

Women's Health West

<http://whwest.org.au/>

Gender Equality

Gender equity is the process of being fair to women and men by recognising diversity and disadvantage and directing resources accordingly to create equal outcomes. Equity denotes the series of actions needed to be taken before equality can be achieved. Gender equality, the absence of discrimination based on one's gender, is attained through gender equity. By acknowledging the cultural, social and economic factors that disadvantage women, gender equitable policies can be supported by allocating extra resources and targeted policies to bridge the gap in order to achieve equality.

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Fact
Sheet

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Measures</i>
Population	Number of persons
Age Distribution	% 0-14 years % 15-24 years % 25-44 years % 45-64 years % 65+ years
Born In Australia	%
English Proficiency	% Low English proficiency % Speak English only
Indigenous Status	%
Education	% Attained Year 12 or equivalent
Labour Force Status	% Unemployed % Part time employed % Full time employed
Individual Weekly Income	% Above minimum weekly wage % Below minimum weekly wage
Chief Executives, General Managers And Legislators	Rate (per 10,000) %
CEOs Of Local Councils	Gender of CEO
Local Councillors	%

Indicators	Measures
Low Gender Equality In Relationships	%
Lone Parent Status	% Number of families
Mothers' Index	Rank
Unpaid Assistance To A Person With A Disability	%
Unpaid Domestic Work	% People who worked 15+ hours per week
Need For Assistance With Core Activity	%
Persons 75+ Years And Living Alone	%
Transport	% Experienced limitations
Index Of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage	Rank
Poverty	%
Homelessness	Rate (per 10,000) Number of clients

Population

The 2021 Census recorded 6.5 million people (6,503,491) as usual residents of Victoria, up from 5.9 million in 2016. By sex, there were 3,302,528 females (50.8%) and 3,200,963 males (48.2%). In 2021, nearly four out of five people in Victoria lived in the capital city area of Greater Melbourne (4.9 million).

Gender Analysis

Before the COVID pandemic Victoria was the fastest growing state in Australia, growing by an average of more than 2.0 per cent per annum, driven by strong inward migration flows from interstate and overseas. Victoria's population peaked at almost 6.694 million people in June 2020, then decreased during the pandemic period. There were a range of flow-on effects within the state, such as a fall in population in some metropolitan areas and a rise of people living in regional areas. On Census night (Tuesday 10 August 2021) many parts of Victoria were in lockdown or subject to border restrictions. More families and households were together on Census night, and this is reflected in the 2021 Census data.

Population - Number of persons

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	97124	97491	79,765.1	79,319.4	41,749.0	40,446.5	41,097.7
2016	97079	97238	70,011.4	68,642.4	38,163.6	36,749.6	37,456.6
2011	91392	91343	58,156.6	57,577.0	34,398.4	33,258.9	33,828.7

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.
For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

Count of population per LGA from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.
Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution

The 2021 Census recorded the age distribution of the Victorian female population as: 0 to 14 years (568,807); 15 to 24 years (376,523); 25 to 44 years (958,534); 45 to 64 years (809,880); and 65+ years (588,918). Like most developed countries, Australia's population is ageing as a result of sustained low fertility and increasing life expectancy. This has resulted in proportionally fewer children (under 15 years of age) in the population and a proportionally larger increase in those aged 65 and over. Over the next several decades, population ageing is projected to have implications for Australia, including population health, size of the working-age population, housing and demand for skilled labour.

Gender Analysis

The experience of ageing in Australia is highly gendered. Young women experience higher rates of mental distress and are particularly vulnerable to violence in the context of intimate relationships. Young women are also affected by pressure relating to body image, to an extent not experienced by young men. Reproductive aged women face managing fertility, menstruation, reproductive choices, gynaecological health and the demands of pregnancy and parenting. For women over 50, lower superannuation balances relative to men and longer life expectancy contributes to older women becoming the fastest growing group of homeless people. Older women are likely to be living with one or more chronic diseases, including cancer, heart disease, dementia, osteoporosis or arthritis, and, between ages 45 to 75, are likely to have greater unpaid caring responsibilities than at any other age.

Age Distribution - % 0-14 years

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	16.7%	17.9%	17.1%	18.3%	16.3%	17.6%	17.0%
2016	18.1%	18.8%	17.4%	18.5%	16.9%	18.3%	17.6%
2011	18.6%	19.4%	17.6%	18.5%	17.8%	19.3%	18.5%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution - % 15-24 years

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	12.2%	13.0%	12.7%	13.1%	10.2%	11.2%	10.7%
2016	13.4%	14.8%	14.9%	15.2%	11.1%	12.1%	11.6%
2011	14.1%	15.5%	15.2%	15.5%	11.6%	12.7%	12.2%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution - % 25-44 years

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	28.6%	29.9%	35.3%	35.9%	25.0%	24.9%	25.0%
2016	29.3%	30.0%	34.3%	35.0%	24.7%	24.5%	24.6%
2011	30.1%	30.2%	34.4%	34.9%	25.6%	25.1%	25.3%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution - % 45-64 years

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	25.1%	23.8%	21.9%	21.5%	26.5%	25.8%	26.2%
2016	24.9%	23.6%	21.7%	21.2%	27.2%	26.8%	27.0%
2011	25.0%	24.1%	21.8%	21.7%	27.1%	27.2%	27.2%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Age Distribution - % 65+ years

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	17.3%	15.2%	12.9%	11.2%	21.9%	20.4%	21.2%
2016	14.4%	12.7%	11.7%	10.1%	20.1%	18.4%	19.3%
2011	12.2%	10.7%	11.0%	9.3%	17.8%	15.8%	16.8%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons per age bracket, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Born In Australia

According to the 2021 Census, 4,228,658 Victorians (65%) were born in Australia (2,138,525 females and 2,090,158 males.) The proportion of Victorians who were born overseas increased to 30% in 2021 (up from 28.3% in 2016). The remaining 5% of Victorians did not state their country of birth. In 2021, the top five countries of birth for Victorians born overseas were: India (4.0%), England (2.7%), China (2.6%), New Zealand (1.5%), and Vietnam (1.4%).

