Births, Queensland, 2016

Source: ABS 3301.0, released 13 December 2017, 10:30 am AEST

Key data

Registered births, 2016:
Queensland ........................................ 61,841
Australia .......................................... 311,104

Annual change:
Queensland ........................................ ↑ 0.2%
Australia .......................................... ↑ 1.9%

Main findings

Note: Commentary is based on year of birth registration and state of usual residence of the mother, regardless of where in Australia the birth occurred. Year of registration can be different to year of occurrence due to lags in the registration process. It should also be noted that date of registration is not uniform across states and territories. Both these factors should be kept in mind when analysing births data.

• In 2016, there were 61,841 births in Queensland, comprising 31,495 males (50.9%) and 30,346 females (49.1%). This was an increase of 0.2% over the previous year (61,745 births) (Figure 1). In Australia, the number of births increased 1.9% over the year, to 311,104 registered births in 2016.

• The total fertility rate\(^1\) in Queensland decreased from 1.842 in 2015 to 1.822 in 2016. The rate remains higher than Australia’s total fertility rate of 1.789 (Figure 2).

• In 2016, Queensland women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (118.2 births per 1,000 women). Fertility rates for Queensland Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women peaked in the 20–24 years age group (128.3 births per 1,000 women) (Figure 3). Australian women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (123.4 births per 1,000 women).

• The median age of Queensland mothers increased from 30.0 years in 2006 to 30.4 years in 2016. Over the same period, the median age of Queensland fathers has increased from 32.2 years to 32.4 years. Both Queensland figures are lower than Australia’s median age of mothers and fathers (31.2 years and 33.3 years respectively).

• The number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander births in Queensland in 2016 was 5,410. This was an increase of 3.9% since 2015. Australia recorded 18,560 registered Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander births in 2016, up 0.1% from 2015. Of the total Queensland births, 8.7% were to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander parent, compared with 6.0% for Australia.

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\(^1\) The number of children a woman would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age–specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.