4149.5

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Western Australia's Baby Boomers

A Profile of Persons Born 1946–1965

2003

New Issue

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Colin Nagle
Regional Director, Western Australia

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

EMBARGO: 11.30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 27 JUN 2003

ABS Catalogue no. 4149.5
ISBN 0 642 47901 1

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Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Gabriela Lawrence on Western Australia (08) 9360 5947.

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PREFACE

A PROFILE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BABY BOOMERS

Western Australia's Baby Boomers: A Profile of Persons Born 1946–1965 is an important contribution to the process of planning for an ageing population. The large number of persons who were born between 1946 and 1965 inclusive, commonly referred to as baby boomers, have been impacting on our society throughout every stage of their life cycle. As they head towards their retirement years, they will present both a challenge and a resource for current and future governments.

This publication has been produced after extensive consultation with state government representatives and brings together a wide range of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data relating to the current characteristics of Western Australian baby boomers. The publication focuses on a broad range of issues and is arranged into seven chapters of social concern:

- Demographics
- Cultural diversity
- Families
- Housing
- Education and work
- Health
- Community life.

ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated. Without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. The ABS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the reference group of government agencies who participated in the development of this publication.

The ABS collects and disseminates a wealth of information related to baby boomers, not all of which was able to be included in this publication. Additional data may be available on request. For further information about ABS statistics and services, please refer to the information page of this publication.

Colin Nagle
Regional Director, Western Australia

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents data relating to the current characteristics of Western Australian baby boomers. It brings together a wide range of ABS data from different collections. As a result, it is important to understand the underlying principles which have been applied in analysing the data prior to reading this publication.

WHO ARE THE BABY BOOMERS?

There is some contention as to the start and end points of the 'baby boom' and, as a result, different researchers often refer to different time periods when discussing this phenomenon. The varying fertility and immigration patterns observed across different countries is one reason why different time periods are used, although researchers within the same country often disagree on a definition.

In Australia, the 'baby boom' is regarded as having occurred from the end of World War II (WWII) until some time in the 1960s. While there is a degree of subjectivity in selecting a period of time to label the 'baby boom', the ABS (after consultation with leading Australian demographers) has defined 'baby boomers' as Australian residents who were born between 1946 and 1965 inclusive. This includes people born overseas during this period who have since migrated to Australia.

Different types of baby boomers

Since the baby boomer age cohort spans a period of 20 years, there are likely to be people within the cohort with significantly different characteristics, simply because they are at different points in their lives. The younger baby boomers are more likely to be in their child rearing years, whereas the older baby boomers are more likely to be nearing retirement.

As such, analyses in this publication have been divided into sub-cohorts, where appropriate. Data have been provided in either 5- or 10-year bands, depending on the reliability and availability of the data at these levels. For the purposes of this publication, younger baby boomers are defined as those persons born between 1956 and 1965 inclusive, and older baby boomers are defined as those born between 1946 and 1955 inclusive.

Where possible, comparisons have been made with persons aged 60 years and over. As a large proportion of this group of people are likely to have entered the retirement phase of their life-cycle, their current characteristics may be indicative of the baby boomers' future way of life. Persons aged 60 years and over were chosen for comparison purposes to correspond to the target group of interest to the Western Australian government.

REFERENCE PERIODS

Data in this publication relate to different reference periods as it has been compiled from a wide range of sources. The baby boomer age cohort presented in the text, tables and graphs will vary depending on the reference period of the data source. For example, for data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, the baby boomer age cohort will consist of persons aged 36–55 years. However, as baby boomers were a year older in 2002, the age cohort will consist of persons aged 37–56 years for data collected in 2002. The following table provides a quick reference for identifying the age group of interest.

BABY BOOMER AGE REFERENCE

Data reference year	Age if born in 1965	Age if born in 1946
1995	30	49
1996	31	50
1997	32	51
1998	33	52
1999	34	53
2000	35	54
2001	36	55
2002	37	56

In some cases, the exact baby boomer age group is not available from the data source being referenced. The closest age grouping available is used to approximate the baby boomer group in these cases. For example, the recorded crime statistics contained in the Community life chapter are derived from administrative systems maintained by the Western Australian Police Service, and the age of victims is collected in standard age groupings which cannot be modified.

EFFECTS OF ROUNDING

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of component items and totals. Published percentages have been calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore discrepancies may exist between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AHS	Australian Housing Survey
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCL	Australian Standard Classification of Languages
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
BMI	Body Mass Index
CD	Collection District
CNOS	Canadian National Occupancy Standard
DIMA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
kg	kilogram
LGA	Local Government Area
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NHS	National Health Survey
SD	Statistical Division
SLA	Statistical Local Area
TUS	Time Use Survey
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organisation
WWII	World War II
m	metre
m^2	square metre
ml	millilitre
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
$	dollar
%	per cent
'000	thousands
*	this estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
**	this estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes (relative standard error greater than 50%)
—	nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
. .	not applicable

MAIN FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Increased levels of fertility and immigration in the period immediately following WWII resulted in a significant increase in the number of registered births in Western Australia. There were over 300,000 people born in Western Australia during the 20 year period between 1946 and 1965 inclusive, compared with 180,000 born during the previous 20 years. Persons born during this period, commonly referred to as the 'baby boom', have had a dramatic impact on the social, economic and demographic structure of Western Australia's population. As the baby boomers age, they will continue to have a significant impact on Western Australian life.

A decline in fertility rates in more recent decades, coupled with improvements in life expectancy, are having the effect of ageing the Western Australian population, a phenomenon which has been observed throughout Australia and in many of the world's developed regions. That is, there is an increasing trend towards a greater proportion of the population in older age groups relative to younger age groups.

In 2001, there were 557,700 baby boomers in Western Australia, accounting for 29% of the total population. The number of baby boomers in Western Australia has been substantially impacted by migration gains from overseas, during both the 'baby boom' and the subsequent period to 2001. There were slightly more male than female baby boomers in 2001, and more younger baby boomers (279,300) than older baby boomers (260,400). All states and territories across Australia had approximately the same proportion of baby boomers.

Across Western Australia, the Kimberley Statistical Division (SD) had the lowest proportion of baby boomers (25%), while the Pilbara SD and the Upper Great Southern SD had the highest (30%). Almost three-quarters (74%) of Western Australian baby boomers lived in the Perth SD in 2001, and a further 10% lived in the South West SD. This is similar to the distribution of all persons in Western Australia.

By 2051, the Western Australian population is projected to grow to 3.0 million, with 30% of the population aged 60 years and over. This is approximately double the proportion of persons aged 60 years and over in 2001. The baby boomer group will have a strong impact on the growth in the number of older persons over this period, with the first baby boomers reaching the age of 60 years in 2006, and the youngest baby boomers doing so by 2025.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Western Australia has an ethnically diverse population, with 27% of it's population in 2001 born overseas, the highest proportion of all mainland states and territories. Among baby boomers, 37% had been born overseas.

The majority of overseas born baby boomers were from predominantly English-speaking countries (60%), with 36% being born in England, 10% in New Zealand and 5% in Scotland. A higher proportion of baby boomers and persons aged 60 years and over were born in European countries, where many of Australia's immigrants were sourced in the post-WWII period, compared with younger overseas born persons, who were more likely to have been born in Asian countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

Almost one in eight (12%) baby boomers living in Western Australia in 2001 spoke a language other than English at home, with the majority of these (53%) speaking a European language. While European languages were the most commonly spoken non-English language among baby boomers, younger persons were more likely to speak an Asian or North African language. This reflects the different migration patterns of persons from different generations.

In 2001, 14% of Western Australian baby boomers who spoke a language other than English at home did not speak English well, or did not speak it at all. This was less than half the corresponding figure for persons aged 60 years and over (31%). Baby boomers who spoke a South-East Asian, Eastern Asian or South-West Asian/North African language at home were most likely to have difficulty speaking English.

Two-thirds of baby boomers stated that they were of Christian faith in 2001, compared with 80% of persons aged 60 years and over and 56% of persons aged 0–35 years. One in six baby boomers (17%) stated that they had no religion and 10% did not state their religion.

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BABY BOOMERS

			Age group (years)				
			Baby boomers				
	Units	Reference period	Younger	Older	Total	60 and over	Total(a)
			DEMOGRAPHICS				
Population							
Males	'000	2001	148.2	131.6	279.9	132.6	951.6
Females	'000	2001	149.0	128.8	277.8	153.7	949.6
Persons	**'000**	**2001**	**297.3**	**260.4**	**557.7**	**286.2**	**1 901.2**
Statistical Division							
Perth	'000	2001	215.9	194.3	410.2	212.4	1 393.0
South West	'000	2001	30.6	26.0	56.5	35.1	194.1
Lower Great Southern	'000	2001	8.4	7.3	15.6	9.6	53.6
Upper Great Southern	'000	2001	2.9	2.7	5.7	3.1	18.9
Midlands	'000	2001	8.4	7.7	16.1	8.9	53.6
South Eastern	'000	2001	9.1	6.5	15.6	4.8	55.1
Central	'000	2001	9.7	7.9	17.6	8.5	60.8
Pilbara	'000	2001	7.3	4.7	12.1	1.5	39.5
Kimberley	'000	2001	4.9	3.3	8.3	2.1	32.6
Western Australia	**'000**	**2001**	**297.3**	**260.4**	**557.7**	**286.2**	**1 901.2**
			CULTURAL DIVERSITY				
Birthplace							
Australia	'000	2001	173.5	141.5	315.0	147.4	1 241.8
Overseas	'000	2001	101.2	98.1	199.3	114.3	493.6
England	'000	2001	37.6	34.1	71.7	46.3	167.6
New Zealand	'000	2001	11.7	7.8	19.5	2.9	45.0
Scotland	'000	2001	5.2	5.2	10.4	7.0	24.3
Italy	'000	2001	2.0	5.3	7.3	12.9	23.1
Malaysia	'000	2001	2.9	3.8	6.7	2.0	17.4
Total(b)	**'000**	**2001**	**287.4**	**251.4**	**538.8**	**281.5**	**1 851.3**
Language spoken at home							
English only	'000	2001	241.2	210.6	451.8	225.4	1 539.1
Italian	'000	2001	5.6	5.3	11.0	13.1	36.5
Cantonese	'000	2001	2.6	2.8	5.3	1.8	15.3
Vietnamese	'000	2001	2.2	1.3	3.5	0.8	12.1
Mandarin	'000	2001	1.8	1.4	3.2	0.6	11.1
Total(c)	**'000**	**2001**	**287.4**	**251.4**	**538.8**	**281.5**	**1 851.3**
Proficiency in spoken English							
Very well/Well	'000	2001	29.1	25.6	54.7	25.3	170.3
Not well/Not at all	'000	2001	4.3	4.5	8.8	11.5	32.2
Total(d)	**'000**	**2001**	**33.8**	**30.4**	**64.3**	**37.4**	**206.8**
Religion							
Christianity	'000	2001	183.1	173.0	356.1	223.5	1 160.8
No religion	'000	2001	54.7	38.9	93.6	21.8	361.0
Buddhism	'000	2001	5.5	4.8	10.3	2.4	30.0
Islam	'000	2001	3.0	1.8	4.8	0.9	19.5
Total(e)	**'000**	**2001**	**287.4**	**251.4**	**538.8**	**281.5**	**1 851.3**

(a) Data item totals will not necessarily be the same, as a result of differences in the scope and methodology of different data sources, or differences in the population being measured. For further information refer to the relevant chapter.

(b) Includes other countries of birth.

(c) Includes other languages.

(d) Persons who spoke a language other than English at home. Includes those who did not state their level of proficiency in spoken English. Excludes Overseas visitors.

(e) Includes other religions.

FAMILIES

In 2001, the majority of baby boomers were in a couple relationship (and more commonly in a registered marriage than a defacto marriage) although one in eight were divorced — with younger baby boomers having the highest rate of divorce across all age groups in 2001. These characteristics are likely to be linked to their life-cycle stage as well as shifts in patterns of marriage and partnering in society.

There were almost half a million (479,900) families in Western Australia in 2001. Of these, 47% were couple families with children and 36% were couple families without children. Over half (56%) of all families consisted of at least one baby boomer parent/partner, with the majority of these being couple families (either with or without children) and another 15% being lone parent families.

The proportion of family households is projected to decrease in the next two decades, from 70% of all households in 2001 to 67% in 2021, whereas lone person households are projected to increase from 26% to 30% over this period. The projected drop in the proportion of family households is driven by a drop in the proportion of couple families with children, due primarily to a decline in fertility rates and the general ageing of the population.

Just over one in ten Western Australians (11%) were carers in 1998. That is, they provided informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to persons with disabilities or long-term conditions, or persons who were elderly. Among baby boomers, the corresponding proportion was 14%, while 17% of persons aged 60 years and over had taken on this role. Older baby boomers were more likely to be a carer than younger baby boomers.

Of all baby boomer carers, the majority (60%) were female and 18% were primary carers. Over two-thirds of baby boomer carers combined their caring role with employment, with 40% working full-time. Primary carers of baby boomer age were most likely to be caring for a parent (31%) or partner (27%), while the majority (82%) of primary carers aged 60 years and over were caring for a partner.

HOUSING

The type of housing people live in is strongly related to their progression through different life-cycle stages, with many people renting in early adulthood, purchasing a home during their relationship-forming and child-raising years and owning a home outright in older age (ABS 2001h). In 2001, 76% of baby boomers lived in private dwellings which were either fully owned or being purchased, with older baby boomers being more likely to own their home outright than younger baby boomers (43% compared with 24%). In comparison, 71% of persons aged 60 years and over lived in a fully owned private dwelling.

The majority (88%) of baby boomers lived in a separate house in 2001, and 78% lived in a three- or four-bedroom private dwelling. Similar proportions were observed across most other age groups, with the exception of those aged 60 years and over, where 74% lived in a separate house and 67% lived in a three- or four-bedroom private dwelling.

In 1999, more than three-quarters (76%) of baby boomers and 91% of persons aged 60 years and over lived in a dwelling with bedrooms to spare. This can be attributed to the trend toward larger homes in Western Australia (from an average of 2.7 bedrooms in 1971 to 3.2 bedrooms in 2001) coupled with smaller household sizes (from an average of 3.3 persons per household in 1971 to 2.6 persons in 2001).

Median weekly housing costs dropped markedly by age, from $142 per week for younger baby boomer households to $98 per week for older baby boomer households and $24 per week for households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over. Younger baby boomer households generally paid a greater proportion of their household income toward housing costs than other households.

Home ownership is an important aspect of wealth creation and can have a major influence on a person's economic wellbeing, particularly in non income-earning years. Of older baby boomer households who owned their dwelling, 22% owned dwellings worth $300,000 or more. This compares with 14% of younger baby boomer owner households and 16% of owner households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over.

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BABY BOOMERS

			Age group (years)				
			Baby boomers				
	Units	Reference period	Younger	Older	Total	60 and over	Total(a)
		FAMILIES					
Registered marital status							
Never married	'000	2001	46.8	18.3	65.1	12.1	475.5
Widowed	'000	2001	2.1	4.8	6.9	66.7	77.5
Divorced	'000	2001	31.0	35.4	66.4	22.4	111.2
Separated	'000	2001	16.7	13.9	30.6	6.9	52.3
Married	'000	2001	190.7	179.1	369.8	173.3	740.3
Total	**'000**	**2001**	**287.4**	**251.4**	**538.8**	**281.5**	**1 456.7**
Family types(b)							
Couple with children	'000	2001	. .	. .	165.2	. .	224.9
Couple without children	'000	2001	. .	. .	61.0	. .	173.5
Lone parent	'000	2001	. .	. .	40.2	. .	72.9
Other	'000	2001	. .	. .	1.8	. .	8.6
Total	**'000**	**2001**	**. .**	**. .**	**268.2**	**. .**	**479.9**
Carers							
Primary carer	'000	1998	7.3	7.0	14.3	9.5	35.2
Other carer	'000	1998	31.9	31.1	63.0	32.7	164.3
Not a carer	'000	1998	255.5	210.2	465.6	200.6	1 604.3
Total	**'000**	**1998**	**294.7**	**248.2**	**542.9**	**242.9**	**1 803.8**
		HOUSING					
Dwelling structure(c)							
Separate house	'000	2001	245.8	210.9	456.7	193.4	1 512.2
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse	'000	2001	17.2	16.4	33.6	35.8	141.5
Flat, unit or apartment	'000	2001	9.0	8.1	17.1	18.6	74.8
Other dwelling	'000	2001	3.5	5.5	9.0	11.4	32.5
Total(d)	**'000**	**2001**	**277.1**	**242.4**	**519.5**	**260.9**	**1 772.4**
Tenure(c)							
Fully owned	'000	2001	66.4	103.5	169.9	185.1	581.2
Being purchased	'000	2001	134.5	87.9	222.4	18.6	651.6
Rented — Homeswest	'000	2001	8.4	7.2	15.6	13.7	69.2
Rented — Private landlord	'000	2001	40.8	24.0	64.8	15.0	285.7
Total(e)	**'000**	**2001**	**277.1**	**242.4**	**519.5**	**260.9**	**1 772.4**
Median weekly housing costs(f)	$	1999	142	98	129	24	100
Value of dwelling(f)							
Less than $100,000	'000	1999	18.0	13.4	31.4	24.4	77.0
$100,000–$199,999	'000	1999	53.3	53.1	106.4	62.9	230.5
$200,000–$299,999	'000	1999	23.9	22.5	46.4	23.7	88.3
$300,000 or more	'000	1999	15.4	25.4	40.8	22.3	81.4
Total(g)	**'000**	**1999**	**111.8**	**118.2**	**230.0**	**138.5**	**490.4**

(a) Data item totals will not necessarily be the same, as a result of differences in the scope and methodology of different data sources, or differences in the population being measured. For further information refer to the relevant chapter.

(b) A baby boomer family is any family where the reference person and/or their partner (where applicable) was born between 1946 and 1965 inclusive. Excludes Overseas visitors.

(c) Persons in occupied private dwellings.

(d) Excludes Overseas visitors. Includes dwelling structure Not stated.

(e) Excludes Overseas visitors. Includes other tenure types.

(f) Household data by age of reference person.

(g) Includes value of dwelling not known.

EDUCATION AND WORK

Formal education has traditionally been considered important in providing people with the skills and knowledge necessary to enter the workforce. Baby boomers have, in general, undertaken more formal education than preceding generations, with 54% of younger baby boomers, 45% of older baby boomers and 26% of persons aged 60 years and over having completed Years 11 or 12. Furthermore, over half (53%) of all baby boomers had completed a non-school qualification compared with only 43% of persons aged 60 years and over. The most common types of non-school qualifications held by baby boomers were Certificate III/IV (32%), Bachelor degree or higher (29%) and Advanced diploma/Diploma (16%). In 2001, 15% of baby boomers reported that they intended to study for a qualification in the next three years, with younger baby boomers being more likely to study in the next three years (20%) than older baby boomers (10%).

In 2001, 78% of baby boomers were employed, 4% were unemployed and 18% were not in the labour force. In comparison, only 15% of persons aged 60 years and over were employed, with the majority (85%) not in the labour force. Baby boomers were more likely to be working part-time in 2001 than persons of the same age in 1981, reflecting a general move towards part-time work in the labour force. Furthermore, baby boomers were more likely to be employed in higher skilled occupations than other age groups, with 44% of employed baby boomers being in the major occupation categories of Managers and administrators, Professionals, and Associate professionals in 2001.

A household's level of income can be affected by whether the household members are engaged in paid employment, whether they work on a part-time or full-time basis, their occupation, their age and their family obligations. A person's earning capacity generally increases with age, but drops sharply after 60 years of age (ABS 1998b). In 1999–2000, older baby boomer households had the highest median gross weekly income of all households ($1,003 per week) whereas households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over had the lowest ($331 per week).

Retirement from work is a significant event in many people's lives. In 1997, just over half (51%) of the 548,900 persons aged 45 years and over in Western Australia had retired from full-time work. One-fifth of these remained in the labour force, either working or looking for part-time work. Of those who were still working full-time, 207,200 intended to retire from full-time work at some time in the future. Approximately half intended to retire from full-time work at the age of 60 years and over, 18% intended to retire earlier than that and 32% did not know at what age they intended to retire from full-time work.

Superannuation is an important source of income for many persons post-retirement. In 2000, 17% of pre-retired baby boomers had no superannuation in place, and a further 38% had less than $20,000, while only 8% had more than $100,000 in superannuation. Female baby boomers were more likely to have little or no superannuation than male baby boomers, and in general, younger baby boomers had less superannuation than older baby boomers.

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BABY BOOMERS

			Age group (years)				
			Baby boomers				
	Units	Reference period	Younger	Older	Total	60 and over	Total(a)
		EDUCATION AND WORK					
Highest level of schooling completed							
Year 11/12 or equivalent	'000	2001	152.9	111.8	264.7	73.8	700.6
Year 9/10 or equivalent	'000	2001	108.0	107.5	215.4	94.0	479.9
Year 8 or below	'000	2001	7.4	14.9	22.3	64.0	101.6
Total(b)	**'000**	**2001**	**285.3**	**249.2**	**534.5**	**279.5**	**1 439.3**
Highest non-school qualification							
Bachelor degree or higher	'000	2001	85.4	65.6	151.0	31.7	327.2
Advanced diploma/Diploma	'000	2001	23.4	21.2	44.6	14.2	91.9
Certificate III/IV	'000	2001	49.7	39.8	89.5	31.7	200.4
Certificate I/II	'000	2001	7.9	6.0	14.0	3.6	33.6
Total with a non-school qualification(c)	**'000**	**2001**	**154.2**	**127.4**	**281.6**	**120.2**	**666.8**
Labour force status							
Employed	'000	2001	231.6	208.4	440.0	42.0	940.1
Unemployed	'000	2001	13.2	8.6	21.8	1.3	69.4
Not in the labour force	'000	2001	51.3	50.1	101.4	237.6	501.5
Total civilian population	**'000**	**2001**	**296.1**	**267.0**	**563.1**	**281.0**	**1 511.0**
Labour force participation rate(d)	%	2001	82.7	81.2	82.0	15.4	66.8
Occupation(e)							
Professionals	'000	2001	41.2	34.0	75.2	6.7	141.8
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	'000	2001	33.4	28.8	62.2	4.4	133.2
Associate professionals	'000	2001	28.9	25.8	54.7	4.7	101.9
Tradespersons and related workers	'000	2001	27.5	20.6	48.2	4.3	110.3
Managers and administrators	'000	2001	21.2	21.4	42.6	7.5	71.8
Total	**'000**	**2001**	**212.8**	**183.4**	**396.2**	**41.1**	**828.8**
Industry(e)							
Health and community services	'000	2001	22.9	22.1	45.0	4.1	79.3
Property and business services	'000	2001	23.6	20.7	44.3	4.7	90.1
Retail trade	'000	2001	23.7	19.7	43.4	3.7	123.0
Manufacturing	'000	2001	22.8	18.3	41.1	3.8	84.3
Education	'000	2001	18.8	18.2	37.0	2.9	60.3
Total	**'000**	**2001**	**212.8**	**183.4**	**396.2**	**41.1**	**828.8**
Median gross weekly income(f)	$	1999–2000	917	1 003	968	331	784
Superannuation(g)							
No superannuation	'000	2000	51.7	35.6	87.3	..	274.5
Less than $20,000	'000	2000	114.1	79.5	193.5	..	482.7
$20,000–$39,999	'000	2000	30.3	35.3	65.7	..	94.2
$40,000–$99,999	'000	2000	31.2	28.9	60.0	..	82.9
$100,000 or more	'000	2000	14.0	25.8	39.8	..	56.4
Total	**'000**	**2000**	**277.2**	**230.7**	**507.9**	**..**	**1 146.7**

(a) Data item totals will not necessarily be the same, as a result of differences in the scope and methodology of different data sources, or differences in the population being measured. For further information refer to the relevant chapter.

(b) Includes persons who were still at school and persons who did not go to school. Excludes Overseas visitors.

(c) Excludes Overseas visitors, persons who did not have a non-school qualification and persons who had a qualification out of scope of the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0).

(d) Persons who were employed or unemployed, expressed as a percentage of the total civilian population aged 15 years and over.

(e) Employed persons aged 15 years and over, excluding Overseas visitors.

(f) Household data by age of reference person.

(g) Includes pre-retired persons only. That is, those who were currently working or intending to work in the future.

HEALTH

A high proportion (85%) of baby boomers considered themselves to be in good, very good or excellent health in 2001. This proportion was higher for younger baby boomers (90%) than for older baby boomers (80%). Female baby boomers were more likely to report their health as being good to excellent (88%) than male baby boomers (82%).

Although most baby boomers reported being in good, very good or excellent health, over 90% reported having one or more long-term health conditions. The most common long-term health conditions reported by baby boomers were short sightedness (28%), back pain/problems (26%), long sightedness (25%) and hayfever and allergic rhinitis (20%).

Many lifestyle and environmental factors have been recognised as being risk factors to good health. These include cigarette smoking, excessive alcohol and fat consumption, limited exercise and being overweight. In 2001, one-quarter (25%) of all baby boomers were current smokers, around one in seven (14%) were considered to be consuming risky or high risk levels of alcohol, two-thirds (66%) were either sedentary or undertaking low levels of exercise and over half (51%) were overweight or obese.

The leading cause of death for older baby boomers was malignant neoplasms (cancer) with 111 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2001. There was also a high rate of deaths among male older baby boomers due to heart disease (58 deaths per 100,000 persons). While cancers were also the most common cause of death for female younger baby boomers (37 deaths per 100,000 persons), accidents and intentional self harm were most common among male younger baby boomers (37 deaths and 33 deaths per 100,000 persons respectively).

Almost two-thirds of baby boomers had private health insurance in 2001, with female older baby boomers being more likely to have private health insurance (73%) than other baby boomers. In comparison, only 51% of persons aged 15–35 years and 52% of persons aged 60 years and over had private health insurance in 2001.

As people progress through their life-cycle, the amount of time they spend on various activities changes. In 1997, Western Australian baby boomers spent substantially more time on employment related activities (an average of 4 hours 20 minutes per day) than persons aged 60 years and over (54 minutes per day). The additional time available to persons aged 60 years and over was mainly spent on passive recreational activities.

Attendance at cultural venues and activities decreased with increasing age, as did participation in more physical activities. Approximately three-quarters of all baby boomers had attended the cinema (the most common cultural venue attended by Western Australians) at least once in the 12 months to April 1999 compared with 43% of persons aged 60 years and over. In terms of physical activities, walking was the most popular activity among Western Australians, with 29% of baby boomers undertaking walking as an activity in 1999–2000 compared with 22% of persons aged 60 years and over. Almost one in five (19%) baby boomers participated in swimming compared with 8% of persons aged 60 years and over.

Baby boomers were more likely to be a volunteer than any other age group (volunteer rate of 37%), with older baby boomers contributing the largest amount of time to volunteering activities (195 hours annually per volunteer). While helping others and the community was the most common reason provided across most age groups, younger baby boomers most commonly reported that they volunteered for personal/family involvement reasons.

Computer use and Internet access generally declined with age. Almost half (49%) of baby boomers reported using a computer at home in the week prior to the 2001 Census of Population and Housing compared with 15% of persons aged 60 years and over. The proportion of baby boomers accessing the Internet (45%) was more than four times the figure for persons aged 60 years and over (11%).

Older baby boomers were more likely to perceive that there were crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood compared with other age groups in 2000, with housebreaking/burglaries being the most common concern, followed by dangerous/noisy driving and vandalism/graffiti/damage to property. In 2001, older baby boomers were less likely to be victims of most personal crimes than younger baby boomers and persons aged 0–34 years, but more likely than persons aged 65 years and over.

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BABY BOOMERS

			Age group (years)				
			Baby boomers				
	Units	Reference period	Younger	Older	Total	60 and over	Total(a)
			HEALTH				
Self assessed health status							
Excellent/very good	'000	2001	160.2	121.7	281.9	98.9	753.9
Good	'000	2001	96.6	81.4	178.0	93.4	450.3
Fair/poor	'000	2001	29.3	52.0	81.3	78.5	239.4
Total	**'000**	**2001**	**286.0**	**255.1**	**541.2**	**270.8**	**1 443.5**
Selected long term conditions							
Short sightedness	'000	2001	71.7	80.1	151.8	82.7	389.3
Back pain/problems n.e.c.	'000	2001	72.5	70.2	142.6	69.0	349.1
Long sightedness	'000	2001	40.1	96.5	136.6	94.2	312.0
Hayfever and allergic rhinitis	'000	2001	56.1	50.2	106.3	44.4	302.2
Total(b)	**'000**	**2001**	**286.0**	**255.1**	**541.2**	**270.8**	**1 443.5**
Health risk factors							
Current smoker	'000	2001	82.5	51.9	134.4	27.6	320.3
Risky/high risk alcohol consumption	'000	2001	37.2	37.5	74.7	23.3	172.3
Sedentary/low level exercise	'000	2001	183.1	175.5	358.6	192.7	916.4
Overweight/obese	'000	2001	142.0	134.6	276.7	135.1	619.7
Total persons	**'000**	**2001**	**286.0**	**255.1**	**541.2**	**270.8**	**1 367.4**
Selected causes of death							
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	rate(c)	2001	31.6	110.6	68.5	876.9	164.6
Digestive organs	rate(c)	2001	9.4	37.3	22.4	251.5	47.3
Breast	rate(c)	2001	4.4	17.3	10.4	55.5	12.5
Heart disease	rate(c)	2001	16.8	34.9	25.3	840.9	138.8
Accidents	rate(c)	2001	24.9	15.7	20.6	54.8	26.1
Intentional self harm	rate(c)	2001	22.2	15.7	19.2	11.2	14.1
All causes	**rate(c)**	**2001**	**133.5**	**238.5**	**182.5**	**3 060.1**	**567.0**
			COMMUNITY LIFE				
Main activities undertaken							
Personal care	mins	1997	619	646	631	685	648
Employment related	mins	1997	254	266	260	54	198
Recreation and leisure	mins	1997	232	236	234	370	286
Domestic activities	mins	1997	137	156	146	177	132
Total(d)	**mins**	**1997**	**1 440**	**1 440**	**1 440**	**1 440**	**1 440**
Volunteers	'000	2000	100.4	100.2	200.6	60.8	428.6
Volunteer rate	%	2000	35.0	39.8	37.2	25.3	32.2
Average annual hours (per volunteer)	hours	2000	160.1	195.5	177.8	182.4	165.1
Computer use and Internet access							
Used a computer at home	'000	2001	151.0	111.9	262.9	42.9	613.1
Used the Internet anywhere	'000	2001	137.7	104.0	241.7	29.8	591.5
Total persons(e)	**'000**	**2001**	**287.4**	**251.4**	**538.8**	**281.5**	**1 456.7**
Victims of recorded crime							
Assault	rate(f)	2001	952.2	491.6	733.3	96.5	798.0
Sexual assault	rate(f)	2001	42.1	17.5	30.4	2.4	88.6
Robbery	rate(f)	2001	52.6	46.9	49.9	26.8	78.2
Estimated Resident Population	**'000**	**2001**	**296.7**	**268.7**	**565.4**	**209.3**	**1 901.2**

(a) Data item totals will not necessarily be the same, as a result of differences in the scope and methodology of different data sources, or differences in the population being measured. For further information refer to the relevant chapter.

(b) Includes other long term conditions.

