

## **DEMOGRAPHIC SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF THE ACT**

Source: ABS releases including ACT in focus 2006

The demographic data in this overview is not based on the ERP data released on 5 June 2007 nor the revised (composite estimation) labour force figures released on 7 June 2007.

### **GEOGRAPHICAL AREA**

The Australian Capital Region (ACR) comprises the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), the South Eastern Statistical Division (SD) and Tumut Shire (A) Statistical Local Area (SLA) of New South Wales.

As at 30 June 2006, the ACR covered a total area of 54,815.4 km<sup>2</sup>, with an estimated resident population of 541,659 people. It had a population density of 9.9 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

More than two-thirds (68%) of the people within the ACR live in the Canberra-Queanbeyan Statistical District (SD), with the total area of 3,885.7 km<sup>2</sup> (7% of the total area of the ACR) and with a population density of 95.1 persons per km<sup>2</sup>.

Of all SLAs within the ACR, Upper Lachlan (A) covered the largest area at 7,101.5 km<sup>2</sup> (13% of the total ACR). This was followed by Bega Valley (A) (6,277.6 km<sup>2</sup>, or 11.5%) and Snowy River (A) (6,029.2 km<sup>2</sup>, or 11%). Oakes Estate had the smallest area with 0.4 km<sup>2</sup>.

Braddon was the most densely populated SLA within the ACR, with 3,046.5 people per km<sup>2</sup>. Palmerston followed with 2994.4 people per km<sup>2</sup>. The Remainder of the ACT (SLA) and the Belconnen-SSD Balance (the non urban part of Belconnen) were the least densely populated SLAs within the ACR, each 0.2 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

#### **Population**

The estimated resident population of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is 329,515 people (Sep 2006 figure). The annual growth rate of 0.9% was higher than the ACT' average annual growth rate of 0.6% for the five years to June 2006.

#### **Age structure.**

There are a number of differences between the age distribution of the ACT and that of the rest of the ACR. The ACT has proportionately fewer people aged less than 15 years or over 55 years, but proportionately more people aged between 16 and 37 years when compared with the rest of the ACR. The largest differences between the ACT population and the rest of the ACR exist for young adults aged 19-30 years. This is associated with tertiary students studying within the ACT, as well as other young adults coming to the ACT to take up employment opportunities.

There were 165,809 females (50.4%) and 163,008 males (49.6%) in the ACT at June 2006. The age group with the largest number of people was the 20-24 year olds with 28,406 people (8.6%). This is associated with tertiary students studying within the ACT, as well as other young adults coming to the ACT to take up employment opportunities. The next largest age group was 25-29 year olds (26,275), followed by 30-34 year olds (25,174).

At June 2005 6, the median age of the ACT population was 34.7 years, 2.2 years younger than the median age of Australia's population (36.9 years). The ACT had the second lowest median age of all states and territories, behind the Northern Territory at 30.0 years.

The median age of males in the ACT at June 2006 was 33.8 years, 1.8 years lower than the median age of females (35.6 years).

The ACT population between 1986 and 2006 changed in that in, 1986 there were proportionally more people aged under 40 years in the ACT compared to 2006.

### **Births**

There were 4,505 births registered to mothers usually resident in the ACT during the year ending September 2006. In 2005, of 4,206 babies, 2,127 (50.6%) were boys and 2,079 (49.5 %) were girls.

During year ending June 2006, the total fertility rate for the ACT was 1.72 births per woman, well below the national rate of 1.83 births per woman. In 2005 the highest fertility rates within the ACT were in Young (2.38 births per woman), Bombala (2.29) and Tumut Shire (2.28). With the exception of 1991, the TFR for the ACT has been below the national rate since 1981.

## **MIGRATION**

### **Overseas migration**

During the year ending June 2006, the ACT was the only jurisdiction to lose people (113) through net overseas migration. This was the first time since the year ending June 2000 that the ACT recorded negative net overseas migration.

