

Queensland Government household projections, 2025 edition: Methodology

Background

The Queensland Government produces household and living arrangement projections to complement its population and dwelling projections. The household projections show the types of households people are likely to live in and each person's relationship to others in the household.

The household and living arrangement projections reflect assumptions about the propensity of individuals to be in specific living arrangements, as well as household formation. In addition, they depend on the core assumptions of fertility, mortality and migration underlying the 2025 edition of Queensland Government population projections, as well as assumptions about the magnitude, timing and spatial distribution of housing supply underpinning the dwelling projections at the statistical area level 2 (SA2) and/or LGA level. For more information and details of the assumptions that underpin the 2025 edition of Queensland Government population projections, see the [Queensland Government population projections: Methodology and assumptions paper](#), and for the dwelling projections, see the [Queensland Government dwelling projections: Methodology paper](#).

The Queensland Government projections should not be interpreted as precise point estimate forecasts or predictions. Rather, the projections reflect the outcomes of applying a set of assumptions about the future to a base population. As a result, the accuracy of these projections is dependent on the extent to which the underlying assumptions eventuate.

To account for uncertainty, three projection series (low, medium and high) for households and living arrangements have been developed. Each series reflects a unique combination of assumptions and factors impacting population change, and when combined with the same set of assumptions about the propensity of individuals to be in specific living arrangements and household size and formation, collectively illustrate a range of possible future outcomes for households and living arrangements in Queensland and its sub-state regions.

Each of the low, medium and high series projections of households and living arrangements aligns with the corresponding series of the population and dwelling projections.

Users should exercise caution in the interpretation and use of household and living arrangement projections, particularly sub-state level projections where there is a much greater degree of uncertainty than at the state level. Additionally, the uncertainty in projections increases the further from the base year into the future. Users are advised to consider the combination of assumptions underpinning each series when using the projections, as outlined in this paper and the methodology and assumptions papers for both the population and dwelling projections, referenced above.

Defining dwellings and households

Households describe where and how people live in relation to other people. The 2025 edition of the Queensland Government household projections uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) definition from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing. Under this definition, a household is one or more people, at least one of whom is aged 15 years or over, who are usually resident in the same private dwelling¹.

¹ ABS, [Household, Census of Population and Housing: Census dictionary, 2021; \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

A **private residential dwelling** is a structure intended for people to live in, that does not share amenities or facilities with other dwellings. Examples of a private dwelling include a house, apartment or townhouse. Non-private dwellings provide communal or transitory accommodation and include correctional facilities, detention centres, hostels, boarding schools and residential colleges, nursing homes, and other non-self-contained accommodation for the aged.

A household is made up of the people who usually live in a specific, individual dwelling. A person may visit, eat and sleep in more than one dwelling, but the dwelling they live in most of the time is their place of usual residence, and they belong to the household associated with that dwelling. A **person can therefore only belong to one household**. These projections include only usual residents. They do not include visitors or other temporary residents.

Households are classified according to the number, ages and relationships of the people who live in them. For the 2025 edition of the Queensland Government household projections, the types of households are:

- Couple family with children
- Couple family with no children
- One parent family
- Other family
- Multiple family household
- Lone person household
- Group household.

These household types are defined based on the living arrangements of the people that comprise them.

Defining living arrangements

Living arrangements are a concept related to households, but they describe individual persons rather than groupings of people. A person's living arrangement describes their relationship to other people in their household and, in some cases, depends on their age.

For the 2025 edition of the Queensland Government household projections, each person is classified into one of 12 (13 for state level projections) living arrangement categories:

- Person living in a non-private dwelling
- Child aged under 15 years (in sub-state level projections) living with parent(s), otherwise:
 - Child aged under 15 years living with two parents (state level projections only)
 - Child aged under 15 years living with a single parent (state level projections only)
- Child aged 15 years and over living with parent(s)
- Partnered with child(ren) aged under 15 years
- Partnered with child(ren) aged 15 years and over only
- Partnered with no children
- Single parent with child(ren) under 15 years
- Single parent with child(ren) aged 15 years and over only
- Living with a family (related or unrelated individual)
- Living in an Other family
- Living alone
- Living in a Group household.

For definitions of these living arrangements and an explanation of how they are determined, see page 4.

