

# Census 2011: Queensland's Population Compared

## Key points:

- With 4,332,739 usual residents at the time of the 2011 Census (9 August), Queensland was Australia's third most populous state.
- Queensland's population grew by more than any other state or territory since the 2006 Census (428,205 persons).
- Queensland has a slightly younger age profile than the rest of Australia, with a larger proportion of children and young people and a smaller proportion of people aged 70 years and over.
- Of Australia's states and territories, Queensland had the second largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (155,824) and the second highest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (3.6%).

## 1. Population

Results of the 2011 Census show that, with 4,332,739 usual residents, Queensland was Australia's third most populous state behind New South Wales (6,917,658) and Victoria (5,354,042) (Table 1).

**Table 1: Census count of usual residents**

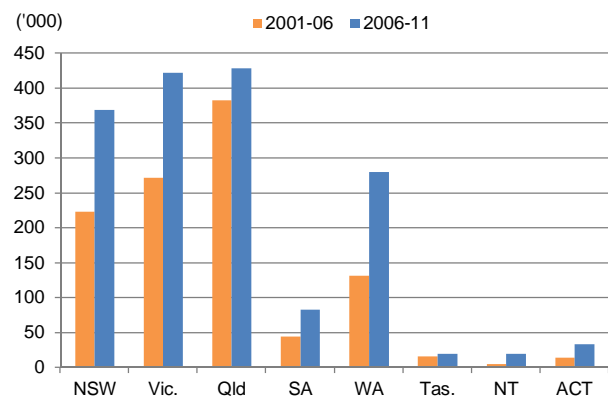
	2006	2011
	– persons –	
New South Wales	6,549,178	6,917,658
Victoria	4,932,423	5,354,042
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>3,904,534</b>	<b>4,332,739</b>
South Australia	1,514,336	1,596,572
Western Australia	1,959,086	2,239,170
Tasmania	476,480	495,354
Northern Territory	192,898	211,945
ACT	324,034	357,222
Other territories <sup>(a)</sup>	2,319	3,033
<b>Australia total</b>	<b>19,855,288</b>	<b>21,507,719</b>
	– % Australian total –	
New South Wales	33.0	32.2
Victoria	24.8	24.9
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>20.1</b>
South Australia	7.6	7.4
Western Australia	9.9	10.4
Tasmania	2.4	2.3
Northern Territory	1.0	1.0
ACT	1.6	1.7
Other territories <sup>(a)</sup>	<0.1	<0.1
<b>Australia total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Other Territories includes Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2006 and 2011 (B01a)

Queensland's population growth in the five years to 2011 was greater than that of all other jurisdictions (Figure 1). Over the five years to 2011, Queensland's usual resident count grew by 428,205 or 11%. Victoria experienced the next highest growth in population (421,619). However, Victoria's rate of growth was lower than Queensland's at 8.5%.

**Figure 1: Five-year population growth**



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001 (U01), 2006 and 2011 (B01a)

## 2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

Of Queensland's total usual resident population, 3.6% (155,824 persons) identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin on Census night 2011 (Table 2). Queensland had the second largest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander usual residents, behind only New South Wales (172,621).

**Table 2: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, 2011**

	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples	% Australian total	% state/territory total usual resident population
New South Wales	172,621	31.5	2.5
Victoria	37,988	6.9	0.7
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>155,824</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>
South Australia	30,430	5.5	1.9
Western Australia	69,664	12.7	3.1
Tasmania	19,628	3.6	4.0
Northern Territory	56,776	10.4	26.8
ACT	5,183	0.9	1.5
<b>Australia total</b>	<b>548,368</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>

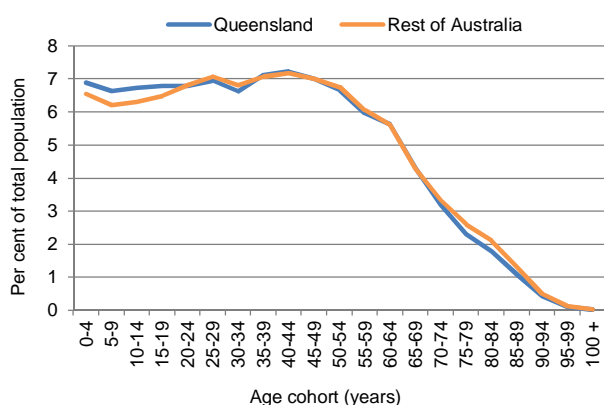
Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B01a)



### 3. Age structure

Queensland's population has a slightly younger profile than the rest of Australia. At the time of the 2011 Census, 20.2% of Queensland usual residents were aged younger than 15 years compared with 19.0% of residents elsewhere. In contrast, Queensland had a smaller proportion of people aged from 70 to 89 years (8.3%) than the rest of Australia (9.3%).

