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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA - SOUTH WEST

Community Profile

City of Busselton

February 2026

REMP LAN

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1. How to use this report

This Community Profile provides an evidence-based overview of the demographic conditions shaping the region, highlighting key population trends and emerging community characteristics.

Regional Development Australia South West (RDA South West) offers Community and Economy Profiles through a data-sharing partnership providing local governments with high-quality data to support planning, decision-making and economic development outcomes.

These community insights can be used to inform:

- Strategic and corporate planning
- Grant applications and business cases
- Land-use and infrastructure planning
- Community wellbeing and services delivery
- Communications and stakeholder advocacy
- Benchmarking and monitoring community outcomes

This report contains the following elements:

4.2 Family composition

(2016 & 2021 ABS Census of Population & Housing)

Family composition describes the types of families present within households. A family is defined as two or more related persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who usually live in the same household. Some households may contain more than one family.

Understanding family composition provides insight into the types of families present in the community and how family structures are changing over time.

The total number of families enumerated in Dardanup (S) in all applicable Family Composition cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 4,088. 1,755 (42.9%) were a couple family with children, 1,723 (42.1%) were a couple family with no children, and 570 (13.9%) were a one parent family.

Couple family with no children cohort recorded the largest change in Dardanup (S), with an additional 175 families, an 11.3% increase from 2016.

Source data

Data definitions and relevance

Key takeaways

Category	Dardanup (2021) %	South West (2021) %
Couple family with children	42.9%	39.4%
Couple family with no children	42.1%	44.6%
One parent family	13.9%	15.0%
Other family	1.0%	1.0%

Visual analysis

Family composition	2016		2021		Change	
	Families	%	Families	%	Families	%
Couple family with children	1,704	44.44%	1,755	42.93%	51	2.99%
Couple family with no children	1,548	40.38%	1,723	42.15%	175	11.30%
One parent family	545	14.21%	570	13.94%	25	4.59%
Other family	37	0.97%	40	0.98%	3	8.11%
Total	3,834	100%	4,088	100%	254	6.62%

Supporting figures

Demographic data and modelling are derived from REPLAN Economic Modelling and Planning System which is based on data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and other Government datasets.

To complement this report, RDA South West provides on-demand access to its online regional data platform:

www.rdasouthwest.com.au/data-statistics

2. Summary

This Community Profile provides demographic intelligence on the City of Busselton local government area (Busselton LGA) presenting key data on population, households, education, employment, housing and health.



Community profile summary	Busselton	South West
ABS 2024 Estimated Residential Population (ERP):	45,003	201,659
ABS 2021 Census Place of Usual Residence Population:	40,640	184,517
Annualised Population Growth Rate (2014-2024 ERP):	2.3%	1.6%
Land Area (ha):	145,405.09	2,397,018.34
Census Population Density (persons / ha):	0.28	0.08
Median Age:	45 years	43 years
Median Personal Weekly Income:	\$754 (\$39,254 pa)	\$743 (\$38,660 pa)
Labour Force Participation Rate:	59.22%	59.83%

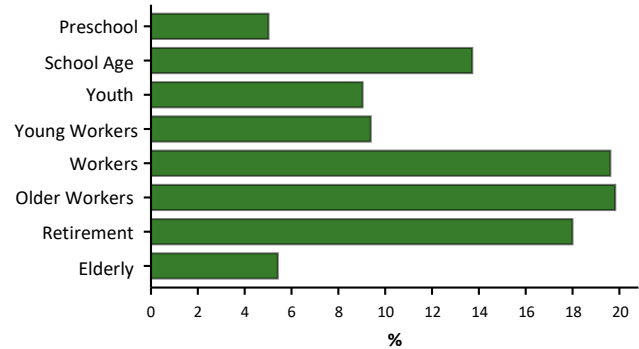
Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton LGA (2024)

Life stage

In 2021, the total population was 40,640.

The largest life stage cohorts are:

Life stages	Persons	%
Older Workers (50-64)	8,056	19.82%
Workers (35-49)	7,971	19.61%
Retirement (65-79)	7,314	18.00%
Other	17,299	42.57%

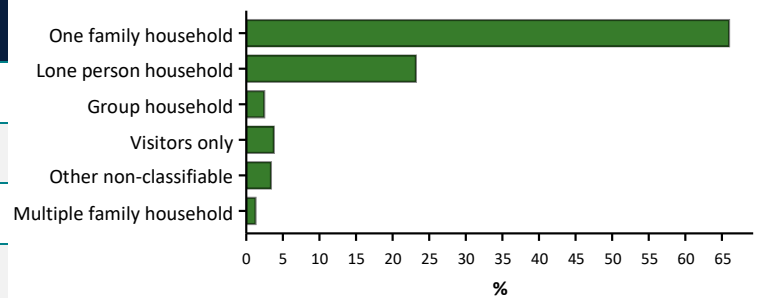


Household composition

In 2021, the total number of dwellings was 16,138.

The largest household types are:

Household composition	Dwellings	%
One family household	10,647	65.97%
Lone person household	3,740	23.18%
Visitors only	607	3.76%
Other	1,144	7.08%

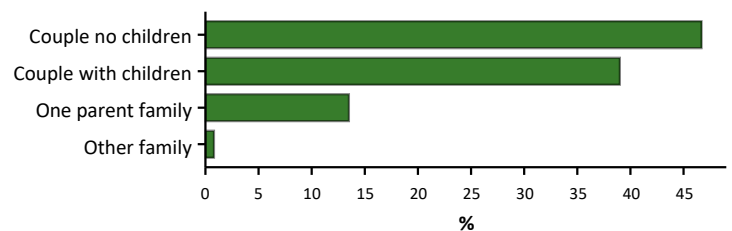


Family composition

In 2021, the total number of families was 11,071.

The largest family types are:

Family composition	Families	%
Couple no children	5,169	46.69%
Couple with children	4,318	39.00%
One parent family	1,495	13.50%
Other	89	0.80%



Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton LGA (2024)

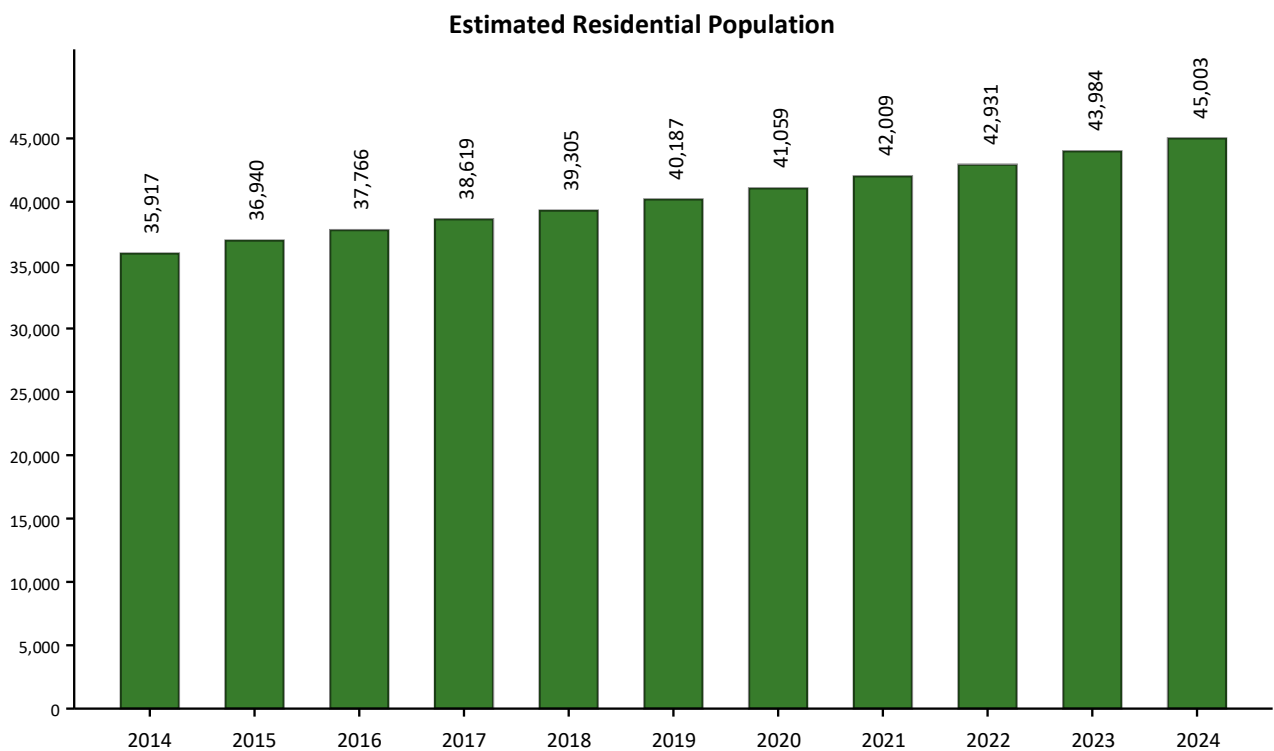
3. Population

3.1 Population growth

Source: ABS Estimated Residential Population (2014-2024), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Population data are primarily sourced from Census years. For years between Censuses, population estimates are derived using Estimated Resident Population (ERP), which applies statistical modelling to account for natural population change and migration. These post-censal estimates draw on a range of administrative and indicator data, including dwelling activity, health service enrolments and electoral registrations, to provide a current and consistent measure of population change between Census periods.

The 2024 Estimated Residential Population for Busselton is 45,003 people. Between 2014 and 2024, the population increased by 9,086 people, reflecting a compound annual growth rate of 2.28% for Busselton, compared with 1.6% for the South West for the same period.



3.2 Population by locality

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Population by locality provides insight into how residents are distributed across the region and how growth is occurring within individual towns and settlements. Examining population size and change at the locality level helps identify areas of concentration, emerging growth locations, and places experiencing more modest or stable population change.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA localities on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. The locality with the largest population is West Busselton with 8,860 (21.8%), followed by Dunsborough with 6,425 residents (15.81%).

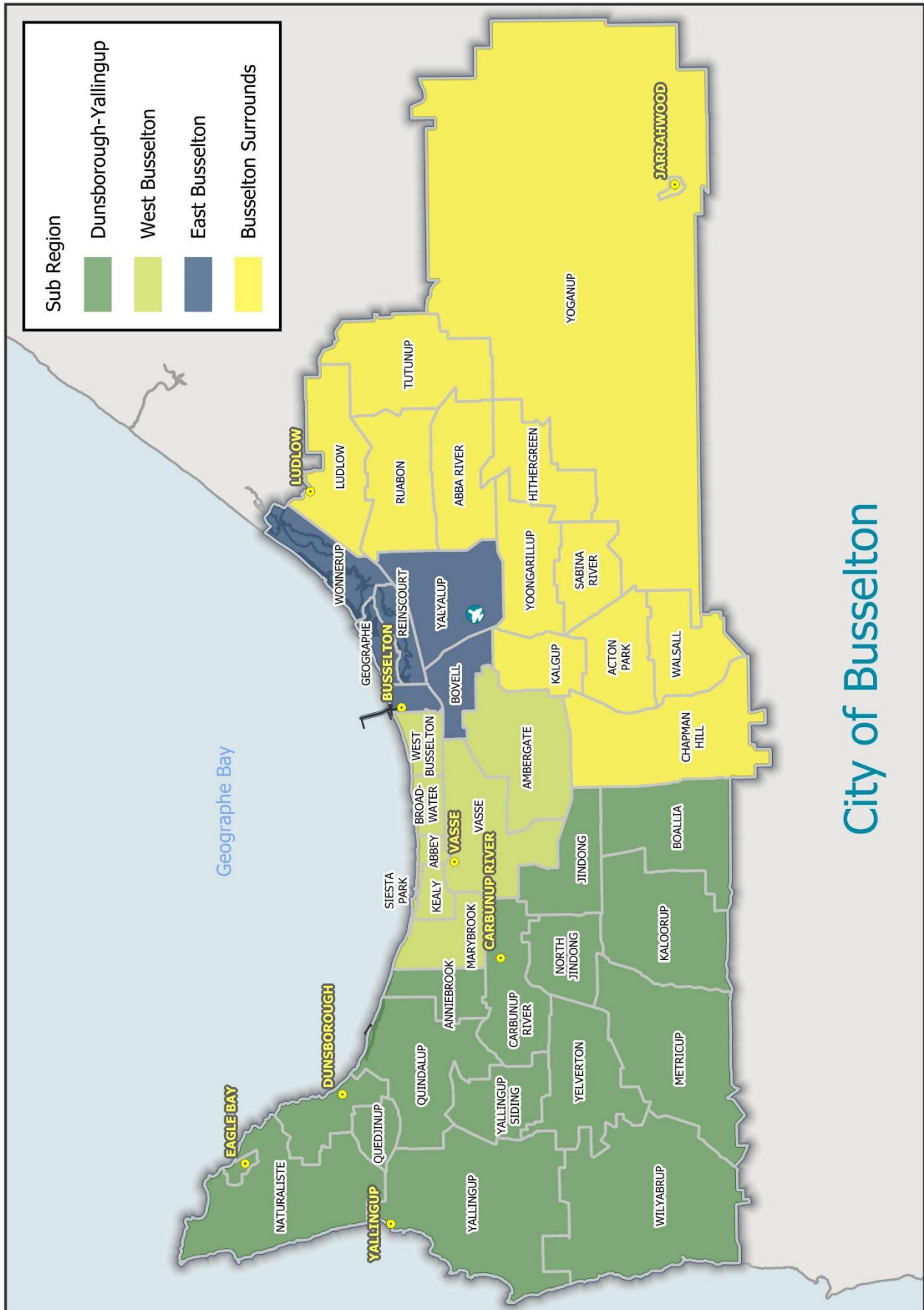
The locality with the largest growth since 2016 Census is Dunsborough with an additional 1,108 people (20.84% increase), followed by Kealy with an additional 741 people (192.97% increase).

