A SCAN OF DISADVANTAGE IN QUEENSLAND 2010

from analysis to innovation in place-based practice

By
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UnitingCare
Centre for Social Justice

About the Centre for Social Justice

The Centre for Social Justice was established by UnitingCare Queensland in 2001 to promote a just and compassionate community through social justice advocacy, research and education. The Centre works to highlight social justice concerns and to promote more appropriate approaches to the delivery of human services both within UnitingCare Queensland and wider societal contexts. The Centre has undertaken a number of significant research and advocacy projects in the areas of child protection, homelessness, prison release policy, and home and family services for children with significant disabilities. More information about the Centre is available on its web page at www.ucareqld.com.au/SocialJustice.

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Glossary

Terms and Acronyms

Term	Definition
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics. ABS is Australia's national statistical agency.
CD	Census Collection District
IC	Island Council
IRSD	The Scan of Disadvantage will use the '*Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage* (which) is derived from Census variables related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles.' (ABS, 2006 - publication 2039). The full list of variables measured for the IRSD is available in Appendix 1.
LGA	Local Government Authority
LGA Reform	Since the 2006 Census, Queensland implemented a major reform of its Local Government system. All LGAs outlined in this report are based on the reformed LGA structure. Concordances of the 2006 geographic areas with the reformed LGA structure have been provided by the OESR in August 2009. Some approximation was made for geographical / boundary changes of some LGAs.
Quintile	Queensland geographic areas have been ranked according to its SEIFA IRSD score based on the socioeconomic characteristics of people, families and dwellings within that area. To determine the SEIFA rank, all the areas are ordered from lowest score to highest score. As in the 2001 Scan of Disadvantage Report, quintiles have then been constructed for SEIFA IRSD 2006 based on the rankings given to areas that group Queensland CDs, SLAs, and LGAs into five equal parts. Quintile 1 represents the lowest scoring 20% of areas. The second-lowest 20% of areas are given a quintile number of 2 and so on, up to the highest 20% of areas experiencing the lowest degree of relative disadvantage which are given a quintile number of 5.
RegC	Regional Council
S or ShireC	Shire Council
SD	Statistical Division
SEIFA	*'SEIFA is a suite of four summary measures that have been created from 2006 Census information. The indexes can be used to explore different aspects of socio-economic conditions by geographic areas. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA number which shows how disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas in Australia.* *Each index summarises a different aspect of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area. They each summarise a different set of social and economic information. The indexes provide more general measures of socio-economic status than is given by measuring income or unemployment alone, for example*.' The Scan of Disadvantage will use the 'Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage [which is] derived from Census variables related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles.' (ABS, 2006a). The full list of variables measured for the IRSD is available in Appendix 1.
SLA	Statistical Local Area
URP	Usual Resident Population

Executive Summary

Introduction and Scope

In 2006 the Centre for Social Justice, as part of UnitingCare Queensland, commissioned a report about spatial disadvantage in Queensland. The report identified concentrations of poverty and disadvantage in particular places and advocated further research and analysis to understand 'the causes and persistence of disadvantage in particular areas' and to identify 'policy development, planning and service delivery' issues and opportunities (Upham and Cowling, 2006:81). This is important in the context of evidence that in some places in Queensland, poverty and disadvantage have proven to be persistent. The Federal electorates of Wide Bay, Hinkler and Maranoa for example, had the highest percentage of people living in poverty in Queensland in both 2001 and 2006 (UQSRC, 2006:3; Kryger, 2009:5-7).

On this foundation, the present report has been commissioned to update the Scan of Disadvantage based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing (Australian Bureau of Statistics) and other available, relevant data sources. This report also analyses examples of policies, programs and services aiming to address spatial poverty and disadvantage as a basis for identifying possible responses in the Queensland context. While this report is intended to raise the profile of these issues and potential solutions more broadly, it will also help to inform service delivery planning across various agencies that form UnitingCare Queensland.

The updated Scan of Disadvantage includes:

- A review of literature with a particular focus on policy and practice solutions to spatial disadvantage
- An analysis of the Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) using the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD)
- Detailed examination in certain indicators that impact on spatial disadvantage
- An emerging framework for responding to spatial disadvantage
- Recommendations.

It is beyond the scope of this report to fully analyse the different yet intersecting concepts of disadvantage, poverty, social exclusion and deprivation. Saunders et al. (2007) have developed a set of indicators for poverty, social exclusion and deprivation and also examined how these experiences intersect and overlap. Focusing on the ways in which people are 'left out' and also 'miss out', strengthens understanding about the nature of disadvantage and its implications for people. Saunders et al. identify priority recommendations relating to better access to services, improved access to health care, housing, income support and skill development, and found that there are some disadvantaged Australians 'who experience all three conditions simultaneously'. This group have 'low incomes (below half the median), experience three or more deprivation conditions and are excluded in seven or more areas' (Saunders et al., 2007:x).

While a comprehensive overview of key concepts was not possible, this current report focuses beyond income poverty and towards the notion of social exclusion and the 'multiple, interacting barriers to inclusion' (Smyth, 2008:5). There is evidence that social exclusion is made worse by location with certain conditions helping to drive trends towards socio-spatial exclusion including:

> *'geographic isolation, lack of access to transport, sub-standard housing, vulnerability to crime, poor education, inability to communicate in English, inadequate family support, limited social networks, the absence of good role models, lack of access to affordable telephone communications, poor health and physical and intellectual disabilities'.*
>
> Wilson et al., 2006:3

While this report does provide an analysis of particular places based on the SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) with some detail relating to specific indicators, the scope does not include an analysis of the strengths, assets, services and infrastructure of particular places as a basis for considering the most appropriate responses.

The literature review does highlight the risk that ranking places in terms of relative disadvantage potentially increases stigma with associated impacts on image and reputation. A thorough assessment of the strengths and assets of a place as well as needs is essential for building an effective response to locational disadvantage. As such, the 2010 Scan of Disadvantage seeks to highlight and suggest responses to areas of locational disadvantage in Queensland. The specific contribution of this report is to emphasise the importance of policies and programs that target specific places as part of a broader suite of strategies with a focus on reducing poverty and exclusion.

Policy and Program Responses: A Review of Initiatives

A review of literature identified a range of policy and program responses including:

- Comprehensive strategies to reduce poverty and social exclusion (at a National or State level) which address a number of integrated areas such as economics, employment, service delivery, planning and community participation
- Innovation in service delivery including early intervention and prevention and models that are flexible, integrated, client-centred, and that build community and client participation
- Placed-based responses including integrated planning
- Community economic development
- Advocacy based on evidence of what works, including spatially responsive approaches to universal policies, programs and services.

A number of countries and Australian states have adopted comprehensive, multi-faceted and integrated strategies aimed at ending poverty and social exclusion. Key elements of these strategies include high level policy leadership, targets, inter-sectoral partnerships and rigorous evaluation including the measurement of progress.

Implementation at this level is generally supported by institutional arrangements within government to ensure that all relevant departments work together to meet established targets. Significant additional funding is usually provided. Centralised anti-poverty policies and programs create a new level of leadership, funding and capacity that complement the work of communities and neighbourhoods, working with bottom up processes.

Typically these comprehensive strategies might aim to address a range of issues that contribute to poverty including:

- Lack of access to education and training
- Low labour market participation
- Poor local economies
- Degraded local environments in need of regeneration
- Poor working conditions
- A need for affordable housing
- Lack of accessible public transport systems
- Poor health including mental health
- Involvement in crime
- Limited access to high-quality child-care, early education and family support
- Low social cohesion
- Low levels of social capital including volunteering.

Adapted from Collin, 2007:2-3

Debate and analysis of poverty, deprivation, social exclusion and disadvantage in Australia and overseas highlights a range of possible policy solutions. Some policy solutions are focused on individual target groups such as older people, women, Indigenous people and people with a disability. Some are focused more on major structural issues such as labour market participation. Yet others are defined in terms of responding to an integrated set of issues and problems for particular places.

The 2010 Scan of Disadvantage recognises that many different responses have been tested and evaluated yet does not necessarily draw conclusions about the relative merits of solutions targeted to people, issues or places.

Because the main purpose is to identify spatial disadvantage, this report strives to articulate a framework for how universal policies, policies responding to people and issues as well as 'place' focused policies might be synthesized to drive home measurable improvements in the circumstances of people affected by spatial disadvantage in Queensland. As such, 'place-based poverty reduction is part of a wider social inclusion framework' (CED, 2007:4).

This report concludes that treating people and place policies as binary propositions is potentially unhelpful and that instead 'making universal policies more spatially aware is the long term answer to problems disadvantaged areas and their populations currently face' (McPherson and Randolph, 2001:7). The potential of area based strategies may include making 'mainstream policies work more effectively, especially by encouraging agencies to collaborate through partnerships' (Randolph, 2003:19).

Various initiatives cited in this report identify some important features of place-based approaches to reducing disadvantage. These characteristics are important in the process of implementation because they potentially help to facilitate a range of different policies, programs, funding, agencies, sectors and leaders to achieve focused outcomes for particular places. These initiatives tend to address a range of intersecting issues or dimensions (social, economic, cultural, environmental) and have a long term outlook. Typically they involve the participation of multiple stakeholders including citizens, synergize various inputs, and are developmental and evidence based (Canadian CED Network, 2007:12).

An Analysis of SEIFA for Queensland Statistical Divisions

This report analyses the 2006 SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) at the level of Statistical Divisions (SD[1]). The ABS SEIFA IRSD scores for Queensland geographic areas are used in this report as a proxy for relative socioeconomic disadvantage. Each SD is then further analysed to identify the most disadvantaged Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Census Collection Districts (CDs).