### **Interstate migration**

Net interstate migration for the ACT tends to be quite volatile due to its highly mobile and relatively small population. During year ending June 2006, the ACT experienced a net interstate migration gain of 272 persons. This represents the second annual gain from net interstate migration for the ACT since 1992-93. The other was during 2000-01.

## **THE LABOUR MARKET<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> ABS 6202.0.055.001 Labour Force, February 2007

### **Employed people**

At April 2007, there were, in trend terms, an estimated 187,300 people employed in the ACT. This was nearly 3,200 people or 1.7% more than at April 2006 (184,100).

At April 2007, 52.6% of these employed people were male and 47.4% were female. Of the total persons employed, 74.9 % (140,300) worked full-time and 25.1% (47,000) worked part-time.

Some 83.9 percent of employed males in the ACT worked full-time compared with 65.1% of employed females. The number of females employed part-time (31,000) was just under twice the number of males employed part-time (15,900).

Government administration and defence sector employed most people (46,900), followed by property and business services (25,500) and retail trade (21,000)

### **Unemployment rate**

Current ACT unemployment rate is 3.4 per cent (April 2007), in comparison with the national average of 4.5%. It is the fourth lowest after the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia.

### **Wages**

The February 2007 average weekly overtime earnings (AWOTE) in the ACT for all fulltime adult employees was \$1,294.80; \$179 or 14% higher than the national average weekly wage.

The 2005-06 Gross Household disposable income per capita is at \$45,400, which is around 55 per cent higher than the national average.

### **Participation rates**

The ACT's trend labour force participation rate at April 2007 was 73.2%. This represented an increase of 0.3 of a percentage point from April 2006 (72.9%). The female participation rate decreased by 0.4 of a percentage point and the male participation rate increased by 1.1 percentage points over the same period.

The ACT' trend participation rate at April 2007 was the highest of any Australian state or territory, followed by the Northern Territory (69.4%). The national trend participation rate was 64.9%.

## **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

### **Counts of Businesses**

At the end of the 2005-06 financial year, there were 24,095 businesses in the ACT. Nationally, there were almost 1,964,000 businesses.

Most ACT businesses, around 94%, fall into the category of small businesses, with approximately 60% being non-employing businesses.

## **EDUCATION**

The ACT continues to have the highest proportion of students continuing on to Year 12. In 2006 the apparent retention rate from Year 10 to Year 12, was 88.9% compared with 76.1% nationally.

## **SCHOOLS**

At February 2007, there were 132 primary and secondary schools operating in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), including one primary school in Jervis Bay Territory. Of these, 88 were government schools and 44 were non-government (Catholic and Independent). There were also 82 government preschools, 46 operating full-time and 36 operating part-time. Between 2003 and 2007 there has been a 1.6% decline in the number of students attending school in the ACT.

In 2007 there were 59,970 students attending ACT schools. Of these students, 35,020 (58.4%) were attending the 88 government schools.

The number of students in primary schools totalled 30,668 students (51.1% of all students). Of these students, 18,686 or 60.9% are attending a government school.

Of all students, 32.4% or 19,447 attend high school. Slightly over half of these students (51.4% or 9,998 were attending government schools.

Secondary colleges have attracted 9,517 or 15.9% of all students. Of these students, 5,998 (63.0% of all college students) were attending a government school.

There are slightly more males than females across each of the sectors (primary, high and colleges).

### **Government schools**

Of the 88 government schools, 59 were primary schools (including the one in Jervis Bay), 13 were high schools, 4 were combined (primary/high) schools, 8 were secondary colleges and 4 were special schools.

There were 35,463 students attending ACT Government schools in February 2006, comprising 18,104 males (51%) and 17,359 females (49%). Primary schools accounted for the largest proportion (54%) of total students enrolled, followed by high schools (28%), secondary colleges (17%) and special schools (1%).

### **Non-government schools**

In February 2006, the 44 non-government schools in the ACT were comprised of 23 Catholic systemic primary schools, four Catholic systemic secondary schools, and 17 independent schools (including one special school). Of the 24,679 students enrolled in these non-government schools in February 2006, 53% (13,059) attended Catholic systemic schools, and 47% (11,620) attended independent schools.

