

Census 2011: Older Queenslanders

Key points:

- At the time of the 2011 Census, 568,982 people or 13.1% of Queenslanders were aged 65 years and over.
- Wide Bay Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) region had the highest proportion of people aged 65 years and over (19.8% of the total population, or one in five residents).
- As age increased, so did the likelihood of living alone, with around one-quarter (26.6%) of people aged 65 years or more living on their own in private dwellings.

1. Population

In 2011, 568,982 people or 13.1% of Queenslanders were aged 65 years and over.

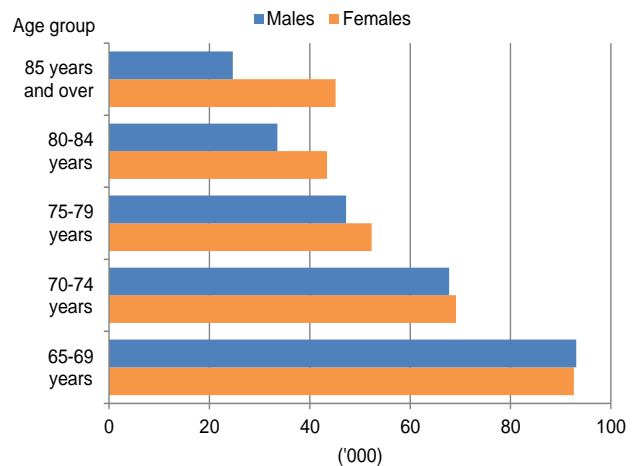
Within the resident older population in Queensland, more than half were in the 65-74 years age group (56.7%). The eldest group, those aged 85 years and over, comprised 69,799 persons or 12.3% of older persons (Table 1).

Wide Bay SA4 region had the highest proportion of people aged 65 years and over (19.8%) and Queensland - Outback SA4 region had the lowest proportion (8.8%).

While males comprised nearly half (46.8%) of Queensland's population aged 65 years and over at the time of the 2011 Census, this share reduced to just over a third (35.3%) of the eldest group aged 85 years and over.

There were slightly more males than females in the 65-69 years age group (93,116 males compared with 92,642 females). Females outnumbered males in the 70-74 years and older age groups (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Older persons by age and gender, Queensland, 2011



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011, B04

Table 1: Older persons by age group and geographic region (a) ranked by proportion aged 65 years and over, Queensland, 2011

Statistical Area Level 4	65-74 years	75-84 years	85+ years	Total 65+ years		Median age years
				number	%	
				— number —		
Wide Bay	32,191	16,371	5,573	54,135	19.8	43
Sunshine Coast	31,095	17,703	7,029	55,827	18.2	42
Darling Downs - Maranoa	11,415	6,122	2,230	19,767	16.2	39
Moreton Bay - North	19,607	10,867	4,001	34,475	16.0	39
Toowoomba	11,026	6,888	2,757	20,671	14.7	36
Brisbane - North	13,521	9,832	4,614	27,967	14.6	37
Gold Coast	41,148	22,895	9,465	73,508	14.5	38
Brisbane - East	15,919	9,157	4,013	29,089	13.8	38
Cairns	16,527	8,076	2,871	27,474	12.2	37
Brisbane - West	11,099	6,309	3,296	20,704	12.2	35
Brisbane - South	18,770	12,106	5,421	36,297	11.6	34
Fitzroy	14,065	7,588	2,530	24,183	11.4	35
Townsville	14,195	7,721	2,756	24,672	11.3	34
Ipswich	17,856	9,170	3,381	30,407	10.8	33
Mackay	9,889	5,157	1,691	16,737	10.0	35
Logan - Beaudesert	17,787	7,811	2,774	28,372	9.8	33
Moreton Bay - South	9,694	4,086	1,653	15,433	9.2	35
Brisbane Inner City	10,640	6,268	3,138	20,046	9.0	32
Queensland - Outback	4,660	2,076	548	7,284	8.8	32
Queensland	322,642	176,541	69,799	568,982	13.1	36

(a) Based on ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011, B01 and B02



2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

In 2011, there were 155,826 Queensland residents who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, accounting for 3.6% of Queensland's total resident population. The proportion of Indigenous persons reduced to 0.9% of Queensland's older population, aged 65 years and over.

