.2	51.3	+3.0
Remote	1,779	1,768	-11	48.1	54.0	+5.8
Very Remote	742	743	+1	57.1	57.6	+0.6
Tasmania	100,917	105,933	+5,016	43.5	45.5	+2.0

Table 114: The number and proportion of people aged over 45 in the labour force in Tasmanian remoteness areas in 2011 and 2016, and the change in this from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmanian LGAs

In 2016, over 50% of the labour force in 14 of Tasmania's 29 LGAs were aged over 45 years. LGAs with the highest proportion of workers in the labour force aged over 45 were Flinders Island (62.8%), Tasman (61.7%), Glamorgan/Spring Bay (59.7%) and Break O'Day (59.2%; Table 115). LGAs with the lowest proportions were Brighton (37.3%), Glenorchy (40.2%), Hobart (41.1%) and Launceston (41.7%).

The proportion of workers aged over 45 grew in all LGAs except Flinders Island from 2011 to 2016. The proportion of older workers grew at a faster rate than the Australian rate in all LGAs but Flinders Island, Clarence and Hobart. The fastest growth in older workers were in the West Coast (+6.6%), Kentish (+4.8%), Break O'Day (+4.4%) and George Town (+4.3%).

LGAs with the largest number of workers aged over 45 were Launceston (12,538 people), Clarence (11,734 people), Hobart (10,673 people) and Glenorchy (8,395 people). The smallest number of older workers were in Flinders Island (278 people), King Island (452 people), Central Highlands (481 people) and Tasman (518 people).

The number of workers aged over 45 in the labour force increased in 24 of Tasmania's 29 LGAs from 2011 to 2016. The largest increases were in Clarence (+597 people), Launceston (+595 people), Glenorchy (+472 people) and Kingborough (+451 people). LGAs that had a decrease in number of older workers were West Coast (-64 people), Dorset (-40 people), Tasman (-37 people), King Island (-7 people) and Flinders Island (-5 people).

	Number of workers aged over 45			Proportion of labour force aged over 45 (%)		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
Break O'Day	1,231	1,283	+52	54.8	59.2	+4.4
Brighton	2,353	2,690	+337	36.0	37.3	+1.3
Burnie	3,501	3,603	+102	40.1	42.8	+2.7
Central Coast	4,481	4,683	+202	47.2	49.4	+2.3
Central Highlands	460	481	+21	52.2	54.2	+2.1
Circular Head	1,688	1,802	+114	44.3	47.4	+3.1
Clarence	11,137	11,734	+597	44.5	45.3	+0.8
Derwent Valley	1,890	1,992	+102	44.9	47.2	+2.3
Devonport	4,464	4,643	+179	41.4	44.0	+2.6
Dorset	1,513	1,473	-40	51.2	53.2	+2.0
Flinders Island	283	278	-5	67.5	62.8	-4.8
George Town	1,291	1,303	+12	47.8	52.1	+4.3
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	1,016	1,043	+27	57.7	59.7	+2.0
Glenorchy	7,923	8,395	+472	38.7	40.2	+1.5
Hobart	10,525	10,673	+148	40.7	41.1	+0.4
Huon	3,084	3,451	+367	46.5	50.5	+4.0
Kentish	1,280	1,386	+106	48.2	52.9	+4.8
King Island	459	452	-7	53.0	54.6	+1.6
Kingborough	7,481	7,932	+451	44.5	46.1	+1.6
Latrobe	2,173	2,356	+183	47.4	49.3	+1.9
Launceston	11,943	12,538	+595	39.1	41.7	+2.6
Meander Valley	4,167	4,442	+275	46.1	49.4	+3.3
Northern Midlands	2,742	3,012	+270	48.0	51.4	+3.4
Sorell	2,802	3,108	+306	44.2	45.9	+1.7
Southern Midlands	1,348	1,424	+76	49.8	51.4	+1.6
Tasman	555	518	-37	60.2	61.7	+1.5
Waratah-Wynyard	2,843	2,908	+65	46.8	50.6	+3.8
West Coast	928	864	-64	42.8	49.4	+6.6
West Tamar	5,040	5,252	+212	48.1	50.0	+1.9
Tasmania	100,917	105,933	+5,016	43.5	45.5	+2.0
Australia	4,172,441	4,577,035	+404,594	39.1	39.9	+0.8

Table 115: The number and proportion of workers aged over 45 in the labour force in Tasmanian LGAs in 2011 and 2016, and the change in this from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Tasmanian LGAs with the highest proportion of the labour force aged over 45 that were unemployed were the West Coast (13.5%), Break O'Day (11.1%), Dorset (7.5%) and George Town (7.5%; Table 116).