The following table explains the hierarchy of areas referred to in this report:

Table 1. Hierarchy of Areas in Queensland

Area Level	Number of areas	Minimum	Maximum	Average Population
Queensland	1	-	-	3,891,727
Statistical Divisions[2]	14	10,851	1,763,131	277,981
Local Government Areas[3]	159	76	956,131	24,403
Statistical Local Areas	479	76	72,845	8,173
Queensland State Suburbs	1,965	17	25,203	2,049
Census Collection Districts[4]	7673	16	2,372	519

Source: ABS, 2006a

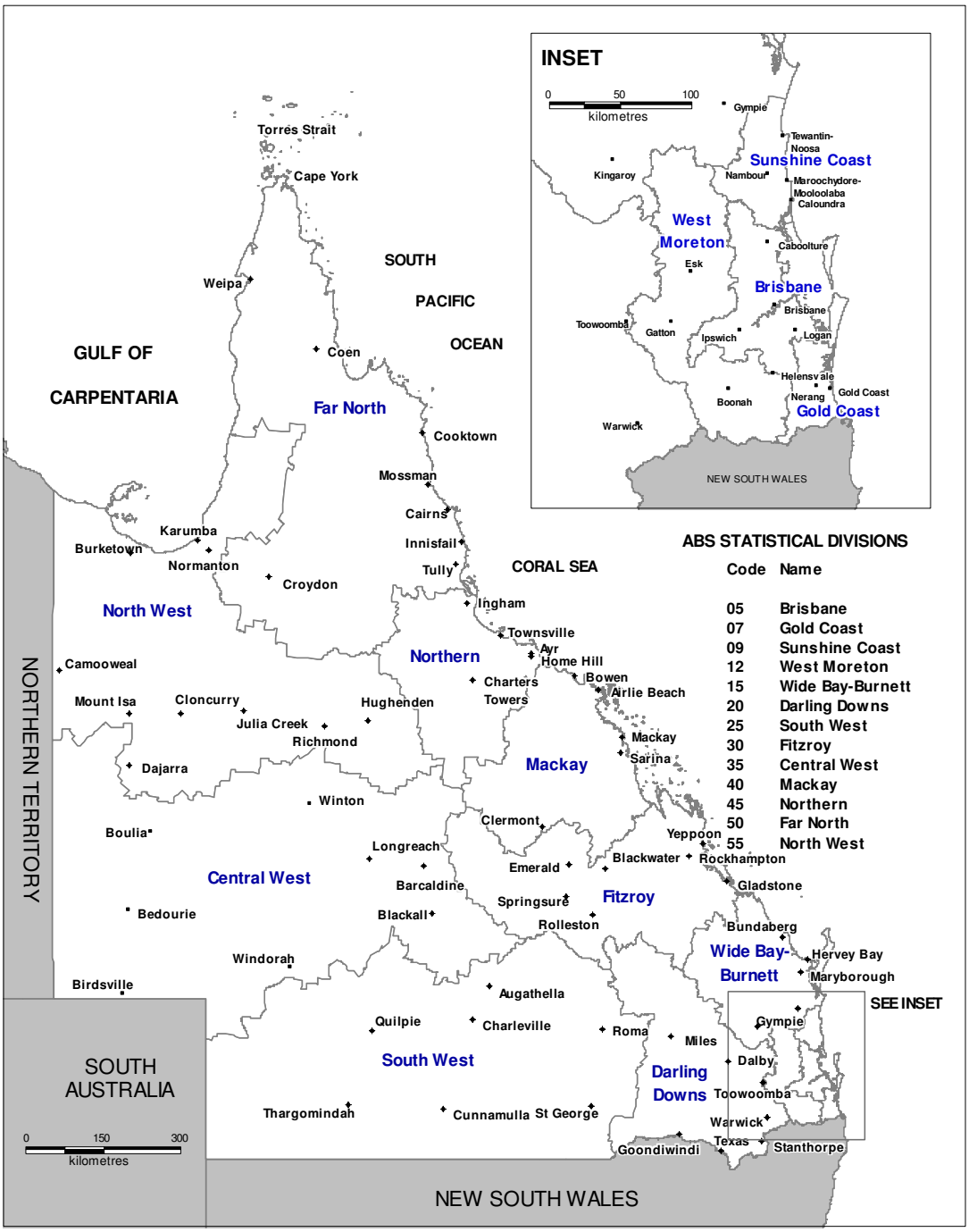
[1] At the 2006 Census, there were 14 Statistical Divisions (SDs) in Queensland. The Queensland CDs were grouped into the larger geographic areas of Statistical Divisions (SDs). The individual CD IRSD scores were then averaged for the SD. Each SD was then ranked from the lowest average IRSD score to the highest.

[2] This report includes detailed analysis of 13 of the 14 SDs excluding 'Off Shore and Migratory SD'.

[3] In 2007, the Queensland Government implemented a major reform of the State's Local Government system. As of 15 March 2008, there are 74 LGAs in Queensland. Subsequently the reformed LGA regions were incorporated in the 2008 ASGC.

[4] At the 2006 Census, there were 7,673 Queensland Collection Districts with a usual resident population of 3.89 million. CDs are generally made up of 225 households although there may be more households in some urban areas and fewer in remote areas. CDs are the basic geographical unit used for the Census and they fit within the boundaries of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) (ABS, 2001).

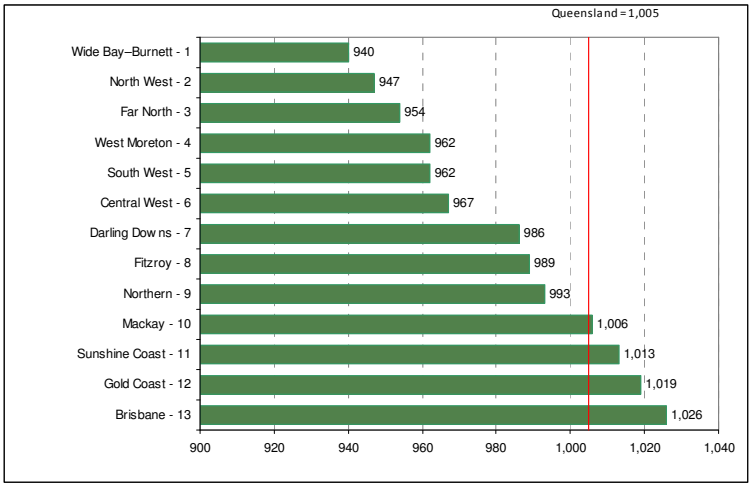
Figure 1. Queensland Statistical Divisions



Note: Boundaries are based on ASGC 2006
Prepared by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research

At the SD level, Wide Bay-Burnett emerges with the lowest SEIFA IRSD score and therefore the highest level of relative socio-economic disadvantage for Queensland. The following figure illustrates each SD in rank order from the highest level of relative disadvantage to the lowest.

Figure 2. SEIFA IRSD Scores for Queensland Statistical Divisions



The SDs with the lowest scores have the highest number of residents living in Quintile 1 areas compared to Quintile 5 areas. The Brisbane Metropolitan area has a score of 1026 while the balance of Queensland has an average score of 985 which highlights the relationship between remoteness and relative disadvantage.

Overall, the most disadvantaged SLAs and CDs in Queensland are characterised by a high population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples[5]. Palm Island (S) recorded the lowest SEIFA IRSD Score in Queensland of 480; followed by the SLAs of Yarrabah (S), Umagico (S), Cherbourg (S), and Injinoo (S), all of which had Indigenous populations of over 97%. The following SLAs contained the lowest scoring CDs in Queensland: Douglas (S); Palm Island (S); Yarrabah (S); Umagico (S); Cloncurry (S); Cherbourg (S); Injinoo (S); Napranum (S); Kowanyama (S); and Mer (IC).

The Brisbane SLAs of Inala and Wacol are the first SLAs outside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to record the lowest SEIFA IRSD scores. These areas both include an Indigenous population of 8.01% and 10.31%, respectively. Also in the Brisbane SD, SLAs with the largest proportion of Indigenous population for the SD are Redland (S) Bal, Acacia Ridge, Kingston, and Woodridge, all have estimated Indigenous residents of over 5% of the total population and are the lowest scoring SLAs after Inala and Wacol.

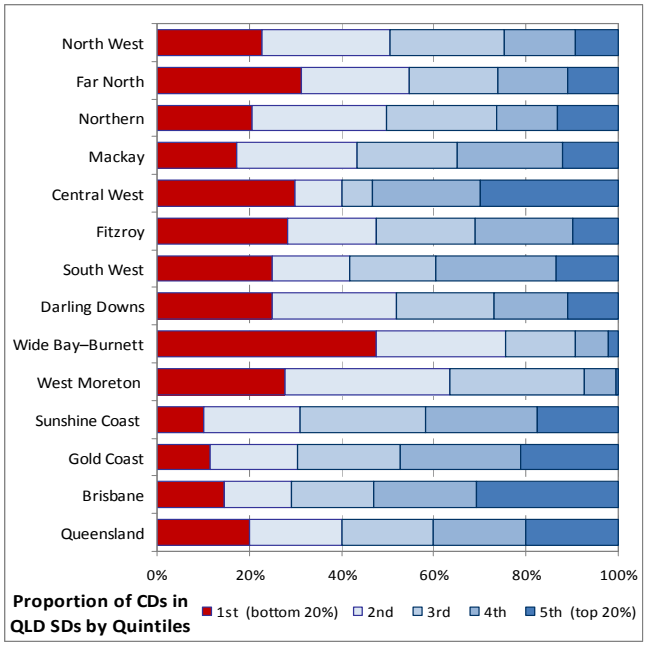
Given the persistent poverty experienced by Indigenous communities it is essential that all spheres of government sustain and increase their efforts to address Indigenous disadvantage. These policy and program interventions should include urban Indigenous communities as well as rural and remote Indigenous communities.