Localities	2016			2021			Change 2016 to 2021		
	Persons	%	Persons/ha	Persons	%	Persons/ha	Persons	%	Persons/ha
West Busselton	8,519	23.22%	10.43	8,860	21.80%	10.85	341	4.00%	0.42
Dunsborough	5,317	14.49%	3.31	6,425	15.81%	3.99	1,108	20.84%	0.69
Broadwater	4,253	11.59%	6.99	4,275	10.52%	7.02	22	0.52%	0.04
Geographe	3,410	9.29%	5.97	3,626	8.92%	6.35	216	6.33%	0.38
Yalyalup	2,488	6.78%	0.77	2,933	7.22%	0.91	445	17.89%	0.14
Vasse	2,482	6.76%	0.69	2,849	7.01%	0.79	367	14.79%	0.10
Busselton	1,875	5.11%	4.21	1,843	4.53%	4.13	-32	-1.71%	-0.07
Quindalup	1,337	3.64%	0.34	1,484	3.65%	0.37	147	10.99%	0.04
Abbey	1,274	3.47%	4.82	1,328	3.27%	5.02	54	4.24%	0.20
Yallingup	1,028	2.80%	0.14	1,191	2.93%	0.16	163	15.86%	0.02
Kealy	384	1.05%	0.60	1,125	2.77%	1.74	741	192.97%	1.15
Ambergate	465	1.27%	0.12	558	1.37%	0.15	93	20.00%	0.02
Bovell	470	1.28%	0.35	480	1.18%	0.36	10	2.13%	0.01
Quedjinup	407	1.11%	0.51	419	1.03%	0.53	12	2.95%	0.02
Yallingup Siding	300	0.82%	0.15	325	0.80%	0.16	25	8.33%	0.01
Reinscourt	243	0.66%	0.28	273	0.67%	0.31	30	12.35%	0.03
Metricup	222	0.60%	0.04	262	0.64%	0.05	40	18.02%	0.01
Marybrook	236	0.64%	0.15	228	0.56%	0.15	-8	-3.39%	-0.01

	2016			2021			Change 2016 to 2021		
Wonnerup	147	0.40%	0.08	203	0.50%	0.12	56	38.10%	0.03
Wilyabrup	180	0.49%	0.02	191	0.47%	0.02	11	6.11%	0.00
Eagle Bay	73	0.20%	0.44	115	0.28%	0.69	42	57.53%	0.25
Carbunup River	117	0.32%	0.04	111	0.27%	0.04	-6	-5.13%	0.00
Naturaliste	75	0.20%	0.01	110	0.27%	0.02	35	46.67%	0.01
Chapman Hill	118	0.32%	0.02	109	0.27%	0.02	-9	-7.63%	0.00
Ludlow	83	0.23%	0.03	99	0.24%	0.03	16	19.28%	0.01
Acton Park	100	0.27%	0.04	93	0.23%	0.04	-7	-7.00%	0.00
Kalgup	68	0.19%	0.04	92	0.23%	0.06	24	35.29%	0.01
Kaloorup	75	0.20%	0.02	90	0.22%	0.02	15	20.00%	0.00
Abba River	63	0.17%	0.02	86	0.21%	0.03	23	36.51%	0.01
Ruabon	82	0.22%	0.03	84	0.21%	0.03	2	2.44%	0.00
Sabina River	73	0.20%	0.04	82	0.20%	0.04	9	12.33%	0.00
Walsall	92	0.25%	0.04	82	0.20%	0.04	-10	-10.87%	0.00
Yoongarillup	73	0.20%	0.03	80	0.20%	0.03	7	9.59%	0.00
Tutunup	67	0.18%	0.02	78	0.19%	0.02	11	16.42%	0.00
North Jindong	80	0.22%	0.04	75	0.18%	0.04	-5	-6.25%	0.00
Yelverton	70	0.19%	0.02	72	0.18%	0.02	2	2.86%	0.00
Jindong	79	0.22%	0.04	68	0.17%	0.03	-11	-13.92%	0.00
Hithergreen	61	0.17%	0.03	63	0.16%	0.03	2	3.28%	0.00
Siesta Park	86	0.23%	0.8	62	0.15%	0.58	-24	-27.91%	-0.22
Anniebrook	57	0.16%	0.04	53	0.13%	0.04	-4	-7.02%	0.00
Boallia	44	0.12%	0.01	39	0.10%	0.01	-5	-11.36%	0.00
Yoganup	4	0.01%	0.00	10	0.02%	0.00	6	150.00%	0.00
Jarraewood	18	0.05%	0.18	9	0.02%	0.09	-9	-50.00%	-0.09
Total	36,695	100%	0.25	40,640	100%	0.28	3,945	10.75%	0.03

3.2.1 Busselton localities and sub-regions

Source: City of Busselton (2026)



3.3 Age and gender

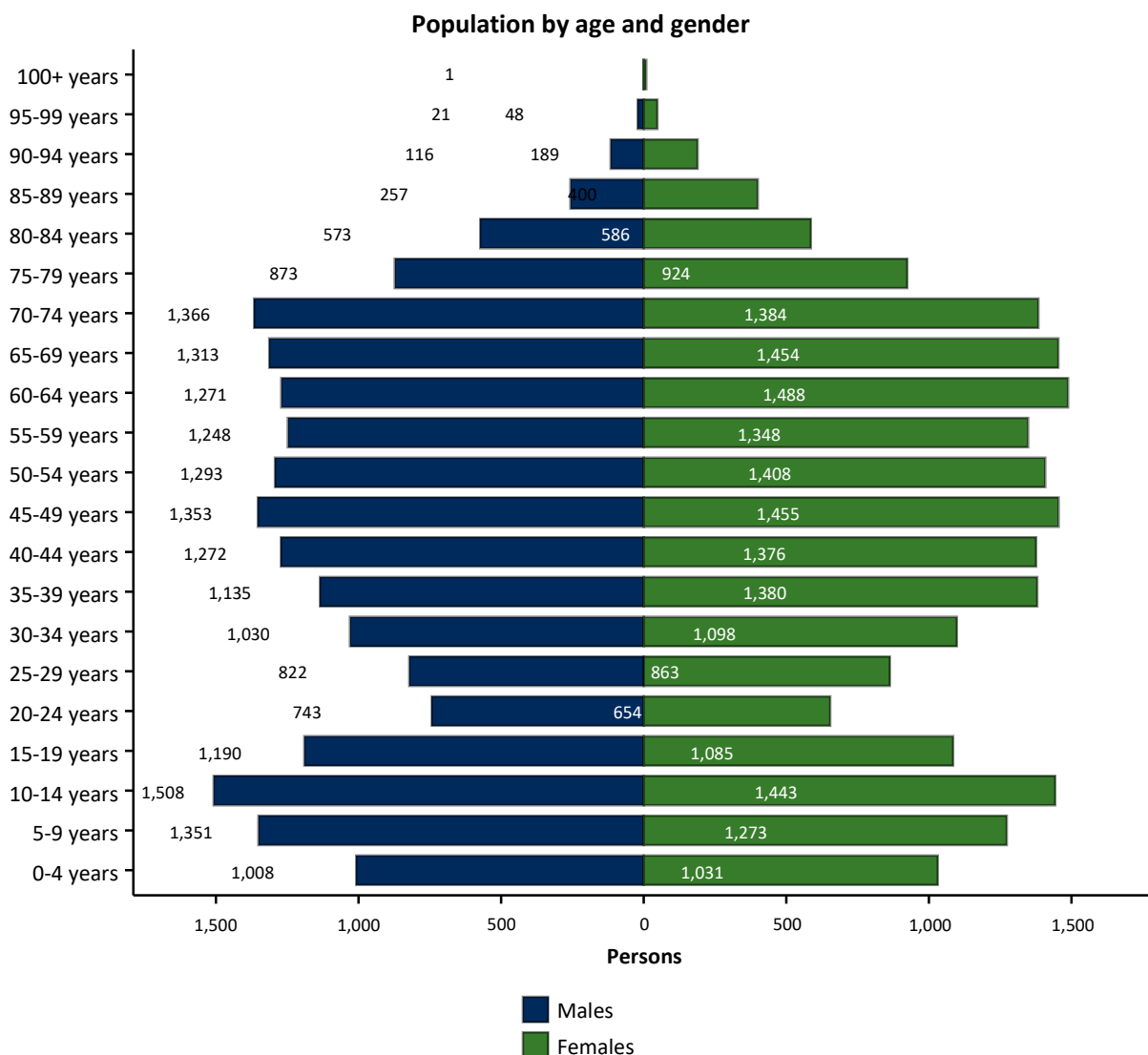
Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

The age profile of the resident population shows how people are distributed across age groups within the region. Presenting age by gender provides additional insight into the structure of the population and highlights differences in the composition of male and female cohorts across the life course.

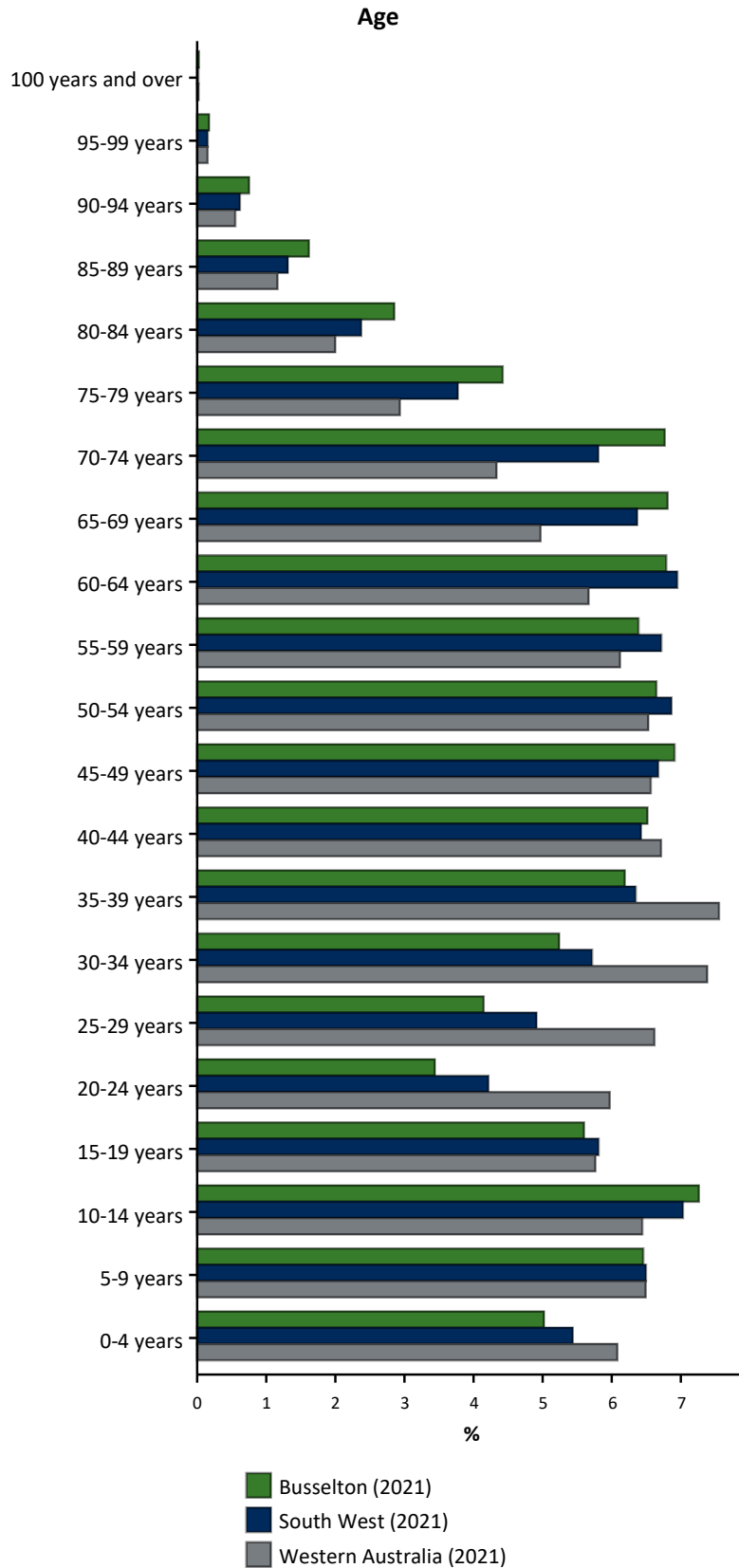
Changes in the age and gender structure of the population can influence current and future demand for infrastructure, services and community facilities.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all Age cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. The single largest age cohort is '10-14 years' with 2,951 people representing 7.26% of the population which is on par with the South West's largest cohort of '10-14 years' at 7.03% of the population.

The overall ratio of males to females is 1 to 1.058. The largest cohort of males is '10-14 years' with 1,508 (3.71%), followed by '70-74 years' 1,366 (3.36%). The largest cohort of females is '60-64 years' with 1,488 (3.66%), followed by '45-49 years' with 1,455 (3.58%).



The median age of people living in Busselton LGA was 45 years, compared with 42 years in 2016. The median age for the South West is 43, and for Western Australia is 38. With a median age of 29 years, Kealy is the youngest locality and the oldest is Busselton with a median age of 54 years.



In 2021 30.2% of the community was aged 60 years or older, compared with 27.4% for the South West. The '70-74 years cohort' recorded the largest change in Busselton LGA, with an additional 956 people, a 53.29% increase from 2016.

Age	2016		2021		Change	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
0-4 years	2,242	6.11%	2,039	5.02%	-203	-9.05%
5-9 years	2,683	7.31%	2,624	6.46%	-59	-2.20%
10-14 years	2,539	6.92%	2,951	7.26%	412	16.23%
15-19 years	2,125	5.79%	2,275	5.60%	150	7.06%
20-24 years	1,458	3.97%	1,397	3.44%	-61	-4.18%
25-29 years	1,623	4.42%	1,685	4.15%	62	3.82%
30-34 years	2,161	5.89%	2,128	5.24%	-33	-1.53%
35-39 years	2,288	6.24%	2,515	6.19%	227	9.92%
40-44 years	2,658	7.24%	2,648	6.52%	-10	-0.38%
45-49 years	2,594	7.07%	2,808	6.91%	214	8.25%
50-54 years	2,360	6.43%	2,701	6.65%	341	14.45%
55-59 years	2,350	6.41%	2,596	6.39%	246	10.47%
60-64 years	2,386	6.50%	2,759	6.79%	373	15.63%
65-69 years	2,453	6.69%	2,767	6.81%	314	12.80%
70-74 years	1,794	4.89%	2,750	6.77%	956	53.29%
75-79 years	1,269	3.46%	1,797	4.42%	528	41.61%
80-84 years	860	2.34%	1,159	2.85%	299	34.77%
85-89 years	565	1.54%	657	1.62%	92	16.28%
90-94 years	232	0.63%	305	0.75%	73	31.47%
95-99 years	48	0.13%	69	0.17%	21	43.75%
100 years and over	0	0.00%	10	0.02%	10	n/a
Total	36,688	100%	40,640	100%	3,952	10.77%

3.4 Life stage

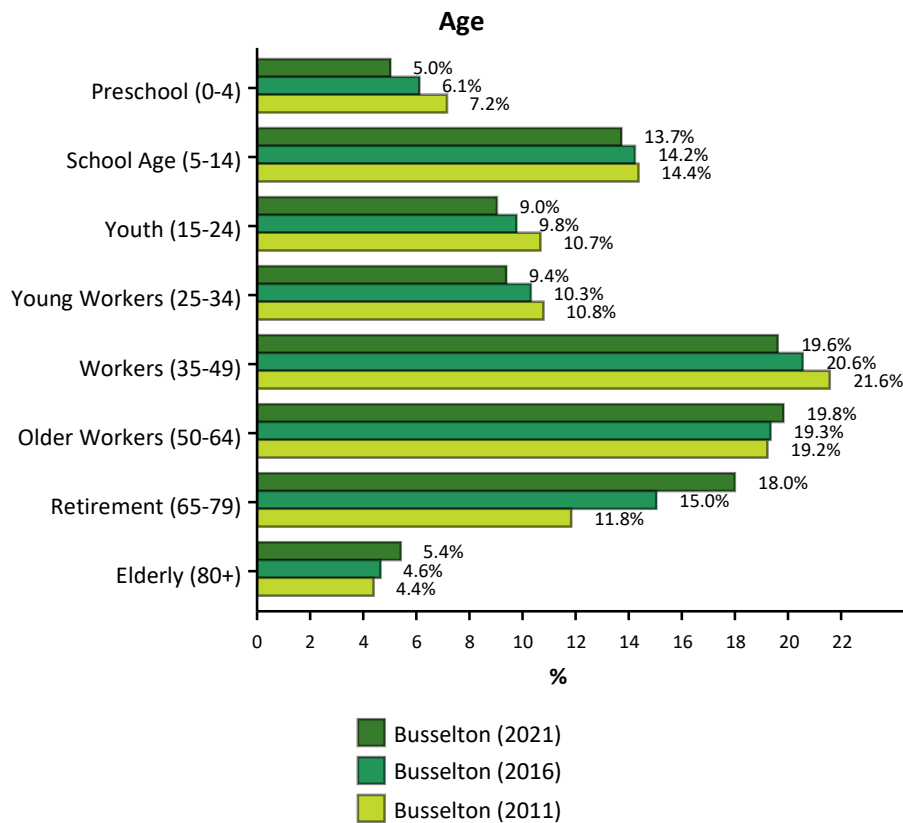
Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2011/2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Understanding the population by life stage provides insight into how residents are distributed across broad phases of life, such as childhood, working age and older age. Grouping the population in this way helps reveal the overall balance of age cohorts within the region and how this structure is changing over time.

