

The  
Rural/Regional/Remote  
**Woman**

20  
22



## The Rural/Regional/Remote Woman

ABS Census Data and Survey Data Summary  
Women in regional and remote Australia

Datasets used:

- 2021 Census: Persons Place of Usual Residence
- 2021 Census: Estimating Homelessness
- 2021 Personal Safety Survey

Definitions used:

Rural Australia: Rural Australia is the sum/combination of four ABS Remoteness Area classifications - Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote.

Women of working age: Women of working age is defined as an adult up to [approximate] pension age, that being ages 18 to 65 inclusive.

Related useful resources:

- 2021 Census QuickStats: Australia ([abs.gov.au](https://abs.gov.au)): Online tool which produces summary statistics for Australia from the 2021 Census. The tool can be searched for specific LGA's and remoteness area classifications to generate local data.
- ABS 2021 Census Dictionary: 2901.0 - Census of Population and Housing  
Census Dictionary, 2021 ([abs.gov.au](https://abs.gov.au))

Produced by: National Rural Woman's Coalition.

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# The Rural/Regional/Remote Woman in 2022

# The Rural/Regional/Remote Woman in 2021

Where do the **12,877,635** Australian women reside?



**28%**  
rural Australia



**72%**  
major cities

**51%** of the adult population living in rural Australia are **female**.  
Of Australian women who live in rural Australia:  
**65%** live in **inner regional** areas  
**29%** in **outer regional** areas  
**4%** in **remote** areas and  
**2%** in **very remote** areas.

Where do the **11,835,754** Australian women reside?



**28%**  
rural Australia



**72%**  
major cities

**51%** of the adult population living in rural Australia are **female**.  
Of Australian women who live in rural Australia:  
**64%** live in **inner regional** areas  
**29%** in **outer regional** areas  
**4%** in **remote** areas and  
**3%** in **very remote** areas.

## GROSS WEEKLY INCOME FOR WOMEN

Updated data on income for women by geographical regions cannot be provided. While reports are available online, none of those found conducted their analyses by geographical regions.

rural Australia major cities

## PROVIDED UNPAID CHILDCARE

**9%** compared to **4.6%**  
**243,929** adult women **121,141** adult men

## GROSS WEEKLY INCOME FOR WOMEN

**\$575** compared to **\$700**  
rural Australia major cities

## PROVIDED UNPAID CHILDCARE

**10%** compared to **5%**  
**255,770** adult women **133,095** adult men

## TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES FOR RURAL WOMEN

**17%** **357,845** Health Care and Social Assistance  
**10%** **201,159** Education and Training  
**7%** **148,066** Retail Trade  
**5%** **104,732** Accommodation and Food Services  
**4%** **88,547** Public Administration and Safety

## TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES FOR RURAL WOMEN

**14%** **287,742** Health Care and Social Assistance  
**9%** **180,372** Education and Training  
**8%** **151,109** Retail Trade  
**5%** **104,732** Accommodation and Food Services  
**4%** **88,547** Public Administration and Safety

## CASH FLOW

Updated data on income for women by geographical regions cannot be provided. In the first report, data for this variable was provided from the Personal Safety Survey 2016. Updated data would be derived from the Personal Safety Survey 2021, however the dataset is not yet available in ABS Table Builder, which is the tool used to analyse the data by geographic regions. While reports are available online, none of those found conducted their analyses by geographical regions.