While it is important to consider the implications of pockets of relative disadvantage within more advantaged regions and communities, some SDs with lower overall scores are also characterised by higher populations in Quintiles 1 and 2, and very low populations in Quintile 5. The lack of diversity within the population may indicate a deficit in community resources and assets with associated implications for community capacity, local economies and demand for services. Further analysis and engagement at the area level would be required to guide effective responses.

The following graph illustrates the extent to which some SDs not only have higher proportions of population in the lowest scoring Quintiles but also a relatively low population in Quintile 5.

[5] In constructing the SEIFA IRSD, the ABS included the variable measuring the proportion of people in an area who identify themselves as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander as a proxy for relative disadvantage because of its indirect association: 'Indigeneity is highly correlated with relative socio-economic disadvantage at an area level. It has been shown that on average, Indigenous Australians have significantly lower levels of income, employment and education than the rest of the population (Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 (ABS cat. no. 4713.0)).' (ABS, 2006f:15). UnitingCare Queensland is considering these issues through additional policy and research activities.

Figure 3. Proportion of CD Population in Queensland SDs by Quintiles



Overall, the analysis of SEIFA reveals that whilst some larger geographic areas have relatively higher concentrations of disadvantage, significant pockets or clusters of relative disadvantage exist amongst some relatively less disadvantaged SDs such as Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast. Policies and programs targeted to addressing disadvantage should have the capacity to address these pockets of disadvantage in more affluent regions and communities.

Further analysis of specific indicators of disadvantage also reveals that some locations are particularly vulnerable to one or more drivers of disadvantage. The comparison between data variables shows that areas of low socioeconomic status using the IRSD are more likely to have high levels of unemployment, welfare dependency, people with a severe or profound disability, housing stress, and low levels of education attainment and income. The data also shows that people in the most disadvantaged areas have significantly higher premature mortality rates.

In summary, the following tables highlight the most disadvantaged SLAs and CDs in Queensland for 2006.

Table 2. The 30 Most Disadvantaged SLAs in Queensland in 2006

Rank	SLA	IRSD Score 2006		Rank	SLA	IRSD Score 2006
1	Palm Island (S)	480		16	Hope Vale (S)	554
2	Yarrabah (S)	485		17	Mornington (S)	561
3	Umagico (S)	492		18	Woorabinda (S)	564
4	Cherbourg (S)	506		19	Badu (IC)	567
5	Injinoo (S)	507		20	Yorke (IC)	570
6	Napranum (S)	511		21	Lockhart River (S)	572
7	Kowanyama (S)	513		22	Erub (IC)	586
8	Boigu (IC)	525		23	Hammond (IC)	600
9	Mer (IC)	525		24	Pormpuraaw (S)	601
10	Wujal Wujal (S)	532		25	Poruma (IC)	601
11	Aurukun (S)	538		26	Ugar (IC)	619
12	Warraber (IC)	543		27	Bamaga (IC)	620
13	Dauan (IC)	545		28	New Mapoon (S)	622
14	Iama (IC)	547		29	Mabuiag (IC)	625
15	Saibai (IC)	549		30	Kubin (IC)	627

Table 3. 20 Suburbs Containing the Most Disadvantaged CDs in Queensland in 2006

QLD Rank	CD by Suburb	CD by SLA	CD by LGA Reform	Remoteness	Score	URP
1	Mossman Gorge	Douglas (S)	Cairns (RegC)	Outer Regional	439	145
2	Palm Island	Palm Island (S)	Palm Island Aboriginal (ShireC)	Remote	480	1982
3	Yarrabah	Yarrabah (S)	Yarrabah Aboriginal (ShireC)	Outer Regional	485	2372
4	Umagico	Umagico (S)	Northern Peninsula Area (RegC)	Very Remote	492	229
5	Dajarra	Cloncurry (S)	Cloncurry (ShireC)	Remote	506	179
6	Cherbourg	Cherbourg (S)	Cherbourg Aboriginal (ShireC)	Inner Regional	506	1128
7	Injinoo	Injinoo (S)	Northern Peninsula Area (RegC)	Very Remote	507	416
8	Mission River	Napranum (S)	Napranum Aboriginal (ShireC)	Very Remote	511	831
9	Kowanyama	Kowanyama (S)	Kowanyama Aboriginal (ShireC)	Very Remote	513	1019
10	Murray Islands	Mer (IC)	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	Very Remote	525	483
11	Boigu Island	Boigu (IC)	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	Very Remote	525	284
12	Wujal Wujal	Wujal Wujal (S)	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal (ShireC)	Remote	532	325
13	Aurukun	Aurukun (S)	Aurukun (ShireC)	Very Remote	538	1042
14	The Three Sisters	Warraber (IC)	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	Very Remote	543	246
15	Dauan Island	Dauan (IC)	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	Very Remote	545	152
16	Yam Island	Iama (IC)	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	Very Remote	547	312
17	Saibai Island	Saibai (IC)	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	Very Remote	549	337
18	Hope Vale	Hope Vale (S)	Hope Vale Aboriginal (ShireC)	Remote	554	765
19	Wellesley Islands	Mornington (S)	Mornington (ShireC)	Very Remote	559	990
20	Woorabinda	Woorabinda (S)	Woorabinda Aboriginal (ShireC)	Remote	564	851

Discussion of SEIFA results

The analysis of SEIFA IRSD scores in this report highlights two broad sets of issues:

- The need for a focus on areas with high overall levels of disadvantage such as Wide Bay-Burnett where 47% of the population lives in Quintile 1 (the most disadvantaged 20% of locations). Communities characterised by high overall numbers and proportions of people living in relatively disadvantaged areas confront significant and inter-related issues emerging from entrenched and widespread patterns of social exclusion.

- The need for policies and strategies that reduce the factors pushing people on lower incomes from more advantaged areas into areas that are more disadvantaged (Healy et al., 2009). Strategies that focus on mitigating the level of disadvantage experienced by a critical number of people in places such as Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast can help to reduce the push factors causing more people to locate in areas of relative disadvantage. These strategies (such as increasing the availability of affordable housing) are also important in responding to significant pockets of relative disadvantage impacting upon the level of opportunity and social inclusion of some particular groups in certain locations even if those locations at the highest level of aggregated data appear less disadvantaged.

Similarly, this report generally provides information on both the proportion and numbers of people impacted by particular indicators of disadvantage. Actual numbers help to identify the critical mass of people affected by an issue with associated implications for anti-poverty programs including service delivery. The proportion of households or people experiencing a measure of disadvantage is significant because this can signal potential impacts on the capacity of a community to be resilient and to find community driven solutions to issues. Where the proportion of households experiencing particular types of disadvantage is high, the ability of civil society to support community services and social networks may be reduced. An activity such as raising funds for the local school, or the capacity to sustain the community in times of economic stress may be severely affected when a higher proportion of the total community is disadvantaged in one or more ways. This can have associated costs in the form of tertiary interventions in the justice, health and child protection systems.

Where the overall proportion of disadvantaged residents is lower, such as is the case in Brisbane, it is important to consider that:

- This can still represent a significant number of people in poverty.
- There may also be implications for certain individuals and groups experiencing minority status and marginalisation within a broader community when that broader community has the capacity and resources to participate in a range of social and economic opportunities. While the statistical majority might enjoy access to higher incomes, employment and education, there are others who are missing out. This can have implications for social cohesion and might even result in community dynamics attributing blame to individuals, groups and places instead of the issues being defined in terms of the systemic and structural forces at play.

Further analysis of specific indicators of disadvantage reveals greater detail and also diversity in the types of areas impacted by certain issues. The analysis of indicators deepens understanding of the drivers of disadvantage in particular places and also serves as a point of reference for social and economic analysis and planning at a more fine grain level.

The indicators analysed include:

- Income
  - Median household income
  - Aged Pensions
  - Disability Support Pensions
  - Sole Parent Pensions
  - Unemployment Benefits
- Unemployment
- Education
- Household type
- Families
- Older people
- People from non-English speaking background
- People with a disability
- Housing
- Private dwellings without a motor vehicle
- Health including premature mortality by cause.

A table is available as an adjunct to the main report, listing the 60 most disadvantaged SLAs for each indicator as a basis for more detailed consideration of policy and practice responses in specific locations.

Strategic Opportunities

The timing of this report is critical given the global financial crisis (GFC) and its potential impacts on disadvantaged people and places. The updated scan has largely relied upon 2006 data from ABS which means that trends flowing from the GFC are not reflected. Wherever possible, the report identifies the implications of the current economic environment for responding to disadvantage. While on the one hand government has signalled serious fiscal constraints, the commitment to economic stimulus nonetheless provides some important opportunities for addressing serious and entrenched disadvantage. The 'stress points' in the Queensland economy include a reliance on mining related exports, a downturn in the property market, the impact of a falling stock-market and decreases in government revenue (Mangan, 2009:5).

