

Tasmania's ageing population

Tasmania is the oldest, and its population structure is ageing the fastest, of all Australian states or territories.

While there are some challenges that come with an ageing population, there are also a lot of opportunities. It's worth celebrating that we can all expect to live longer and spend more time with our loved ones than ever before.

What does Tasmania's population look like now and compared to previous years?

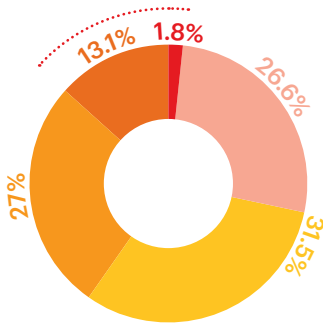
- Tasmania's median age increased from 34 years in 1996 and 39 years in 2006 to 42 years in 2016, to **be 4 years greater than the Australian median age of 38 years**.
- Almost 100,000 Tasmanians were aged over 65 years in 2016, almost one in five people.
- The proportion of Tasmania's population aged over 65 years increased from 12.4% in 1996 and 14.9% in 2006, to 19.4% in 2016.

What does Tasmania's population look like compared to the rest of Australia?

- Tasmania had the highest proportion of the population aged over 65 years in 2016 and its population structure is ageing faster than any other state or territory.
- Tasmania had the highest proportion of the population aged over 50 years (40.5%) and the lowest proportion of people aged less than 50 years (59.5%) than any other state or territory in 2016.
- Tasmania's ageing population is likely to be the result of migration of younger people away from and older people to the State.

2006

(actual)



People over 65 years:

71,138 14.9%

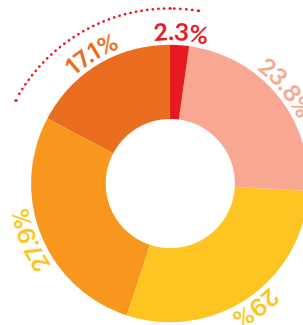
People under 65 years:

405,342

Total population:
476,480

2016

(actual)



People over 65 years:

98,738 19.4%

People under 65 years:

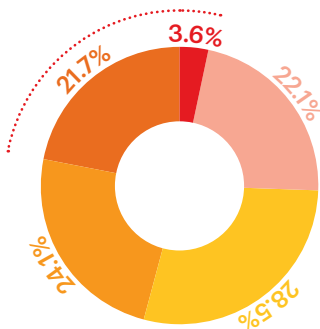
411,228

Total population:
509,966

The number of Tasmanians aged over 65 years is predicted to increase by 80,000 people from 2016 to 2060 (Treasury medium series).

2030

(projected)



People over 65 years:

142,953 25.3%

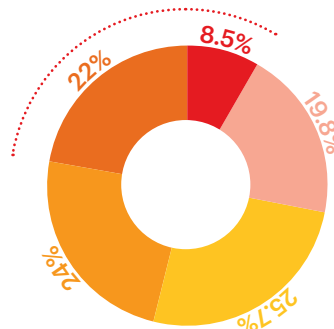
People under 65 years:

421,257

Total population:
564,210

2060

(projected)



People over 65 years:

179,524 30.5%

People under 65 years:

409,508

Total population:
589,032

Age (years)

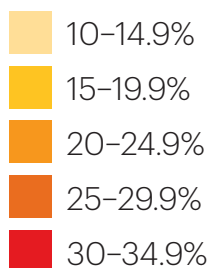


What does Tasmania's population look like within itself?

- LGAs with the highest median ages and proportion of the population aged over 65 years in 2016 were **Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Tasman** and **Break O'Day**.
- LGAs with the highest number of people aged over 65 years in 2016 were Launceston, Clarence and Hobart.
- **The oldest region in Tasmania is the South East**, with 22.2% of the population over 65 years in 2016.
- **Remote and very remote areas had the highest proportion of people aged over 65 years** in 2016.

