Chapter 6

POPULATION

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Chapter 6

POPULATION

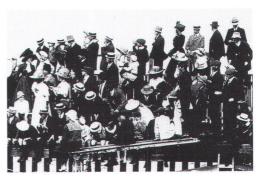
The first sixty years of white settlement saw a fairly rapid population build-up, more than half of whom were, or had been, convicts. Although this rate of increase then diminished, by 1905 — 45 years later — the number of people had doubled. With a birth rate of less than one per cent to 1945, it took another 65 years to double again. At 30 June 1990 the resident population was estimated to be 456 660.

The first human inhabitants of what is now Tasmania arrived about 35 000 years ago, crossing the land bridge that then connected Tasmania to the mainland. Total numbers, before white settlement, have been estimated to have never exceeded 5000.

White settlement began in 1803 to secure British strategic interests against the French. In keeping with the penal nature of the early settlement, most of the population were convicts or government officials. At the census of 1847, just over 50 per cent of the total population of 70 000 people were, or had been, convicts. Less than 20 per cent were free immigrants.

Transportation was abolished in 1853. This, and emigration to Victoria after the discovery of gold there in 1851, at first caused a slump in population growth. The subsequent growth of mainland markets for Tasmanian primary produce, and important tin and gold discoveries in Tasmania in the early 1870s reversed this trend with a return to rapidly increasing population levels. The 15 years between 1861 and 1876 saw the population increase from 90 000 to 105 000. The next fifteen years to 1891 saw the population reach 147 000, an annual rate of increase more than double the previous period.

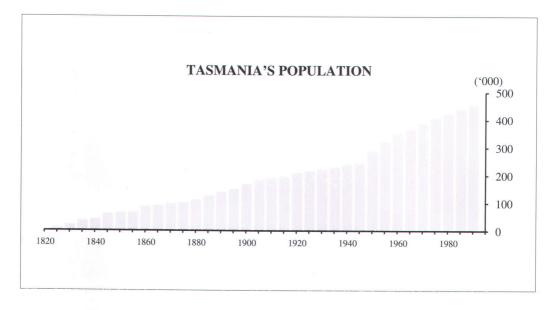
The effects of economic depression in Australia in the 1890s, whilst severe, were eased



A fair at the Hobart Regatta Grounds, circa 1920. Photo: Archives Office of Tasmania

somewhat in Tasmania by the silver and copper mining boom on the West Coast. Tasmania's relative prosperity was reflected in a net migration in excess of 4000 per year from 1896 to 1899.

Whilst federation in 1901 meant free access to mainland markets for primary producers, many small manufacturers faced stiff competition from mainland firms. Economic stagnation, exacerbated by the petering out of the West Coast mining boom, was reflected in a drift of people to the mainland. Attracting manufacturing industries through the provision of cheap hydro-electric power came to be seen as a way out of the economic gloom. Whilst partly



successful, this was not wholly sufficient, especially during the economic depression of the late 1920s and 1930s. Rural industries, always important to Tasmania's economic well-being, were particularly affected by the depression. In the 35 years between 1900 and 1935, Tasmania's population grew at less than 0.7 per cent per year.

After World War Two, Tasmania shared in the prosperity of the Australian economy. The post-war baby boom and gains from overseas immigration resulted in an annual increase of 1.5 per cent in the 35 years 1945 to 1980, more than double the pre-war rate. Despite this growth, Tasmania still lagged behind the mainland States. In the same period, the Australian rate of growth was two per cent and, as a result, the proportion of the total Australian population living in Tasmania has decreased from 3.4 per cent in 1945 to 2.7 per cent in 1990.

6.1 POPULATION GROWTH

In the period 1972 to 1990, Tasmania's resident population growth was the lowest of all the States, recording a rate which was less than half that of Australia's.

In 1990, Tasmania experienced quite a high rate of population growth, reversing the downward trend of the previous three years. The rate for the year to 30 June 1990 was 1.22

6.1 POPULATION CHANGE BY STATE, AUSTRALIA, 1972 TO 1990 (year ended 30 June)

	Estimated resident population				
States and Territories	1972 ('000)	1990 p ('000)	Growth (%)		
NSW	4 795.1	5 826.9	21.5		
Vic.	3 661.3	4 379.8	19.6		
Qld	1 898.5	2 906.8	53.1		
SA	1 214.6	1 439.1	18.5		
WA	1 082.0	1 633.8	51.0		
Tas.	400.3	456.6	14.1		
NT	92.1	157.3	70.8		
ACT	159.8	285.1	78.4		
Australia	13 303.7	17 085.4	28.4		

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3101.0).