## VOLUNTEERING WOMEN

**15.5%** compared to **11.6%**  
rural Australia major cities

Within the different rural areas, slightly more **women** volunteer in, **remote** areas (**18%**) than in **inner regional** (**15%**), **outer regional** (**15%**) or **very remote** areas (**16%**)



## CASH FLOW

Higher rates of women in rural Australia reported cash flow problems in the last 12 months compared to women in major cities in Australia:

**13%** compared to **9%**  
rural Australia major cities

of women in rural Australia reported they could not pay an essential services bill on time (i.e., gas, electricity, phone). **Twice as many women in rural areas pawned or sold something because they needed the cash (4% versus 2%).**

## VOLUNTEERING WOMEN

**20%** compared to **16%**  
rural Australia major cities

Within the different rural areas, slightly more **women** volunteer in, **remote** areas (**22%**) than in **inner regional** (**20%**), **outer regional** (**21%**) or **very remote** areas (**17%**)



## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Updated data on income for women by geographical regions cannot be provided. In the first report, data for this variable was provided from the Personal Safety Survey 2016. Updated data would be derived from the Personal Safety Survey 2021, however the dataset is not yet available in ABS Table Builder, which is the tool used to analyse the data by geographic regions. While reports are available online, none of those found conducted their analyses by geographical regions.

## INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

**27%** compared to **21%**  
of rural Australian women of women in major cities

are more likely to experience intimate partner violence  
Personal Safety Survey, 2016)

# 01 | Demographics

## Distribution of Women within Australia

- Of all Australian women (**12,877,635**), 72% reside in major cities and 28% in rural Australia and these percentages have remained unchanged from the 2016 census. 51% of the adult population living in rural Australia are female. Of Australian women who live in rural Australia, 65% live in inner regional areas, 29% in outer regional areas, 4% in remote areas and 2% in very remote areas. (Census, 2021).
- There are a total of **3,546,914** women and girls of any age living in rural Australia 2,302,179 in inner regional Australia; 1,019,253 in outer regional Australia; 138,860 in remote Australia; and 86,619 in very remote Australia. (Census, 2021).
- There are a total of **2,803,449** adult women (aged 18 or older) living in rural Australia. 1,828,519 in inner regional Australia; 803,947 in outer regional Australia; 106,202 in remote Australia; and 64,781 in very remote Australia. (Census, 2021).

## Registered Marital Status

- **Rural Australia:**  
45% Married, 11% Divorced, 9% Widowed, 32% Never Married.
- **Major Cities:**  
46% Married, 10% Divorced, 8% Widowed, 34% Never Married.

## Age distribution of women in rural Australia <18-49

	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Age in Years	<18	<18	18-29	18-29	30-39	30-39	40-49	40-49
Major Cities	21%	21%	16%	17%	16%	15%	13%	14%
All Rural	21%	22%	13%	13%	12%	12%	12%	13%
Inner Regional	21%	22%	12%	13%	12%	11%	12%	13%
Outer Regional	21%	22%	13%	13%	12%	12%	12%	13%
Remote	24%	24%	14%	15%	16%	15%	13%	14%
Very Remote	21%	27%	15%	18%	15%	15%	13%	13%

### 2021 comparison

#### Distribution of Women within Australia

- Australian women **11,835,754**, 72% reside in major cities and 28% in rural Australia and these percentages have remained unchanged from the 2016 census. 51% of the adult population living in rural Australia are female. Of Australian women who live in rural Australia, 65% live in inner regional areas, 29% in outer regional areas, 4% in remote areas and 2% in very remote areas.
- **3,370,760** women & girls women and girls of any age living in rural Australia. 2,160,522 inner regional; 987,647 outer regional; 135,379 remote and 87,212 very remote.
- **2,626,856** adult women (aged 18 or older) living in rural Australia. 1,693,231 in inner regional; 767,838 outer regional; 102,300 remote; 63,487 very remote.

(Census, 2016)

#### Registered Marital Status

- **Rural Australia:**  
50% Married, 11% Divorced, 10% Widowed, 26% Never Married.
- **Major Cities:**  
49% Married, 10% Divorced, 7% Widowed, 30% Never Married.