The highest proportion of the population aged over 45 that were not in the labour force were in Break O'Day (58.1%), George Town (54.5%), Glamorgan/Spring Bay (54.3%) and Devonport (53.6%).

	Proportion (%)		
	Labour force aged over 45		Population aged over 45 not in labour force
	Employed	Unemployed	
Break O'Day	88.9	11.1	58.1
Brighton	96.4	3.6	48.3
Burnie	93.9	6.1	51.0
Central Coast	95.4	4.6	51.5
Central Highlands	94.6	5.4	51.1
Circular Head	95.5	4.5	41.5
Clarence	97.1	2.9	49.5
Derwent Valley	93.8	6.2	51.0
Devonport	94.3	5.7	53.6
Dorset	92.5	7.5	50.5
Flinders Island	94.6	5.4	43.6
George Town	92.5	7.5	54.5
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	94.8	5.2	54.3
Glenorchy	95.4	4.6	50.5
Hobart	96.5	3.5	43.9
Huon	95.0	5.0	51.5
Kentish	93.9	6.1	49.7
King Island	98.2	1.8	38.6
Kingborough	96.6	3.4	47.0
Latrobe	94.4	5.6	51.5
Launceston	94.9	5.1	47.9
Meander Valley	96.3	3.7	47.6
Northern Midlands	95.6	4.4	46.3
Sorell	95.5	4.5	47.6
Southern Midlands	95.4	4.6	44.6
Tasman	95.2	4.8	52.8
Waratah-Wynyard	94.1	5.9	52.3
West Coast	86.5	13.5	49.3
West Tamar	95.0	5.0	48.1
Tasmania	95.3	4.7	49.1
Australia	95.1	4.9	44.9

Table 116: The proportion of labour force aged over 45 that were employed or unemployed, and the proportion of the population aged over 45 that was not in the labour force, in Tasmanian LGAs in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.



Over 5.0% of the labour force was aged over 65 in 16 Tasmanian LGAs in 2016. LGAs with the highest proportion of the labour force aged over the traditional retirement age of 65 years were Flinders Island (11.7%), Glamorgan/Spring Bay (9.7%), King Island (9.5%) and Central Highlands (9.2%; Table 117). LGAs with the lowest proportion were Brighton (2.6%), Glenorchy (2.9%), Burnie (3.3%) and West Coast (3.7%).

The proportion of the labour force aged over 65 grew in all LGAs from 2011 to 2016. The fastest growth was observed in Tasman (+3.7%), King Island (+3.7%), Central Highlands (+2.8%) and Glamorgan/Spring Bay (+2.6%). The slowest growth was observed in the West Coast (+0.5%), Waratah-Wynyard (+0.7%), Glenorchy (+0.8%) and Brighton (+0.8%).

The largest number of workers aged over 65 were in Hobart (1,245 people), Launceston (1,115 people), Clarence (1,091 people) and Kingborough (740 people). The smallest numbers were in Flinders Island (52 people), West Coast (64 people), Tasman (75 people) and King Island (79 people).

The number of workers aged over 65 increased in all LGAs from 2011 to 2016 except the West Coast. LGAs with the largest change in labour force aged over 65 were Hobart (+386 people), Launceston (+316 people), Clarence (+294 people) and Kingborough (+245 people). The West Coast had a decrease of 5 workers aged over 65 from 2011 to 2016. LGAs with the smallest increases were Flinders Island (+9 people), Central Highlands (+25 people) and Tasman (+27 people).