Examining life stages supports planning for amenity, services and infrastructure, as well as education, employment and investment, by highlighting shifts in the age profile that influence community needs and service demand.

The largest life stage group in Busselton LGA is 'Older Workers (50-64)' with 8,056 residents (19.8%), closely followed by 'Workers (35-49)' with 7,971 residents (19.61%).

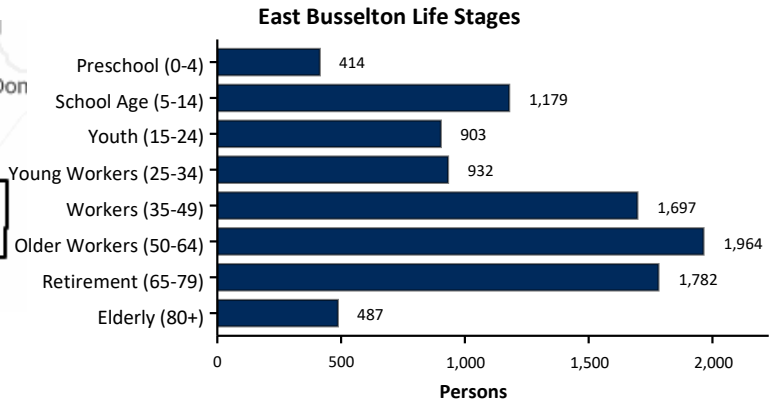
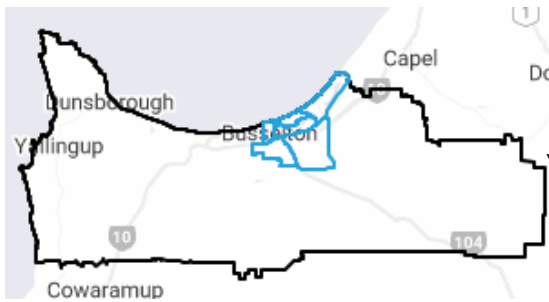
The 'Retirement (65-79)' cohort recorded the largest change in Busselton, with an additional 1,798 people, a 32.6% increase from 2016.



3.4.1 East Busselton Sub-region

The total number of people usually resident in East Busselton sub-region on Census Night 2021 was 9,358. This represents 23.0% of the total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA.

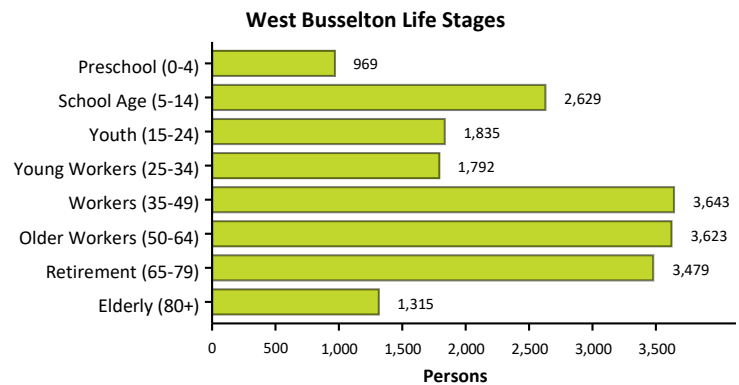
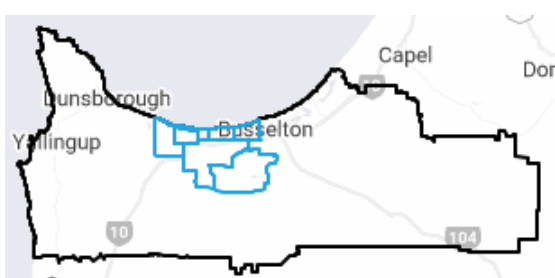
The largest life stage group is 'Older workers (50-64)' with 1,964 people (20.99% of the East Busselton sub-region population), followed by 'Retirement (65-79)' with 1,782 people (19.04%).



3.4.2 West Busselton Sub-region

The total number of people usually resident in West Busselton sub-region on Census Night 2021 was 19,285. This represents 47.45% of the total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA.

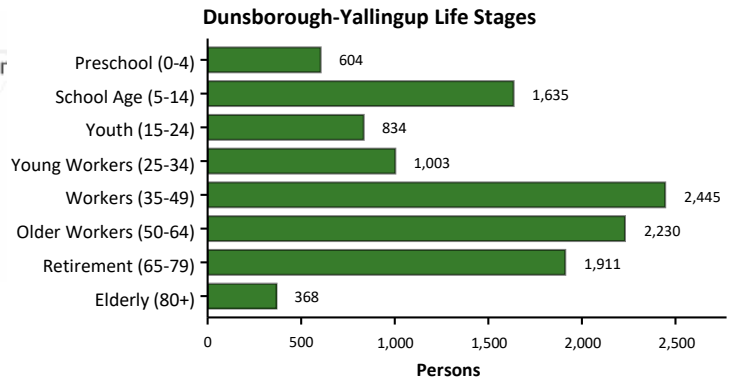
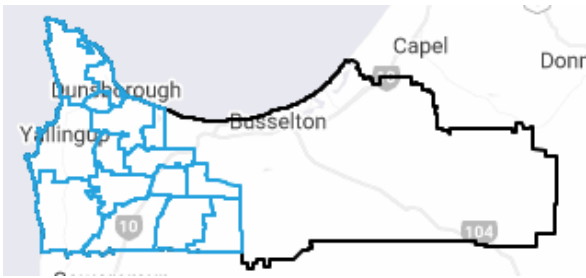
The largest life stage group is 'Workers (35-49)' with 3,643 people (18.9% of the West Busselton sub-region population), closely followed by 'Older Workers (50-64)' with 3,623 people (18.8%).



3.4.3 Dunsborough-Yallingup Sub-region

The total number of people usually resident in Dunsborough-Yallingup sub-region on Census Night 2021 was 11,030. This represents 27.1% of the total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA.

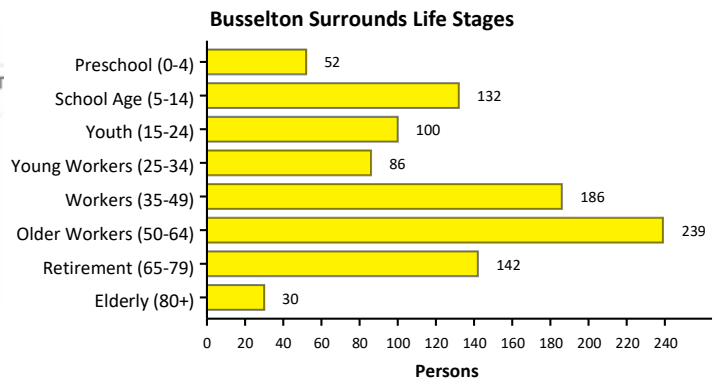
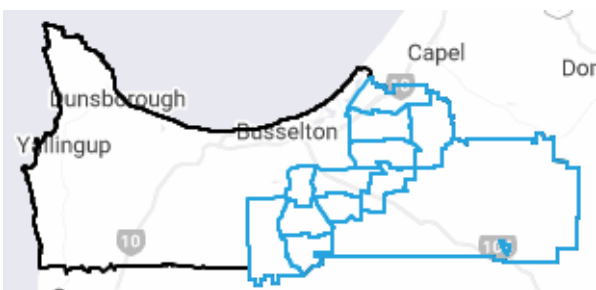
The largest life stage group is 'Workers (35-49)' with 2,445 people (22.2% of Dunsborough-Yallingup sub-region population), followed by 'Older Workers (50-64)' with 2,230 people (20.2%).



3.4.4 Busselton Surrounds Sub-region

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton Surrounds sub-region on Census Night 2021 was 967. This represents 2.4% of the total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA.

The largest life stage group is 'Older Workers (50-64)' with 239 people (24.7% of Busselton Surrounds sub-region population), closely followed by 'Workers (35-49)' with 186 (19.2%).

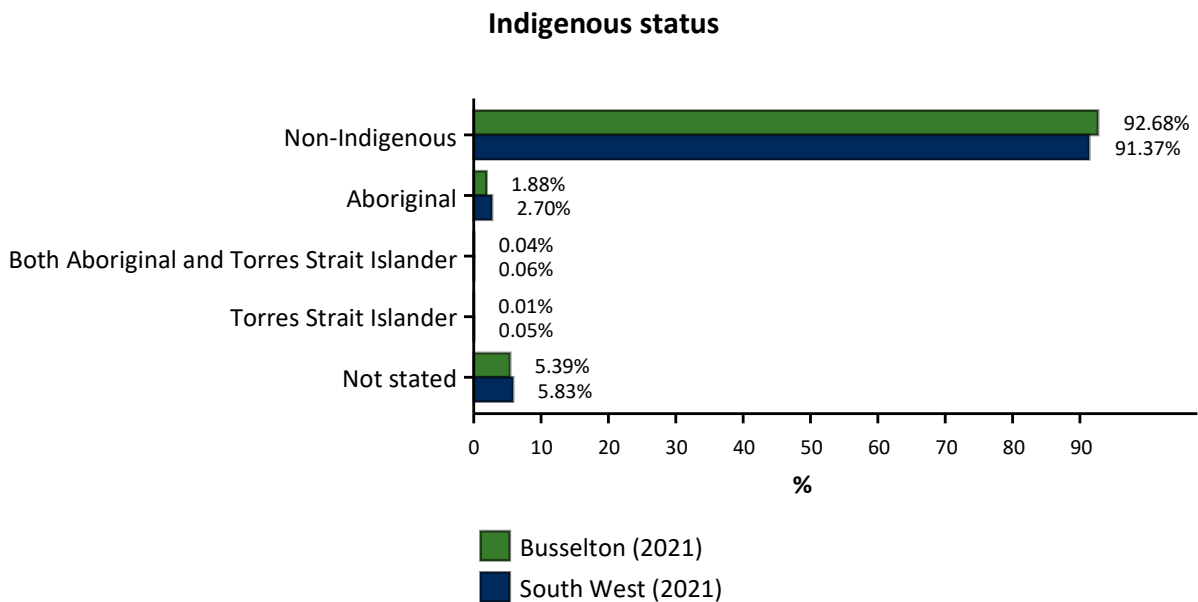


3.5 Indigenous status

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Indigenous status data identifies people who identified themselves as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin at the time of the Census. Understanding the size and distribution of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population provides important context for planning and delivering infrastructure, services and community programs that support cultural inclusion, access to services and community wellbeing.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all Indigenous Status cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. Of the total residents, 782 or 1.93% identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, compared to 2.81% for the South West and 3.34% of Western Australia.



3.6 Birthplace

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

The birthplace profile provides insight into the cultural diversity of the community by showing where residents were born. Examining country of birth data helps build an understanding of migration patterns and population composition, and supports planning for services, programs and community engagement that respond to the needs of a diverse population.

This information is commonly used by governments and service providers to inform settlement planning, community development and monitoring of population change over time.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all Birthplace cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. 30,363 (74.7%) were born in Australia, 3,210 (7.9%) were born in England, and 957 (2.4%) were born in New Zealand.

Birthplace	Persons	%
Australia	30,363	74.7%
England	3,210	7.9%
New Zealand	957	2.4%
South Africa	481	1.2%
Scotland	274	0.7%
Germany	225	0.6%
Ireland	172	0.4%
India	166	0.4%
Philippines	162	0.4%
Netherlands	154	0.4%
United States of America	150	0.4%
Canada	116	0.3%
Italy	103	0.3%
Zimbabwe	101	0.2%
Balance	1,582	3.9%
Not stated	2,424	6.0%
Total	40,640	100%

3.7 Ancestry

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Ancestry refers to a person’s ethnic origin or descent, including their cultural heritage or the place of birth of the person, their parents or ancestors prior to arrival in Australia. In the Census, ancestry is a multi-response question, meaning individuals may report one or more ancestries. As a result, the total number of ancestry responses does not equal the total population.

When considered alongside other demographic measures such as birthplace, language spoken at home and religion, ancestry data provides insight into the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of people living in the community.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. This report includes responses for people with more than one ancestry. 19,828 (48.8%) have English ancestry, 16,034 (39.5%) have Australian ancestry, and 4,357 (10.7%) have Irish ancestry.