# 01 | Demographics

## First Nations People

- There are a total of **237,352** women in rural Australia who identify as either Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:
  - 101,812 in inner regional Australia
  - 75,651 in outer regional Australia
  - 22,280 in remote Australia
  - 37,609 in very remote Australia (Census, 2021).
- There are a total of **147,489** adult women (aged 18 or older) identifying as either Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living in rural Australia:
  - 61,044 in inner regional Australia
  - 46,733 in outer regional Australia
  - 14,499 in remote Australia
  - 25,213 in very remote Australia (Census, 2021).

### 2021 comparison

#### First Nations People

- There are a total of **202,657** women in rural Australia who identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander.
  - 77,851 inner regional;
  - 64,410 outer rural;
  - 20,199 remote;
  - 40,197 very remote
- There are a total of **122,471** adult women (aged 18 and older) identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander living in rural Australia.
  - 45,095 inner regional
  - 38,680 outer regional
  - 12,902 remote
  - 25,794 very remote

## Age distribution of women in rural Australia 50-80

	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
Age in Years	50-59	50-59	60-69	60-69	70-79	70-79	>80	>80
Major Cities	12%	12%	10%	10%	7%	6%	5%	5%
All Rural	14%	14%	13%	13%	10%	8%	5%	5%
Inner Regional	13%	14%	14%	13%	10%	9%	6%	6%
Outer Regional	14%	14%	13%	13%	9%	8%	5%	5%
Remote	13%	14%	11%	10%	6%	5%	3%	3%
Very Remote	13%	13%	11%	8%	8%	3%	5%	2%

## 02 | Employment

- The majority (68%) of women of working age (18 years to 65 years) in rural Australia are employed in any work (either full or part-time capacity including those who indicated they work but are currently away from work and those who did not provide their hours worked, Census, 2021). This is comparable although slightly lower than the employment rate of women of the same age range in major cities within Australia (71%).
- Of women of working age in rural Australia who indicated they are employed, approximately equal numbers worked in a part-time capacity (46%) as worked in a full-time capacity (47%) (6% employed away from work, 2% employed hours of work not stated. (Census, 2021).
- There are twice as many women of working age who are unemployed and looking for any work in major cities in Australia (4%) versus women of working age in rural Australia 2%, (Census, 2021). These numbers were more comparable in 2016. This may suggest women in cities have been more affected by COVID and that perhaps more women in the cities have either lost work and need to re-enter the workforce or are needing to join the work force for the first time since COVID.
- In 2016, there was a slightly higher number of unemployed women looking for work in very remote Australia (6%) versus all other regional areas (4%) respectively for inner and outer regional areas and remote areas), and the rate of women unemployed in very remote areas was also higher than in major cities (Census, 2016). The rate of unemployment in 2021 was more similar between very remote Australia (4%) versus all other regional areas (3%) across the board, and this rate is the same as in major cities 3%. (Census, 2021).
- There are more women of working age in major cities in Australia employed in professional, scientific, or technical services (5.9% 350,568 women), versus in rural Australia (3.1%, 63,830 women). (Census, 2021).

### 2021 comparison

#### Employment

- The majority (63%) of women of working age (18 years to 65 years) in rural Australia are employed in any work (63% in either full or part-time capacity, (Census, 2016). This is comparable although slightly lower than the employment rate of women of the same age range in major cities within Australia (65%).
- Of women of working age in rural Australia who indicated they are employed, approximately equal numbers worked in a part-time capacity (47%) as worked in a full-time capacity (47%) (5% employed away from work, 2% employed hours of work not stated.
- There are comparable numbers of women of working age who are unemployed and looking for any work in rural Australia (4%) versus women of working age in major cities in Australia 5%.
- There is a slightly higher number of unemployed women looking for work in very remote Australia (6%) versus all other regional areas (4% respectively for inner and outer regional areas and remote areas), and the rate of women unemployed in very remote areas is also higher than in major cities.
- There are more women of working age in major cities in Australia employed in professional, scientific, or technical services (5.2%, 281,810 women) versus in rural Australia (2.8%, 56,635 women).