The Queensland Indigenous population in 2011 had a younger age profile than the non-Indigenous population, with a median age of 20 years compared with 37 years.

3. Overseas born

Older Queenslanders were more likely to have been born overseas than the total Queensland population (25.9% compared with 20.5%). In 2011, there were 147,174 overseas-born older Queenslanders.

The United Kingdom was the leading birthplace for the older overseas-born population, accounting for 41% of Queensland's overseas born aged 65 years and over. This was followed by New Zealand (12%), Italy (5%), Germany (5%) and the Netherlands (4%). The top five source countries for the older overseas-born population have remained the same since the 2001 Census. The percentage born in the United Kingdom has decreased slightly over this time while the percentage born in New Zealand has increased slightly (Table 2).

Table 2: Top five birthplaces for older persons born overseas, Queensland

Country of birth	2001	2006	2011
United Kingdom	43	42	41
New Zealand	9	10	12
Italy	7	6	5
Germany	5	5	5
Netherlands	5	5	4

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011, X01 and Census Tables 2006 and 2001 (2068.0)

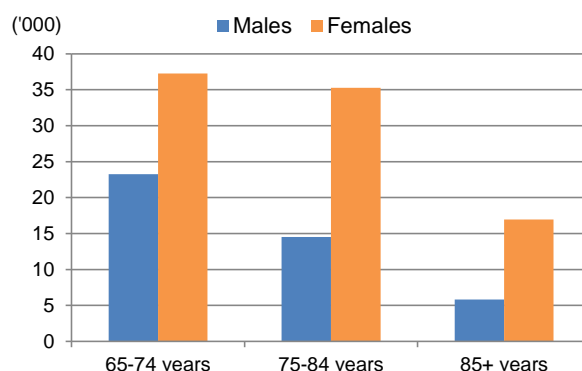
A larger proportion of the older population was born in regions that had early post-war migration to Australia, such as Europe. Of persons usually resident in Queensland and born in southern and eastern Europe, 38.4% were aged 65 years and over. The corresponding proportion for people from north-west Europe was 29.1%. By contrast, 5.9% of persons born in north-east Asia and 6.7% of those born in south-east Asia were aged 65 years and over.

4. Living arrangements

At the time of the 2011 Census, the majority of older Queenslanders living in private dwellings resided with a partner, either in a registered marriage or a de facto relationship (60.0%). Older men aged 65 years and over were much more likely to be living with a partner (72.1%) than older women (49.1%).

Around one-quarter (26.6%) of people aged 65 years or more lived on their own. The largest group of older persons living alone was females aged 65-74 years (37,249 women), closely followed by females aged 75-84 years (35,285 women) (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Older persons living alone in private dwellings, Queensland, 2011



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011, B23

Older women were nearly twice as likely as older men to be living alone, with 33.8% of women aged 65 years and over living alone compared with 18.4% of older men.

5. Care for children

Around one in 11 older persons (9.2%) in Queensland provided unpaid child care in the fortnight prior to the 2011 Census. A higher proportion of older women (10.1%) than men (8.2%) provided unpaid child care (Table 3).

Table 3: Older persons who provided unpaid child care, Queensland, 2011

	Provided unpaid child care		
	Males	Females	Persons
65-74 years	18,220	26,098	44,318
75-84 years	3,470	4,228	7,698
85+ years	245	363	608
65+ years total	21,935	30,689	52,624