Ancestry	Persons	%
English	19,828	48.8%
Australian	16,034	39.5%
Irish	4,357	10.7%
Scottish	4,309	10.6%
Italian	1,568	3.9%
German	1,467	3.6%
Dutch	897	2.2%
Australian Aboriginal	797	2.0%
New Zealander	507	1.2%
Welsh	370	0.9%
South African	370	0.9%
French	309	0.8%
Chinese	276	0.7%
Polish	252	0.6%
Balance	4,069	10.0%
Not stated	2,509	6.2%

3.8 Religion

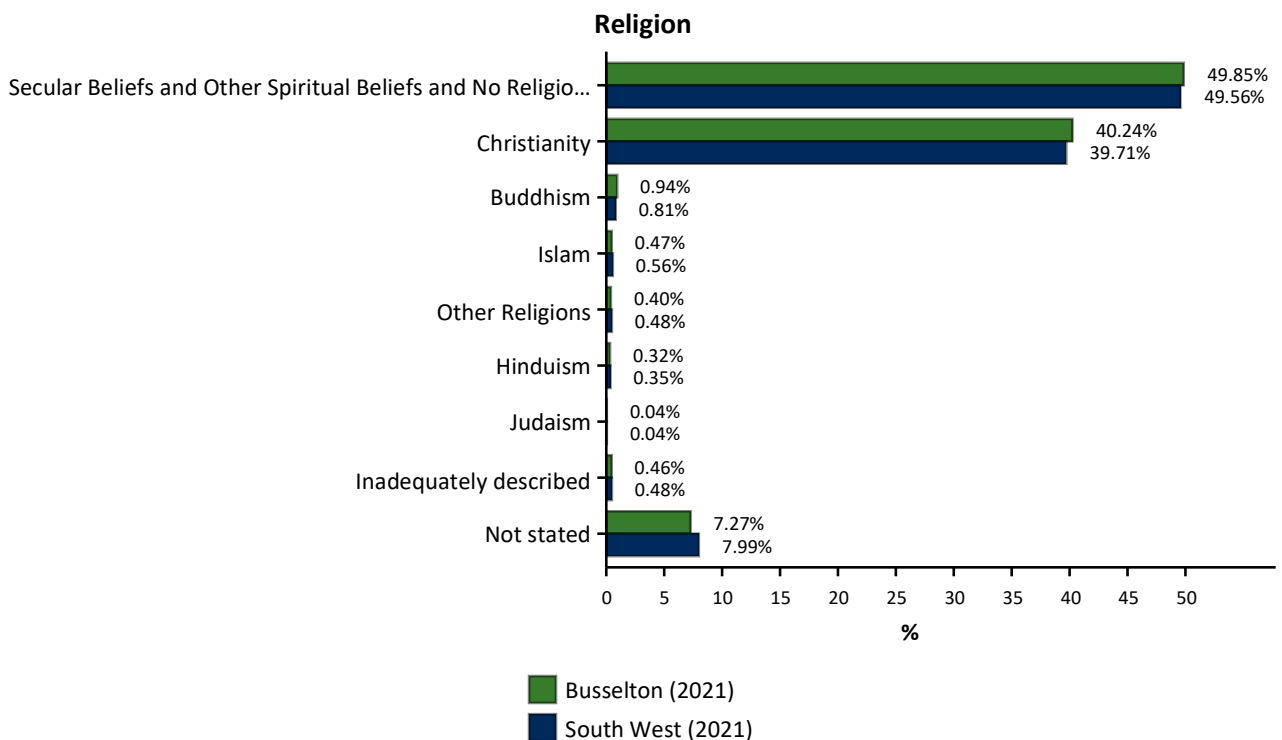
Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Religion refers to a person’s self-reported religious affiliation. Information on religious affiliation provides context for understanding the cultural diversity of the community and how people identify in terms of faith and belief.

Understanding patterns and changes in religious affiliation over time may be relevant to planning for the use of community facilities and services, including education, health and aged care settings, as well as places of worship.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all Religion cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. The largest cohort is ‘Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation’ at 49.85%, followed by ‘Christianity’ at 40.24% (of which ‘Anglican’ is 14.73% and ‘Catholic’ is 14.56%).

The ‘Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation’ cohort recorded the largest change in Busselton, with an additional 6,728 people, a 49.7% increase from 2016.



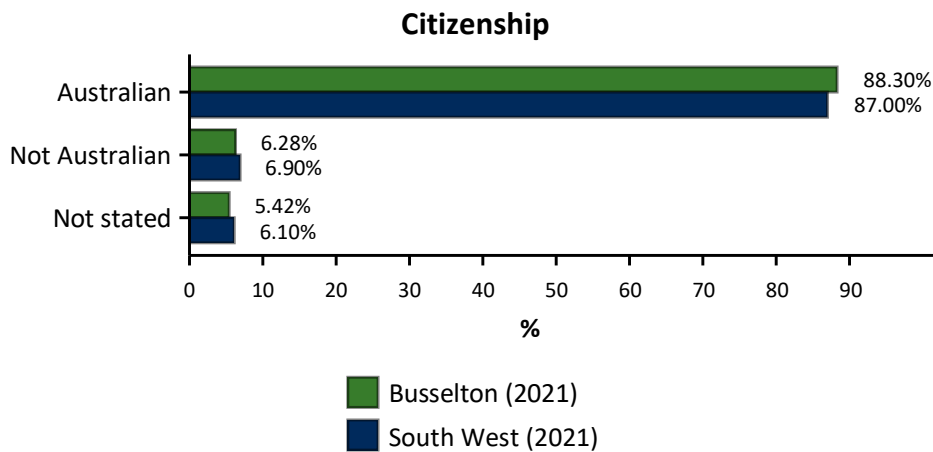
3.9 Australian citizenship

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Australian citizenship data shows the proportion of residents who hold Australian citizenship at the time of the Census. This information provides context for understanding the composition of the population and levels of civic participation within the community.

Citizenship data is commonly used to understand patterns of citizenship uptake over time and to identify the share of the population eligible to participate in civic and democratic processes, such as voting.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all Australian Citizenship cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. Of the total residents, 35,887 or 88.3% were Australian citizens, compared with 86.1% in 2016. The proportion of Australian citizens for the South West is 87.0%, and for Western Australia is 82.8%.



3.10 Language spoken at home

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Language spoken at home identifies the main language people report speaking in their household. This information provides insight into migration patterns and the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community and helps build an understanding of how residents communicate in everyday life.

Language data can support planning for community engagement, communication and service delivery. It is important to note that this Census question allows only one response; as a result, the category 'English' refers specifically to people who speak only English at home and does not include people who speak English in addition to another language.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all Language Spoken at Home cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. 36,190 (89.1%) speak only English at home, 236 (0.6%) speak German, and 179 (0.4%) speak Afrikaans at home.

Language spoken at home	Persons	%
English	36,190	89.1%
German	236	0.6%
Afrikaans	179	0.4%
Italian	133	0.3%
French	126	0.3%
Hazaraghi	87	0.2%
Mandarin	87	0.2%
Punjabi	81	0.2%
Thai	79	0.2%
Vietnamese	76	0.2%
Spanish	67	0.2%
Tagalog	62	0.2%
Portuguese	61	0.2%
Indonesian	60	0.1%
Balance	752	1.9%
Not stated	2,364	5.8%
Total	40,640	100%

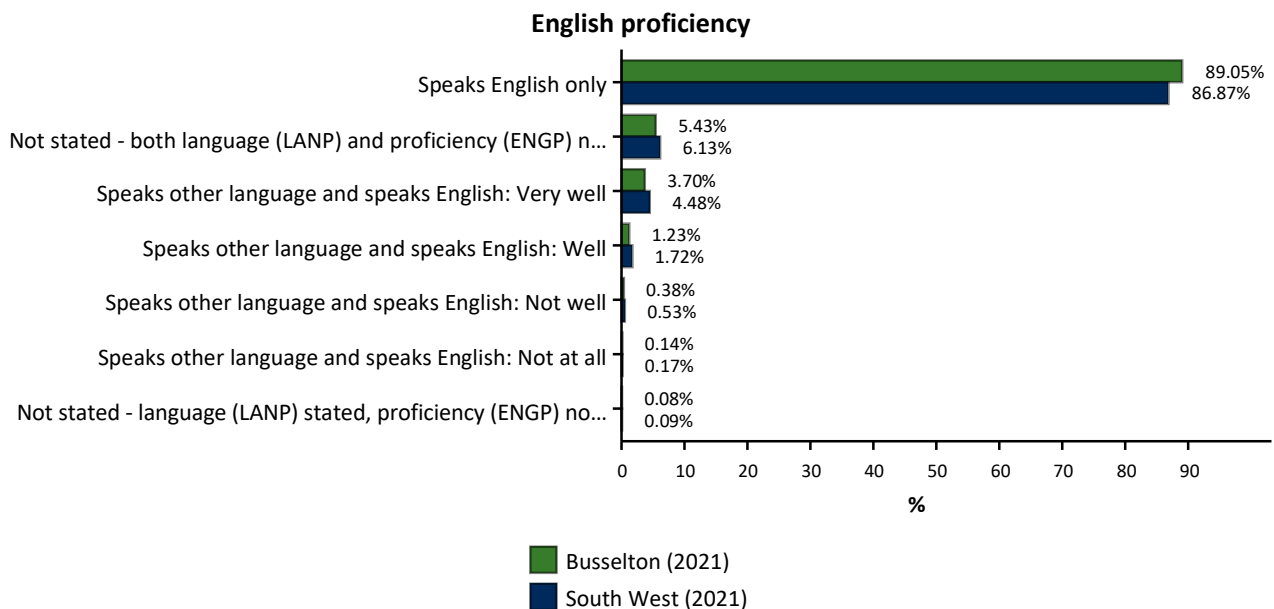
3.11 English proficiency

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

English proficiency classifies a person’s self-assessed ability to speak English where a language other than English is spoken at home. This information provides insight into the diversity of language use within the community and how residents may interact with services, information and community activities.

Understanding levels of English proficiency can support planning for communication, engagement and access to services, including the provision of multilingual information and English language support where appropriate.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all English Proficiency cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. 92.8% have a high proficiency in English, compared with 91.3% for the South West and 86.8% for Western Australia.



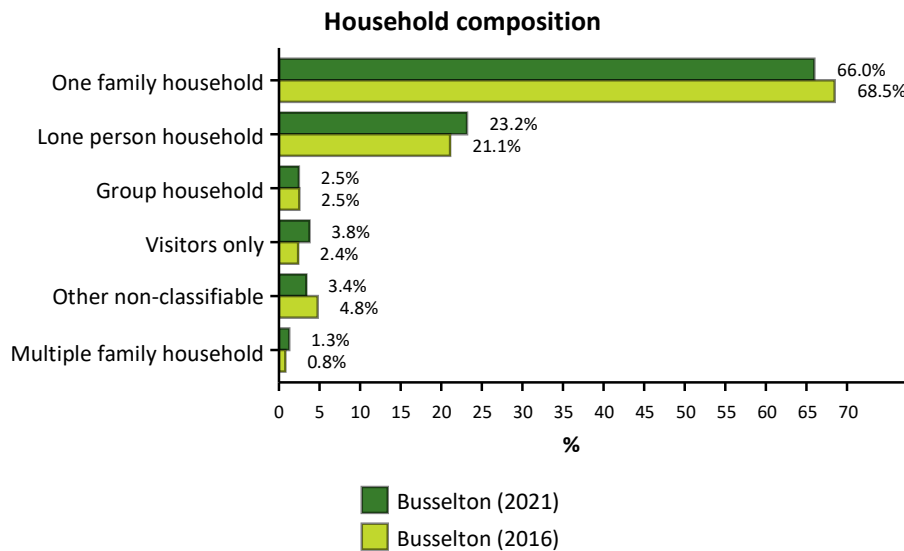
4. Families and Households

4.1 Household composition

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Household composition describes the way people live together within private dwellings, including whether households are made up of one family, multiple families, lone persons or groups of unrelated people. Understanding household structure provides context for planning housing, services and infrastructure that respond to different living arrangements.

The total number of dwellings located in Busselton LGA in all applicable Household Composition cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 16,138. 10,647 (65.97%) were one family households, 3,740 (23.18%) were lone person households and 396 (2.45%) were group households. The 'Multiple family household' cohort recorded the largest percentage change in Busselton, showing a 85.45% increase from 2016 with an additional 94 households.



Household composition	2016		2021		Change	
	Dwellings	%	Dwellings	%	Dwellings	%
One family household	9,559	68.48%	10,647	65.97%	1,088	11.38%
Lone person household	2,944	21.09%	3,740	23.18%	796	27.04%
Group household	350	2.51%	396	2.45%	46	13.14%
Visitors only	330	2.36%	607	3.76%	277	83.94%
Other non-classifiable	666	4.77%	544	3.37%	-122	-18.32%
Multiple family household	110	0.79%	204	1.26%	94	85.45%
Total	13,959	100%	16,138	100%	2,179	15.61%

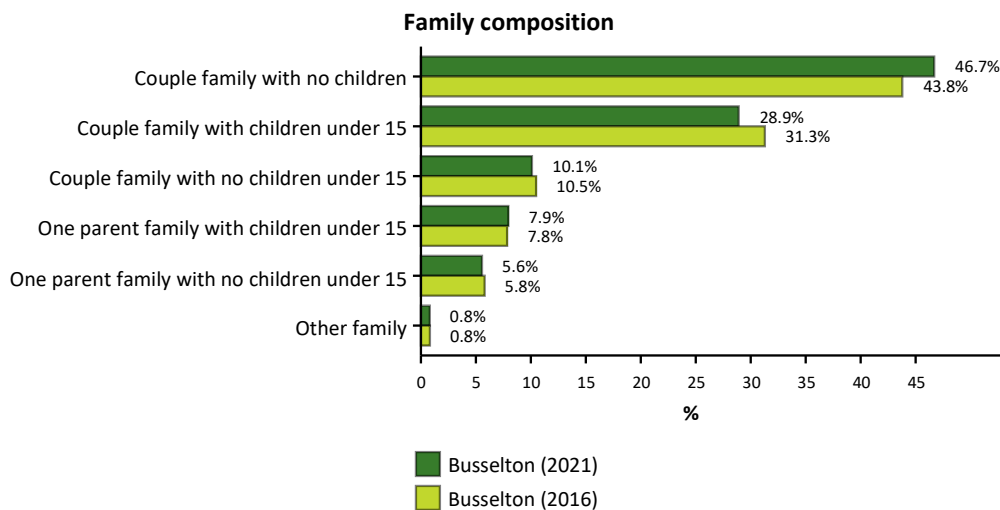
4.2 Family composition

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Family composition describes the types of families present within households. A family is defined as two or more related persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who usually live in the same household. Some households may contain more than one family.

Understanding family composition provides insight into the types of families present in the community and how family structures are changing over time.

The total number of families enumerated in Busselton LGA in all applicable Family Composition cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 11,071. 5,169 (46.69%) were a couple family with no children, 3,200 (28.9%) were a couple family with children under 15. The 'Couple family with no children' cohort recorded the largest percentage change, showing a 20.66% increase from 2016.