(Census, 2016)



## 02 | Employment

- The top five industries for women of working age in rural Australia have remained unchanged since 2016 and are:

- Health Care and Social Assistance:**  
357,845 (17%), 3% increase from 2016
- Education and Training:**  
201,159 (10%), 1% increase
- Retail Trade:**  
148,066 (7%), 1% decrease
- Accommodation and Food Services:**  
104,678 (5%), no change
- Public Administration and Safety:**  
96,938 (5%), 1% increase

- More women of working age are employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing in rural Australia (2.75%, 57,364 women) than in major cities (0.3%, 17,465 women). However, women still represent a small proportion of all workers employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing in rural Australia, although this figure is a slight increase on 2016 numbers (31% female, 69% male. (Census, 2021).

- There are more women of working age in major cities in Australia employed in professional, scientific, or technical services (5.9%, 350,568 women) versus in rural Australia (3.1%, 63,830 women. (Census, 2021).

### 2021 comparison

#### Employment

- The top five industries for women of working age in rural Australia are:
  - Health Care and Social Assistance:**  
287,742 (14%)
  - Education and Training:**  
180,372 (9%)
  - Retail Trade:**  
151,109 (8%)
  - Accommodation and Food Services:**  
104,732 (5%)
  - Public Administration and Safety:**  
88,547 (4%)
- More women of working age are employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing in rural Australia (2.7%, 53,475 women) than in major cities (0.3%, 14,665 women). However, women still represent a small proportion of all workers employed in agriculture, forestry, and fishing in rural Australia (29% female, 71% male.
- There are also more women of working age in major cities in Australia employed in Financial and Insurance Services (3%, 167,039) versus in rural Australia (1%, 27,768).

(Census, 2016)

## 03 | Childcare

### 2021 comparison

#### Childcare

- Nine percent (9%) or 243,929 adult women (18 or older) in rural Australia provided unpaid childcare for someone else's child or children (Census, 2021). This is a very slight reduction on the 2016 census (less than 1% change).
- Half as many men, that is 4.6% (125,141) of adult men aged 18 or older in rural Australia provided unpaid childcare for someone else's child or children. (Census, 2021).
- Similar proportions of men and women engage in unpaid childcare in major cities versus rural Australia, although the figures are slightly higher in rural areas versus major cities (e.g., 7% of women in major cities provide unpaid childcare for someone else's children whereas this figure is 9% in rural Australia (Census, 2021).

- Ten percent (10%) or 255,770 adult women (18 or older) in rural Australia provided unpaid childcare for someone else's child or children.

- Half as many men, that is 5% (133,095) of adult men aged 18 or older in rural Australia provided unpaid childcare for someone else's child or children.

- Similar proportions of men and women engage in unpaid childcare in major cities versus rural Australia.

#### Care for someone with a disability

- Sixteen percent (16%, 2% increase from 2016) or 437,912 adult women (18 or older) in rural Australia provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability (Census, 2021).
- Ten percent (10%) or 283,001 adult men (18 or older) in rural Australia provided unpaid care to a person with a disability (that is 154,911 fewer men providing unpaid care compared to women. (Census, 2021).

#### Care for someone with a disability

- Fourteen percent (14%) or 380,659 adult women (18 or older) in rural Australia provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability.
- Ten percent (10%) or 246,631 adult men in rural Australia provided unpaid care to a person with a disability that is (134,028) fewer men providing unpaid care compared to women.

(Census, 2016)

## 04 | Volunteerism

- Volunteer rates have fallen since 2016 both in rural and metropolitan cities within Australia. In 2016, one fifth of all women who lived in rural Australia volunteered (20%) which has fallen to 15.5% in 2021. Slightly more women in rural Australia volunteer than women in major cities (11.6%), a trend that was also observed in the 2016 census data. Within the different rural areas, slightly more women volunteer in remote areas (18%) than in inner regional (15%), outer regional (16%) or very remote areas (14%). (Census, 2021).