While the GFC presents significant challenges, it is important to consider other related opportunities within the current Australian context including the establishment of the Australian Social Inclusion Board in May 2008. The Social Inclusion Board is concerned with factors driving social exclusion such as:

- Poverty and low income
- Lack of access to the job market
- Limited social supports and networks
- The effect of the local neighbourhood
- Exclusion from services.

Pierson by the Social Inclusion Board Indicators Working Group, 2009:viii-ix

The Board has articulated several social inclusion principles including the idea of using locational approaches described as 'working in places where there is a lot of disadvantage to get to people most in need and to understand how different problems are connected' (Australian Social Inclusion Board, 2008:2).

At a State level, the Queensland Department of Communities (DoC) is working to address social inclusion and will also have input to the Federal Government on matters relating to social inclusion encompassing policy and project ideas. Queensland's Q2 targets also include a *Fair Queensland* and there may be opportunities to consider additional and specific targets responding to the key findings of this report, namely a target focusing on a measurable reduction in locational disadvantage.

Any responses to disadvantage including spatial disadvantage need to forge strong relationships with these policy frameworks at the Federal and State level. It is critical that the analysis in the 2010 Scan of Disadvantage leads to concrete ideas about solutions. The leadership of government is important and pathways into the policy process by stakeholders such as UnitingCare Queensland will strengthen the capacity for implementation. Policy to address social inclusion could be based on the following combination of important elements:

- Data analysis highlighting the extent of disadvantage - evidence of need
- Evidence of solutions from Australia and elsewhere - evidence of success
- Innovation in community development and direct service delivery within the Queensland context, which is amplified through ongoing dialogue with decision makers - evidence of capacity
- Pathways and structures that ensure the participation of stakeholders such as UnitingCare Queensland in the policy process.

It is important that advocacy to Government, towards a coordinated, integrated policy framework to reduce disadvantage, continues. The social inclusion agenda is an important opportunity to develop specific policy and program elements that directly address spatial disadvantage through:

- Opportunities to facilitate policies that are universal and that focus on people (families, older people for example) or issues (such as unemployment) towards more specific outcomes in particular places.

- The addition of policies and programs that provide an overlay of resources and opportunities for place-based strategies.

- The capacity within program specifications and funding agreements to include a focus on place-based approaches to addressing particular drivers or consequences of disadvantage such as homelessness.

Conclusions

Based on SEIFA data, the Scan of Disadvantage in both 2006 and 2010 provides evidence that spatial patterns of disadvantage persist in Queensland. Despite earlier cycles of strong economic growth, some groups also experience multiple and simultaneous factors contributing to disadvantage which persist over time. This report also shows that not all individuals and households are concentrated in places with relatively high levels of disadvantage and corresponding low scores on the SEIFA IRSD. People experiencing certain indicators of disadvantage are found across Quintiles 2-5.

This has important implications for policy, programs and service delivery and highlights the importance of universal and people focused policies to ensure adequate responses to disadvantage regardless of where a person lives.

Nonetheless, location remains an important factor in strategies to address disadvantage in Queensland. For people confined to areas with higher concentrations of households and individuals experiencing single and multiple drivers of disadvantage the additional impacts of poor infrastructure, poor access to services and transport, depleted local economies and few employment opportunities compound their situation.

Prior to the current global financial crisis (GFC) Queensland enjoyed a period of sustained economic growth fuelled in part by the resources industry. This period was also a time of relatively low unemployment levels. Mangan and Stephen point out that despite strong economies in most western countries 'inequality and disadvantage continue to exist' (2007:7). As the full implications of the GFC unfold, the urgency of effective responses to entrenched and growing patterns of disadvantage is at least partly justified by evidence that even in times of strong growth, some people continue to miss out.

As such, there is arguably justification for urgency in refocusing policy, programs and budgets at every level of government. Where measurable improvements in disadvantage and exclusion have been achieved, there is generally:

- High level policy leadership and an integrated framework (with recognition that issues are often interrelated)
- Detailed action plans tackling multiple, interrelated factors that drive disadvantage
- Clear responsibilities
- Strong, outcome focused partnerships involving all potential stakeholders (government, community and business)
- Published time lines and key performance indicators
- Independent processes of evaluation with a focus on measuring real outcomes.

Canadian CED Network, 2007:12

In the context of Australia's Social Inclusion Board and Queensland's Q2 Targets, there are significant opportunities to shape a strategic policy framework based on the best evidence of success combined with capacity for implementation through various agencies (government and non-government). It is hoped that this report is used to amplify the extent that particular groups and places continue to be disadvantaged and therefore vulnerable to social exclusion. Further, it is hoped that this analysis combined with evidence of successful policies and programs will help to shape the emerging focus on social inclusion at a Federal, and State level.

Recommendations

Targeted Strategies and Programs to Address Locational Disadvantage

1. That the Federal and State Governments in collaboration with non-government partners, adopt integrated strategies to reduce social exclusion that address universal policy priorities such as poverty reduction, employment, family support, social cohesion, housing affordability as well as targets for reducing spatial disadvantage in specific localities.

2. That the Queensland State Government in partnership with the Commonwealth, Local Government and non-government partners, expand and/or replicate successful state level, place-based programs, such as Community Renewal. An evaluation framework should be developed to assist with monitoring performance and enhancing implementation of any new or expanded programs. Place-based responses should include the following:

    - strategies that reduce the factors pushing people on lower incomes from more advantaged areas into areas that are more disadvantaged
    - responses to economic exclusion through a range of measures such as job creation, sustainable local economies and enterprise development (including social enterprise)
    - specific strategies to address community economic development, community development and participation, as well as improvements to service planning and delivery
    - processes to identify the particular needs, issues and strengths of a community as part of a local or regional planning process.

3. Areas targeted for place-based responses to disadvantage should include urban communities with a high number of people in Quintile 1 SLAs as well as communities where the proportions of people in Quintiles 1 and 2 are very high compared to the overall population.

4. That the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments work in collaboration with non-government partners, to implement more flexible funding and service delivery arrangements including multi purpose service hubs and place-based budgets for particular locations characterised by high levels of spatial disadvantage.

5. That the Queensland Government continues to improve the integration of health, education and social and community services planning in relation to localities or regions including strengthening regional planning and governance arrangements in areas of significant disadvantage.

6. That the Queensland Government in collaboration with the community services sector, with non-government partners, develops a web-based clearing house for sharing practice about strategies aimed at reducing disadvantage with a strong focus on success and measurable outcomes.

Targeted Strategies and Programs to Address Indigenous Disadvantage

7. That the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments implement specific, targeted responses to Indigenous disadvantage in all urban, regional, and remote areas that show high Indigenous disadvantage. Governments should continue to ensure that such responses are grounded in partnerships with Indigenous people.

UnitingCare Queensland (UCQ) Place-Based Responses

8. That UCQ work with government (all levels) and local communities to prioritise a small number of disadvantaged locations for new strategic and integrated interventions aimed at measurably reducing spatial disadvantage.

9. That UCQ develop a research consortium involving government agencies, non-government services and universities to undertake targeted small area level analysis of disadvantage.

10. That UCQ, the Queensland Government and academic partners convene a summit for researchers and practitioners to present and debate place-based responses to poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion.

11. That UCQ develops partnerships with community development finance institutions, government and the private sector to investigate the formation of a Community Development Corporation or a Community Economic Development Foundation with the purpose of generating alternative and flexible funding sources for place-based initiatives.

12. That UCQ continues the development and implementation of an Indigenous Reconciliation Strategy with particular focus on:

    - the recruitment and retention of Indigenous staff
    - increasing the access of Indigenous people to UCQ services
    - responding positively to requests from Indigenous communities to assist them to build the capacity of their local Indigenous services.

13. That UCQ work with the Commonwealth and State Governments to pilot flexible multi-purpose services to respond to the needs of aging and disabled people in rural and remote communities.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

In 2006, the Centre for Social Justice, as part of UnitingCare Queensland, commissioned a report about spatial disadvantage in Queensland. The report identified concentrations of poverty and disadvantage in particular places and advocated further research and analysis to understand 'the causes and persistence of disadvantage in particular areas' and to identify 'policy development, planning and service delivery' issues and opportunities (Upham and Cowling, 2006:81).

On this foundation, the present report has been commissioned to update the Scan of Disadvantage based on the 2006 Census of Population and Housing (Australian Bureau of Statistics) and other available, relevant data sources. This report also analyses examples of policies, programs and services aiming to address poverty and disadvantage as a basis for identifying possible responses in the Queensland context. While this report is intended to raise the profile of these issues and potential solutions more broadly, it will also help to inform service delivery planning across the various agencies that are part of UnitingCare Queensland.

1.2 The Scope of this Report

This report will:

- Review literature relevant to spatial disadvantage in Queensland and about policy and program solutions aimed at reducing disadvantage.
- Analyse SEIFA Index of Relative Socio Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) data for Queensland overall and at a small area level.
- Examine particular variables that may contribute to disadvantage including:
  - Income
    - Median household income
    - Aged Pensions
    - Disability Support Pensions
    - Sole Parent Pensions
    - Unemployment Benefits
  - Unemployment
  - Education
  - Household type
  - Families
  - Older people
  - People from non-English speaking background
  - People with a disability
  - Housing
  - Private dwellings without a motor vehicle
  - Health including premature mortality by cause.
- Develop a framework and recommendations for responding to spatial disadvantage in Queensland.