6.2 POPULATION GROWTH, TASMANIA (year ended 30 June)

	Growth	Rate (%)	Australian rate (%)
1983	2 960	0.69	1.38
1984	4 955	1.14	1.21
1985	5 068	1.16	1.34
1986	3 645	0.82	1.46
1987	1 468	0.33	1.53
1988	516	0.12	1.69
1989	2 499	r0.60	r1.78
1990	5 520	1.22	1.50

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3101.0).

6.3 RATES OF CHANGE OF MAJOR COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH, AUSTRALIA, (Year ended 30 June 1990) (%)

States and Territories	Natural increase	Net migration	Total growth
NSW	0.72	0.23	0.95
Vic.	0.78	0.57	1.35
Qld	0.83	1.73	2.56
SA	0.58	0.43	1.02
WA	0.99	1.46	2.45
Tas.	0.74	0.48	1.22
NT	1.73	-1.12	0.61
ACT	1.21	1.07	2.29
Australia	0.79	0.71	1.50

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3101.0).

per cent, which was over twice that of the previous year. This figure brought us closer to the Australian rate of growth which stood at 1.50%.

6.1.1 Natural Increase

Until the year ended 30 June 1987, Tasmania's rate of natural increase closely mirrored Australia's, which, in line with most of the developed world, has been gradually falling. The years 1987-88 and 1988-89 however, saw the Tasmanian rate fall below that for Australia.

6.4 NATURAL INCREASE, TASMANIA (year ended 30 June)

Year	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Rate (%)	Australian rate (%)
1983	6 994	3 387	3 607	0.84	0.85
1984	7 106	3 441	3 665	0.85	0.84
1985	7 232	3 654	3 578	0.82	0.82
1986	6 974	3 656	3 3 1 8	0.75	0.78
1987	6 976	3 462	3 5 1 4	0.79	0.79
1988	6 704	3 646	3 058	0.68	0.77
1989	6 890	3 674	3 2 1 6	0.72	0.79
1990	6 9 1 8	3 574	3 3 44	0.74	0.79

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3204.6).

This trend continued in the year 1989-90, Tasmania's rate of natural increase was 0.74%, just below the Australian rate of 0.79%.

6.1.2 Migration

Overseas Migration

The pattern of overseas migration to Tasmania in recent years is one of continuing low levels. In the year ended 30 June 1990, the rate of Tasmanian population increase from net overseas migration was estimated to be 0.16 per cent, compared to the overall Australian rate of 0.72%.

6.5 NET ESTIMATED OVERSEAS MIGRATION, TASMANIA

	Tasmania				Australia
Year ended 30 June	Arrivals	Depart- ures	Net (a)	Rate (%)	Rate (%)
1983	1 918	1 275	611	0.14	0.48
1984	1 853	1 202	659	0.15	0.32
1985	1 964	1 255	769	0.18	0.47
1986	2 111	1 282	890	0.20	0.64
1987	1 992	1 282	795	0.18	0.74
1988	2 187	1 358	892	0.20	0.92
1989	1 998	1 406	592	0.13	0.83
1990	2 055	1 483	721	0.16	0.72

(a) Estimates of net overseas migration include an adjustment for 'category jumping'.

(Source: ABS. Catalogue No. 3204.6).

Interstate Migration

In 1989-90, there was a net gain of 1430 persons through interstate migration. This represented a reversal of the trend of the previous four years, in which there was an overall loss through migration to other states.

6.6 NET ESTIMATED INTERSTATE MIGRATION, TASMANIA

Year ended 30 June	Arrivals	Departures	Net	Rate (%)
1983	7 687	8 901	-1 214	-0.28
1984	8 334	7 639	695	0.16
1985	9 185	8 408	777	0.18
1986	9 664	9 802	-138	-0.03
1987	8 776	11 617	-2 841	-0.64
1988	9 715	13 149	-3 434	-0.77
1989	11 847	13 156	-1 309	-0.29
1990	13 258	11 828	1 430	0.32

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3204.6).

1991 CENSUS

On Tuesday 6 August 1991, Australia held its twelfth national census of population and housing. The census is the largest and most expensive collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and provides a detailed portrait of the Australian community. All persons residing in Australia on census night are included, the only exceptions being foreign diplomats along with their families, and foreign crew members on ships.