Gender Analysis

For many migrant and refugee women, access to health services is limited by language, cultural and/or information barriers. Migrant and refugee women experience poorer overall maternal and child health outcomes and higher rates of mental health issues than the general population of women. One in three migrant and refugee women have experienced some form of domestic and family violence, with nearly a quarter reporting this increased in severity during COVID-19 lockdowns. Women on temporary visas, including international students, cannot access Medicare benefits, and are more vulnerable to exploitation in housing and employment markets.

Help/support for migrant and refugee women:

- Multicultural Centre for Women's Health: (Web: mcwh.com.au)

Born In Australia - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	45.0%	46.8%	53.8%	55.1%	73.6%	74.1%	73.8%
2016	44.4%	45.3%	53.2%	54.1%	73.2%	73.7%	73.4%
2011	46.6%	47.2%	57.0%	57.0%	77.1%	76.9%	77.0%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons born in Australia, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

English Proficiency

In the 2021 Census, a total of 285,873 Victorians who spoke a language other than English at home reported difficulty speaking English (162,057 females and 123,816 males). This represents an increase of almost 20,000 people compared with the 2016 Census (150,855 females and 115,223 males). By sex, the percentage of self-reported low English proficiency was 2.76% for females, compared with 2.21% for males (average of Victorian local government areas), very similar to the 2016 Census. The gender gap in low English proficiency is most pronounced in older age groups (70 years and above).

Gender Analysis

People with low English proficiency may experience social isolation and face particular challenges in accessing information and services, including healthcare. For example, language barriers and lack of female interpreters restrict women's ability to discuss sensitive reproductive health and other issues. Low English proficiency is a significant predictor of psychological distress among women from refugee and migrant communities, and is the most significant barrier to women undertaking vocational skills training and finding employment. English language classes are insufficiently tailored to migrant and refugee women's needs and their life circumstances. Communication problems may restrict women's ability to form intercultural connections outside the home, and inhibit full participation in society.

English Proficiency - % Low English proficiency

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	15.7%	11.5%	7.4%	5.5%	2.8%	2.2%	2.5%
2016	15.3%	11.5%	7.9%	6.0%	2.8%	2.2%	2.5%
2011	14.5%	10.6%	7.5%	5.5%	2.5%	1.9%	2.2%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons who reported having 'low English' language proficiency ('not well', 'not at all') divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Language spoken at home by proficiency in Spoken English Language by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

English Proficiency - % Speak English only

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	35.2%	37.4%	52.5%	54.3%	78.1%	78.3%	78.2%
2016	35.1%	36.2%	52.5%	53.7%	78.3%	78.3%	78.3%
2011	37.4%	38.4%	57.0%	57.3%	82.4%	82.1%	82.2%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons who speak 'English only' divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Language spoken at home by proficiency in Spoken English Language by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons. Note: Self-assessed English proficiency is subjective and is an indicator rather than a definitive measure of a person's ability to speak English.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Indigenous Status

In the 2021 Census, 65,639 Victorians identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. This total comprises 32,769 females (49.9%) and 32,861 males (50.1%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent 1.0% of Victoria's population in 2021. This is up from 47,498 people (0.8% of Victoria's population) in 2016. Of the Victorians who identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, 94.2% identify as Aboriginal, 3.2% identify as Torres Strait Islander, and 2.6% identify as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Gender Analysis

Connection to land, culture, spirituality and ancestry is the foundation of physical and mental health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The injustices and intergenerational trauma of colonization, forced removal of children, racism and socioeconomic disadvantage have profoundly disrupted these connections. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women continue to experience poorer health outcomes compared to non-Aboriginal women. Examples include: lower life expectancy by almost 8 years, chronic conditions at younger ages, 32 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence, 11 times more likely to die due to assault, higher prevalence of disability (47% compared with 17.8%), and 21.2 times more likely to be incarcerated. There is a need for Aboriginal-led, gender-responsive health systems and services to better meet the needs of First Nations women and girls.

Help/support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples:

- Yarning SafeNStrong: (Phone: 1800 959 563 – 24 hours)

Indigenous Status - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	0.7%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
2016	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
2011	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of people who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA, as at August 2021.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. DataPacks. General Community Profile by Local Government Area (LGA): Victoria. Table G01.

Currency: 2021

Link: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks>

Education

According to the 2021 Census, 3,171,909 Victorians aged 15 years and over have completed Year 12 or equivalent education (1,673,394 females and 1,498,515 males). This represents an increase of over 500,000 people compared with the 2016 Census (1,392,987 females and 1,243,081 males). By sex, the percentage with Year 12 attainment in 2021 was 45.3% for females and 39.5% for males (average of Victorian local government areas). For both sexes this was higher than reported in the 2016 Census (40.4% for females and 35.2% for males).