These indicators have been chosen based on considerable research in Australia and elsewhere identifying that particular groups are at greater risk of being disadvantaged or in poverty (Saunders et al., 2007:52). The Australian Social Inclusion Board has also documented various measures of disadvantage and demonstrated that certain groups were more vulnerable to persistent relative poverty. These groups were identified by the board as 'the elderly, people with disabilities, single mothers, non-aged singles and people of non-English speaking backgrounds' (Social Inclusion

Board Indicators Working Group, 2009:12). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders for example, are some of this State's most disadvantaged residents. SEIFA includes data about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status and summary tables of the most disadvantaged areas include a very high proportion of areas that are Indigenous communities.

Understanding the specific indicators that drive disadvantage in a particular area helps to define appropriate responses. While two areas might show very similar scores for example, the drivers and issues might be very different within and between two such areas (Randolph, 1999:5).

It should be noted that the onset of the global financial crisis in 2008 has caused an economic slowdown both in Australia and overseas, leading to production cutbacks, shutdowns and job losses in a number of sectors (Mangan, 2009). The data presented in this report is largely derived from the 2006 Census. Where possible, the literature review incorporates analysis about the implications of this crisis in relation to poverty and disadvantage including some attention to possible responses.

1.3 Methodology

This report presents analysis of the ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, through the Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), to compare the relative disadvantage experienced by people living in different areas in Queensland.

> *'SEIFA is a suite of four summary measures that have been created from 2006 Census information. The indexes can be used to explore different aspects of socio-economic conditions by geographic areas. For each index, every geographic area in Australia is given a SEIFA number which shows how disadvantaged that area is compared with other areas in Australia.*
>
> *Each index summarises a different aspect of the socio-economic conditions of people living in an area. They each summarise a different set of social and economic information. The indexes provide more general measures of socio-economic status than is given by measuring income or unemployment alone, for example.'*

The SEIFA *Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage* (IRSD) scores for the Queensland geographic areas are used in this report as a proxy for relative socioeconomic disadvantage and socioeconomic status at a small area level. The IRSD measures relative disadvantage using a set of 17 variables including low income earners, relatively lower educational attainment and high unemployment at the small area level (or Collection Districts) derived from the 2006 ABS Census. It then uses these to rank Census Collection Districts (CDs) from lowest score (relatively most disadvantaged) to the highest (relatively least disadvantaged). The variables and weights for 2006 SEIFA IRSD are provided in Appendix 1.

The following table outlines the hierarchy of areas within Queensland used in this report:

Table 4. Hierarchy of Areas within Queensland

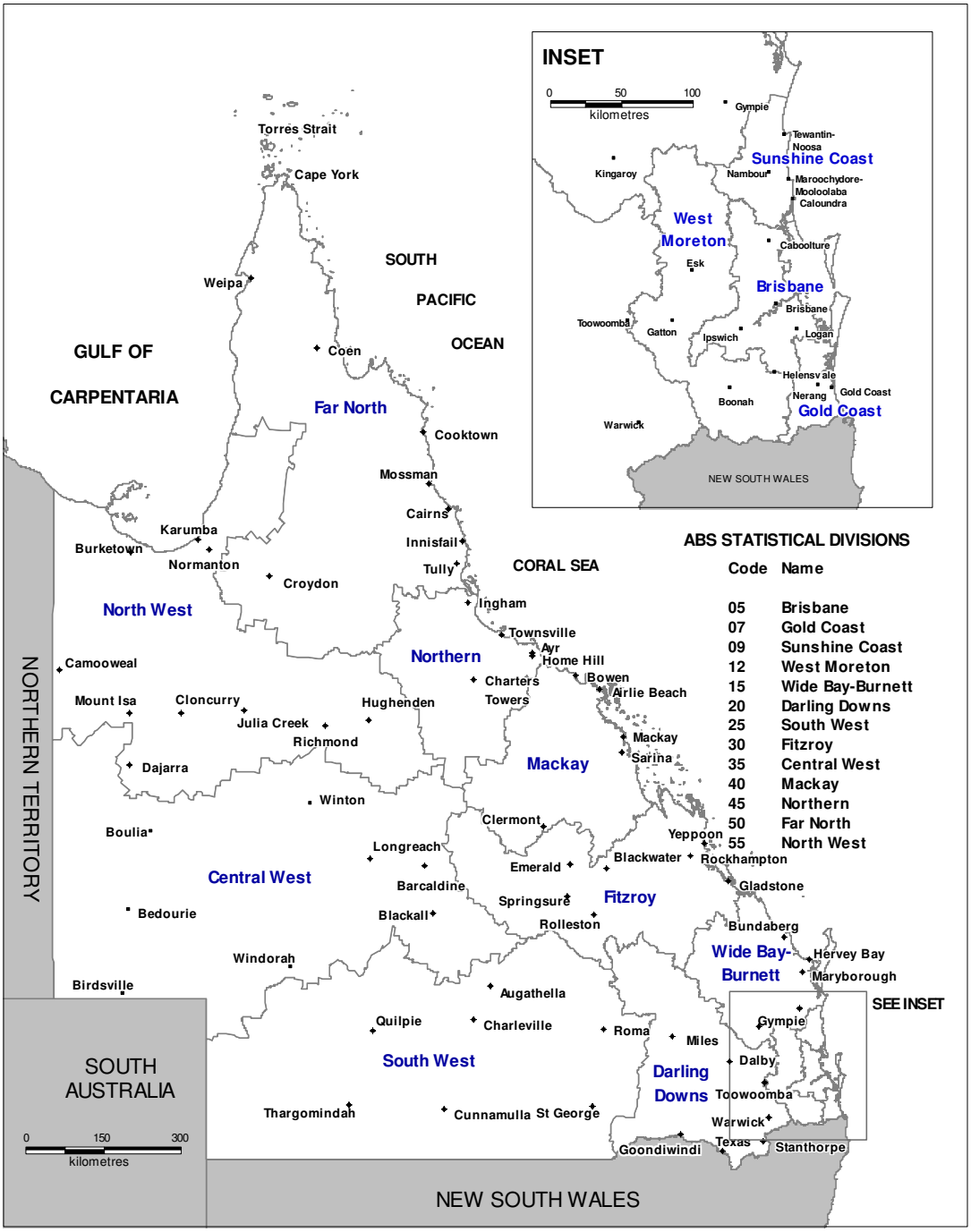
Area Level	Number of areas	Minimum	Maximum	Average Population
Queensland	1	-	-	3,891,727
Statistical Divisions[6]	14	10,851	1,763,131	277,981
Local Government Areas[7]	159	76	956,131	24,403
Statistical Local Areas	479	76	72,845	8,173
Queensland State Suburbs	1,965	17	25,203	2,049
Census Collection Districts[8]	7673	16	2,372	519

[6] This report includes detailed analysis of 13 of the 14 SDs excluding 'Off Shore and Migratory SD'.

[7] In 2007, the Queensland Government implemented a major reform of the State's Local Government system. As of 15 March 2008, there are 74 LGAs in Queensland. Subsequently the reformed LGA regions were incorporated in the 2008 ASGC.

[8] At the 2006 Census, there were 7,673 Queensland Collection Districts with a usual resident population of 3.89 million. CDs are generally made up of 225 households although there may be more households in some urban areas and fewer in remote areas. CDs are the basic geographical unit used for the Census and they fit within the boundaries of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) (ABS, 2001).

Figure 4. Australian Bureau of Statistics Statistical Divisions



Note: Boundaries are based on ASGC 2006
Prepared by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Data

Data analysed in this report is primarily taken from the ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing and the SEIFA IRSD. The 2006 Census and SEIFA IRSD data packages were sourced directly from the ABS website. ABS Census and SEIFA data and other available data for additional socioeconomic variables were also sourced from the Queensland Government's Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)[9], the Queensland Government Department of Communities and the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) (gathered for *A Social Health Atlas of Australia* project)[10]. Additional information on the data used is provided in the data notes provided as an attachment to this report.

Key features of disadvantage at the Statistical Division (SD) and Statistical Local Area (SLA) levels are also considered against a set of additional indicators as outlined in Section 1.1. The data for each indicator was overlayed with SEIFA Scores for corresponding geographic areas to provide an indication of the area's overall disadvantage against the IRSD.

SEIFA IRSD

In 2006, the average IRSD Score for Queensland was 1,000, whilst the weighted population average was 1,005[11]. A low SEIFA IRSD score indicates a high proportion of relatively disadvantaged people in an area. A disadvantaged area is characterised by a high proportion of low income families, people with little training and working in unskilled occupations and thus, may be considered as disadvantaged relative to other Collection Districts. A high score implies that the area has a lower proportion of households with low incomes, people with little or no training, and people working in unskilled occupations. Because the variables included in the IRSD focus primarily on disadvantage, the index cannot show areas with high scores as having high relative advantage; these areas with high index scores may be considered less disadvantaged relative to other Collection Districts.

SEIFA IRSD Geographic Areas

The ABS released 2006 SEIFA for the following geographic levels:

- Census Collection District (CD)
- Postal Area (POA)
- Statistical Local Area (SLA)
- Local Government Area (LGA).

[9] Information Products and Services, OESR, Queensland Treasury.

[10] PHIDU was established by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing in 1999 to assist in the development of public health data, data systems and indicators and is located at The University of Adelaide. The data A Social Health Atlas of Australia (Third Edition), 2008 [online] was sourced online via the PHIDU website <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>.

[11] To analyse the socioeconomic differences between large areas, index scores for Queensland Statistical Divisions were created using the population weighted averages of the constituent CDs. The result was verified with SEIFA IRSD scores for SDs provided by OESR. The SD level scores were not standardised and so does not have a mean of 1,000 or standard deviation of 100. Also see Geographic Areas section below for the method of calculating the weighted average score.