Data obtained as a result of the census provides a reliable basis for the estimation of population at State, Territory and local government area levels. These estimates are vital for both the distribution of government funds and electoral purposes. In addition, characteristics of small areas and small population groups are produced providing governments, businesses and other users with support for planning, administration and policy development.

Conducting a census is an on-going process, the development beginning well before the next census is due. A process of public consultation regarding the content and procedures to be adopted was undertaken, with this work culminating in an ABS view which was considered and ratified by the Parliament.

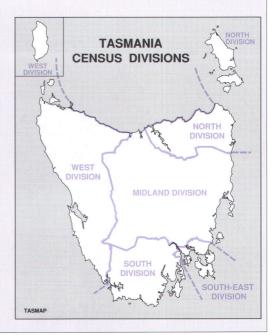
An important step in the planning process of the 1991 Census was an evaluation of the methods and procedures used in the 1986 Census. As a result of this process a number of changes were implemented to improve the operating systems for the 1991 Census. For the first time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics assumed complete responsibility for the management of the field operation phase of the collection. Another first was the capture of data directly from the forms using optical mark reading (OMR) technology. In addition, the 1991 Census saw an improvement in the quality and efficiency of office coding through the increased use of computer assistance and improved methods for training and payment of temporary staff.

Perhaps the most significant of these changes is that the entire census, including the coordination of the field stage, was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Previously, management support for the census was provided by the Australian Electoral Commission through its Divisional Returning Officers, and

Census Divisions were aligned with Electoral Divisions.

To achieve an exclusively ABS administered census, Management Units, responsible for the conduct of census operations, local media liaison and other public relations activities, were set up in each State or Territory Office. Electoral Division boundaries were redesigned to create new Census Divisions which followed more logical lines of communication and Divisional Managers were recruited to coordinate the field operations. Each Divisional Manager was responsible for the secure delivery and collection of census forms to and from every household within their division, including the recruitment, training, payment and supervision of all temporary field staff. Support for the Divisional Managers was provided through the Census Management Unit.

Prior to the 1991 Census, Tasmania was divided into the 5 Electoral Divisions for census purposes: Braddon, Bass, Lyons, Franklin and Denison. Several administrative problems existed with these boundaries, particularly in Lyons which occupied a large band across the centre of the State. These boundaries were evaluated with a view to creating Divisions which aligned with local government area boundaries, yet incorporated both an urban and rural focus with at least one major population centre, reduced the distance problems existing



in Lyons, and consisted of approximately equal workloads. As a result of this restructuring process, Tasmania was divided into five new Divisions for the 1991 Census, each headed by a Divisional Manager. They were: West, North, Midlands, South and South-East.

The West Division consisted of the west and north-west coasts from Devonport to Strahan including King Island. It covered an area of 20 960 square kilometres and had an estimated population of 98 850 (June 1989). Allison Mellor was the Divisional Manager for West and was responsible for the coordination of 19 Group Leaders and 190 Collectors.

Headed by Malcolm Geeves, the North Division covered an area of 16 040 square kilometres in the north-east corner of the State. Extending from Beaconsfield and Launceston to Portland, including Flinders Island, the Division had an estimated population of 97 500 (June 1989). Twenty Group Leaders and 188 Collectors were employed to cover the North Division.

The largest Division geographically (27 050 square kilometres) yet, the smallest in population (63 930, June 1989) was the Midland Division. A total of 14 Group Leaders and 145 Collectors covered the area from Latrobe to Brighton, including the east coast, under the direction of John Kenny.

John Appleby was the Divisional Manager for the Division of South, which consisted of the most southern local government areas west of the Derwent River, excluding Hobart. Occupying an area of 9350 square kilometres and with an estimated population of 86 740 (June 1989), 14 Group Leaders and 154

Collectors were required to enumerate the Division. Also within John's responsibility was the coordination of census returns for those living in Australia's Antarctic Territory on 6 August 1991.

The South-East Division comprises the municipalities of Hobart, Clarence, Sorell and Tasman. Although the smallest of the five Divisions geographically (1590 square kilometres), South-East has the largest population (103 470, estimated at June 1989). Bob Leitch was responsible for the coordination of the 19 Group Leaders and 196 Collectors necessary to cover the area.

The field phase of the census is only one aspect of the entire census operations, another being the release of data. The first results from the 1991 Census were released by the ABS on 4 February 1992: First Counts for Statistical Local Areas, Tasmania. These preliminary data detailed population counts for all Tasmanian SLA's by sex and types of dwellings by Statistical Division.