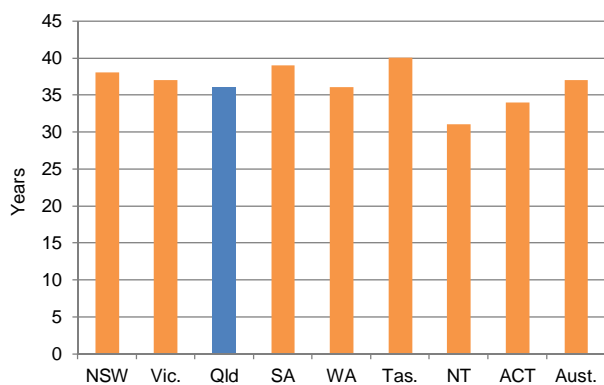
**Figure 2: Population by age cohort, 2011**



Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B04)

Reflecting its younger age profile, Queensland's median age of 36 years was lower than the Australian median of 37 years (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Median age, 2011**



Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B02)

### 4. Young people

On Census night 2011, 13.6% of Queensland's usual residents were young people aged 15-24 years. This was a slightly higher proportion than the rest of Australia (13.3%).

Of young people in Queensland aged 15-24 years, 17.1% stated they were studying full-time at TAFE or university (Table 3). This was lower than the 21.2% recorded for the rest of Australia. The proportion of Queensland young people studying part-time (5.1%) was also slightly lower than in the rest of Australia (6.3%).

**Table 3: Student status, persons aged 15-24 years, 2011**

	Queensland		Rest of Australia	
	persons	%	persons	%
Studying full-time <sup>(a)</sup>	100,685	17.1	483,953	21.2
Studying part-time <sup>(a)</sup>	30,100	5.1	142,447	6.3
Other	456,979	77.7	1,652,311	72.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>587,764</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,278,711</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes 15-24 year olds studying at TAFE or university.  
Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B04 and B15)

### 5. Cultural diversity

At the time of the 2011 Census, 888,636 people in Queensland stated they were born overseas. This represented 20.5% of Queensland's resident population, compared with 25.7% in the rest of Australia (Table 4).

The proportion of Queensland usual residents who reported speaking a language other than English at home was lower than residents of the rest of Australia (9.8% compared with 20.3%). However, Mandarin was the predominant language other than English spoken at home in both Queensland and the rest of Australia (0.9% and 1.7%).

**Table 4: Cultural diversity, 2011**

	Queensland	Rest of Australia
	- persons -	
Born overseas	888,636	4,405,511
Speaks other language at home	423,841	3,489,098
- % total persons -		
Born overseas	20.5	25.7
Speaks other language at home	9.8	20.3

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B01)



## 6. Household composition

According to the 2011 Census, Queensland's profile of family and household types was similar to the rest of Australia. Queensland had a slightly lower proportion of couple families with children (29.5%) and lone person households (21.4%), and a marginally larger proportion of couples without children (26.6%), compared with households elsewhere in Australia (Table 5).

**Table 5: Household types, 2011**

Household type	Queensland	Rest of Aust.
	– households –	
Couple family, no children	437,689	1,635,252
Couple family, children	487,018	2,024,974
One parent family	176,791	691,178
Lone person household	353,508	1,535,189
Other households <sup>(a)</sup>	193,531	647,428
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,648,537</b>	<b>6,534,021</b>
	– % total households –	
Couple family, no children	26.6	25.0
Couple family, children	29.5	31.0
One parent family	10.7	10.6
Lone person household	21.4	23.5
Other households <sup>(a)</sup>	11.7	9.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes family households (other), group households, visitor only and other non-classifiable households.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (T14)

For more information, please see OESR's *Queensland Regional Profiles* and *Queensland Regional Database* at [www.oesr.qld.gov.au](http://www.oesr.qld.gov.au).

All data in this report were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)).

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