

Queensland Government population projections, 2018 edition: Queensland SA4s

Sources: Queensland Government population projections, 2018 edition data and ABS 3235.0, *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2016*

Introduction

This publication provides a spatial and temporal overview of projected population change for Queensland's statistical areas level 4 (SA4s). Analysis of the age composition of the future population is included, with a focus on Queensland's younger and older populations.

For a more detailed analysis of the projection results at the small area level see the related information briefs for [local government areas and statistical areas level 2 \(SA2s\)](#)¹. Data tables supporting the [range of projection publications](#)² are available from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office website. The base population for these projections is the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) [preliminary rebased estimated resident population \(ERP\)](#)³.

Total population by series

Greater Brisbane

The Greater Brisbane⁴ Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA) includes the nine SA4s of Brisbane–East, Brisbane–North, Brisbane–South, Brisbane–West, Brisbane Inner City, Ipswich, Logan–Beaudesert, Moreton Bay–North and Moreton Bay–South.

Greater Brisbane is expected to gain an additional 1.31 million people over 25 years under the medium series, increasing the population to 3.67 million by 2041 (Figure 1). Over the same period, the population of Greater Brisbane is projected to grow by over 1 million persons under the low series and up to 1.62 million under the high series (Table 1). This equates to average annual growth rates of between 1.5% and 2.1% per annum.

Table 1 Projected population and population change, Greater Brisbane GCCSA, at 30 June

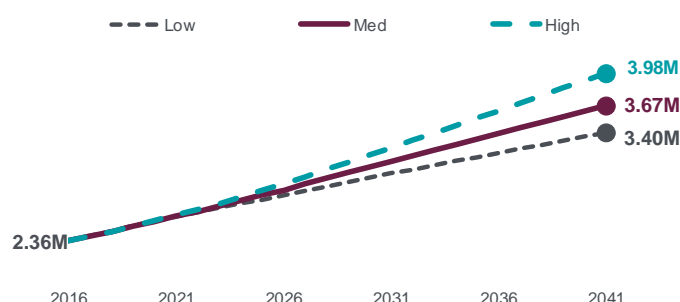
Series	Population		Population change	
	2016 ERP	2041	2016–2041	
	— number —		number	% p.a.
Low	2,360,241	3,400,614	1,040,373	1.5%
Medium	2,360,241	3,667,302	1,307,061	1.8%
High	2,360,241	3,979,304	1,619,063	2.1%

p.a. average annual growth per annum

¹ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/qld-govt-pop-proj-lga-sa2/index.php>

² <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/index.php>

Figure 1 Projected population, Greater Brisbane GCCSA, at 30 June



SA4 population change comprises **four components**: natural increase (births less deaths); net interstate migration (interstate arrivals less interstate departures); net overseas migration (overseas arrivals less overseas departures) and net intra-state migration (arrivals from other SA4s in Queensland less departures to other Queensland SA4s).

Under each series, net overseas migration is expected to make the greatest contribution to the 25-year population growth. Net overseas migration is projected to contribute between 490,000 and 820,000 persons, or 47.1% to 50.6% of the total population growth in Greater Brisbane (Table 2).

Natural increase is projected to make the second-largest contribution to population growth in Greater Brisbane by 2041, between 357,000 to 659,000 persons.

Table 2 Components of projected population change, Greater Brisbane GCCSA, 25 years to 30 June 2041

Component	Projection series		
	Low	Medium	High
	— number —		
<i>Births</i>	818,038	941,037	1,079,608
<i>Deaths</i>	-461,317	-440,554	-420,716
Natural increase	356,721	500,483	658,892
Net intra-state migration	39,232	-35,035	-107,005
Net interstate migration	154,579	200,503	247,658
Net overseas migration	489,840	641,110	819,518

³ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-estimates/reports/rebased-erp-reg-qld/index.php>

⁴ Excludes the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast SA4s.