#### Volunteerism

- One fifth of all women who live in rural Australia volunteer (20%) which is a slightly higher rate than women in major cities (16%). Within the different rural areas, slightly more women volunteer in remote areas (22%) than in inner regional (20%), outer regional (21%) or very remote areas (17%).

(Census, 2016)



## 05 | Education

2021 comparison

### Highest level of Education achieved

- Less women in rural Australia (2.8%, 98,200 women) have a postgraduate degree compared to women living in major cities (6.4%, 597,198; Census, 2021). The percentage of women with a postgraduate degree anywhere in Australia has increased since 2016.
- Less women in rural Australia have a bachelor's degree (11.3%, 401,106 women) compared to women in major cities (17.6%, 1,640,229 women).
- More women in rural Australia (28%) have year 10 or above of secondary education as their highest level of educational attainment compared to major cities (24%). (Census, 2021).

### Current student status

- The majority of women of any age in rural Australia are not current students (71% or 2,517,059 women):
  - 17% of women (598,138) in rural Australia are currently studying full-time
  - 5% of women (182,510) in rural Australia are currently studying part-time
    - ^ These statistics are comparable to women in major cities
- When filtered to adult women (aged 18 and over) in rural Australia, 85% or 2,376,747 are not currently studying:
  - 3% of adult women (95,396) in rural Australia are currently studying full-time.
  - 5% of adult women (130,006) in rural Australia are currently studying part-time
    - > More adult women in major cities are studying full-time (7.5%)

### Highest level of Education achieved

- Less women in rural Australia (1.8%, 60,126 women) have a postgraduate degree compared to women living in major cities (4.7%, 396,339).
- Less women in rural Australia have a bachelor's degree (9.6%, 324,171 women) compared to women in major cities (15.4%, 1,305,391 women).
- More women in rural Australia (29%) have year 10 or above of secondary education as their highest level of educational attainment compared to major cities (26.5%).

### Current student status

- The majority of women of any age in rural Australia are not current students (70% or 2,356,205 women):
  - 17% of women (584,607) in rural Australia are currently studying full-time
  - 5% of women (151,895) in rural Australia are currently studying full-time
    - ^ These statistics are comparable to women in major cities
- When filtered to adult women (aged 18 and over) in rural Australia, 84% or 2,195,307 are not currently studying:
  - 3% of adult women (89,269) in rural Australia are currently studying full-time
  - 4% of adult women (109,926) in rural Australia are currently studying part-time
    - > More adult women in major cities are studying full-time (8%)
    - > Slightly fewer adult men in rural Australia are studying full-time (2%) or part-time (2%).

(Census, 2016)

## 06 | Income

### Weekly Income (individual)

- Updated data on income for women by geographical regions cannot be provided. In the first report, data for this variable was provided from the Personal Safety Survey 2016. Updated data would be derived from the Personal Safety Survey 2021, however the dataset is not yet available in ABS Table Builder, which is the tool used to analyse the data by geographic regions. While reports are available online, none of those found conducted their analyses by geographical regions.

Link to information about the Personal Safety Survey 2021:

[www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release](http://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release)

### 2021 comparison

#### Weekly Income (Individual)

- The weighted median of personal gross weekly income for women living in rural areas is \$575 per week and \$950 per week for men.

- The weighted median hours usually worked each week for women living in rural areas is 33.7 hours, which is less than the weighted median hours usually worked each week by men living in rural areas (40 hours).

- The weighted median of personal gross weekly income for women living in major cities is \$700 per week and \$1050 per week for men.

#### Financial Stress – Cash Flow

- Higher rates of women in rural Australia reported cash flow problems in the last 12 months compared to women in major cities in Australia:
  - 13% of women in rural Australia reported they could not pay an essential services bill on time (i.e., gas, electricity, phone) compared to 9% of women in major cities.
  - Twice as many women in rural areas pawned or sold something because they needed the cash (4% versus 2%).
  - However, the largest proportion of women in both major cities and rural areas indicated that none of the cash flow problems listed affected them in the past 12 months (81% and 77% respectively).

