

City of Greater Bendigo Older Person Profile

Introduction

The City of Greater Bendigo Older Person Profile provides a snapshot of the key trends and indicators relating to the ageing population of Greater Bendigo. In particular, the profile provides an overview of key demographic data, such as current population, population forecasts, disadvantage, and the profiles of households.

This profile represents a snapshot of key indicators of the following age cohorts which represent the broad stage of life groups:

- Older workers and pre-retirees (50-59)
- Empty nesters and retirees (60-69)
- Seniors (70-84)
- Elderly aged (85 and over).

The profile is based on the most recent publically available data for each indicator from a range of government agencies and other organisations, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Department of Education, City of Greater Bendigo, the Public Health Information Development Unit, and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. All demographic statistics referring to numbers/percentages of residents are either usual residents or estimated residential population data, unless otherwise stated. Where possible, all Greater Bendigo statistics are compared to Victorian equivalents.

Key & Emerging Themes

The profile illustrates that Greater Bendigo has a higher proportion of older adults aged 65 years and over (17.8%) than Victoria (15.6%), and that this age group is predicted to grow in numbers over the next two decades.

The largest changes in age structure between 2011 and 2016 were in the age group of 65 to 69 (+1,743 persons).

By 2036 the forecast number of older people in Greater Bendigo remains consistently at 37% of the overall population however the age cohort is older, with the number of seniors (70-84) increasing by 18,298 people and the number of elderly aged (85 and over) increasing by 4,037.

Life expectancy in Greater Bendigo is below the Victorian average with females on average living to 80.6 years and males to 78.7 compared to 84.4 and 80.3 respectively.

Greater Bendigo's Population in 2016

In 2016, overall 17.8% of Greater Bendigo's population was aged 65 years or more, however it is of note that this varied across the municipality. Proportions ranged from a low of 9.3% in Huntly to a high of 30.6% in Heathcote and District. The five areas with the highest percentage per population were:

- Heathcote and District (30.6%)
- Kennington (23.9%)
- Strathdale (23.9%)
- Kangaroo Flat - Big Hill (23.4%)
- East Bendigo (22.4%)

Greater Bendigo Population's in 2036

Greater Bendigo has undergone significant growth in recent years and is forecast to grow significantly over the next two decades. Some suburbs are projected to grow more than others, with some suburbs more than doubling their population.

- Greater Bendigo's population is forecast to be 155,596 by 2036, representing an average annual growth rate of 1.9% over the 20 years between 2016 and 2036, or an additional 43,813 residents during this period. This is slightly higher than Victoria's projected average annual growth rate of 1.86% over this period.
- The suburb forecast to grow the most by 2036 is Huntly with a 190.5% increase in population, and the suburb forecast to grow the least by 2036 is Long Gully-West Bendigo- Ironbark with only a 5.7% increase in population.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

In 2016, residents with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage accounted for 1.7% of the total population, or 1,847 people. This figure is higher than the Victorian average of 0.8%. Of that 1,847 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander population in Greater Bendigo, 0.5% is over 65 years of age, or 87 people, slightly higher than Victoria at 0.3%.

Indigenous Australians continue to face disadvantage in areas of education, income, employment, and housing. The relationship between these social determinants and both mental and physical health is well established. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can access the Commonwealth Home Support Programme from the aged of 50.

Multiculturalism

In 2016, 8.0% of people in Greater Bendigo were born overseas. The top four countries for those born overseas and 65 years old or more were England (800 residents), Netherlands (161), Scotland (160) and Germany (151).

Care and Assistance

In 2016 12.9% of Greater Bendigo residents provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, slightly higher than Victoria at 11.6%. Females were more likely to provide this care at 55.3% than males at 44.4%.

In 2016, 17.5% of residents aged 65 and over required assistance with core activities, lower than Victoria with 19.7%.

Older Adult Population Forecasts

Over recent years the population of older people in Greater Bendigo has steadily grown and is forecast to continue to grow over the next two decades.

