

## PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### Bus

20% of females had felt unsafe on the bus at night as compared with 8% of males.

### Rail

28% of females had felt unsafe on the train at night as compared with 18% of males.

Source: *Department of Transport*, May 1999.

## BAG SNATCHING

Age of Victims	No.
aged 10-19 years	30
aged 20-29 years	62
aged 30-39 years	62
aged 40-49 years	71
aged 50-59 years	76
aged 60-69 years	51
aged 70 years and over	44

Source: *Police Services, Crime Information Unit*, July 1998 - June 1999.

## DECISION MAKING

### FEDERAL PARLIAMENT REPRESENTATION

#### House of Representatives

35.7% of WA Members were women

22.4% of all Members were women

#### Senate

8.3% of WA Senators were women

28.9% of all Senators were women

Source: *Internet Australian Parliament House*, [www.apb.gov.au](http://www.apb.gov.au) November 1999.

### STATE PARLIAMENT

#### Legislative Assembly

22.8% of Members were women

#### Legislative Council

20.6% of Members were women

Source: *Parliament of Western Australia*, November 1999.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Women made up 23.4% of all WA Local Government Councillors.

Source: *Department of Local Government*, 1999.

## JUDGES

	Women	Men
Supreme Court	1	17
District Court	5	21
Magistrates Court	5	38

Source: *Court Services, Courts Directorate*, June 1999.

### ATSIC REGIONAL COUNCILS

Women on ATSIC Councils 24.7%

Source: *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission*, 1999 (unpublished data).

### AUSTRALASIAN BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Women board members 8.3%

Women executive directors 1.3%

Source: *Korn/Ferry International, Boards of Directors in Australasia*, 1999.

Women in Western Australia, November 1999

47% of Australia's top 300 companies have women as board members. Of the 2,345 director positions in Australia, 10.7% are held by women.

Source: *Corporate Women Directors International, Women Board Directors of Australia's Top Companies*, 1999.

### STATE GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Women members 25.8%

Source: *Ministry of Premier and Cabinet*, September 1999.

### WOMEN SENIOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Australian Public Service 23.9%

WA State Public Service 17.0%

Source: *Public Service and Merit Protection Commission, Commonwealth Senior Executive Service Levels* (unpublished data), June 1999, *Ministry of Premier and Cabinet, Public Sector Management Division*, June 1999 (unpublished data).

### EDUCATION BY QUALIFICATION

	Women '000	Men '000
Bachelor	49	51
Post Graduate	9	6
Higher Degree	4	10
Associate Diploma	13	13
Skilled Vocational	19	131
Basic Vocational	28	13

Source: *Census of Population and Housing*, 1996.

### WOMEN IN ACADEMIA

35% of Academic staff in Western Australian universities are women. 11.3% of persons in Above Senior Lecturer positions are women.

Source: *Selected Higher Education Staff Statistics*, DETYA 1998.

The Women's Policy Office provides expert advice to Government on issues affecting the status of women.

A team of consultants is available to work directly with public sector agencies to improve the responsiveness of government services to women customers.

Consultants can provide strategic analysis and advice; expertise on women's issues; data about women customers; links with local, national and international women's networks; and staff development regarding gender issues. Contact Client Services on (08) 9264 1920



This fact sheet was produced for the Women's Policy Office by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Western Australian Office.

# WOMEN in WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## FACT SHEET

### 4TH EDITION

NOVEMBER 1999



All of the information in this fact sheet refers to females in Western Australia, unless otherwise specified.

The term 'women' refers to females aged 15 years and over.

Note: Some data from the 3rd Edition has not been repeated in this Fact Sheet as updates are not yet available.

Copies of previous Fact Sheets are available from the Women's Policy Office or from its website [www.wa.gov.au/wpdo](http://www.wa.gov.au/wpdo).

## THE POPULATION

There were 909,786 females in Western Australia representing 49.7% of the population.

There were 9,421,131 females in Australia representing 50.2% of the population.

Estimated Resident Population of WA at 30 June 1998 (Preliminary).

Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics* (ABS Cat. no. 3101.0).

### AGE GROUPS

	'000	%
Girls (0-14 years)	192.9	21.2
Young women (15-24 years)	132.4	14.6
Women aged (25-64 years)	477.8	52.5
Older women (65 and over)	106.6	11.7

Estimated Resident Population of WA at 30 June 1998 (Preliminary).

Source: *Population by Age and Sex*, WA, 1998

(ABS Cat. no. 3235.5).

## HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

Females	81.6 yrs
Males	75.7 yrs
Indigenous females	61.7 yrs

Life expectancy at birth.

Source: *Demography*, WA, 1997 (ABS Cat. no. 3311.5) and *Health and Welfare, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, 1999 (ABS Cat. no. 4704.0).

### LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG FEMALES

	Indigenous %	All %
Heart Disease	18.8	25.0
Cancer	10.4	26.1
Cerebrovascular disease	5.6	11.4
Respiratory disease	10.4	11.0
Diabetes	13.2	2.6

Source: *Demography*, WA, 1997

(ABS Cat. no. 3311.5), *Death Statistics*, 1997

(unpublished data), *Deaths*, 1997 (ABS Cat. no. 3302.0).