Gender Analysis

Year 12 attainment is the national standard to support the successful transition from schooling to work or further study, and to provide individuals with the skills and agency to fully participate in modern society. Young women who complete Year 12 are more likely to be in full-time work or study, spend less time in unemployment and earn more money than those who do not complete Year 12. Educational achievement is key to advancing the status of women. It contributes to more women in professions, better health outcomes and health literacy, better financial situations, and increased political representation.

Education - % Attained Year 12 or equivalent

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	46.4%	45.7%	55.4%	53.1%	45.3%	39.5%	42.4%
2016	42.6%	42.8%	50.9%	48.9%	40.4%	35.2%	37.8%
2011	38.3%	38.4%	46.6%	44.4%	36.9%	32.2%	34.6%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

For each LGA, the percentage for each sex equals the number of persons aged 15 years and over who have completed Year 12 or equivalent, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Highest year of School Completed by Age by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Labour Force Status

Labour Force Status applies to all people aged 15 years and over, based on paid work during the week prior to the Census. The 2021 Census recorded 1,871,276 Victorians working full time (704,564 females and 1,166,712 males). By local government area, the average percentage employed full time was 41.4% for females compared with 67.9% for males. The number of Victorians working part time was 1,076,745 (698,602 females and 378,143 males). By local government area, the average percentage employed part time was 46.4% for females compared with 21.7% for males. The number of Victorians unemployed (looking for work) was 167,668 (78,062 females and 89,606 males). By local government area, the average percentage unemployed was 4.0% for females compared with 4.4% for males.

Gender Analysis

Female labour force participation in Australia has risen dramatically over the last 40 years. Contributing factors include: changes in social attitudes to women working, changes in perceived gender roles, decline of manufacturing industries, growth of service industries, a strong rise in the educational attainment level of women, emergence of flexible working arrangements and family-friendly initiatives, a rise in availability of part time positions, and people living longer (with older women more likely to work part-time and for much longer as they transition to retirement). Despite these gains, there is a persistent gender gap in overall workforce participation, impacting women's employment security, average weekly earnings, career progression and economic position at retirement.

Labour Force Status - % Unemployed

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	8.0%	7.7%	6.4%	6.2%	4.0%	4.4%	4.2%
2016	11.2%	9.7%	8.7%	7.8%	5.7%	5.9%	5.8%
2011	8.9%	7.8%	6.9%	6.3%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons over the age of 15 who are 'Unemployed' divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA who are in the labour force (those employed and those looking for work).

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Labour Force Status by Employment type by Labour Force Status by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons aged 15 years or over.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Labour Force Status - % Part time employed

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	41.6%	23.7%	39.0%	22.1%	46.4%	21.6%	34.0%
2016	40.4%	21.9%	38.9%	19.8%	47.2%	20.0%	33.6%
2011	38.3%	18.7%	37.0%	17.1%	46.1%	17.8%	32.0%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons over the age of 15 who are 'Employed, Part Time' divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA who are in the labour force (those employed and those looking for work).

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Labour Force Status by Employment type by Labour Force Status by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons aged 15 years or over.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Labour Force Status - % Full time employed

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	42.4%	62.5%	47.1%	66.2%	41.4%	67.9%	54.6%
2016	42.7%	63.5%	46.9%	68.3%	40.8%	69.0%	54.9%
2011	45.9%	67.2%	49.8%	71.5%	42.2%	71.5%	56.8%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons over the age of 15 who are 'Employed, Full Time' divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA who are in the labour force (those employed and those looking for work).

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Labour Force Status by Employment type by Labour Force Status by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons aged 15 years or over.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Individual Weekly Income

Individual Weekly Income includes wages, business and rent income (minus expenses), dividends, interest, income from superannuation, child support, workers' compensation, and government pensions and allowances. In 2021 the Australian minimum weekly wage was \$772.60. According to the 2021 Census, almost 2.5 million Victorians aged 15 years and over earned \$799 or less per week (1,472,288 females and 1,008,737 males). A much higher percentage of females (46.3%) compared with males (33.7%) earned below the minimum weekly wage (average of Victorian local government areas). In stark contrast, almost 2.5 million Victorians earned \$800 or more per week (1,083,597 females and 1,409,177 males). A much higher percentage of males (41.7%) compared with females (30.9%) earned above the minimum weekly wage (average of Victorian local government areas).

Gender Analysis

As of November 2022, Australia's national gender pay gap stands at 13.3%. Although the lowest on record, women in full time work earn on average \$253.50 less per week than men (or 87 cents for every 1 dollar earned by men). The pay gap starts from the time women enter the workforce. Contributing factors include: hiring and pay discrimination, female-dominated sectors attracting lower wages, women's disproportionate share of unpaid caring and domestic work, limited workplace flexibility to accommodate women's non-work responsibilities, and women's greater time out of the workforce impacting career progression. The gender pay gap, combined with women's higher likelihood of part-time work, impacts on their lifetime economic security.