The third-largest component of SA4 population growth, net interstate migration (people moving to Queensland from elsewhere in Australia), is projected to contribute between 155,000 and 248,000 persons (or 14.9% and 15.3% of total growth) to Greater Brisbane's population over the 25 years to 2041.

Intra-state migration, the fourth component of population change, will make the smallest contribution to population growth in Greater Brisbane under the low series, adding an additional 39,000 people from the rest of Queensland. However, under both the medium and high series, it is anticipated that Greater Brisbane will record a net population outflow⁵ of 35,000 and 107,000 persons respectively to the rest of Queensland through intra-state migration.

Rest of Queensland (excluding Greater Brisbane GCCSA)

The rest of Queensland (RoQ) outside Greater Brisbane GCCSA is comprised of the 10 SA4s of Cairns, Central Queensland, Darling Downs–Maranoa, Gold Coast, Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday, Queensland–Outback, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville and Wide Bay.

Population growth in RoQ is projected to be slower than in Greater Brisbane under each comparable projection series. Over the 25 years to 2041, the average annual growth in RoQ is anticipated to range from 0.9% under the low series, up to 1.8% under the high series (Table 3).

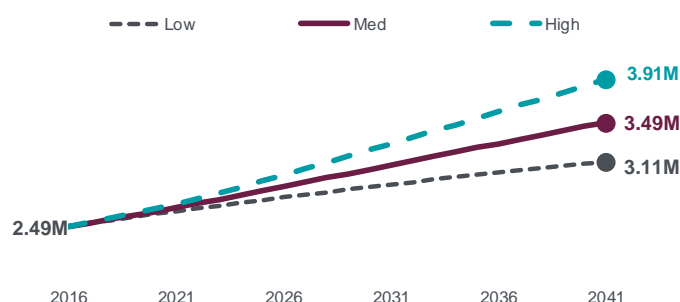
Table 3 Projected population and population change, rest of Queensland, at 30 June

Series	Population		Population change	
	2016 ERP	2041	2016–2041	% p.a.
	— number —		number	% p.a.
Low	2,488,636	3,113,435	624,799	0.9%
Medium	2,488,636	3,494,359	1,005,723	1.4%
High	2,488,636	3,908,590	1,419,954	1.8%

p.a. average annual growth per annum

Under each series, over 3 million persons are projected to be living in RoQ by 2041, adding between 625,000 and 1.42 million persons to the 2016 ERP of 2.49 million (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Projected population, rest of Queensland, at 30 June



Similar to Greater Brisbane, net overseas migration is projected to make the largest contribution to population growth in RoQ over the 25-year period to 2041, adding between 308,000 and 515,000 persons (Table 4).

Under the medium and high series, natural increase is projected to be the second largest contributor to population growth, accounting for 29.8% and 32.8% of the additional population respectively.

Table 4 Components of projected population change, Rest of Queensland, 25 years to 30 June 2041

Component	Projection series		
	Low	Medium	High
	— number —		
Births	743,465	877,054	1,027,086
Deaths	-591,968	-577,372	-561,971
Natural increase	151,496	299,682	465,115
Net intra-state migration	-39,232	35,035	107,005
Net interstate migration	204,583	267,954	332,620
Net overseas migration	307,952	403,052	515,213

Medium series: Greater Brisbane

Within Greater Brisbane GCCSA (which excludes the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast), Brisbane–South was the most populous SA4 in 2016. However, by 2041, Ipswich SA4 is projected to have the largest population, increasing from 334,000 to 750,000 persons.

Logan–Beaudesert SA4 is projected to have the second-largest population by 2041, followed by Brisbane–South, Moreton Bay–North and Brisbane Inner City (Table 5).

Over the next 25 years, the SA4 with the largest projected population growth in Greater Brisbane is Ipswich (up by 416,000 persons), or an average annual growth rate of 3.3%. Logan–Beaudesert's population is also projected to grow significantly (by 259,000 persons), followed by Moreton Bay–North and Brisbane Inner City.