ABS did not produce indexes for SDs. Index scores for Queensland SDs were created using the following formula for population weighted averages of the constituent CDs:

$$INDEX_{AREA} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (INDEX_{CDi} \times POP_{CDi})}{POP_{AREA}}$$

where[12]

INDEX = index score for each CD
POP = population for each CD (population with SEIFA scores only)
n = total number of CDs (with SEIFA scores) in the higher level area.

The result was verified with SEIFA IRSD scores for SDs provided by OESR. Queensland SDs were then ranked from 1 to 13 based on their scores. The SD level scores were not standardised and so do not have a mean of 1,000 or standard deviation of 100.

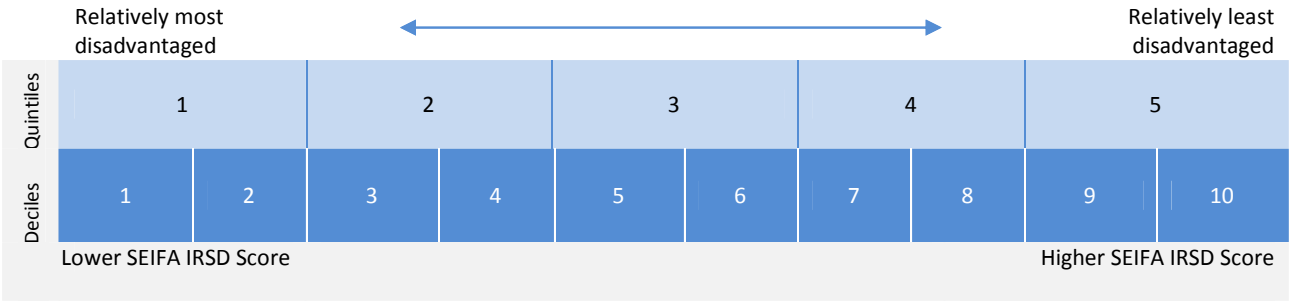
Ecological Fallacy

There is a significant risk of 'ecological fallacy' when comparing geographic areas using a proxy data set such as the SEIFA IRSD (Kennedy and Firman 2004, and Baker & Adhikari 2007). This is primarily because the SEIFA IRSD index summarises socioeconomic variables for each CD, resulting in an area level measure of relative disadvantage rather than to individuals living in those areas. It is important to note that there will be some people living in relatively more disadvantaged areas who will be less disadvantaged than others. Conversely, some residents of relatively less disadvantaged areas may be highly disadvantaged. When area level indexes are used as proxy measures of individual level socioeconomic status, groups of people living within smaller areas within these larger areas may be misclassified.

SEIFA IRSD Quintiles and Distribution of Queensland CDs

The ABS provides individual rankings for each Queensland CD against all CDs in the State based on the area's SEIFA IRSD Scores. CDs are also grouped by Deciles. In this report, all Queensland CDs were divided into five equal groups or quintiles[13] ranging from lowest to the highest IRSD score. These quintiles have formed the basis for analysis by larger geographical areas in this report using population weighted averaging. As illustrated in the table below, Quintile 1 comprises areas with the lowest IRSD scores, representing areas that are relatively most disadvantaged or lowest socioeconomic status. On the opposite end of the spectrum, Quintile 5 comprises areas with the highest IRSD scores which are relatively less disadvantaged.

Table 5. SEIFA IRSD Quintiles and Distribution of Queensland CDs



[12] The score of each Queensland CD was multiplied by the total number of usual resident population within that CD; this was then divided by the total usual resident population within the larger Queensland SD; which was then added together to equal the score of that SD.

[13] The weighted method divides the data into 5 even groups, where each group has the same population. All quintiles have been calculated based on rankings within Queensland only.

It is important to note that the SEIFA indexes are ordinal (i.e. areas can be ranked) however the specific differences between areas cannot be measured. Therefore, whilst an area with an index value of 500 is relatively more socio-economically disadvantaged than an area with a score of 1,000, it is misleading to infer it is twice as disadvantaged as the area with an index value of 1,000 (ABS, 2006f:3).

Figure 5 below shows the frequency distribution for the IRSD scores for Queensland CDs with each vertical bar representing the number of CDs within a range of five index points. The distribution is left-skewed primarily because the underlying variables measured indicate relative disadvantage at CD level. As a result, using this index allows more scope in distinguishing between disadvantaged areas. The scores at the lower end of distribution show that there were fewer relatively disadvantaged areas. The Quintile markings at the top of the graph show that there is a larger distribution between the scores in the 1st Quintile compared with those in the middle quintiles.

Figure 5. Frequency Distribution Queensland Collection Districts across IRSD CD scores

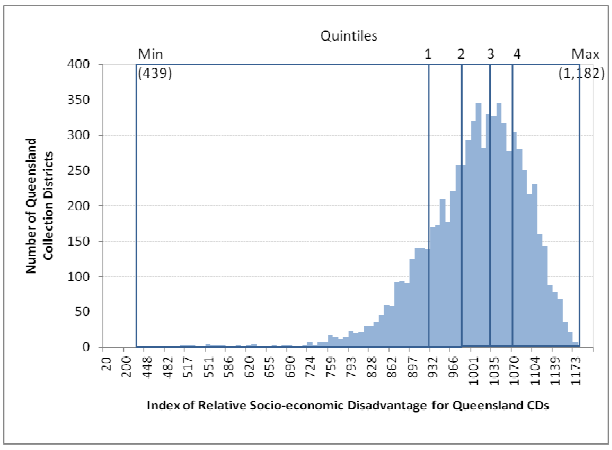
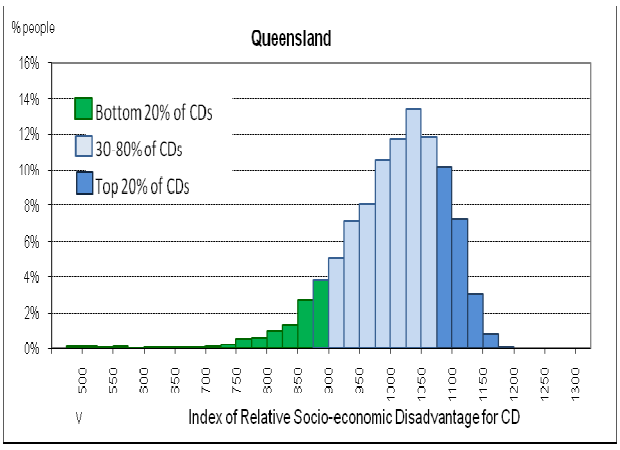


Figure 6. Distribution of Queensland Population across IRSD CD scores



Queensland SEIFA IRSD Maps

Maps of Queensland geographic areas are provided based on the 2006 ABS Census of Population and Housing and the SEIFA IRSD to supplement the analyses. Maps were produced by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research within the Queensland Government.

1.4 How to Use this Report

The primary focus of this report is to provide an analysis of the SEIFA IRSD data available at the level of a Statistical Division (SD). Each SD is ranked overall in relation to this index and then detailed information about specific locations within that SD is also provided.

As such, this report can be used as a reference document about specific locations as a starting point for assessing needs and service planning. Readers are encouraged to locate their service delivery areas first in relation to a Statistical Division using the map included as **Figure 1** (Page VI). Chapter 4 then provides more detail about each SD including the most disadvantaged SLAs, LGAs and CDs.

Chapter 5 also ranks each SD in relation to a number of specific indicators of disadvantage. This may assist services to highlight, at the SD level, which larger areas are impacted by specific indicators of disadvantage as a further basis for identifying which issues may need to be considered in service planning and delivery.

A table is also available[14] rating the 60 most disadvantaged SLAs for each indicator used in chapter 5 which will provide readers with an opportunity to locate smaller areas of concern to them. A complete list of SLAs for Queensland is also provided as a basis for using a search function to locate SLAs of interest in the table provided.

The other major component of this report is the review of literature which is provided as a basis for considering a range of policy and program responses to locational disadvantage. The recommendations then seek to address the extent and persistence of locational disadvantage in Queensland and outline possible policy responses that emerge from the literature review.

The data in this report should be seen as a starting point for understanding disadvantage and should be complemented by additional local and regional assessment of needs, opportunities, assets and strengths. The report does not have the capacity to assess the strengths, opportunities, assets, existing services and infrastructure in particular places as a basis for responding to disadvantage. Furthermore, there is an inherent risk in naming particular places as relatively disadvantaged without a thorough consideration of the resilience and hard work undertaken by local communities in trying to address these issues. The report contents must be complemented by developing an intimate understanding of each targeted locality.

[14] See the Centre for Social Justice website at <http://www.ucareqld.com.au/SocialJustice>

2 Review of Literature

The following literature review has focused on:

- Overarching definitions relevant to the scope of this report
- Evidence of spatial disadvantage in Queensland
- Policy and program responses from Australia and elsewhere.

Policy and program responses to place-based disadvantage highlight examples of comprehensive initiatives often driven nationally where integrated plans are implemented involving multiple agencies (government and non-government) in strong partnerships with an overriding focus on outcomes and evidence of success.

This review also looks at examples of prevention and early intervention approaches to poverty reduction as well as examples of placed-based programs (examples of both comprehensive policies and programs as well as more incremental and bottom-up examples).

There is also reference to a potential role for alternative economics and social enterprise as a way of driving change at the community level in ways that positively impact upon local economies through various funding sources both traditional and innovative.