	Number of workers aged over 65			Proportion of labour force aged over 65 (%)		
	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016	2011	2016	Change 2011 to 2016
Break O'Day	96	125	+29	4.3	5.8	+1.5
Brighton	120	190	+70	1.8	2.6	+0.8
Burnie	219	281	+62	2.5	3.3	+0.8
Central Coast	285	411	+126	3.0	4.3	+1.3
Central Highlands	57	82	+25	6.5	9.2	+2.8
Circular Head	141	225	+84	3.7	5.9	+2.2
Clarence	797	1,091	+294	3.2	4.2	+1.0
Derwent Valley	123	186	+63	2.9	4.4	+1.5
Devonport	286	441	+155	2.7	4.2	+1.5
Dorset	136	192	+56	4.6	6.9	+2.3
Flinders Island	43	52	+9	10.3	11.7	+1.5
George Town	93	125	+32	3.4	5.0	+1.6
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	125	169	+44	7.1	9.7	+2.6
Glenorchy	434	608	+174	2.1	2.9	+0.8
Hobart	859	1,245	+386	3.3	4.8	+1.5
Huon	243	370	+127	3.7	5.4	+1.7
Kentish	88	153	+65	3.3	5.8	+2.5
King Island	51	79	+28	5.9	9.5	+3.7
Kingborough	495	740	+245	2.9	4.3	+1.4
Latrobe	153	241	+88	3.3	5.0	+1.7
Launceston	839	1,155	+316	2.7	3.8	+1.1
Meander Valley	305	473	+168	3.4	5.3	+1.9
Northern Midlands	249	371	+122	4.4	6.3	+2.0
Sorell	152	278	+126	2.4	4.1	+1.7
Southern Midlands	134	170	+36	4.9	6.1	+1.2
Tasman	48	75	+27	5.2	8.9	+3.7
Waratah-Wynyard	219	247	+28	3.6	4.3	+0.7
West Coast	69	64	-5	3.2	3.7	+0.5
West Tamar	370	526	+156	3.5	5.0	+1.5
Tasmania	7,353	10,493	+3,140	3.2	4.5	+1.3
Australia	333,452	461,624	+128,172	3.1	4.0	+0.9

Table 117: The number and proportion of workers aged over 65 in the labour force in Tasmanian LGAs in 2011 and 2016, and the change in this from 2011 to 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 & 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Less than 10% of workers aged over 65 in every Tasmanian LGA labour force were unemployed in 2016 (Table 118). The highest proportion of workers over 65 years that were unemployed were in West Coast (6.3%), Circular Head (5.3%), Dorset (4.2%) and George Town (4.0%).

The majority of people aged over 65 were not in the labour force in all LGAs.

King Island had the lowest proportion of the population aged over 65 that was not in the labour force at 67.4%, followed by Flinders Island at 70.9%, Tasman at 71.4% and Central Highlands at 72.3%. The highest proportion of the over 65 age group not in the labour force were Burnie (83.9%), Clarence (83.6%), Central Coast (83.6%) and Waratah-Wynyard (83.5%).



	Proportion (%)		
	Labour force aged over 65		Population aged over 65 not in labour force
	Employed	Unemployed	
Break O'Day	100.0	0.0	82.7
Brighton	97.9	2.1	81.2
Burnie	96.8	3.2	83.9
Central Coast	97.6	2.4	83.6
Central Highlands	100.0	0.0	72.3
Circular Head	94.7	5.3	74.4
Clarence	97.8	2.2	83.6
Derwent Valley	98.4	1.6	79.9
Devonport	97.7	2.3	82.6
Dorset	95.8	4.2	79.4
Flinders Island	100.0	0.0	70.9
George Town	96.0	4.0	81.7
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	98.2	1.8	77.1
Glenorchy	98.8	1.2	82.5
Hobart	98.0	2.0	78.3
Huon	96.8	3.2	80.2
Kentish	100.0	0.0	78.4
King Island	100.0	0.0	67.4
Kingborough	97.0	3.0	82.4
Latrobe	98.8	1.2	82.4
Launceston	99.1	0.9	81.0
Meander Valley	98.3	1.7	80.0
Northern Midlands	99.2	0.8	77.4
Sorell	98.9	1.1	80.8
Southern Midlands	97.6	2.4	74.0
Tasman	100.0	0.0	71.4
Waratah-Wynyard	100.0	0.0	83.5
West Coast	93.8	6.3	80.9
West Tamar	96.8	3.2	81.6
Tasmania	97.6	2.4	81.0
Australia	97.2	2.8	78.8

Table 118: The proportion of labour force aged over 65 that were employed or unemployed, and the proportion of the population aged over 65 that was not in the labour force, in Tasmanian LGAs in 2016.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder.