(c) Deaths per 100,000 of the estimated mid-year population for each age group.

(d) Includes other activities.

(e) Excludes Overseas visitors.

(f) Victimisation rate per 100,000 of the estimated resident population of Western Australia in June 2001.

CHAPTER 1 BACKGROUND

THE AGEING POPULATION

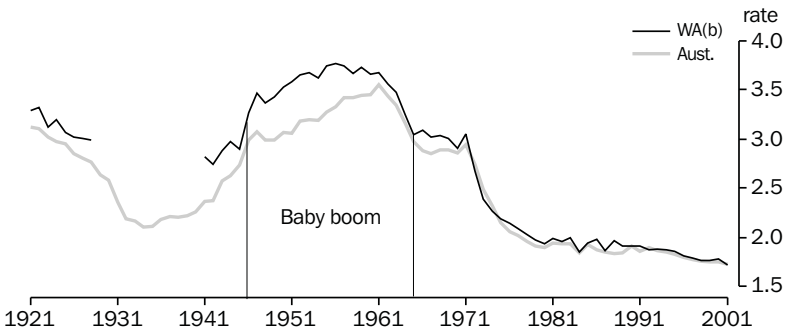
The Australian population has undergone enormous change over the course of the last century. The demographic make-up of Australian society has been shaped by historic events (such as the Great Depression and two World Wars) and reflects the impact of various socio-economic and geographic circumstances (such as changes in industry, labour market conditions, immigration policies, cultural diversity, social and religious attitudes, and living standards). These and other factors influence fertility, mortality and migration trends and the resultant structure of the population. In turn, the characteristics of the current population will affect the future population make-up, society and economy.

The post WWII 'baby boom' is perhaps the most influential and recognisable demographic trend in Australia over the last century. The post-war period was characterised by high marriage rates, high fertility (as a result of women delaying childbirth during the Depression and war years) and improved economic conditions. It was also a period of high population growth through net overseas migration. In 1945, the Australian government introduced an initiative to increase the population by 1.0% per year through immigration. This resulted in record levels of net overseas migration in 1949 and 1950 (ABS 1997a). The combination of high fertility and high levels of immigration resulted in a significant number of persons being born during the post-war period.

Fertility

The high fertility rates experienced in Australia after WWII continued into the early 1960s, reaching a peak of 3.5 babies per woman in 1961. The fertility rate dropped through the mid-1960s with the introduction of effective contraception and wider availability of abortion, and settled at around 2.9 babies per woman over the period 1966–1971 (ABS 2002e). In the late 1960s, legislation was passed which supported the changing attitudes towards the role of women in society. This included new laws in 1966 allowing married women to work in the public sector, and in 1969 it was ruled that women should receive equal pay to men for equal work (ABS 1998a). This resulted in a steady increase in the participation of women in education and employment, while fertility rates continued to decline (ABS 2002e) (ABS 1998a).

1.1 TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a)



(a) Babies per woman. See Glossary for the definition of total fertility rate.
(b) WA data not available between 1929 and 1940.

Source: Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001) and ABS data available on request, Australian Demography Bulletins, 1921–1971.

Fertility *continued*

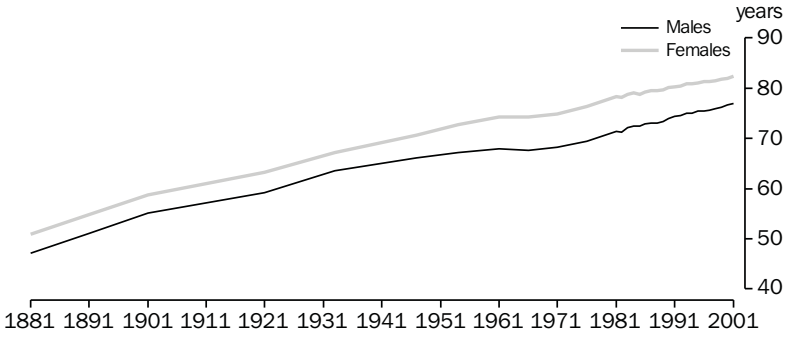
Since the late 1970s, there has been an increasing trend for women to have babies later in life. This is largely seen as a consequence of the delayed timing of the events in people's lives that lead to family formation (ABS 2001e). Young adults are staying in the family home longer, participating more in education and placing more focus on their careers, all of which may contribute to later relationship formation and fewer years being available to bear children (ABS 2001e). The cost of raising children and the difficulties in combining work with family responsibilities may also affect the decision to have children (ABS 2002f). These combined factors have resulted in a drop in fertility rates during the last quarter of a century.

Western Australian fertility rates largely follow the patterns observed for Australia, although they are consistently higher and peaked earlier over the 'baby boom' period. Graph 1.1 shows that the Western Australian fertility rate reached 3.8 babies per woman in 1956, five years earlier than the national peak of 3.5 babies per woman, however the rates became more closely aligned toward the end of the 'baby boom' period.

Mortality

The last 120 years have seen remarkable improvements in life expectancy. During the first ten years of the 1900s, average life expectancy at birth in Australia was 55.2 years for males and 58.8 years for females. By the beginning of the 21st century, a new-born baby could expect to live more than 20 years longer (77.0 years for males and 82.4 years for females), as shown in graph 1.2. In Western Australia, life expectancy data is not available between 1920 and 1967, but has closely followed national trends for the rest of the period.

1.2 LIFE EXPECTANCY(a), Australia



(a) Average remaining lifetime at birth.

Source: Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001).

Improvements in life expectancy reflect a generally consistent decrease in mortality rates (ABS 2001f). A rise in living standards, improved nutrition levels and better health education contributed strongly to lower mortality rates during the first half of the twentieth century, while medical advances in the second half of the century continued the trend (ABS 1997a).

Population ageing

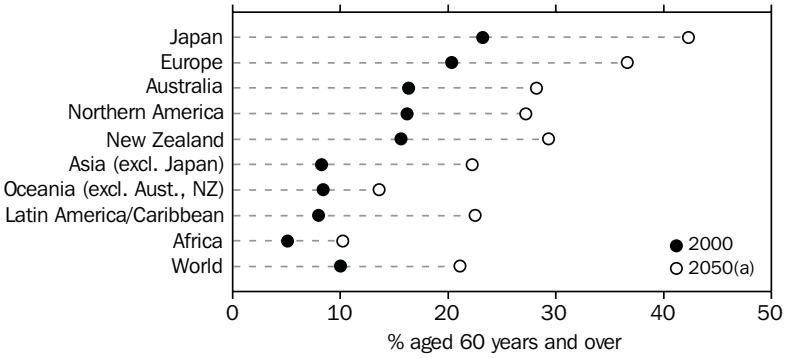
The comparatively low fertility rates of the last twenty years will ultimately result in a smaller proportion of younger people in the population compared with older people. This is known as 'structural ageing' as it affects the structure of the population distribution (ABS 2002d). In addition, improvements in life expectancy will result in a greater number of people living to an older age. This is known as 'numerical ageing' as it affects the actual size of the population, and is compounded by the sheer number of persons born during the 'baby boom' (ABS 2002d). The combination of structural and numerical ageing in Australia has led to what is commonly known as the 'ageing of the population'.

GLOBAL AGEING

The phenomenon of an ageing population is not limited to Australia. Many of the world's developed countries are experiencing ageing populations. The United Nations (UN) reports that in 2000, 20% of the population of Europe was aged 60 years and over, with Italy, Greece and Germany having just under one-quarter of their population in this age group. Japan also had a relatively high proportion of the population aged 60 years and over (23%).

Graph 1.3 highlights that Australia, Northern America (which primarily consists of the United States of America and Canada) and New Zealand had slightly younger populations than Europe and Japan, with 16% of their populations aged 60 years and over. In contrast, the less developed regions of the world (Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America/Caribbean and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)) had under 10% of their populations aged 60 years and over.

1.3 WORLD POPULATION AGEING — 2000



(a) Medium variant projection.

Source: United Nations 2000, World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision <http://www.un.org/popin> Accessed: 5 November 2002.

GLOBAL AGEING *continued*

The trend of global ageing is expected to continue well into the twenty-first century, with the UN projecting that the proportion of the world's population aged 60 years and over will more than double by 2050 (from 10% in 2000 to 21% in 2050) (UN 2002). Graph 1.3 shows that all regions are expected to age, with Africa and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) expecting the least growth in the proportion of people aged 60 years and over. In general, regions with older age structures in the year 2000 are expected to continue to have older age structures by 2050. For Australia, the UN projects that 28% of the population will be aged 60 years and over by 2050, remaining above the world average in 2050 of 21%.

PLANNING FOR AN AGEING POPULATION

In Australia, the ageing of the population has been a high profile issue for many years. Government agencies recognise that an ageing population could dramatically alter future community needs, and that they must plan for an older population.

State and commonwealth governments have supported the development of policies surrounding ageing issues. In April 1999, the commonwealth government launched a National Strategy for an Ageing Australia (Andrews 2001) to coincide with the 1999 International Year of Older Persons. The National Strategy 'is a framework for our national response to the challenges and opportunities that an older Australia will present (and) will be the vehicle for ongoing leadership by the Commonwealth Government in engaging the Australian community on this important issue'.

In November 2001, the Western Australian state government set up an Active Ageing Taskforce to work with the community in developing priorities and appropriate strategies to address issues arising from the ageing of the population.

Australia's first Intergenerational Report (Department of the Treasury 2002) was released by the commonwealth government as part of the 2002–03 budget. This report 'provides a basis for considering the Commonwealth's fiscal outlook over the long term, and identifying emerging issues associated with an ageing population'. Similar reports have recently been produced by the United Kingdom, the United States of America and New Zealand governments.

Government responses to the ageing population recognise the potential impact of the baby boomer generation. The ABS projects that by the year 2020, almost a quarter (23%) of the Western Australian population will be aged 60 years and over, and that by the year 2050, this proportion will be almost a third (30%) (ABS 2000a, Series II assumptions). For Australia, the ABS projects that a slightly higher proportion of the population will be aged 60 years and over by the year 2050 (32%), although the UN projection is lower at 28%. As the baby boomers age, they will make up an increasingly larger proportion of this segment of the population, and can be expected to be both a resource and a challenge for future governments.

CHAPTER 2 DEMOGRAPHICS

INTRODUCTION

Western Australia has a highly urbanised population with the majority of people living in the Perth metropolitan region and in the south west of the state. Increasingly, population growth has been concentrated in these areas and major coastal locations. Conversely, most population loss can be found in the inland regional areas, predominately those regions reliant on agriculture and mining.

This chapter will discuss the structure and distribution of the Western Australian population, with a particular emphasis on the size and characteristics of the baby boomer group. It will highlight some key trends and current demographic features, and attempt to illustrate the impact of the 'baby boom' (and the baby boomer generation) on the future composition of the Western Australian population.

POPULATION STRUCTURE AND DISTRIBUTION

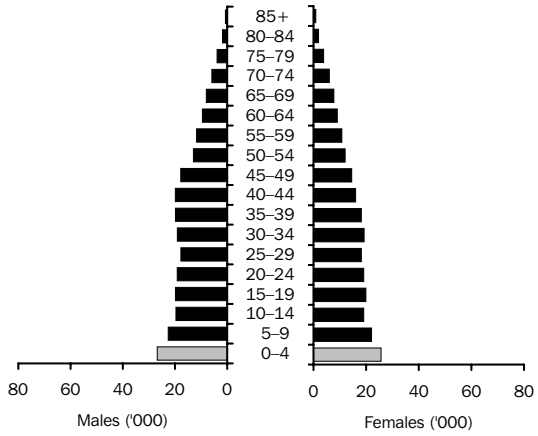
Impact of the 'baby boom' — post-WWII to today

The effect of the 'baby boom' on Western Australia's age-sex distribution over time is highlighted in the series of population pyramids presented in graph 2.1. In the 1960s and 1970s, baby boomers formed a prominent bulge at the younger end of the distribution. The end of the 'baby boom' is not as clearly defined as the start and, consequently, the bulge in the distribution pyramid is less pronounced in more recent years. In 2001, the large baby boomer group is evident in the mid-30s through to mid-50s age range, and will progress through into the seniors and retirement age groupings in the next few years. Just as the baby boomer generation has impacted on the economy and society since WWII, they will continue to have a significant impact over the next half a century (for further information see Population projections section in this chapter).

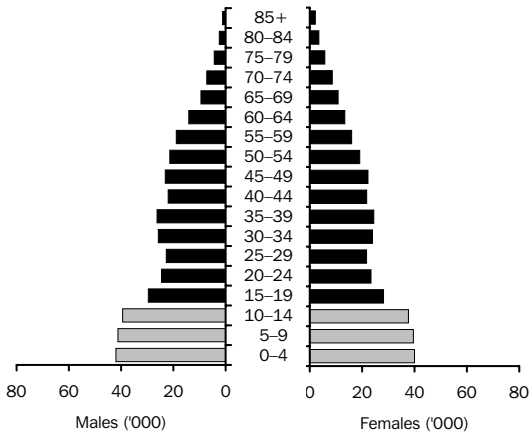
One of the most noticeable features of the set of population pyramids below is the extent to which the population of Western Australia has aged, that is, the trend toward a greater proportion of the population in older age groups relative to younger age groups. Declining fertility rates and improved life expectancy in recent decades have contributed to population ageing (ABS 2001c). The ageing of the baby boomer group has had a profound impact on the structural ageing of the population, particularly since they moved from being younger than the median age of the population to being older than the median age (ABS 1997a). In addition, improvements in life expectancy mean that persons of baby boomer age are expected to live longer today than would have been the case in previous years. This will amplify the impact that the baby boomer group has on the ageing of the population.

2.1 PROFILE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION(a)

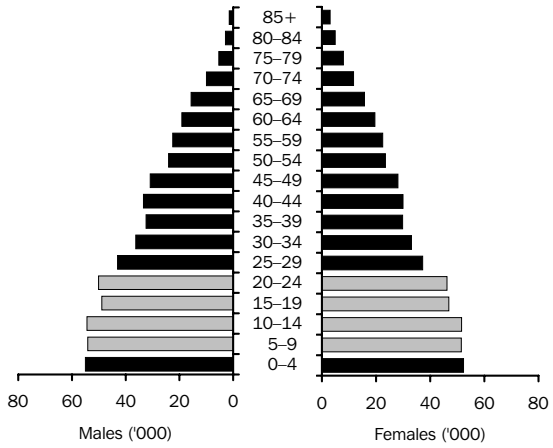
1947



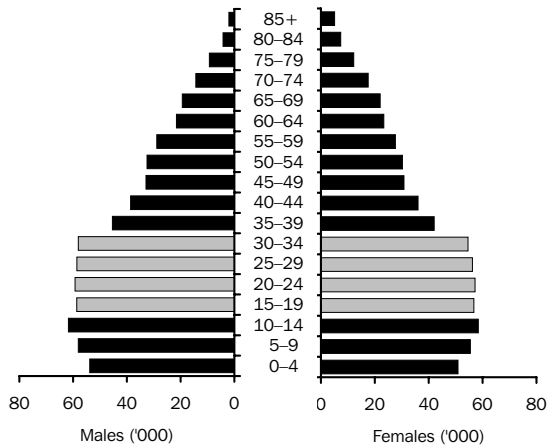
1961



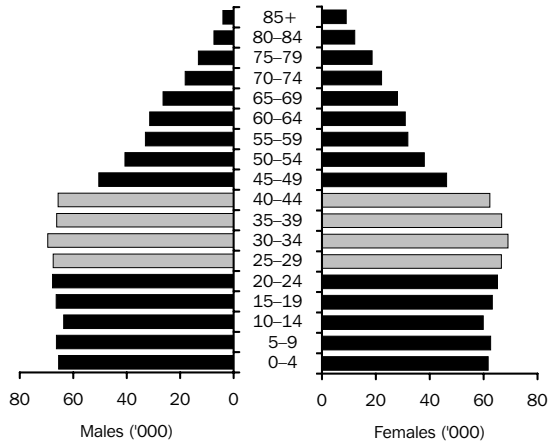
1971



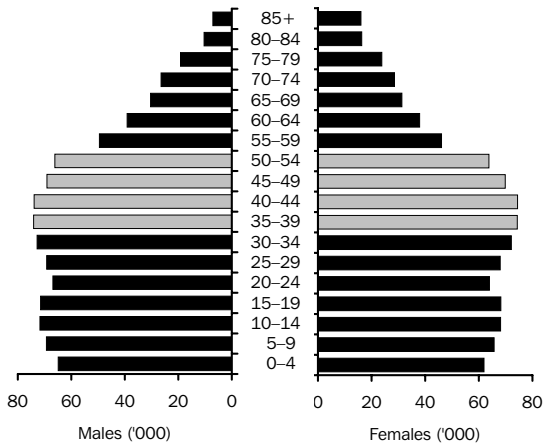
1981



1991



2001



(a) Highlighted region approximates the baby boomer group.

Source: Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001).

Impact of the 'baby boom' — post-WWII to today *continued*

In the period 1999–2001, Western Australian men aged 35 years could expect to live a further 44 years. In comparison, women aged 35 years could expect to live another 49 years. For those at the high end of the baby boomer cohort (those aged 54 years), life expectancy was a further 27 years for men and 31 years for women. These figures are between six and ten years higher than the corresponding expectation of life in Australia in 1946–48.

The sex ratio (defined as the number of males per 100 females) has continued to fall in recent years in Western Australia. This can be partially explained by the combination of an ageing population and a higher life expectancy for women compared with men. Around the beginning of the 'baby boom', the sex ratio for the Western Australian population was 105.6. This figure fell to 104.1 around the end of the 'baby boom' and has dropped further, to 100.2, in 2001. The sex ratio among the baby boomer group was 100.7 in 2001. Although the baby boomer population does not appear to have markedly influenced the declining sex ratio to date, on the assumption that the life expectancy of females continues to be greater than males, the ageing of the baby boomers can be expected to further reduce the sex ratio in future years (see Population projections section for further details).

The Western Australian population today

At 30 June 2001, there were 557,700 baby boomers in Western Australia, with male baby boomers slightly outnumbering females. Although this represents a sizeable proportion of the population (29%), baby boomers made up a lower proportion of total persons in 2001 than in previous years (32% in 1991). This is partly as a result of increased mortality as the baby boomers age.

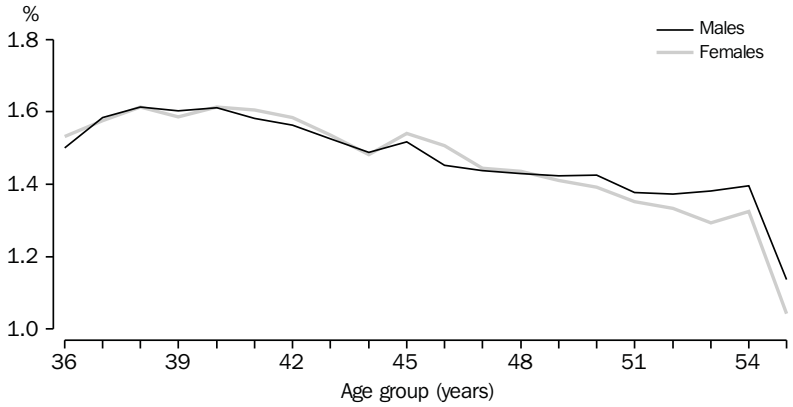
2.2 POPULATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA — 2001

	Males	*Females*	*Persons*
	NUMBER ('000)		
Age group (years)			
0–14	206.0	195.6	401.6
15–35	294.5	286.3	580.8
36–55			
36	14.3	14.6	28.9
37	15.1	15.0	30.1
38	15.3	15.3	30.7
39	15.2	15.1	30.3
40	15.3	15.4	30.7
41	15.0	15.3	30.3
42	14.9	15.1	29.9
43	14.5	14.6	29.1
44	14.1	14.1	28.2
45	14.4	14.6	29.1
46	13.8	14.3	28.2
47	13.7	13.7	27.4
48	13.6	13.7	27.3
49	13.5	13.4	27.0
50	13.6	13.2	26.8
51	13.1	12.9	26.0
52	13.1	12.7	25.8
53	13.1	12.3	25.4
54	13.3	12.6	25.9
55	10.8	9.9	20.7
Total 36–55	*279.9*	*277.8*	*557.7*
56–59	38.7	36.1	74.8
60 and over	132.6	153.7	286.2
Total	**951.6**	**949.6**	**1 901.2**

Source: ABS data available on request, Estimated Resident Population, 2001 (final).

A closer look at the baby boomer group reveals that there is a relatively uniform number of persons in most single year groups, with 55 year olds making up a noticeably smaller proportion of the total population than other age years in the baby boomer population. The most populous baby boomer ages were 38 years and 40 years (each making up approximately 1.6% of the total population, or 30,700 persons), with numbers generally declining at subsequent ages through to 55 years (1.1% of the total population, or 20,700 persons).

2.3 BABY BOOMERS: PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION — 2001



Source: ABS data available on request, Estimated Resident Population, 2001 (final).

State/territory comparisons

Despite differences in their overall age distributions, all states/territories had a similar proportion of baby boomers in 2001. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of baby boomers (30%), while the remaining states/territories each recorded around 29%. There were marked differences in the proportion of persons in the younger (0–35 years) and older (60 years and over) age groups. South Australia and Tasmania had older age distributions than the larger states, and the territories had relatively young populations.

2.4 POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA, STATES AND TERRITORIES — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
State/territory	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	NUMBER ('000)						
New South Wales	3 294.4	1 004.5	868.7	1 873.2	267.1	1 140.4	6 575.2
Victoria	2 413.9	733.2	635.7	1 368.8	192.0	830.0	4 804.7
Queensland	1 866.1	549.3	489.5	1 038.8	149.8	574.3	3 628.9
South Australia	720.2	230.0	209.1	439.1	63.9	288.5	1 511.7
Western Australia	982.4	297.3	260.4	557.7	74.8	286.2	1 901.2
Tasmania	227.8	71.6	65.1	136.7	20.4	86.9	471.8
Northern Territory	122.6	32.0	24.7	56.7	6.0	12.5	197.8
Australian Capital Territory	172.8	49.8	46.0	95.8	12.2	38.5	319.3
Australia(a)	**9 801.7**	**2 968.1**	**2 599.5**	**5 567.7**	**786.4**	**3 257.6**	**19 413.2**
	PROPORTION (%)						
New South Wales	50.1	15.3	13.2	28.5	4.1	17.3	100.0
Victoria	50.2	15.3	13.2	28.5	4.0	17.3	100.0
Queensland	51.4	15.1	13.5	28.6	4.1	15.8	100.0
South Australia	47.6	15.2	13.8	29.0	4.2	19.1	100.0
Western Australia	51.7	15.6	13.7	29.3	3.9	15.1	100.0
Tasmania	48.3	15.2	13.8	29.0	4.3	18.4	100.0
Northern Territory	62.0	16.2	12.5	28.6	3.0	6.3	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	54.1	15.6	14.4	30.0	3.8	12.1	100.0
Australia(a)	50.5	15.3	13.4	28.7	4.1	16.8	100.0

(a) Includes Other Territories.

Source: ABS data available on request, Estimated Resident Population, 2001 (final).

Regional comparisons

There are considerable regional variations in the age profile of the Western Australian population. The South Eastern, Pilbara and Kimberley SDs typically have younger age distributions than other regions of the state. The Pilbara and Kimberley, in particular, have relatively large Indigenous populations, which tend to be consistent with a younger age distribution (ABS 2002b). Table 2.5 highlights that all three of these SDs had a lower proportion of persons aged 60 years and over and, conversely, a higher proportion of persons aged 0–35 years than other SDs in Western Australia. Employment opportunities and conditions, lifestyle preferences, cultural diversity and access to services and support networks are a few of the many socio-economic and geographic factors which have played a part in shaping the regional populations of the state (ABS 2002b).

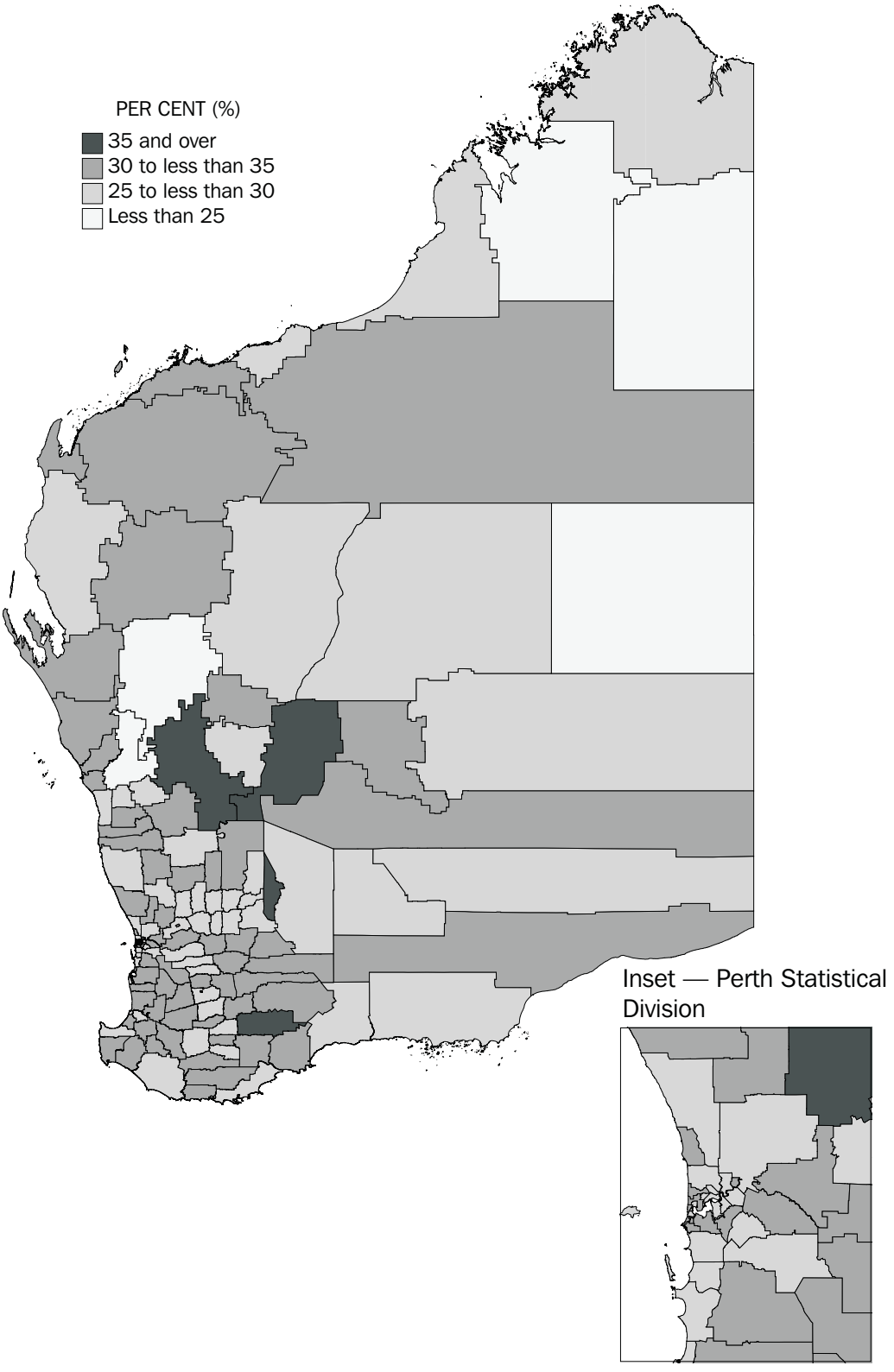
Baby boomers make up a relatively similar proportion of the total population of most SDs in Western Australia, however there is some variation among the more remote SDs. The most remote SD (Kimberley) had the lowest proportion of baby boomers (25%), whereas the second most remote SD (Pilbara) had the highest proportion of baby boomers (31%).

2.5 POPULATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, STATISTICAL DIVISIONS — 2001

	Age group (years)							
		Baby boomers						
Statistical division	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total	Median age (years)
	NUMBER ('000)							
Perth	715.3	215.9	194.3	410.2	55.0	212.4	1 393.0	35.1
South West	94.4	30.6	26.0	56.5	8.1	35.1	194.1	36.9
Lower Great Southern	26.1	8.4	7.3	15.6	2.3	9.6	53.6	36.9
Upper Great Southern	9.3	2.9	2.7	5.7	0.8	3.1	18.9	36.6
Midlands	26.0	8.4	7.7	16.1	2.6	8.9	53.6	37.0
South Eastern	32.9	9.1	6.5	15.6	1.7	4.8	55.1	30.9
Central	32.2	9.7	7.9	17.6	2.4	8.5	60.8	34.0
Pilbara	24.9	7.3	4.7	12.1	1.0	1.5	39.5	29.8
Kimberley	21.4	4.9	3.3	8.3	0.8	2.1	32.6	28.1
Western Australia	**982.4**	**297.3**	**260.4**	**557.7**	**74.8**	**286.2**	**1 901.2**	**34.9**
	PROPORTION (%)							
Perth	51.4	15.5	13.9	29.4	4.0	15.2	100.0	. .
South West	48.6	15.7	13.4	29.1	4.2	18.1	100.0	. .
Lower Great Southern	48.6	15.6	13.6	29.2	4.3	17.9	100.0	. .
Upper Great Southern	49.1	15.4	14.5	29.9	4.4	16.6	100.0	. .
Midlands	48.5	15.7	14.3	30.0	4.8	16.7	100.0	. .
South Eastern	59.7	16.6	11.8	28.4	3.1	8.8	100.0	. .
Central	53.0	16.0	13.0	29.0	4.0	14.0	100.0	. .
Pilbara	63.0	18.6	12.0	30.6	2.6	3.9	100.0	. .
Kimberley	65.6	15.1	10.2	25.4	2.6	6.5	100.0	. .
Western Australia	51.7	15.6	13.7	29.3	3.9	15.1	100.0	. .

Source: ABS data available on request, Estimated Resident Population, 2001 (final).

2.6 PROPORTION OF BABY BOOMERS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS — 2001



Source: ABS data available on request, Estimated Resident Population, 2001 (final).

Regional comparisons *continued*

Almost three-quarters (74%) of Western Australian baby boomers resided in the Perth SD in 2001, which is similar to the proportion of all persons (73%). The next most populous SD for baby boomers was the South West, accounting for 10% of all baby boomers. The geographic distribution of baby boomers in future years is a key demographic issue and an area of concern for state government planning and policy agencies. The Migration section in this chapter explores this issue further by examining the patterns of movement of baby boomers and older generations within Australia.

At the Local Government Area (LGA) level, the proportion of baby boomers in the population ranged from 20% in remote Halls Creek to 41% in the sparsely populated inland area of Sandstone. Those areas with the greatest proportion of baby boomers were mainly inland and small in size, whereas those areas with the lowest proportion of baby boomers were a mix of very remote LGAs (Derby-West Kimberley and Ngaanyatjarraku) and urban areas (Victoria Park, Perth and Belmont).

Remoteness

The Remoteness Structure is a classification designed to provide a measure of remoteness across Australia. It measures the remoteness of a point based on the road distances to the nearest ABS defined Urban Centre (ABS 2001a). As a result, categories in the Remoteness Structure may not correspond with categories in other geographical classifications.