The estimated resident population includes people living in both private and non-private dwellings. However, households are defined only for people living in private dwellings. For this reason, people living in non-private dwellings are included in the living arrangement projections but excluded from the household projections.

Specifications

The 2025 edition of the Queensland Government household projections, which include living arrangement projections, were produced concurrently with, and incorporate the 2025 edition of the Queensland Government population and dwelling projections. As such, the household and living arrangement projections from the 2025 edition reflect the underlying assumptions of the population and dwelling projections.

The base year for the 2025 edition is 2021, with time horizons to 2071 for Queensland and to 2046 for sub-state areas. Projections are as at 30 June of each year of the projection horizon.

The 2025 edition of the Queensland Government projections suite uses the 2021 final estimated resident population as the base population and incorporates data from multiple ABS Censuses of Population and Housing, including the 2021 Census.

Household and living arrangement data are released for the following geographic boundaries:

- the State of Queensland
- Greater Brisbane Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)
- 10 remaining Queensland statistical areas level 4 (SA4)
- Local Government Areas (LGA) (households only).

Projections were generated for these geographical boundaries, as sourced from Edition 3 of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)² and defined by the ABS. The 2021 version of LGA boundaries is used.

The specifications of the household projections available for the 2025 edition are summarised in Table 1, and similarly for living arrangement projections in Table 2.

Table 1 Specifications of household projections by geography

Geography	Series	Projection horizon	Projection intervals
Queensland	Low, Medium, High	2021 to 2071	Five-year
Greater Brisbane GCCSA and 10 remaining SA4s	Low, Medium, High	2021 to 2046	Five-year
LGAs	Medium	2021 to 2046	Five-year

Table 2 Specifications of living arrangement projections by geography

Geography	Series	Projection horizon	Projection intervals
Queensland	Low, Medium, High	2021 to 2071	Five-year
Greater Brisbane GCCSA and 10 remaining SA4s	Low, Medium, High	2021 to 2046	Five-year

² ABS, [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\) Edition 3, July 2021 – June 2026](#); ([abs.gov.au](#))

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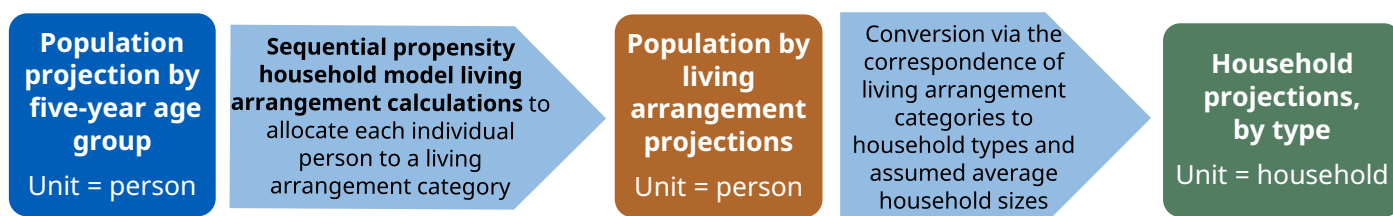
Queensland's state and sub-state household and living arrangement projections are generated for each projection interval, in sequential stages by variable and geography, and rely on different models across geographical levels.

State, Greater Brisbane Greater Capital City Statistical Area and Statistical Area Level 4 projections

Household and living arrangement projections were produced for the State of Queensland, Greater Brisbane GCCSA and 10 remaining SA4s using a sequential propensity household projection model³. The model uses the population of Queensland and each of the regions by five-year age group, as per the Queensland Government population projections, 2025 edition, as an input.

The production of household and living arrangement projections for both the State of Queensland and the Greater Brisbane GCCSA and 10 remaining SA4s is summarised in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Sequential stages of modelling variables for State and Greater Brisbane GCCSA and 10 remaining SA4s



The processes used to model living arrangement and household projections for Greater Brisbane GCCSA and the 10 remaining SA4s differ from those used at the state level as follows:

- Projections for Greater Brisbane GCCSA and the 10 remaining SA4s are underpinned by region-specific assumptions about living arrangement propensities and household formation and size, which may differ from the corresponding state level assumptions.
- State level projections are additionally available for the categories 'child aged under 15 years living with two parents' and 'child aged under 15 years living with a single parent', however, these are combined into the single category 'child aged under 15 years living with parent(s)' at the sub-state level.
- Living arrangement and household projections for Greater Brisbane GCCSA and 10 remaining SA4s are constrained to be additively consistent with state level figures.

