Main Features

Households with computer access (annual change)
Queensland  16.4%
Australia    10.6%

Households with internet access (annual change)
Queensland  25.8%
Australia    17.2%

Commentary

• There were 957,000 households (65% of total) in Queensland with home computer access in 2003, an increase of 16.4% from 2002 (822,000 households) (Figure 1). In comparison, Australia had 5,038,000 households with computer access in 2003 (66% of total), an increase of 10.6% over the previous year. The Australian Capital Territory (80%), Victoria (68%) and Western Australia (67%) were above the national average, while New South Wales had the same proportion as Queensland.

• Queensland households with home internet access rose by 25.8% from 602,000 in 2002 to 757,000 (52% of total) in 2003 (Figure 1). The number of Australian households with internet access was 4,039,000 in 2003 (53% of total), an increase of 17.2% over the previous year. The Australian Capital Territory (66%), New South Wales (54%) and Victoria (54%) were above the national average.

• Among people aged 15 years or over with a disability in Queensland in 2003, 43% used a home computer in the previous 12 months. For the same period, 32% accessed the internet at home. Both proportions were higher than those in Australia (41% and 30% respectively).

• The most common purpose of use for a computer or the internet at home for people with a disability in Queensland in 2003 was for personal or private purposes (93% of those using a computer at home and 95% of those using the internet at home). Among children aged 5 to 14 years in Queensland, 95% used a computer during or outside of school hours in the 12 months to April 2003. Children were most likely to have used a computer at school (89%), followed by home (80%), someone else's home (41%) and a public library (12%).

• The internet was accessed by 63% of children aged 5 to 14 years in Queensland in the 12 months to April 2003. Children were most likely to have used the internet at home (49%), followed by school (46%), someone else's home (15%) and a public library (4%).

• About a fifth (19%) of Queensland children using a computer at home used it every day, while a further 54% used it on 2 to 6 days a week. The internet was accessed at home daily by 13% of children who used the internet and on 2 to 6 days a week by a further 45% of these children (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Households with computer and internet access, Queensland, 1998 to 2003

Figure 2: Frequency of use of computer and internet at home by children using these at home, Queensland, 2003

• Similar to people with a disability, the most common purpose of use for a computer or the internet for people aged 60 years or over was for personal or private purposes (99% of those using a computer at home and 95% of those using the internet at home).

• Of people aged 60 years or over living in private households in Queensland in 2003, 30% used a computer in the previous 12 months, while 22% reported using the internet during the same period. Both proportions were slightly higher than those in Australia (29% and 21% respectively).