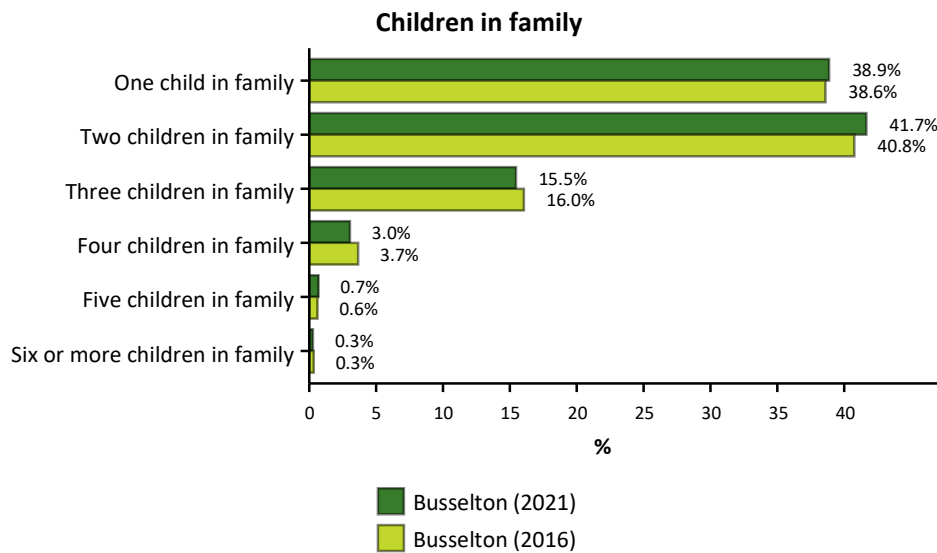
Family composition	2016		2021		Change	
	Families	%	Families	%	Families	%
Couple family with no children	4,284	43.79%	5,169	46.69%	885	20.66%
Couple family with children under 15	3,061	31.29%	3,200	28.90%	139	4.54%
Couple family with no children under 15	1,025	10.48%	1,118	10.10%	93	9.07%
One parent family with children under 15	767	7.84%	880	7.95%	113	14.73%
One parent family with no children under 15	567	5.80%	615	5.56%	48	8.47%
Other family	80	0.82%	89	0.80%	9	11.25%
Total	9,784	100%	11,071	100%	1,287	13.15%

4.3 Children in family

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Children in family describes the number of dependent and non-dependent children living in family households. This measure applies only to families with children and provides insight into the distribution of families with children within the community, supporting planning for education, services and infrastructure.

The total number of families enumerated in Busselton LGA in all applicable 'Total Children in Family' cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 5,814. 2,260 (38.87%) were one-child families 2,422 (41.66%) were two-child families, and 899 (15.46%) were three-child families and 233 (4.01%) were four-or more children families.



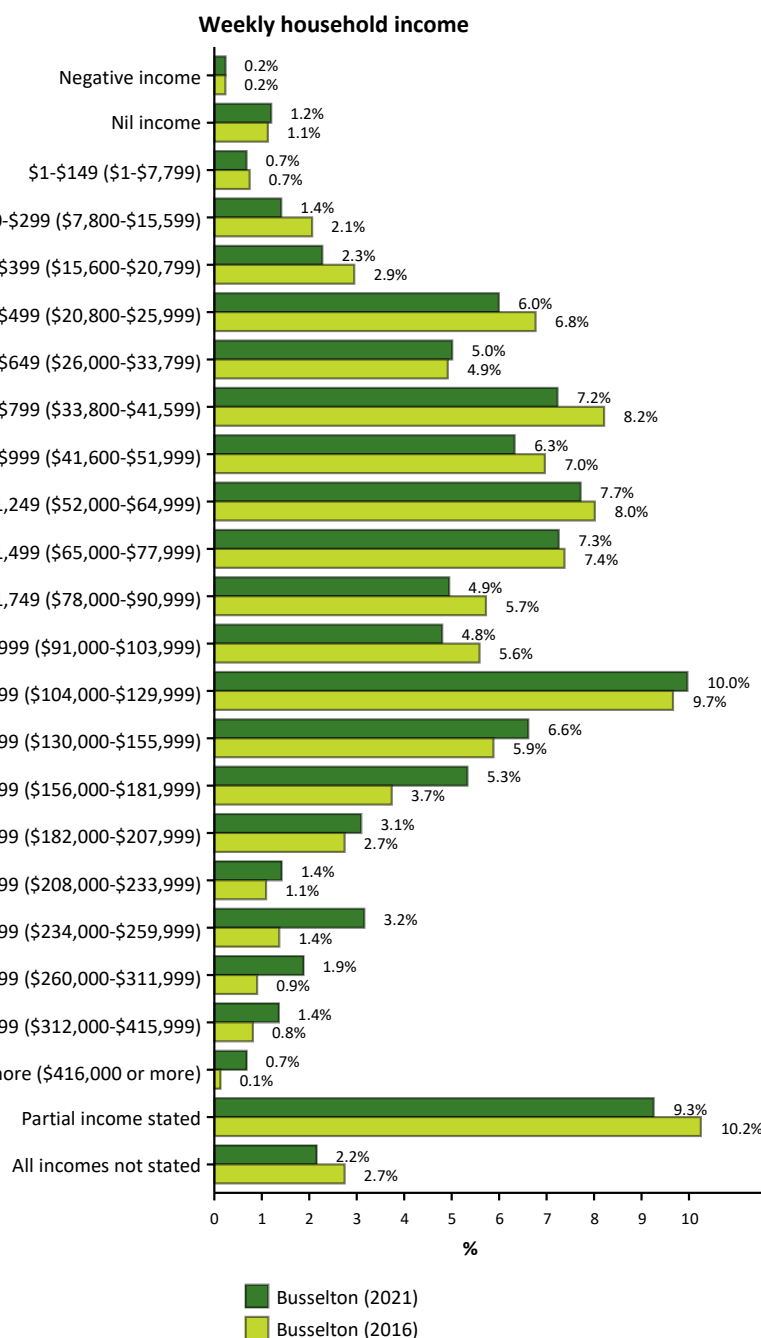
Children in family	2016		2021		Change	
	Families	%	Families	%	Families	%
One child in family	2,090	38.60%	2,260	38.87%	170	8.13%
Two children in family	2,207	40.76%	2,422	41.66%	215	9.74%
Three children in family	869	16.05%	899	15.46%	30	3.45%
Four children in family	198	3.66%	177	3.04%	-21	-10.61%
Five children in family	33	0.61%	40	0.69%	7	21.21%
Six or more children in family	18	0.33%	16	0.28%	-2	-11.11%
Total	5,415	100%	5,814	100%	399	7.37%

4.4 Household income

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Household income represents the combined income of all household members aged 15 years and over living in a private dwelling. Considered alongside housing tenure, housing costs, education and employment, household income provides important context for understanding living standards and supporting social and community planning.

The total number of dwellings located in Busselton LGA in all applicable Household Income cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 15,601. The median household income in 2021 was \$1,459 per week, compared with \$1,684 for the South West and \$1,815 for Western Australia. In 2021, 33.51% of households earned \$2,000 per week or more compared with 33.71% for the South West and 55.48% for Western Australia.



Weekly Household Income	2016		2021		Change	
	Dwellings	%	Dwellings	%	Dwellings	%
Negative income	31	0.23%	37	0.24%	6	19.35%
Nil income	150	1.13%	187	1.20%	37	24.67%
\$1-\$149 (\$1-\$7,799)	99	0.74%	106	0.68%	7	7.07%
\$150-\$299 (\$7,800-\$15,599)	274	2.06%	220	1.41%	-54	-19.71%
\$300-\$399 (\$15,600-\$20,799)	392	2.95%	355	2.28%	-37	-9.44%
\$400-\$499 (\$20,800-\$25,999)	900	6.77%	935	5.99%	35	3.89%
\$500-\$649 (\$26,000-\$33,799)	654	4.92%	782	5.01%	128	19.57%
\$650-\$799 (\$33,800-\$41,599)	1,092	8.21%	1,128	7.23%	36	3.30%
\$800-\$999 (\$41,600-\$51,999)	926	6.96%	987	6.33%	61	6.59%
\$1,000-\$1,249 (\$52,000-\$64,999)	1,066	8.02%	1,204	7.72%	138	12.95%
\$1,250-\$1,499 (\$65,000-\$77,999)	981	7.38%	1,132	7.26%	151	15.39%
\$1,500-\$1,749 (\$78,000-\$90,999)	761	5.72%	772	4.95%	11	1.45%
\$1,750-\$1,999 (\$91,000-\$103,999)	743	5.59%	749	4.80%	6	0.81%
\$2,000-\$2,499 (\$104,000-\$129,999)	1,285	9.66%	1,555	9.97%	270	21.01%
\$2,500-\$2,999 (\$130,000-\$155,999)	782	5.88%	1,032	6.61%	250	31.97%
\$3,000-\$3,499 (\$156,000-\$181,999)	497	3.74%	832	5.33%	335	67.40%
\$3,500-\$3,999 (\$182,000-\$207,999)	365	2.74%	483	3.10%	118	32.33%
\$4,000-\$4,499 (\$208,000-\$233,999)	145	1.09%	221	1.42%	76	52.41%
\$4,500-\$4,999 (\$234,000-\$259,999)	182	1.37%	493	3.16%	311	170.88%
\$5,000-\$5,999 (\$260,000-\$311,999)	120	0.90%	293	1.88%	173	144.17%
\$6,000-\$7,999 (\$312,000-\$415,999)	108	0.81%	212	1.36%	104	96.30%
\$8,000 or more (\$416,000 or more)	17	0.13%	106	0.68%	89	523.53%
Partial income stated	1,363	10.25%	1,444	9.26%	81	5.94%
All incomes not stated	365	2.74%	336	2.15%	-29	-7.95%
Total	13,298	100%	15,601	100%	2,303	17.32%

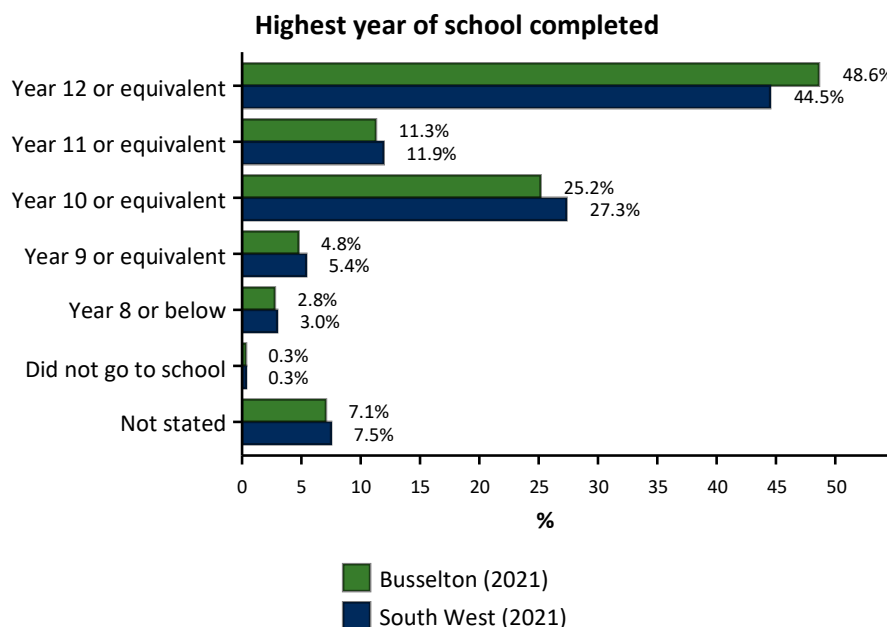
5. Education

5.1 School completion

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

School completion shows the highest level of primary or secondary education attained by residents. This information provides context for understanding educational attainment within the community and its relationship to workforce participation and socioeconomic outcomes.

The total number of applicable people usually resident in Busselton LGA on Census Night 2021 was 33,026. 16,059 people representing 48.6%, completed Year 12 or equivalent, compared with 43.4% in 2016. In 2021 the proportion completing Year 12 or equivalent in the South West was 44.5% and for Western Australia was 56.0%.



Highest year of school	2016		2021		Change	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Year 12 or equivalent	12,686	43.43%	16,059	48.63%	3,373	26.59%
Year 11 or equivalent	3,467	11.87%	3,727	11.29%	260	7.50%
Year 10 or equivalent	7,650	26.19%	8,309	25.16%	659	8.61%
Year 9 or equivalent	1,561	5.34%	1,573	4.76%	12	0.77%
Year 8 or below	914	3.13%	913	2.76%	-1	-0.11%
Did not go to school	91	0.31%	110	0.33%	19	20.88%
Not stated	2,842	9.73%	2,335	7.07%	-507	-17.84%
Total	29,211	100%	33,026	100%	3,815	13.06%

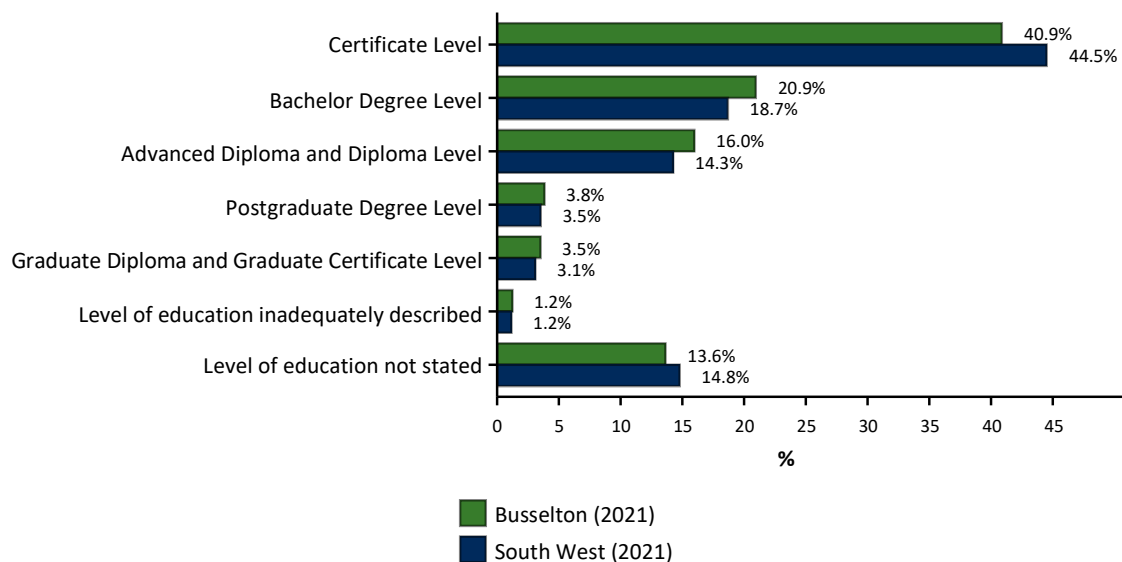
5.2 Qualifications

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Qualifications describe the highest level of non-school education completed by residents. Educational attainment across the community provides insight into skill levels and supports understanding of relationships between education, employment outcomes, income and broader socioeconomic conditions.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA on Census Night 2021 was 20,571. 5,820 people representing 28.3%, had a Bachelor degree or higher qualification, compared with 24.0% in 2016. The proportion with a Bachelor degree or higher was 25.3% for the South West and 37.5% for Western Australia.