This review focuses on selecting a reasonable overview of innovative practice relevant to the questions driving the Scan of Disadvantage. As the scope of the project was constrained in terms of time, it was not possible to include every relevant example. The process of tracking ideas and examples of innovation is acknowledged as important and the recommendations include encouragement to develop a clearing house function that creates a mechanism for continuing to share good practice from Queensland and beyond.

2.1 Key Concepts: An Overview

Definitions of Poverty

Definitions of poverty are the subject of ongoing debate in Australia and elsewhere. In 2006, a report on poverty for the Queensland Council of Social Service highlighted 'that consensus on a single definition of poverty is lacking' (UQSRC, 2006:1).

Tanton et al. (2008:4) highlight that 'in Australia, a relative poverty line based on 50 per cent of median equivalised disposable household income is the most commonly used poverty line'. However they also point out that 'income clearly captures only one aspect of disadvantage, and does not address the underlying causes of poverty, or wider aspects of deprivation and social exclusion' (Saunders cited in Tanton et al. 2008:3).

Definitions of poverty also indicate that certain groups tend to be more vulnerable to poverty including female-led single parent households, lone women, older people, people living alone, immigrants, refugees and Indigenous people (Graham et al., 2009).

Saunders et al. (2007:2) emphasise 'three overlapping concepts - poverty (defined in terms of low income), deprivation and social exclusion' based on the view that:

> *'social disadvantage takes many different forms, and the identification and measurement of poverty and other forms of disadvantage must be grounded in the actual living standards and experiences of people in poverty. This involves identifying the different forms of deprivation and exclusion and developing indicators based on the factors that restrict people's ability to acquire the items and participate in the activities that are widely regarded as essential for full membership of society'.*
>
> Saunders et al., 2007:2

Social Exclusion

> I just want to live like other people. I don't like feeling different all of the time. Why can't I feel secure? I hope one day I will be able to wear what other people wear and be able to stop in at a coffee shop and have a nice home and go to the dentist and get my hair done. Then I can get a good job in a nice place and people will smile at me and I will be noticed. Then I will be part of the community and get some of the good life …

Social exclusion emerged as a policy focus in countries such as France and also in Britain (Saunders et al., 2007:11). Now the Australian Government has also focused on the issue of social exclusion with the establishment of the Australian Social Inclusion Board (Australian Government, 2009). The focus of the board is to advise the government on 'ways to achieve better outcomes for the most disadvantaged in our community' (Australian Government, 2009).

The concept of social exclusion is used to emphasise complex and inter-related dimensions beyond simply income poverty. Definitions of social exclusion tend to focus on how individuals and groups might be left out of relationships and opportunities because of a lack of resources, income, rights and services (Levitas cited in Saunders et al., 2007:12).

Many different experiences and circumstances are understood to drive social exclusion including the characteristics of local neighbourhoods, exclusion from services, poor health, lack of housing, limited networks and poor access to labour force opportunities (Pierson quoted by Social Inclusion Board Indicators Working Group, 2009:viii-ix; Atkinson cited in Wilson et al., 2006:2). Some definitions of social exclusion highlight the role of attachment to place as one dimension (Kearns and Forrest cited in The Benevolent Society, 2008:6).

In general, a wider focus on social exclusion helps to identify and respond to 'multiple, interacting barriers to inclusion' at the level of analysis and action (Smyth, 2008:5). There is considerable evidence that social exclusion is made worse by the location where people live (Wilson et al., 2006:3).

There are a number of ways in which the characteristics of places contribute to social exclusion. 'Geographic isolation, lack of access to transport, sub-standard housing, vulnerability to crime, poor education, inability to communicate in English, inadequate family support, limited social networks, the absence of good role models, lack of access to affordable telephone communications, poor health and physical and intellectual disabilities' are all conditions that help to drive trends towards socio-spatial exclusion (Wilson et al., 2006:3). As Gleeson and Carmichael point out, 'the social exclusion debate has embraced space and place as a central issue (2001:10). The recognition of multiple factors driving disadvantage (which in combination render some groups and places more excluded than others), will help to shape effective responses.

Social Cohesion

Another important concept is that of social cohesion. Cohesive and connected communities are acknowledged as important within the Australian Government's current policies on social inclusion (The Benevolent Society, 2008:5). Vinson found that areas with low social cohesion were more likely to have characteristics such as higher crime rates, early school leaving, unemployment, child maltreatment and admissions to psychiatric hospitals (2007:94). Lack of social cohesion can lead to anti-social behaviour which drives the provision of costly crisis interventions.

Wilkinson and Pickett (2009) have examined the implications for societies measuring a high degree of income inequality. In more unequal societies, the rates of mental illness are higher and drug and alcohol abuse, obesity and teenage pregnancy are more common. The implications are felt across society with greater overall stress levels, and significantly more mistrust between high income populations and those on lower incomes. This often manifests in more punitive approaches to crime. Wilkinson and Pickett suggest that measures to reduce income inequality will improve health and wellbeing for everyone.

Poverty and Place

There is a significant history of analysing the spatial dimensions of poverty in Australia extending from international recognition that poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion may all respond to spatially sensitive policies and programs. In the broader international context, there is recognition that:

> *'Place is important because it provides infrastructure, facilities, goods and services ... and shapes its members' experiences and well being. Communities are an important source of cultural, social and civic identity. Their small-scale allows residents to participate in decision-making'.*
>
> Canadian CED Network, 2007:3

Embedded in debates about poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion is the question of whether effective solutions should focus on service delivery to people or on place level strategies including community development (Griggs et al., 2008). While some evaluations of person and place-targeted policies indicate that most initiatives had some favourable impacts, these policy initiatives had largely 'been developed separately and sometimes in isolation from each other' (Griggs et al., 2008:2). It is important to consider what might be achieved if a deliberate effort was made to capture synergy between people and place policies on the basis that 'these place activities have to be integrated with those mainstream social services, access to which is understood to be central to social inclusion' (Smyth, 2008:11).

McPherson and Randolph (2001:7) distinguish between:

> *'... mainstream social welfare and economic policies on the one hand, and place focused initiatives on the other. Whereas the former affect life chances and social outcomes in areas of high disadvantage through the broader operation of redistributive assistance and other macro policy activity, they are not seen to be specific to these areas. Nevertheless, they arguably play a crucial role in both creating disadvantaged areas and need to be thought of as part of the policy package that addresses the problems of such areas. Indeed, it has been argued that making universal policies more spatially aware is the long term answer to problems disadvantaged areas and their populations currently face.'*
>
> McPherson and Randolph, 2001:7

This report does not attempt to draw conclusions about the relative merits of focusing solutions on people, issues or places. Considering these options as either/or propositions is also unhelpful given the complex and interrelated nature of poverty, disadvantage, deprivation and social exclusion. This report does have a focus on identifying spatial disadvantage and as such strives to articulate a framework for how universal policies and 'place' focused initiatives might be synthesised to drive home measurable improvements in the circumstances of people negatively impacted by their location.

2.2 Spatial Disadvantage in Queensland

QCOSS estimated that 413,000 Queenslanders were living below the poverty line in 2005/2006, with poverty defined as living below 50% of median disposable income of all Australian households (2008:1). This represented 10.6% of all Queenslanders. Citing NATSEM, Kryger demonstrates that some specific areas in Queensland have higher rates of poverty than this overall figure with the Federal electorates of Maranoa, Hinkler and Wide Bay reporting significantly higher poverty rates than the State average (14.8%, 16.1% and 16.2% respectively) (2009:6-7). These electorates also recorded the highest poverty rates in 2001 with 13%, 13% and 13.8% respectively illustrating that for some places, high levels of poverty persist over time (Kryger cited in UQSRC, 2006:3).

Various methods have been used to demonstrate the extent of spatial disadvantage in Australia (Baum et al. 2005, Tanton et al., 2007; Vinson, 2007; Vu et al., 2008; Kryger, 2009). Vinson for example, in *Dropping off the Edge: the Distribution of Disadvantage in Australia*, analysed a number of indicators which were chosen on the basis of 'research evidence of their close association with social disadvantage' (2007:ix). The categories of indicators were social distress, health, community safety, economic and education (Vinson, 2007:6).

Vinson concluded that disadvantaged localities in Queensland were distributed across Metropolitan areas (8 localities), non-metropolitan urban areas (8 localities) and rural (24 localities) (2007:97). Vinson went further to recommend Mt Morgan and Woodridge as priority areas for intervention (2007:102).

The General Deprivation Index for Australian cities was developed by Baum (2008), using a number of variables including demographic characteristics, income, housing and labour force information. While Brisbane had no suburbs in Band 1 (highest relative deprivation), 25 suburbs were ranked in Band 2 (high relative deprivation). Baum describes suburbs in Band 1 or Band 2 as localities 'known as welfare or retirement migration locations often on the fringes of the city in the newly expanding peri-urban regions or in coastal communities' (2008:14).

AMP with NATSEM have produced a report into socio-economic inequality by examining small areas in relation to income, unemployment, immigration and housing costs (Vu et al., 2008). Using SLAs as a geographical unit and data from the national census in 2001 and 2006, evidence of inequality emerges despite an overall national growth in prosperity during the same time period (Vu et al., 2008:3). 'Good news at the national level can still mask very different outcomes for those living in the many diverse regions that characterise Australia' (Vu et al., 2008:3). These trends included:

- While capital cities showed substantial increases in income, these 'have been largely offset by rising housing costs and general price increases'
- Households in areas with the highest incomes have seen their incomes increase on average by 36% compared to 29% of the lowest incomes
- Households in 'middle income neighbourhoods experienced around a 65% increase in their housing costs from 2001 to 2006 compared with only a 54% increase for households in the most affluent neighbourhoods. across all income groups there was a decline in outright home ownership between 2001 and 2006.