#### Financial Stress – Raise Emergency Money

- The majority of women in major cities (82%) and rural Australia (80%) reported they could raise \$2000 of emergency money within a week if needed, however, slightly more women in rural Australia (17%) believed they could not raise \$2000 of emergency funds than women in major cities (13%).

(Personal Safety Survey, 2016)

## 07 | Domestic Violence

### 2021 comparison

- Updated data on income for women by geographical regions cannot be provided. In the first report, data for this variable was provided from the Personal Safety Survey 2016. Updated data would be derived from the Personal Safety Survey 2021, however the dataset is not yet available in ABS Table Builder, which is the tool used to analyse the data by geographic regions. While reports are available online, none of those found conducted their analyses by geographical regions.

Link to information about the Personal Safety Survey 2021:

[www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release](http://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release)

#### Intimate Partner Violence Prevalence

- Women in rural Australia are more likely to experience intimate partner violence than women in major cities:
  - 27% of women living in rural Australia have experienced violence from an intimate partner since the age of 15 (compared to 21% of women living in a capital city).

#### Access to Social Support

- women in rural Australia report generally comparable ability to get support in a time of crisis from outside of the household, with the exception being women who live in very remote areas within Australia (Personal Safety Survey, 2016):
  - 96% major cities
  - 97% inner regional
  - 96% outer regional
  - 96% remote
  - 0% very remote

Personal Safety Survey, 2016

## 08 | Happiness/Wellbeing

- The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index Survey is conducted annually. Their most recent report (May 2023) revealed a substantial decline in wellbeing: "The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index has found that satisfaction with life in Australia and life as a whole both declined to their lowest levels on record, while Personal Wellbeing Index scores have dropped to the bottom of the average range". [www.australianunity.com.au/wellbeing/What-is-real-wellbeing/the-new-challenges-affecting-our-wellbeing](http://www.australianunity.com.au/wellbeing/What-is-real-wellbeing/the-new-challenges-affecting-our-wellbeing).
- Report on wellbeing from 2022: [www.acqol.com.au/publications](http://www.acqol.com.au/publications). The majority of participants in the 2022 survey lived in major cities (71%), approx. 30% in regional Australia (20% from inner regional, 8% outer regional, and less than 2% from remote areas – this value deemed too small for analysis). "All PWI scores were within the normative range for these groups and there were no notable differences within each geographic region across 2030-2021".

- Weighted median overall life satisfaction of women in rural Australia is high (median = 8.0) which is the same value as the weighted median overall life satisfaction for women in major cities (scale of 0 to 10; Personal Safety Survey, 2016).

- The ABS data tells the same story as more recent data from the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index Survey November 2020 Appendices 37.0 Subjective wellbeing during COVID-19.

Personal Safety Survey, 2016

# 08 | Happiness/Wellbeing

Descriptive statistics for Personal Wellbeing Index by geographic region (Frequencies, Proportions, Means, Standard Deviations and Standardised Mean, Standard Deviation and Confidence Intervals)

Geographic Region	PWI						Confidence Intervals	
	N (1972)	%	M	SD	M	SD	Lower	Upper
<b>2020 (Survey S37)</b>								
Major Cities	1389	73.41%	76.22	12.60	0.07	1.00	-1.88	2.03
Inner Regional	482	25.58	76.95	12.27	0.19	0.94	-1.66	2.04
Outer Regional	25	1.33	79.83	12.03	-0.03	1.04	-2.07	2.01
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1884</b>							
<b>2021 (Survey S38)</b>								
Major Cities	1383	74.43%	75.57	13.73	0.02	1.09	-2.11	2.15
Inner Regional	344	18.51%	76.51	13.22	0.09	1.05	-1.96	2.14
Outer Regional	131	7.05%	76.02	11.99	0.06	0.95	-1.80	1.91
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1858</b>							
<b>2022 (Survey S39)</b>								
Major Cities	1344	71.83%	74.32	13.41	-0.08	1.06	-2.16	2.00
Inner Regional	380	20.31%	75.65	13.43	0.03	1.06	-2.05	2.11
Outer Regional	147	7.86%	72.83	15.53	-0.20	1.23	-2.60	2.21
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1871</b>							