Individual Weekly Income - % Above minimum weekly wage

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	24.5%	37.1%	34.6%	45.4%	30.9%	41.7%	36.3%
2016	24.0%	37.0%	31.9%	43.3%	29.3%	41.0%	35.2%
2011	22.3%	36.0%	30.6%	43.2%	26.8%	40.3%	33.5%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals persons who are aged 15 years and over who are earning \$800 or more per week, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA. Note: Australia's official minimum wage as at 2021 was \$772.60.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Total Personal Income (Weekly) by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons aged 15 years and over.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Individual Weekly Income - % Below minimum weekly wage

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	52.7%	38.4%	42.8%	30.2%	46.3%	33.7%	40.0%
2016	50.8%	37.1%	43.3%	30.5%	45.7%	32.5%	39.1%
2011	50.8%	36.0%	44.2%	29.6%	48.8%	33.3%	41.1%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals persons who are aged 15 years and over who are earning \$0-\$799 per week, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA. Note: Australia's official minimum wage as at 2021 was \$772.60.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Total Personal Income (Weekly) by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons aged 15 years and over.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Chief Executives, General Managers And Legislators

According to the 2021 Census, Victorians who recorded their occupation as Chief Executives, General Managers or Legislators numbered 37,634 (comprising 10,736 females and 26,898 males). This represents an increase of 2,767 females and 3,883 males compared with 2016 (7,969 females and 23,106 males). The proportion of female executives increased to 30.5% in 2021, compared with 26.2% in 2016 (average of Victorian local government areas). Conversely, the proportion of male executives decreased to 69.5% in 2021, compared with 73.8% in 2016. The population rate for female executive leaders grew to 15.6 per 10,000 in 2021, compared with 11.8 per 10,000 in 2016 (average of Victorian local government areas). The number, proportion and population rate of female executives in Victoria has grown with each successive Census since 2006.

Gender Analysis

The disparity between men and women in leadership roles perpetuates existing stereotypes about the role of women, both at work and in wider society, and exacerbates gender pay inequity. The gender pay gap is present across all types of management occupations, and increases at each higher level of management. Research shows that women's equal representation in key decision-making positions (Boards, senior leadership, and CEO appointments) contributes to improved company performance. Despite this, men are 1.5 times more likely to hold managerial positions than women. The Workplace Gender Equality Agency reports that for Australian private companies with more than 100 employees, only 22.3% of Chief Executives are women, and only 20% of boards have gender balance.

Chief Executives, General Managers And Legislators - Rate (per 10,000)

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	4.6	12.8	16.7	36.5	15.6	36.0	25.8
2016	4.1	12.8	14.2	34.0	11.8	32.5	22.1
2011	3.6	11.1	11.8	30.1	9.3	27.8	18.5

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The rate equals the number of persons who are Chief Executives, General Managers or Legislators divided by the total persons of the corresponding LGA, per 10,000 persons.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Labour Force Status by Occupation by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons aged 15 years or over.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Chief Executives, General Managers And Legislators - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	26.3%	73.7%	30.4%	69.6%	30.5%	69.5%	50.0%
2016	24.2%	75.8%	28.7%	71.3%	26.2%	73.8%	50.0%
2011	24.5%	75.5%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage of Chief Executives, General Managers or Legislators that are female or male for each LGA.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Labour Force Status by Occupation by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons aged 15 years or over.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

CEOs Of Local Councils

Victorian local councils employ more than 45,000 people. As the level of government closest to communities, it is important that local councils reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and represent. While more than half of the administrative workforce in the local government sector is female, less than half of the directors and managers are women. Each Council employs a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). As of August 2020, there were 54 male CEOs (68.4%) and 25 female CEOs (31.6%). The number of female CEOs of Victorian local councils has almost doubled in the past 3 years, increasing from 13 female CEOs (16.5%) in August 2017.

Gender Analysis

Gender equity in local government is important to ensure that a greater mix of insights and experiences shape local policy. Many Victorian councils have demonstrated strong leadership in strengthening gender equity and diversity through more equitable employment policies and cultural change. Enablers to recruitment and retention of more women in senior roles include: flexible working arrangements, improved support for pregnancy and parenting, gender-neutral recruitment, female mentorship and career planning, support to undertake further study, and workplace safety. Barriers include: unconscious bias in the assessment of female candidates, maternal bias, and women's lack of confidence in applying for senior roles. In rural and remote areas, working in local government may be one of the few career pathway options available for professional women.

CEOs Of Local Councils - Gender of CEO

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	1	0	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.5
2017	1	0	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.8	0.5
2015	0	1	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.8	0.5

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

Each LGA has one CEO for their Local Council. This indicator shows the CEOs (or Acting CEOs) that are either female or male in each LGA, as at August 2020.

Source/s:

(1) Local Government Victoria (LGV). *Know Your Council website*, 6 November 2020; (2) McGowan R (2018) *Gender equity in local government: research companion*. Local Government Victoria. Melbourne.

Currency: 2020

Link: <https://www.viccouncils.asn.au/find-your-council>

Local Councillors

Women's equal representation in all levels of government contributes to gender equality which is a key determinant of women's health. In the 2020 Victorian local government elections, a record 272 women councillors were elected. Female councillor representation reached an all-time high of 43.8%, compared with 37% in 2016. Local councils typically have 5, 7, 9, or 11 members - therefore gender parity is achieved with female membership of between 40 and 60 percent. The number of councils with 40 percent or more women councillors rose to 46 (58%), compared with 36 (46%) in 2016. There are now 23 councils with a majority of women councillors, compared with 15 in 2016.

