Age structure

The estimated resident population (ERP) of Queensland increased from 4,090,908 to 4,474,098 from 30 June 2006 to 30 June 2011. The ERP of some age groups increased more than others over this five year period (Figure 1). The largest percentage increase in population from 30 June 2006 to 2011 was among 65-69 year olds (26.2%), while 10-14 year olds had the lowest percentage increase (0.8%). Adults aged 25-29 years had the largest increase in population size over the five years (52,722 people), while the smallest increase was among 10-14 year olds (2,434 people).

Figure 1: Population by age group at 30 June, Queensland

Median age

In the five years to 30 June 2011, the median age of Queensland’s population increased by 0.6 years (from 36.0 years to 36.6 years). Over the same period, the median age of males increased from 35.4 to 35.9 years, and the median age of females increased from 36.6 to 37.3 years.

There were large variations in age structure among Queensland’s local government areas (LGAs) at 30 June 2011 (Figure 2). The highest median ages were recorded in Hinchinbrook (S) (46.0 years), Fraser Coast (R) (44.6 years) and North Burnett (R) (44.5 years). The LGAs with the lowest median ages were predominantly Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities including Cherbourg (S) (21.9 years), Yarrabah (S) (22.1 years) and Woorabinda (S) (22.2 years).

Children (0-14 years)

There were seven LGAs with more than one third of the population children aged 0-14 years (Table 1). These LGAs also had a predominately Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

The LGA of Diamantina (S) in the far west of the state had both the lowest proportion (13.3%) and number (39) of children at 30 June 2011.

Table 1: LGAs with more than a third of the population at 0-14 years, 30 June 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LGA</th>
<th>Total Persons</th>
<th>Persons aged 0-14 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>number</td>
<td>number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doomadgee (S)</td>
<td>1,404</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torres Strait Island (R)</td>
<td>4,772</td>
<td>1,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mornington (S)</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherbourg (S)</td>
<td>1,272</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Peninsula Area (R)</td>
<td>2,568</td>
<td>885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woorabinda (S)</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarrabah (S)</td>
<td>2,740</td>
<td>939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Queensland’s ‘child dependency ratio’ (the ratio of children aged 0-14 compared to those of working age 15-64 years) decreased from 30.2 per cent at 30 June 2006 to 29.5 per cent at 30 June 2011.

Working age population (15-64 years)

In all Queensland LGAs, more than 50 per cent of the population was within the working age range. LGAs with the smallest proportions of working age persons were Torres Strait Island (R) (59.5%) and Fraser Coast (R) (60.1%), while Diamantina (S) (79.3%) and Burke (S) (77.0%) had the highest proportions.

People aged 65 years and over

The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over in Queensland LGAs ranged from 1.8% in the remote town of Weipa (T) to more than one fifth in Fraser Coast (R) (21.0%) and Hinchinbrook (S) (21.6%).

Queensland’s ‘aged dependency ratio’ (ratio of those aged 65 years or more to the working ages of 15-64 years) increased from 17.9% in 2006 to 19.2% at 30 June 2011.

Ratio of males to females

There were 99.4 males in the population for every 100 females in Queensland at 30 June 2011, compared with 99.6 at 30 June 2006. Of all the states and territories in Australia, only Western Australia (101.2) and Northern Territory (110.6) had male to female ratios higher than Queensland in 2011. The ratio of males to females in Queensland LGAs ranged from 163.4 in Burke (S) to 90.8 in Wujal Wujal (S).

Note: additional data sourced from ABS 3101.0, December quarter 2011, released 20 June 2012.

1 Excluding Other Territories.
Figure 2: Median age, local government areas in Queensland, 30 June 2011

Source: ABS 3235.0 Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2011
Geography based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), 2011 edition

Median age (number of LGAs)
- 40 to less than 47 (18)
- 35 to less than 40 (26)
- 30 to less than 35 (14)
- 0 to less than 30 (16)

Figure 2: Median age, local government areas in Queensland, 30 June 2011