Close to half (48%, or 11,815 persons) of all non-government school students in February 2006 were attending primary schools. In comparison, 38% (9,342) were attending high schools, and 14% (3,522) were attending college/senior secondary schools. The proportions of male and female students attending non-government schools were the same as for government schools, namely 51% and 49% respectively.

## **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

In 2005, there were a total of 69 registered training organisations who delivered publicly funded vocational education and training (VET), with Technical and Further Education (TAFE) provided by Canberra Institute of Technology. There were 23,000 students undertaking VET courses in 2005, a 2.9% increase in comparison with 2004.

Since 2003, more females have been undertaking vocational education and training in the ACT than males. In 2005, there were 11,800 female students compared with 11,100 male students.

In 2005, the most popular fields of education for VET students in the ACT were Management and commerce (6,900 enrolments), Society and culture (5,600 enrolments) and Engineering and related technologies (3,100 enrolments).

### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

In 2004, there were 28,840 students enrolled in tertiary institutions in the ACT. The majority (64%, or 18,332 students) were completing a bachelor degree. The second largest proportion (24% or 6,975) was completing a higher degree, followed by other post-graduate studies (10% or 2,854). Most students (66%) were attending tertiary institutions full-time. Female students outnumbered male students (14,619 to 14,221).

Half of all students (14,476) were studying at the Australian National University, followed by the University of Canberra (40% or 11,632).

In May 2006, 22.3% of Canberra residents aged 15 to 64 years have a bachelor degree, compared with 15.0% nationally. A further 11% of Canberrans have a post-graduate degree, compared with the national average of 5.6%.<sup>2</sup>

### **Indigenous enrolments**

There were 216 Indigenous students attending tertiary institutions in the ACT during 2004. This was higher than the 2003 figure (200). The institution with the largest number of Indigenous students in 2004 was the University of Canberra (97, or 45% of Indigenous students) followed by the Australian National University (88 or 41%). In total, Indigenous tertiary students made up 0.8% of all tertiary students in the ACT.

### **Information technology<sup>3</sup>**

In 2005-06, 82% of Canberrans used home computers (70% nationally), and 72% had home internet access (60% nationally)

## **WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (not ABS data)**

### **Income Support**

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) is responsible for providing income support, via Centrelink, to:

- the aged
- people with a disability
- carers
- youth and students
- families with children

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<sup>2</sup> ABS 6227.0 Education and Work, Australia

<sup>3</sup> ABS 8146.0 Household Use of Information Technology, Australia 2005-06

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- the homeless
- people living in rural and remote areas.

Of ACT Centrelink clients receiving income support in December 2005, the highest number of people (39,116, or 12% of the ACT population) were receiving some form of Family tax benefit. This was followed by the Age pension (17,643 people, or 5.4%), and the Disability support pension (7,052 or 2.2%).

In each of these cases, the proportions of the ACT population receiving income support were lower than the national proportions.

### **Childcare**

The total number of child care places in the ACT decreased in the year to March 2006 by almost 440 to 14,435 while the total number of clients receiving Home and Community Care services increased by 1,079 in 2004-05. In the same year about half (49%) of these clients were aged 70-84 years and about two-thirds (67%) were female.

## **INVOLVEMENT**

### **Involvement in organised sport and physical activity**

Involvement in organised sport and physical activity includes playing and participating, as well as being involved in non-playing roles such as coach, referee or committee member. However, persons whose only involvement is as a spectator or club member are excluded.

During 2005-06 the participation rate of persons with involvement (either organised or non-organised) in the ACT is 32.21%. This proportion is the highest of the states and territories, and is higher than the national participation rate (15.5%).

In April 2004 the participation rate of ACT persons involved in actually playing organised sport was 28%. This is comparable with the NT (30%) and above the national figure of 23%. In the ACT, of those persons surveyed who had non-playing involvement, the participation rate was highest as a Coach, Instructor or Teacher (6%), followed by Committee member or Administrator (5%).