

Office for Women Statistical Snapshot





Profile: Queensland Women 2008 – a statistical snapshot

Queensland women have come a long way in recent years. There is no denying that women are shaping the Smart State.

But just as women and girls are constantly transforming the future and the world around them, the issues and concerns they face also change.

Profile: Queensland women – a statistical snapshot provides a wealth of information and hard data on women's health, economic security, work-life balance, safety and leadership.

Incorporating data from the 2006 census, this snapshot provides an update of some key profiling statistics.

It provides a benchmark to measure the achievements and successes of government and industry. It also highlights the areas where improvements are still needed to address existing and emerging inequity and under-representation.

In the past four years women have made great leaps in leadership, taking on more and more of the top jobs.

Women's workforce participation has also increased, yet the stereotype of traditional male and female roles still lives on with women over-represented in the traditional and lower-paid industries. Women also are the vast majority of non-paid carers.

Rising housing costs are impacting on women's lives, particularly sole parents.

Promisingly, women's physical health has improved, however psychological issues and violence against women remains a problem.

Equipped with this knowledge—government, industry and the community can work towards better meeting the needs of women.

This snapshot is an excellent measure of the issues facing women today. Let us use it to work towards truly benefiting women's lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Keech".

Margaret Keech MP

Minister for Child Safety and
Minister for Women



Demographics

After an extended period of decline, Queensland's fertility rate began increasing in 2003. Although increases in fertility are often associated with women giving birth at younger ages, this has not been the case in Queensland, with the median age of women giving birth continuing to increase. Childbirth and motherhood impact on many areas of women's lives. Over time, we may see links between increasing fertility rates and women's workforce participation, earnings and long-term financial security.

Population^{1 2 3}

	2003	2007
Queensland's female population	1,911,048	2,093,167 (P)
Queensland's male population	1,898,516	2,088,895 (P)
Median age of Queensland women	36.2	36.8 (P)
Median age of Queensland men	34.9	35.6 (P)
Indigenous women's population	66,985	72,342
Indigenous men's population	64,317	69,991
Median age of Queensland Indigenous women (years)	21.7	22.3

Life Expectancy⁴

	2003	2006
Life expectancy for Queensland females (years)	82.8	83.4
Life expectancy for Queensland males (years)	77.6	78.5

Language⁵

	2001	2006
Number of Queensland women who speak a language other than English at home	131,425	159,034

Birth / Fertility⁶

	2003	2006
Median age of women giving birth (years)	29.7	30.0
Number of births per Queensland woman (fertility rate)	1.77	1.83
Number of births per 1000 women aged 15-19 years (teenage fertility rate)	21.4	19.7
Number of births per 1000 Indigenous women aged 15-19 years (Indigenous teenage fertility rate)	76.6	60.9

Leadership

Women continue to be under-represented in leadership positions, but they fare better in government than in the private sector. The Queensland Government actively implements a “Women on Boards” program to promote gender equality in new appointments to government boards.

Queensland Public Service⁷	2003	2007
% of senior positions in state public service held by women:		
Chief executive officers	16.7	29.2
Senior executive service	19.7	23.3
Senior officers	28.8	36.1
Governments^{8 9}	2004	2006
Queensland Legislative Assembly – % who are women	33.7	34.8
	2004	2008
Queensland mayors – % who are women	17	14.9
Queensland local government councillors – % who are women	30	36.1
Business leadership^{10 11}	2003	2006
% of women on Queensland Government boards	32.65	33.97
% of women on ASX200 private sector boards (Australia-wide)	8.4	8.7
Number of female chief executive officers of ASX200 companies (Australia-wide)	5	6
Number of female executive managers of ASX200 companies (Australia-wide)	138 (8.8%)	222 (12%)
The judiciary¹²	2004	2006
% of Queensland judiciary who are women:		
Supreme Court	29.2	32.0
District Court	13.2	16.7
Magistrates Court	25.6	31.0

Economic security

Women spend less time in the paid workforce than men, being more likely to work part-time or casually and have interrupted career patterns due to childbirth or caring responsibilities. They tend to be concentrated in lower-paid occupations and industries and are less likely to be paid overtime than men. As a result, the gap between male and female pay is persistently wide. The exact size depends on the calculation method: comparing weekly, full time ordinary time earnings excludes differences associated with part-time and casual work and overtime and therefore results in a smaller gap than comparing actual total earnings.

The pay gap has long-term financial security implications, compounded by the fact that women live longer than men. In 2003-04, the average superannuation balance for Australian men was \$44,500, compared to \$18,700 for women. In the 60-64 years age group, women held an average of \$36,600 in superannuation while men held an average of \$108,400.¹³

Gender pay gap^{14 15}	2004	2007
Women's total earnings as a % of men's total earnings	65.1	65.8
Full time women's weekly ordinary time earnings as a % of full time men's weekly ordinary time earnings (excludes overtime)	86.2	84.9

Workforce participation

As women's workforce participation increases, so does their presence in many industry sectors. Nonetheless, women remain under-represented in a number of industries, in particular mining, construction, electricity, gas, water and waste services, transport, postal and warehousing and manufacturing. They are over-represented most noticeably in health care and social assistance and education and training. This occupational segregation is linked to the gender pay gap, as some industries where women are over-represented are lower-paid, and vice versa.