Gender Analysis

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Victorian Local Government Association (VLGA) are leading ongoing efforts to address the gender imbalance in local councils. Targeted initiatives have included: the 'Victorian Local Government Women's Charter', 'Think Women for Local Government', 'GoWomen LG', and 'Stand For Council' campaigns. With each successive election, more Victorian women are standing for council, more are being elected as councillors and more are reaching the position of mayor. A 2018 review of gender equity in local government recommended: supporting women candidates from diverse backgrounds; training councillors to build leadership skills and knowledge of gender equity issues; cultural change to support women candidates and councillors; flexible work policies for councillors; and promoting councillors as role models for women's leadership. The Victorian Government Gender Equality Strategy has set a target for 50% women councillors and mayors by the year 2025. Election to local government can be an important avenue for women seeking to pursue parliamentary careers.

Local Councillors - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2020	72.7%	27.3%	54.0%	46.0%	42.7%	56.9%	49.8%
2016	63.6%	36.4%	52.4%	47.6%	37.1%	62.9%	50.0%
2012	null	N/A	46.1%	53.9%	34.0%	66.0%	50.0%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage of female or male local councillors (expressed as a percentage of all councillors), of each LGA, following the 2020 local government elections. Councils run by administrators at the time of the 2020 election are shown as 'no data'.

Source/s:

(1) Victorian Electoral Commission website. Data extracted on 13 November 2020; (2) McGowan R (2018) Gender equity in local government: research companion. Local Government Victoria. Melbourne.

Currency: 2020

Link: <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/results/council-election-results/>

Low Gender Equality In Relationships

According to the VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015, approximately one-third (35.7%) of Victorians hold low levels of support for equal relationships between women and men (a measure of attitude represented by a 'low gender equality in relationships score'). Over four out of every ten men (44.4%) hold low levels of support for equal relationships between women and men, compared to 27.3% of women. Low levels of support for equal relationships between women and men are most prevalent among young men aged 18-24 (52.9%) and men aged 25-34 (50%).

Gender Analysis

Gender inequality is a social condition characterised by unequal value afforded to men and women, attitudes and norms supportive of this, and an unequal distribution of power, resources and opportunity between them. Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence are recognised as gendered drivers of family violence and other forms of violence against women and girls. There is a need to implement primary prevention strategies that are designed to dismantle harmful attitudes towards women, promote gender equality and encourage respectful relationships.

Low Gender Equality In Relationships - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2015	47.4%	55.8%	32.3%	47.6%	25.6%	41.5%	33.6%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

This attitudinal indicator is published by the VicHealth Indicators Survey 2015. It measures the number of women and men respondents with low support for gender equality in relationships, divided by the number of respondents of the corresponding sex in each LGA. Low support is calculated based on level of agreement with the following two statements: 1. "Men should take control in relationships and be the head of the household." and 2. "Women prefer a man to be in charge of the relationship."

Source/s:

2015 VicHealth Community Indicators Survey: Low Gender Equality In Relationships Indicator.

Currency: 2015

Link: <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/programs-and-projects/vichealth-indicators-survey-2015>

Lone Parent Status

A lone parent is a person who has no spouse or partner usually resident in the household, but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one child usually resident in the household. The child may be either dependent or non-dependent. In 2021, female lone parents outnumbered male lone parents in Victoria by a ratio of 4 to 1. The 2021 Census recorded 262,032 lone parent households in Victoria, comprising 212,011 headed by females and 50,021 headed by males. The number of female lone parents increased by 9.9% (up from 192,926 in 2016) and the number of male lone parents increased by 20% (up from 41,672 in 2016). The proportion of lone parents by sex in 2021 was 79.3% female and 20.7% male (average of Victorian local government areas). The proportions changed slightly compared to the 2016 Census (81.0% female and 19.0% male).

Gender Analysis

There are roughly 1 million single-parents in Australia, and four out of five are women. Australian welfare policies over 20 years have failed to adequately support single parent families. Single parent families in Australia have on average 47% less disposable income than coupled families. Single mothers are twice as likely to be in financial hardship compared with partnered mothers, and an estimated one third (34%) of single mothers are living in poverty. An estimated 25% to 40% of all single mothers have experienced family violence. Moving house and finding new neighbourhood supports is rated as one of the most stressful life events for single mothers. Stigma and discrimination directed at single mothers is commonly reported.

Lone Parent Status - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	83.3%	16.7%	81.9%	18.1%	79.3%	20.7%	50.0%
2016	83.4%	16.6%	83.1%	16.9%	81.0%	19.0%	50.0%
2011	84.3%	15.7%	83.6%	16.4%	81.6%	18.4%	50.0%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage of lone parent families in each LGA that are female-headed or male-headed. Each LGA will total 100%, therefore the state average will equal 50%.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Lone parent status by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Lone Parent Status - Number of families

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	8706	1751	5,194.1	1,121.6	2,683.6	633.1	1,658.4
2016	8477	1689	4,595.3	934.7	2,441.7	527.8	1,484.8
2011	8070	1508	4,108.9	797.1	2,293.5	477.7	1,385.6

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

For each LGA, the number of lone parent families that are either female-headed or male-headed.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Lone parent status by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Mothers' Index

The concept of the Mothers Index has been developed and used by Save the Children globally for 15 years and is informed by an in-depth literature review and consultation with international and local experts. Indicators used measures that matters most to a mother: her health, the wellbeing of her children, her own education attainment, the family's economic status and her relative socio-economic status. One significant area that is not well captured by the five indicators is family violence, as there is no nationally consistent data available at this time.