Highest qualification



Highest qualification	2016		2021		Change	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Certificate Level	7,248	41.37%	8,408	40.87%	1,160	16.00%
Bachelor Degree Level	3,252	18.56%	4,309	20.95%	1,057	32.50%
Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level	2,633	15.03%	3,285	15.97%	652	24.76%
Postgraduate Degree Level	475	2.71%	788	3.83%	313	65.89%
Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level	476	2.72%	723	3.51%	247	51.89%
Level of education inadequately described	231	1.32%	254	1.23%	23	9.96%
Level of education not stated	3,206	18.30%	2,804	13.63%	-402	-12.54%
Total	17,521	100%	20,571	100%	3,050	17.41%

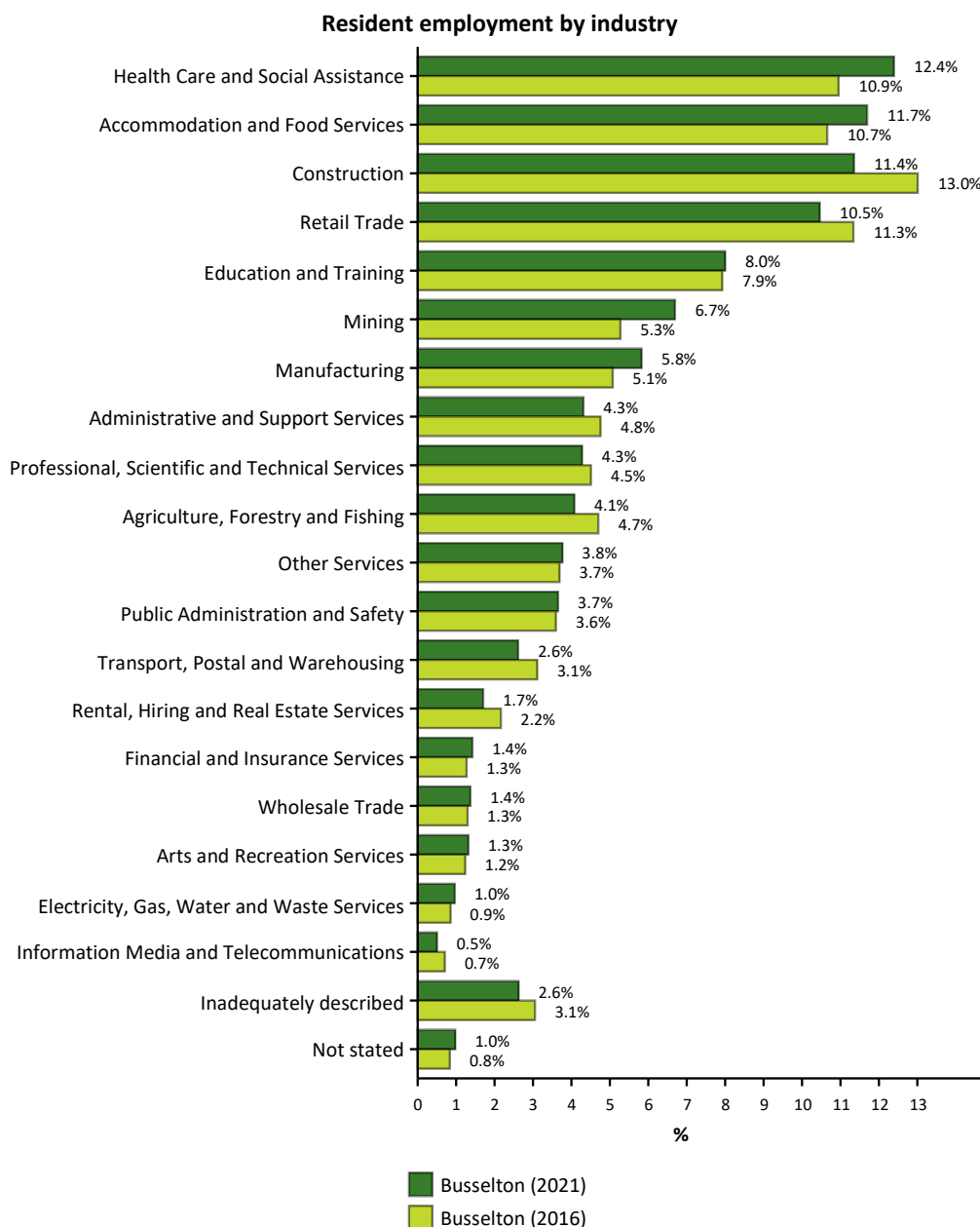
6. Work

6.1 Employment by industry

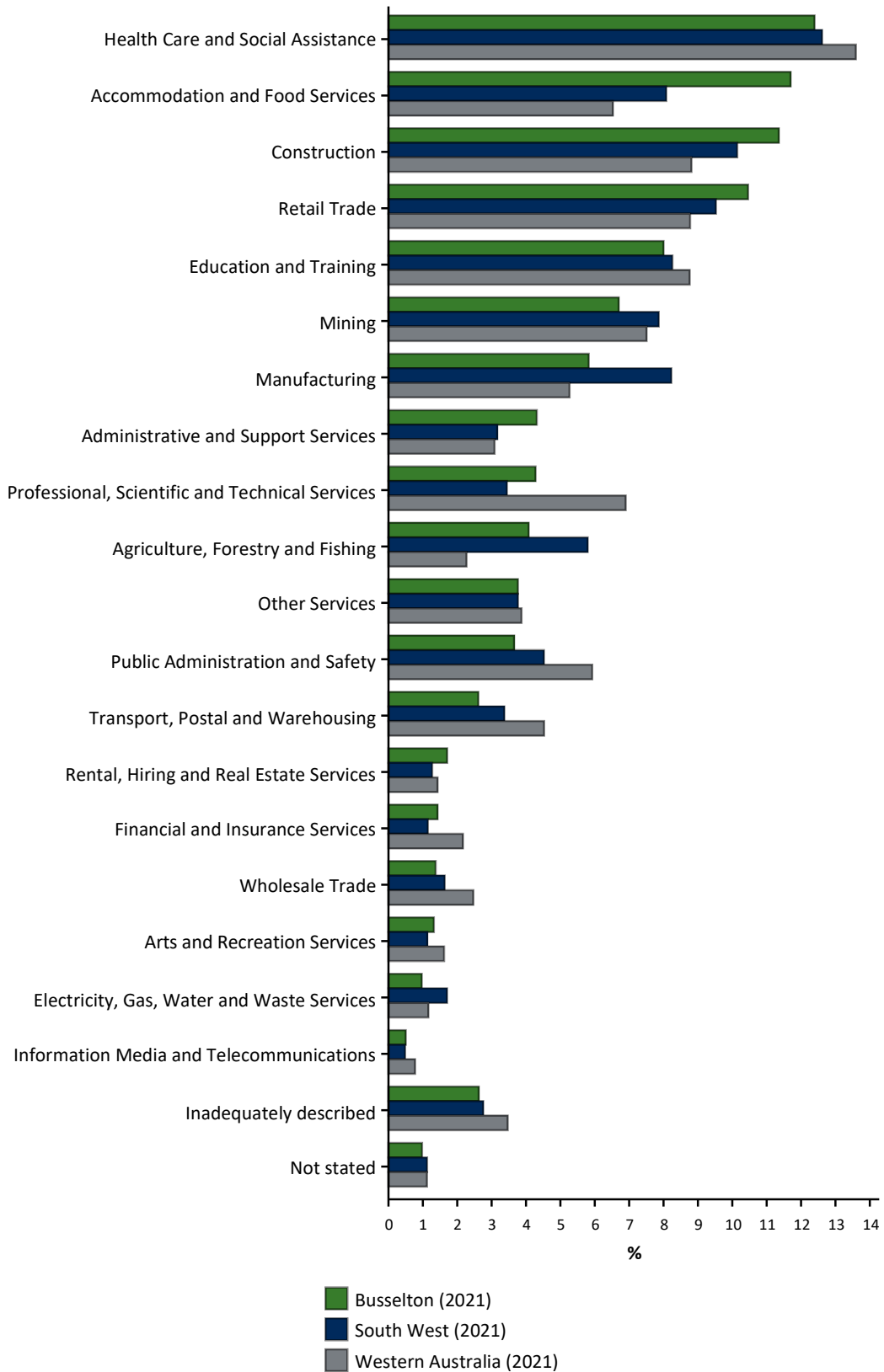
Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Employment by industry describes the sectors in which employed residents aged 15 years and over work, regardless of their place of work.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all applicable Industry cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 18,941. From 2016 to 2021 the number of working residents increased by 2,921 (18.2%). The largest industry sector of employment is 'Health Care and Social Assistance' with 2,347 people representing 12.4%, followed by 'Accommodation and Food Services' with 2,215 or 11.7%. The 'Mining' cohort recorded the largest percentage change in Busselton, showing a 50.1% increase from 2016 from employing an additional 423 residents.



% of resident employment by industry - SW & WA



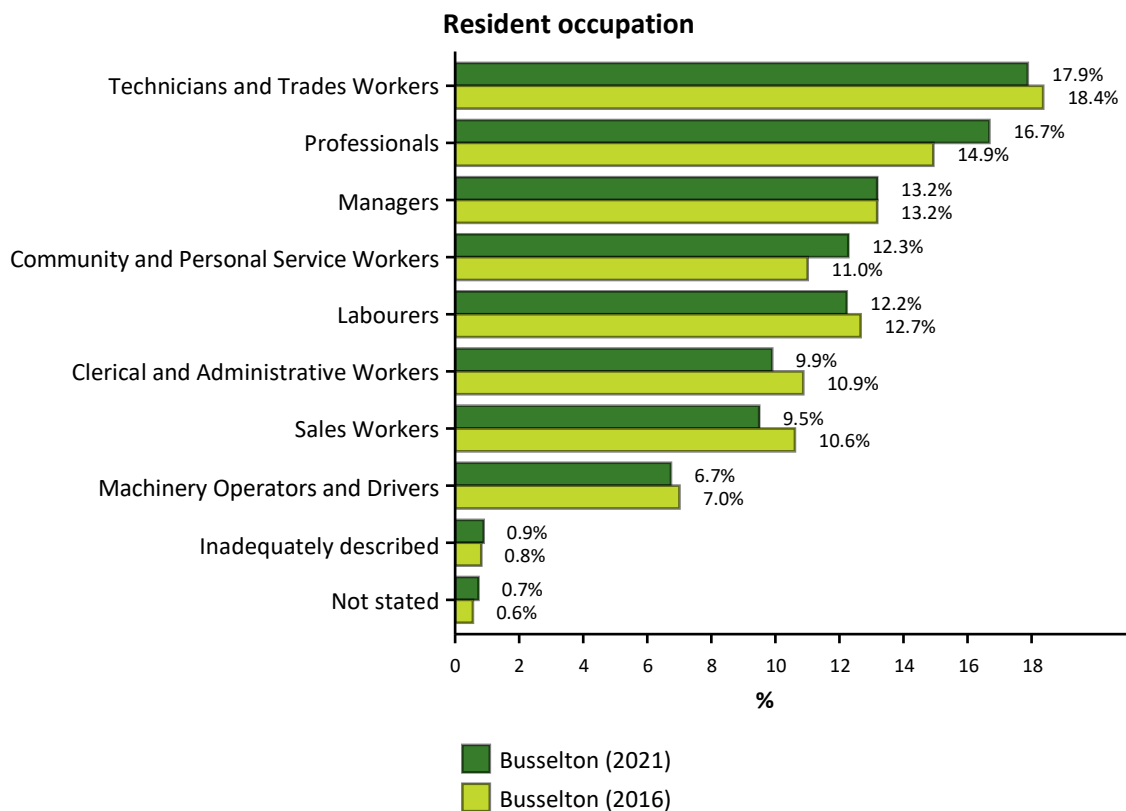
Employment by industry	2016		2021		Change	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,754	10.95%	2,347	12.39%	593	33.81%
Accommodation and Food Services	1,707	10.66%	2,215	11.69%	508	29.76%
Construction	2,084	13.01%	2,150	11.35%	66	3.17%
Retail Trade	1,816	11.34%	1,981	10.46%	165	9.09%
Education and Training	1,269	7.92%	1,515	8.00%	246	19.39%
Mining	845	5.27%	1,268	6.69%	423	50.06%
Manufacturing	813	5.07%	1,103	5.82%	290	35.67%
Administrative and Support Services	762	4.76%	817	4.31%	55	7.22%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	722	4.51%	810	4.28%	88	12.19%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	753	4.70%	772	4.08%	19	2.52%
Other Services	591	3.69%	713	3.76%	122	20.64%
Public Administration and Safety	576	3.60%	692	3.65%	116	20.14%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	498	3.11%	495	2.61%	-3	-0.60%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	347	2.17%	323	1.71%	-24	-6.92%
Financial and Insurance Services	204	1.27%	270	1.43%	66	32.35%
Wholesale Trade	208	1.30%	260	1.37%	52	25.00%
Arts and Recreation Services	198	1.24%	250	1.32%	52	26.26%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	137	0.86%	183	0.97%	46	33.58%
Information Media and Telecommunications	113	0.71%	95	0.50%	-18	-15.93%
Inadequately described	489	3.05%	497	2.62%	8	1.64%
Not stated	134	0.84%	185	0.98%	51	38.06%
Total	16,020	100%	18,941	100%	2,921	18.23%

6.2 Occupation

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Occupation describes the main job held by employed residents aged 15 years and over, based on the type of work performed and the tasks undertaken in that role. Occupation data reflects the skills and functions of the resident workforce, regardless of where people are geographically employed. Understanding the occupational profile of the community provides insight into the composition of the labour force and the types of skills present locally. This information supports labour market analysis and helps identify patterns and changes over time, including shifts in demand for skills and occupations.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all applicable Industry cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 18,948. The largest cohort is 'Technicians and Trades Workers' with 3,388 people (17.9%), followed by 'Professionals' with 3,161 people (16.7%). Professionals cohort recorded the largest change in Busselton, with an additional 767 people, a 32% increase from 2016.



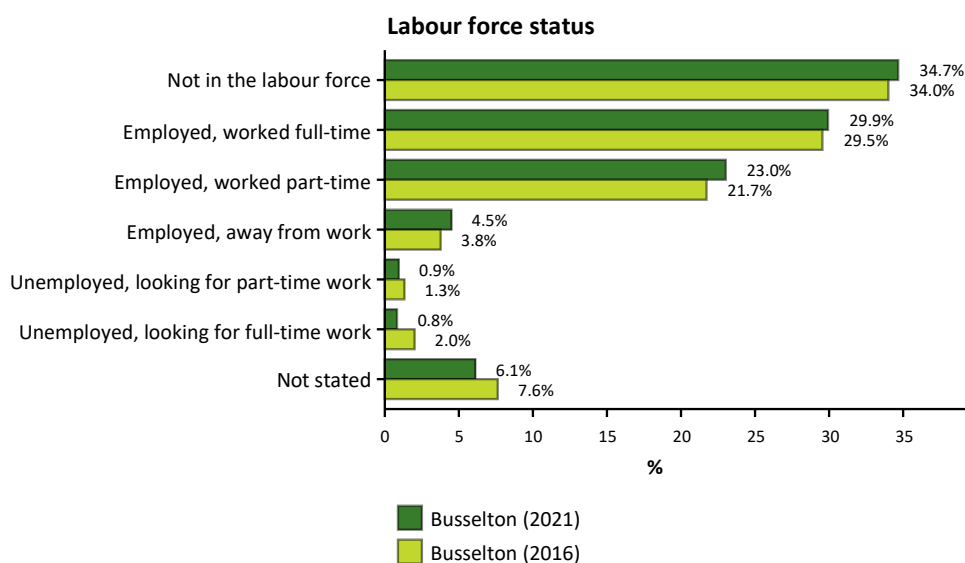
Occupation	2016		2021		Change	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Technicians and Trades Workers	2,944	18.36%	3,388	17.88%	444	15.08%
Professionals	2,394	14.93%	3,161	16.68%	767	32.04%
Managers	2,113	13.18%	2,497	13.18%	384	18.17%
Community and Personal Service Workers	1,765	11.01%	2,326	12.28%	561	31.78%
Labourers	2,030	12.66%	2,317	12.23%	287	14.14%
Clerical and Administrative Workers	1,743	10.87%	1,876	9.90%	133	7.63%
Sales Workers	1,701	10.61%	1,799	9.49%	98	5.76%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	1,123	7.00%	1,277	6.74%	154	13.71%
Inadequately described	131	0.82%	169	0.89%	38	29.01%
Not stated	89	0.56%	138	0.73%	49	55.06%
Total	16,033	100%	18,948	100%	2,915	18.18%

6.3 Labour force status

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Labour force status records whether a person was employed, unemployed or not in the labour force in the week prior to Census Night. People aged 15 years and over who are neither employed nor unemployed are classified as not in the labour force, including those who are retired, receiving pensions or engaged primarily in home duties. This information provides context for understanding patterns of workforce participation within the community and supports social and economic planning.