In 2001, the majority of Western Australian baby boomers were living in major cities (70%), while over one-fifth lived in regional areas (21%), and the remainder lived in remote areas (9%). This distribution was similar across most age groups, however, those aged 15–24 years and those aged 75 years and over were less likely to be living in remote and very remote areas and more likely to be living in major cities than other age groups. Greater employment, training and educational opportunities in larger population centres may explain this for the 15–24 years age group. A greater demand for health services, nursing and residential home care, and other support networks among older persons partly explains the tendency away from remote areas for those aged 75 years and over (Hugo 2002).

2.7 POPULATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, REMOTENESS AREAS — 2001

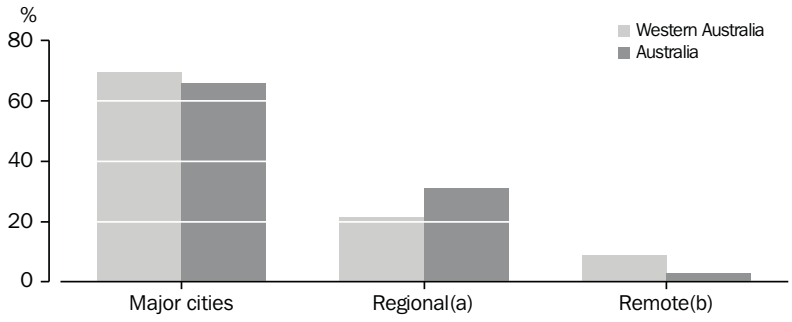
	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Remoteness areas							
Major cities	69.8	68.9	70.5	69.7	68.1	70.1	69.8
Inner regional	11.4	12.1	11.7	11.9	12.5	12.7	11.8
Outer regional	9.7	9.8	9.2	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.6
Remote	5.4	5.6	5.1	5.4	5.8	4.7	5.3
Very remote	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	4.0	3.1	3.5
Western Australia	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Western Australia	957.9	287.4	251.4	538.8	73.0	281.5	1 851.3

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001

Remoteness *continued*

When compared with Australia as a whole, Western Australia had a greater proportion of people in major cities and remote areas and a considerably smaller proportion in regional Australia. This is true for all age ranges, including baby boomers. In Western Australia, 9% of baby boomers were in remote areas compared with 3% of all Australian baby boomers.

2.8 BABY BOOMERS IN REMOTENESS AREAS — 2001



(a) Includes Inner and Outer regional Australia.
(b) Includes Remote and Very remote Australia.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

MIGRATION

The decisions people make in regard to their place of residence are based on different considerations as they move through their life-cycle. Population movement, or migration, can impact on the level of growth, structure and distribution of regional populations (ABS 1997a).

Propensity to move

Personal characteristics, and individual, family and household circumstances impact on the opportunity people have to move, as does a person's inclination toward mobility. Lifestyle preferences appear to play a larger part in determining the inter-regional movement of older persons and observations over time support the notion that older persons more regularly migrate toward coastal areas. The catalyst for baby boomers and younger age groups to move is more likely to be a life event, such as marriage or change in employment (Bell & Hugo 2000).

Propensity to move *continued*

Between 1996 and 2001, 41% of baby boomers moved residence (either within the state or interstate) compared with 46% of the total population. Mobility rates in Western Australia typically peak among young adults, falling sharply with age to a low at around the mid-70 years of age. In fact, those aged 15–35 years were almost two and a half times more likely to have moved in the last five years than those aged 60 years and over (62% compared with 25%). Even within the baby boomer group, the rate of mobility drops markedly, from 52% for 36–40 year olds to 32% for 51–55 year olds.

The Western Australian population was slightly more likely to have moved in the last five years than the Australian population — this was true across all age groups.

Baby boomers who had moved in the five years to 2001 exhibited a similar pattern of movement to the total population. Most either moved to another residence in the same Statistical Local Area (SLA) (35%) or to another SLA in the same SD (36%). Only 9% of baby boomers moved interstate in this period. As well as moving less often, persons aged 60 years and over tended to move shorter distances than those in younger age groups. Of those persons aged 60 years and over who moved, nearly three-quarters (74%) moved within the same SD. This is consistent with the tendency for older persons to move to locations closer to friends, into more suitable dwellings and into aged care accommodation as they age (for further information, see Housing chapter).

2.9 PERSONS WHO MOVED RESIDENCE BETWEEN 1996 AND 2001(a) — 2001

	Age group (years)								
		Baby boomers							
	5–35	36–40	41–45	46–50	51–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)								
Persons who moved	57.6	52.2	41.9	35.3	31.5	40.6	30.4	25.2	45.6
Type of move									
Within same Statistical Local Area	32.8	34.3	36.8	36.1	33.8	35.3	31.9	36.2	33.8
Other Statistical Local Area, same Statistical Division	37.0	35.9	35.3	36.6	38.8	36.4	38.3	37.8	36.9
Other Statistical Division, within Western Australia	18.1	17.0	16.4	17.0	18.0	17.0	20.8	18.2	17.8
From interstate	9.6	10.5	9.5	8.2	7.3	9.2	6.8	5.5	9.0
Total(b)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)								
Total persons(c)	732.7	129.8	129.3	122.9	111.6	493.7	68.7	260.0	1 554.9

(a) Those whose usual residence on Census night was different to that five years prior.

(b) Includes persons who moved but whose move was undefined.

(c) Excludes persons aged less than five years in 2001, those overseas in 1996, Overseas visitors in 2001, and those that did not state whether they moved.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Propensity to move *continued*

In the five years to 2001, Western Australia experienced a net interstate gain of 2,400 persons (compared with a net gain of over 10,500 persons in each of the last six intercensal periods (Bell & Hugo 2000)). The 5–35 year age group accounted for the majority of the gain (1,700) while baby boomers made up 670 persons of the gain. Among baby boomers, there was a net inflow of persons from all states/territories except Queensland (1,000 persons net loss). The largest net inflow of baby boomers came from New South Wales (790), South Australia (350) and the Northern Territory (340).

Regional mobility

Migration patterns can vary significantly by region. Apart from geographic circumstances, the distinctive roles and functions that individual towns and regions perform, and their relative economic wellbeing at a point in time, can impact on population redistribution (Bell & Hugo 2000).

Table 2.10 summarises the internal migration flows into and from Western Australia and its SDs between 1996 and 2001. The South West gained the most baby boomers from migration in this period, with a net gain of 4,100 persons — most of these (56%) coming from the Perth SD. Perth gained 1,300 baby boomers, sourced primarily from interstate. The Pilbara SD and South Eastern SD had the largest net losses of baby boomers (2,300 persons and 1,800 persons respectively) — most of these moved to the Perth SD.

Comparing figures for baby boomers against those for persons aged 60 years and over may provide an indication of the expected movements of baby boomers as they age and enter retirement. In the five years to 2001, the South West had the largest net inflow of those aged 60 years and over (2,600), as did the baby boomer group. The majority of these persons came from the Perth SD. The only other SD to gain persons aged 60 years and over was the Lower Great Southern SD. In contrast to the baby boomer group, the Perth SD had a net loss of persons aged 60 years and over in the five years to 2001. Interstate migration was a relatively negligible source of change in the 60 years and over population in 2001 — this is consistent with data that suggests that persons in this age bracket are more likely to move shorter distances (see table 2.9).

2.10 NET MIGRATION BY SOURCE AND DESTINATION(a) — 1996–2001

	Source of gain/destination of loss			
	Perth	*Other WA Statistical Division*	*Interstate*	*Net migration*
Statistical division	*no.*	*no.*	*no.*	*no.*
	BABY BOOMERS (36–55 YEARS)			
Perth	. .	296	1 052	1 348
South West	2 275	1 465	352	4 092
Lower Great Southern	163	126	–3	286
Upper Great Southern	–69	–295	2	–362
Midlands	221	–129	–77	15
South Eastern	–1 113	–591	–140	–1 844
Central	–488	124	–63	–427
Pilbara	–1 218	–700	–337	–2 255
Kimberley	–67	—	–119	–186
	60 YEARS AND OVER			
Perth	. .	–1 316	179	–1 137
South West	1 856	617	92	2 565
Lower Great Southern	144	20	–41	123
Upper Great Southern	–43	–81	5	–119
Midlands	–155	–150	10	–295
South Eastern	–176	–165	–30	–371
Central	–93	–82	–35	–210
Pilbara	–194	–109	–50	–353
Kimberley	–23	–50	–23	–96

(a) Those whose usual residence on Census night was different to that five years prior. Excludes persons overseas in 1996, Overseas visitors, and those that did not state whether they moved.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Western Australia's population is projected to grow from 1.9 million in 2001 to 3.0 million in 2051. The data presented here are based on Series II assumptions. This series assumes that the total fertility rate will fall to 1.61 and remain there from 2008–09, and that net overseas migration and flows of interstate migration are at a medium level (ABS 2000a).

The population of children (0–14 year olds) and 15–59 year olds is projected to fall as a proportion of the total population over this period, whereas the proportion aged 60 years and over is projected to increase significantly. The baby boomer group will have a strong impact on the growth in the number of older persons over the next half a century. The first baby boomers will reach 60 years of age by 2006, with the youngest baby boomers doing so by 2025.

Those aged 60 years and over made up around one in seven persons in 2001 — this is projected to increase to around one in four in 2031. Although the rate of growth should begin to slow in the two decades after 2031, the proportion of persons aged 60 years and over is projected to grow to 30% of the total population by 2051. This represents more than a three-fold increase in the number of persons of this age (to 925,600 persons) between 2001 and 2051.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS *continued*

Throughout the last century there has been an excess of males over females in the general population, although the sex ratio has been decreasing over most of this period. Under Series II assumptions, the sex ratio of the population is projected to decrease further in future decades, from 101.4 in 2001 to almost equilibrium in 2051 (100.1).

2.11 POPULATION PROJECTIONS(a) — 1991–2051

	Age group (years)								
	0–14			*15–59*			*60 and over*		
	Number	Proportion of population	Increase(b)	Number	Proportion of population	Increase(b)	Number	Proportion of population	Increase(b)
	('000)	%	%	('000)	%	%	('000)	%	%
				MALES					
1991(c)	195.4	23.7	—	527.0	64.0	—	100.5	12.2	—
2001	205.5	21.3	5.2	631.0	65.3	19.7	130.3	13.5	29.6
2011	207.3	18.7	0.9	707.0	63.8	12.0	193.6	17.5	48.6
2021	214.1	17.2	3.3	754.3	60.7	6.7	274.4	22.1	41.7
2031	225.3	16.6	5.2	787.4	57.9	4.4	347.2	25.5	26.5
2041	230.2	15.9	2.2	816.3	56.3	3.7	402.5	27.8	15.9
2051	235.8	15.5	2.4	837.4	55.1	2.6	446.5	29.4	10.9
				FEMALES					
1991(c)	184.0	22.6	—	508.6	62.6	—	120.5	14.8	—
2001	193.7	20.3	5.3	608.8	63.9	19.7	150.6	15.8	25.0
2011	193.7	17.8	—	687.5	63.0	12.9	209.8	19.2	39.3
2021	200.1	16.3	3.3	731.8	59.7	6.4	293.6	24.0	39.9
2031	210.6	15.6	5.3	764.2	56.7	4.4	373.9	27.7	27.3
2041	215.3	14.9	2.2	795.4	55.0	4.1	434.3	30.1	16.2
2051	220.6	14.5	2.5	818.3	53.9	2.9	479.1	31.6	10.3
				PERSONS					
1991(c)	379.4	23.2	—	1 035.7	63.3	—	221.0	13.5	—
2001	399.2	20.8	5.2	1 239.7	64.6	19.7	280.9	14.6	27.1
2011	401.0	18.2	0.4	1 394.5	63.4	12.5	403.5	18.3	43.6
2021	414.2	16.8	3.3	1 486.0	60.2	6.6	568.0	23.0	40.8
2031	435.9	16.1	5.2	1 551.6	57.3	4.4	721.1	26.6	27.0
2041	445.6	15.4	2.2	1 611.7	55.7	3.9	836.8	28.9	16.1
2051	456.4	15.0	2.4	1 655.8	54.5	2.7	925.6	30.5	10.6

(a) Series II projections.

(b) Percentage increase in the population of the relevant year from the previous reference year.

(c) Data for 1991 is estimated resident population rather than projected population.

Source: ABS data available on request, ABS Population Projections, 1999–2051.

CHAPTER 3 CULTURAL DIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

The twentieth century saw Australia transformed from an overwhelmingly Anglo-Celtic, homogeneous population, in which over 95% had been born in Australia, the United Kingdom or Ireland, to one of the world's most multicultural societies. Among Western countries, Australia has one of the highest proportions of persons born overseas, second only to Israel (Jones 1997). International migration has had a major impact on both the size and composition of the Australian population, adding almost 6 million people from more than 200 countries since the end of WWII (DIMIA 2003). This is reflected in the wide variety of religious and cultural beliefs and practices among the population.

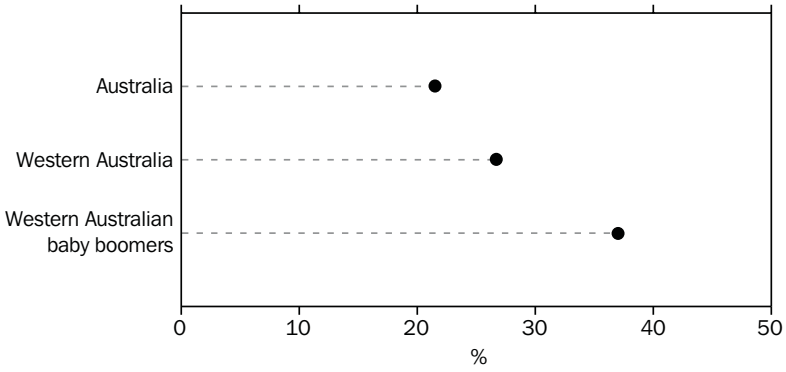
Since the colonisation of Australia by Britain in 1788, the composition of Australia's population has been influenced by government immigration policies and the relative economic conditions in Australia and the rest of the world. One of the first acts of the new commonwealth government in 1901 was to introduce the White Australia Policy, aimed at maintaining the status quo by ensuring that immigrants to Australia were of European origin and predominately Anglo-Celtic. At that time, 23% of Australians were born overseas, with the majority from Europe, the United Kingdom and Ireland (ABS 2001b). One hundred years later, the proportion of overseas born Australians was very similar (22%) but the composition of the overseas born population was much more diverse.

The abolishment of the White Australia Policy in 1972 was the culmination of a number of policy shifts since WWII. Labour shortages in Australia in the immediate post-WWII period resulted in the acceptance of approximately 300,000 'displaced persons' from Eastern Europe. The success of this program resulted in migrants being accepted from elsewhere in Europe and the Middle East (including Italy, Germany, Poland, Turkey, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Netherlands) in the 1950s and 1960s (ABS 2001b). In more recent times, there has been an increase in migrants from Asian countries, such as Malaysia, India, Singapore, Viet Nam and Indonesia.

PERSONS BORN OVERSEAS

Throughout its history, Western Australia has experienced similar policy changes and economic conditions as the rest of the nation and, accordingly, has a population with a diverse ethnic mix. Western Australia has been a popular destination for the overseas born who, in 2001, made up 27% of the population (compared with 22% for Australia as a whole) — the highest proportion of all mainland states and territories. In addition, the ethnic mix in Western Australia is different to other states and territories, with a higher concentration of overseas born persons from regions which are geographically closer to Western Australia (such as South-East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa) than the rest of Australia.

3.1 PROPORTION OF POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS — 2001



Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

In 2001, there was a much higher proportion of persons born overseas among the baby boomer population (37%) than among all Western Australians (27%). Of the 199,300 overseas born baby boomers, 60% were from predominantly English-speaking countries.

3.2 COMPOSITION OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN POPULATION — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Birthplace							
Australia	77.3	60.4	56.3	58.5	53.9	52.4	67.1
Overseas	15.7	35.2	39.0	37.0	41.1	40.6	26.7
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	957.9	287.4	251.4	538.8	73.0	281.5	1 851.3

(a) Includes Inadequately described, At sea, Not stated and Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

The most common countries of birth of overseas born baby boomers in 2001 were England (36%), New Zealand (10%), Scotland (5%), Italy (4%) and Malaysia (3%). In comparison, among overseas born persons aged 60 years and over, there were higher proportions of persons born in England (40%), Scotland (6%) and Italy (11%), but lower proportions born in New Zealand (3%) and Malaysia (2%).

3.3 COMPOSITION OF THE OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Birthplace of overseas born persons							
England	24.8	37.1	34.8	36.0	41.3	40.5	34.0
New Zealand	14.1	11.5	7.9	9.8	5.0	2.6	9.1
Scotland	3.3	5.1	5.3	5.2	6.2	6.2	4.9
Italy	0.7	2.0	5.4	3.7	6.2	11.3	4.7
Malaysia	5.2	2.9	3.9	3.4	2.7	1.8	3.5
South Africa	5.1	3.0	2.6	2.8	1.8	1.4	3.1
India	1.9	2.5	2.8	2.7	3.7	3.4	2.7
Germany	1.2	1.3	3.2	2.2	3.0	2.5	2.0
Viet Nam	3.2	2.5	1.6	2.1	0.9	0.9	2.1
Other countries	40.5	32.0	32.4	32.2	29.3	29.7	34.0
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total overseas born persons	150.0	101.2	98.1	199.3	30.0	114.3	493.6

(a) Excludes Inadequately described, At sea, Not stated and Overseas visitors.

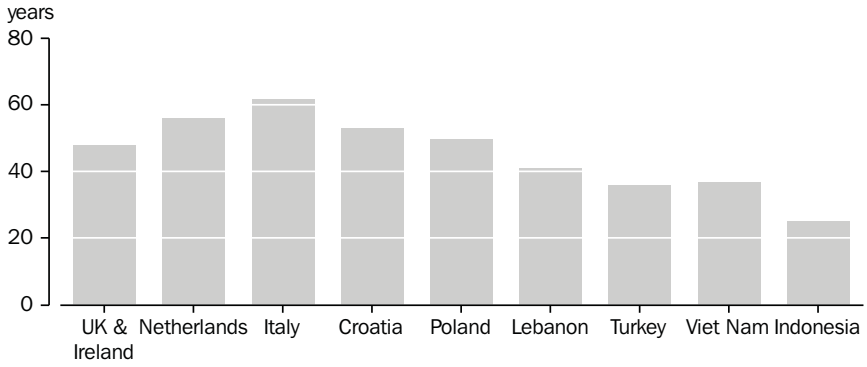
Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Age profiles

Over the last 50 years, changing patterns of migration to Australia have resulted in some overseas born groups having an older age profile than others (ABS 2000e). Research from the then Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs highlights that 'most people immigrate during the 'prime age' years of their lives' (DIMA 2001). It follows then that overseas born groups from countries that supplied large numbers of immigrants in recent times (for example, Asian and Eastern European countries) are more likely to have a younger profile than those people from countries with a longer history of immigration (e.g. Northern and Southern European countries) (DIMA 2001).

The median age of all persons in Western Australia was 34 years in 2001. Persons born in Italy (median age of 62 years) and the Netherlands (56 years) had some of the oldest age profiles. These older age profiles are a reflection of the high levels of immigration from Italy and the Netherlands immediately after WWII and declining levels in the last few decades. In contrast, the age profile for groups born in Indonesia and Viet Nam were considerably younger (25 years and 37 years respectively).

3.4 MEDIAN AGE OF OVERSEAS BORN PERSONS, Selected countries of birth — 2001



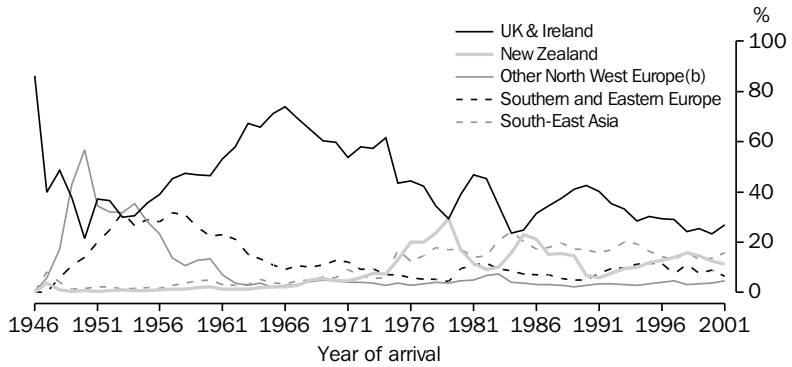
Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Year of arrival

The birthplace composition of overseas born baby boomers in Western Australia varies markedly depending on their year of arrival in Australia. Those baby boomers born in the United Kingdom and Ireland make up the greatest proportion of the overseas born population at almost every year of arrival since WWII. This reflects the fact that persons from the United Kingdom and Ireland have dominated the migrant intake over the period.

Among the baby boomer population who arrived in Australia in the ten years following WWII, 92% had arrived from Europe (32% from the United Kingdom and Ireland and 59% from the remainder of Europe). Those migrants who arrived in Australia after the 1960s were less likely to be from the United Kingdom and Ireland. Of those baby boomers who arrived in Australia between 1991 and 2001, 30% were from the United Kingdom and Ireland. In contrast, the proportion of baby boomers born in South-East Asia has increased, from 2% of all overseas born baby boomers arriving in the ten years after WWII to 16% of those arriving in the ten years to 2001.

3.5 OVERSEAS BORN BABY BOOMERS,
Year of arrival and country of birth(a) — 2001



(a) Year of arrival in Australia for those persons who were overseas born baby boomers in 2001.
(b) North West Europe other than UK and Ireland.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

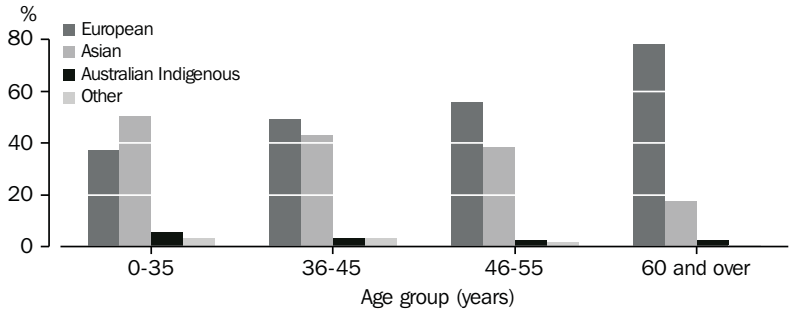
Language spoken at home

People who speak a language other than English at home are regarded as presenting 'both a challenge and a resource: the challenge is to ensure that their communication skills in English are adequate to participate in the social and economic life of the Australian community; the resource is the repository of multilingual skills they offer to Australian society and the economy' (DIMA 2001).

More than one in eight (12%) Western Australian baby boomers spoke a language other than English at home in 2001. This is similar to the proportion among the total population and across all other age groups.

The particular languages spoken at home by different groups reflect changes in migration patterns. Graph 3.6 highlights that baby boomers and persons aged 60 years and over were more likely to speak a European language at home, while younger people were more likely to speak an Asian language. Of those persons who spoke a language other than English at home, 52% of baby boomers and 79% of persons aged 60 years and over spoke a European language. In contrast, an Asian language was spoken at home by 41% of baby boomers, 18% of persons aged 60 years and over, and 50% of persons aged 0–35 years.

3.6 PERSONS WHO SPOKE A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME(a) — 2001



(a) Excludes language Not stated and Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

English language proficiency

The ability to speak English is a strong indicator of a person's ability to function effectively in Australian society. Poor English language skills can limit people's choice of employment as well as access to educational or training courses. Ultimately, these limitations can have negative consequences in terms of financial resources and wealth creation (DIMA 2001).

Commentators have indicated that people with poor English language skills can become further disadvantaged as they age if their proficiency in English does not improve (DIMA 2001). This may be particularly pertinent for females who arrive in Australia from non-English speaking countries and for those who arrive at an older age, as they, in general, report greater difficulty in speaking English (ABS 2000e). The level of interaction with the wider community, in such forms as labour force participation and involvement in organised activities, is a contributing factor to the degree of improvement in the English proficiency of migrants.

English language proficiency *continued*

A small proportion of baby boomers are not proficient in English. In 2001, 14% (or 8,800) of baby boomers who spoke a language other than English at home did not speak English well. In contrast, 31% of persons aged 60 years and over who spoke a language other than English at home were unable to speak English well. Of the 8,800 baby boomers who did not speak English well, 4,300 were younger baby boomers and 4,500 were older baby boomers. Around 57% of baby boomers who did not speak English well were female.

The ability of baby boomers to speak English varied with the language spoken at home. Only 1% of those baby boomers who spoke a Northern European language at home were unable to speak English well, whereas baby boomers who spoke a South-East Asian, Eastern Asian, or South-West Asian/North African language at home were much more likely to have difficulty speaking English (26%, 22% and 20% respectively).

3.7 PERSONS WHO SPOKE A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME: PROPORTION WHO DID NOT SPEAK ENGLISH WELL(a) — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Language spoken at home							
Northern European(b)	3.2	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.8	4.8	3.0
Southern European	4.2	4.3	7.7	6.0	13.9	32.0	13.7
Eastern European	6.8	12.7	15.7	14.3	20.9	29.8	15.0
Southwest Asian and North African	17.2	18.8	23.3	20.5	25.9	40.9	19.8
Southern Asian	3.7	2.1	2.7	2.3	4.3	11.0	3.8
Southeast Asian	14.7	25.4	26.1	25.7	32.1	47.8	20.8
Eastern Asian	12.5	20.8	22.9	21.8	28.1	55.1	19.8
Australian Indigenous	19.6	10.2	19.2	14.0	24.6	39.9	20.6
Other	10.1	4.5	8.1	5.8	4.3	11.3	8.7
Total(c)	**10.9**	**12.7**	**14.7**	**13.7**	**17.5**	**30.7**	**15.6**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons who spoke a language other than English at home	97.1	33.8	30.4	64.3	8.1	37.4	206.8

(a) Persons who reported that they spoke English Not well or Not at all. For each language, percentages are calculated as the number of persons who did not speak English well divided by the total number who spoke that language at home.

(b) Other than English.

(c) Includes languages which were Inadequately described and Non-verbal languages. Excludes language Not stated and English. Excludes Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

INDIGENOUS POPULATION

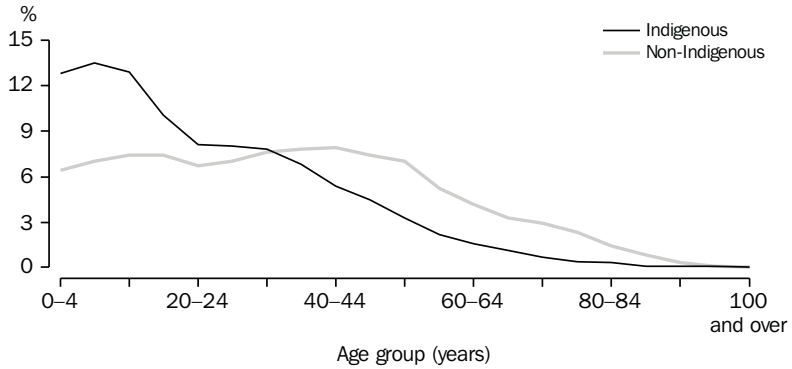
While the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population did not experience a 'baby boom', they still make up part of the baby boomer age group. In 2001, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represented 3% of the total population of Western Australia but only 2% of the baby boomer population.

INDIGENOUS POPULATION
continued

The Indigenous population has a younger age distribution than the general population, because of higher rates of fertility and mortality. In 2001, 19% (or 11,200 persons) of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population were in the baby boomer age group and 5% were aged 60 years and over. In comparison, 29% of the total Western Australian population were baby boomers and 15% were aged 60 years and over.

Indigenous people have lower rates of participation in education, higher rates of unemployment and lower income than non-Indigenous persons (ABS 2001b). Owing to lower life expectancies and poorer health, many of the services usually reserved for older people are required by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at younger ages.

3.8 AGE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION — 2001



Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

ANCESTRY

Ancestry describes a person's ethnic or cultural heritage. It is usually considered in terms of a person's identification with particular ethnic or cultural groups or nationality, or descent from one or more particular groups. The extent to which successive generations retain their culture, ethnicity or language is an important element of cultural and language diversity in Australia (ABS 1999a).

In the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, people were asked to report the ancestries they most closely identified with, as far back as three generations. Data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing indicates that 29% of Western Australian baby boomers reported having Australian ancestry. This compares with 34% of the total population. Ancestry is related to patterns of migration into Australia. Accordingly, 64% of the baby boomer group claimed North-West European ancestry (including 42% English ancestry) while 11% claimed Southern and Eastern European ancestry.

3.9 MAIN ANCESTRIES(a) — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Main ancestries(a)							
English	36.9	40.5	43.1	41.7	46.8	45.9	40.1
Australian	40.9	29.4	27.5	28.5	26.0	23.6	34.1
Irish	9.1	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.1	8.6	9.4
Italian	5.4	5.5	4.3	4.9	4.0	5.7	5.3
Scottish	2.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.0	3.4
German	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.8
Chinese	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.7	1.9	1.4	2.7
Dutch	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.9
Total(b)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	945.7	285.3	249.2	534.5	72.3	279.5	1 832.0

(a) When more than one ancestry was reported, only the first two responses were processed.

(b) Figures do not add to 100% as respondents could select more than one ancestry. Includes ancestry Not stated but excludes Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

RELIGION

In 1983, the High Court of Australia defined religion as 'a complex of beliefs and practices which point to a set of values and an understanding of the meaning of existence' (ABS 2001b). At the beginning of the twentieth century, with almost all its inhabitants born in Australia, the United Kingdom or Ireland, Australia was predominantly a Christian nation, with 96% of the population in 1901 being affiliated with a Christian religion (ABS 2001b). Changing migration patterns over the twentieth century and, in particular, the recent increase in the proportion of migrants from Asia and the Middle East (for further information see Persons born overseas section in this chapter), has resulted in an increase in non-Christian religions in Australia. Accordingly, the proportion of people affiliating with Christianity has decreased over this period.

3.10 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby Boomers					
	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Religious affiliation							
Christianity	55.7	64.2	69.4	66.6	75.0	80.0	63.4
No religion	25.1	19.2	15.6	17.5	11.8	7.8	19.7
Buddhism	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.3	0.9	1.6
Islam	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.3	1.1
Hinduism	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Judaism	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Other religion	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6
Not stated	11.8	10.3	9.4	9.9	9.0	9.4	10.7
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	945.7	285.3	249.2	534.5	72.3	279.5	1 832.0

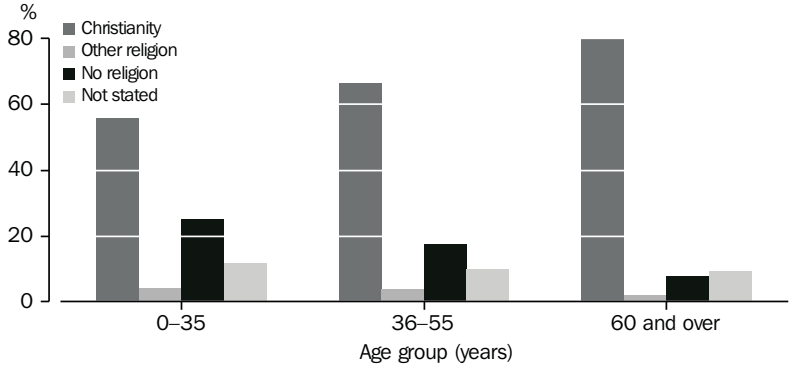
(a) Excludes Overseas visitors. Includes Inadequately described.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Two-thirds of baby boomers stated that they were Christian in 2001. The corresponding figure for younger baby boomers was 64% and for older baby boomers it was 69%. The proportion of people reporting Christian religions increased with age, from 56% of 0–35 year-olds, to 67% of baby boomers and 80% of persons aged 60 years and over. Conversely, younger people were more likely to state that they had no religion, with one-quarter (25%) of persons aged 0–35 years reporting no religion compared with 18% of baby boomers and 8% of persons aged 60 years and over.