Figures show that the number of people counted in Tasmania on 6 August 1991 was 452 847, the females (229 055) slightly outnumbering the males (223 792). A total of 181 838 or 40.2 per cent of the population was counted in the Greater Hobart Statistical Division, followed by the Northern (28.1 per cent), Mersey-Lyell (23.8 per cent) and Southern Statistical Division (7.8 per cent). With the exception of Mersey-Lyell, all Divisions reported marginal increases on population figures between censuses. The total number of private dwellings counted in Tasmania was 184 765.



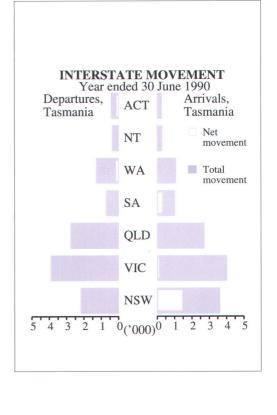
Divisional Managers and the Tasmanian Census Team

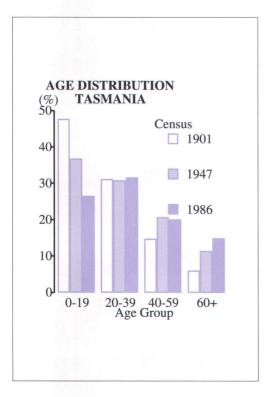
6.2 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

At 30 June 1990 the resident population of Tasmania was estimated at 456 660. On a regional basis, the Greater Hobart - Southern Region accounted for almost 47.8 per cent of the population, the Northern Region almost 27.9 per cent and the Mersey-Lyell Region just over 24.3 per cent.

Westbury, Kingborough, Sorell and Port Cygnet were the local government areas which have had the largest percentage increase in population since 1986; Westbury, with an increase of 1430, recorded the largest actual increase. Zeehan, down 900, King Island, down 250 and Lyell, down 280, recorded the heaviest percentage losses in population.

In terms of population distribution, Tasmania is the most decentralised State with nearly 60 per cent of the population living outside of the capital city statistical division.





Mobility

At the 1986 Census, 84 per cent of Tasmanian residents were living in the same dwelling as one year earlier, and 59 per cent were living in the same dwelling as five years earlier. These figures are notably similar to those for Australia.

Of those whose address was different one year earlier, 86 per cent reported that the address was in Tasmania. For those whose address was different five years earlier, this figure was 85 per cent.

For both periods the main destination of movements out of Tasmania and the source of movements to Tasmania was Victoria. Queensland gained most from *net* movements in the five year period and came a close second to Western Australia in the one year period. For both periods New South Wales provided the largest *net* gain for Tasmania.

Although Census data are useful to gain a measure of relative mobility, as the reference dates are merely two points in time, no information can be obtained for any movements in the

6.7 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS, TASMANIA (at 30 June)

Local government area	1986	1990	Annual average rate of change 1986 to 1990 (%)	Proportion of State (%)
Greater Hobart-Southern Region	211 950	217 990	0.7	47.7
Hobart	47 940	47 270	-0.4	10.4
Glenorchy	41 820	42 500	0.4	9.3
Clarence	46 740	47 700	0.5	10.4
Brighton	11 940	12 770	1.7	2.8
Kingborough	21 080	23 500	2.8	5.1
New Norfolk	10 050	10 100	0.1	2.2
Sorell	7 000	7 750	2.6	1.7
Bothwell	790	780	-0.3	0.2
Bruny	460	500	2.1	0.1
Esperance	3 200	3 270	0.5	0.7
Glamorgan	1 740	1 850	1.6	0.4
Green Ponds	1 100	1 170	1.6	0.3
Hamilton	2 500	2 420	-0.8	0.5
Huon	5 220	5 570	1.7	1.2
Oatlands	2 010	1 960	-0.6	0.4
Port Cygnet	2 790	3 040		0.4
Richmond	2 150		2.2	
Spring Bay		2 260	1.3	0.5
Tasman	2 020	2 080	0.7	0.5
Tasman	1 390	1 500	2.0	0.3
Northern Region	123 850	127 490	0.7	27.9
Launceston	63 210	63 430	0.1	13.9
Beaconsfield	15 840	16 860	1.6	3.7
Deloraine	5 460	5 630	0.8	1.2
Evandale	2 210	2 380	1.9	0.5
George Town	7 120	7 060	-0.2	1.5
Longford	6 400	6 770	1.4	1.5
Westbury	8 020	9 450	4.2	2.1
Campbell Town	1 460	1 380	-1.4	0.3
Fingal	2 880	3 100	1.9	0.7
Flinders	1 050	1 010	-1.0	0.2
Portland	2 860	2 980	1.0	0.7
Ringarooma	2 270	2 240	-0.3	0.5
Ross	500	470	-1.5	0.1
Scottsdale	4 560	4 730	0.9	1.0
Mersey-Lyell Region	110 670	111 180	-0.1	24.4
Burnie	21 070	21 300	0.3	4.7
Circular Head	8 020	8 030	0.0	1.8
Devonport	25 110	25 500	0.4	5.6
Kentish	4 710	4 920	1.1	1.1
King Island	2 050	1 800	-3.0	0.4
Latrobe	6 220	6 570	1.4	1.4
Penguin	5 450	5 640	0.9	1.2
Ulverstone	14 260	14 610	0.6	3.2
Wynyard	12 560	12 850	0.6	2.8
Lyell	3 940	3 660	-1.8	0.8
Strahan	520	550	1.4	0.1
Waratah	1 630	1 520	-1.7	0.3
Zeehan	5 130	4 230	-4.7	0.9
Total Tasmania	446 470	456 660	0.6	100.0