## 2021 comparison

Remoteness	PWI				Normative Range	
	N	%	M	SD	Lower	Upper
<b>2016</b>						
Metropolitan	1377	73.09	76.21	12.63	73.71	76.25
Regional	482	25.58	76.95	12.27	74.51	78.27
Remote	25	1.33	79.83	12.03	72.94	80.11
Sub-total	1884	100.00				
Missing	81					
Total	1965					

ANOVA:  $F(2, 1881) = 1.56, p = .211$

Descriptive statistics for Personal Wellbeing Index by geographic region (Frequencies, Proportions, Means, Standard Deviations and Normative Range)



# 09 | Access to Health Services

- There are substantially fewer health professionals outside of major cities. Figure 5 available at this link: [www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/rural-and-remote-health](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/rural-and-remote-health), is an interactive figure that you can use to view the rate of full-time equivalent practitioners for a range of health professions per 100,000 population in major cities versus inner regional areas, outer regional areas, remote, areas and very remote areas.

2021 comparison

**Access to Health Services**

- There are substantially fewer health professionals outside of major cities. Figure 3 available at this link: [www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/rural-and-remote-health](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/rural-and-remote-health), is an interactive figure that you can use to view the rate of full-time equivalent practitioners for a range of health professions per 100,000 population in major cities versus inner regional areas, outer regional areas, remote, areas and very remote areas.

**Type of Health Professional**

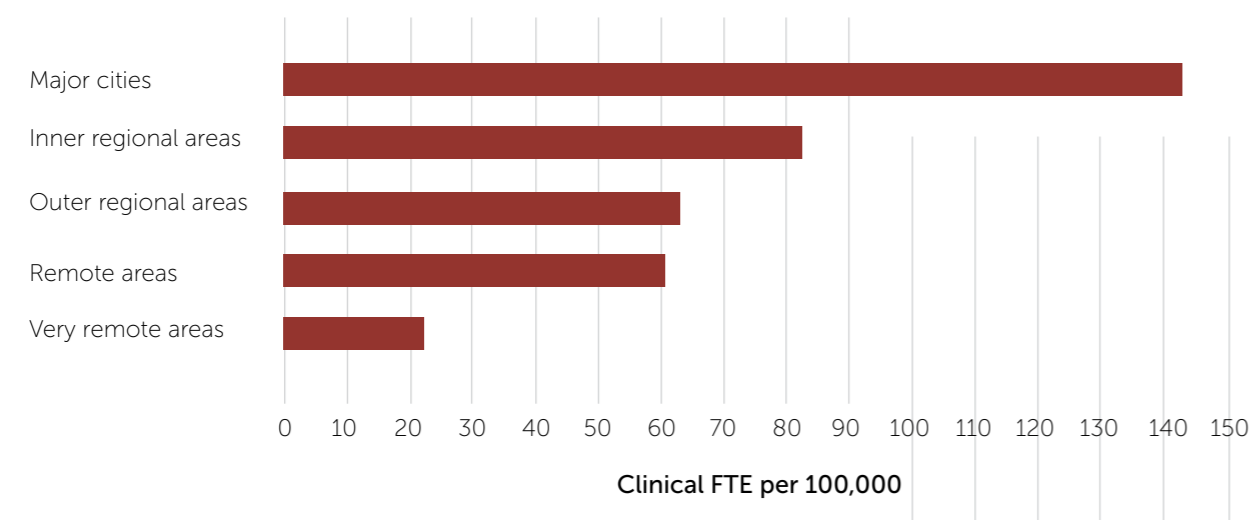


Figure 3: Employed health professionals, clinical full-time equivalent (FTE) rate, by remoteness area 2018