Of the less common religions in Western Australia, 2% of baby boomers cited Buddhism as their religion, 1% cited Islam, 0.3% cited Hinduism and 0.3% cited Judaism. Around 1 in 10 baby boomers did not state their religion.

3.11 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION — 2001



Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

CHAPTER 4 FAMILIES

INTRODUCTION

Families are a vital part of society, forming the basic unit of home life for most Australian people. Among other things, families provide people with an important source of support and companionship. Family composition and structure is dynamic in nature — couples with children continue to be the most prevalent family type, but this is slowly diminishing, reflecting changes in the patterns of marriage and partnering and subsequent differences in family formation (ABS 1999b). These changes in turn impact on the demand for various family and community resources, and are important considerations in policy and program development.

In 2001, the Western Australian population living in private dwellings accounted for almost 1.8 million people, with most of these persons living in family households (83%). A similar proportion of baby boomers lived in family households (84%), while 10% lived in lone person households, and 2% lived with people who were not their relatives in group households.

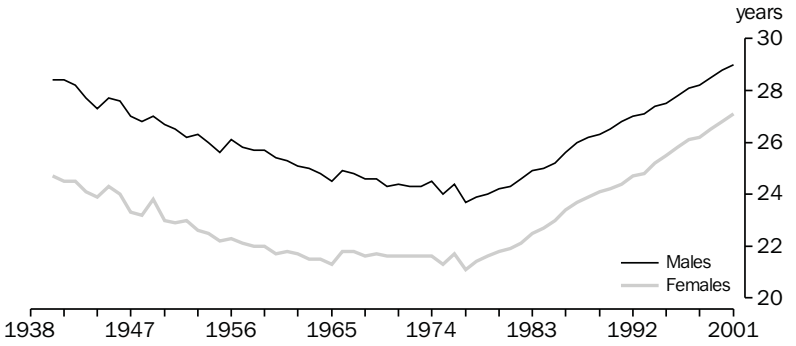
THE CHANGING VIEW OF A FAMILY

Social and economic events occurring in the latter half of the twentieth century triggered a shift in attitudes towards family formation. Some of these events, which included greater control over contraception and greater participation of women in the labour force, resulted in men and women delaying marriage and having children later in life (ABS 2002e). This has been further compounded by the changing attitudes of young adults, who are reaching the milestones which usually precede parenthood (leaving the parental home, gaining economic independence, marrying or forming long-term de facto relationships) later than was the case for their parents. Young adults are now more likely to enter into de facto marriages prior to a formal registered marriage later in life (ABS 2001e) (ABS 2000b).

Marriage trends

The 1940s and 1950s saw couples marrying and starting families at younger ages than was common for their parents. In Western Australia in 1940, the median age at first marriage was 28 years for bridegrooms and 25 years for brides. These ages declined to a low point in 1977 (24 years for bridegrooms and 21 years for brides), partly influenced by the reduction in the minimum age at which a person could marry without parental consent (from 21 years to 18 years) in 1973 (ABS 2003). Since 1977, the median age at first marriage has risen steadily, to 29 years for bridegrooms and 27 years for brides in 2001 (ABS 2002c).

4.1 MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE



Source: Marriages and Divorces, Australia (cat. no. 3310.0); Western Australian Year Book, 1940 to 1976, (cat. no. 1300.5).

In 2001, people in registered marriages accounted for more than half of the Western Australian population aged 15 years and over. Among the baby boomer population, 69% were registered as married, although this percentage was slightly lower for younger baby boomers (66%) than older baby boomers (71%). In comparison, a lower proportion of persons aged 60 years and over were in a registered marriage (62%), although persons in this age group were more likely to be widowed (24%) than those in younger age groups.

Trends in the median age at first marriage suggest that older baby boomers were more likely to have married at a younger age than younger baby boomers. This, along with the greater likelihood of being in a de facto relationship, may also explain why a larger proportion of younger baby boomers had never been married (16%) in 2001 compared with older baby boomers (7%).

4.2 REGISTERED MARITAL STATUS — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Registered marital status							
Never married	70.0	16.3	7.3	12.1	4.9	4.3	32.6
Widowed	0.1	0.7	1.9	1.3	4.1	23.7	5.3
Divorced	2.3	10.8	14.1	12.3	13.1	8.0	7.6
Separated	2.1	5.8	5.5	5.7	4.4	2.4	3.6
Married	25.5	66.4	71.2	68.6	73.5	61.6	50.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons(a)	563.4	287.4	251.4	538.8	73.0	281.5	1 456.7

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. Includes Overseas visitors.

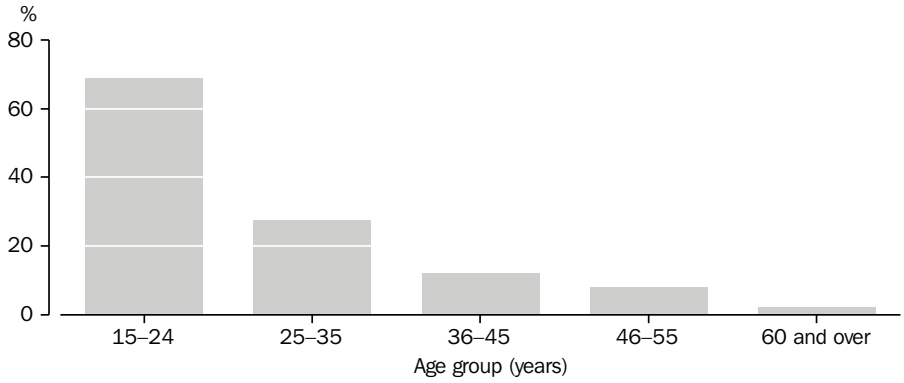
Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

De facto marriages

De facto couples have always existed, but remained largely unrecognised in family policy, legal and government systems until the early 1990s (ABS 1995c). Since WWII, there has been a move away from the traditional type of marriage in favour of de facto marriages, especially prior to formal or registered marriages. Of all marriages in Western Australia in 2001, 77% of couples had cohabited prior to marrying, compared with 45% in 1982, and 29% in 1972 (ABS 2003).

In 2001, around 14% of Western Australians aged 15 years and over living in a couple relationship were in a de facto marriage. De facto marriages were more common among people in younger age groups, particularly those in their twenties or younger. Of those living in a couple relationship, 69% of 15–24 year olds were in a de facto marriage, while only 10% of baby boomers and 2% of those aged 60 years and over had this type of living arrangement.

4.3 PERSONS LIVING IN A COUPLE RELATIONSHIP,
Proportion in de facto marriages — 2001

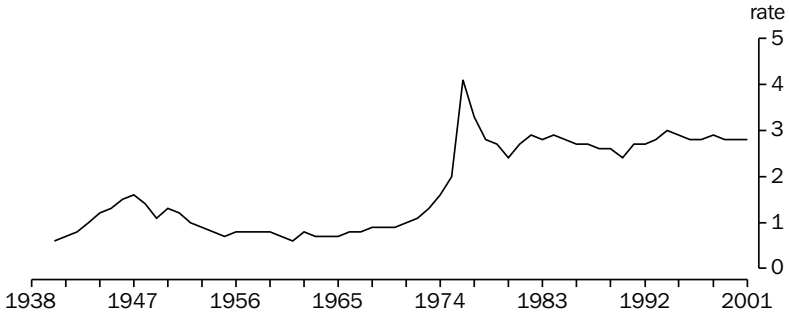


Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Divorce trends

The most marked change in divorce rate trends in Australia coincided with the introduction of the *Family Law Act 1975* (effective January 1976), which allowed for divorce to occur if there was an irretrievable breakdown of marriage. This law resulted in a large increase in the crude divorce rate in 1976 as the backlog of applications were processed, after which the rate declined until 1980 (ABS 1995b). Since then, the rate of divorce has remained relatively steady, at around 3 divorces per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

4.4 CRUDE DIVORCE RATES(a)



(a) Calculated as the number of divorces in a year per 1,000 of the estimated resident mean population. From 1994, the mid-year population has been used.

Source: Australian Historical Population Statistics (cat. no. 3105.0.65.001).

In 2001, there were 5,400 divorces granted in Western Australia, 1.4% more than the number granted the previous year. In comparison, the number of divorces granted in 1991 was 4,400. Over the past 10 years, wives have consistently lodged more divorce applications than husbands (ABS 2003).

The peak age group for divorce in 2001 was 40–44 years for males (with a rate of 13.1 divorces per 1,000 men) and 35–39 years for females (with 13.9 divorces per 1,000 women). That is, persons in the younger baby boomer age group were the most likely to divorce in 2001.

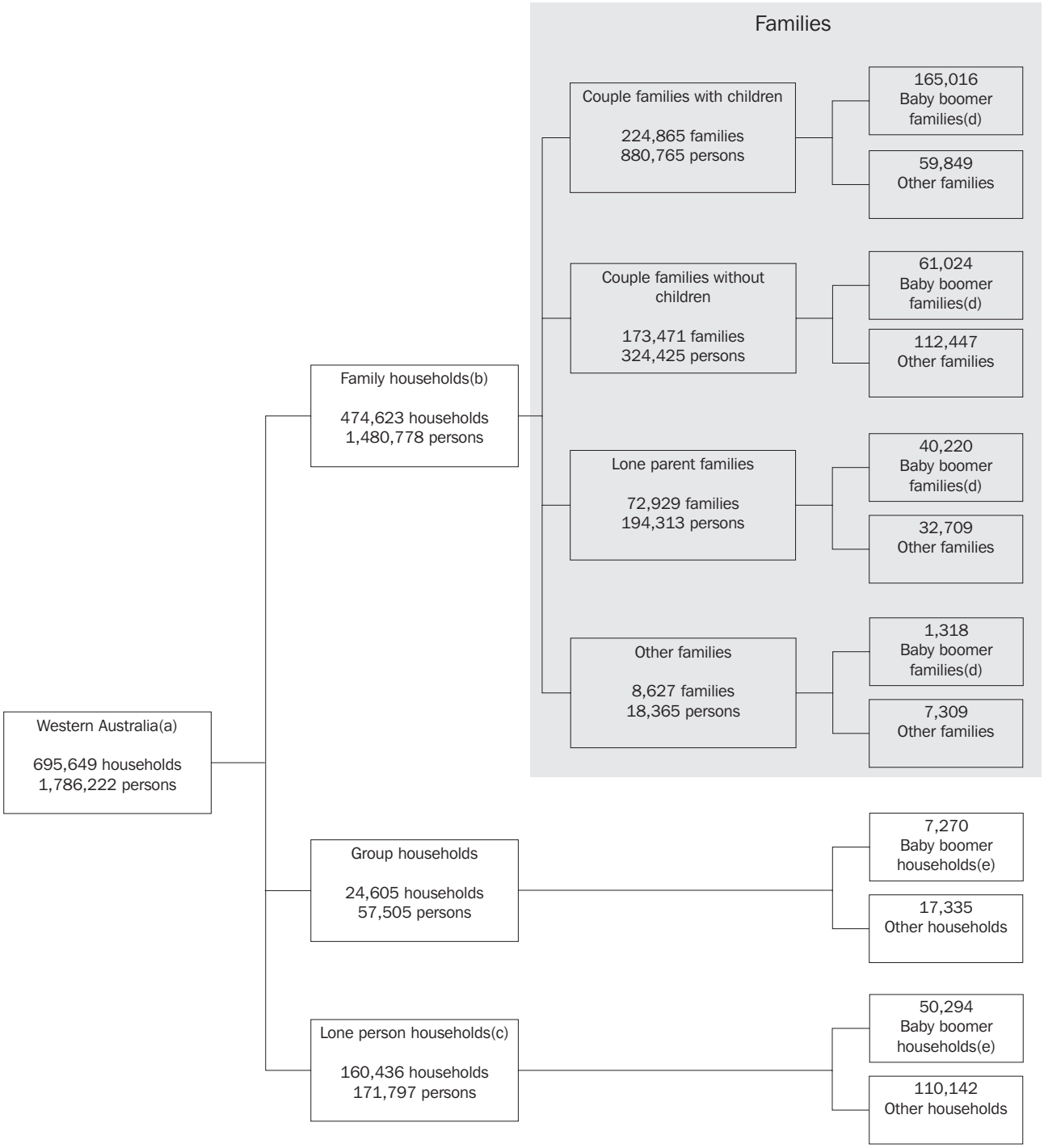
Table 4.2 highlights that, in 2001, almost 8% of the Western Australian population were divorced. The higher proportion of baby boomers having this marital status (12%) is a reflection of the fact that baby boomers are at an age where most people have been married at least once and where divorces are also prevalent (median age of divorce was 42.5 years for men and 39.7 years for women in 2001).

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD TYPES

Figure 4.5 illustrates the types of households and families in occupied private dwellings in 2001. Note that family households do not equate to families, as more than one family may live in the same household. Furthermore, the number of persons in family households will not equate to the number of persons in families, as the former may include unrelated individuals. For the purposes of this analysis, a baby boomer family is defined as any family where the reference person and/or their partner (where applicable) is of baby boomer age.

Of the 479,900 families counted in Western Australia in 2001, almost 47% were couple families with children and 36% were couple families without children. Over half (56%) of all families were baby boomer families — with most of these (84%) being couple families (either with or without children) and another 15% being lone parent families.

4.5 FAMILIES, HOUSEHOLDS AND PERSONS — 2001



(a) Includes visitor households and other not classifiable households, as well as persons in these households.

(b) In addition to couples, parents, children and other family members, family households may also include unrelated individuals. Therefore, the number of persons in family households will not equal the number of persons in families.

(c) In addition to lone persons, lone person households include temporary visitors on Census night. Therefore, the number of persons in lone person households will not equal the number of lone person households.

(d) A baby boomer family is a family where the reference person and/or their partner (where applicable) was born between 1946 and 1965 inclusive.

(e) A baby boomer household includes those households where *any* person in the household was born between 1946 and 1965 inclusive.

Source: ABS data available on request, 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

Couple families with children

Couple families with children were the most common family type in Western Australia in 2001, numbering 224,900 families and accounting for 56% of all couple families. Table 4.6 shows that almost three-quarters (73% or 165,000) of couple families with children comprised at least one partner of baby boomer age, with 52% having both partners of baby boomer age.

Baby boomer families were more likely to have a child living with them than other couple families (73% compared with 34%) in 2001. In addition, in couple families where one of the parents/partners were aged 60 years and over, 16% had a child living with them.

Of the 165,000 baby boomer couple families with children, 34% (or 56,600) contained two younger baby boomer partners, 21% (or 33,900) contained two older baby boomer partners and 16% (or 26,000) contained one younger baby boomer and one older baby boomer. A further 24% of families contained one baby boomer and a partner who was born before or after the 'baby boom'.

Couple families without children

In 2001, over one-third (35% or 61,000) of couple families without children contained at least one baby boomer, while 19% had partners who were both of baby boomer age.

Nearly 42% of couple families without children were those where both partners were born prior to the 'baby boom'. These families are likely to be those where the children have left the parental home, creating what is commonly referred to as an 'empty-nest'. A further 20% of couple families without children contained two partners born after the 'baby boom'. These younger families are likely to be those who have either delayed having children until later in life, or who are choosing to remain childless.

Current marriage and fertility trends indicate that couples are marrying later and choosing to delay childbirth. A continuation of these trends is likely to impact on the age at which baby boomers become 'empty-nesters' which, in turn, may impact on their housing needs and retirement intentions.

4.6 COUPLE FAMILIES IN OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS — 2001

	With children	*Without children*	*All couple families*
	NUMBER ('000)		
Baby boomer families			
Partners both of younger baby boomer age	56.6	6.5	63.0
Partners both of older baby boomer age	33.9	20.9	54.8
One partner of younger and one of older baby boomer age	26.0	6.4	32.5
Other(a)	48.5	27.2	75.8
Total baby boomer families	*165.0*	*61.0*	*226.0*
Families with no baby boomer parents/partners	55.5	107.0	162.4
Total(b)	**224.9**	**173.5**	**398.3**

(a) Includes families where one partner is a baby boomer and the other partner is not a baby boomer or their age is not determined.

(b) Includes Same-sex couple families and couples where the age of partners could not be determined. Excludes Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Lone parent families

There is a growing number of Australian families comprising children with only one resident parent. This is largely associated with the increase in the number of divorced and separated persons in the population — although the rate of divorce has changed little in recent decades, new divorces occurring each year have added to the total number of divorcees (ABS 1997b). In 1986, lone parent families made up almost 9% of all families in Western Australia — in 2001, this proportion had increased to 15% (72,900 families).

Lone parent families with dependent children under 15 years of age accounted for almost half (48%) of all lone parent families in 2001. A further 27% of lone parent families contained only non-dependent children while 25% contained a mixture of dependent and non-dependent children, and students. The parent in the majority of lone parent families was female (83%).

Over half (55%) of lone parents were baby boomers, with younger baby boomers being more likely to be lone parents than older baby boomers (33% and 23% of all lone parent families respectively). Another 13% of lone parents were aged 60 years and over.

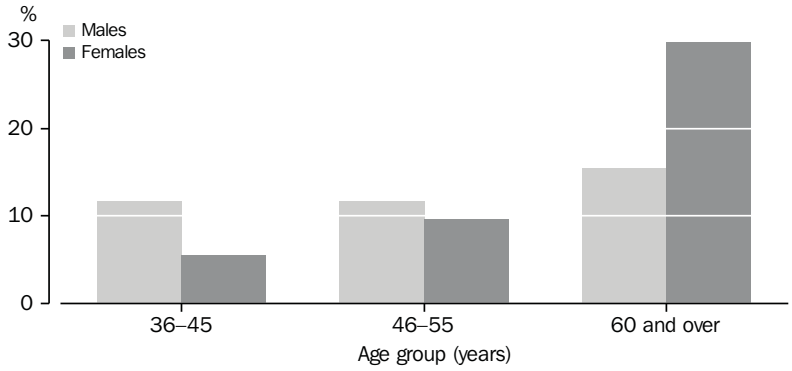
Lone person households

Lone person households have become more common in recent decades, and reflect social changes, such as increases in the number of divorced and widowed people. The total number of lone person households has almost doubled between 1986 and 2001 (from 83,000 to 160,400). This represents an increase in the proportion of lone person households, from 15% of all households to 23% over this period.

As people age, there is an increased likelihood of living alone, through the death of a partner or through separation due to illness or disability (ABS 1999f). In Western Australia in 2001, 10% of all baby boomers were living alone, as were 23% of persons aged 60 years and over. Although the proportion of persons aged 60 years and over living alone has remained fairly constant in the last two decades, it is likely to be impacted upon by increases in life expectancies, greater government emphasis on home-based care and the provision of wide-ranging community based assistance programs (which may be helping people to live independently to later ages) (ABS 1999f).

Overall, a greater proportion of lone persons were female (52%), mainly as a consequence of the greater longevity of women which has given rise to a larger number of widowed women than men. This effect is most noticeable in older age groups, where only 31% of persons aged 60 years and over living alone were male. In contrast, most lone persons of baby boomer age were male (61%), reflecting the fact that men are more likely to live alone after separation or divorce, while women more often become lone parents (ABS 1996a).

4.7 PROPORTION OF PERSONS LIVING IN LONE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS — 2001



Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Group households

In 2001, there were 24,600 group households in Western Australia, representing 4% of all households. Almost one-third (30%) of these households contained a baby boomer.

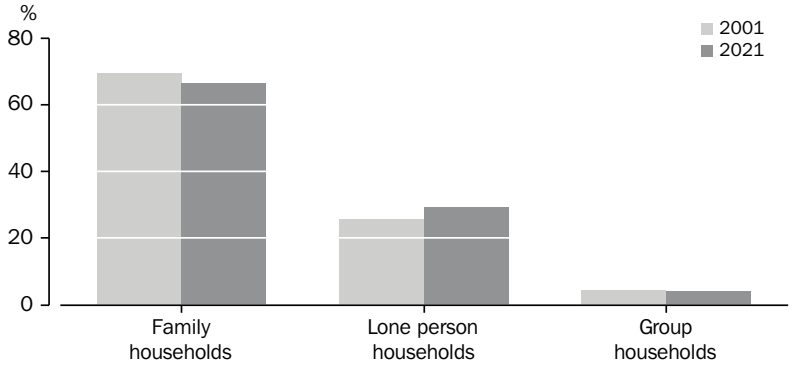
A similar proportion of younger and older baby boomers (2%) were living in a group household in 2001. Nearly two-thirds (62%) of those baby boomers living in a group household were male. Only 1% of persons aged 60 years and over were living in a group household.

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS

Different life-cycle stages correspond broadly to different living arrangements. As the age structure of the population changes and as trends in marriage, family and work change, living arrangements will also shift. Over the past 100 years, the average size of households has declined while the number of households has increased at a faster rate than the population has grown (ABS 2001d). This has been brought about by changes in society which have affected living arrangements, such as people having fewer children, an increasing number of divorces, and more young people living alone or in group households (ABS 2001d). Changes in family and household composition have implications not only for housing demand, but also for policies relating to income support, accommodation provisions, aged care, health and family services (ABS 2001d).

Although family households are projected to remain the most common household type in 2021, they are projected to decrease from 70% of all households in 2001 to 67% in 2021. In contrast, lone person households are projected to increase from 26% of all households to 30% over the same period. The proportion of group households is projected to remain relatively consistent between 2001 and 2021 (at around 4%–5%).

4.8 PROJECTED NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS

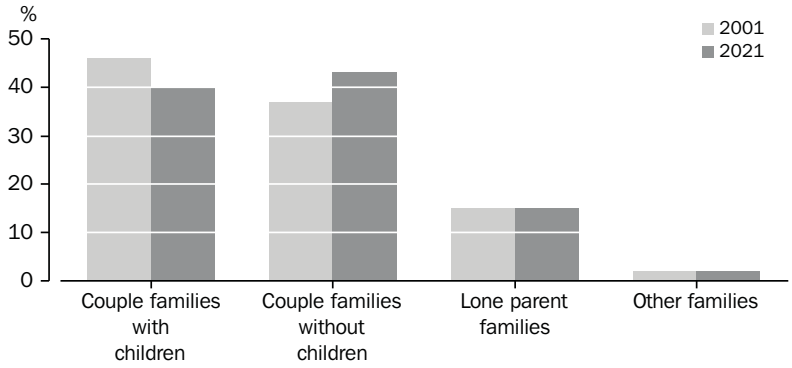


Source: Household and Family Projections, Australia, 1996 to 2021 (cat. no. 3236.0).

By 2021, couple families without children are projected to become more common than couple families with children. This is mainly associated with the ageing of the population and the fact that by 2021 the large population of baby boomers will be aged 56–75 years, and will be unlikely to still have children residing with them.

The proportion of couple families without children is also likely to be affected by the expected convergence in the life expectancy of men and women. The gap between male and female life expectancy dropped from 7 to 6 years between 1980–1982 and 1997–1999, further suggesting that there will be more couples at older ages in the future (ABS 2001d).

4.9 PROJECTED NUMBER OF FAMILIES



Source: Household and Family Projections, Australia, 1996 to 2021 (cat. no. 3236.0).

Future family composition will also be influenced by an increasing number of divorced people in the population. While the proportion of lone parent families is projected to remain stable at around 15% between 2001 and 2021, the actual number of lone parent families in Western Australia is projected to increase, to approximately 110,400 in 2021.

CARING

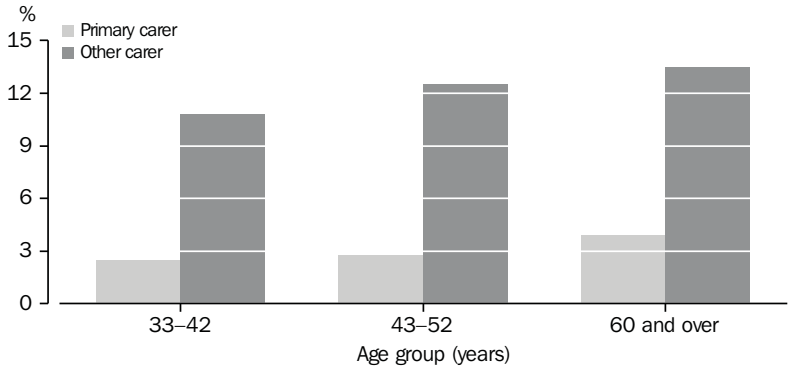
Caring, in its broadest sense, encompasses many of the daily interactions that maintain and enhance human relationships. People can provide care to others in many different roles, whether it be as a mother, son, neighbour or care professional. In most instances, the role of caring is provided by family members or friends, and is a role which most people will play at some point in their lifetime. The assistance provided by friends and family members make it possible for people who are frail, aged or have disabilities to live at home and to access community services. Caring for others contributes to the cohesion of families and communities, and the extent to which it occurs in a society is a measure of community strength and social solidarity (ABS 2000h).

The 1998 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers identified 199,600 carers in Western Australia, or the equivalent of 11% of the population. A carer was defined as any person who provided informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to persons with disabilities or long-term conditions, or persons who were elderly. The survey did not include persons who were caring for a child, unless the child had a disability or long-term condition. The rates of caring within different age groups tended to mirror life stages. Persons aged 32 years and under were less likely to be in a caring role (6%) compared with baby boomers (14%) and persons aged 60 years and over (17%). This is because most younger people were caring for people whose impairments were not related to old age. People in older age groups are more likely to have older partners and parents to care for, as the likelihood of disability and related functional impairment increases with age (ABS 1999f).

Females accounted for 54% of all carers in 1998. Among baby boomer carers, 60% were female. Due to the greater life expectancy of females and their tendency to be younger than their male partners, many older women outlive their partners. As a consequence, men are more likely to live in family situations, particularly with their partners, to later ages than women (ABS 1999f).

Around 18% of carers in Western Australia were primary carers, similar to the proportion among baby boomer carers. Among those in a carer role, female baby boomers were more likely to be a primary carer than male baby boomers (23% compared with 11%), whereas males aged 60 years and over were more likely to be in a primary caring role than women of the same age (25% compared with 19%).

4.10 PROPORTION OF PERSONS WITH A CARER ROLE — 1998



Source: ABS data available on request. Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 1998.

Care recipients and living arrangements

Most informal care arrangements exist between family members, resulting in caring relationships that reflect the respective life stages of carers and those they care for (ABS 2000h). Most commonly, primary carers were the partner of the care recipient (42%) — this was particularly the case for primary carers aged 60 years and over (82%). However, primary carers of baby boomer age could be caring for a parent (31%), partner (27%) or child (25%).

A carer may provide assistance within or outside their own home, and to more than one person (ABS 2000h). Primary carers were more likely than other carers to be living with the person they cared for (80% compared with 71%), with women more likely than men to provide care to someone living elsewhere. In 1998, 80% of baby boomers who were primary carers provided assistance to someone residing in their own home. This is slightly lower than for those primary carers aged 60 years and over, where 85% had the recipient of care living with them. Evidence suggests that primary carers who live with the person they provide care for generally experience more disruption to their daily lives than those who live in a different household — although this is likely to be related to the nature of the disability of the care recipient. The type of disruptions extend beyond limiting the pursuit of employment and educational opportunities, and can include regular tasks, such as completing housework and arranging to go out during the day (ABS 1996b).

Employment and income

Many people who take on a caring role are affected by the amount of time and energy this role demands of them. For people of working age, juggling the competing demands of the care-giving role and the requirements of paid employment can be difficult. Accordingly, involvement in the labour force decreases as rates of caring increase (ABS 2000h).

Employment and income *continued*

Employment opportunities for some carers could be limited by their need to find flexible and/or part-time work to accommodate their caring responsibilities (ABS 2000h). Table 4.11 shows that, in 1998, over two-thirds (67%) of baby boomers who were carers combined their caring role with employment, with 40% of carers in full-time work. A lower proportion of primary carers was employed (50%) compared with other carers (71%). In comparison, 79% of those baby boomers not in a caring role were employed.

As primary carers are restricted in their labour force participation, a relatively high proportion of them are reliant on a government pension or allowance as their principal source of cash income (ABS 2000h). In 1998, 45% of baby boomer primary carers were dependent on the government for income support, compared with 17% of baby boomers who were not providing care.

4.11 BABY BOOMERS: LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF CASH INCOME — 1998

	Carer				
	Primary carer	*Other carer*	*All carers*	*Not a carer*	*Total*
	PROPORTION (%)				
Labour force status					
Employed					
Full-time	*21.7	44.6	40.4	58.6	56.0
Part-time	28.7	26.0	26.5	20.1	21.0
Total employed	*50.3*	*70.6*	*66.9*	*78.7*	*77.0*
Unemployed	**7.0	*3.3	*4.0	3.5	3.6
Not in the labour force(a)	42.0	26.2	29.1	17.8	19.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Principal Source of Cash Income					
Wages or salary	32.9	50.8	47.5	60.4	58.6
Own business or partnership income	*14.0	13.2	13.3	14.5	14.3
Government pension or allowance	44.8	28.3	31.3	16.9	19.0
Other private income	—	—	—	1.2	1.1
Not stated	**7.7	7.8	7.8	6.9	7.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)				
Total persons(b)	14.3	63.0	77.3	465.6	542.9

(a) Includes those who were permanently unable to work.

(b) Persons aged 33–52 years in 1998 living in private dwellings.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 1998.

CHAPTER 5 HOUSING

INTRODUCTION

The type of housing people live in is strongly related to their progression through different life-cycle stages. In general, people rent in early adulthood, purchase a home during their relationship formation and child-raising years, and own a home outright in older age (ABS 2001h). In addition, larger families with children generally require bigger homes while couples without children are likely to be able to afford more expensive homes. Older and single people tend to live in smaller homes, often for maintenance, security or financial reasons.

The number of dwellings in Australia has been increasing at a faster rate than the population. This has also been the case in Western Australia. Between 1971 and 2001, the Western Australian population increased by 2.0% per annum while the number of dwellings increased by 2.7% per annum. These changes can partially be attributed to changes in living arrangements. The increase in divorces since changes to divorce laws in 1975 has led to more one-parent families. There are also more people living alone, either as a result of choice, divorce, separation or widowhood (ABS 1998d).

PRIVATE DWELLINGS

The following section refers to the housing characteristics of people in private dwellings. The data were obtained from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing and includes persons living in self-care accommodation in retirement villages, but excludes overseas visitors.

Structure

The majority (85%) of people in Western Australia lived in separate houses in 2001, as was the case throughout Australia. The proportion of people living in separate houses was higher for baby boomers (89% of younger baby boomers and 87% of older baby boomers), but more than 10 percentage points lower for persons aged 60 years and over (74%).

These differences are likely to be a reflection of a person's life-cycle stage. As a relatively high proportion of younger baby boomers are likely to be in their child-rearing years, they are more likely to live in a separate house. On the other hand, the slightly lower proportion of older baby boomers living in separate houses may reflect the beginning of a move towards more compact dwellings, as can be seen for persons aged 60 years and over. This may reflect smaller household sizes as children leave home, dwelling maintenance and affordability issues.