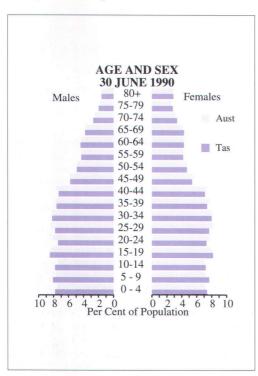
(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3204.6).

intervening period. A measure of *total* interstate movements can be obtained from the estimates of internal migration used to produce intercensal population estimates. For the year ended 30 June 1990 these estimates confirm the position of Victoria as the main source *and* destination of permanent and long-term Tasmanian interstate movements. The relatively large number of departures to that State also resulted in the largest *net* loss to Tasmania, of all the States and Territories. States which followed were Queensland and Western Australia respectively.

6.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF TASMANIANS

6.3.1 Age

Tasmania's population continued to age as did Australia's. In 1990, the median age (the age where one half of the population is younger and the other half older) of Tasmania's population was 32.2 years, 1.6 years older than in 1986 and 3.3 years older than in 1981. By comparison, the median age of all Australians in 1990 was also 32.2 years. The age distribution of Tasmania's



population has also changed markedly over time. In 1901, 48 per cent of the population was

6.8 SEX BY AGE DISTRIBUTION, TASMANIA, (30 June 1990 p)

Age group	Males (number)	Females (number)	Sex ratio (males per100 females)
0-4	17 790	16 960	104.89
5-14	36 000	34 460	104.46
15-24	36 130	35 540	101.66
25-34	36 290	35 940	100.97
35-44	33 780	33 310	101.41
45-64	43 780	42 890	102.08
65 and over	22 960	30 850	74.42
All ages(a)	226 720	229 940	98.60

(a) There may be discrepancies between totals due to rounding.

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3204.6).

aged below 20, compared with 33 per cent in 1986, and 31.4 per cent in 1990.

6.3.2 Sex

In 1990 the Tasmanian population contained an estimated 3220 more females than males. This excess of females is not distributed evenly,

6.9 MEDIAN AGE OF BRIDES (years)

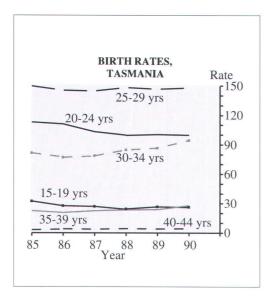
Year	Spinster	All Brides
1971	20.5	20.8
1981	21.6	22.6
1987	23.1	24.6
1988	23.5	24.9
1989	23.5	25.1
1990	23.5	25.3

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3311.6).

however, as there is a much higher number of females in ages over 60 years. In every other age group males outnumbered females.

6.4 FERTILITY

The late 1950s and early 1960s was a period of peak fertility in the post-war era before a decline in the mid 1960s, which continued steadily through the 1970s. The trend since 1980 indicates that a period of



stability may have been reached, but at a level only a little over 50 per cent of the 1961 rate.