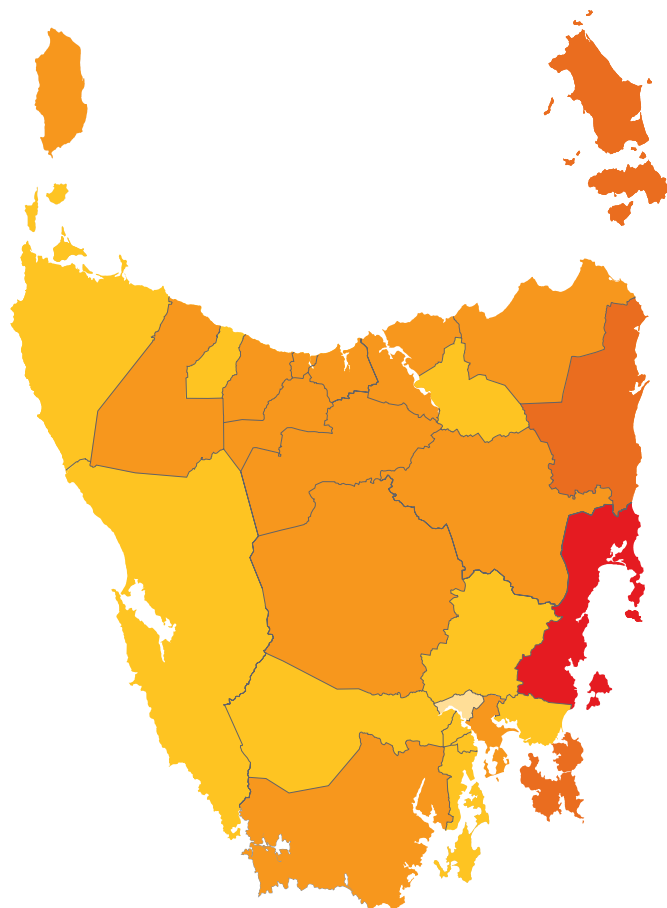
18 of Tasmania's 29 Local Government Areas had over 20% of the population aged over 65 years in 2016.

Proportion of population aged over 65



What will Tasmania's population look like in the future?

- **Almost 180,000 Tasmanians (30.5% of population) are expected to be over 65 years by 2060.**
- All Tasmanian LGAs are predicted to have over 20.0% of the population aged over 65 years by 2037. At least four LGAs may have over 40.0% aged over 65 years.
- LGAs with the highest proportion of the population aged over 65 years by 2037 are predicted to be Flinders Island, Glamorgan/Spring Bay and Break O'Day.
- **Current population projections may underestimate the proportion of Tasmania's population that will be aged 65 years or more into the future.**



Actual and projected number of people and proportion of population aged over 65 years in each Tasmanian LGA, and median age in 2016, ordered from highest proportion in 2016 to lowest.

Local Government Area, ordered from highest proportion aged over 65 years in 2016	Number of people aged over 65 years			Proportion of population aged over 65 years			Median age
	Actual	Projected		Actual	Projected		Actual
	2016	2025	2037	2016	2025	2037	2016
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	1,420	1,858	2,062	32.2	42.8	51.3	56
Tasman	688	877	1,011	29.0	34.0	37.8	55
Break O'Day	1,736	2,400	2,839	28.5	36.0	43.4	54
Flinders	237	327	357	26.4	43.5	54.6	53
Central Highlands	516	670	799	24.0	28.3	35.8	50
Dorset	1,572	2,222	2,608	23.8	32.7	42.3	48
Latrobe	2,543	3,620	4,950	23.8	26.4	30.3	47
King Island	357	434	522	22.5	30.4	38.0	47
Central Coast	4,755	6,127	7,598	22.3	25.9	31.3	46
Waratah-Wynyard	3,017	3,859	4,703	22.2	26.2	32.1	46
George Town	1,457	1,764	2,073	21.5	26.6	33.0	46
Devonport	5,261	6,304	7,399	21.3	23.4	26.5	43
Northern Midlands	2,724	3,522	4,388	21.2	27.8	36.2	46
West Tamar	4,753	6,568	8,450	20.9	27.1	34.4	45
Meander Valley	4,032	5,504	7,029	20.9	27.6	36.4	45
Clarence	11,013	13,270	16,094	20.1	22.7	25.8	43
Kentish	1,229	1,735	2,439	20.0	23.8	31.3	47
Huon Valley	3,246	4,811	6,555	20.0	25.9	32.7	45
Derwent Valley	1,881	2,144	2,777	18.8	21.2	28.0	43
Kingborough	6,628	9,311	12,143	18.5	22.0	25.1	42
Burnie	3,475	4,083	4,796	18.4	20.1	23.9	41
Launceston	11,747	14,444	17,471	18.0	20.3	23.6	39
Sorell	2,561	3,513	4,923	17.8	21.5	26.1	42
Glenorchy	8,206	9,271	11,121	17.7	19.1	21.6	39
Southern Midlands	1,039	1,839	2,486	17.2	26.1	33.4	44
Hobart	8,572	10,741	13,180	17.0	20.4	24.4	39
West Coast	699	869	1,035	16.9	21.6	28.5	44
Circular Head	1,306	1,698	2,107	16.5	21.3	27.8	41
Brighton	1,973	3,336	4,919	12.0	17.2	22.2	34
Tasmania	98,643	127,119	158,818	19.4	23.0	27.5	42

Data from COTA Tasmania (2018) *Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Part I*, Hobart using ABS Census and Department of Treasury sources.

See COTA Tasmania's *Embracing the Future: Tasmania's Ageing Profile Parts I & II* for more population information.