⁵ With net intrastate migration (NIM) constrained to zero at the State level, NIM gains under the medium and high series for all other SA4s are offset by NIM losses of similar magnitudes for Greater Brisbane under the respective series.

Table 5 Projected population and population change, medium series, Greater Brisbane GCCSA SA4s, at 30 June

Region	Population		Population change		Median age	Population change 0 to 14 year olds		Population change 65+ year olds	
	2016 ERP	2041	2016–2041		2041	2041		2041	
	— number —		number	% p.a.	years	number	% p.a.	number	% p.a.
Greater Brisbane GCCSA	2,360,241	3,667,302	1,307,061	1.8%	39.2	191,768	1.4%	391,275	3.4%
Brisbane–East	230,746	284,491	53,745	0.8%	45.5	1,791	0.2%	36,081	2.8%
Brisbane–North	214,404	268,513	54,109	0.9%	40.8	5,028	0.5%	21,824	2.1%
Brisbane–South	356,666	462,367	105,701	1.0%	37.1	12,893	0.7%	31,977	2.3%
Brisbane–West	187,137	209,966	22,829	0.5%	38.2	736	0.1%	12,700	1.6%
Brisbane Inner City	265,256	406,004	140,748	1.7%	37.3	9,448	0.9%	35,379	3.6%
Ipswich	333,748	749,572	415,824	3.3%	37.5	78,841	2.9%	89,404	4.9%
Logan–Beaudesert	328,027	587,081	259,054	2.4%	38.5	45,599	1.9%	72,991	4.3%
Moreton Bay–North	242,629	416,996	174,367	2.2%	45.3	24,223	1.7%	65,489	3.7%
Moreton Bay–South	201,628	282,313	80,685	1.4%	37.7	13,209	1.0%	25,429	3.1%
Rest of Queensland	2,488,636	3,494,359	1,005,723	1.4%	42.3	127,945	0.9%	399,244	2.8%
Queensland	4,848,877	7,161,661	2,312,784	1.6%	40.7	319,712	1.2%	790,520	3.0%

p.a. average annual growth per annum

Components of population change

Consistent with the outlook for Queensland's population growth, net overseas migration is anticipated to be the largest component of population change in Greater Brisbane. Over the 25 years to 2041, net overseas migration is expected to add 641,000 persons to Greater Brisbane's population, accounting for close to half (49.0%) of the projected population growth.

Natural increase is projected to be the second largest contributor to growth in Greater Brisbane. Over the 25-year horizon to 2041, natural increase is expected to contribute around 500,000 additional persons, or 38.3% of Greater Brisbane's population growth.

The third component contributing to population growth, net interstate migration, is projected to make a contribution of 201,000 persons or 15.3% of Greater Brisbane's population growth over the 25-year projection horizon.

In contrast, the fourth component of Greater Brisbane's population growth, net intrastate migration is expected to result in a net loss of 35,000 persons to RoQ.

Older people

Greater Brisbane's population is ageing, in line with global, national and state trends. Ageing reflects the combined effects of people living longer and the transition of the baby boomer cohort through the age profile.

Over the 25 years to 2041, Greater Brisbane is projected to experience growth in the number of older people (defined as those aged 65 years and older). Additionally, the proportion of older people in the population is also expected to rise.

By 2041, Greater Brisbane's population of those aged 65 and over is projected to more than double to 697,000 persons, meaning that close to 1 in 5 residents (19.0%) will be aged 65 and over by 2041, up from 13.0% in 2016.

All nine SA4s in Greater Brisbane are ageing, but by various magnitudes and at different rates.