The total number of applicable people usually resident in Busselton LGA on Census Night 2021 was 33,026. 18,974 people (57.4%) were employed, and 585 people (1.8%) were unemployed and looking for work. The labour force participation rate was 59.2%, compared with 59.1% in 2016. The participation rate was 59.8% for the South West and 63.9% for Western Australia.



Labour force status	2016		2021		Change	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Not in the labour force	9,933	34.00%	11,449	34.67%	1,516	15.26%
Employed, worked full-time	8,632	29.55%	9,884	29.93%	1,252	14.50%
Employed, worked part-time	6,346	21.72%	7,604	23.02%	1,258	19.82%
Employed, away from work	1,101	3.77%	1,486	4.50%	385	34.97%
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	386	1.32%	312	0.94%	-74	-19.17%
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	587	2.01%	273	0.83%	-314	-53.49%
Not stated	2,227	7.62%	2,018	6.11%	-209	-9.38%
Total	29,212	100%	33,026	100%	3,814	13.06%

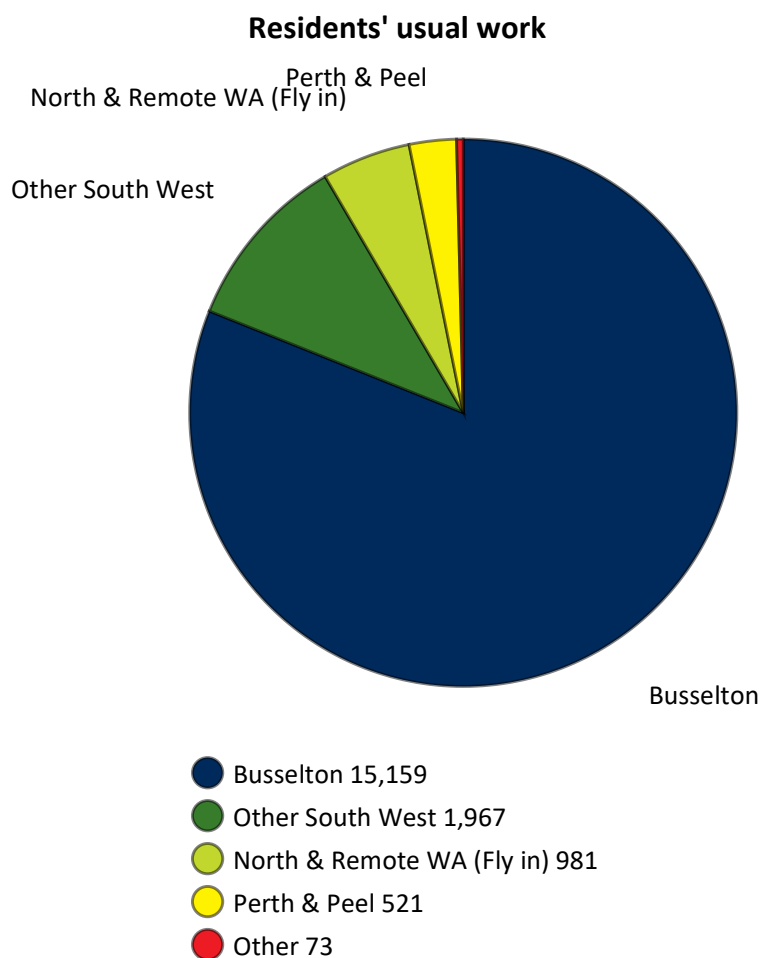
6.4 Residents' usual place of work

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing - Place of Work Employment (Scaled) (2021), REMPLAN Economy Profile Busselton (2024)

Residents' place of usual work describes the location where employed residents of the area typically work. This measure focuses on the work destinations of local residents and may include jobs located both within and outside the region.

When considered alongside employment (place of work) data, this measure helps illustrate commuting patterns and the extent to which residents work locally or travel elsewhere for employment.

This report shows the number of employed people who reside in Busselton LGA. The total employment estimate for these residents is 18,701 jobs. 15,159 (81.1%) work in Busselton, 1,967 (10.5%) work in other South West LGA's and 981 (5.2%) work in northern and remote areas of WA that are likely to require at least some part of their transportation to include air travel.



LGA of usual work	Jobs	%	LGA of usual work	Jobs	%	LGA of usual work	Jobs	%
Busselton	15,159	81.1%	Coolgardie	20	0.1%	Cue	5	0.0%
Bunbury	1,084	5.8%	Melville	19	0.1%	Rockingham	5	0.0%
Augusta Margaret River	408	2.2%	Port Hedland	19	0.1%	Serpentine- Jarrahdale	5	0.0%
East Pilbara	384	2.1%	Dandaragan	15	0.1%	Cambridge	4	0.0%
Perth	233	1.2%	Broome	14	0.1%	Exmouth	4	0.0%
Capel	225	1.2%	Perenjori	13	0.1%	Mandurah	4	0.0%
Ashburton	214	1.1%	Yalgoo	13	0.1%	Vincent	4	0.0%
Karratha	68	0.4%	Carnarvon	12	0.1%	Wanneroo	4	0.0%
Laverton	57	0.3%	Victoria Park	12	0.1%	Yilgarn	4	0.0%
Dardanup	55	0.3%	Westonia	12	0.1%	Cranbrook	3	0.0%
Nannup	44	0.2%	Joondalup	10	0.1%	Manjimup	3	0.0%
Bridgetown- Greenbushes	43	0.2%	Kwinana	10	0.1%	Wiluna	3	0.0%
Boddington	42	0.2%	Menzies	10	0.1%	Alice Springs	3	0.0%
Leonora	42	0.2%	Wyndham- East Kimberley	9	0.0%	Campbelltown (NSW)	1	0.0%
Meekatharra	42	0.2%	Gosnells	7	0.0%			
Collie	41	0.2%	Halls Creek	7	0.0%			
Belmont	31	0.2%	Kojonup	7	0.0%			
Harvey	31	0.2%	Plantagenet	7	0.0%			
Migratory - Offshore - Shipping	31	0.2%	Boyup Brook	6	0.0%			
Swan	29	0.2%	East Fremantle	6	0.0%			
Canning	28	0.1%	Fremantle	6	0.0%			
Donnybrook- Balingup	27	0.1%	Kondinin	6	0.0%			
Stirling	26	0.1%	Murray	6	0.0%			
Subiaco	25	0.1%	Hobsons Bay	5	0.0%			
Kalgoorlie- Boulder	24	0.1%	Cockburn	5	0.0%			

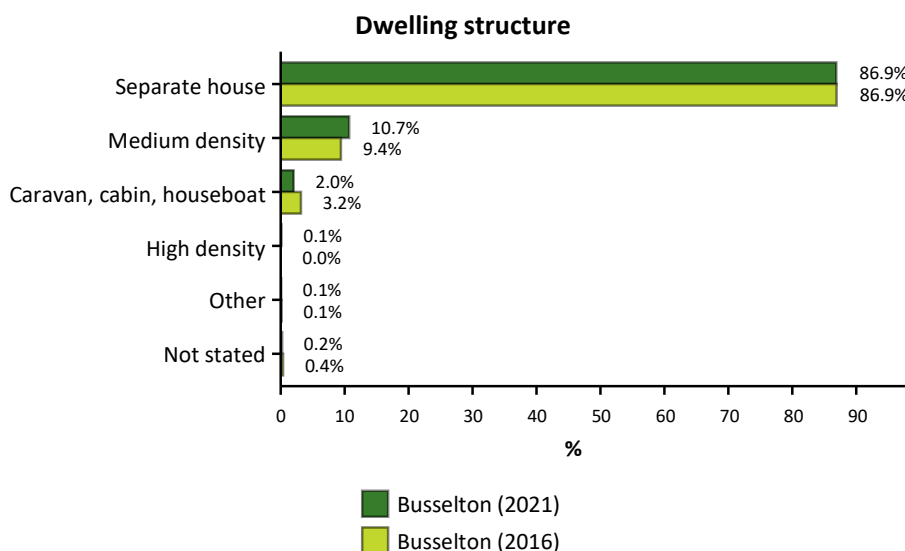
7. Housing

7.1 Dwellings

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Dwelling structure describes the type of private dwellings within the community. Information on dwelling structure provides insight into the existing housing stock, urban form and residential density, and helps monitor changes in housing characteristics over time to support housing and land-use planning.

The total number of dwellings located in Busselton LGA in all applicable Dwelling Structure cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 21,249. 18,462 dwellings (86.88%) were a separate house, 2,275 (10.71%) were medium density dwellings, and 426 (2.00%) were a caravan, cabin or houseboat.



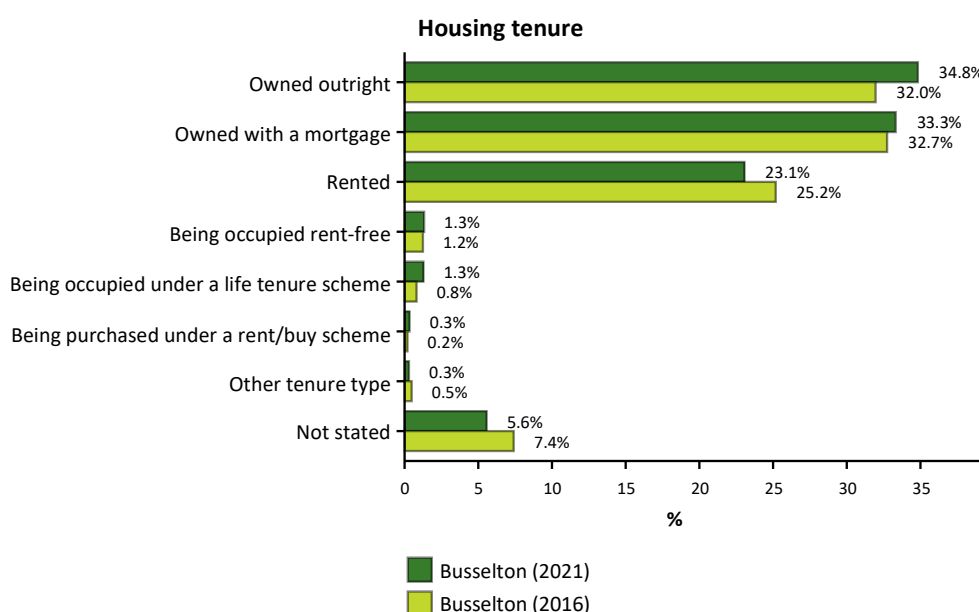
Dwelling structure	2016		2021		Change	
	Dwellings	%	Dwellings	%	Dwellings	%
Separate house	16,235	86.93%	18,462	86.88%	2,227	13.72%
Medium density	1,758	9.41%	2,275	10.71%	517	29.41%
Caravan, cabin, houseboat	591	3.16%	426	2.00%	-165	-27.92%
High density	0	0.00%	23	0.11%	23	n/a
Other	25	0.13%	16	0.08%	-9	-36.00%
Not stated	68	0.36%	47	0.22%	-21	-30.88%
Total	18,677	100%	21,249	100%	2,572	13.77%

7.2 Housing tenure

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Housing tenure describes whether dwellings are owned outright, owned with a mortgage, rented or held under other arrangements. It provides a snapshot of how dwellings are occupied and offers insight into patterns of housing stability and mobility. Understanding tenure patterns can support planning for housing, infrastructure and services by highlighting differences in ownership, mortgage and rental arrangements.

The total number of dwellings located in Busselton LGA in all applicable Ownership cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 16,138. 10,997 dwellings, representing 68.1% are either owned outright or with a mortgage, compared with 69.6% in the South West and 67.9% in Western Australia. From 2016 the rate of home ownership has increased by 17.9%.



Home ownership	2016		2021		Change	
	Dwellings	%	Dwellings	%	Dwellings	%
Owned outright	4,461	31.96%	5,620	34.82%	1,159	25.98%
Owned with a mortgage	4,570	32.74%	5,377	33.32%	807	17.66%
Rented	3,515	25.18%	3,721	23.06%	206	5.86%
Being occupied rent-free	174	1.25%	214	1.33%	40	22.99%
Being occupied under a life tenure scheme	113	0.81%	206	1.28%	93	82.30%
Being purchased under a rent/buy scheme	27	0.19%	54	0.33%	27	100.00%
Other tenure type	67	0.48%	48	0.30%	-19	-28.36%
Not stated	1,033	7.40%	898	5.56%	-135	-13.07%
Total	13,960	100%	16,138	100%	2,178	15.60%

7.3 Housing affordability

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Housing Affordability Data Explorer (2026)

Housing affordability describes the relationship between household income and housing costs, including mortgage repayments and rent. Affordability indicators compare mortgage and rent repayments with imputed household income to estimate the proportion of income spent on housing.

Housing costs of 30% or less of household income are commonly used as a benchmark for affordability, with households exceeding this threshold considered to be experiencing higher housing cost pressure.

Of the 4,365 households with a mortgage, 705 (16.2%) have mortgage payments that are above 30% of household income in 2021. Busselton LGA ranked 356 out of 520 local government areas nationally for mortgage affordability, meaning 164 LGAs in Australia are less affordable and 355 are more affordable.

Of the 3,048 households paying rent, 1,227 (40.3%) have rent payments that are above 30% of household income. Busselton LGA ranked 479 out of 545 local government areas nationally for rental affordability, meaning 66 LGAs in Australia are less affordable and 478 are more affordable.

