



Census 2011: Volunteering in Queensland

Key points:

- 18.7% of Queensland's population aged 15 years and over volunteered for an organisation or group in the 12 months prior to the 2011 Census, compared with 18.3% in the 2006 Census.
- Queensland had the fourth highest volunteering rate of Australia's states and territories, and was above the national average of 17.8%.
- Although rates of volunteering did not differ greatly between demographic groups, some of the groups most likely to volunteer were females, the middle-aged, higher income earners, those in a registered marriage, and those living in a one family household.

1. Overall

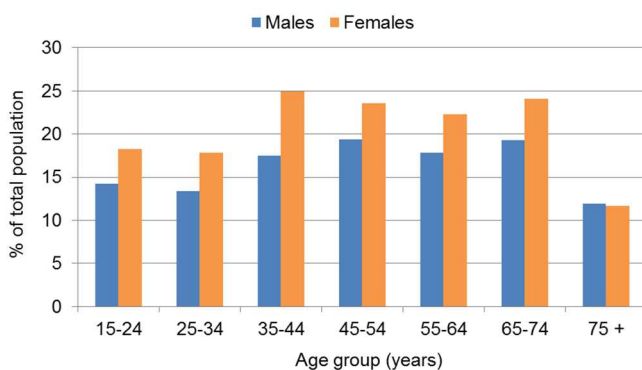
In the 12 months prior to the 2011 Census, 18.7% (645,543) of Queensland's population aged 15 years and over spent time doing unpaid voluntary work through an organisation or group. This was a 0.4% point increase from the 2006 Census, where 18.3% (568,230) volunteered.

2. Age and gender

The pattern of volunteering varied with life stage, with middle to older aged people the most likely to volunteer in both 2006 and 2011.

Similar to 2006, females volunteered more than males (20.9% compared with 16.4%). Female volunteering rates peaked at 24.9% for the 35-44 years age group, while for males the highest rate was 19.3% for the 45-54 years age group (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Volunteer rates by age and gender

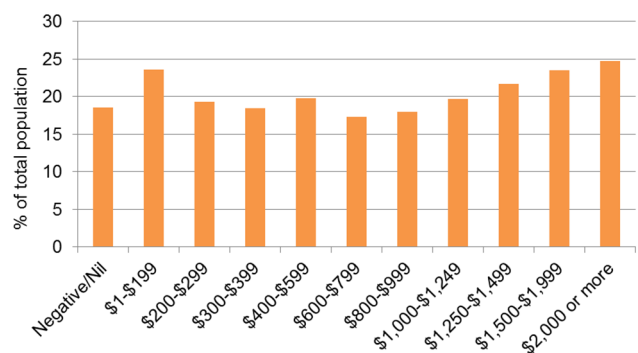


Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011, B19

3. Personal income

With the exception of those earning between \$1 and \$199 per week, people on higher incomes of \$1,250 or more per week were more likely to volunteer than all other income groups (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Volunteer rates by total personal income (weekly)



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011

4. Marital status

People who were in a registered marriage had higher volunteer rates (23.1%) than those who were not married (17.1%) or in a de facto marriage (13.9%) (Table 1).

Table 1: Participation in voluntary work by social marital status (a)

Social marital status	Volunteer	Volunteer rate
	Persons ('000)	%
In a registered marriage	343.9	23.1
In a de facto marriage	47.6	13.9
Not married	212.3	17.1
Queensland (b)	645.5	18.7

(a) Includes same-sex couples.

(b) Includes not applicable.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011



5. Household composition

People living in a one family household (20.1%) were the most likely to volunteer, followed by those living in a non-family (lone person or group) household (18.4%) or multiple family household (10.4%) (Table 2).

Table 2: Participation in voluntary work by household composition

Household composition	Volunteer	Volunteer rate
	persons ('000)	%
One family household	504.5	20.1
Multiple family household	15.2	14.0
Non-family household (a)	100.0	18.4
Non-classifiable	14.9	8.2

(a) Comprises 'Lone person' and 'Group households'.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011

6. Geographical comparisons

The Queensland 2011 volunteer rate of 18.7% was higher than the Australian average of 17.8%, and ranked fourth in comparison with the other states as it did in 2006. Only Queensland and Western Australia recorded an increase in the volunteer rate from 2006 to 2011 (Table 3).

Table 3: Participation in voluntary work by state and territory, 2006 and 2011

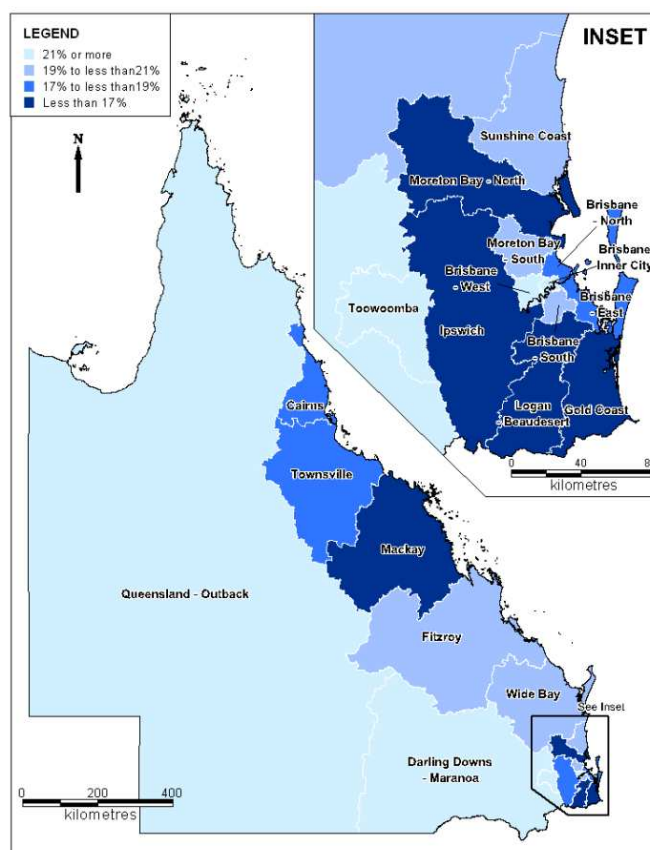
State/territory	2006	2011
	- % -	
NSW	17.1	16.9
Vic.	17.9	17.7
Qld	18.3	18.7
SA	20.4	19.8
WA	16.8	16.9
Tas.	20.1	19.5
NT	17.0	16.6
ACT	22.3	21.2
Australia (a)	17.9	17.8

(a) Includes other Territories.

Source: ABS Censuses of Population and Housing 2006 and 2011, B19

Figure 3 displays the pattern of volunteer rates across Queensland Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s). Brisbane - West and Darling Downs - Maranoa had the highest volunteer rates (25.1%) while Logan - Beaudesert had the lowest volunteer rates (14.7%).

Figure 3: Volunteer rates in Queensland SA4s



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011

Technical note

There are a number of other Queensland and Australian based surveys on voluntary work, with substantial differences in results compared with the Census. Volunteer rates in the ABS' General Social Surveys and OESR's Queensland Regional Household Surveys estimate volunteer rates to be at least double that of the Census.

These differences are likely due to differing survey methodologies. For example, while the Census used a self-completion questionnaire, other surveys used personal face-to-face and telephone interviews. Personal interviews often provide more accurate responses due to prompting and clarification provided by interviewers.

For more information, please visit OESR's *Queensland Regional Profiles* and *Queensland Regional Database* at www.oesr.qld.gov.au.

All data in this report were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Censuses of Population and Housing (www.abs.gov.au).

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