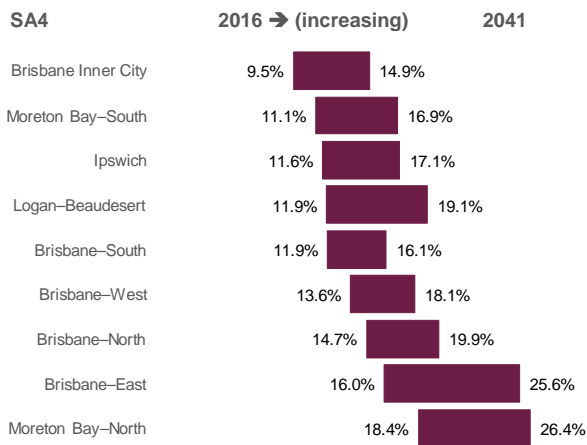
The largest increase in the number of older persons is projected to occur in Ipswich, up by 89,000 persons or more than double the 39,000 older persons recorded in 2016. Significant increases in older persons are also expected in Logan–Beaudesert (up 73,000 persons), followed by Moreton Bay–North (up 65,000 persons).

Ipswich is also projected to have the fastest growth in the number of older persons, at 4.9% per annum on average, followed by in Logan–Beaudesert at 4.3% per annum.

Moreover, all SA4s in Greater Brisbane are also projected to have a larger proportion of older persons. Notably, by 2041, Moreton Bay–North and Brisbane–East are expected to have the greatest proportion of older people, at more than a quarter of their population (Figure 3). Other SA4s in Greater Brisbane projected to have comparatively high proportions of older people in 2041 are Brisbane–North and Logan–Beaudesert, where close to 1 in every 5 residents will be aged 65 years and older.

While Ipswich is projected to have the largest increase in the number of older persons by 2041, this growth is only expected to increase the proportion of older persons in the population by around 5.0 percentage points between 2016 and 2041, from 11.6% to 17.1%.

Figure 3 Proportion of persons aged 65 years and older, medium series, Greater Brisbane GSSCA SA4s



Children and young people

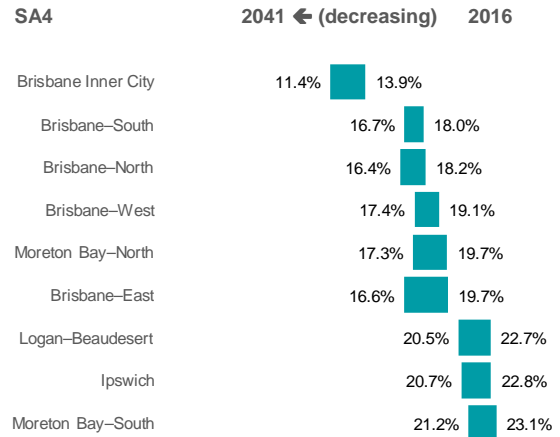
The number of children and young people (0 to 14-year old persons) in Greater Brisbane is projected to rise to 658,000 by 2041. While the number of children and young people is expected to increase, it will not rise as fast at the older cohort of those aged 65 and over. Consequently, the 0 to 14-year cohort is projected to account for a smaller share (17.9%) of Greater Brisbane's population in 2041, down from 19.7% in 2016.

Across Greater Brisbane, while more children and young people are projected to reside in all nine SA4s, the growth will not be evenly distributed.

Over the 25-year projection horizon, the largest growth in the number of 0 to 14-year-old persons is expected to occur in Ipswich, more than doubling from 76,000 persons in 2016 to 155,000 persons in 2041. The second-largest increase in the number of children and young people in Greater Brisbane is expected to occur in Logan–Beaudesert, up by 46,000 persons. In contrast, the SA4 in Greater Brisbane expected to have the smallest increase in children and young people is Brisbane–West (up 1,000 persons), followed by Brisbane–East (up 2,000 persons).

While the number of children and young people is increasing across SA4s in Greater Brisbane, their share of population is expected to steadily decline. In terms of the proportion of 0 to 14-year-old persons in the population, the largest decrease (–3.1 percentage points) is projected in Brisbane–East (from 19.7% in 2016 to 16.6% in 2041) (Figure 4). For other SA4s in Greater Brisbane, the proportion of children is anticipated to decline by between –1.3 percentage points in Brisbane–South (from 18.0% in 2016 to 16.7% in 2041) and –2.5 percentage points in Brisbane Inner City (from 13.9% to 11.4%).

