

Discovery Coast



Ageing population:
17.4% aged 65 years and over

60% of the population are amongst the most socio-economically disadvantaged

19.2% of children are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of AEDC

Significantly higher rates of premature deaths due to road traffic injuries and external causes compared to Australia

Significantly higher rates of hospitalisations due to injury and poisoning

Area 3,777.4km² Population 6079 persons

Projected population growth: 1.6% (between 2011-2036)

Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher proportion of population aged 45 years and above compared to Queensland (2014 data) 17.4% aged 65 years and over (QLD 14.0%), with a higher proportion of elderly men Higher projected proportion of ageing population in the region (27.4% in 2036) compared to Queensland (19.8% in 2036) 2.6% of the population are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (158 persons) Highly transient population: Stakeholder feedback indicated that population expands considerably (estimated to be double or more) during holiday periods and high turnover of school students
Social Determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost 60% of the population in this outer regional area is socio-economically disadvantaged Lower median household income per week (\$769; QLD \$1235) Higher unemployment rates (11%; QLD 6.5%) Higher proportion of families with a child under 15 years and no parent employed (21.5%; QLD 13.5%) Higher rates (ASR per 10,000) of homelessness (120.6; QLD 44.5)
Health Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A higher proportion of children who were developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of AEDC (19.2%; QLD 13.8%) Compared to Queensland, there were slightly higher proportions of people with profound or severe disability (6.6%; QLD 4.4%) The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the region with disability was significantly higher (13.9%; QLD 4.8%) Compared to Queensland, rates of behavioural risk factors were higher (ASR per 100) for overweight (34.9; QLD 34.6), obesity (33.5; QLD 30.4), smoking (22.6; QLD 19.2), and alcohol consumption (5.9; QLD 5.3) Rates of chronic diseases were higher (ASR per 100) than Queensland for arthritis (14.9; QLD 14.1), musculoskeletal diseases (28.1; QLD 27.2), COPD (2.8; QLD 2.7), and circulatory system diseases (20.3; QLD 17.8) Rates of psychological distress and mental and behavioural health problems were similar to Queensland rates. Many stakeholders and community members raised concerns about mental ill-health, with high concerns of mental ill-health in children and persons under 18 years Higher rates of premature death as a result of suicide and self-inflicted harm compared to Queensland (21.6; QLD 17.8) Significantly higher rates of premature deaths due to road traffic injuries and external causes of death compared to Australia were reported in 2009-12
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significantly lower use of all Medical Benefit Scheme and Better Access Services compared to Queensland in 2009-10 (ASR per 100,000), suggesting an underlying healthy population or limited services that people can utilise No operational aged care places, with the nearest aged care facility in Bundaberg Significantly higher rates of hospitalisation due to injury and poisoning were reported for 2011-12 Stakeholders and service providers raised access to care and services as a concern, with limited transportation as a problem In addition, consultations with stakeholders indicated awareness of services and communication between local service providers as an area to address