# 10 | Mortality and Cause of Death

- Both men and women living in rural Australia are more likely to die at a younger age than people living in major cities. [www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/rural-and-remote-health](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/rural-and-remote-health). Data source: AIHW 2022b. National Mortality Database. Findings based on our unit record analysis. (Canberra: AIHW).
- In 2020, the median age at death for women living in rural and remote areas is younger than for women in major cities:
  - Major Cities: 85 years
  - Inner Regional: 84 years
  - Outer Regional: 83 years
  - Remote: 78 years
  - Very remote: 66 years
- Women living in very remote areas have a mortality rate 1.5 times higher than women in major cities.
- The median age at death for women in inner and outer regional areas did not change from 2016, however the median age of death for women in remote areas was 2 years younger and 4 years younger in very remote areas in 2020.

2021 comparison

**Mortality and cause of death**

- Both men and women living in rural Australia are more likely to die at a younger age than people living in major cities. [www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/rural-and-remote-health](http://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/rural-and-remote-health). Data source: AIHW 2019e. National Mortality Database. Findings based on our unit record analysis. (Canberra: AIHW).
- In 2018, the median age at death for women living in rural and remote areas is younger than for women in major cities:
  - Major Cities: 85 years
  - Inner Regional: 84 years
  - Outer Regional: 83 years
  - Remote: 80 years
  - Very remote: 70 years
- Women living in very remote areas have a mortality rate 1.7 times higher than women in major cities. Women in outer and remote areas have a mortality rate 1.2 times as high as those living in major cities, and women in inner regional areas have a mortality rate 1.1 times as high as those living in major cities.

# 11 | Homelessness

- The ABS defines homelessness as: A person is homeless if they do not have suitable accommodation alternatives and their current living arrangement is in a dwelling that is inadequate; has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.
- There were 122,494 people were estimated to be homeless on Census night in Australia (Census, 2021). Males comprised 56% of people experiencing homelessness (females comprised 44%). Homelessness for males and females in Australia has increased since 2016 ([www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021](http://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/2021)).
- While in Australia, males are greater represented in homelessness figures than females, the growth in homelessness in women over the past 5 years has been much higher for women (10% since 2016) versus 1.6% for men ([www.csi.edu.au/research/homelessness-deep-dive-census-2021/](http://www.csi.edu.au/research/homelessness-deep-dive-census-2021/)).
- 21,204 women living in rural Australia were classified as homeless on Census night. (Census, 2021).
  - 7% (1,489): Improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out
  - 21% (4,454): Supported accommodation for the homeless
  - 17% (3,661): Staying temporarily with other households
  - 3% (720): Living in boarding houses
  - 2% (524): Living in other temporary lodgings
  - 49% (10,353): Living in 'severely' crowded dwellings (Census, 2021).

## 2021 comparison

### Homelessness

- The ABS defines homelessness as: A person is homeless if they do not have suitable accommodation alternatives and their current living arrangement is in a dwelling that is inadequate; has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.
- There were 116,426 people classified as being homeless on Census night in Australia (Census, 2016).
- One percent of women living in rural Australia were classified as homeless on Census night, that's 19,118 women (Census, 2016). 41,227 people were homeless in rural Australia on Census night. 46% of homeless people in rural Australia were women (54% male, 22,108 men).
- For women living in rural Australia who were homeless on Census night:
  - 9% (1,666): Improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out
  - 15% (2,865): Supported accommodation for the homeless
  - 17% (3,200): Staying temporarily with other households
  - 5% (1,002): Living in boarding houses
  - 1% (160): Living in other temporary lodgings
  - 53% (10,225): Living in 'severely' crowded dwellings

(Census, 2016)



