



Department for Communities

Government of **Western Australia**

Office for Seniors Interests and Carers

Key Statistics on Current and Future Seniors Summary

The 2006 Census

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SUMMARY OF KEY STATISTICS FROM THE 2006 CENSUS

Statistic	Total WA	Seniors (60+)/Older People (65+)*	Future Seniors (40 to 59 years of age)†
Total Population	1,959,086 people	326,052 Seniors (60+)	551,276 (40-59 years)
Proportion of state	100%	17% Seniors (60+)	28% (40-59 years)
Gender			
Male	50%	47% Seniors (60+)	50% (40-59 years)
Female	50%	53% Seniors (60+)	50% (40-59 years)
Statistical Division (SD)			
Living in metropolitan Perth	74%	73% Seniors (60+)	74% (40-59 years)
SDs with higher concentrations than state average		South West (21% Seniors, 60+)	South West (29% 40-59 years)
		Lower Great Southern (20% Seniors, 60+)	Lower Great Southern (29% 40-59 years)
		Midlands (20% Seniors, 60+)	Central (29% 40-59 years)
		Upper Great Southern (19% Seniors, 60+)	Midlands (31% 40-59 years)
			Upper Great Southern (30% 40-59 years)
Local Government Areas (LGAs)			
Metropolitan LGAs (largest proportion)		11% seniors (60+) in Stirling	9% in Joondalup (40-59 years)
Regional LGAs (largest proportion)		5% seniors (60+) in Mandurah	3% in Mandurah (40-59 years)
Moving home			
Same address as 1 year ago		85% Older people (65+)	83% (45-64 years)
Same address as 5 years ago		69% Older people (65+)	62% (45-64 years)
Birthplace			
Born in Australia	65%	50% Older people (65+)	54% (45-64 years)

Statistic	Total WA	Seniors/Older People*	Future Seniors (40 to 59 years of age)†
Birthplace			
Born in another English-speaking country	15%	23% Older people (65+)	22% (45-64 years)
Born in non-English-speaking country	9%	16% Older people (65+)	13% (45-64 years)
Household Characteristics			
Social marital status (largest proportion)		63% seniors (60+) in registered marriage	67% in registered marriage (40-59 years)
Registered marital status:			
Married	49%	62% Seniors (60+)	67% (40-59 years)
Separated	3%	3% Seniors (60+)	5% (40-59 years)
Divorced	9%	10% Seniors (60+)	14% (40-59 years)
Widowed	5%	21% Seniors (60+)	2% (40-59 years)
Relationship in household:			
Live with spouse (in registered marriage)	39%	58% Older people (65+)	67% (45-64 years)
Live alone	10%	29% Older people (65+)	13% (45-64 years)
Income			
Weekly income below WA median (\$500)		At least 64% older people (65+)	At least 31% (45-64 years)
Balance of gender		Males seniors (60+) have higher weekly incomes than females	Males (45-64 years) higher weekly incomes than females
Labour force status			
Labour force participation:		20% seniors (60+; up from 13% in 1996)	74% (40-59 years)
Unemployment		1% Seniors (60+)	2% (40-59 years)
Employment industry (largest proportion)	11% in Retail Trade industry	15% older people (65+) in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries industry (much larger than state average, 3%)	13% (45-64 years) in Health Care and Social Assistance industry

Statistic	Total WA	Seniors/Older People*	Future Seniors (40 to 59 years of age)†
Labour force status			
Occupation (largest proportion)	19% Professionals	25% older people (65+) are Managers	20% (45-64 years) Professionals
Income by occupation (largest proportion)	17% earned \$400-\$599 per week, with most being Clerical and Administrative workers	18% older people (65+) earned \$400-\$599 per week, with largest proportion being Managers	32% (45-64 years) earned \$400-\$799 per week, with largest proportion being Clerical and Administrative workers
Hours worked (largest proportion)	20% worked more than 49 hours per week	24% older people (65+) worked 1-15 hours per week	17% (45-64 years) worked 40 hours per week
Education			
Completed year 12, or equivalent	42%	24% Older people (65+)	38% (45-64 years)
Non-school qualification (largest proportion)		26% older people (65+) had Certificate level qualifications	34% (45-64 years) had Certificate level qualifications
Non-school qualification field (largest proportion)		18% older people (65+) studied in Engineering and Related Technologies	21% (45-64 years) studied in Engineering and Related Technologies
Language			
English only	82%	80% older people (65+)	83% (45-64 years)
English and another language:	12%	14% older people (65+)	12% (45-64 years)
Spoke English not well/not at all	2%	4% older people (65+)	2% (45-64 years)
Religious Affiliation (largest proportion)			
	24% Catholic	33% older people (65+) are Anglican	26% (45-64 years) Anglican