Whereas prior to 1977 the most fertile age group was 2024, this is now the 25-29 age group. The fertility rates of the under 20 and 20-24 age groups have been declining steadily during the 1970s and 1980s, while that of the 25-29 and 30-34 age groups have risen. Several factors have contributed to these trends including later marriage and an increasing period between marriage and the birth of the first child.

Since the early 1960s the median age for spinster brides has increased from about 21 years to 23.5 years in 1990. In the mid 1960s the median duration between marriage and the birth of the

6.10 NET REPRODUCTION RATES, TASMANIA AND AUSTRALIA

Year	Tasmania	Australia
1971	1.399	1.362
1981	0.995	0.925
1985	0.968	0.924
1986	0.889	0.895
1987	0.910	0.883
1988	0.935	0.881
1989	0.926	0.886
1990	0.954	0.914

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3311.6).

first child was about 12 months. This increased during the 1970s and in 1988 it was approaching 3 years. However, the last couple of years the median duration between marriage and the birth of the first child has fallen to the levels experienced in the early to mid 1980s.

The fertility rate, as measured by the net reproduction rate, is falling and since the early 1970s has been below replacement level. Except for 1986, the Tasmanian rate has generally been higher than the national rate.

6.5 LIFE EXPECTANCY AND MORTALITY

6.5.1 Life Expectancy

A measure often used to indicate changes in the health status of a community or to make comparisons between communities is life expec-

6.11 LIFE EXPECTANCY, AUSTRALIA (years)

1	1901-1910		1990	
Age (years)	Males	Females	Males	Females
0	55.2	58.8	73.9	80.0
5	57.9	58.6	69.7	75.7
10	53.5	56.0	64.8	70.8
20	44.7	47.5	55.1	60.9
40	28.6	31.5	36.4	41.5
60	14.3	16.2	18.8	23.1
70	8.7	10.0	12.0	15.1

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 3311.6).

tancy. This is the number of years that a person can, on average, expect to live past his present age, and is based on death rates of the population.

Reflecting the high infant mortality rates and death rates during the early years of life, life expectancy at age 0 in the early part of this century was less than at age 5. Improvements in hygiene and health care substantially reducing infant and early age death rates, has increased life expectancy at age 0 for both males and females. Expectation of life at age 0 for males has improved by 17.9 years since the beginning of the century and for females by 20.7 years.

At higher ages, the changes were minor until the 1970s. In 1970-72 life expectancy for males

aged 60 was 15.4 years compared with 14.3 years in the first decade of this century and for females 19.7 compared with 16.2 years. Since 1970-72 there has been a significant increase in life expectancy of 60 year olds; for males it has increased by 3.4 to 18.8 in 1990 and for females by 3.4 years to 23.1 years. Much of this improvement can be related to prevention and advances in treatment of diseases associated with the circulatory system such as heart attacks and strokes.

The increase in life expectancy means there is an increasing number of elderly people in the population, many of whom will be needing support services. At all ages females have a higher life expectancy than males.

6.5.2 Mortality

The 1970s and 1980s have been years of considerable improvement in mortality rates, particularly among the higher age groups, and infants. Improvements in age-specific death rates have been most marked among the age groups over 60 years with decreases of between 21 and 35 per cent for males and 18 and 34 per cent for females. The infant mortality rate has also fallen quite dramatically, from 20.3 per thousand live male births in 1960-62 to 9.7 in 1990 and from

6.12 AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES, TASMANIA

Age group (years)	Males		Females	
	1970-72	1990	1970-72	1990
Under 1	17.8	9.7	11.5	8.2
1-4	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.8
5-9	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2
10-14	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2
15-19	2.4	1.1	0.6	0.5
20-24	2.0	1.5	0.5	0.4
25-29	1.8	1.6	0.8	0.5
30-34	1.8	1.9	0.8	0.4
35-39	2.1	1.7	1.3	0.7
40-44	3.4	1.9	1.9	1.2
45-49	5.3	3.2	3.0	2.4
50-54	9.5	6.9	5.6	3.0
55-59	15.5	10.2	8.0	6.5
60-64	25.2	18.2	12.4	9.6
65-69	39.5	29.7	21.3	13.7
70-74	62.2	51.2	36.5	22.5
75-79	91.9	74.0	60.9	42.7
80-84	164.0	113.7	135.5	72.4
85 and over	1	201.8		165.6

17.3 to 8.2 among females. Nevertheless, the infant mortality rate is higher in Tasmania than for Australia.

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