Living arrangements

First, for each projection interval, living arrangement projections for Queensland are generated. Each five-year age group of the Queensland population is successively subdivided based on its age-specific likelihood of having certain characteristics or specific types of relationships with another person they live with, until people are allocated to one of the 12 (13 for state level projections) living arrangement types. The likelihood of members of the population having certain characteristics or specific types of relationships with another person they live with is informed by ABS 2021 Census of Population and Housing data.

Figure 2 on page 7 depicts the process of subdividing the population following a tree-like decision structure, where the share of the population allocated to each branch in a subdivision is the likelihood of having a certain characteristic.

³ Tom Wilson, *The sequential propensity household projection model*, Demographic Research, 28(24), 681-712, 2013

Households by household type

Following the projection of persons by living arrangement, household projections are generated by allocating the population in each living arrangement category to corresponding household types. Each person, excluding persons living in a non-private dwelling, is allocated to a single household type, dependent on the relationship between living arrangements and household types (see Table 3). As a result, the number of people in each living arrangement will determine the number of households by type that can be formed.

Table 3 Correspondence between living arrangements and household types

Living arrangement	Couple family with children	Couple family with no children	One parent family	Other family	Multiple family household	Lone person household	Group household
Child aged under 15 years living with two parents (state only)	✓				✓		
Child aged under 15 years living with a single parent (state only)			✓		✓		
Child aged under 15 years living with parent(s) (sub-state only)	✓		✓		✓		
Child aged 15 years and over living with parent(s)	✓		✓		✓		
Partnered with child(ren) aged under 15 years	✓				✓		
Partnered with child(ren) aged 15 years and over only	✓				✓		
Partnered with no children		✓			✓		
Single parent with child(ren) under 15 years			✓		✓		
Single parent with child(ren) aged 15 years and over only			✓		✓		
Living with a family (related or unrelated individual)	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Living in an Other family				✓	✓		
Living alone						✓	
Living in a Group household							✓
Person living in a non-private dwelling	Persons residing in non-private dwellings are not assigned to a household						

The basis for an individual household is an exact number of representative adults (persons aged 15 years or over, and of a living arrangement specific to the household type), with the number informed by definition or assumptions based on ABS 2021 Census of Population and Housing data. For example, a couple family with no children household must contain two persons (representative adults) in the partnered with no children living arrangement and cannot contain any persons in a child living arrangement.

The number of couple families with children is not only informed by the number of representative adults in the corresponding living arrangement types, but is also balanced against the number of children available to form these households, i.e., persons who are children aged under 15 years living with two parents or children aged 15 years and over living with parent(s).

Persons in the living with a family (related or unrelated individual) category are allocated to a range of household types. While all persons in this category are aged 15 years or over living in a private dwelling, they are not treated as representative adults, so do not determine the number of households that are formed.

Following this, the number of multiple family households is determined, with the projected number of families allocated to either a single or multiple family household. A single-family household contains only one family and is either a couple family with children, couple family with no children, one parent family or other family. A multiple family household is a household made up of more than one family, living together in the same dwelling.

The number of families and combination of family types in a multiple family household may vary between each multiple family household. The share of each family type allocated to multiple family households is informed by ABS 2021 Census of Population and Housing data. In Queensland, around 9 in 10 families are allocated to single family households for each family type.

Local government area projections

Household projections are not directly modelled at the LGA level. Instead, projections of households by type are generated for SA2s, which are then concorded to produce LGA-level figures.

The SA2 household projections should be viewed as working calculations and not as a separate projection series in their own right. As such, the SA2 household projections are not published and are used only for the purpose of creating LGA projections.

Projections of households by type for SA2s are constructed using the SA2 population and dwelling projections, including the projected age structures for SA2s. The SA2 household projections are constrained to the Greater Brisbane GCCSA and SA4 household projections, and then aggregated by their LGAs.

Figure 2 Outline of the sequential propensity household model living arrangement calculations

Source: Tom Wilson, *The sequential propensity household projection model*, Demographic Research, 28(24), 681-712, 2013

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