Gender Analysis

Health at birth is an important predictor of long-term outcomes, including education, income, and disability. Evidence suggests that maternal disadvantage leads to worse health at birth because of poor health behaviours; exposure to harmful environmental factors; worse access to medical care, including family planning; and worse underlying maternal health. Women living in regional and remote areas of Australia have poorer health outcomes than their counterparts in the city. Mothers in rural and remote areas are further disadvantaged by reduced access to primary health care providers and health services. The maternal mortality ratio for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is double that for non-Aboriginal women (although caution should be used when interpreting these results due to the small number of deaths).

Mothers' Index - Rank

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2016	54	N/A	27.6	N/A	39.8	N/A	39.8

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

Composite scores from five different indicators relating to maternal wellbeing (maternal health, children's wellbeing, educational status, economic status and socio-economic disadvantage) were calculated, with each indicator given equal weighting. Scores were sorted from low to high and ranked from 1 to 79 (1 being the best place for a mother to live) to give the overall Mothers Index rank for each LGA.

Source/s:

Save the Children 2016. *State of Australia's Mothers Report*.

Currency: 2016

Link: https://www.savethechildren.org.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/143863/SOAM_report_2016.pdf

Unpaid Assistance To A Person With A Disability

This indicator shows how many people, in the two weeks prior to completing the Census, provided unpaid help or supervision to another person to assist them with daily activities because of a disability, a long-term illness or for problems related to old age. The 2021 Census recorded 689,213 Victorians who provided informal care to a person with a disability (comprising 414,891 females and 274,322 males). This represents an increase of 22.0% for females (up from 340,093 in 2016) and an increase of 24.3% for males (up from 220,774 in 2016). The percentage of females who assisted another person increased to 13.4% in 2021, compared with 11.9% in 2016 (average of Victorian local government areas). The percentage of males who assisted another person also increased, rising to 9.15% in 2021, compared with 8.0% in 2016.

Gender Analysis

The burden of informal caring negatively affects the health, paid work, and social connection of carers, who are predominantly women. Carer health is influenced by: burden of hours (per week and over time), age and gender, socioeconomic status, relationship with the care recipient, and availability of a support network. Informal carers at particular risk of worse health outcomes include: women aged over 50, carers in rural/remote areas, and those caring for people with Alzheimer's disease, dementia and mental health conditions. The demands of caregiving may lead carers to reduce or restrict their social networks, to the detriment of their own support and wellbeing. Working age carers are more likely than non-carers to reduce their hours of work or exit from the labour force, and earn lower levels of income overall. Help/support for informal carers in Victoria:

- Carers Victoria (Phone: 1800 514 845 / Website: www.carersvictoria.org.au/)

Unpaid Assistance To A Person With A Disability - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	12.1%	8.1%	11.0%	7.6%	13.4%	9.1%	11.3%
2016	11.3%	7.6%	10.1%	6.8%	11.9%	8.0%	9.9%
2011	14.7%	9.7%	13.3%	8.9%	15.5%	10.4%	12.9%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons aged 15 years and over who provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, health condition or by reason of old age, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Unpaid assistance to a person by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Unpaid Domestic Work

The 2021 Census recorded the hours spent by Victoria's 3.3 million females on unpaid domestic work as follows: 0 hours (19.4%), 1-5 hours (12.4%), 5-14 hours (22.5%), 15-29 hours (13%) and 30 hours or more (10.7%). By contrast, the hours spent by Victoria's 3.2 million males in 2021 were: 0 hours (24.6%), 1-5 hours (20.4%), 5-14 hours (21.9%), 15-29 hours (6.2%), and 30 hours or more (2.8%). Across Victorian local government areas in 2021, an average of 26.3% of females spent 15 or more hours per week on unpaid domestic work, compared with 10.64% of males. The burden of unpaid domestic work reportedly increased for Australian households during the Covid-19 pandemic (Victoria was in lockdown when the 2021 Census was conducted). While the overall contribution of men increased, women shouldered most of the additional burden, therefore the gender gap in unpaid domestic work persisted.

Gender Analysis

Women are significantly over-represented in the unpaid economy, accounting for almost 67% of unpaid domestic work and three quarters of all unpaid work. Women spend more time in housework than men even when they are single and working full-time. Compared with men working full-time, women in full-time employment are twice as likely to do at least 15 hours of unpaid domestic work per week. The percentage of unpaid work done by women is not affected by the average income, education or relative advantage of the location in which the work is occurring, showing that regardless of personal circumstances, women continue to carry the overall burden for unpaid domestic work. Unpaid domestic and care work is associated with greater mental health burden and negative effects on quality of life..

Unpaid Domestic Work - % People who worked 15+ hours per week

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	20.8%	6.8%	20.6%	7.7%	26.3%	10.6%	18.5%
2016	21.2%	6.3%	20.5%	6.3%	26.7%	9.5%	18.1%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons aged 15 years and over who performed 15 hours or more of unpaid domestic work per week, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Unpaid domestic work by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons aged 15 years or over.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Need For Assistance With Core Activity

The Census measures the number of people with a profound or severe disability, using the definition 'people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas (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'. The 2021 Census recorded 382,070 Victorians needing assistance with daily activities (comprising 208,730 females and 173,340 males). The number of females needing assistance increased by 25.0% (up from 166,947 in 2016) and the number of males needing assistance increased by 25.6% (up from 137,988 in 2016).