- By 2036, Greater Bendigo's population of seniors (70-84) is expected to have the second largest population growth with an additional 7925 people, empty nesters and retirees (60-69) an additional 3,655 and elderly aged (85 and over) and additional 1,379 people.
- Whilst the percentage of older adults per population fluctuates with the different age segments, overall the percentage of 60+ persons in 2036 remains consistent with 2016 percentages.

Disadvantage in Greater Bendigo

Like other communities in Australia, Greater Bendigo has diverse levels of disadvantage with some suburbs more advantaged than others, and in some areas significant numbers of households experience housing stress.

- In 2016, the most disadvantaged suburb in Greater Bendigo was Long Gully-West Bendigo-Ironbark with a SEIFA score of 855.2, making it more disadvantaged than Greater Bendigo overall with 981, and Victoria with 1010. While the least disadvantaged suburb is Strathfieldsaye with a SEIFA score of 1083.8, making it less disadvantaged than Victoria and Greater Bendigo.
- In 2016, 10.8% of households were living in housing stress, slightly higher than the Victorian average of 11.4%. The suburb with the highest level of housing stress is North Bendigo-California Gully with 16.3%, and the suburb with the lowest level of housing stress is Rural East with 4.2%.

Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing is a priority for many people, as without good health it is difficult to live a full life. Health is more than being free from sickness or disease - it is a state of physical, mental and social wellbeing. Many aspects in life impact on a person's health, including income, housing, education, diet, lifestyle, connectedness to family and community, and safety. Health and wellbeing indicators for older adults in Greater Bendigo illustrate a varied picture of health and wellbeing across the municipality.

- In Greater Bendigo both female and male life expectancy is lower than Victorian averages at 78.7 years for males and 83.6 years for females, compared to 80.3 and 84.4 respectively.
- Social isolation is a key factor in this with an increasing amount of older people living alone, with 29.6% of those aged 65 and over living alone, higher than Victoria at 26.8%
- Home ownership rates increase as age increases, with 86.5% of those aged 65 and over owning their home, and 12% renting. These are both higher than Victoria with 86.3% owning their home and 11.2% renting.
- People drawing the 65+ Aged Pension is at 70.5% in Greater Bendigo, higher than the Victorian average of 64.7%.
- The median individual weekly income of those aged 65 and over is \$440, slightly higher than the Victorian average of \$437.
- Rates of unpaid volunteering work climbs with age, with 25.7% of those aged over 65 volunteering at least once a week, significantly higher than the 20.5% of wider Victoria.

Aged Care Act 1997

The Aged Care Act provides for the Commonwealth to give financial support for the provision of aged care services, promote high quality care and protect the health and wellbeing of recipients.

Commonwealth Home Support Programme

Funded by the Australian Government, the Commonwealth Home Support Programme provides a range of entry-level aged care services for older people who need assistance to keep living independently at home and in their community.

The City of Greater Bendigo is one of the service providers who deliver care and services through the program.

The aim is to help older people live as independently as possible — *with a focus on working with you, rather than doing for you*. It is about building on strengths and abilities to help them remain living independently and safely at home.

The program is for people aged 65 years and over (50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people).

Global trends in population ageing and the living arrangements of older persons

The global population aged 60 years or over numbered was 962 million in 2017, more than twice as large as in 1980 when there were 382 million older persons worldwide. The number of older persons is expected to double again by 2050, when it is projected to reach nearly 2.1 billion.

City of Greater Bendigo Seniors Data Profile

This data profile represents a snapshot of key indicators of the 65 and over age group (positive ageing) population of Greater Bendigo.

This data snapshot is based on the most recent publically available data for each measure from a range of government departments and agencies. All demographic figures referring to numbers/percentages of residents are either usual residents or estimated residential population data, unless otherwise stated. All Greater Bendigo statistics are compared where possible to Victorian data.