Figure 4 Proportion of persons aged 0 to 14 years, medium series, Greater Brisbane GSSCA SA4s



Median age

Greater Brisbane's population is expected to progressively age.

The median age⁶ is projected to rise to 39.2 years over the 25-year period 2016 to 2041. Within Greater Brisbane, all SA4s are projected to experience a rise in the median age, with increases ranging from 2.6 years in Brisbane–West up to 5.5 years in Brisbane–East.

By 2041, the SA4 with the highest median age in Greater Brisbane is anticipated to be Brisbane–East (45.5 years), followed by Moreton Bay–North (45.3 years). Ageing is projected to be less pronounced in Brisbane–South with a median age of 37.1 years by 2041, followed by Brisbane Inner City (37.3 years).

Medium series: Rest of Queensland

Population change within the rest of Queensland (RoQ) is expected to vary considerably between the 10 SA4s. Under the medium series, average annual rates of change over the 25 years will range from a decline of –0.1% per annum on average in Queensland–Outback up to 2.0% growth per annum in Gold Coast (Table 6).

Gold Coast is projected to remain the most populous SA4 in RoQ, increasing from 592,000 persons in 2016 to 961,000 by 2041. Notably, the projected growth in Gold Coast is anticipated to be at least double that of any SA4 in RoQ.

After peaking at almost 87,000 in 2011, the population of Queensland–Outback declined over the five years to 2016, falling to 82,000 persons. Looking ahead, Queensland–Outback SA4 is projected to remain the least populated SA4 in RoQ. However, the rate of population decrease is anticipated to moderate over the projection period, with the population projected at 81,000 persons by 2041.

⁶ The age at which half the population is older and half is younger.

Table 6 Projected population and population change, medium series, rest of Queensland SA4s, at 30 June

Region	Population		Population change		Median age	Population change 0 to 14 year olds		Population change 65+ year olds	
	2016	2041	2016–2041		2041	2041		2041	
	— number —		number	% p.a.	years	number	% p.a.	number	% p.a.
Rest of Queensland (RoQ)	2,488,636	3,494,359	1,005,723	1.4%	42.3	127,945	0.9%	399,244	2.8%
Cairns	247,762	339,547	91,785	1.3%	41.7	13,328	1.0%	37,081	2.9%
Darling Downs–Maranoa	128,622	139,994	11,372	0.3%	44.8	–987	–0.1%	12,789	1.7%
Central Queensland	226,314	279,470	53,156	0.8%	41.2	2,362	0.2%	35,419	3.3%
Gold Coast	591,570	961,076	369,506	2.0%	41.0	56,268	1.7%	105,862	3.1%
Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday	173,892	229,260	55,368	1.1%	38.9	7,748	0.8%	22,095	2.9%
Queensland–Outback	82,452	81,348	–1,104	–0.1%	37.5	–3,058	–0.7%	4,827	1.9%
Sunshine Coast	357,422	583,002	225,580	2.0%	45.8	30,566	1.6%	83,025	3.1%
Toowoomba	153,201	196,825	43,624	1.0%	40.5	4,465	0.5%	19,563	2.3%
Townsville	235,037	324,317	89,280	1.3%	37.2	14,724	1.1%	30,822	2.8%
Wide Bay	292,364	359,520	67,156	0.8%	51.0	2,528	0.2%	47,762	2.2%
Greater Brisbane GCCSA	2,360,241	3,667,302	1,307,061	1.8%	39.2	191,768	1.4%	391,275	3.4%
Queensland	4,848,877	7,161,661	2,312,784	1.6%	40.7	319,712	1.2%	790,520	3.0%

p.a. average annual growth per annum

Components of population change

Of the four components of population change in RoQ, overseas migration is projected to make the largest contribution to population growth over the 25–year period by 2041.

