

# Bundaberg LGA (Wide Bay area)



**Area 6,449.1km<sup>2</sup> Population 94,283 persons**

**Projected population growth: 1.1% p.a. (92,063 persons to 121,191 persons between 2011-2036)**

<b>Demographics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Median age of 44.4 years</li> <li>21.6% of the population are aged 65 years and older</li> <li>3.3% of population are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people (2,981 persons)</li> <li>High percentage of persons born overseas in a non-English speaking country (4.7%)</li> </ul>
<b>Social Determinants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The percentage of persons in the most socio-economically disadvantaged quintile was 52.9%</li> <li>9.5% of the population are receiving an unemployment benefit (QLD 5.6%)</li> <li>22.5% of families with children have no parent employed</li> <li>Over one quarter of households are receiving rent assistance from the Australian Government (26.4%)</li> </ul>
<b>Health Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19.2% of people reported their health as "fair" or "poor" (QLD 15.7%)</li> <li>15.3% of children were developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of early childhood development (QLD 13.8%)</li> </ul> <p><i>Compared to Queensland:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significantly higher rate (ASR per 100) of mental and behavioural problems (16.5; QLD 14.4) and psychological distress (12.3; QLD 10.6)</li> <li>Significantly higher rate (ASR per 100) of asthma (12.1; QLD 10.2) and arthritis (17.0; QLD 14.1) and high rate of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (3.1; QLD 2.7)</li> <li>Significantly higher percentage of adults with diabetes/high blood sugar (13.9%; QLD 9%) and high blood pressure (36.7%; QLD 29%)</li> <li>Compared to Australia, causes of premature mortality were significantly higher for lung cancer, external causes and road traffic accidents</li> <li>Five out of nine maternal and infant health indicators were worse in the Wide Bay area compared to Queensland</li> </ul>
<b>Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest number of calls to 13HEALTH were made for abdominal pain and unwell or irritable newborn</li> <li>Compared to Australia, significantly lower rates of mental health care plans were prepared by GPs and significantly lower use of psychiatrists, psychologists and social worker services</li> <li>Highest rate of hospital admissions for all cancers, digestive diseases, and musculoskeletal diseases in the PHN catchment</li> <li>38% of patients in the Wide Bay area felt that their care could have been provided by a GP instead of a hospital emergency department</li> <li>There were approximately 42 dentists, 105 GPs, 31 occupational therapists, and 42 psychologists registered in the Bundaberg area</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Feedback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several stakeholders raised the concern of difficulties associated with accessing dental services, particularly in rural areas where individuals are unable to travel to Bundaberg city or Gladstone- due to limited transport and visiting dental services.</li> <li>Potential service gaps identified included psychologists, experienced mental health practitioners, youth mental health workers (including early intervention), drug and alcohol services, geriatric specialists, speech therapists and dementia services.</li> <li>Stakeholders felt that there are limited maternity and antenatal care services, especially for women at risk of disengagement from health systems (i.e. Indigenous women, those experiencing domestic violence).</li> <li>A number of stakeholders commented on the difficulties associated with accessing GPs and allied health services in some rural communities.</li> </ul>

High % of persons with a profound or severe disability (7.2%; QLD 4.4%)

The proportion of the population in the most socio-economically disadvantaged quintile was 52.9%

Higher unemployment rate than QLD (11.3%; 6.5%)

1,775 elderly persons are living alone

Significantly higher % of obesity compared to QLD (33.2%; 23.2%)

# Fraser Coast LGA (Wide Bay area)



Large % of persons with a profound or severe disability (8.2%; QLD 4.4%)

High unemployment rate (12.4%; QLD 6.5%)

Significantly higher % of adults with diabetes/high blood sugar and high blood pressure compared to QLD