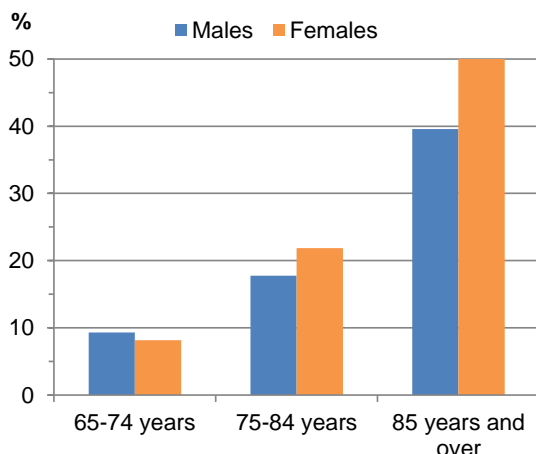
Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011, B22



6. Need for assistance with core activities

In 2011, 95,833 persons aged 65 years and over needed assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication. Older persons comprised half (49.9%) of the 192,019 Queenslanders who needed assistance. Larger proportions of women aged 75-84 years and 85 years and over needed assistance compared with men (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Older persons who needed assistance with core activities, Queensland, 2011

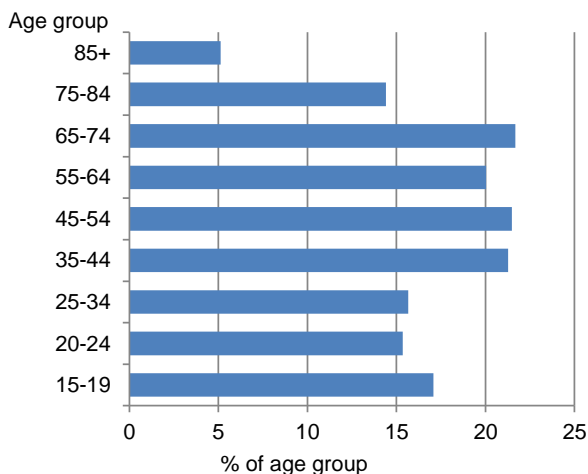


Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011, B18

7. Voluntary work for an organisation or group

Around one in five (21.7%) people aged 65-74 years in Queensland undertook voluntary work through an organisation or group in the 12 months prior to the 2011 Census (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Voluntary work for an organisation or group (a) by age group, Queensland, 2011



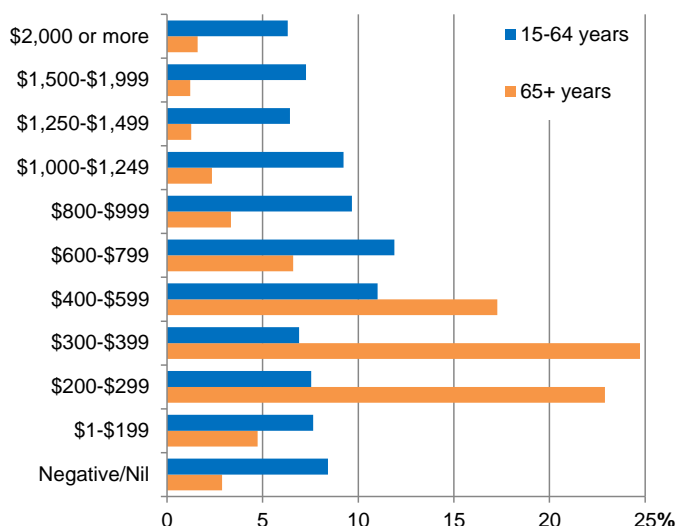
(a) Based on persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011, B19

8. Income

In Queensland in 2011, nearly three-quarters (72.5%) of older persons had weekly incomes of less than \$600, compared with 41.5% of people aged 15-64 years (Figure 5). In contrast, only 1.6% of older persons had weekly incomes of more than \$2,000 compared with 6.3% of people aged 15-64 years.

Figure 5: Personal income (weekly) (a) by age group, Queensland, 2011



(a) Proportions were calculated using total persons aged 15-64 years and 65 years and over respectively, including those who did not state their income.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011, B17

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

All data in this report are based on place of usual residence and were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census of Population and Housing (www.abs.gov.au).

For Table 1, data for 'Migratory - Offshore - Shipping' and 'Special Purpose Codes' SA4s were not detailed specifically, but were included in the Queensland totals. As such, the sum of SA4s may not be equivalent to the Queensland total.

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