Women still make up the vast majority of carers, and many take on an unpaid caring role at the expense of paid work, to their personal financial detriment. The good news is that use of flexible work arrangements has increased, and underemployment has decreased.

Participation and part-time work¹⁶	2004	2007
% of Queensland women in the workforce (female participation rate)	57.3	60.6
% of Queensland men in the workforce (male participation rate)	72.5	74.0
% of employed Queensland women who work part-time	44.9	43.3
% of employed Queensland men who work part-time	14.0	13.9
Indigenous status and unemployment¹⁷	2001	2006
% of Queensland Indigenous women who are unemployed	18.1	13.8
Underemployment¹⁸	2003	2006
% of part time female workers who would prefer to work more hours (female underemployment rate)	22.2	16.8
% of part time male workers who would prefer to work more hours (male underemployment rate)	29.6	26.5
Industry¹⁹	2001	2006
% of workforce who are women by industry of employment:		
Mining	11.5	13.3
Construction	14.4	14.4
Transport, postal and warehousing	23.8	23.9
Manufacturing	25.4	24.1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	31.2	32.8
Public administration and safety	39.0	42.5
Information media and telecommunications	42.6	43.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	46.4	47.8
Arts and recreation services	46.1	49.3
Administrative and support services	51.7	52.2
Retail trade	56.7	58.1
Financial and insurance services	60.4	58.8
Accommodation and food services	57.6	59.2
Education and training	69.0	71.0
Health care and social assistance	78.5	78.8
Flexible work arrangements²⁰	2002	2005
% of employed mothers who use flexible work arrangements to meet family responsibilities	67.9	73.0
% of employed fathers who use flexible work arrangements to meet family responsibilities	28.8	33.0
Education and training^{21 22}	2003	2007
% of trainees and apprentices-in-training who are women	35.4	30.7
% of bachelor degree, graduate diploma, graduate certificate, advanced diploma or diploma holders, who are women	56.2	58.5
% of postgraduate degree holders who are women	43.6	42.9

Housing

Rising housing costs are having a profound impact on the economic security of Queensland women, and particularly those who are sole parents or head a household.

Housing²³	2002	2007
% of sole parent women who pay more than 30% of income on rent	19	31.3
% of sole parent men who pay more than 30% of income on rent	21.6	26.4
% of single women who pay more than 30% of income on rent	46.8	48.3
Homelessness²⁴	2003	2006
% of Supported Accommodation Assistance Program clients who are women	52.2	53.7
% of public housing applicant households where a woman is the joint or sole head of the household	60.0	72.0

Health and safety

Queensland women's physical health has improved in the last decade. Breast and cervical cancer death and incidence rates have continued to fall, coinciding with continued uptake of preventative screening programs. However, the incidence of psychological health issues amongst women has increased.

Violence against women remains a significant and increasing problem. In 2005, 267,200 Queensland women reported having experienced violence from a previous partner since the age of 15.²⁵ Housing costs, homelessness and availability of emergency supported accommodation all play an important role in a woman's ability to escape violence, as do education and income.