Significantly higher rate of mental health related disorders

Significantly higher rates of asthma and arthritis

Significantly higher rate of premature mortality compared to QLD

Area 7,116.7km <sup>2</sup> Population 101,306 persons	
Projected population growth: 1.6% p.a. (97,661 persons to 146,602 persons between 2011-2036)	
<b>Demographics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Median age of 45.7 years</li> <li>Largest percentage of persons aged 65 years and over in the PHN catchment (23.4%); Pialba-Eli Waters within the Fraser Coast LGA has the highest proportion of persons aged 65 years and over (27.8%)</li> <li>3.6% of population are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people (3,417 persons)</li> <li>4.5% of population were born overseas in a non-English speaking country (4,293 persons)</li> </ul>
<b>Social Determinants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very high percentage of persons in the most socio-economically disadvantaged quintile (60.9%)</li> <li>10.3% of the population are receiving an unemployment benefit (QLD 5.6%)</li> <li>25.6% of families with children have no parent employed</li> <li>34.8% of elderly individuals living alone; highest proportion of disability support pensioners (13.1%), aged care pensioners (81.3%), and health care card holders (11.4%) in the PHN catchment</li> <li>Highest level of rental stress in the PHN catchment (37.8%)</li> <li>Highest percentage of households in dwellings receiving rent assistance from the Australian Government in the PHN catchment (33.6%)</li> </ul>
<b>Health Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highest percentage of persons reporting their health as "fair" or "poor" in the PHN catchment (20%; QLD 15.7%)</li> <li>High percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of early childhood development (16.1%; QLD 13.8%)</li> <li><i>Compared to Queensland:</i></li> <li>Significantly higher rate (ASR per 100) of mental and behavioural problems (17.2; QLD 14.4) and psychological distress (13.5; QLD 10.6)</li> <li>Significantly higher rate (ASR per 100) of asthma (12.8; QLD 10.2) and arthritis (16.9; QLD 14.1)</li> <li>Compared to Australia, causes of premature mortality were significantly higher for cancer, lung cancer, respiratory system, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, external causes, and road traffic injuries</li> <li>Five out of nine maternal and infant health indicators were worse in the Wide Bay area compared to Queensland</li> </ul>
<b>Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After hours GP attendance per person was lowest in Hervey Bay within the PHN catchment</li> <li>Compared to Australia, significantly lower rates of mental health care plans were prepared by GPs and significantly lower use of psychiatrists, psychologists and social worker services</li> <li>38% of patients in the Wide Bay area felt that their care could have been provided by a GP instead of a hospital emergency department</li> <li>There were approximately 49 dentists, 119 GPs, 32 occupational therapists, and 56 psychologists registered in the Fraser Coast area</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Feedback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple stakeholders raised the issue of limited dental services and the need for visiting dental services to areas of Bundaberg.</li> <li>Workforce shortages, particularly in relation to allied health, were raised frequently as a concern.</li> <li>Stakeholders felt that the youth were a particularly vulnerable group. Specific concerns were raised in relation to sexual health, drug and alcohol (including drink driving) and mental health.</li> <li>Potential service gaps identified by stakeholders included drug and alcohol services, diabetes educators, eye specialists, speech pathology, dementia services, after hours GPs, and aged-care services.</li> </ul>

\*ASR = Age standardised rate

# North Burnett LGA (Wide Bay area)



**Area 19,706.6km<sup>2</sup> Population 10,311 persons**

**Large ageing population- 22.0% of persons are aged 65 years and older**

<b>Demographics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Median age of 45.2 years</li> <li>▪ Largest percentage of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons in the Wide Bay area (6%; 608 persons)</li> <li>▪ 3.9% of population were born overseas in a non-English speaking country (399 persons); and 5.7% have a profound or severe disability (582 persons)</li> <li>▪ The area has a large influx of seasonal workers and 'grey nomads'</li> </ul>
<b>Social Determinants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The percentage of persons in the most socio-economically disadvantaged quintile was 65.6%</li> <li>▪ 98% of the population live in outer regional, remaining 2% live in remote areas</li> <li>▪ Unemployment rate of 6.4%, with all 391 persons receiving an unemployment benefit</li> <li>▪ 15.4% of families with children have no parent employed</li> </ul>
<b>Health Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 19.1% of people reported their health as "fair" or "poor" (QLD 15.7%)</li> <li>▪ Low immunisation rates for children aged 12-&lt;18 months (87.6%)</li> <li>▪ 14.3% of children were developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains of early childhood development (QLD 13.8%)</li> <li>▪ Compared to Queensland, higher rate (ASR per 100) of overweight (37.1; QLD 34.6) and obesity (27.3; QLD 23.2)</li> <li>▪ Compared to Australia, causes of premature mortality were significantly higher for external causes and road traffic injuries; highest rate of premature mortality due to suicide and self-inflicted harm in the Wide Bay area</li> <li>▪ Five out of nine maternal and infant health indicators were worse in the Wide Bay area compared to Queensland</li> </ul>
<b>Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compared to Australia, significantly lower rates of mental health care plans were prepared by GPs and significantly lower use of psychologist services</li> <li>▪ Highest rate of hospital admissions due to conditions of circulatory systems and injury and poisoning in the PHN catchment</li> <li>▪ 38% of patients in the Wide Bay area felt that their care could have been provided by a GP instead of a hospital emergency department</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Feedback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stakeholders were concerned about the high rate of suicide and self-inflicted harm.</li> <li>▪ Preventative services and health promotion were felt to be very limited.</li> <li>▪ High turnover of GPs in rural towns was a significant concern, making it difficult for people to build rapport with their GPs (e.g. to enable earlier diagnosis of mental health issues).</li> <li>▪ Rural communities have difficulty in accessing services in inner regional centres due to distance and lack of transport options (e.g. taxi services and public transport).</li> <li>▪ Potential service gaps identified include dentists, counsellors and social workers, after hours GP services, experienced mental health workers, and early intervention services for youth to address alcohol and drug issues.</li> <li>▪ Stakeholders noted a significant gap in aged care services and after hours mental health services.</li> <li>▪ Concerns regarding high rates of chronic disease in rural areas and limited specialist services available to address this.</li> </ul>

**High proportion of socio-economic disadvantage (65.6%)**

**35.4% of elderly population live alone**

**Significantly higher % of adults with high blood pressure compared to QLD (41.9%; 29%)**

**Stakeholders noted several service gaps**

**Stakeholders noted a high turnover of GPs in rural towns**