Category	Indicator	CoGB Measure	Vic Measure
Greater Bendigo Profile			
Greater Bendigo Population Demographics (ABS 2016 Census of Population & Housing – Usual Residents)¹	Total population	110,477	5,926,637
	Change in population 2011 to 2016	9,866 increase	572,614 increase
	Average annual growth rate between 2011 and 2016	+1.96% per annum	+2.1% per annum
	Population of residents with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage	1,847	47,788
	Percentage of residents with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage	1.7%	0.8%
	Proportion born overseas	8.0%	28.3%
	Proportion from non-English speaking background	4.6%	21.9%
	Proportion who require assistance with core activities	5.9%	5.1%
Population Forecasts 2036 (Estimated)	Proportion aged 15+ who provide unpaid assistance to a person with disability, long term illness or old age	12.9%	11.6%
	Population forecast for 2036	155,596	8,298,936
	Change in population 2016 to 2036	43,813 increase	+2,372,289

¹ Atlas id, *City of Greater Bendigo Social Atlas*, ABS Census of Population & Housing, 2016: <http://atlas.id.com.au/bendigo> and Profile Id, *City of Greater Bendigo Community Profile*, ABS Census of Population & Housing, 2016: <http://profile.id.com.au/bendigo> and ABS, Census of Population and Housing 2016, Cat 2071.0, *Stories from the Census 2016, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population*: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/2071.0~2016~Main%20Features~Aboriginal%20and%20Torres%20Strait%20Islander%20Population%20Data%20Summary~10>

Category	Indicator	CoGB Measure	Vic Measure
Residential Population) ²			increase
	Average annual growth rate between 2016 and 2036	+1.9% per annum	+1.86% per annum
	Suburb forecast to grow the most by 2036	Huntly: +190.5% increase	--
	Suburb forecast to grow the least by 2036	Long Gully – West Bendigo – Ironbark: +5.7% increase	--
Advantage and Disadvantage ³	Level of relative disadvantage (SEIFA) in 2016	981	1010
	Most disadvantaged suburb (SEIFA) in 2016	Long Gully / West Bendigo / Ironbark: 855.2	--
	Most advantaged suburb (SEIFA) in 2016	Strathfieldsaye: 1083.8	--
	Number of households in housing stress in 2016 (Enumerated)	5,232	255,657
	Percentage of households in housing stress in 2016 (Enumerated)	11.9%	11.4%
	Suburb with the highest level of housing stress in 2016	North Bendigo /California Gully: 16.3%	--
	Suburb with the lowest level of housing stress in 2016	Rural East: 4.2%	--

² Forecast id, *City of Greater Bendigo, Population Forecasts*, 2017: <http://forecast.id.com.au/bendigo> and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, *Victoria in the Future 2016, Major Regions ERP Five Year Age Groups and Sex 2011 to 2051*: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/land-use-and-population-research/victoria-in-future-2016/victoria-in-future-data-tables>

³ Atlas id, *City of Greater Bendigo Social Atlas*, ABS Census of Population & Housing, 2011 & 2016: <http://atlas.id.com.au/bendigo> and Profile Id, *City of Greater Bendigo Community Profile*, ABS Census of Population & Housing, 2011 & 2016: <http://profile.id.com.au/bendigo>

Older Adults in Greater Bendigo (ABS 2016 Census – Enumerated and Usual Residents)	Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	13.1% 14,469	12.4%
	Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	11.8% 13,030	10.3%
	Seniors (70 to 84)	9.6% 10,637	8.5%
	Elderly aged (85 and over)	2.5% 2733	2.2%
	Percentage of residents with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage aged 65+ ⁴	0.5%	0.3%
	Life expectancy for males aged 65+ ⁵	78.7	80.3
	Life expectancy for females aged 65+	83.6	84.4
	Lone person households (65+)	10.8%	9.2%
	Median individual weekly incomes (inc. nil and negative) ⁶	\$440	\$437
	Volunteers (65+) ⁷	25.7%	20.5%
	Aged Pensions ⁸ ration persons aged 65+	70.5	64.7
Need for assistance with core activities⁹	65-69 years	7.8%	7.8%
	70-74 years	10.0%	10.7%
	75-79 years	13.3%	16.8%
	80-84 years	21.6%	27.5%
	85+ years	41.7%	47.0%
Provide unpaid	65 years or more	11.7%	11.9%