Whether baby boomers will move from separate dwellings into smaller, more compact dwellings in the future to the same degree as persons currently aged 60 years and over is likely to be influenced by factors such as health, security, lifestyle decisions and the length of time non-dependant children remain in the parental home.

5.1 DWELLING STRUCTURE — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Dwelling structure							
Separate house	87.3	88.7	87	87.9	83.3	74.1	85.4
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse	7.2	6.2	6.7	6.5	7.8	13.7	8.0
Flat, unit or apartment	3.9	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.9	7.1	4.2
Other dwelling	1	1.3	2.3	1.7	4.3	4.4	1.8
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	921.6	277.1	242.4	519.5	70.4	260.9	1 772.4

(a) Includes not stated. Persons in occupied private dwellings. Excludes Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

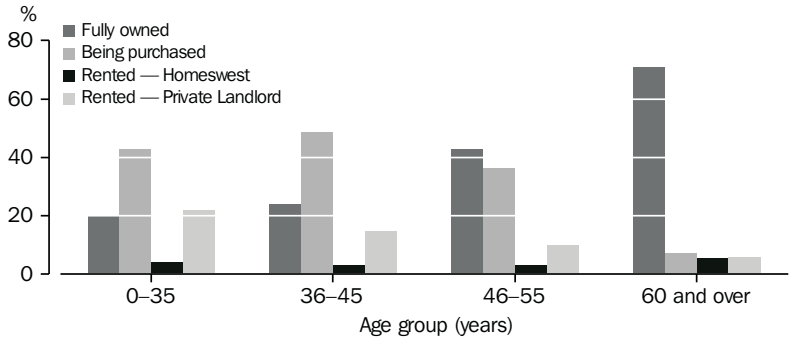
Tenure

The security of tenure that people have over their homes plays an important role in their long term financial security, their cost of living, and the flexibility to modify the dwelling to meet emerging needs.

Just over three-quarters of all baby boomers lived in private dwellings which were either fully owned or being purchased at the time of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Graph 5.2 shows that older baby boomers were more likely to own their home outright than younger baby boomers (43% compared with 24%), whereas younger baby boomers were more likely to be purchasing their dwelling (49% compared with 36% for older baby boomers). This is consistent with the likelihood that older baby boomers have been in the workforce and repaying their mortgage for a longer period of time and is further supported by the substantial majority (71%) of persons aged 60 years and over who were living in fully owned dwellings.

In 2001, a higher proportion of younger baby boomers rented from private landlords (15%) compared with older baby boomers (10%) and persons aged 60 years and over (6%). However, for those renting from the State Housing Authority (Homeswest), the situation was reversed (3% of younger baby boomers, 3% of older baby boomers and 5% of persons aged 60 years and over).

5.2 TENURE TYPE(a) — 2001



(a) Persons in occupied private dwellings. Excludes Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Size of dwelling

Comprehensive data on dwelling size are not available from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, however, the Census does record the number of bedrooms in a dwelling. While this information does not take into account the size of the bedrooms or the other rooms in the dwelling, it can be used as an indicator of dwelling size (ABS 1998d). The size of a dwelling is strongly related to the structure of the dwelling, with separate houses in Western Australia most often having three or four bedrooms, semi-detached dwellings having two or three bedrooms, and flats having two bedrooms.

Table 5.3 shows that over three-quarters of people in Western Australia lived in three- or four-bedroom dwellings (77%), and that baby boomers were more likely to live in three- or four-bedroom dwellings (78%) than persons aged 60 years and over (67%). This may be indicative of the need for larger homes while children are living in the parental home, different lifestyles at different ages, and changes in the type of dwellings that have been available over the years.

According to the Census, the size of private dwellings in Western Australia has increased over the last 30 years (from an average of 2.7 bedrooms in 1971 to 3.2 bedrooms in 2001), however, the average household size has decreased (from 3.3 persons per household in 1971 to 2.6 persons in 2001). The trend for larger homes is further supported by an increase in the size of new houses built and reflects a change in housing standards and aspirations. As reported in the quarterly Building Activity Survey, the average floor area of new residential buildings in Western Australia has increased by 11% from 196.3 m^2 in 1985–1986 to 218.6 m^2 in 1999–2000 (ABS 2001o). The decrease in the average household size is likely to reflect changes in lifestyle aspirations and living arrangements, with people marrying later, more people living alone, more one-parent families, and women having fewer children.

5.3 NUMBER OF BEDROOMS IN DWELLING — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	0–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Number of bedrooms							
Zero or one	1.6	2.0	3.0	2.4	4.8	7.4	2.8
Two	8.1	8.0	8.3	8.1	10.3	18.5	9.7
Three	38.4	36.5	37.9	37.2	42.8	45.5	39.3
Four	40.2	42.5	39.8	41.2	33.3	21.2	37.4
Five or more	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.2	5.7	3.4	7.7
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	921.6	277.1	242.4	519.5	70.4	260.9	1 772.4

(a) Includes Not stated. Persons in occupied private dwellings. Excludes Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

QUALITY OF HOUSING

The housing conditions in which people live are important indicators of their overall standard of living. Two key attributes for a dwelling to be considered appropriate for a household are that it is in reasonable condition, and that it has enough space for all members of the household (ABS 2001i).

Data relating to housing conditions and utilisation were obtained from the 1999 Australian Housing Survey (AHS). The survey collected information from persons in private dwellings, including the characteristics and adequacy of dwellings, and the demographics, tenure, housing costs and income of persons and households.

Data in this section have been categorised based on the age of the reference person. A reference person is selected for each household based on the following selection criteria (in order of precedence):

- highest tenure type, ranked from owner without a mortgage, owner with a mortgage, renter, and other tenure
- highest income
- highest age.

Housing conditions

Table 5.4 shows that 21% of younger baby boomers reported a major structural problem in the dwelling they occupied. For older baby boomers, the corresponding figure was 14%, and for persons aged 60 years and over, it was 10%. These figures may be influenced by the tenure of the household, with a greater proportion of younger baby boomers renting their dwelling in comparison with older baby boomers and persons aged 60 years and over, and a greater proportion of persons aged 60 years and over owning their dwelling outright compared with baby boomers.

Among all households where a baby boomer was the reference person and at least one major structural problem was reported, the most common problems were Major cracks in walls/floors (42%), Wood rot/termite damage (23%), Walls/windows out of plumb (21%), Rising damp (20%) and Major plumbing problems (20%).

The proportion of households requiring repairs to the outside of their dwelling decreased as the age of the reference person increased (53% for younger baby boomers, 50% for older baby boomers and 40% for persons aged 60 years and over). Only a small proportion of households described their need for outside repairs as being essential or urgent (less than 5% of all households).

The proportion of households reporting the need for repairs to the inside of their dwelling showed a similar pattern, with 56% of younger baby boomers, 48% of older baby boomers and 31% of persons aged 60 years and over reporting some level of need. Once again, the proportion of households reporting that their need was essential or urgent was small (4%).

A lesser need for repairs to the dwellings of older persons may be influenced by a number of factors, such as the type of dwelling they live in, a greater willingness to accept faults with the dwelling, and their ability to afford repairs. In addition, as older people tend to have lived in their dwellings for longer (see Housing history section in this chapter for further information), there is a greater opportunity for repairs to have been carried out.

5.4 SELECTED HOUSING CONDITIONS — 1999

	Age of reference person (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–33	34–43	44–53	Total	54–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Structural problems							
Has major structural problems	23.2	21.5	13.8	17.9	17.3	10.4	17.3
No major structural problems	75.2	77.5	84.3	80.7	81.4	87.7	81.1
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Repairs to outside of dwelling							
No need	50.6	47.5	49.6	48.4	55.9	59.9	52.4
Desirable but low need	29.6	30.0	31.8	30.9	21.7	26.0	28.6
Moderate need	15.3	15.7	14.4	15.1	17.4	11.2	14.4
Essential, Essential and urgent	*4.6	*6.8	*4.2	5.6	**5.1	*2.9	4.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Repairs to inside of dwelling							
No need	43.8	44.1	52.3	47.9	60.8	68.7	53.0
Desirable but low need	35.4	35.4	30.8	33.2	22.1	22.5	30.2
Moderate need	15.3	16.8	11.8	14.5	*10.8	6.0	12.3
Essential, Essential and urgent	5.5	*3.7	*5.2	4.4	*6.3	*2.8	4.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total households	173.4	166.5	145.7	312.3	65.6	170.9	722.2

(a) Includes not known.

Source: ABS data available on request, Australian Housing Survey, 1999.

Housing utilisation

Housing utilisation has been derived from AHS data using the Canadian National Occupancy Standard (CNOS), which assesses the bedroom requirements of a household by comparing the number of bedrooms in a dwelling with a series of household demographics (such as the number of usual residents, their relationship to one another, age and sex) (ABS 2000g).

A large proportion of households across all age groups had bedrooms to spare in their dwellings. In particular, 76% of baby boomers, and 91% of persons aged 60 years and over lived in dwellings with bedrooms to spare. This is linked to an increase in the average number of bedrooms in private dwellings over time and a decrease in the average household size (for further information see Size of dwelling section in this chapter). The high proportion of persons aged 60 years and over with at least one spare bedroom is also likely to be linked to the fact that the majority (68%) either live alone or as a couple.

Only a small proportion of people had a need for more bedrooms in their dwelling, and most of these were in the younger age categories.

5.5 HOUSING UTILISATION — 1999

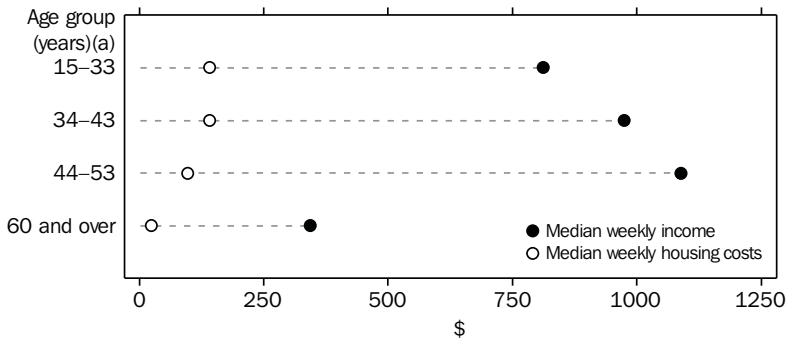
	Age of reference person (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–33	34–43	44–53	Total	54–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Housing utilisation							
One or more bedrooms needed	4.8	*1.3	*3.1	*2.1	**0.8	—	2.2
No extra bedrooms needed	25.7	23.4	19.6	21.6	*8.2	9.0	18.3
One bedroom spare	36.9	44.8	30.1	37.9	29.3	28.5	34.7
Two bedrooms spare	26.6	27.7	36.0	31.6	40.4	46.2	34.6
Three or more bedrooms spare	6.1	*2.8	11.3	6.8	21.3	16.4	10.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total households	173.4	166.5	145.7	312.3	65.6	170.9	722.2

Source: ABS data available on request, Australian Housing Survey, 1999.

HOUSING COSTS AND AFFORDABILITY

As people start to pay off their homes and establish their careers, their incomes generally rise while their housing costs fall. Graph 5.6 shows that older baby boomers had the highest median weekly income ($1,089) across all age groups, but markedly lower weekly housing costs than younger baby boomers ($98 compared with $142). Although persons aged 60 years and over had the lowest housing costs ($24), their median weekly income was also lower than for any other age group ($343).

5.6 MEDIAN WEEKLY INCOME AND HOUSING COSTS — 1999



(a) Age of reference person.

Source: ABS data available on request, Australian Housing Survey, 1999.

While there is no single standard measure of housing affordability, indicative housing affordability statistics can be obtained by expressing housing costs as a proportion of household income. For example, if more than 50% of household income was spent on housing costs, this may indicate severe affordability problems, particularly for households with low income (ABS 2000g).

Table 5.7 shows that younger baby boomer households generally paid a greater proportion of their income toward housing costs than other households. Of younger baby boomer households, 23% spent more than a quarter of their income on housing costs and 7% spent more than half.

5.7 HOUSING COSTS — 1999

	Age of reference person (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–33	34–43	44–53	Total	54–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Housing costs as a proportion of income(a)							
25% or less(b)	64.2	71.3	81.2	75.9	77.2	81.4	74.5
More than 25%	27.1	22.9	13.3	18.4	14.0	12.5	18.7
More than 30%	16.8	17.0	9.6	13.5	*11.0	8.8	13.0
More than 40%	9.2	9.5	6.3	8.0	*5.4	5.6	7.5
More than 50%	4.6	6.7	*2.8	4.9	**3.0	*3.1	4.2
Total(c)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total households	173.4	166.5	145.7	312.3	65.6	170.9	722.2

(a) These categories are cumulative. For example, a household paying 32% in housing costs is counted in both the 'more than 25%' and 'more than 30%' categories.

(b) Includes nil and rounded to zero.

(c) Includes households with housing costs not known, and with nil or negative income.

Source: ABS data available on request, Australian Housing Survey, 1999.

Differences in the proportion of household income spent on housing costs varied depending on the tenure of the household, with renter households more likely to spend a high proportion of their income on housing costs than owner households. Of all renter households where a baby boomer was the reference person, 29% spent more than a quarter of their income on housing costs and 11% spent more than half. In contrast, of baby boomers who owned their home, 15% spent more than a quarter of their income on housing costs and 3% spent more than half.

In the long-term, those choosing to purchase their dwelling are likely to eventually spend less of their household income in housing costs (ABS 2001h), leaving a greater proportion of their income as 'disposable income'. This may have an impact on their quality of life, the health care they can afford and their ability to provide for themselves as they age.

HOME VALUE AND EQUITY

Buying a home represents the largest purchase most people make and the biggest asset they are likely to acquire. Home ownership is an important aspect of wealth creation and can have a major influence on economic wellbeing, particularly in non-income earning years.

Table 5.8 indicates that, of those households who owned their dwelling, the value of the dwelling tended to increase with the age of the reference person. Only 17% of persons aged 15–33 years owned a dwelling worth $200,000 or more, compared with 35% of younger baby boomers, 41% of older baby boomers, and 33% of persons aged 60 years and over.

HOME VALUE AND EQUITY *continued*

This is likely to be linked to increased incomes over time, making a move into more expensive homes more affordable. At the same time, larger (and therefore often more expensive) dwellings may be desirable as families grow. In addition, many homes bought by baby boomers in the 1970s and 1980s are likely to be in areas where property values have risen substantially.

Table 5.8 also shows that older people have higher levels of equity in their homes. Less than a quarter (23%) of 15–33 year olds had $100,000 or more in equity, compared with more than half (56%) of baby boomers and more than three-quarters (77%) of persons aged 60 years and over.

5.8 HOME VALUE AND EQUITY OF OWNER HOUSEHOLDS — 1999

	Age of reference person (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–33	34–43	44–53	Total	54–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Value of dwelling							
Less than $100,000	23.3	16.1	11.3	13.6	*10.0	17.6	15.7
$100,000–$124,999	18.3	14.2	12.1	13.1	*11.5	13.9	13.9
$125,000–$149,999	19.7	13.9	11.2	12.5	*7.4	14.8	13.6
$150,000–$199,999	19.6	19.6	21.6	20.6	21.7	16.7	19.5
$200,000–$299,999	11.5	21.4	19.0	20.2	18.9	17.1	18.0
$300,000–$399,999	*4.9	8.8	13.3	11.1	*11.3	7.0	9.1
$400,000 or more	**0.6	*5.0	8.2	6.6	15.9	9.1	7.5
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Equity in dwelling							
$1–$19,999	17.4	9.3	**1.4	5.2	**1.6	—	5.1
$20,000–$49,999	27.2	19.5	9.3	14.3	**3.7	*3.5	11.9
$50,000–$99,999	24.0	24.0	16.3	20.0	*9.9	15.8	18.3
$100,000–$199,999	19.7	24.3	38.4	31.5	39.8	44.0	34.3
$200,000 or more	*3.6	19.9	28.4	24.3	39.0	32.7	25.4
Total(b)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total owner households	68.2	111.8	118.2	230.0	53.7	138.5	490.4

(a) Includes value of dwelling not known.

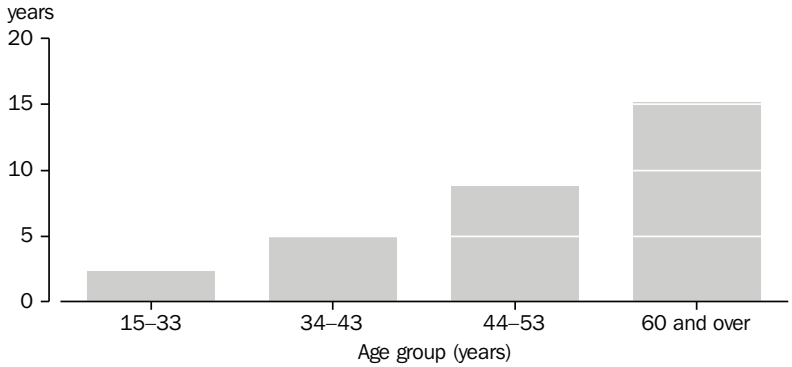
(b) Includes zero or negative equity, and value of dwelling or amount owing not known.

Source: ABS data available on request, Australian Housing Survey, 1999.

HOUSING HISTORY

As people age, there is a tendency for them to remain longer in their dwelling. Data from the 1999 AHS show that the average length of time that younger baby boomers had been in their present dwelling was 5 years. Older baby boomers had lived almost twice as long in their present dwelling (9 years) and persons aged 60 years and over had lived three times as long in their current dwelling (15 years). In households where the reference person had lived in the dwelling for less than five years, younger baby boomer households had moved house an average of 2.6 times over that period, compared with 2.2 moves for older baby boomers and 1.8 moves for persons aged 60 years and over.

5.9 AVERAGE TIME LIVED IN CURRENT DWELLING — 1999



Source: ABS data available on request, Australian Housing Survey, 1999.

The differences in the average length of time spent in their present dwelling reflects the impact of factors such as developing career paths, housing aspirations, dwelling conditions and the availability and affordability of suitable housing. Differences were also evident across tenure types, with households who were renting being the most likely to move frequently.

AGED CARE HOMES

While the number of baby boomers who currently require specialised health services or accommodation is small, this is likely to increase as they age. On Census night 2001, only 3% of baby boomers were counted in a non-private dwelling, with almost half (43%) of these counted in hotels, motels or boarding houses.

For persons aged 60 years and over, 7% were counted in a non-private dwelling. The majority of these (59%) were in a nursing home or accommodation for the aged, while a further 17% were in hospital.

The extent to which baby boomers will require nursing home and hospital services as they age will depend on a variety of factors, such as their health status and level of family support. However, the sheer size of the baby boomer generation may have an impact on the number of beds needed in these types of facilities in the future.

CHAPTER 6 EDUCATION AND WORK

INTRODUCTION

The ageing of the population is expected to have a significant impact on the structure of the labour force and the mix of people within and outside the labour force. As the labour force ages, the mix between full-time and part-time employment may be affected, along with the distribution of workers in various occupations and industries.

Current data on retirement intentions reveal that many employed people intend to retire from the age of 60 years. Given that the population aged 60 years and over is projected to reach nearly one-quarter of the total population by 2021, there is concern about society's ability to support such a large number of people post-retirement. Currently, the ratio of working age people (approximated by persons aged 15–59 years) to those aged 60 years and over is 4.4. By 2021 this ratio is projected to decrease to 2.6.

This chapter describes the educational and work characteristics of baby boomers today, and examines some of the future intentions of this group with respect to study and labour force participation, including retirement intentions. Data on current income and superannuation savings is also presented.

EDUCATION

Formal education has traditionally been considered important in providing people with the skills and knowledge necessary to enter the workforce. In a broader sense however, education can be thought of as a life-long process of obtaining knowledge and gaining skills, extending beyond the formal education obtained in schools, colleges and universities. The concept of life-long learning relates to the idea that people are continuing to further their education at older ages, and also recognises the fact that once people do enter the workforce, they need to continually update their skills and add to their knowledge base. It also recognises that learning occurs outside the workplace and after people have left the workforce, and that many people undertake educational courses or attend training purely for personal interest.

The extent of baby boomer involvement in education and training in the future is of great interest to policy planners. Anecdotal evidence suggests that baby boomers will be more active in their retirement years than preceding generations, and that they may be strongly involved in educational activities. In turn, these factors may influence the level of educational infrastructure needed in the future.

Schooling completed

Throughout the last century, there has been an increasing emphasis on completing formal education (ABS 1999e) (ABS 2000d). Data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing supports this notion and highlights that Western Australian baby boomers have, in general, completed a higher level of schooling than preceding generations. Rates of completion of Years 11 and 12 decreased from 54% for younger baby boomers to 45% for older baby boomers. In comparison, only 26% of persons aged 60 years and over completed this level of schooling.

6.1 HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOL COMPLETED — 2001

	Age group (years)							
			Baby boomers					
	15–24	25–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)							
Highest year of school completed								
Year 12 or equivalent	44.3	49.5	40.8	36.3	38.7	30.9	21.9	38.3
Year 11 or equivalent	13.3	13.7	12.8	8.5	10.8	6.8	4.4	10.4
Year 10 or equivalent	16.9	26.3	32.8	35.3	34.0	32.6	21.8	26.9
Year 9 or equivalent	3.3	3.3	5.1	7.8	6.3	10.6	11.9	6.5
Year 8 or below	0.9	1.5	2.6	6.0	4.2	11.8	22.9	7.1
Still at school	16.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.0
Did not go to school	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.9	2.1	0.8
Not stated	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.2	6.3	14.9	7.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)							
Total persons(a)	260.3	292.8	285.3	249.2	534.5	72.3	279.5	1 439.3

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over. Excludes Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Highest non-school qualification

In 2001, close to half (46%) of Western Australians aged 15 years and over had a non-school qualification. A non-school qualification is one awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. A higher proportion of baby boomers (53%) had a non-school qualification in 2001 than persons aged 60 years and over (43%). As a result of greater opportunities for study in non-school educational programs and a more competitive labour market, levels of non-school qualifications have been increasing in older age groups in recent decades. Furthermore, there have been greater inflows of people from overseas with existing qualifications in recent years (ABS 1999e).

Patterns of involvement in education have changed markedly over time. Younger generations are more likely to have a higher level of educational attainment than preceding generations. This is explained not only by issues of access to education in the past but by changes in the skill requirements of occupations (ABS 1999e). Of the 281,600 baby boomers in 2001 with a non-school qualification, 38% held a Certificate as their highest non-school qualification, while a further 29% held a Bachelor degree or higher and 16% held a Diploma. While Certificates were also the most commonly held non-school qualification among those aged 60 years and over (30%), a lower proportion held a Bachelor degree or higher qualification (14%) compared with baby boomers.

Educational attainment is related to labour force outcomes. The skills acquired in undertaking study and gaining a qualification can not only increase the chances of finding a job but aid in finding a preferred or higher paying job (ABS 2001g). For further information about the employment outcomes of baby boomers in Western Australia, see Occupation, Industry and Income sections in this chapter.

6.2 LEVEL OF HIGHEST NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATION — 2001

	Age group (years)							
			Baby boomers					
	15–24	25–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)							
Highest non-school qualification								
Postgraduate degree	0.2	2.5	4.2	4.8	4.5	4.5	2.2	3.1
Graduate diploma/Graduate certificate	0.7	3.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	2.6	1.4	2.7
Bachelor degree	17.5	28.5	22.0	19.8	21.0	16.9	10.7	20.3
Advanced diploma/Diploma	10.7	12.3	15.2	16.7	15.8	17.0	11.9	13.8
Certificate III/IV	28.0	30.5	32.2	31.2	31.8	31.5	26.4	30.1
Certificate I/II	7.1	5.9	5.1	4.7	5.0	4.4	3.0	5.0
Certificate not further defined	3.4	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.4	1.1
Not stated/inadequately described	32.4	16.2	16.7	18.5	17.5	22.6	44.1	23.9
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)							
Total persons with a non-school qualification(a)	74.5	156.5	154.2	127.4	281.6	34.0	120.2	666.8
Total persons	260.3	292.8	285.3	249.2	534.5	72.3	279.5	1 439.3

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over, excluding Overseas visitors, persons who did not have a non-school qualification and persons who had a qualification out of scope of the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0).

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Main field of highest non-school qualification

The fields in which people undertake study have been changing over time in response to changing needs in the workplace. Most people obtain their non-school qualification when they are aged 15–24 years. As such, a comparison between the fields of study undertaken by baby boomers and other age groups reveals changes over time in the fields of study of qualifications obtained (ABS 2001g).

In 2001, the main fields of study among baby boomers with a non-school qualification were Engineering and related technologies (23%), and Management and commerce (14%), followed by Health (11%) and Education (10%). These fields of study were also the most popular among most other age groups, although 15–24 year olds were less likely to have an Engineering and related technologies qualification (14%) and more likely to have a Management and commerce qualification (18%) than older age groups. Approximately one-fifth of all people with a non-school qualification did not state their field of study.

6.3 MAIN FIELD OF HIGHEST NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATION — 2001

	Age group (years)							
			Baby Boomers					
	15–24	25–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)							
Main field of study(a)								
Natural and physical sciences	2.8	4.1	3.4	3.0	3.2	2.8	1.5	3.0
Information technology	3.3	2.7	1.9	1.1	1.5	0.5	0.2	1.7
Engineering and related technologies	13.9	20.3	23.2	23.5	23.3	23.4	19.5	20.9
Architecture and building	4.0	5.4	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.8	6.5	5.9
Agriculture, environmental and related studies	2.8	2.9	2.2	1.8	2.1	1.8	1.3	2.2
Health	4.2	8.3	10.8	10.3	10.6	10.6	8.1	8.9
Education	2.4	6.6	9.3	10.5	9.9	9.6	6.3	7.6
Management and commerce	18.2	17.1	14.5	14.5	14.5	13.9	10.0	14.7
Society and culture	7.9	9.0	8.2	8.5	8.3	7.6	4.6	7.7
Creative arts	4.1	3.4	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.6
Food, hospitality and personal services	7.4	7.1	4.8	4.0	4.5	4.0	2.4	5.0
Mixed field programs	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not stated/inadequately described	28.9	13.2	13.0	14.0	13.5	16.7	38.1	19.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)							
Total persons with a non-school qualification(b)	74.5	156.5	154.2	127.4	281.6	34.0	120.2	666.8
Total persons	260.3	292.8	285.3	249.2	534.5	72.3	279.5	1 439.3

(a) Main field of study of person's highest non-school qualification. If a person holds multiple qualifications of equal status, main field of study relates to the most recently obtained qualification.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over, excluding Overseas visitors, persons who did not have a non-school qualification and persons who had a qualification out of scope of the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0).

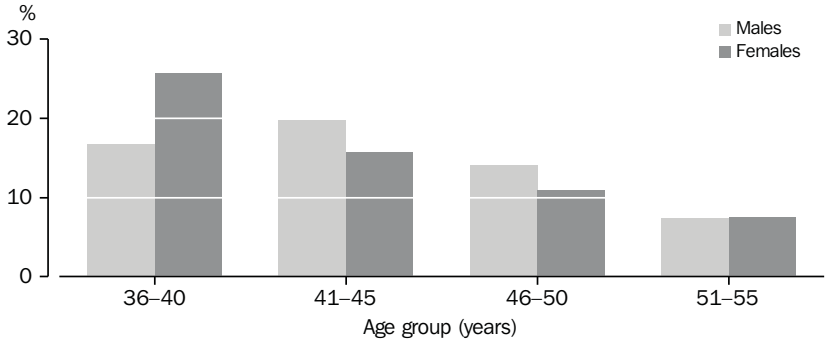
Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Future study intentions

In 2001, 15% (82,700) of baby boomers reported that they intended to study for a qualification in the next three years, compared with almost a quarter of the total Western Australian population aged 15–64 years (24%). The proportion intending to study for a qualification was higher among younger baby boomers (20%) than older baby boomers (10%). Only 4% of persons aged 60–64 years intended to study for a qualification in the next three years.

A similar proportion of males and females in Western Australia were intending to study for a qualification in the future (25% of males and 24% of females). Across all baby boomers there was a similar propensity for intended future study between the sexes, however, there were differences observed between males and females of different ages within the group. Females aged 36–40 years were more likely to intend to study for a qualification in the next three years than males of the same age. The reverse was true for the 41–45 year and 46–50 year age groups.

6.4 BABY BOOMERS INTENDING TO STUDY FOR A QUALIFICATION IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS — 2001



Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Education and Training, 2001.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LABOUR FORCE

Data presented in this section are an annual average of monthly data obtained from the Labour Force Survey. Data presented are based on the standard age groups produced from the survey. While baby boomers would have been aged 36–55 years in 2001, they are approximated by those aged 35–54 years in this analysis.

In 2001, there were just over one million persons in the Western Australian labour force. Older baby boomers accounted for just over one-fifth (21%) of the labour force, whereas 24% of the labour force were younger baby boomers. Of all baby boomers in the labour force, 44% were female.

In 2001, the labour force participation rate was substantially lower for persons aged 60 years and over (15%) than for all other age groups (67% for all persons aged 15 years and over). Participation rates across all age groups have increased over the last twenty years.

In 2001, female baby boomers had a lower participation rate than their male counterparts (73% compared with 91% respectively). Compared with the same age group in previous years, female baby boomers in 2001 had higher labour force participation rates. In 1981, the participation rate of females aged 35–54 years was 55%, increasing to 69% in 1991. The increase in female participation in the labour force is strongly linked to the increase in availability of part-time work which has allowed more women to balance work and family obligations.

Since entering the labour force, baby boomers have had a strong influence on Western Australia's labour supply. In 1981, when the youngest baby boomers would have been starting (or about to start) their working life, all baby boomers accounted for 36% of the total labour force. By 2001, this proportion had increased to 46%. As the baby boomers continue to age and they make the transition to retirement, this proportion can be expected to decline rapidly.

6.5 EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS — 2001

	Age group (years)							
			Baby boomers(a)					
	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	Total	55–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)							
Labour force status(b)								
Employed								
Full-time	36.5	59.6	57.2	59.2	58.1	42.8	8.1	44.1
Part-time	27.5	16.1	21.0	18.8	19.9	19.0	6.8	18.1
Unemployed	10.0	5.3	4.4	3.2	4.0	2.7	0.5	4.6
Not in the labour force	26.0	19.0	17.3	18.8	18.0	35.6	84.6	33.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Unemployment rate(c)	13.6	6.6	5.4	4.0	4.7	4.2	*3.1	6.9
Participation rate(b)	74.0	81.0	82.7	81.2	82.0	64.4	15.4	66.8
	NUMBER ('000)							
Total persons in the labour force(d)	209.4	233.6	244.8	217.0	461.8	61.4	43.4	1 009.5
Total civilian population(d)	282.9	288.6	296.1	267.0	563.1	95.4	281.0	1 511.0

(a) Baby boomers were aged 36–55 years in 2001, but are approximated in this table by those aged 35–54 years.

(b) Figures expressed as a percentage of the total civilian population.

(c) Figures expressed as a percentage of all persons in the labour force.

(d) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS data available on request, Labour Force Survey, 2001.

