Births, Queensland, 2018

Source: ABS 3301.0, released 11 December 2019, 10:30 am AEST

Key data

Registered births, 2018:
Queensland ......................................... 61,931
Australia ............................................ 315,147

Annual change:
Queensland ........................................... ↑ 1.3%
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 2018, there were 61,931 births in Queensland, comprising 31,885 males (51.5%) and 30,046 females (48.5%). This was an increase of 1.3% over the previous year (61,158 births) (Figure 1). In Australia, the number of births increased 1.9% over the year, to 315,147 registered births in 2018.

- The total fertility rate¹ in Queensland decreased from 1.772 in 2017 to 1.761 in 2018. The rate remains higher than Australia’s total fertility rate of 1.740 (Figure 2).

- In 2018, Queensland women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (111.1 births per 1,000 women). Fertility rates for Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women peaked in the 20–24 years age group (143.8 births per 1,000 women) (Figure 3). Australian women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (119.7 births per 1,000 women).

- The median age of Queensland mothers increased from 29.7 years in 2008 to 30.5 years in 2018. Over the same period, the median age of Queensland fathers has increased from 32.1 years to 32.6 years. Both Queensland figures are lower than Australia’s median age of mothers and fathers (31.4 years and 33.5 years respectively).

- The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births in Queensland in 2018 was 6,362. This was a decrease of 2.8% since 2017. Australia recorded 21,928 registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births in 2018, up 7.5% from 2017. Of the total Queensland births, 10.3% were to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parent, compared with 7.0% for Australia.

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.

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2 Caution should be exercised when interpreting changes in Queensland births between 2005 and 2010. In 2009, a ‘Retrospective Births Project’ resulted in the registration of births where there was previously incomplete information. For further information please refer to the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.