Statistic	Total WA	Seniors/Older People*	Future Seniors (40 to 59 years of age)†
Disability			
Proportion of all WA disabled persons ¹	68,409 people in WA	54% of disabled people are older people (65+)	22% of disabled people are future seniors (45-64 years)
Proportion of WA population requiring assistance for core activities	3%	16% Older people (65+)	3% (45-64 years)
Balance of gender	More females (4%) required assistance than males (3%)	More female older people (65+; 18%) required assistance than males (12%)	Equal males and females (3%; 45-64 years) required assistance
Carers			
Unpaid assistance to people with a disability:			
Proportion of all WA unpaid disability carers	139,804 people in WA (15+)	15% of carers are older people (65+)	46% of carers are future seniors (45-64 years)
Proportion of WA population providing unpaid disability care	9%	9% Older people (65+)	13% (45-64 years)
Balance of gender	A greater proportion of females (11%) provided unpaid disability care than males (7%)	A greater proportion of female older people (9%; 65+) provided unpaid disability care than males (8%)	A greater proportion of females (17%; 45-64 years) provided unpaid disability care than males (9%)
Unpaid childcare:			
Proportion of all WA unpaid child-carers in WA	435,895 people in WA (15+)	5% of unpaid child-carers are older people (65+)	26% of unpaid child-carers are future seniors (45-64 years)
Proportion of WA population providing unpaid childcare	28%	9% Older people (65+)	23% (45-64 years)
Balance of gender	More females (33%) did unpaid childcare than males (23%)	More female older people (65+; 10%) did unpaid childcare than males (8%)	More females (26%; 45-64 years) did unpaid childcare than males (20%)

¹ Disabled people refers to people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age.

Statistic	Total WA	Seniors/Older People*	Future Seniors (40 to 59 years of age)†
Volunteer work²			
Proportion of all WA volunteers	262,653 people in WA (15+)	14% of volunteers are older people (65+)	36% of volunteers are future seniors (45-64 years)
Proportion of WA population volunteer	17%	16% Older people (65+)	19% (45-64 years)
Balance of gender	More females (19%) volunteered than males (14%)	More female older people (65+; 16%) volunteered than males (15%)	More females (22%; 45-64 years) volunteered than males (17%)
Unpaid domestic work			
Proportion of WA population did unpaid domestic work	70%	56% Older people	74% (45-64 years)
Time spent by those doing unpaid domestic work per week (largest proportion)		30% older people spent 5-14 hours	39% (45-64 years) spent 5-14 hours
Balance of gender		Female older people spent more time doing unpaid domestic work than males	Females (45-64 years) spent more time doing unpaid domestic work than males

*Throughout this table, people aged 65 years and over are referred to as 'Older people', while those aged 60 years and over are referred to as 'Seniors'. All statistics in this table other than those for Total Population, Gender, Statistical Division, Local Government Area, Social Marital Status, Registered Marital Status and Labour Force Participation, relate to older people aged 65 years and over.

†All future seniors statistics in this table, other than those for Total Population, Gender, Statistical Division, Local Government Area, Marital Status, Labour Force Participation and Unemployment, relate to people aged 45 to 64 years in 2006.

² While this report uses the Census data on Volunteering, it is recognised that the Voluntary Work Survey is the primary data source for reporting on volunteering statistics for Western Australia. The Voluntary Work Survey is conducted through personal interviews with over 13,000 people throughout Australia, whereas the Census data relates to only one self-report question on volunteering. In 2006, the Voluntary Work Survey found there to be 541,800 people in WA doing voluntary work.