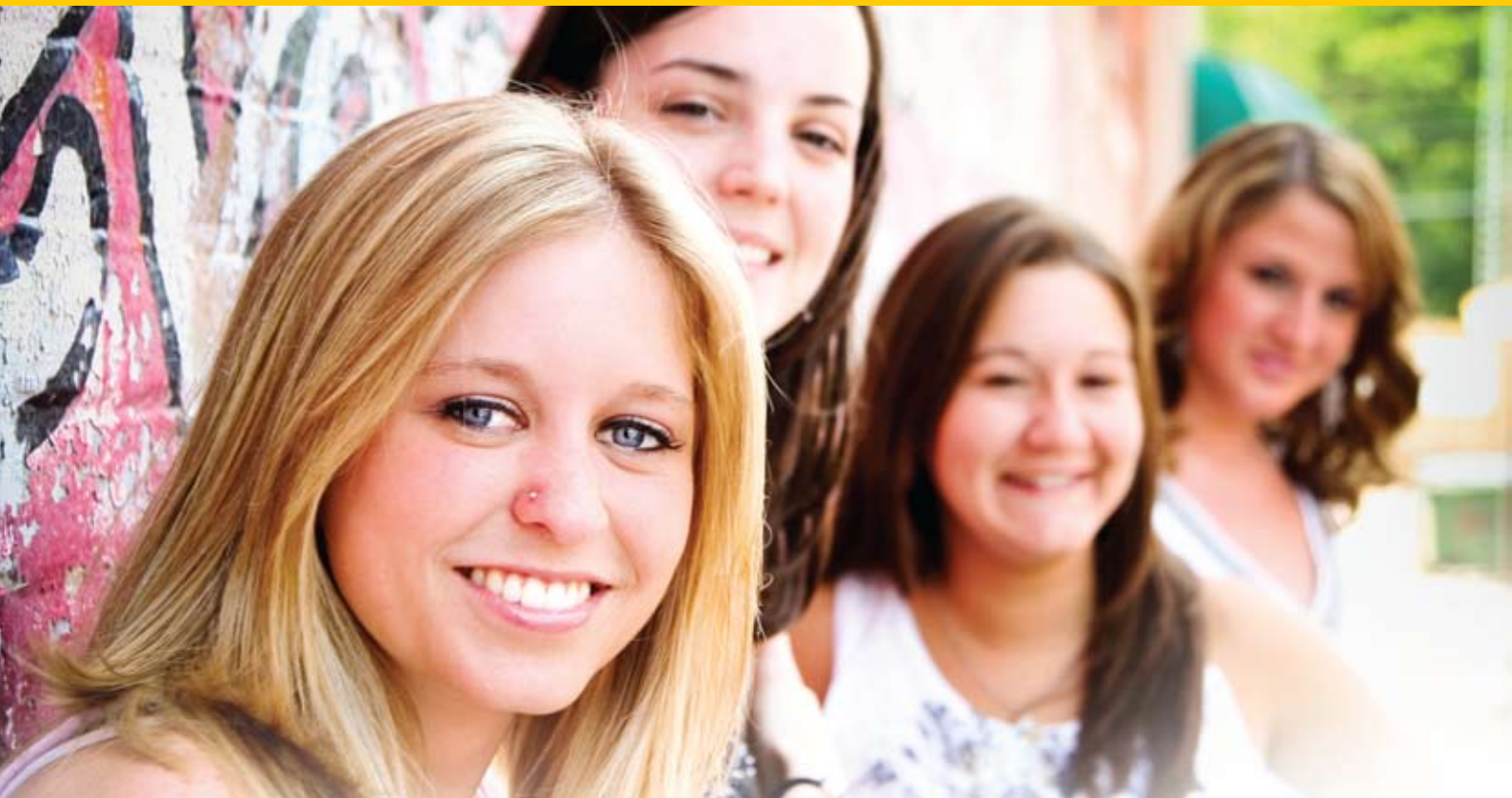
General health²⁶	2001	2005
% of women considered to be overweight or obese	41.3	39.1
% of women aged more than 18 years who are daily smokers	20.9	18.4
% of women whose level of exercise is sedentary or low level	73.7	72.1
Psychological health^{27 28 29}	2001	2005
% of women who suffer high or very high levels of psychological distress	13.8	16.4
Female suicide rate (suicides per 100,000 women)	5.1	4.9
Male suicide rate (suicides per 100,000 men)	22.5	18.1
Cancer incidence rates³⁰	2001	2004
Incidence rate of cervical cancer (cases per 100,000 women)	8.4	7.3
Incidence rate of breast cancer (cases per 100,000 women)	120.5	112.6
Cancer death rates³¹	2001	2005
Death rate for breast cancer (deaths per 100,000 women)	26.0	24.6
Death rate for cervical cancer (deaths per 100,000 women)	2.8	1.9
Safety^{32 33}	2002	2007
Number of sexual assaults (including rape) against women reported to police	3,398	3,979
	1996	2005
Number and % of Australian women who reported experiencing violence (physical and sexual) from a previous partner since age 15	1,080,800 (15.7%)	1,129,300 (14.7%)
Number and % of Australian women who reported experiencing violence (physical and sexual) from a previous partner in the past 12 months	83,800 (1.2%)	70,800 (0.9%)

P = preliminary data

The information included in this Snapshot has been sourced and verified by the Queensland Government's Office for Economic and Statistical Research. The choice of indicators included in the Snapshot has been influenced by the availability of new and accurate data.

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About the Office for Women

The Office for Women is part of the Queensland Government and plays a central role in carrying out the government's vision for the women of Queensland.

Through our policy work and program delivery, we aim to promote and encourage the rights of all Queensland women – across cultures, socio-economic backgrounds and age groups.

At the core of our work is the ongoing challenge to remove the barriers that stop women fully participating in society.

We are focussed on women:

- participating in leadership, decision making and community building
- achieving economic security
- balancing their work, family and lifestyle
- being safe
- having improved health and well-being.

How you can find out more

Women's Infolink

Women's Infolink provides an information and referral service about health, safety, financial security and equity issues for Queensland women. It offers information about Office for Women programs, seminars, events, grants, fact sheets and publications. **1800 177 577. Telephone Interpreter Service 13 14 50, TTY (07) 3877 8226**

Find a Service database

Our 'Find a Service' online, searchable database ensures that women always have access to the information and services they need, whether in times of crisis or in everyday life. **www.women.qld.gov.au**

Office for Women website

Visit our website for further information, to view upcoming events and to order publications. **www.women.qld.gov.au**