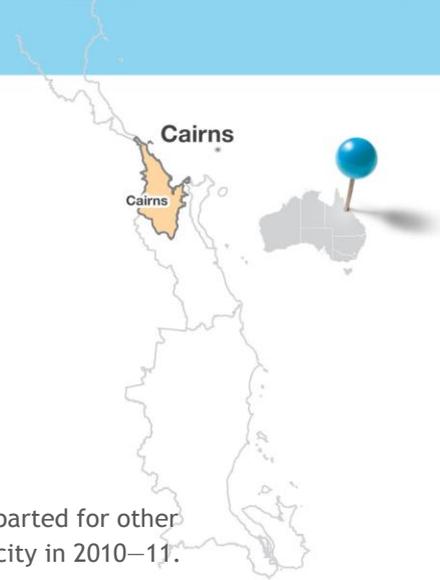




## State of Australian Cities 2013

### Cairns



#### Population and Settlement

- Cairns' population grew by 11.3% between 2006 and 2011, to 146,477.
- In 2010–11, 505 more people moved to Cairns from other parts of Australia than departed for other parts of Australia. Births (2,339) also significantly outnumbered deaths (774) in the city in 2010–11.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In 2011, 639 international students enrolled in the vocational education and training or the higher education sectors were living in Cairns, 0.4% 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.

#### Productivity

- In 2011, 80.9% of Cairns' employed males worked full-time, slightly below the national average of 81.7% but up from 78.1% in 2001. The proportion of Cairns' employed females that were working full-time was 56.8%, up from 54.9% in 2001 and above the national average of 53.0%.
- The sectors that employed the most males in Cairns in 2011 were construction (15.2%), retail trade (9.9%), transport, postal and warehousing (9.6%) and public administration and safety (9.6%). Of all the major cities, Cairns had the highest proportion of males employed in the accommodation and food services sector (8.7%). Nationally, the construction and manufacturing sectors employed the most males in 2011 (13.8% and 12.8%).
- The sectors that employed the most females in Cairns in 2011 were health care and social assistance (21.0%), retail trade (14.7%), education and training (12.1%) and accommodation and food services (11.5%). Of all the major cities, Cairns had the highest proportion of females employed in the transport, postal and warehousing sector (4.2%). Nationally, the health care and social assistance sector employed more Australians than any other sector (11.6%) in 2011, including one in five working women.
- Of the non-capital major cities, Cairns had the lowest proportion of males (7.8%) and females (2.3%) employed in the manufacturing sector in 2011.
- Employment by industry changed noticeably in Australia's major cities between 2001 and 2011. Reflecting the experience of all major cities during this period, the proportion of people employed in the retail trade sector in Cairns declined substantially (15.4% to 9.9% for males; 20.2% to 14.7% for females) and so did the proportion of people employed in the manufacturing sector (10.0% to 7.8% for males; 3.4% to 2.3% for females).
- The proportion of males employed in the public administration and safety and construction sectors in Cairns increased significantly between 2001 and 2011 (5.5% to 9.6%; 11.4% to 15.2%). Most major cities experienced significant increases in the proportion of males employed in these sectors during this period.

- The proportion of females employed in the health care and social assistance sector increased significantly between 2001 and 2011 in Cairns (15.7% to 21.0%). Most major cities experienced significant increases in their female employment share in this sector during this period.
- Higher education qualifications play a key role in Australia's productivity and there is an increasing demand for higher skill levels in the Australian workforce. Of the major cities, Cairns had the second slowest rate of increase in the proportion of males with post-school qualifications between 2001 and 2011, behind Newcastle.
- In Cairns in 2011, 54.9% of males aged 15 and over had a post-school qualification, slightly above the national average of 54.1%. This included 33.8% with a certificate, 7.9% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 13.2% with a bachelor degree or above. Nationally, 26.8% of males had a certificate, 7.8% had a diploma or advanced diploma and 19.5% had a bachelor degree or above.
- In 2011, 47.1% of females aged 15 or over in Cairns had a post-school qualification, the highest proportion for the non-capital major cities and slightly above the national average of 46.9%. This included 17.1% with a certificate, 10.7% with an advanced diploma or diploma and 19.3% with a bachelor degree or above. Nationally, 14.0% of females had certificate level qualifications, 10.1% had a diploma or advanced diploma and 22.7% had a bachelor degree or above.

## Liveability

- The median household income in Cairns increased by 11.2% between 2006 and 2011 to \$1,164 per week but it was still below the national median of \$1,234. Nationally, income has increased across all income groups; however it has increased more at the top and bottom.
- Cairns' estimated homeless population was 2,303 in 2011, 1.6% of the city's population.
- Active travel can improve liveability in cities by increasing health and wellbeing and reducing traffic congestion. In 2011, 6.9% of Cairns' commuters walked or rode a bicycle to work. This was the highest proportion of the non-capital major cities, although it was down from 7.3% in 2006.
- Cairns had 2.5 male bicycle commuters for every female bicycle commuter in 2011, lower than the average ratio of 3.3:1 across the major cities, and the second lowest ratio of the major cities behind Darwin, which had a ratio of 2.1:1.
- In 2011, 17.8% of people in Cairns volunteered their time, on par with the national average. Unlike most non-capital major cities, the proportion of volunteering in Cairns increased between 2006 (17.4%) and 2011. Nationally, volunteering is more prevalent in the non-capital major cities than in the capitals.

## Governance

- The *Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031* provides high level policy direction for Cairns and the surrounding region. It is one of a number of regional plans across Queensland that articulate the Queensland Government's broad intent for development.