



Transport



Main findings

- More men than women hold open driver's licences in Queensland.
- Over 62% of members of Queensland Transport's Taxi Subsidy Scheme are women.

Photo courtesy of QFleet, Department of Public Works.



Transport



Being able to get around safely and affordably is important, enhancing women's well-being and social connectedness.

Introduction

For women in Queensland, access to affordable, convenient and easily accessible transport is important as it allows them to participate in community activities and access essential services. As well, social interaction and social connectedness help them to maintain health and wellbeing (see chapter "Housing").

In Queensland, the private car is the most usual means of transport. In South-East Queensland, public transport carries only 7% of total trips.

Women have, on average, lower incomes than men. They may be less able to afford to buy and run a car, or live in an area well serviced by public transport (see chapters "Financial security" and "Work"). Lower incomes might also be expected to lead to higher rates of walking and cycling. Recent surveys indicate that women walk slightly more often than men on average, but cycle far less often (see chapter "Sport").¹

A safe and secure public transport system is vital to enhance mobility for those women who cannot drive.

There is little reliable data collected on a gender basis, or at a state level, with regard to patterns of use of public transport.²

Public transport will play an even greater role in providing urban accessibility as Queensland's population ages.

Road user safety will also become a more significant issue as the number of older women drivers and pedestrians increases. How older women assess their driving ability, make decisions about whether to continue to drive and adjust to life without a car are all significant matters to be faced.

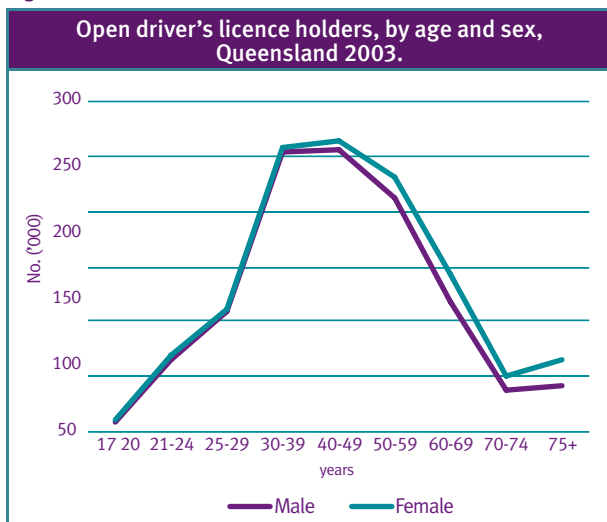
A 1999 survey of older people in New South Wales found significant differences between the sexes in the transport modes used. Men used a car as a driver nearly twice as often as women. Women were more likely to be a passenger in a car or use buses, taxis and community transport.³

Recent studies suggest that older females now travel a greater distance per day than in the past, although their average number of daily trips, as drivers, remains well below those of males.⁴

Licences

In all age groups, more men (52.2%) than women (47.8%) hold open driver's licences in Queensland. The proportion of older Queenslanders with a driver's licence will continue to increase, particularly for older women.

Figure 21



Source: Queensland Transport, unpublished data, August 2003.

The greater differences between males and females in the older age groups tell us that this gap is probably decreasing over time, especially as there are more older women than older men.

References

- ¹ Dyer, T., 13 November 2003. A/Manager, Data Analysis Unit, Queensland Transport. Personal communication.
- ² Silajeu, A. Queensland Transport, Safe Mobility for All, For Life program, personal communication, 3 October 2003.
- ³ NSW Health Department, 1999. NSW Older People's Health Survey, Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch.
- ⁴ VicRoads, 2003. Submission to Inquiry into Road Safety for Older Users.