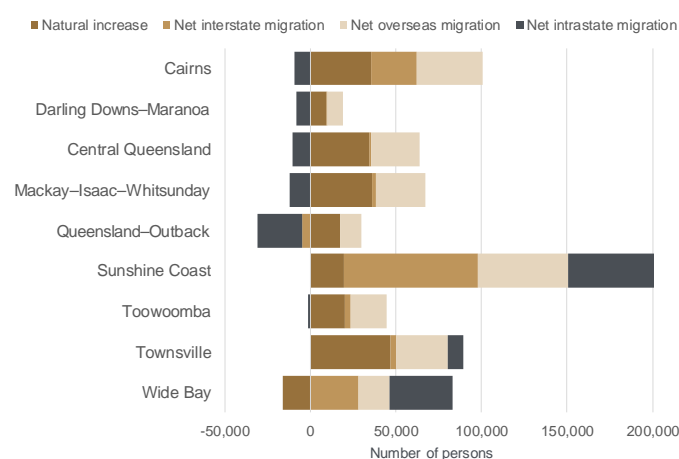
Of the 1.04 million additional people projected to be living in Queensland in 2041 due to net overseas migration, RoQ is expected to be home to 38.6% (or 403,000 persons) of those. For overseas migrants to RoQ, Gold Coast SA4 is expected to be the primary destination. Gold Coast is projected to gain 164,000 or 15.7% of Queensland's additional overseas migrants, followed by Sunshine Coast (5.0%), and Cairns (3.7%) (Figure 5).

Natural increase is projected to be the second-largest contributor to population growth in RoQ over the 25–year horizon, contributing around 300,000 additional persons, or 37.5% of Queensland's natural increase. The top three SA4s for natural increase in RoQ are projected to be Gold Coast (96,000 persons), followed by Townsville (47,000 persons) and Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (36,000 persons). In contrast, Wide Bay is projected to experience a net loss of –16,000 persons due to natural increase over the projection period. This loss in Wide Bay is more than offset, however, by the combined effects of net migration.

The third component of population change in SA4s is intrastate migration or movement between SA4s in Queensland. Wide Bay is one of the few SA4s in RoQ projected to gain population from other Queensland SA4s over the projection period, with around 37,000 additional residents expected due to net intrastate migration. Sunshine Coast and Townsville are also projected to

experience positive net intrastate migration over the projection horizon.

Figure 5 Components of population growth, medium series, 25 years to 30 June 2041, rest of Queensland SA4s



Components for Gold Coast not shown due to their scale

The fourth driver of population change, interstate migration, is projected to contribute an additional 268,000 persons to RoQ over the projection horizon, or 57.2% of the state's net gains from other states.

Among the SA4s in RoQ, Gold Coast's net gains from interstate migration by 2041 is projected at 129,000 persons, or 27.6% of Queensland's net gain of interstate migrants. This is followed by Sunshine Coast's sizeable net gain of almost 79,000 persons, or 16.8% of the state's total net gain of interstate migrants. Net gains to other SA4s range from around 600 persons in Darling

Downs–Maranoa up to 28,000 persons in Wide Bay. In contrast, Queensland–Outback is the only SA4 in RoQ anticipated to experience a net loss of population to interstate migration (–5,000 persons).

