



## State of Australian Cities 2013

### Canberra/Queanbeyan



#### Population and Settlement

- The population of Canberra-Queanbeyan grew by 9.6% between 2006 and 2011, to 418,292, compared to 4.4% between 2001 and 2006. Contributing to this growth were inward domestic migration and a high birth rate.
- In 2010–11, 1,294 more people moved to Canberra-Queanbeyan from other parts of Australia than left the city for other parts of Australia. Births (7,522) significantly outnumbered deaths (1,950) in the city in 2010–11. Reflecting the experience of most Australian capitals, the vast majority (82%) of extra people moving to Canberra (net domestic migrants) between 2006 and 2011 were male.
- When averaged across the 2006–11 period, people moving to Canberra-Queanbeyan as a proportion of estimated resident population was 0.16% which is the highest of all capital cities.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In Canberra-Queanbeyan there were 8,340 international higher education students in 2011, or 2.0% of the city's population. It is estimated that international students in higher education, vocational and English language courses spend an average of \$42,531 per annum while studying in Australia.
- Canberra has the highest proportion of on-campus accommodation for international students. This is mainly due to the Australian National University's policy of guaranteeing on-campus accommodation for all first year undergraduates originating from outside the local area, including international students.
- In 2012, 1,313 Temporary Skilled (subclass 457) visa holders were living in Canberra-Queanbeyan, out of 195,320 total 457 visa holders in Australia.

#### Productivity

- The proportion of employed females in full-time employment in Canberra-Queanbeyan in 2011 (63.0%), was significantly higher than the national average of 53.0%. The city had 82.6% of employed males working full-time in 2011, up from 79.1% in 2001, which was slightly above the national average of 81.7%.
- Of the major cities, Canberra-Queanbeyan in 2011 had the highest proportion of people employed in public administration and safety (31.7% of males and 33.4% of females) and professional and real estate services (12.4% of males and 9.3% of females).
- Employment by industry changed noticeably in Australia's major cities between 2001 and 2011. Reflecting the experience of all the capitals in this period, employment share in Canberra-Queanbeyan declined substantially in retail trade (12.0% to 7.2% of males; 13.5% to 8.6% of females) and professional and real estate services (16.2% to 12.4% of males; 13.1% to 9.3% of females).
- Of the major cities, Canberra-Queanbeyan experienced the strongest shift in employment towards the public administration and safety sector between 2001 and 2011 (23.7% to 31.7% of males; 23.3% to 33.4% of females).
- In 2011 Canberra-Queanbeyan was the major city with the highest proportion of both males (34.6%) and females (36.1%) holding a bachelor degree or above, compared with the national average of 19.4% of males and 22.7% of females. Canberra-Queanbeyan has the lowest proportion of people with

certificate level qualifications – 19.3% of males and 11.6% of females, compared to the national average of 26.8% for males and 14.0% for females.

## Sustainability

- During the 2012–13 heatwave, Canberra-Queanbeyan experienced extreme temperatures, reaching 42.0°C. Across Australia, 123 weather records were broken during this period, including the hottest January, the hottest summer and the hottest day on record for Australian as a whole.
- Heatwave-related deaths in Australia's cities are predicted to double in the next 40 years as a result of climate change, population growth and an ageing population. In Canberra-Queanbeyan the average number of annual heat-related deaths is forecast to rise from 41 in 2011 to 79 in 2050.
- The Canberra-Queanbeyan region is experiencing a long-term decline in the number of frosty nights. There have been on average 4.5 fewer frosty nights in the region each decade since 1970.
- The management of waste is integral to the sustainability of Australia's major cities. Canberra-Queanbeyan has the highest level of recycling of the major cities, with 85% of standard recyclables (paper, plastic, glass and metals) and over 90% of green waste recycled in 2012.

## Liveability

- 2013 marks Canberra's centenary. The centenary is being celebrated with a year-long cultural, sporting and ideas program in the nation's capital. This includes Canberra hosting its first international cricket match, the British Lions tour match against the ACT Brumbies, the Rugby League Anzac Test Match Australia v New Zealand, CAPITheticAL – the international competition to design a hypothetical Australian capital city, and Canberra Diaspora - an online project in which participants document their own personal story to celebrate the Centenary.
- In 2012, Canberra-Queanbeyan was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> of 11 Australian cities included in the Property Council of Australia's *My City* liveability survey. The survey is one of a number of national and international efforts to measure wellbeing and quality of life in cities using more than simply economic factors. Across the 11 cities, participants rated safety, cost of living, health, employment and quality of the environment as the most important attributes for liveability.
- Canberra-Queanbeyan has the highest median household income of all the major cities. Between 2006 and 2011, median household income increased by 25.3% to \$1,891 per week, compared to the national median of \$1,234. While income levels have increased across all income groups nationally, the rate of growth is higher at the top and bottom.
- Low-income households where housing costs take up more than 30% of household income are regarded as experiencing housing stress. In Canberra-Queanbeyan in 2011, 20.5% of low-income private rental households, and 9.1% of low-income mortgaged households were low income households experiencing housing stress.
- Canberra-Queanbeyan had an estimated homeless population of 1,787 in 2011, approximately 0.4% of the city's population.
- The proportion of Canberra-Queanbeyan's population aged 65 and over was 10% in 2011, compared to the national average of 13.3%. In line with national trends, this age group is projected to more than double in Canberra-Queanbeyan by 2056, to between 20.1% and 23.4% of the city's population.
- Active travel can improve liveability in cities by increasing health and wellbeing and reducing traffic congestion. In 2011, 7.1% of Canberra-Queanbeyan commuters walked or cycled to work, one of the highest rates of active travel of the major cities.
- Canberra-Queanbeyan had 2.7 male bicycle commuters for every female bicycle commuter in 2011, below the average ratio of 3.3:1 across the major cities.