In 2001, the majority of baby boomers in the labour force were employed. The unemployment rate for baby boomers was 5%, two percentage points lower than the unemployment rate for the total Western Australian population. While the majority (58%) of baby boomers were employed in full-time work in 2001, one-fifth were employed on a part-time basis. In 2001, baby boomers had lower rates of full-time workers and higher rates of part-time workers than the same age group in previous years, reflecting the move to more part-time workers in the labour force. The rates of part-time employment have increased substantially in recent decades due to influences from both the demand and the supply sides of the labour market (ABS 1994a). Female baby boomers were more likely to be employed on a part-time basis in 2001 than male baby boomers (35% and 6% respectively).

The majority (82%) of employed baby boomers were employees while just over one-tenth (12%) were own-account workers (self employed), 5% were employers and less than 1% were contributing family workers. In comparison, 65% of persons aged 60 years and over were employees and nearly one-quarter (23%) were own-account workers. The greater proportion of own-account workers in the older age groups is, in part, influenced by the fact that own-account workers tend to retire at older ages than employees.

Occupation

Both baby boomers and those aged 60 years and over were more likely to be employed in the higher skilled occupations. Data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing indicates that 44% of all employed baby boomers and 46% of employed persons aged 60 years and over were in the major occupation categories of Managers and administrators, Professionals, and Associate professionals. In comparison, less than one-third (30%) of employed persons aged 15–35 years were employed in these occupation groups. The most common sub-major occupation categories for baby boomers within the higher skilled occupations were Education professionals, Specialist managers and Managing supervisors (sales and service), each accounting for 5% of all employed baby boomers. The higher proportions of baby boomers and persons aged 60 years and over in the managerial and professional occupations is possibly a reflection of greater employment experience at these ages.

One-fifth of employed baby boomers were employed in the major occupation categories of Labourers and related workers, and Tradespersons and related workers. The lower proportion employed in these occupations compared with the professional categories reflects a transition away from more labour intensive occupations as people get older. The proportion for baby boomers was lower than for persons aged 15–35 years (25%) but marginally higher than for persons aged 60 years and over (19%).

Over one-quarter (26%) of employed baby boomers were employed in the three major occupation categories covering clerical, sales and service workers. Once again, this rate was lower for baby boomers than for persons aged 15–35 years (34%) and higher than for those aged 60 years and over (21%). The most common sub-major occupation categories in the clerical, sales and service fields for baby boomers included Intermediate clerical workers (8%), Intermediate service workers (5%) and Elementary sales workers (4%).

6.6 OCCUPATIONS OF EMPLOYED PERSONS — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
ASCO major occupation group(a)							
Managers and administrators	4.7	9.9	11.7	10.8	12.8	18.3	8.7
Professionals	15.0	19.3	18.6	19.0	18.0	16.4	17.1
Associate professionals	10.6	13.6	14.1	13.8	13.2	11.4	12.3
Tradespersons and related workers	15.2	12.9	11.3	12.2	11.3	10.4	13.3
Advanced clerical and service workers	3.3	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.8
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	17.4	15.7	15.7	15.7	13.8	10.8	16.1
Intermediate production and transport workers	8.5	8.8	8.3	8.6	9.2	8.3	8.6
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	13.7	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.9	7.0	9.5
Labourers and related workers	10.0	7.8	7.9	7.8	8.5	8.5	8.8
Total(b)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total employed persons	350.3	212.8	183.4	396.2	41.2	41.2	828.8

(a) Occupation groups are based on the *ASCO — Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no. 1220.0).

(b) Excludes Overseas visitors. Includes occupation Not stated and Inadequately described.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Industry

Data from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing shows that there is little difference between baby boomers and the total population with respect to the industries in which they are employed. Notable exceptions include the Retail trade industry which employed 11% of baby boomers compared with 20% of persons aged 15–35 years, and the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry which employed only 4% of baby boomers but 13% of persons aged 60 years and over.

Other industries in which differences occurred were the Health and community services, and the Education industries. More than one in ten employed baby boomers (11%) were employed in the Health and community services industry compared with only 7% of those aged 15–35 years. Just under one-tenth (9%) of baby boomers were employed in the Education industry compared with only 5% of persons aged 15–35 years. Of particular interest is the low proportion of people in younger age groups employed in the Health and community services industry. The demand for health professionals is likely to increase in coming years due to the need to provide services to the ageing population.

6.7 INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYED PERSONS — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Major industry groups(a)							
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3.3	4.1	4.4	4.3	6.6	13.1	4.4
Mining	3.5	4.3	3.1	3.8	2.4	1.5	3.5
Manufacturing	10.0	10.7	10.0	10.4	10.0	9.3	10.2
Electricity, gas and water supply	0.6	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.8
Construction	7.5	7.9	7.2	7.6	7.1	6.7	7.5
Wholesale trade	5.2	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.1
Retail trade	20.4	11.1	10.8	11.0	10.4	9.1	14.8
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	6.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	4.6
Transport and storage	3.1	4.2	4.7	4.4	5.2	4.9	3.9
Communication services	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.5
Finance and insurance	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.0	1.8	2.9
Property and business services	10.4	11.1	11.3	11.2	11.3	11.4	10.9
Government administration and defence	3.8	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.6	3.8	4.4
Education	4.7	8.9	9.9	9.3	9.2	7.0	7.3
Health and community services	7.2	10.8	12.0	11.4	12.2	10.0	9.6
Cultural and recreational services	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.2
Personal and other services	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.0
Total(b)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total employed persons	350.3	212.8	183.4	396.2	41.2	41.2	828.8

(a) Industry categories are based on the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)* (cat. no. 1292.0).

(b) Excludes Overseas visitors. Includes Non-classifiable economic units and industry Not stated.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

INCOME

Income levels can vary considerably over a person's life-cycle (ABS 1998b). A number of factors influence a person's income, including their participation in the labour force, whether they are employed on a part-time or full-time basis, their general employment experience (including their occupation and industry of employment), their age and their family obligations. A person's earning capacity generally increases with age, but declines sharply after 60 years of age (ABS 1998b). Family commitments can strongly affect a person's income level, through both opportunity to work and time spent at work. This can change over time, particularly for women who move in and out of the labour force to have and care for children. Household arrangements can also be a strong factor in determining a person's access to income. Couple households have a much greater earning potential than lone-person households, most of whom are concentrated in the youngest and oldest age groups (ABS 1998b).

Data in this section was obtained from the 1999–2000 Survey of Income and Housing Costs and is based on household income. Data has been categorised based on the age of a representative person in the household, referred to as the reference person.

INCOME *continued*

In 1999–2000, one-quarter (25%) of all baby boomer households (defined as those households where the reference person was aged 35–54 years) had a gross weekly income of $1,500 or more, and just under one-fifth (19%) had a gross weekly income of $0–$499. Among older baby boomer households, 27% had a gross weekly income of $1,500 or more, whereas for younger baby boomer households this proportion was 22%.

The median gross weekly income of baby boomer households was $968. This was higher than the median gross weekly income of households where the reference person was aged 15–34 years ($811) and substantially higher than households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over ($332).

Compared with households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over, baby boomer households were likely to have higher gross weekly incomes. Almost two-thirds (65%) of households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over had a gross weekly income of $0–$499. This compares with only 19% for baby boomer households. The higher proportion of older households with lower gross weekly incomes is likely to reflect their reliance on superannuation and/or government benefits as main sources of income.

6.8 GROSS WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME — 1999–2000

	Age of reference person (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–34	35–44	45–54	Total	55–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Gross weekly household income							
$0–$499	22.8	19.3	19.2	19.2	*24.7	65.1	31.1
$500–$999	40.8	34.7	29.3	32.1	*25.0	18.3	30.7
$1,000–$1,499	23.0	23.1	22.9	23.0	*20.5	9.6	19.8
$1,500 or more	12.0	22.4	27.4	24.8	*27.1	*6.9	17.5
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	DOLLARS ($)						
Median gross weekly income	811	917	1 003	968	962	331	784
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total households	186.3	165.7	150.7	316.4	50.7	165.7	719.0

(a) Includes households with income less than zero.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Income and Housing Costs, 1999–2000.

Income distribution

The distribution of income across different groups within a population can be shown through the use of income quintiles. Income quintiles are formed by ranking all units within a population by income and then dividing them into five groups, each containing one-fifth of the population. Table 6.9 presents data based on income quintiles generated from data for the total Western Australian population. Care needs to be taken when interpreting these results since they do not take into account differences in household size and composition. Equivalent income would need to be calculated to take such factors into account. For further information see *Income Distribution, Australia, 1999–2000*, (cat. no. 6523.0).

In 1999–2000, over one-quarter (29%) of baby boomer households were in the highest income quintile, whereas less than one-tenth (9%) were in the lowest quintile. In contrast, 45% of households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over were in the lowest income quintile. The median gross weekly income of households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over was about one-third the corresponding figure for baby boomer households, reflecting the lower proportion of persons aged 60 years and over in the labour force.

6.9 GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME QUINTILES — 1999–2000

	Age of reference person (years)							Upper boundary of quintile group
		Baby boomers						
	15–34	35–44	45–54	Total	55–59	60 and over	Total	$ per week
	PROPORTION (%)							
Gross household income quintiles								
Lowest	14.9	*7.8	10.9	9.3	*18.7	44.9	19.6	324
Second	19.6	21.1	18.4	19.8	*13.7	24.4	20.4	604
Third	26.3	23.3	15.9	19.8	*16.1	13.8	19.8	950
Fourth	25.9	21.9	23.0	22.4	*22.7	*8.6	20.1	1 410
Highest	13.4	25.9	31.8	28.7	28.8	*8.4	20.1	. .
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**. .**
	DOLLARS ($)							
Median gross weekly income	811	917	1 003	968	962	331	784	. .
	NUMBER ('000)							
Total households	186.3	165.7	150.7	316.4	50.7	165.7	719.0	. .

(a) Includes households with income less than zero.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Income and Housing Costs, 1999–2000.

RETIREMENT

Retirement from work is a significant event in many peoples' lives. For many, retirement marks the beginning of new social interactions, as people leave the workplace and forge friendships through new interests and hobbies. Economically, it can mean living on a reduced and different source of income, be that from superannuation, savings and/or a government pension. For some, it can also mean a change in the physical environment in which they live, either through moving house or travel.

While retirement from the labour force is generally thought of as a transition that occurs in later life, some people retire much sooner. For example, many women leave the labour force to have and care for children, and thus retire at much younger ages. Furthermore, retirement does not necessarily correspond to a complete absence from the labour force, with some people only retiring from full-time work but taking up part-time or casual work.

Data presented in this section has been obtained from the 1997 Retirement and Retirement Intentions Survey. As this survey only included those persons aged 45 years and over, data for all baby boomers (who would have been aged 32–51 years in 1997) are not available. As a result, baby boomers are approximated by the closest age group available (45–54 years), which is more closely aligned with the older baby boomer group than the full baby boomer group.

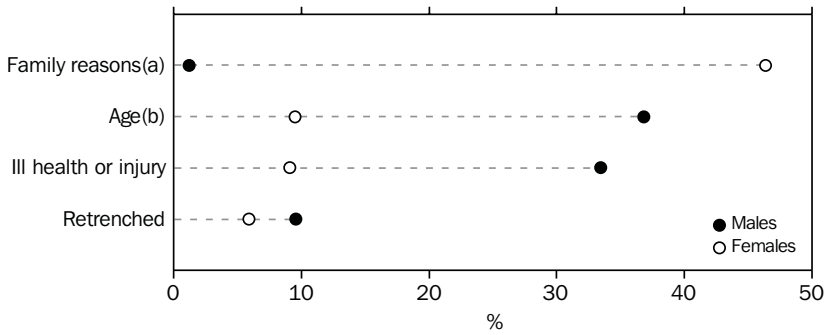
Retirement from full-time work

In 1997, just over half (51%) of the 548,900 persons aged 45 years and over in Western Australia had retired from full-time work. This includes persons who had a full-time job at some time and who had ceased full-time labour force activity. One-fifth of these people remained in the labour force, either working or looking for part-time work. Over half (59%) of those that had retired from full-time work were female and 41% were male. The proportion of these females that remained in the labour force either working part-time or looking for part-time work was 24% and for males it was 14%.

Nearly three-quarters (72%) of those aged 45 years and over who had retired from full-time work were job leavers. That is, they had left their employment voluntarily. Of those who left work involuntarily (job losers), 68% lost their job due to their own ill health or injury, 27% were retrenched and the remainder lost their job due to other factors (including technological advancements and closure of business for economic reasons).

Females were more likely to have ceased full-time work voluntarily, with 83% of women leaving of their own will compared with 56% of men. Over three-quarters (76%) of males who had retired from full-time work involuntarily had lost their jobs because of their own ill health or injury. This was more common among younger retired males (aged 45–54 years) (89%) than those aged 60 years and over (75%). Of females aged 45 years and over who had retired from full-time work, 38% reported that they had retired to either get married or start a family, suggesting retirement at younger ages.

6.10 MAIN REASONS FOR CEASING LAST FULL-TIME JOB,
Persons aged 45 years and over — 1997



(a) To get married, to have children, or to look after family member, house or someone else.
(b) Reached appropriate age for retirement, or reached compulsory retirement age in that job.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Retirement and Retirement Intentions, 1997.

Retirement from the labour force

Just under half (48%) of the 548,900 persons aged 45 years and over in Western Australia in 1997 had retired from the labour force. This includes people who had retired from work or looking for work of more than 10 hours per week, and who did not intend to work at any time in the future (as well as those who have never worked more than 10 hours per week). Of those that had retired from the labour force (261,700 persons), just under two-thirds (62%) were female and 38% were male.

Reasons for retiring from the labour force were similar to that for retirement from full-time work. The majority (62%) of those who had retired from the labour force had done so voluntarily, and as was the case for those who had retired from full-time work, the proportions were higher among women than men (65% and 56% respectively). Younger males (aged 45–54 years) were more likely to be job losers (71%) than males aged 60 years and over (37%). Among women, there was little difference in these proportions.

Nearly one-third (30%) of females who had retired from the labour force ceased their last full-time job to get married or have children. For males the main reasons were age (40%) and ill health (34%), showing similar reasons to those retiring from full-time work.

Retirement intentions from full-time work

In 1997, there were 207,200 Western Australians in the labour force aged 45 years and over who intended to retire from full-time work. That is, they reported that they intended to give up working or looking for full-time work at some time in the future. Just under one-third (32%) did not know at what age they intended to retire while 23% intended to retire in between five and ten years time.

Table 6.11 highlights that half of prospective retirees from full-time work intended to retire at age 60 years and over. For those aged 45–49 years in 1997, 39% intended to retire from full-time work at age 60 years and over while for those aged 50–54 years, the proportion was higher at 56%.

6.11 AGE INTENDS TO RETIRE FROM FULL-TIME WORK — 1997

	Age at November 1997 (years)				
	45–49	*50–54*	*55–59*	*60 and over*	*Total*
	PROPORTION (%)				
Age intends to retire (years)					
45–49	*1.0	. .	. .	. .	0.4
50–54	*2.9	*2.5	. .	. .	2.0
55–59	20.6	17.0	*8.3	. .	15.5
60–64	18.7	25.5	27.0	10.7	21.6
65 and over	20.3	30.1	35.3	*48.2	28.4
Don't know	36.4	24.9	29.4	*41.1	32.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)				
Persons who intend to retire from full-time work	87.6	64.5	37.5	17.5	207.2

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Retirement and Retirement Intentions, 1997.

Retirement intentions from the labour force

In 1997, there were 140,300 Western Australians aged 45 years and over who intended to retire from the labour force. That is, they reported that they intended to give up all labour force activity (working or looking for work) at some time in the future. Almost one-third (32%) did not know at what age they intended to retire fully from the labour force while over one-half (53%) intended to retire from the labour force at the age of 60 years and over.

6.12 AGE INTENDS TO RETIRE FROM THE LABOUR FORCE — 1997

	Age at November 1997 (years)				
	45–49	*50–54*	*55–59*	*60 and over*	*Total*
	PROPORTION (%)				
Age intends to retire (years)					
45–49	n.p.	. .	. .	. .	n.p.
50–54	2.6	*1.4	. .	. .	1.5
55–59	19.4	14.1	*6.2	. .	13.4
60–64	21.9	24.7	24.7	*8.6	22.0
65 and over	21.2	34.3	36.8	49.0	30.7
Don't know	35.0	25.5	32.2	42.4	32.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)				
Persons who intend to retire from the labour force	58.5	40.7	27.8	13.4	140.3

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Retirement and Retirement Intentions, 1997.

SUPERANNUATION

Sources of income for retired persons often change over time with many initially relying on private sources, such as superannuation, and then moving to government benefits in later years (ABS 1994b). In recognition of the reliance on government benefits to fund retirees, the federal government introduced policies to improve superannuation coverage in 1992. While compulsory saving for superannuation has been in place since 1992, there still appears to be a large number of baby boomers with low levels of superannuation savings (Kelly 2003). If levels of superannuation are insufficient to provide for baby boomers when they retire, it is likely there will be increased demands placed on governments to provide financial assistance and services to support these people during their post-retirement years.

Data from the 2000 Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation show that 17% of pre-retired baby boomers (those who were currently working, or intending to work in the future, whether or not they were currently looking for work) had no superannuation in place, and that a further 38% had less than $20,000 in superannuation. Only 8% of pre-retired baby boomers had more than $100,000 in superannuation.

Female baby boomers were more likely to have little or no superannuation than male baby boomers, with 69% of females having either no superannuation or less than $20,000 in superannuation compared with 43% of males. Furthermore, males were more than six times as likely to have $100,000 or more in superannuation than female baby boomers (13% compared with 2%). These differences could reflect the different patterns of labour force participation between the sexes, with women more likely to have either temporarily or permanently left the labour force to get married, have children and support their family, thus reducing their ability to contribute to superannuation.

In general, younger baby boomers had less superannuation than older baby boomers in 2000. Such a pattern is expected, given the greater length of time that older baby boomers have had to accumulate superannuation funds. However, recent government initiatives to increase superannuation contributions are likely to result in younger baby boomers accumulating a greater amount of superannuation by the time they retire compared with older baby boomers.

6.13 AMOUNT OF SUPERANNUATION HELD BY PRE-RETIRED BABY BOOMERS — 2000

	No superannuation(a)	*Less than $20,000*	*$20,000–$39,999*	*$40,000–$59,999*	*$60,000–$79,999*	*$80,000–$99,999*	*$100,000 or more*	*Not known*	*Total*	*Persons*
	%	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*'000*
Males	13.4	29.4	15.2	6.9	5.4	3.1	13.0	13.6	100.0	268.5
Females	21.4	47.9	10.4	3.8	2.2	1.9	2.1	10.4	100.0	239.4
Persons	**17.2**	**38.1**	**12.9**	**5.4**	**3.9**	**2.5**	**7.8**	**12.1**	**100.0**	**507.9**

(a) Includes persons who did not have a superannuation account and those who had an account from which they were already receiving a pension/annuity.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, 2000.

Table 6.14 shows that of all pre-retired baby boomers, those who were employed were more likely to have superannuation than those who were unemployed or not in the labour force. While only 11% of employed baby boomers had no superannuation, 40% of unemployed baby boomers and 59% of those not in the labour force had no superannuation. Levels of superannuation were also highest among employed baby boomers.

Full-time employment was linked with higher levels of superannuation, with 11% of pre-retired baby boomers in full-time employment having $100,000 or more in superannuation, compared with 8% across all pre-retired baby boomers.

6.14 AMOUNT OF SUPERANNUATION HELD BY PRE-RETIRED BABY BOOMERS, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS — 2000

	No superannuation(a)	*Less than $20,000*	*$20,000–$39,999*	*$40,000–$59,999*	*$60,000–$79,999*	*$80,000–$99,999*	*$100,000 or more*	*Not known*	*Total*	*Persons*
	%	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*'000*
Employment status										
Employed										
Full-time	8.4	34.2	16.6	7.3	5.5	3.1	11.3	13.6	100.0	320.2
Part-time	18.6	55.2	7.3	*2.8	*2.0	*1.8	*1.6	10.7	100.0	114.3
Total employed	*11.1*	*39.7*	*14.2*	*6.1*	*4.5*	*2.8*	*8.7*	*12.8*	*100.0*	*434.6*
Unemployed	39.6	43.7	*5.2	—	—	*1.8	*3.6	*5.9	100.0	21.4
Not in the labour force	58.9	22.1	*5.7	*2.1	—	*0.7	*2.1	8.5	100.0	51.9
Total	**17.2**	**38.1**	**12.9**	**5.4**	**3.9**	**2.5**	**7.8**	**12.1**	**100.0**	**507.9**

(a) Includes persons who did not have a superannuation account and those who had an account from which they were already receiving a pension/annuity.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, 2000.

Income is a strong determinant of superannuation levels. Those on higher incomes were more likely to have larger amounts in superannuation. For those pre-retired baby boomers earning $100,000 or more per annum, 34% had $100,000 or more in superannuation while 23% had less than $20,000 in superannuation. For those baby boomers on low incomes (less than $20,000 per annum), 43% had less than $20,000 in superannuation and 36% had no superannuation.

6.15 AMOUNT OF SUPERANNUATION HELD BY PRE-RETIRED BABY BOOMERS, BY ANNUAL INCOME — 2000

	No super-annuation(a)	*Less than $20,000*	*$20,000–$39,999*	*$40,000–$59,999*	*$60,000–$79,999*	*$80,000–$99,999*	*$100,000 or more*	*Not known*	*Total*	*Persons*
	%	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*'000*
Annual Income										
Nil or negative income	42.9	31.7	*11.4	*1.7	—	*1.6	*3.0	*7.7	100.0	22.9
$1–$19,999	35.5	43.2	6.0	*2.2	*0.8	*0.6	*2.2	9.5	100.0	140.4
$20,000–$39,999	8.0	52.2	14.0	6.0	*2.5	*2.1	*2.3	12.8	100.0	153.3
$40,000–$59,999	*3.0	28.9	23.1	7.8	6.5	*4.3	13.6	12.9	100.0	88.1
$60,000–$79,999	*3.9	22.1	11.7	*7.2	12.6	*5.8	27.0	*9.8	100.0	34.9
$80,000–$99,999	—	*14.9	*19.7	*11.2	*12.2	*3.8	*23.2	*15.0	100.0	10.4
$100,000 or more	*7.4	22.5	*6.3	*6.3	*10.0	*3.7	33.9	*9.9	100.0	19.5
Not stated	25.8	17.0	14.2	*8.0	*3.9	*3.9	*5.2	22.0	100.0	38.3
Total	**17.2**	**38.1**	**12.9**	**5.4**	**3.9**	**2.5**	**7.8**	**12.1**	**100.0**	**507.9**

(a) Includes persons who did not have a superannuation account and those who had an account from which they were already receiving a pension/annuity.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, 2000.

CHAPTER 7 HEALTH

INTRODUCTION

The ageing of the population is expected to lead to changing demands on the health care system in Australia. Healthier lifestyles and advances in medical technology have resulted in people living longer and are expected to contribute to an increase in the size of Western Australia's aged population. This, in turn, is likely to result in greater numbers needing assistance with age related health problems.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health as 'a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity' (WHO 1946). However, the health of individuals and groups of individuals is reflected, and more often measured, in terms of ill health and mortality. Illness and disease represent a major expense to society through lost productivity and the costs of treatment. For the individual, they impact on their ability to work, pursue leisure activities and participate fully in society.

This chapter contains data primarily sourced from the 2001 National Health Survey (NHS). The NHS collected data from a sample of private dwellings across Australia, which consequently excludes persons in hospitals, nursing homes and other non-private dwellings.

SELF ASSESSED HEALTH STATUS

A person's perception of their own general health status is considered a good measure of their current physical and mental health, and can be a predictor of mortality for those aged 65 years and over (McCallum 1994).

Results from the 2001 NHS show that 85% of baby boomers considered themselves to have good, very good or excellent health. This proportion was similar for persons in the 15–35 year age group (89%), but considerably higher than for persons aged 60 years and over (71%). In addition, a greater proportion of female baby boomers considered themselves to have good to excellent health (88%) compared with male baby boomers (82%).

7.1 SELF ASSESSED HEALTH STATUS — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Self assessed health status							
Excellent/very good	60.3	56.0	47.7	52.1	49.3	36.5	52.2
Good	28.4	33.8	31.9	32.9	28.0	34.5	31.2
Fair/poor	11.3	10.2	20.4	15.0	22.7	29.0	16.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	561.1	286.0	255.1	541.2	70.5	270.8	1 443.5

Source: ABS data available on request, National Health Survey, 2001.

LONG-TERM CONDITIONS

Despite the fact that 85% of baby boomers reported their health as being good to excellent, more than 90% reported having a long-term health condition. In particular, 28% of baby boomers reported being short sighted, 26% reported experiencing back pain/problems, 25% reported being long sighted and 20% reported problems with hayfever and allergic rhinitis.

All of the selected long-term conditions shown in table 7.2 were more prevalent among older baby boomers than younger baby boomers, except for asthma and migraines, which generally became less common as people aged. In particular, a markedly higher proportion of older baby boomers reported being long sighted and having presbyopia (an age associated eye disorder resulting in difficulty seeing objects close-up) compared with younger baby boomers. Baby boomers were less susceptible to conditions such as arthritis, hypertensive disease and presbyopia than persons aged 60 years and over.

7.2 SELECTED LONG-TERM CONDITIONS(a) — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Selected long-term conditions							
Short sightedness	23.1	25.1	31.4	28.0	36.0	30.5	27.0
Back pain/problems n.e.c.	20.5	25.3	27.5	26.4	31.5	25.5	24.2
Long sightedness	7.1	14.0	37.8	25.2	58.6	34.8	21.6
Hayfever and allergic rhinitis	25.1	19.6	19.7	19.6	15.3	16.4	20.9
Presbyopia	0.1	4.6	26.7	15.0	20.7	34.7	13.2
Arthritis	2.9	9.6	20.8	14.9	30.1	43.8	16.4
Deafness (complete/partial)	5.1	8.3	14.2	11.1	19.2	25.2	11.8
Chronic sinusitis	10.8	9.6	11.7	10.6	7.6	9.6	10.4
High cholesterol	1.7	5.6	13.6	9.4	16.5	20.0	8.7
Asthma	12.5	9.8	8.3	9.1	9.0	7.5	10.1
Hypertensive disease	1.3	4.6	13.9	9.0	26.9	34.8	11.7
Migraine	7.4	8.4	7.9	8.2	4.1	5.1	7.1
Total(b)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	561.1	286.0	255.1	541.2	70.5	270.8	1 443.5

(a) Conditions which have lasted or are expected to last for six months or more.

(b) Columns do not add to 100% because more than one long-term condition may be specified.

Source: ABS data available on request, National Health Survey, 2001.

HEALTH RISK FACTORS

A large number of lifestyle and environmental factors are recognised as risk factors to good health. Some of the main risk factors include cigarette smoking, excessive alcohol and fat consumption, limited exercise and being overweight (ABS 1997c) (ABS 1999d). Smoking has been associated with several types of cancer, coronary heart disease and cardiovascular disease (ABS 1997c) (AIHW 2002b). Excessive intake of alcohol has been associated with liver disease, high blood pressure, cancers and injuries from accidents and violence (AIHW 2002b) (AIHW 1996). Lack of exercise and excess fat consumption have been associated with obesity, high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol levels, all of which increase the risk of developing cardiovascular disease, particularly heart attacks and other forms of coronary heart disease (ABS 2002g) (AIHW 1996).

Table 7.3 highlights that one quarter of all baby boomers were current smokers in 2001. Baby boomers were less likely to be smokers than persons aged 18–35 years (30%), but more likely than persons aged 60 years and over (10%). A similar proportion of male and female baby boomers reported that they were current smokers (26% and 24% respectively). The proportion of persons who were ex-smokers increases with age, suggesting that many of those who take up smoking end up quitting at some point later in life.

Around one in seven baby boomers (14%) were considered to be consuming risky or high risk levels of alcohol. Females in the older baby boomer age group had higher levels of risky/high risk alcohol consumption (17%) than males in the same age group (12%), and higher consumption levels than both male and female younger baby boomers (15% and 11% respectively).

7.3 HEALTH RISK FACTORS — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	18–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Smoker status							
Current smoker(a)	30.4	28.8	20.3	24.8	15.5	10.2	23.4
Ex-smoker	17.5	27.2	33.1	30.0	36.4	39.7	27.8
Never smoked	52.1	44.0	46.5	45.2	48.1	50.1	48.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Alcohol risk level(b)							
Did not consume/low risk	87.9	87.0	85.3	86.2	80.7	90.7	87.4
Risky/high risk	12.1	13.0	14.7	13.8	19.3	9.3	12.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Exercise level							
Sedentary	23.5	26.2	25.5	25.9	36.1	35.8	27.5
Low/very low	41.2	37.8	43.3	40.4	36.8	35.4	39.5
Moderate/High	35.3	36.0	31.2	33.7	27.1	28.8	33.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Body Mass Index (BMI)							
Underweight	4.5	*1.8	**0.4	*1.2	**2.4	*1.9	2.5
Normal range							
BMI 18.5 to less than 20.0	6.7	7.5	*2.9	5.3	**1.5	*2.5	5.1
BMI 20.0 to less than 25.0	46.7	36.2	37.5	36.8	30.4	33.0	39.2
Overweight	24.1	33.7	34.8	34.2	41.8	36.0	31.3
Obese	10.2	16.0	18.0	16.9	17.8	13.9	14.0
Total(c)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	485.0	286.0	255.1	541.2	70.5	270.8	1 367.4

(a) Includes daily and other current smoker.

(b) Alcohol consumption in the last week.

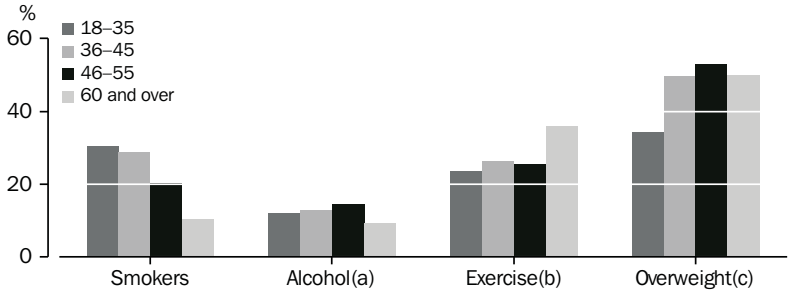
(c) Includes BMI not known.

Source: ABS data available on request, National Health Survey, 2001.

Levels of exercise decreased among older age groups, with 36% of persons aged 60 years and over, 26% of baby boomers and 23% of persons aged 18–35 years considered to be sedentary. The proportion of baby boomers who were either sedentary or undertaking low levels of exercise was higher among females than males (70% and 62% respectively). However, a much greater proportion of male baby boomers were considered to be overweight or obese (63%) than female baby boomers (39%).

Male baby boomers were also more likely to be overweight or obese than males aged 18–35 years (44%) or males aged 60 years and over (53%). In contrast, females aged 60 years and over were more likely to be overweight or obese (47%) than females in any other age group.

7.4 HEALTH RISK FACTORS — 2001



(a) Risky and high risk alcohol level.
(b) Sedentary exercise level.
(c) Overweight or obese Body Mass Index (BMI).

Source: ABS data available on request, National Health Survey, 2001.