⁴ City of Greater Dandenong, 2014 *Statistical Data for Victorian Municipalities*
<http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/18464/statistical-data-for-victorian-communities>

⁵ Health.vic <https://bit.ly/2wiiHtE>

⁶ City of Greater Dandenong, 2014 *Statistical Data for Victorian Municipalities*, , <https://bit.ly/1mpkOO2>

⁷ Profile ID <https://bit.ly/2W14ooq>

⁸ DSS datasets: <https://bit.ly/2JzbsC9>

⁹ Profile ID <https://bit.ly/2EFKncr>

assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age¹⁰	80 years or more	8.4%	7.7%
Home ownership (65+)¹¹	Owned/Being purchased	86.5%	86.3%
	Rented	12.0%	11.2%
	Other	1.6%	2.5%
Education and Qualifications (65+)¹²	School Attainment (65+) ¹³ Less than year 11	63.7%	56.1%
	School Attainment (65+) ¹⁴ Year 11-12	36.3%	43.9%
	Degree	7.7%	10.3%
	Other	23.6%	21.8%
	No Post-school Qualification/Not stated/Overseas visitor	68.7%	67.9%
Employment status (65+)¹⁵	Employed	11.4%	13.5%
Older Adults in Greater Bendigo estimated population forecast for 2036¹⁶	Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59)	11.7%	
	Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	10.5%	
	Seniors (70 to 84)	11.8%	
	Elderly aged (85 and over)	2.6%	

¹⁰ Profile ID <https://bit.ly/2EFKncr>

¹¹ Profile ID <https://bit.ly/2K1bG4a>

¹² City of Greater Dandenong, 2014 *Statistical Data for Victorian Municipalities*, <https://bit.ly/1mpkOO2>

¹³ City of Greater Dandenong, 2014 *Statistical Data for Victorian Municipalities*, <https://bit.ly/1mpkOO2>

¹⁴ City of Greater Dandenong, 2014 *Statistical Data for Victorian Municipalities*, <https://bit.ly/1mpkOO2>

¹⁵ City of Greater Dandenong, 2014 *Statistical Data for Victorian Municipalities*

<http://www.greaterdandenong.com/document/18464/statistical-data-for-victorian-communities>

¹⁶ Forecast ID <https://forecast.id.com.au/bendigo/population-age-structure>

Appendix A¹⁷

People aged 65 years and over, 2016			
City of Greater Bendigo - Usual residence			
Area	Number	Total population	Percent %
Bendigo	947	5,565	17.0
Eaglehawk - Eaglehawk North - Sailors Gully	1,182	6,367	18.6
East Bendigo	475	2,121	22.4
Elmore - Rural North	641	3,455	18.5
Epsom - Ascot	631	6,146	10.3
Flora Hill - Quarry Hill - Spring Gully - Golden Gully	1,425	9,493	15.0
Golden Square	1,766	8,864	19.9
Heathcote and District	1,194	3,902	30.6
Huntly	228	2,467	9.3
Kangaroo Flat - Big Hill	2,501	10,671	23.4
Kennington	1,353	5,670	23.9
Long Gully - West Bendigo - Ironbark	891	4,860	18.3
Maiden Gully	483	5,052	9.6
Marong - Rural West	566	4,497	12.6
North Bendigo - California Gully	1,719	8,434	20.4
Rural East	1,201	7,598	15.8
Strathdale	1,360	5,703	23.9
Strathfieldsaye	580	5,436	10.7
White Hills - Jackass Flat	573	4,269	13.4
City of Greater Bendigo	19,662	110,473	17.8
Regional VIC	292,464	1,433,805	20.4

¹⁷ Social ID <https://atlas.id.com.au/bendigo>

Sources

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- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Older Australia at a glance* : <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/population-groups/older-people/overview>