Gender Analysis

Women with disabilities experience multiple, intersecting layers of disadvantage such as social exclusion, economic insecurity and high levels of violence and discrimination. Women with disabilities have reduced access to health information, screening, prevention, and care services. Women may often be excluded from decisions that affect their health care and treatment. This impacts mental and physical health and leads to greater unmet health needs than women without a disability. Women with disabilities experience all types of violence at higher rates, with increased severity and for longer than other women.

Help/support in Victoria for women with disabilities:

- Women With Disabilities Victoria (Website: www.wdv.org.au)

Need For Assistance With Core Activity - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	8.4%	7.0%	5.8%	4.8%	6.7%	5.9%	6.3%
2016	7.0%	5.8%	5.0%	4.2%	5.8%	5.2%	5.5%
2011	6.7%	5.8%	5.1%	4.2%	5.8%	5.2%	5.5%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons who have need for assistance with core activities divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Need for assistance with core activity by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Persons 75+ Years And Living Alone

In Victoria, females aged 75+ and living alone outnumber males by a ratio of 2.5 to 1. The 2021 Census recorded 133,061 Victorians aged 75+ and living alone (comprising 94,634 females and 38,427 males). The number of females aged 75+ and living alone increased by 16.5% (up from 81,230 in 2016), and the number of males increased by 24.0% (up from 30,984 in 2016). By sex, 3.6% of the female population in 2021 were aged 75+ years and living alone, compared with 1.7% of the male population (average of Victorian local government areas). The percentages increased for both sexes compared with 2016 (3.4% of the female population and 1.5% of the male population).

Gender Analysis

The gradually ageing population, combined with women's higher life expectancy, means the number of women aged 75+ and living alone will continue to grow. Living alone is a key risk factor for mental ill health, with 10% of people over 60 in Victoria experiencing chronic loneliness. Rising living costs, inability to access support services, loss of mobility and digital exclusion limit the ability of many older women to maintain independence in the community, driving them to move into residential care or to live with family members. Older women are more vulnerable than men to elder abuse, especially if they are care dependent, have cognitive impairment or another disability, are socially isolated, or have a prior history of traumatic life events. Social support and healthy relationships with family members are key protective factors for older people at risk of abuse or neglect.

Persons 75+ Years And Living Alone - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2021	2.1%	0.9%	1.9%	0.8%	3.6%	1.7%	2.6%
2016	1.8%	0.7%	1.7%	0.7%	3.4%	1.5%	2.4%
2011	1.7%	0.6%	1.9%	0.7%	3.5%	1.4%	2.5%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons who are aged 75+ who are living alone, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA.

Source/s:

ABS Census 2021. Census Table: Relationship in Household by Age by Sex by LGA, Population: Persons in occupied private dwellings.

Currency: 2021

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Transport

Access to both public or private transportation is essential for citizens to contribute to their community and reach their potential. Safe, reliable affordable transport is a key determinant of people's opportunities to access health services and programs, education and secure employment. Limitation in regards to transport is related to social isolation and also has a relationship with sedentary lifestyles.

Gender Analysis

Women's access to transport is important as fewer women drive and own cars than men and therefore are more likely to rely on public transport. Where families own one car, men are more likely to use that car to get to and from work, leaving women reliant on public transport. Limited public transport options and lack of access to private transport for women in rural and remote communities makes them vulnerable to social isolation and to control and abuse. Women also have primary caring responsibilities so safe and affordable transport for women and children becomes a key determinant of health.

Transport - % Experienced limitations

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2011	27.6%	26.5%	26.0%	24.2%	26.6%	24.2%	25.4%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage equals the number of persons who experienced transport limitations in a 12 month period, divided by the total persons of the corresponding sex of that LGA.

Source/s:

Community Indicators Victoria, Transport Limitations Indicator.

Currency: 2011

Link: <http://www.communityindicators.net.au/>

Index Of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an LGA. This indicator is not sex-disaggregated, but provides a ranking for each LGA. The index is a single broad measure based on sixteen indicators of relative disadvantage that are weighted individually. A low rank indicates greater disadvantage. A high rank indicates less disadvantage.

Gender Analysis

Women, lone parent households, people living alone and those who have a long-term health condition are more likely to experience multiple social and economic disadvantage. The experience of multiple disadvantage can have a compounding and persistent effect, reinforcing barriers to getting ahead and increasing the likelihood of other related problems later in life. Low income is the strongest indicator of disadvantage. Other indicators include joblessness, no Internet connection, low or no education, unskilled Women, lone parent households, people living alone and those who have a long-term health condition are more likely to experience multiple social and economic disadvantage. The experience of multiple disadvantage can have a compounding and persistent effect, reinforcing barriers to getting ahead and increasing the likelihood of other related problems later in life. Low income is the strongest indicator of disadvantage. Other indicators include (but are not limited to): joblessness, no Internet connection, low or no education, unskilled occupations, single parent status, needing assistance with daily living, having no car, and low English proficiency.