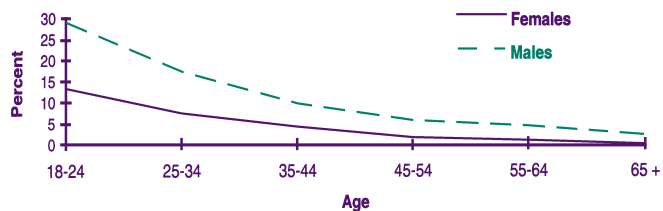
### FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

	'000	%
Aerobics	69.8	10.4
Netball	34.4	5.1
Tennis	15.3	2.3
Swimming	20.2	3.0

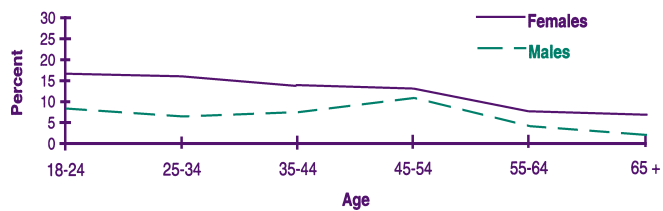
Source: *Participation in Sport and Physical Activities*, 1996-97 (ABS Cat. no. 4177.0).

**MENTAL WELLBEING**

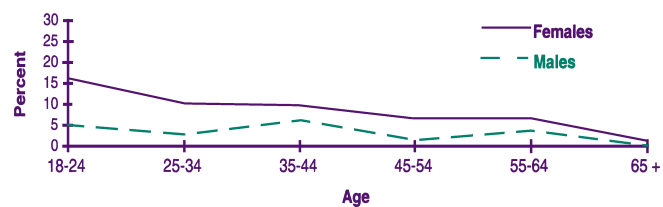
**Prevalence of Substance Use Disorder by Age**



**Prevalence of Anxiety Disorder by Age**



**Prevalence of Affective Disorder by Age**



Source: *Mental Health and Wellbeing, WA 1997-1998* (ABS Cat. no. 4326.5).

**MARITAL STATUS**

Marital Status	'000
Married	354.9
Widowed	59.6
Divorced	49.0
Separated	25.7
Never Married	186.1

Source: *Census of Population and Housing, 1996*.

**MARITAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Marital Arrangement	%
Registered	88.0
De facto	12.0

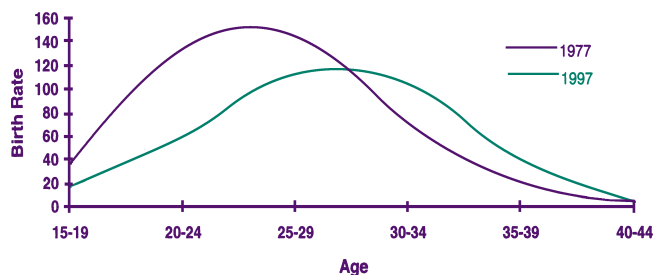
Percentage of married women.

Source: *Census of Population and Housing, 1996*.

**FAMILY FORMATION**

	1977	1997
Median age of women at first marriage (years)	22.2	26.1
Birth rates for women aged 15-19 years	'000 36.3	'000 21.2
aged 20-24 years	135.1	64.5
aged 25-29 years	147.7	116.3
aged 30-34 years	72.9	106.0
aged 35-39 years	20.5	42.5
aged 40-44 years	4.2	6.6
aged 45-49 years	0.2	0.4

**Age Specific Birth Rates 1977 and 1997**



Birth rate is the number of births registered per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June.  
Source: *Demography, WA, 1977* (ABS Cat. no. 3101.5), *Demography, WA, 1997* (ABS Cat. no. 3311.5).

**ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE**

**LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION**

	1979	1999
All women	45.8%	56.4%
All men	78.8%	75.0%
15-24 year-olds women	63.6%	72.1%
15-24 year-olds men	75.7%	72.5%

Percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for work.

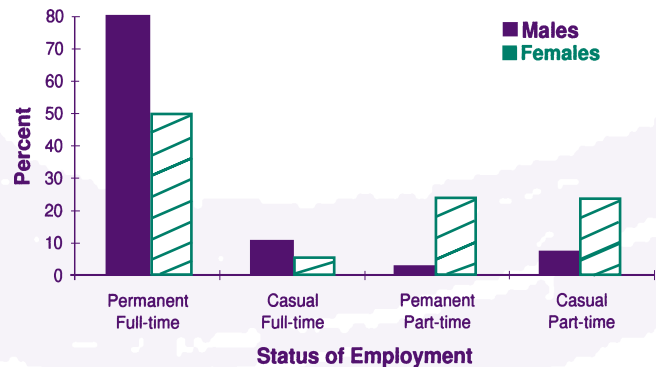
**Lone parents**

	1999
women	46.5%
men	74.6%

Percentage of lone parents in the civilian population who were working or looking for work.  
Source: *Labour Force Survey, August 1979 and 1999* (unpublished data), *Labour Force, August 1999* (ABS Cat. no. 6202.0).