Older people

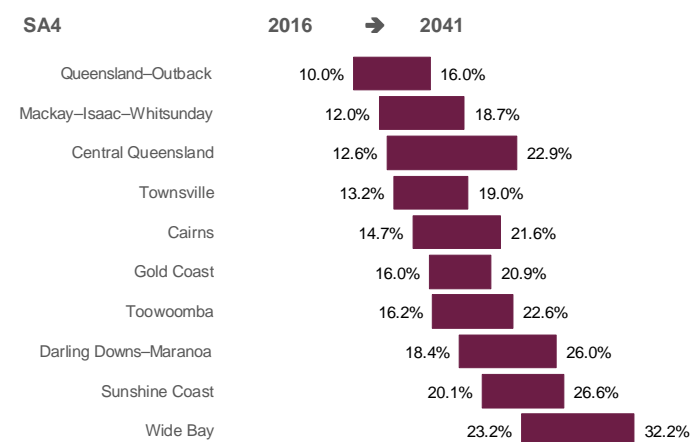
For RoQ, the number of people aged 65 years and older is projected to almost double to 807,000 persons in 2041, close to a quarter of RoQ's total population. Growth in the number of older Queenslanders (65 years and older) is projected across all SA4s over the 25 years, with increases outside Greater Brisbane ranging from 5,000 persons in Queensland–Outback up to 106,000 persons in Gold Coast.

Central Queensland is projected to have the fastest growth in the number of older persons, on average 3.3% per annum. In comparison, the growth of the 65–years and older cohort for Queensland was an average annual 3.0%, and for the remaining SA4s in RoQ the pace of growth ranged from 1.7% per annum to 3.1% per annum.

With the steady ageing of the population in all 10 SA4s in RoQ, the proportion of older persons is also projected to increase. Wide Bay is expected to have the highest proportion of older persons by 2041 at 1 in 3 persons (32.2%). Central Queensland is also expected to experience a large increase, with the proportion of older persons almost doubling to 22.9% by 2041 (Figure 6).

Although Gold Coast is projected to have the largest increase in the number of older persons by 2041, this is only expected to increase the proportion of older persons in the Gold Coast population by around 5.0 percentage points from 16.0% to 20.9% (Figure 7) between 2016 and 2041.

Figure 6 Proportion of persons aged 65 years and older, medium series, SA4s rest of Queensland, at 30 June



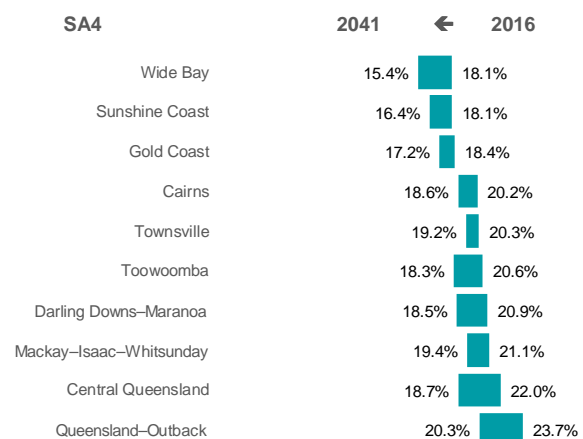
⁷ The age at which half the population is older and half is younger.

Children and young people

The number of 0 to 14–year old persons in RoQ is projected to grow by over a quarter to 616,000 persons by 2041. Notwithstanding the growth in the number of children and young people, their share of total population in RoQ is expected to decline to 17.6% in 2041, from 19.6% in 2016.

Consistent with the broader RoQ, many SA4s are projected to experience growth in the number of children and young people. Nonetheless, the cohort will represent a smaller share of the SA4 population by 2041. Wide Bay, Central Queensland and Queensland–Outback are projected to undergo falls of 2.7 to 3.4 percentage points in the proportion of children and young people over the 25–year period.

Figure 7 Proportion of persons aged 0 to 14 years, medium series, rest of Queensland SA4s, at 30 June



Median age

All RoQ SA4s are projected to age over the 25–year period 2016 to 2041, with increases in the median age⁷ ranging from 2.0 years in Townsville up to 5.3 years in Wide Bay and Central Queensland.

Moreover, Wide Bay is projected to continue to have the oldest population on average, among all SA4s in Queensland, with a median age of 51.0 years. Around 1 in 3 Wide Bay residents are projected to be 65 years or older by 2041. Conversely, Townsville is expected to have the lowest median age of 37.2 years by 2041, with around 1 in 5 residents projected to be aged 65 years or older.