Nutrition

Eating a balanced diet is an important factor in reducing a range of medical conditions. Dietary guidelines developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend a high intake of cereals, fruit and vegetables, and to limit the consumption of saturated fat to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, several of the common cancers, and obesity. Good nutrition may also reduce the risk of stroke, Type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, high blood pressure and raised blood cholesterol (AIHW 2002b).

Table 7.5 highlights that there is little difference in the consumption of fruit and vegetables across the age groups, with the majority of baby boomers (76%) usually eating 2–5 serves of vegetables per day and 82% usually eating up to 3 serves of fruit per day.

The majority of Western Australians usually drink whole or low/reduced fat milk (42% and 38% respectively). The proportion of older baby boomers who usually drink low/reduced fat milk was higher than for any other age group (46%). Other than persons aged 56–59 years, the proportion of persons who usually drink skim milk was also highest among older baby boomers (14%). In contrast, soy milk was more popular among persons aged 60 years and over than among baby boomers.

The proportion of persons who used salt after cooking also did not vary substantially across the age groups, with approximately one-quarter (27%) of baby boomers usually adding salt after cooking.

7.5 SELECTED DIETARY HABITS — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Usual daily serves of vegetables							
Doesn't eat vegetables	*1.1	**0.3	**0.6	*0.5	—	**0.1	*0.6
1 serve or less	26.7	20.3	16.7	18.6	20.9	17.2	21.6
2–3 serves	47.3	51.2	50.2	50.7	44.4	47.0	48.4
4–5 serves	19.8	23.2	28.0	25.5	26.4	32.9	24.7
6 serves or more	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.7	*8.3	*2.7	4.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Usual daily serves of fruit							
Doesn't eat fruit	8.7	5.0	*3.2	4.1	**1.6	*2.0	5.4
1 serve or less	43.0	42.2	41.6	41.9	31.9	33.7	40.3
2–3 serves	37.4	39.2	41.6	40.3	46.4	51.8	41.6
4–5 serves	8.9	11.8	12.1	11.9	16.0	11.2	10.8
6 serves or more	2.0	*1.9	*1.5	*1.7	*4.1	*1.3	1.9
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Usual type of milk							
Whole	48.7	45.5	29.6	38.0	26.4	39.4	41.9
Low/reduced fat	34.8	36.4	46.1	41.0	35.0	37.1	37.5
Skim	8.1	9.5	14.1	11.7	19.4	11.4	10.6
Soy	3.7	4.9	*3.8	4.4	*8.0	6.2	4.6
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Salt added after cooking							
Never/rarely	59.1	56.6	59.1	57.8	54.7	54.3	57.5
Sometimes	20.6	16.7	14.6	15.7	17.9	17.7	18.1
Usually	20.3	26.7	26.3	26.5	27.4	28.0	24.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	561.1	286.0	255.1	541.2	70.5	270.8	1 443.5

(a) Includes persons who usually consumed evaporated or sweetened condensed milk, who did not know the type of milk they usually consumed, and who did not usually consume milk.

Source: ABS data available on request, National Health Survey, 2001.

CAUSES OF DEATH

There were 10,800 deaths in Western Australia in 2001. Of these, 81% were among persons aged 60 years and over and almost one in ten (9%) were of baby boomer age. Although the death rates among persons aged 60 years and over were substantially higher than for any other age group, there are marked differences in the leading causes of death between males and females and across the age groups. Standardised death rates for Western Australia were marginally lower than for Australia in 2001 (5.2 per 1,000 persons compared with 5.4 per 1,000 persons).

CAUSES OF DEATH *continued*

The leading cause of death for older baby boomers was malignant neoplasms (cancer) with 111 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2001. The main type of cancers affecting older male baby boomers were cancers of the digestive organs (49 deaths per 100,000 persons), and trachea, bronchus and lung cancers (24 deaths per 100,000 persons). There was also a high rate of deaths among older male baby boomers due to heart disease (58 deaths per 100,000 persons). For older female baby boomers, the leading causes of death were breast cancers (34 deaths per 100,000 persons) and cancers of the digestive organs (26 deaths per 100,000 persons).

While cancers were also the most common cause of death for younger female baby boomers (37 deaths per 100,000 persons), accidents and intentional self harm were the most common causes among younger male baby boomers (37 deaths and 33 deaths per 100,000 persons respectively).

Among persons aged 60 years and over, the most common causes of death for both males and females were cancers (877 deaths per 100,000 persons), heart disease (841 per 100,000 persons) and cerebrovascular diseases (294 per 100,000 persons).

7.6 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH — 2001

	Age group (years)				
	Baby boomers				
	36–45	46–55	Total	60 and over	Total
	RATE PER 100,000 PERSONS(a)				
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)					
Digestive organs	9.4	37.3	22.4	251.5	47.3
Trachea, bronchus and lung	2.4	16.9	9.1	181.7	32.1
Skin	2.0	4.2	3.0	24.5	5.1
Breast	4.4	17.3	10.4	55.5	12.5
Female genital organs	2.0	6.5	4.1	33.9	7.3
Male genital organs	0.0	0.4	0.2	63.6	9.8
Urinary tract	1.3	2.7	2.0	40.9	7.2
Brain	3.4	6.9	5.0	17.1	4.9
Lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue	2.0	8.8	5.2	83.1	15.6
Total malignant neoplasms (cancer)	*31.6*	*110.6*	*68.5*	*876.9*	*164.6*
Heart disease					
Hypertensive disease	0.3	0.4	0.4	23.4	3.7
Ischaemic heart disease	12.8	31.5	21.5	656.1	108.9
Pulmonary heart disease	3.7	3.1	3.4	167.3	27.0
Total heart disease	*16.8*	*34.9*	*25.3*	*840.9*	*138.8*
Accidents					
Transport accidents	12.4	6.9	9.9	7.0	10.5
Falls	0.3	1.9	1.1	15.4	2.9
Accidental drowning and submersion	0.7	0.4	0.5	1.4	1.3
Total accidents	*24.9*	*15.7*	*20.6*	*54.8*	*26.1*
Intentional self harm	22.2	15.7	19.2	11.2	14.1
Diabetes mellitus	4.0	8.1	5.9	92.2	16.3
Diseases of the liver	3.7	6.5	5.0	17.5	4.8
Cerebrovascular disease (stroke)	2.7	7.3	4.8	293.8	46.9
Chronic lower respiratory disease	3.4	3.8	3.6	130.7	21.6
All causes	**133.5**	**238.5**	**182.5**	**3 060.1**	**567.0**

(a) Deaths per 100,000 of the estimated mid-year population for each age group.

Source: ABS data available on request, Causes of Death, 2001.

HEALTH RELATED ACTIONS

Most people spend some time attending to their health, whether it be preventative or ongoing care, or actions related to a specific health problem. A range of health actions can be taken, including consulting doctors or other health professionals, taking medications or taking time off work. Health actions can also be taken for preventative reasons such as regular dental check-ups.

Results from the 2001 NHS indicate that 41% of baby boomers had taken at least one health related action in the two weeks prior to the survey, with female baby boomers more likely to have taken a health related action (45%) than males (37%). For both females and males, the proportion taking a health related action increased with age, with 51% of females and 40% of males aged 60 years and over taking a health related action.

The most common health related action taken across all age groups was consulting with a doctor (general practitioner or specialist) followed by consulting with other health professionals. Almost twice as many persons aged 60 years and over consulted with a doctor compared with baby boomers (40% and 22% respectively), however the proportion who consulted with other health professionals was only marginally higher for persons aged 60 years and over (15% compared with 12% for baby boomers).

7.7 HEALTH RELATED ACTIONS TAKEN(a) — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
No health action taken	58.8	60.3	56.5	58.5	53.9	54.2	57.6
At least one health action taken(b)	41.2	39.7	43.5	41.5	46.1	45.8	42.4
Visited hospital/day clinic	5.8	4.8	4.2	4.5	*4.9	7.9	5.6
Consulted with doctor(c)	19.6	19.2	24.6	21.7	33.7	40.4	25.0
Consulted with dentist	4.8	7.4	6.7	7.1	*6.7	6.5	6.1
Consulted with other health professionals	15.6	13.9	10.9	12.5	16.1	14.7	14.3
Days away from work or study	10.8	5.5	6.8	6.1	**1.1	**0.3	6.6
Other days of reduced activity	12.4	10.3	9.9	10.1	*10.5	15.5	12.0
Total(d)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	561.1	286.0	255.1	541.2	70.5	270.8	1 443.5

(a) Health actions taken in the two weeks prior to the survey. Only includes health actions covered in the NHS.

(b) More than one health action may be specified.

(c) Includes General practitioners and Specialists.

(d) Includes hospital inpatient episodes.

Source: ABS data available on request, National Health Survey, 2001.

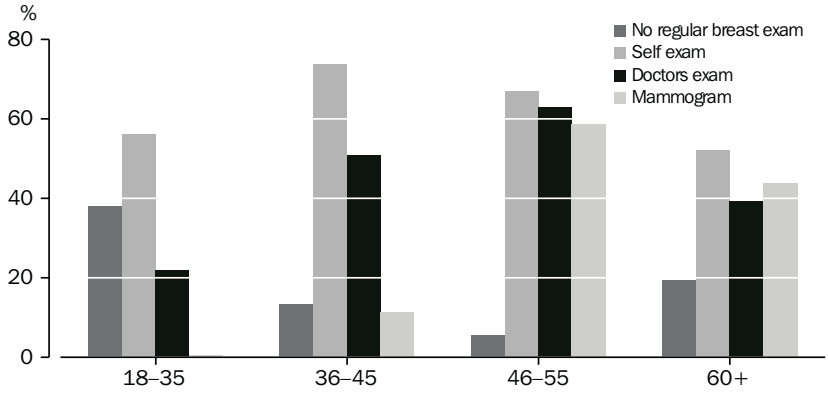
Women's health

As discussed earlier, breast cancer is one of the leading causes of death among female baby boomers, particularly older female baby boomers. Screening is currently believed to be the most effective method of reducing mortality from breast cancer (AIHW 1998). BreastScreen Australia was established in the early 1990s with the aim of detecting small cancers in the breast which are more easily treatable while in their early stages (ABS 2000c).

Results from the 2001 NHS show that one-fifth of women in Western Australia do not have regular breast examinations. Baby boomers were the most likely to have breast examinations, with 86% having at least one type of regular breast examination compared with 60% of women aged 18–35 years and 69% of women aged 60 years and over.

Self examinations were the most common type of breast examination performed across all age groups. Doctors examinations and mammograms were highest among older baby boomers (63% and 59% respectively).

7.8 BREAST EXAMINATIONS(a) — 2001



(a) Percentages for individual age groups do not add to 100% as more than one type of breast examination may have been performed.

Source: ABS data available on request, National Health Survey, 2001.

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARDS

Almost two-thirds of baby boomers had private health insurance in 2001. This proportion was higher than for both persons aged 60 years and over (52%) and persons aged 15–35 years (51%). The majority of persons who had private health insurance were covered by both hospital and ancillary cover.

For those baby boomers who were covered by private health insurance, the main reasons given for insuring were for reasons of security, protection and peace of mind (38%), because it provides benefits for ancillary services/extras (30%), because it allows treatment as a private patient in hospital (27%) and for the choice of doctor (27%). In contrast, the majority of baby boomers who did not have private health insurance (63%) stated they could not afford it or felt it was too expensive. A further 16% felt that private health insurance lacked value for money and 14% felt that the Medicare cover was sufficient.

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARDS *continued*

Government health cards were most common among persons aged 60 years and over, with 80% having a health card in 2001 compared with 20% of baby boomers. This is due to health card eligibility conditions, which are often linked to a person's age.

7.9 PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARDS — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Type of private health insurance							
Hospital cover only	1.9	*2.1	*2.2	2.2	*4.4	4.0	2.5
Ancillary cover only	4.9	6.0	4.9	5.5	*3.4	4.1	4.9
Both hospital and ancillary cover	43.2	52.3	63.9	57.8	66.9	44.2	50.0
Without private health insurance	48.6	39.2	29.0	34.4	25.2	47.6	42.0
Total(a)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Government health card							
With card	23.3	21.1	18.1	19.7	24.2	80.1	32.7
Without card	76.8	78.9	81.9	80.3	75.8	19.9	67.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	561.1	286.0	255.1	541.2	70.5	270.8	1 443.5

(a) Includes persons who did not know whether they had private health insurance, and persons who were insured but did not know what type of cover they had.

Source: ABS data available on request, National Health Survey, 2001.

CHAPTER 8 COMMUNITY LIFE

INTRODUCTION

The way in which people interact within their community provides an indication of the overall social wellbeing, fitness and happiness of the community. This chapter considers various aspects of community life, including how people participate in their community, their access to the community and their levels of safety in the community. As baby boomers reach retirement age, the way they are involved in, or are affected by these aspects of community life can be expected to change. The sheer number of baby boomers reaching retirement over the next few years is likely to have a substantial impact on community infrastructure requirements.

PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Allocation of time

The 1997 Time Use Survey (TUS) measured the amount of time that people spend on various activities. The data reported in this analysis relates to the main activity being undertaken by the respondent (as opposed to all activities).

The TUS divided the activities which people spend their time on into four broad categories:

- Necessary time spent on personal care activities
- Contracted time spent on employment and educational activities
- Committed time spent on domestic, child care, purchasing, voluntary work and caring activities
- Free time spent on social and community interaction, and recreation and leisure activities.

The TUS found that in 1997 Western Australians spent, on average, 648 minutes (10 hours 48 minutes) per day on personal care activities (mainly sleeping), 286 minutes (4 hours 46 minutes) per day on recreation and leisure activities, 198 minutes per day (3 hours 18 minutes) on employment related activities, and 132 minutes per day (2 hours 12 minutes) on domestic activities.

As people progress through their life-cycle, the amount of time they spend on various activities changes. In particular, there are marked differences between the types of activities that people of baby boomer age spend their time on in comparison to persons aged 60 years and over. According to the TUS, baby boomers spent substantially more time on employment related activities (an average of 260 minutes per day, or 4 hours 20 minutes) in 1997 than persons aged 60 years and over (54 minutes per day). They also spent more time on child care activities.

Within the baby boomer group, there were also differences observed that are likely to be related to life-cycle stage. Younger baby boomers spent an additional 53 minutes per day on child care activities compared with older baby boomers. The additional time available to older baby boomers was spent on personal care activities (mainly sleeping, eating and drinking), domestic activities and employment related activities.

8.1 MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN(a) — 1997

	Age group (years)							
			Baby boomers					
	15–24	25–31	32–41	42–51	Total	52–59	60 and over	Total
	MINUTES PER DAY							
Purpose of activities								
Personal care	664	631	619	646	631	643	685	648
Employment related	168	273	254	266	260	191	54	198
Education	110	**7	*5	**7	*6	n.p.	n.p.	24
Domestic activities	62	108	137	156	146	148	177	132
Child care	*8	68	74	21	50	*8	*7	32
Purchasing goods and services	38	48	50	47	48	55	56	49
Voluntary work and care	10	*8	26	21	24	36	48	25
Social and community interaction	48	50	38	29	34	42	42	41
Recreation and leisure	328	242	232	236	234	316	370	286
Total(b)	**1 440**	**1 440**	**1 440**	**1 440**	**1 440**	**1 440**	**1 440**	**1 440**

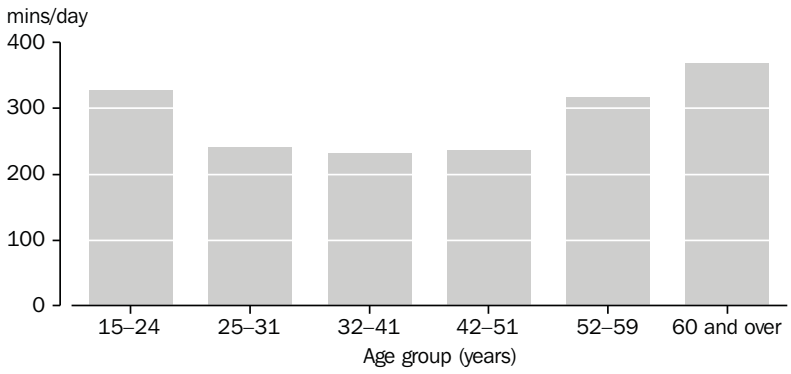
(a) Average time spent on the activity by all persons. In order to compare times between different groups of people, the time spent on activities by the people who reported doing them was distributed over the whole population, and is presented as the average time spent by all persons.

(b) Includes undescribed time.

Source: ABS data available on request, Time Use Survey, 1997.

As the baby boomers age, time which was previously spent on employment related and child care activities will become time that is available for other activities. The main activities which replaced employment for persons aged 60 years and over were Recreation and leisure activities, with an additional 136 minutes per day (2 hours 16 minutes) spent on these types of activities compared with baby boomers. More time was also spent on personal care activities (mainly sleeping, eating and drinking), domestic activities (mainly grounds and animal care) and voluntary work and care.

8.2 TIME SPENT ON RECREATION AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES — 1997



Source: ABS data available on request, Time Use Survey, 1997.

Recreation and leisure

There is great variety in the types of recreation and leisure activities that people can undertake. They range from physical activities, such as participating in an organised sport, through to more sedate activities, such as reading or watching television.

According to the TUS, the main recreation and leisure activity undertaken by Western Australians in 1997 was the use of audio visual media (which includes watching television and videos), accounting for an average of 133 minutes (2 hours 11 minutes) per day. The next most common activities were talking (including talking on the telephone) which accounted for 34 minutes per day, sport and outdoor activity (31 minutes per day) and reading (26 minutes per day).

Although these activities were also the most common recreation and leisure activities undertaken by baby boomers, they spent less time undertaking these activities than the general population. In particular, baby boomers spent an average of 108 minutes per day (1 hour and 48 minutes) using audio visual media, 31 minutes per day talking, 26 minutes per day on sport and outdoor activities and 19 minutes per day reading.

Of the additional 136 minutes per day that persons aged 60 years and over spent on recreation and leisure activities in comparison to baby boomers, the majority was spent on use of audio visual media (an additional 59 minutes per day) and reading (an additional 38 minutes per day). They also spent more time on activities such as resting and relaxing (an average of 36 minutes per day for persons aged 60 years and over compared with 13 minutes per day for baby boomers).

These passive activities are generally not considered to be the types of activities which involve people in their community. The 1999 Survey of Attendance at Selected Culture/Leisure Venues provides information on people's attendance at organised activities, as well as their use of public access facilities. Table 8.3 shows that people are far more likely to attend the cinema than any other cultural venue/activity, with 72% of the Western Australian population having attended the cinema at least once in the 12 months to April 1999. Cinema attendance rates decreased with increasing age, with 85% of 15–33 year olds, 75% of baby boomers and 43% of persons aged 60 years and over attending the cinema. Animal or marine parks were the second most popular activity for most age groups, with an average attendance rate of 45%. Persons aged 60 years and over, however, were more likely to attend the library (35% attendance rate) than animal or marine parks.

8.3 ATTENDANCE AT SELECTED CULTURAL VENUES AND ACTIVITIES(a) — APRIL 1999

	Age at April 1999 (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–33	34–43	44–53	Total	54–59	60 and over	Total
	ATTENDANCE RATE (%)						
Venue/activity							
Cinema	85.2	79.4	70.5	75.1	64.4	43.2	72.3
Animal or marine parks	50.9	55.9	43.5	50.0	35.4	26.0	44.9
Library	38.7	48.9	38.6	43.9	37.6	35.5	40.0
Botanic gardens	32.1	36.8	34.2	35.6	34.0	23.7	32.0
Popular music	38.5	30.7	23.1	27.0	22.0	7.8	27.4
Museums	21.2	25.3	23.5	24.4	20.2	14.1	21.0
Art gallery	20.3	21.5	24.8	23.1	25.4	13.9	20.6
Opera or musical	16.1	20.6	23.8	22.1	27.2	14.4	18.9
Other performing arts	17.6	21.8	15.0	18.5	14.8	9.6	16.3
Theatre	18.5	18.2	22.1	20.1	18.1	12.0	17.9
Classical music	8.5	10.1	14.6	12.3	16.5	9.5	10.7
Dance	10.1	13.7	11.7	12.7	10.6	6.4	10.4
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons(b)	536.7	285.1	263.9	548.9	106.4	264.3	1 456.3

(a) Activities undertaken in the 12 months to April 1999.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Attendance at Selected Culture/Leisure Venues, April 1999.

For the majority of cultural venues/activities, attendance rates were lower for persons aged 60 years and over than for other age groups. Although the survey did not specifically measure the reasons for non-attendance, rates are likely to be influenced by cost and health factors. Given that baby boomers are likely to be healthier and wealthier than previous generations (for further information see Education and work, and Health chapters), they may also be more active participants in cultural activities when they reach their retirement years.

Aside from participation in cultural activities, the extent to which baby boomers may be involved in more active pursuits will also impact on their social and community interaction, as well as providing well-documented health benefits. Physical inactivity is recognised as a key health issue which contributes to the burden of disease, morbidity and mortality in Australia (Bauman, Bellew, Vita, Brown & Owen 2002). As people age, they are more likely to be in need of health services, and the continuation of regular physical activity is of particular importance. 'Participation in physical activity by older people has benefits in relation to falls prevention, musculoskeletal health, continence, mental health and arthritis.' (AIHW 2002a)

The 1999–2000 Survey of Participation in Sport and Physical Activities provides information on the type of physical activity undertaken by Western Australians. Table 8.4 shows the top ten sports and physical activities undertaken based on total participation rates in Western Australia.

8.4 TOP TEN SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES(a) — 1999–2000

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	18–34	35–44	45–54	Total	55–59	60 and over	Total
	PARTICIPATION RATE (%)						
Sport/activity							
Walking	21.9	29.6	28.3	29.0	25.9	22.2	25.1
Swimming	25.4	21.9	15.7	19.0	*10.4	8.1	18.7
Aerobics/fitness	19.3	12.6	11.0	11.9	*12.2	*4.5	13.2
Golf	9.7	7.7	13.0	10.2	*6.0	11.0	9.9
Fishing	8.9	8.0	8.8	8.4	*7.9	*3.4	7.6
Cycling	12.4	*3.8	7.7	5.6	*5.4	*1.7	7.3
Running	10.9	7.1	*3.0	5.2	**2.0	**0.3	6.1
Tennis	6.7	8.3	5.7	7.1	**3.3	*3.4	6.0
Netball	9.7	6.3	**0.9	3.8	**0.0	**0.0	4.9
Martial arts	4.1	*3.1	*1.5	*2.4	**1.0	*2.5	2.9
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons(b)	469.3	288.6	251.4	540.0	85.2	242.7	1 337.2

(a) Activities undertaken in the previous 12 months.

(b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Participation in Sport and Physical Activities, 1999–2000.

Participation in specific physical activities varies according to age. Overall, walking (including bushwalking and powerwalking) was the most popular physical activity, reported as being undertaken by a quarter of all Western Australians. Walking was the most common activity for all age groups 35 years and over, although participation rates decreased in older age groups, with 29% of baby boomers undertaking walking as an activity, compared with 22% of persons aged 60 years and over.

Swimming and golf were also popular activities among baby boomers (participation rates of 19% and 10%) and persons aged 60 years and over (participation rates of 8% and 11%), and around 12% of baby boomers also participated in aerobics/fitness activities.

The participation of baby boomers in recreational activities is further demonstrated by their level of expenditure on recreational goods and services. The 1998–99 Household Expenditure Survey collected information on the expenditure, income and characteristics of households resident in private dwellings throughout Australia. Household expenditure was categorised based on the age of the reference person, who was selected for each household based on the following selection criteria (in order of precedence):

- one of the partners in a registered or de facto marriage
- a lone parent
- the person with the highest income
- the eldest person.

Recreation and leisure *continued*

The data shows that households where an older baby boomer was the reference person spent an average of $118 per week on recreation expenses. This was higher than for all other households (an average of $72 per week spent by households where the reference person was aged 15–33 years, $102 per week for younger baby boomer households, and $53 per week for households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over). The category of recreation expenses consists of a diverse range of goods and services, including the purchase of audiovisual equipment and parts, home computer equipment, and books, newspapers and magazines. Also included is expenditure on gambling, sports fees and charges, cultural fees and charges, selected holiday expenses, animal expenses, and other recreational expenses.

Households where an older baby boomer was the reference person also spent more on meals in restaurants, hotels and clubs (an average of $18 per week compared with $11 across all households), on fast food and takeaway (not frozen) (an average of $27 per week compared with $19 across all households) and on alcoholic beverages (an average of $28 per week compared with $22 across all households).

Although people have more time to spend on recreation and leisure activities as they become older, the types of activities they are involved in changes. Participation in sport and physical activities is generally lower for persons aged 60 years and over, as is attendance at cultural venues and expenditure on recreational activities. Whether this trend will apply to the baby boomers as they age is difficult to predict, but even if it does, the large number of baby boomers heading towards retirement may result in the number of older persons participating to increase from their present level. This is likely to have implications for recreational and cultural infrastructure and service provision needs.

Voluntary work

As part of the cultural, leisure, sporting and recreational activities that people are involved in, many take on roles as volunteers. Volunteers provide a valuable service to the community, and the work they do is often considered to be an important part of their personal participation in their community. The roles of volunteers are varied, ranging from fundraising to counselling, coaching to administration work.

The 2000 Survey of Voluntary Work defined volunteers as persons who willingly gave unpaid help, in the form of time, service or skills, through an organisation or group. The survey estimated that there were 428,600 volunteers aged 18 years and over in Western Australia, corresponding to 32% of the total population. The majority of volunteers in Western Australia were employed, either full-time or part-time, and approximately two-thirds lived in the Perth SD in 2000 (compared with 73% of the total population).

Voluntary work *continued*

Table 8.5 shows that persons in the baby boomer age group were more likely to be a volunteer than any other age group (volunteer rate of 37%), with older baby boomers contributing the greatest number of hours per volunteer (195 hours annually per volunteer). Persons aged 60 years and over contributed the second largest number of hours per volunteer (182 hours per volunteer) even though there was a smaller percentage of volunteers than in the baby boomer group (25% and 37% respectively).

8.5 SELECTED VOLUNTEER CHARACTERISTICS — 2000

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	18–34	35–44	45–54	Total	55–59	60 and over	Total
	NUMBER ('000)						
Volunteers(a)							
Employed							
Full-time	73.3	46.1	61.2	107.3	*15.7	*9.9	206.2
Part-time	33.0	31.2	26.0	57.1	**6.4	**3.7	100.2
Unemployed	*10.4	**6.3	**2.2	*8.6	**0.8	—	*19.7
Not in the labour force	22.7	*16.8	*10.9	27.7	**4.9	47.2	102.5
Total	**139.5**	**100.4**	**100.2**	**200.6**	**27.8**	**60.8**	**428.6**
	VOLUNTEER RATE (%)						
Volunteers(a)							
Employed							
Full-time	30.6	31.1	43.1	36.9	*40.8	*39.6	34.7
Part-time	29.5	44.8	43.0	44.0	**33.0	**22.6	36.1
Unemployed	*27.6	**25.1	**29.9	*26.2	**72.4	—	*27.1
Not in the labour force	29.6	*38.3	*26.1	32.4	**19.3	23.8	26.6
Total	**29.9**	**35.0**	**39.8**	**37.2**	**32.9**	**25.3**	**32.2**
	HOURS WORKED						
Total annual hours (million)	19.7	16.1	19.6	35.7	4.3	11.1	70.8
Average annual hours (per volunteer)	140.9	160.1	195.5	177.8	156.6	182.4	165.1

(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Voluntary Work, 2000.

The types of organisations where volunteering was undertaken varied markedly across the age groups. The volunteer involvement rate measures the total number of organisations worked for by volunteers expressed as a percentage of total volunteers. This takes into account the fact that one volunteer may work for multiple organisations, which may be of the same or different organisation type.

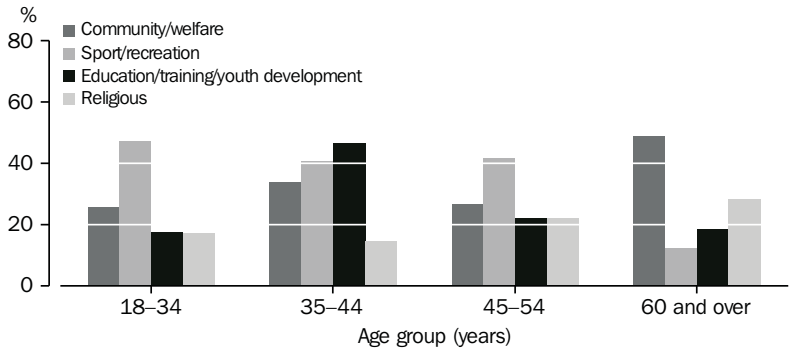
Graph 8.6 shows that younger baby boomers were more heavily involved in community/welfare organisations and education/training/youth development organisations but less involved in religious organisations than older baby boomers. Persons aged 60 years and over had the highest rate of involvement in both community/welfare organisations (49%) and religious organisations (28%) compared with all other age groups.

Voluntary work *continued*

Both younger and older baby boomers had similar rates of involvement in sport/recreation organisations (41% and 42% respectively). Among persons aged 60 years and over, the volunteer involvement rate was only 12%, whereas persons aged 18–35 years had the highest involvement in sport/recreation organisations (47%).

These differences may be due to persons in the younger age groups being more involved in sporting and recreational activities, parents being involved in activities undertaken by their children (both educational and recreational activities), and older people being involved in more general community activities.

8.6 VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT RATE(a), Selected types of organisations — 2000



(a) A volunteer can work for a number of the same or different types of organisations.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Voluntary Work, 2000.

The most common reasons for volunteering were to help others and the community (49%), for personal satisfaction (41%), and personal/family involvement (30%). Other less common reasons included social contact, to be active, religious beliefs, and to learn new skills.

While helping others and the community was the most common reason provided across most age groups, the younger baby boomers most commonly reported that they volunteered for personal/family involvement reasons. This is not surprising, as many people in this age group have dependent children and may be involved in volunteering as part of their child-raising activities.

8.7 MOST COMMON REASONS FOR BEING A VOLUNTEER — 2000

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	18–34	35–44	45–54	Total	55–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Most common reasons(a)							
Help others/community	48.3	45.6	45.5	45.5	*54.6	57.6	48.7
Personal satisfaction	37.5	30.1	45.0	37.6	*58.5	49.0	40.5
Personal/family involvement	26.0	52.2	25.6	38.9	**19.7	*16.0	30.2
To do something worthwhile	25.1	27.8	23.2	25.5	*25.2	*32.0	26.3
Use skills/experience	19.4	*13.4	*13.8	13.6	**14.6	*13.4	15.5
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total volunteers(b)	139.5	100.4	100.2	200.6	27.8	60.8	428.6

(a) Volunteers may give more than one reason.

(b) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: ABS data available on request, Survey of Voluntary Work, 2000.

ACCESS TO THE COMMUNITY

Transport

The availability of transport can greatly affect the independence and social participation of all people in a community, especially older people. The 2001 National Strategy for an Ageing Australia identifies transport as being important to the community in that it enables 'access to services, family, friends, and it supports greater social interaction' (Andrews 2001). The type of transport used by a community varies according to whether people live in urban or rural areas, and in many cases will depend upon the range, frequency and location of public transport services, as well as financial issues such as car affordability.