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Employees by Permanent or Casual Status**



Source: *Working Arrangements, August 1997* (unpublished data).

**Employers and Self Employed**

3.8% of employed women (14,771) and 5.4% of employed men (27,874) are employers.  
8.1% of employed women (31,468) and 13.7% of employed men (70,314) are self-employed.  
Source: *Labour Force Survey, August 1999* (unpublished data).

**Percentage of employed persons**

	Full-time	Part-time
All women	49.7%	44.6%
All men	81.2%	12.1%
15-24 year-olds women	44.2%	45.8%
15-24 year-olds men	59.0%	28.1%

Employed persons as a percentage of the labour force. Full-time employment is more than 35 hours per week.

**Lone parents**

	Full-time	Part-time
women	41.5%	43.8%
men	64.5%	19.4%

Employed lone parents as a percentage of the labour force.  
Source: *Labour Force, August 1999* (ABS Cat. no. 6202.0).  
*Labour Force Survey, August 1999* (unpublished data).

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

	Women	Men
Looking for full-time work	3.5%	5.5%
Looking for part-time work	2.2%	1.1%

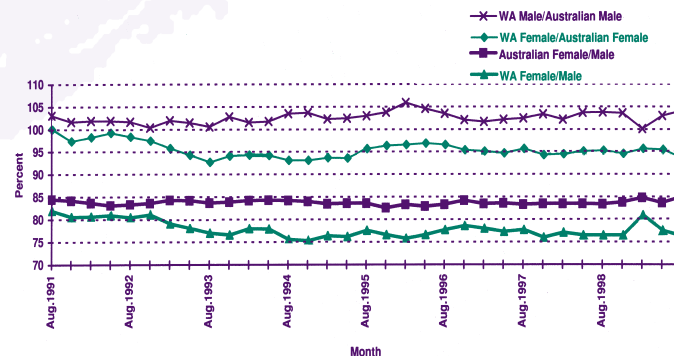
Unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.  
Source: *Labour Force, August 1999* (ABS Cat. no. 6202.0).

**AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS**

Full-time adult ordinary time earnings:  
women \$637.50  
(76.6% of men's earnings of \$832.60)  
All employees total earnings:  
women \$422.80  
(57.5% of men's earnings of \$735.00)

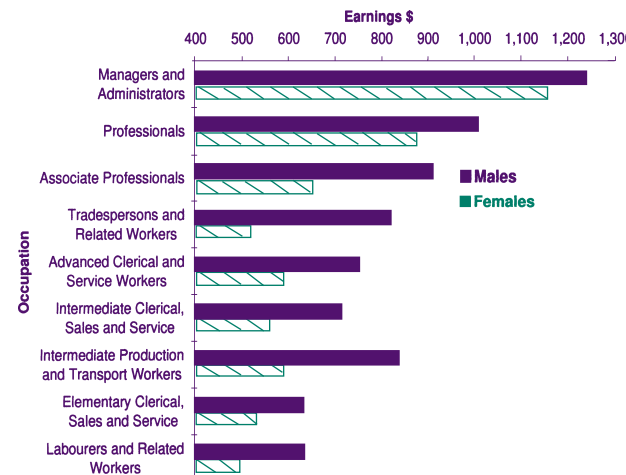
Original Series Average Weekly Earnings.  
Source: *Average Weekly Earnings, August 1999* (ABS Cat. no. 6302.0).

**WA Wage Relativities Compared, 1991 to 1999**  
(full-time adult ordinary time weekly earnings, seasonally adjusted)



Source: *Dr. Alison Preston, Curtin University, 1999*.

**Average Weekly Total Earnings Full-time Adults Employees by Occupation Group**



Source: *Employees, Earnings and Hours, May 1998* (unpublished data).

**SMALL BUSINESS OPERATORS**

Aged	Women '000	Men '000
less than 30 years	7.1	11.9
30-50 years	42.0	67.1
more than 50 years	11.1	25.5

**The proportion of women that are business owners is 36%.**

Source: *Characteristics of Small Business, Australia, 1997* (ABS Cat. no. 8127.0).

**PERSONAL SAFETY**

**OFFENCES REPORTED**

Homicide: 43.5% of victims were female  
Assault: 42.1% of victims were female  
Sexual assault: 83.3% of victims were female

For offences reported to the police, the percentage of victims of each type of offence who were females (all ages). Homicide includes murder, attempted murder and manslaughter.

Source: *Recorded Crime, 1998* (ABS Cat. no. 4510.0).

**VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS**

Proportion of all offences reported to the police where the offender was a spouse or family member related to the victim.

	Women	Men
Homicide:	51.8%	14.2%
Assault:	11.1%	2.3%
Sexual Assault:	15.4%	16.4%

Source: *Recorded Crime, 1998* (ABS Cat. no. 4510.0).

**VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS**

2,042 applications for violence restraining orders (66.0%) were made by females.  
October 1997 to March 1998.  
Source: *Ministry of Justice* (Unpublished data).