Appendix 1: ABS definitions of limitations and restrictions

Core activity limitation levels

Profound: the person is unable to do, or always needs help with, a core activity task.

Severe: the person:

- sometimes needs help with a core activity task, and/or
- has difficulty understanding or being understood by family or friends, or
- can communicate more easily using sign language or other non-spoken forms of communication.

Moderate: the person needs no help, but has difficulty with a core activity task.

Mild: the person needs no help and has no difficulty with any of the core activity tasks, but:

- uses aids or equipment, or has one or more of the following limitations
- cannot easily walk 200 metres
- cannot walk up and down stairs without a handrail
- cannot easily bend to pick up an object from the floor
- cannot use public transport
- can use public transport, but needs help or supervision
- needs no help or supervision, but has difficulty using public transport.

For more information, visit: <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/>

Sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Tasmania, 2015, ABS cat. no. 4430.0: Appendix 1 – Limitations and Restrictions.

Limitation or restriction/ Activity	Task
Specific limitation or restriction	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding other • Being understood by others
Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting into or out of a bed or chair • Moving about usual place of residence • Moving about a place away from usual residence • Walking 200 metres • Walking up and down stairs without a handrail • Bending and picking up an object from the floor • Using public transport
Self-care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showering or bathing • Dressing • Eating • Toileting; Bladder or bowel control

Limitation or restriction/ Activity	Task
Schooling or employment restrictions	
Schooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to attend school • Attends a special school • Attends special classes at an ordinary school • Needs at least one day a week off school on average • Has difficulty at school
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanently unable to work • Restricted in the type of work they can or could do • Need, or would need, at least one day a week off work on average • Restricted in the number of hours they can, or could, work • Requires special equipment, modified work environment or special arrangements • Needs ongoing assistance or supervision • Would find it difficult to change jobs or get a preferred job • Needs assistance from a disability job placement program or agency
Without specific limitation or restriction	
Health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foot care • Taking medications or administering injections • Dressing wounds • Using medical machinery • Manipulating muscles or limbs
Reading or writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking bills or bank statements • Writing letters • Filling in forms
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going to places away from the usual place of residence
Household chores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing • Vacuuming • Dusting
Property maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing light bulbs, taps, washers or car registration stickers • Making minor home repairs • Mowing lawns, watering, pruning shrubs, light weeding or planting • Removing rubbish
Meal preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing ingredients • Cooking food
Cognition or emotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making friendships, maintaining relationships, or interacting with others • Coping with feelings or emotions • Decision making or thinking through problems • Managing own behaviour

Appendix 2: Country of birth classifications

Oceania and Antarctica

Australia

Oceania and Antarctica (excl. Australia)

- New Zealand
- Melanesia
- Micronesia
- Polynesia (excluding Hawaii)
- Antarctica

Europe

North-West Europe

- UK, Channel Island and Isle of Man
- Ireland
- Western Europe
- Northern Europe

Southern and Eastern Europe

- Southern Europe
- South Eastern Europe
- Eastern Europe

Africa and the Middle East

North Africa and the Middle East

- North Africa
- Middle East

Sub-Saharan Africa

- Central and West Africa
- Southern and East Africa

Asia

South-East Asia

- Mainland South-East Asia
- Maritime South-East Asia

North-East Asia

- Chinese Asia (include Mongolia)
- Japan and the Koreas

Southern and Central Asia

- Southern Asia
- Central Asia

Americas

Americas

- Northern America
- South America
- Central America
- Caribbean

Appendix 3: Language spoken at home classifications

Northern European Languages

- Celtic
- English
- German and Related
- Dutch and Related
- Scandinavian
- Finnish and related

Southern European Languages

- French
- Greek
- Iberian
- Italian
- Maltese
- Other

Eastern European Languages

- Baltic
- Hungarian
- East Slavic
- South Slavic
- West Slavic
- Other

Southwest and Central Asian Languages

- Iranian
- Middle Eastern Semitic
- Turkic
- Other

Southern Asian Languages

- Dravidian
- Indo-Aryan
- Other

Southeast Asian Languages

- Burmese and related
- Hmong-Mien
- Mon-Khmer
- Tai
- Southeast Asian Austronesian
- Other

Eastern Asian Languages

- Chinese
- Japanese
- Korean
- Other

Australian Indigenous Languages

- Arnhem Land & Daly River Region
- Yolngu Matha
- Cape York Peninsula
- Torres Strait Island
- Northern Desert Fringe Area
- Arandic
- Western Desert
- Kimberley Area
- Other

Other

- American
- African
- Pacific Austronesian
- Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles
- Papua New Guinea
- Invented
- Sign

Sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder

Appendix 4: Weekly and annual income brackets

The following table provides ABS weekly and corresponding annual income brackets.