Travelling to work accounts for the largest amount of travel time for Western Australians. According to the 1997 TUS, Western Australians spent an average of 18 minutes per day on employment related travel, followed by 17 minutes per day on travel relating to the purchase of goods and services, 11 minutes per day on travel associated with social and community interaction activities and 10 minutes per day on recreation and leisure travel. The amount of time spent on employment related travel was higher, at 29 minutes per day, for those Western Australians who were employed at the time of the 1997 TUS. The amount of time baby boomers spent on employment related travel was very similar to the figures for the total Western Australian population.

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing highlights that 69% of all employed persons travelled to work by car while only 6% used public transport. These figures were reasonably consistent across all age groups, except for persons aged 60 years and over. Since a greater proportion of persons aged 60 years and over worked at home (15%) in the week before the 2001 Census, a lower proportion used public transport and cars to get to work.

8.8 METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Method of travel to work							
Public transport(a)	7.9	5.5	5.2	5.4	4.6	3.5	6.3
Car(b)	67.9	71.1	71.0	71.0	66.6	55.8	68.7
Bicycle	1.5	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.2
Other(c)	2.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.2	5.0	3.3
Walked only	3.8	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.3	4.0	3.4
Worked at home	2.6	5.6	6.8	6.2	9.4	14.8	5.2
Did not go to work	14.3	10.6	9.9	10.3	11.2	12.6	12.2
Not stated	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.6	4.6	1.6
Total(d)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total employed persons(e)	350.3	212.8	183.4	396.2	41.2	41.1	828.8

(a) Includes Train, Bus, Ferry and Tram.

(b) Includes Car as driver and Car as passenger.

(c) Includes Truck, Motorbike/scooter, Taxi and Other.

(d) Columns do not add to 100% because more than one transport mode may be specified. Includes persons who did not state their method of travel to work.

(e) Employed persons aged 15 years and over. Excludes Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Australian households are highly dependent on the family car (ABS 2000j). This is exacerbated by urban sprawl, large distances between major population centres, and the limited availability of public transport services in some areas (ABS 2000j). Western Australia had the second highest rate of motor vehicle ownership across all Australian states and territories, with 86% of occupied private dwellings owning or having the use of at least one vehicle on the night of the 2001 Census. This figure was slightly higher for those occupied private dwellings where the reference person was a baby boomer (94%) and slightly lower for those aged 60 years and over (79%).

According to the 1998–1999 Household Expenditure Survey, households where a baby boomer was the reference person spent an average of $149 per week on transport related expenses. Just over half of this was spent on the purchase of a motor vehicle (other than motor cycle) and on petrol. Within the baby boomer group, households where the reference person was an older baby boomer spent more on transport related expenses than households where the reference person was a younger baby boomer (an average of $171 per week compared with $127 per week respectively). In contrast, households where the reference person was aged 60 years and over only spent an average of $65 per week on transport related expenses.

Transport *continued*

Retirement is likely to result in a change in the transport needs of many baby boomers. Aside from the diminishing role that paid employment will play in their lives when they retire, their level of participation in the community will depend on personal lifestyle preferences. It is not known whether the majority of baby boomers will continue to have access to vehicles as they age, however, vehicle ownership and access is likely to continue to be linked to their level of access to the community. These factors are likely to have an impact on future transportation infrastructure requirements.

Computer use and Internet access

Computers and the Internet are rapidly becoming a part of people's everyday lives and are increasingly providing people with access, not only to the local community, but to the global community. The Internet allows a wide range of information to be shared among people scattered across the world. This potentially has significant benefits for older Australians in that such communication can help to overcome geographic isolation, mobility limitations and personal feelings of isolation.

The 2001 Census of Population and Housing asked people whether they used a computer at home or accessed the Internet anywhere in the previous week. This data illustrates that 49% of baby boomers had used a computer at home and 45% had accessed the Internet in the week prior to the Census.

Table 8.9 shows that both computer use and Internet access generally declined with increasing age. The proportion of persons aged 60 years and over who had used a computer (15%) was less than a third of the corresponding proportion for baby boomers. The proportion of baby boomers accessing the Internet (45%) was more than four times the figure for persons aged 60 years and over (11%). As computers are a relatively new phenomenon, each generation has incorporated computer usage into their lifestyle patterns to a much greater extent than the previous generation.

8.9 PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHO USED A COMPUTER OR ACCESSED THE INTERNET(a) — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–35	36–45	46–55	Total	56–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Used a computer at home(b)	50.1	52.5	44.5	48.8	34.5	15.2	42.1
Used the Internet anywhere(b)	52.9	47.9	41.4	44.9	30.0	10.6	40.6
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total population(c)	563.4	287.4	251.4	538.8	73.0	281.5	1 456.7

(a) Percentages calculated from total Western Australian population in particular age categories, including those who did not state whether they had used a computer or accessed the Internet.

(b) Computer/Internet use in the previous week.

(c) Excludes Overseas visitors.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing, 2001.

Computer use and Internet access *continued*

Data from the 2000 Survey of Household Use of Information Technology suggests that computer use is increasing. A greater proportion of baby boomers had used a computer (including from work and home) during 2000 (79%) than during 1998 (71%). For those aged 60 years and over, the increase was more marked, with 26% using a computer during 2000 compared with 19% during 1998.

Future patterns of computer use are difficult to predict. Many baby boomers may have become accustomed to having access to computers and the Internet as part of their employment and/or educational activities and may wish to continue having this access once they leave the workforce. In addition, households with children have the highest incidence of both home computer and Internet access in Western Australia (75% and 46% of households respectively). As yet, there are no data to indicate whether households will retain computers once children leave home or once adults leave the workforce.

SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY

Statistics show that people in older age groups are generally safer from crime than younger people, however they do not always feel as safe. While the fear of crime may seem unfounded in terms of the levels of crime experienced, it nevertheless has the potential to impact on people's lifestyles and involvement within the community by restricting activities and reducing confidence. Older victims of crime are also more vunerable to serious injury due to increased frailty when compared with younger people (ABS 1999f).

Table 8.10 provides data on the number of victims of crime, expressed as victimisation rates, from *Recorded Crime, Australia, 2001* (cat. no. 4510.0). The offences recorded may have been reported by a victim, witness or other person, or they may have been detected by police. The statistics do not provide a total picture of crime, as not all crime comes to the attention of the police (ABS 2002i).

Baby boomers were aged 36–55 years in 2001. However, as the data are not available for these exact age groups, baby boomers are approximated by those aged 35–54 years. Similarly, data for persons aged 60 years and over were not available, hence comparisons have been made to those aged 65 years and over.

8.10 VICTIMS(a) OF RECORDED CRIME — 2001

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers(b)					
	0–34	35–44	45–54	Total	55–64	65 and over	Total(c)
	RATE PER 100,000 PERSONS(d)						
Offence							
Homicide and related offences(e)	4.3	4.7	1.5	3.2	3.5	2.9	3.7
Assault	1 086.4	952.2	491.6	733.3	266.0	96.5	798.0
Sexual assault	156.7	42.1	17.5	30.4	7.5	2.4	88.6
Kidnapping/abduction	4.8	0.3	—	0.2	0.6	—	2.5
Robbery	111.1	52.6	46.9	49.9	51.6	26.8	78.2
Blackmail/extortion	1.2	2.4	0.7	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.3
	NUMBER ('000)						
Estimated resident population	954.0	296.7	268.7	565.4	172.5	209.3	1 901.2

(a) Refers to individual person victims only and therefore does not include organisations as victims.

(b) Baby boomers were aged 36–55 years in 2001, but are approximated in this table by those aged 35–54 years.

(c) Includes victims for whom age was not specified.

(d) Victimisation rate per 100,000 of the estimated resident population of Western Australia in June 2001.

(e) Includes Murder, Attempted murder, Manslaughter and Driving causing death.

Source: ABS data available on request, Recorded Crime, Australia, 2001.

Assault is the most common of violent crimes (ABS 1997e). In 2001, there were 798 reported assaults per 100,000 persons — this was approximately nine times higher than the next most commonly reported offence (sexual assault at 89 victims per 100,000 persons). Crime victimisation rates varied according to age, with those aged 65 years and over recording much lower victimisation rates than other age groups for most crimes. For assault, there were 97 victims per 100,000 persons in the 65 years and over category compared with 492 victims per 100,000 persons in the older baby boomer age group, 952 victims per 100,000 persons in the younger baby boomer age group and 1,086 victims per 100,000 persons in the 0–34 years age group. For most offence categories, baby boomers were less likely to be victims of crime than persons aged 0–34 years, but more likely than persons aged 65 years and over.

Data from the 2000 WA Crime and Safety Survey show that a greater proportion of older baby boomers (61%) perceived that there were crime or public nuisance problems in their neighbourhood compared with other age groups (54% of persons aged 15–34 years, 58% of younger baby boomers and 48% of persons aged 60 years and over).

Of those baby boomers who perceived that crime was a problem in their neighbourhood, most were concerned about housebreaking/burglaries (45%), followed by dangerous/noisy driving (33%), vandalism/ graffiti/damage to property (33%) and motor vehicle theft (26%). These four neighbourhood problems were the most common concerns across all age groups.

8.11 PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME OR PUBLIC NUISANCE PROBLEMS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD — 2000

	Age group (years)						
		Baby boomers					
	15–34	35–44	45–54	Total	55–59	60 and over	Total
	PROPORTION (%)						
Perception of crime(a)							
No perceived problem	45.6	42.5	38.8	40.8	41.6	51.6	44.5
Perceived at least one problem	54.4	57.5	61.2	59.2	58.4	48.4	55.5
Housebreaking/burglaries	37.4	42.8	47.0	44.7	39.5	36.4	40.3
Motor vehicle theft	23.5	24.5	27.7	25.9	25.2	18.9	23.8
Other theft	13.6	14.6	11.5	13.2	13.9	9.8	12.8
Louts/youth gangs	21.0	18.7	20.2	19.4	16.6	13.5	18.8
Prowlers/loiterers	11.7	9.6	10.6	10.0	8.6	7.6	10.1
Drunkenness	14.4	12.7	11.5	12.2	14.1	6.5	12.1
Vandalism/graffiti/damage to property	29.6	33.0	32.5	32.8	29.7	22.2	29.6
Dangerous/noisy driving	29.9	32.6	33.6	33.0	34.7	25.4	30.7
Illegal drugs	16.8	17.8	17.4	17.6	15.4	10.5	16.0
Sexual assault	3.6	2.8	4.0	3.4	*1.4	*1.1	2.9
Other assault	6.3	5.9	4.6	5.3	3.8	2.0	5.0
Neighbour/domestic problems	7.3	8.1	5.6	7.0	5.3	3.6	6.4
Other	*0.5	**0.2	*0.4	*0.3	**0.7	**0.1	0.4
	NUMBER ('000)						
Total persons	529.9	320.1	259.2	579.3	97.7	252.5	1 459.5

(a) As a proportion of the total estimated population in each age category. Note that more than one problem was able to be nominated by a single person.

Source: ABS data available on request, Crime and Safety Survey, Western Australia, 2000.

GLOSSARY

Alcohol risk level Based on the respondent's estimated average daily alcohol consumption in the seven days prior to the NHS interview. Risk levels are based on the NHMRC risk levels for harm in the long-term, and assumes the level of alcohol consumption is typical. The average daily consumption of alcohol associated with the risk levels is:

Males

- Low risk: 50 mL or less
- Risky: more than 50 mL, up to 75 mL
- High risk: more than 75 mL.

Females

- Low risk: 25 mL or less
- Risky: more than 25 mL, up to 50 mL
- High risk: more than 50 mL.

Ancestry Ancestry describes the ethnic or cultural heritage of a person, that is, the ethnic or cultural groups to which a person's forebears are or were attached. In practice, Ancestry is the ethnic or cultural groups which the person identifies as being his or her ancestry. Ancestry therefore involves a measure of self-identification of ethnic or cultural group affiliation or nationality, as well as of descent from one or more particular groups.

Ancillary cover Any cover provided by private insurance organisations for health-related services other than medical or hospital cover (e.g. physiotherapy, dental, optical, chiropractic and ambulance).

Assault Assault is the direct infliction of force, injury or violence upon a person, including attempts or threats, providing the attempts/threats are in the form of face-to-face direct confrontation and there is reason to believe that the attempts/threats can be immediately enacted.

Baby boomer Australian residents who were born between 1946 and 1965 inclusive. This includes people born overseas during this period who have since migrated to Australia. Older baby boomers are those born between 1946 and 1955 inclusive, and younger baby boomers are those born between 1956 and 1965 inclusive.

Baby boomer family For the purposes of this publication, a baby boomer family has been defined as any family where the reference person and/or their partner (where applicable) was born between 1946 and 1965 inclusive.

Baby boomer household For the purposes of this publication, a baby boomer household has generally been defined as any household where the reference person was born between 1946 and 1965 inclusive. However, for lone person and group households in the Families chapter, the definition includes those households where *any* person in the household was born between 1946 and 1965 inclusive.

Blackmail/extortion Blackmail/extortion is to demand or unlawfully obtain money, property or any other item of value, or a service either tangible or intangible, not from the immediate possession of the victim but through coercive measures. It may include the use or threat of force, misuse of authority (including threat of criminal prosecution), or the threat of destruction of the victim's reputation or social standing at some time in the future, if the demands are not met.

Note: it is distinguished from robbery in that there is the threat of further or continued coercive measures in the future instead of, or in addition to, an immediate threat.

Body Mass Index (BMI) BMI is calculated from self-reported height and weight information, using the formula: weight (kg) divided by the square of height (m). To produce a measure of the prevalence of overweight or obesity in adults, BMI values are grouped as follows:

- Underweight: Less than 18.5
- Normal range: 18.5 to less than 20.0
- Normal range: 20.0 to less than 25.0
- Overweight: 25.0 to less than 30.0
- Obese: 30.0 and greater.

Carer A person of any age who provides any normal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to persons with disabilities or long-term conditions, or persons who are elderly (that is, aged 60 years and over). The assistance has to be ongoing, or likely to be ongoing, for at least six months. Assistance to a person in a different household relates to everyday types of activities, without specific information on the activities. Where the care recipient lives in the same household, the assistance is for one or more of the following activities:

- communication
- housework
- health care
- meal preparation
- mobility
- paperwork
- property maintenance
- self care
- transport.

Child care activities A major activity classification from the TUS which includes all activities done for children aged under 15 years. It contains activities such as the physical and emotional care of children, teaching, reprimanding, playing with and talking to children. It also includes minding children and visiting child care establishments or schools.

Collection District (CD) The census Collection District (CD) is the smallest geographic area defined by the ABS. For further information, refer to *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2002* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Community/welfare organisations Organisations and institutions providing human and social services to the general community and specific target population groups. Included are organisations whose work is for the wider social benefit of the general community without the provision of direct services, such as Apex and Rotary. Other organisations included cover those giving material assistance, personal care and advice, such as Lifeline, the Smith Family, Brotherhood of St. Lawrence, Legacy, Royal Blind Societies, Wesley Mission, Meals on Wheels. Further examples include ethnic welfare groups, marriage guidance, information and referral services, community transport, neighbourhood centres, accommodation referral and advice, homes and shelters.

Couple family A couple family is based on two persons who are in a registered or de facto marriage and who are usually resident in the same household. The family may or may not include any number of dependents, non-dependents and other related individuals.

Crude divorce rate The crude divorce rate is the number of decrees absolute granted during the calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June. For years prior to 1992, the crude divorce rate was based on the mean estimated resident population for the calendar year. In the interpretation of this rate, it must be kept in mind that a large and varying proportion of the population used in the denominator is unmarried or is below the minimum age of marriage.

De facto marriage The ABS uses the concept of 'social marital status' to measure the incidence of de facto marriages. Within the social marital status classification, a marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. A de facto marriage exists when the relationship between two people (of the opposite or same sex, who live together in the same household) is reported as: de facto, partner, common law husband/wife/spouse, lover, boyfriend, or girlfriend.

Dependent children Dependent children are either children under the age of 15 years, or dependent students. To be regarded as a child, the person must be a natural, adopted, step, or foster son or daughter of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and can have no partner or child of his/her own usually resident in the household.

Dependent student A dependent student is defined as a natural, adopted, step, or foster child who is 15–24 years of age and who attends a secondary or tertiary educational institution as a full-time student and who has no partner or child of his/her own usually resident in the same household.

Divorce Decree absolute of dissolution of marriage.

Domestic activities A major activity classification from the TUS which includes food preparation, service and clean-up; washing, ironing and clothes care; and other housework such as indoor cleaning and tidying activities. This category also includes domestic management, home and car maintenance and improvement, pet care and care of the grounds.

Dwelling A dwelling is a building or structure in which people live. This can be a house, a block of flats, or other dwelling (such as caravan, humpy or park bench). For the purposes of the Census of Population and Housing, dwellings are classified into private and non-private dwellings. Each of these dwelling types is further divided into occupied and unoccupied dwelling categories.

Education activities A major activity classification from the TUS which includes activities that are educational in nature such as attending educational courses, job related training (including time spent at professional conferences), studying and breaks at the place of education.

Education/training/youth development organisations Organisations and activities administering, providing, promoting, conducting, supporting and servicing education, training and youth development.

Employed For data obtained from the Labour Force Survey, employed persons were those aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job, business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers)
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers)
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week
  - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement
  - on strike or locked out
  - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job.
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed *continued* For data obtained from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, employed persons were those aged 15 years and over who during the week prior to Census night:

- worked for payment or profit, or as an unpaid helper in a family business
- had a job from which they were on leave or otherwise temporarily absent
- were on strike or stood down temporarily.

Employment related activities A major activity classification from the TUS which includes activities carried out in paid employment, or unpaid work in a family business or farm. Job search activities such as travel to work or in the course of job search, and time spent in the workplace during work breaks is also included.

English language proficiency A self-reported measure of a person's proficiency in spoken English. Responses to this question are subjective. For example, one respondent may consider that a response of 'Well' is appropriate if they can communicate well enough to do the shopping while another respondent may consider such a response appropriate only for people who can hold a social conversation. Proficiency in English is just an indicator of a person's ability to speak English and not a definite measure of their ability.

English-speaking countries Countries have been defined as predominantly English-speaking on the basis of whether Australia has received significant numbers of migrants from them who are likely to speak English. This includes Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Estimated resident population The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality or citizenship, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months.

Exercise level Based on frequency, intensity and duration of exercise in the 2 weeks prior to the NHS interview. From these components, an exercise score was derived using factors to represent the intensity of the exercise. Scores were grouped for output as follows:

- Sedentary: Less than 100 (includes no exercise)
- Low: 100 to less than 1,600
- Moderate: 1,600 to 3,200, or more than 3,200 but less than 2 hours of vigorous exercise
- High: More than 3,200 and 2 hours or more of vigorous exercise.

Families A family is defined by the ABS as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household.

Family household A family household is defined by the ABS as a household which contains one or more families. A family household may also contain non-family members, such as unrelated persons or visitors.

Flat, unit or apartment All dwellings in blocks of flats, units or apartments. These dwellings do not have their own private grounds and usually share a common entrance foyer or stairwell. This category also includes flats attached to houses such as granny flats, and houses converted into two or more flats.

Full-time workers Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Government health card Includes Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card and treatment entitlement cards issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Gross income Regular and recurring cash receipts including monies received from wages and salaries, government pensions and allowances, and other regular receipts such as superannuation, workers' compensation, child support, scholarships, profit or loss from own business or partnership and property income. Gross income is the sum of all income from these sources before income tax or the Medicare levy are deducted.

Gross income quintiles Groupings that result from ranking all households in Western Australia in ascending order according to their gross income, and then dividing the households into five equal groups.

Group household A group household is a household consisting of two or more unrelated people where all persons are aged 15 years or over. There are no reported couple relationships, parent-child relationships or other blood relationships in these households.

Homicide and related offences This is a recorded crime statistics offence category which includes the Australian Standard Offence Classification (ASOC) groups of murder (0111), attempted murder (0122), manslaughter (0131) and driving causing death (0132).

Hospital cover Health insurance provided by private insurance organisations to cover all or part of the costs of private accommodation in a public hospital, charges for private hospital treatment and care in a public hospital by a doctor of the patient's choice.

Housing utilisation Provides a measure of the bedroom requirements of a household according to household size and composition. Housing utilisation is based on the CNOS, which specifies that:

- there should be no more than two persons per bedroom
- children less than 5 years of age of different sexes may reasonably share a bedroom
- children 5 years of age or older of opposite sex should have separate bedrooms
- children less than 18 years of age and of the same sex may reasonably share a bedroom
- single household members 18 years or over should have a separate bedroom, as should parents or couples.

Industry A person's industry of employment, as classified by the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no. 1292.0).

Kidnapping/abduction Kidnapping/abduction is the unlawful seizing or taking away of another person:

- against that person's will
- against the will of any parent, guardian or other person having lawful custody or care of that person.

Labour force Persons who were employed or unemployed.

Labour force participation rate The labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over.

Labour force status A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force.

Language spoken at home Data for this variable are coded using the *Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 1997* (cat. no. 1267.0). Only one language is coded for each person despite the fact that people may speak more than one language at home.

Life expectancy Life expectancy refers to the average number of additional years a person of a given age and sex might expect to live if the age-specific death rates of the given period continued throughout his/her lifetime.

Local Government Area The LGA is a geographical area under the responsibility of an incorporated local government council. For further information, refer to *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2002* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Lone parent family A person who has no spouse or partner usually present in the household but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one dependent or non-dependent child usually resident in the household.

Lone person household A person who makes provision for his/her own food and other essentials in living, without combining with any other person to form part of a multi-person household is classified as a lone person household. He/she may live in a dwelling on his/her own, or share a dwelling with another individual or family.

Long-term condition A condition which in the respondent's opinion has lasted for six months or more, or which he or she expects will last for six months or more. Some conditions reported were assumed to be long-term conditions. These included asthma, cancer, diabetes insipidus, diabetes mellitus types 1 and 2, rheumatic heart disease, heart attack and stroke.

Manslaughter Manslaughter is the unlawful killing of a person caused:

- without intent to kill, usually as a result of a careless, reckless or negligent act
- intentionally but due to extreme provocation
- when in a state of mind that impairs the capacity to understand or control one's actions.

Marriage Refers to registered marriages only. Under the *Australian Marriage Act 1961* (Commonwealth), a marriage may be celebrated by a minister of religion registered as an authorised celebrant, by a district registrar or by other persons authorised by the Attorney-General. Notice of the intended marriage must be given to the celebrant at least one calendar month but within six calendar months before the marriage. A celebrant must transmit an official certificate of the marriage for registration in the state or territory in which the marriage took place.

Median value For any distribution the median value is that value which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, half falling below the value, and half exceeding it. Where the value for a particular record has not been stated, that record is excluded from the calculation.

Mobility rate The proportion of people who changed address in a five-year period. A person's mobility is determined by comparing their address five years before with their current address. Therefore it does not measure the number of moves within the five-year period. People who move and return to the same address are not classified as movers.

Mortality Death.

Murder Murder is the wilful killing of a person either intentionally or with reckless indifference to life.

Net migration The difference between the number of persons who have changed their place of usual residence by moving into a given defined geographic area and the number who have changed their place of usual residence by moving out of that defined geographic area during a specified time period. This difference can be either positive or negative.

Non dependent children A natural, step, adopted or foster child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, who is aged over 15 years, is not a full-time student aged 15–24 years, and who has no partner or child of his/her own usually resident in the household.

Non-private dwelling Non-private dwellings are residential dwellings with accommodation which are not included in the Census of Population and Housing list of private dwelling categories. Non-private dwellings are classified according to their function. They include hotels, motels, guest houses, jails, religious and charitable institutions, military establishments, hospitals and other communal dwellings. Where this type of accommodation includes self-contained units (as provided by hotels, motels, homes for the elderly and guest houses), the units are enumerated as part of the non-private dwelling. Complexes such as retirement villages, which have a combination of self-contained units, hostel and/or nursing home accommodation, are enumerated as non-private dwellings.

Non-school qualification A non-school qualification is one awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education.

Not in the labour force Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed.

Occupation A set of jobs with similar sets of tasks, classified according to the *ASCO — Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no. 1220.0). The classification has five levels of hierarchy: major group, sub-major group, minor group, unit group and occupation.

Older baby boomer *See* Baby boomer.

Other carer A person who provides informal assistance, but who is not the main (or primary) source of assistance.

Other dwelling This includes caravans; cabins; houseboats; sheds, tents, humpies and other improvised homes; house or flat attached to a shop, office, etc.

Other health professionals Comprises Aboriginal health worker (n.e.c.), Accredited counsellor, Acupuncturist, Alcohol and drug worker (n.e.c.), Audiologist/Audiometrist, Chemist (for advice), Chiropodist/Podiatrist, Chiropractor, Dietitian/Nutritionist, Herbalist, Hypnotherapist, Naturopath, Nurse, Occupational therapist, Optician/Optometrist, Osteopath, Physiotherapist/Hydrotherapist, Psychologist, Social worker/Welfare officer, and Speech therapist/Pathologist.

Own account workers A person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees (this category was formerly entitled self-employed).

Participation rate The proportion of the population who reported that they were taking part in a particular activity. For example, where a table shows a disaggregation by age, the 35–44 participation rate reflects the number of persons aged 35–44 years participating in the activity as a proportion of all persons aged 35–44 years.

Part-time workers Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week or were not at work in the reference week.

Personal care activities A major activity classification from the TUS which includes activities such as sleeping, personal hygiene, health care, eating and drinking.

Population projections Calculated using a combination of assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration, to arrive at the possible size, structure and distribution of Australia's population in the future.

Pre-retired Includes persons who were currently working, and those who intended to work in the future whether or not they were currently looking for work.

Primary carer A primary carer is a person of any age who provides the most informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to a person with one or more disabilities. The assistance has to be ongoing, or likely to be ongoing, for at least six months and be provided for one or more of the core activities of self care, mobility or communication.

Private dwelling A private dwelling in the Census is defined as a house, flat, part of a house, or even a room; but can also be a house attached to, or rooms above shops or offices; an occupied caravan in a caravan park or occupied boat in a marina, a houseboat, a tent if it is standing on its own block of land, or an improvised dwelling such as a humpy or park bench. A caravan situated on a residential allotment is also classed as a private dwelling.

Purchasing goods and services activities A major activity classification from the TUS which includes activities such as purchasing consumer and durable goods, and buying repair services and administrative services.

Recreation and leisure activities A major activity classification from the TUS which includes activities such as playing sport, walking, participating in games or hobbies, reading and watching television. Also included is other free time such as relaxing, thinking, smoking and drinking alcohol.

Relative standard error The relative standard error is the standard error of an estimate expressed as a percentage of the estimate. The standard error is a measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of sampling. That is, the error which occurs by chance because the data were obtained from a sample, not the entire population.

Religious organisations Organisations providing religious beliefs as their primary focus, administering religious services and rituals. Includes churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, shrines, seminaries, monasteries and religious institutions.

Remoteness The ABS' Remoteness Structure describes Australia in terms of a measurement of remoteness. The structure classifies areas (CDs) which share a common characteristic of remoteness into broad geographical regions called remoteness areas. The measure of remoteness, as it pertains to remoteness areas, is based on the concept of physical road distance to various population centres. As a result, the remoteness areas are a proxy measure of accessibility to goods and services, among other things.

Retirement from full-time work Persons who had a full-time job at some time and who had ceased full-time labour force activity (i.e. were not working full-time, were not looking for full-time work and did not intend to work full-time at any time in the future). Unpaid voluntary work was not considered full-time work.

Retirement from the labour force Persons who had retired from work or looking for work of more than 10 hours per week, and did not intend to work at any time in the future. These persons are considered fully retired. Persons that have never worked more than 10 hours per week were also treated as fully retired.

Robbery Robbery offences involve the unlawful taking of property, with intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property, from the immediate possession of a person, or an organisation, or control, custody or care of a person, accompanied by the use, and/or threatened use of immediate force or violence. Robbery victims can therefore be persons or organisations.

Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse These dwellings have their own private grounds and no other dwelling above or below them.

Separate house This is a house which stands alone in its own grounds separated from other dwellings by at least half a metre. A separate house may have a flat attached to it, such as a granny flat or converted garage (the flat is categorised under *Flat, unit or apartment*).

Sex ratio The sex ratio relates to the number of males per 100 females. The sex ratio is defined for the total population, at birth, at death and among age groups by appropriately selecting the numerator and denominator of the ratio.

Sexual assault Sexual assault is a physical assault of a sexual nature, directed toward another person where that person:

- does not give consent
- gives consent as a result of intimidation or fraud
- is legally deemed incapable of giving consent because of youth or temporary/permanent incapacity.

Social and community interaction activities A major activity classification from the TUS which includes activities relating to social participation such as attending a concert, a library or amusement park. Also included are attending sports events, participating in religious ceremonies and community participation such as attendance at meetings.

Sport/recreation organisations Organisations in general and specialised fields of sport, recreation and leisure; sports clubs and facilities; indoor and outdoor recreational facilities; racing and gambling; social, leisure and hobby clubs; zoological, botanical, recreational parks and gardens; theme and amusement parks. Included are hobby and general interest groups such as bird watchers' groups, book clubs, embroiderers' guilds, gardening clubs, etc.

Standardised death rate Standardised death rates enable the comparison of death rates between populations with different age structures by relating them to a standard population.

Statistical Division The SD is a large, general purpose, regional type geographic area. SDs represent relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities. For further information, refer to *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2002* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Statistical Local Area The SLA is a geographical area which consists of one or more CDs. SLAs are LGAs, or parts thereof. For further information, refer to *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2002* (cat. no. 1216.0).

Superannuation A long term savings arrangement which operates primarily with a superannuation fund to provide income for retirement.

Total fertility rate The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per female population of that age). It represents the number of children a female would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates at each age of her reproductive life.

Unemployed For data obtained from the *Labour Force Survey,* unemployed persons were those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week, and:
  - were available for work in the reference week, or
  - were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

For data obtained from the *2000 Survey of Employment Arrangements and Superannuation*, unemployed persons were those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week, and:
  - were available for work in the reference week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the reference week), or

Unemployed ***continued***

- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and would have started in the reference week if the job had been available then, or
- were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week (including the whole of the reference week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

Unemployment rate For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force in that same group.

Usual daily serves of fruit Refers to the number of serves of fruit (excluding drinks and beverages) usually consumed each day as reported by the respondent. Fruit included fresh, dried, frozen and tinned. A serve of fruit was defined as approximately 150 grams of fresh fruit or 50 grams of dried fruit.

Usual daily serves of vegetables Refers to the number of serves of vegetables (excluding drinks and beverages) usually consumed each day as reported by the respondent. Vegetables included all types such as potatoes, salad and stir-fried vegetables, whether fresh, frozen or tinned. A serve of vegetables was defined as approximately 75 grams of vegetables.

Victimisation rate The number of victims per 100,000 of the estimated resident population.

Voluntary work and care activities A major activity classification from the TUS which includes physical and emotional caring for adults and doing favours for family, friends, neighbours and others, as well as unpaid work for organisations.

Volunteer A volunteer is someone who willingly gave unpaid help, in the form of time, service or skills, through an organisation or group in the 12 months prior to the survey. People who did voluntary work overseas, or whose only voluntary work was for the Sydney 2000 Olympic or Paralympic Games were excluded.

Volunteer involvement rate For any group, the aggregate number of organisations worked for by that group expressed as a percentage of total volunteers in that group.

Volunteer rate For any group, the volunteer rate is the number of volunteers in that group expressed as a percentage of the total population in the same group.

Younger baby boomer *See* Baby boomer.

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