Index Of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage - Rank

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2016	3	3	43.7	43.7	40.7	40.7	40.7
2011	3	3	43.4	43.4	40.3	40.3	40.3

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

A general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area. Includes sixteen variables that measure disadvantage, each separately weighted. A low rank indicates greater disadvantage. Unincorporated Vic. (ranked 21 in 2016) is omitted.

Source/s:

2016 Census of Population and Housing, ABS. Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001.

Currency: 2016

Link: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

Poverty

Poverty means not having enough available income to afford life's necessities. The Victorian overall poverty rate (based on 2015-2016 data) is 13.2%, similar to the overall Australian rate of 13.1%. Higher poverty rates are associated with some demographic variables, including: lone person households (21%), private rental housing (21%), Aboriginal status (25%), unemployed status (35%), lone parent status (36%), and public housing (51%). By sex, an estimated 311,800 Victorian women (12.8%) are living in poverty, compared with 264,900 men (11.3%).

Gender Analysis

According to the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS), women comprise a majority of people aged 15 and over who are experiencing poverty. This is not only because women outnumber men in the population, but because women are more likely to live in poverty than men. Areas with ageing populations tend to have a higher proportion of women living in poverty. Poverty can lead to an inability to pay for food, shelter, clothing or healthcare, exclusion from social activities and/or severe stress from chronic insecurity.

Poverty - %

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2016	19.0%	15.0%	16.7%	14.6%	13.3%	12.0%	12.7%

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The percentage of persons aged 15 years and over, by sex, who live in households with disposable income of less than \$353.45 per week (after housing costs are taken into account), by LGA. NATSEM estimates are based on population figures rounded to the nearest 100.

Source/s:

Victorian Council of Social Service. Modelling based on the ABS Survey of Income and Housing 2015-2016.

Currency: 2016

Link: <https://vcoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Every-suburb-Every-town-Poverty-in-Victoria-VCOSS.pdf>

Homelessness

Specialist homelessness services (SHS) assist people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. In the financial year 2021-2022, Victorian SHS assisted 101,675 clients (60.2% female and 39.8% male). There were 61,206 female clients (down 5.5% from 64,749 the previous year) and 40,469 male clients (down 0.7% from 40,761 the previous year). Of the female clients, 21,490 (41.1%) were a lone parent with children. The Victorian rate of homelessness assistance (1 in 64 people) was higher than the national rate (1 in 94 people). By sex, the Victorian assistance rate was 91.6 per 10,000 persons for female clients compared with 63.2 per 10,000 persons for male clients (average of Victorian local government areas). Victorians aged under 35 make up the majority of those experiencing homelessness, however older women in particular are a fast-growing cohort. Among Victorian females, the leading reasons for seeking assistance are: family and domestic violence 55.7%, financial difficulties 42.6%, housing affordability stress 30%, housing crisis 29.4%, inadequate or inappropriate dwelling conditions 23.5%, relationship/family breakdown 18.2%, lack of family/community support 16.6%, and mental health issues 16.5%.

Gender Analysis

Homelessness can profoundly affect a person's mental and physical health, their education and employment opportunities, and their ability to fully participate in society. Key drivers of women's homelessness include: family and domestic violence, income inequality, lack of financial independence and lack of affordable housing (in particular for women on low incomes, older women, single mothers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women without permanent residency, and women with disabilities). Strategies to address women's homelessness include: investing in the primary prevention of violence against women, increasing investment in short-, medium- and long-term accommodation options to support women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and providing trauma-informed supports for women across service sectors (family violence response, emergency housing, and mental health services). A Parliamentary Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria was completed in 2021.

Help/support in Victoria for housing / homelessness:

- Opening Doors (Phone: 1800 825 955 – 24 hours)
- Housing Victoria (Website: www.housing.vic.gov.au/crisis-emergency-accommodation)
- Ask Izzy (Website: askizzy.org.au/)

Homelessness - Rate (per 10,000)

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	112.89	76.56	92.8	69.1	91.6	63.2	77.4
2021	118.54	77.02	94.6	66.7	92.9	65.1	79.0
2020	150.73	107.97	116.3	82.7	105.2	77.7	91.4
2019	158.09	100.92	111.8	77.3	104.9	75.3	90.1
2018	161.75	96.23	116.8	67.8	102.2	74.0	88.1

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The rate equals the number of clients assisted by specialist homelessness services (SHS), by LGA, in the year period July 2021 to June 2022, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA.

Source/s:

(1) Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC), 2022*; (2) ABS *Census 2021*.

Currency: Jul 2021 - Jun 2022

Link: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/about>

Homelessness - Number of clients

Time Period	Brimbank		Metro West Region Average		Victoria State LGA Average		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	All
2022	2197	1490	1,559.0	1,115.4	673.4	469.4	571.4
2021	2307	1499	1,563.9	1,063.0	701.7	475.7	588.7
2020	2929	2098	1,686.4	1,182.1	730.4	519.1	624.7
2019	3072	1961	1,634.4	1,097.6	730.4	507.7	619.0
2018	3143	1870	1,703.4	959.7	722.8	481.3	602.0

NB: The notes below are for the latest time period in the table.

For notes applying to earlier time periods, please refer to the relevant map/s in the online Atlas.

Data processing:

The number of clients assisted by specialist homelessness services (SHS), by LGA, in the year period July 2021 to June 2022.

Source/s:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC), 2022.

Currency: Jul 2021 - Jun 2022

Link: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/about>