Weekly Income	Annual Income
\$1 - \$149	\$1 - \$7,799
\$150 - \$299	\$7,800 - \$15,599
\$300 - \$399	\$15,600 - \$20,799
\$400 - \$499	\$20,800 - \$25,999
\$500 - \$649	\$26,000 - \$33,799
\$650 - \$799	\$33,800 - \$41,599
\$800 - \$999	\$41,600 - \$51,999
\$1,000 - \$1,249	\$52,000 - \$64,999
\$1,250 - \$1,499	\$65,000 - \$77,999
\$1,500 - \$1,749	\$78,000 - \$90,999
\$1,750 - \$1,999	\$91,000 - \$103,999
\$2,000 - \$2,999	\$104,000 - \$155,999
\$3,000 or more	\$156,000 or more

Sourced from the ABS Census 2016 TableBuilder.

Appendix 5: Government payments

Brief requirements and benefits of some relevant Government payments in 2018. Visit the Department of Human Services, Australian Government website for more information: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink>.

Concession	Eligibility	Benefits
Age Pension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 65 years and 6 months of age • Earn less than (fortnightly): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Single: \$2,024.40 – Couple (combined): \$3,096.40 – Couple (separated by illness): \$4,008.80 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income support
Pensioner Concession Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving certain Centrelink payments, including the Age Pension. • People who receive certain Centrelink payments and are over 60 or have partial capacity to work may also be eligible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced medical and healthcare costs. • Reduced utility bills (state and territory dependent).
Rental Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renting or paying fees in a retirement village. • Receiving certain Centrelink payments, including the Age Pension. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support towards paying rent.
Carer Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing care for someone who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – has disability, severe illness or frailty; – likely to have disability or illness for at least 12 months (unless terminal); – receives care at home or in hospital. • Earn less than \$250,000 combined annual income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income support while caring.
Newstart Allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 22 and 65.5 years of age. • Unemployed, looking for work. • Earn less than (fortnightly): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Single: \$1,069.84 – Single (Over age 60, on Newstart for 9 consecutive months): \$1,157 – Couple (individual): \$978.34 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income support while unemployed and looking for work.

Appendix 6: Homelessness classifications

Primary homelessness	
Shelter definition	Without conventional accommodation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping rough or in improvised dwellings
ABS classification	Persons living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out
Secondary homelessness	
Shelter definition	Frequently move from one temporary shelter to another <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency accommodation, couch-surfing, refuge/shelter
ABS classification	Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless
	Persons staying temporarily with other households
	Persons in other temporary lodging
Tertiary homelessness	
Shelter definition	In accommodation that falls below minimum community standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boarding house, caravan park
ABS classification	Persons living in boarding houses
	Persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings

Sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, ABS cat. no. 2049.0 and Shelter TAS: Homelessness in Tas - Facts 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.shelbertas.org.au/housing-in-tasmania/homelessness/some-facts/>

Appendix 7: ABS labour force occupation classifications

Occupation	Occupation Sub-classification
Managers	Chief Executives, General Managers & Legislators
	Farmers & Farm Managers
	Specialist Managers
	Hospitality, Retail & Service Managers
	Managers, nfd
Professionals	Arts & Media Professionals
	Business, Human Resource & Marketing Professionals
	Design, Engineering, Science & Transport Professionals
	Education Professionals
	Health Professionals
	ICT Professionals
	Legal, Social & Welfare Professionals
	Professionals, nfd
	Engineering, ICT & Science Technicians
Automotive & Engineering Trades Workers	
Technicians & Trades Workers	Construction Trades Workers
	Electrotechnology & Telecommunications Trades Workers
	Food Trades Workers
	Skilled Animal & Horticultural Workers
	Other Technicians & Trades Workers
	Technicians & Trades Workers, nfd
	Health & Welfare Support Workers
	Carers & Aides
	Hospitality Workers
Community & Personal Service Workers	Protective Service Workers
	Sports & Personal Service Workers
	Community & Personal Service Workers, nfd
	Office Managers & program Administrators
	Personal Assistants & Secretaries
Clerical & Administrative Workers	General Clerical Workers
	Inquiry Clerks & Receptionists
	Numerical Clerks
	Clerical & Office Support Workers
	Other Clerical & Administrative Workers
	Clerical & Office Support Workers, nfd