Mortgage affordability by South West LGA	Above 30% of household income	National Rank
Collie	11.1%	135 / 520
Harvey	12.6%	204 / 520
Capel	12.8%	216 / 520
Dardanup	13.5%	250 / 520
Bunbury	14.1%	276 / 520
Busselton	16.2%	356 / 520
Manjimup	16.8%	375 / 520
Bridgetown-Greenbushes	17.2%	394 / 520
Nannup	17.2%	396 / 520
Donnybrook-Balingup	17.3%	398 / 520
Boyup Brook	18.9%	435 / 520
Augusta Margaret River	19.8%	458 / 520

Rent affordability by South West LGA	Above 30% of household income	National Rank
Boyup Brook	26.2%	180 / 545
Dardanup	32.4%	300 / 545
Capel	32.9%	308 / 545
Manjimup	33.3%	322 / 545
Harvey	33.9%	343 / 545
Augusta Margaret River	34.3%	359 / 545
Bridgetown-Greenbushes	34.3%	363 / 545
Donnybrook-Balingup	36%	394 / 545
Nannup	37.4%	430 / 545
Bunbury	38%	448 / 545
Collie	38.6%	460 / 545
Busselton	40.3%	479 / 545

7.4 Housing market indicators

Source: South West Development Commission Construction & Housing Snapshot (May 2025), Corelogic Market Trends Report May 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Housing market indicators provide a snapshot of current housing conditions, including property prices and rental values. These indicators complement Census-based housing data by offering more recent insight into housing market trends and conditions within the region.

Busselton LGA recorded a median house sales price of \$800,000 in the year ending May 2024, compared with a median sales price range of \$576,858 to \$657,656 for the South West. Median house prices in Busselton increased by 12.7% over the past 12 months, and 55.7% over the past five years.

In the year ending May 2024, median asking rent for houses in Busselton LGA was \$690, compared with an average rental price of \$599 for the South West. Median asking rents increased by 15.0% over the past 12 months, and 72.5% over the past five years.

Property profile	House	Unit
Total number of properties:	19,117	2,113
Median sales price:	\$800,000	\$500,000
12 month change in median sales price:	12.7%	25.0%
60 month change in median sales price:	55.7%	68.4%
Median asking rent:	\$690	\$600
12 month change in median asking rent:	15.0%	14.3%
60 month change in median asking rent:	72.5%	71.4%

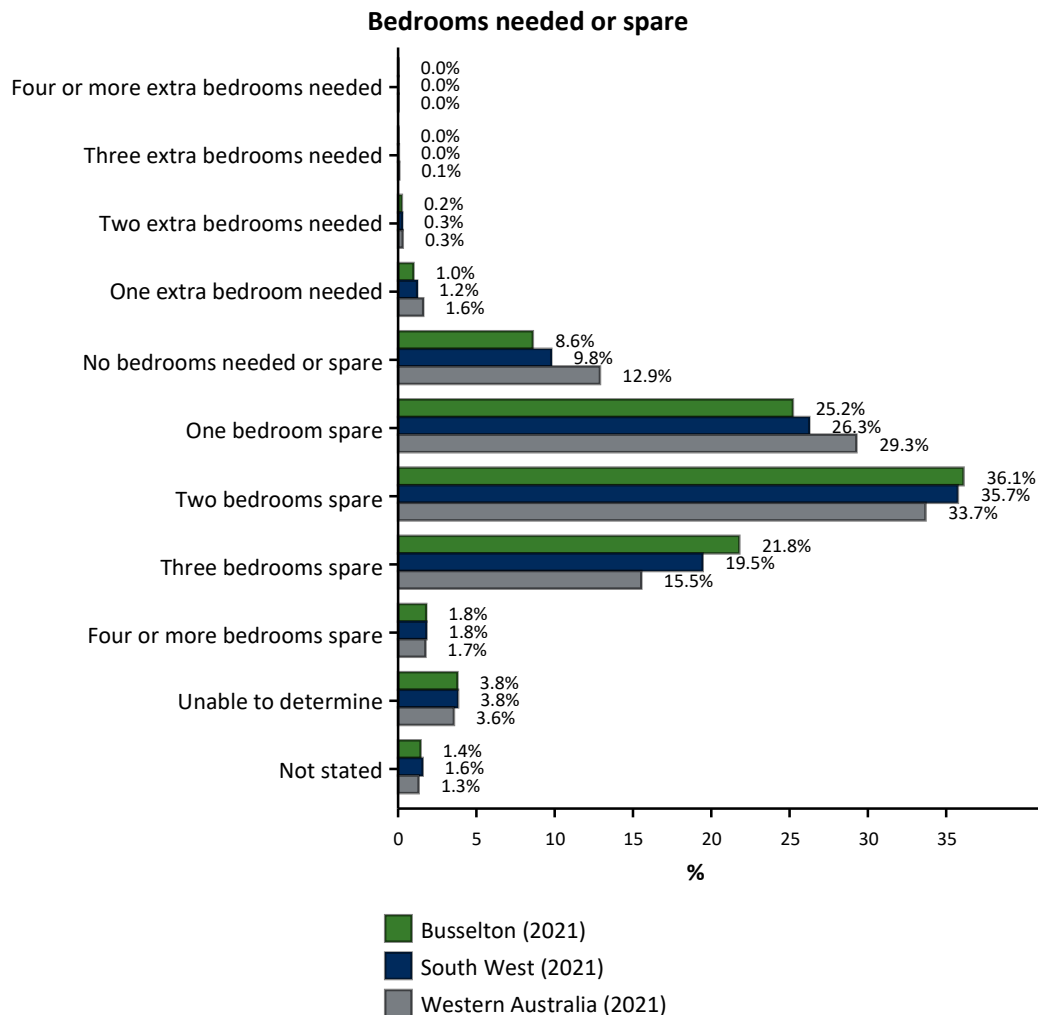
7.5 Housing suitability

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Housing suitability measures how well dwelling size aligns with household needs by comparing the number of bedrooms in a dwelling with household characteristics such as the number of usual residents, their relationships, age and sex. This information helps measure housing utilisation.

When considered alongside other measures such as household income, housing tenure, education and employment, housing suitability provides useful context for social and community planning.

The total number of dwellings located in Busselton LGA in all applicable Housing Suitability cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 14,993. In 2021, 59.69% of dwellings had two or more spare bedrooms, compared with 57.01% in the South West and 50.96% in Western Australia.

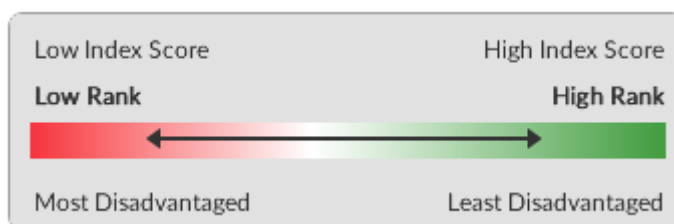


8. Health and Wellbeing

8.1 Disadvantage

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are a suite of indexes produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics using Census data to summarise the relative socio-economic conditions of geographic areas. This report presents results from the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD), which focuses on indicators of disadvantage relating to income, education, employment and housing. Lower IRSD scores indicate relatively higher levels of disadvantage, while higher scores indicate relatively lower levels of disadvantage.



The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage score for Busselton LGA is 1019. Busselton ranks 419 out of 547 local government areas nationally, meaning 128 LGAs in Australia are less disadvantaged, and 418 LGAs are more disadvantaged.

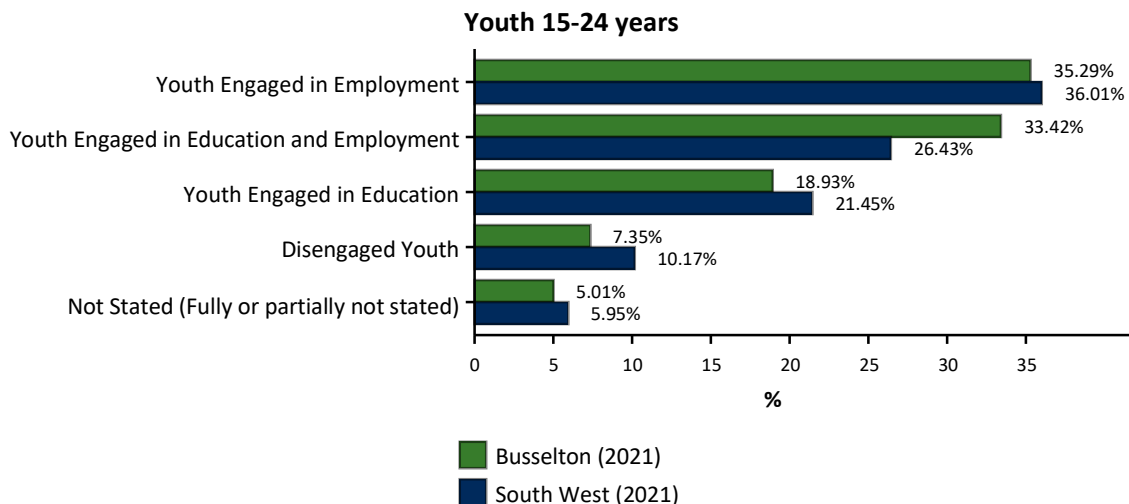
SEIFA by South West LGA	SEIFA Score	National Rank
Augusta Margaret River	1031	460 / 547
Busselton	1019	419 / 547
Capel	1016	413 / 547
Dardanup	1006	388 / 547
Bridgetown-Greenbushes	1000	366 / 547
Harvey	998	360 / 547
Boyup Brook	995	346 / 547
Donnybrook-Balingup	987	308 / 547
Nannup	978	272 / 547
Manjimup	959	196 / 547
Bunbury	944	147 / 547
Collie	908	78 / 547

8.2 Youth engagement

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Youth engagement is a cross-tabulated measure of people aged 15-24 years based on their participation in employment and education. When considered alongside labour force, student status and income data, youth engagement provides insights into the level of connection young people have to work and study, supporting social and community planning.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all applicable Youth Engagement cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 3,672. 270 young people, representing 7.35% were disengaged from both education and employment, compared with 10.2% for the South West and 8.7% for Western Australia. Between 2016 and 2021, the disengaged youth cohort decreased by 92 people, representing a 25.41% reduction.



Youth 15-24	2016		2021		Change	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Youth Engaged in Employment	1,258	35.05%	1,296	35.29%	38	3.02%
Youth Engaged in Education	945	26.33%	695	18.93%	-250	-26.46%
Youth Engaged in Education and Employment	810	22.57%	1,227	33.42%	417	51.48%
Disengaged Youth	362	10.09%	270	7.35%	-92	-25.41%
Fully or partially not stated	214	5.96%	184	5.01%	-30	-14.02%
Total	3,589	100%	3,672	100%	83	2.31%

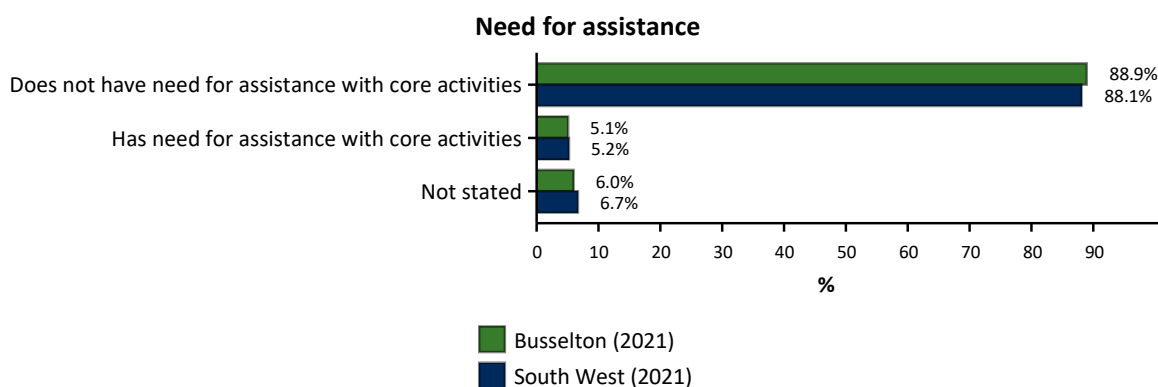
8.3 Need for assistance

Source: ABS Census of Population & Housing (2016/2021), REMPLAN Community Profile Busselton (2024)

Need for assistance identifies people who report a need for help or assistance with one or more core activities of self-care, mobility or communication due to a profound or severe disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), or old age.

This measure provides insight into the proportion and characteristics of people requiring assistance within the community and supports the planning and delivery of policies, programs and services, including funding allocation for community-based support.

The total number of people usually resident in Busselton LGA in all Need for Assistance cohorts on Census Night 2021 was 40,640. 2,072 people representing 5.1% require assistance with core activities, compared with 5.2% for the South West and 4.6% for Western Australia. The proportion of people needing assistance with core activities has increased by 571 people, or 38.0% since 2016.



Need for assistance	2016		2021		Change	
	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Does not have need for assistance with core activities	32,299	88.04%	36,144	88.94%	3,845	11.90%
Has need for assistance with core activities	1,501	4.09%	2,072	5.10%	571	38.04%
Not stated	2,888	7.87%	2,424	5.96%	-464	-16.07%
Total	36,688	100%	40,640	100%	3,952	10.77%

9. Data sources

Each section of this report incorporates the relevant data sources and reference periods to support further interpretation and analysis.

The information included is predominantly sourced from REMPLAN Economic Modelling and Planning System (Version v2405). REMPLAN's Community Profiles are derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimated Residential Population and the 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021 Census of Population and Housing.

Two Census population counts have been used where relevant, depending on the indicator being presented:

Place of Usual Residence

The Census count for Place of Usual Residence (PURP) represents people based on the area in which they usually live, regardless of where they were located on Census Night. This is referred to as the *de jure* population and forms the basis of the Estimated Resident Population (ERP).

Counts compiled on this basis minimise the influence of temporary and seasonal factors and provide information on usual residents, population structure, and internal migration patterns.

With the introduction of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) from the 2011 Census, Place of Usual Residence data are available at Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) and can be aggregated to higher geographic levels. Where insufficient address information is provided, usual residence may be imputed at SA1 level in accordance with ABS methodologies.

Place of Enumeration

The Census count for Place of Enumeration represents people based on where they were located on Census Night, regardless of where they usually live. This includes visitors and temporary populations and provides a snapshot of population presence at a point in time.

In areas affected by tourism or seasonal population movements, Place of Enumeration counts may differ markedly from Place of Usual Residence counts.

Census counts based on Place of Enumeration are available at SA1 level and can be aggregated to higher geographic areas.

For further information on Census variables, definitions and classifications, refer to the Australian Bureau of Statistics *Census Dictionary*, available at www.abs.gov.au.

10. Disclaimer

The material contained in this publication is provided on the understanding that the Commonwealth, Regional Development Australia South West (RDA South West), and REMPLAN are not providing professional advice, and that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use and seek independent advice.

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All figures, data and commentary in this report are derived from REMPLAN modelling, which draws primarily on data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including Census data from 1991 to 2021. ABS data has been subject to random adjustment to protect confidentiality, and users should note the ABS advice that no reliance should be placed on small cell values.

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11. Contact us

For enquiries about this publication, the information it contains, or other data requirements, please contact:

Regional Development Australia South West

remplan@rdasouthwest.com.au

www.rdasouthwest.com.au