Occupation	Occupation Sub-classification
Sales Workers	Sales Representatives & Agents
	Sales Assistants & Salespersons
	Sales Support Workers
	Sales Workers, nfd
Machinery Operators & Drivers	Machine & Stationary Plant Operators
	Mobile Plant Operators
	Road & Rail Drivers
	Storepersons
	Machinery Operators & Drivers, nfd
Labourers	Cleaners & Laundry Workers
	Construction & mining Labourers
	Factory Process Workers
	Farm, Forestry & Garden Workers
	Food Preparation Assistants
	Other Labourers
	Labourers, nfd

nfd: not further defined.

Sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder

Appendix 2: ABS industry classifications

Industry	Industry Sub-classification
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Agriculture
	Aquaculture
	Forestry and logging
	Fishing, hunting and trapping
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing support
Mining	Coal mining
	Oil and Gas extraction
	Metal ore mining
	Non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying
	Exploration and other mining support
Manufacturing	Food product manufacturing
	Beverage and tobacco manufacturing
	Textile, leather, clothing and footwear manufacturing
	Wood product manufacturing
	Pulp, paper and converted paper products manufacturing
	Printing (+ reproduction of recorded media)
	Petroleum and Coal product manufacturing
	Basic chemical and chemical product manufacturing
	Polymer product and rubber product manufacturing
	Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing
	Primary metal and metal product manufacturing
	Fabricated metal product manufacturing
	Transport equipment manufacturing
	Machinery and equipment manufacturing
	Furniture and other manufacturing
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	Electricity supply
	Gas supply
	Water supply, sewerage and drainage
	Waste collection, treatment and disposal

Sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder

Industry	Industry Sub-classification
Wholesale Trade	Basic material wholesaling
	machinery and equipment wholesaling
	Motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts
	Grocery, liquor and tobacco product
	Other Goods
Construction	Commission-based wholesaling
	Building construction
	Heavy and civil engineering construction
Retail Trade	Construction services
	Motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts
	Fuel
	Food
	Other store-based
	Non-store retailing and retail commission-based buying and/or selling
Accommodation and Food Services	Accommodation
	Food and beverage service
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Road transport
	Rail transport
	Water transport
	Air and space
	Other transport
	Postal and courier pick-up and delivery
	Transport support
	Warehousing and storage
Information Media and Telecommunications	Publishing (except internet and music)
	Motion picture and sound recording activities
	Broadcasting (except internet)
	Internet publishing and broadcasting
	Telecommunications
	Internet service providers, web search portals and data processing
Financial and Insurance Services	Library and other information services
	Finance
	Insurance and Superannuation funds
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	Auxiliary finance and insurance services
	Rental and hiring services (except real estate)
	Property operators and real estate

Industry	Industry Sub-classification
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (except computer system design and related services)
	Computer system design and related services
Administrative and Support Services	Administrative services
	Building cleaning, pest control and other support services
Public Administration and Safety	Public administration
	Defence
	Public order, safety and regulatory services
Education and Training	Preschool and school education
	tertiary education
	Adult, community and other education
Health Care and Social Assistance	Hospitals
	Medical and other health care services
	Residential care services
Arts and Recreation Services	Social assistance services
	Heritage activities
	Creative and performing arts activities
	Sports and recreation activities
Other Services	Gambling activities
	Repair and maintenance
	Personal and other services
	Private households employing staff and undifferentiated goods and service-producing activities of households for own use

Sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder

Appendix 9: Areas included in Tasmanian region classifications.

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
- Tarroona — 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

*North & North East is also referred to as Launceston & North East by the ABS.

Sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder. For more information visit [https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian+Statistical+Geography+Standard+\(ASGS\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian+Statistical+Geography+Standard+(ASGS)).

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