Vu et al., 2008:3, 12-13

By mapping the level of affluence of each area, it was possible to demonstrate that areas with higher incomes are generally next to one another and correspondingly, areas with low incomes tend to be next to one another (Vu et al., 2008). Generally speaking 'there is usually a medium income 'buffer' between the richest areas and poorest areas' (Vu et al., 2008:7).

Tanton et al. (2007:1) calculated small area poverty estimates for 2006 using spatial micro-simulation techniques in three states and one territory within Australia, including Queensland. Physical maps highlighting areas of relative poverty demonstrate that 'areas outside Australia's capital cities are more likely to have higher proportions of people in poverty than areas within capital cities ... Clusters of non-capital city areas showing lower rates of income poverty include areas in north Queensland to the west and south of Mackay' (Tanton et al., 2007:8). They are careful to point out that while capital cities generally have fewer poor SLAs, 'there are clusters of income-poor suburbs within these cities' including Brisbane (Tanton et al., 2007:8).

This is consistent with debates about certain push factors for some groups such as younger families relocating from larger population centres and locating in non-metropolitan areas (Healy et al., 2009:9). Access to more affordable housing in addition to employment and lifestyle factors all played a role in attracting families from metropolitan to non-metropolitan areas (Healy et al., 2009:6). Healy et al. found that increased population generally resulted in increased socio-economic advantage with associated evidence of disadvantage being displaced to areas further inland from coastal areas (2009:22).

Available data for cities also demonstrates that pockets of disadvantage exist. In Brisbane for example, 2.3% of people aged between 0-64 years are living with a severe disability. Wacol's population included 9% of people with a severe disability (influenced by the presence of a large psychiatric hospital) while Redland had 5.8% (AIHW, 2009:9). AIHW, in mapping the location of people living with a disability, showed that people living in the most disadvantaged quintile of Brisbane were 2.4 times more likely to have a severe disability than the most advantaged quintile (2009:9) ((based on the 2006 SEIFA Index for relative advantage/disadvantage). This data illustrates that 'while disability is less common in metropolitan areas than regional and remote areas at a broad level, some local areas within cities still have relatively high rates of severe disability' (AIHW, 2009:20).

AIHW acknowledges that people with a disability may be attracted to areas of higher relative disadvantage because housing may be more affordable even though other costs such as transport might actually add to the cost of living longer term. AIHW also highlights that relative socio-economic disadvantage may cause increased risk to health and therefore exacerbate disabilities (greater risks from smoking and sedentary lifestyles, environmental hazards and psychological stress as a consequence of poverty and social exclusion) (2009:20-21).

These different frameworks for analysing spatial disadvantage in Queensland highlight the diversity of areas that are affected. Gleeson and Carmichael cite Spiller and Budge's analysis of the various types of disadvantaged regions in Australia as follows.

Table 6. Framework for Different Types of Locational Disadvantage

Area type	Elements
Inner City	Historically, there have been concentrations of poverty in the city core which have been pushed out by the revival of central areas. Pockets of disadvantage may remain in these areas.
Outer suburbs	While not all outer suburbs are disadvantaged 'there is evidence that many outer metropolitan locations suffer from serious deprivation in terms of access to a broad range of services and facilities'.
Rural communities	Lack diversity in the local economy with resulting susceptibility 'to the impacts of economic restructuring'. Some rural communities are attracting lower income households because of housing affordability and this influx can have an impact on services.
Rural and remote Indigenous communities	Many of these areas have very poor access to education, training, jobs, basic infrastructure, water supply and road access.
Declining industrial towns	'Traditional industrial towns and certain suburbs in larger metropolitan areas have suffered from dramatic job losses, casualisation of the workforce and consequently an increasing reliance on social security'.
Emerging coastal welfare regions	It seems that a growing number of poorer people are being attracted to these areas seeking better lifestyles and lower skilled employment which tends to be casual or seasonal. 'As the poorer, working age households move into these areas there appears to be an increasing level of social and economic division both within these communities and between them and other parts of Australia'.
Middle suburbs of major cities	Sydney's middle west region is an example of where clusters of disadvantage exist.

Source: Spiller and Budge in Gleeson and Carmichael, 2001:20-21

2.3 Policy and Program Responses

2.3.1 Comprehensive Strategies to Reduce Poverty and Social Exclusion

Various European countries have multi-faceted and integrated strategies aimed at ending poverty (Collin, 2007:1). In the UK for example, targets were set for reducing poverty combined with strategies that included reforms resulting in a more supportive legislative framework. 'All parts of government and the community sector are working together to achieve success' (Collin, 2007:2). Importantly, the government also monitors progress and produces annual reports which outline measures of success against various indicators (Collin, 2007:2). The strategy aims to address a range of issues that contribute to poverty including:

- Lack of education and training
- Low labour market participation
- Poor working conditions
- A need for affordable housing

- Lack of accessible public transport systems
- Poor health
- Involvement in crime
- Better access to high-quality child-care.

Collin, 2007:2-3

Certain groups are targeted because they experience particularly high levels of disadvantage including children, lone parents, people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities and people with multiple needs (Collin, 2007:3).

The UK Government has measured progress in terms of reducing disadvantage however also acknowledges the persistence of poverty for some groups in particular. For this reason, in 2006, a Minister for Social Exclusion was appointed and a Social Exclusion Task Force was launched to further consolidate efforts at achieving a reduction in disadvantage (Collin, 2007:3). The focus is on five guiding principles which warrant consideration in Australia and more specifically Queensland:

- 'Better identification and early intervention
- Systematically identifying what works
- Promoting multi-agency collaboration including through stronger Local Area Agreements
- Attention to personalisation [15], rights and responsibilities
- Supporting achievement and managing underperformance.'

Collin, 2007:6

The Social Exclusion Task Force has also focused on particular needs and issues. Families are the focus of a body of work called 'Think Family', where the emphasis is on joined up services, and a 'no wrong door approach' (SETF, 2008).

Sure Start Children's Centres are one initiative with some Centres under this program including a range of co-located services for adults so that their contact with parents on one issue can result in strong linkages with other areas such as housing and employment (SETF, 2008:8). Staff are trained in assessment processes to identify a wider range of issues and outreach workers are available to visit families and encourage contact with various support services (SETF, 2008:8).

Another initiative called the Family Intervention Projects works with families who have high and complex needs and who have been identified as causing problems within their community (SETF, 2008:9). The core components of this initiative include:

- Persistence and assertiveness with families
- A dedicated key worker
- Whole family assessment
- A contract with the family
- Intensive and structured support
- A coordinated and integrated response.

Ireland also has a national anti-poverty strategy characterised by 'specific poverty reduction targets and indicators to monitor progress' (Collin, 2007:7). Implementation was supported by institutional arrangements within government to ensure that all relevant departments worked together to meet the targets. An independent body was engaged to oversee the evaluation process. The evaluation process demonstrated that the original targets had been achieved ahead of schedule leading to a revision of targets to eliminate poverty by 2016 (Collin, 2007:8). Collin quotes the Department of Social and Family Affairs in stating that 'in less than a decade more than 250,000 people, including 100,000 children have been lifted out of poverty' (2007:10).

On the foundation of these successes, the government is now focused on strategies to tackle deeper social exclusion (Government of Ireland, 2007). Various strategies target different groups (such as children, people with disabilities

[15] This principle relates to deliberate efforts to pilot and explore service delivery that includes lead professionals with budgets and a capacity to broker tailored programs of support delivered in the context of 'strong and persistent relationships with those at risk'. This principle also relates to the idea of a compact with families and individuals at risk where actions are agreed. There is a strong focus on outcomes (HM Government, 2006:9).

and older people) and will include the capacity for improved 'coordination and delivery at the local and national level' (Collin, 2007:10).

Another example of a higher level framework is the European Council's adoption of a set of social indicators focused on financial poverty, employment, health and education (O'Connor, 2005:346). These were to be used by all European Union (EU) countries to report on social inclusion from 2003. The structure for implementation included:

- Policy guidelines
- Setting benchmarks
- Concrete targets
- A monitoring system to evaluate progress.

The European social policy agenda includes a focus on the development of National Action Plans and emphasizes the accurate measurement of poverty and social exclusion 'on a multi-dimensional basis' as a critical first step to defining and implementing effective policy responses (O'Connor, 2009:351). The significance of defining indicators of social exclusion and measuring them is that it becomes possible to 'identify progress in key areas and locate performance on key social-outcome indicators relative to other States' (O'Connor, 2009:358). This agenda has influenced the development of National Action Plans in places like Ireland and illustrates the benefit of a vision and expectation from a high level, that social exclusion will be addressed as part of the evolution of Europe.

This emphasis on measuring the multi-dimensional nature of social exclusion is an example of why baseline data outlining the extent and nature of disadvantage is important as a starting point and critical to the capacity for effective evaluation. This recognition of the importance of measuring social exclusion should allow future research to move beyond articulating the extent of spatial disadvantage towards the measuring progress over time as part of an integrated strategy to reduce disadvantage.

Australia

One example of a comprehensive framework emerging from Australia is *A Fairer Victoria* which is the State of Victoria's social policy framework, in place since 2005. The priorities are:

- 'Getting the best start
- Improving education and helping people into work
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Developing liveable communities.'

State Government of Victoria, 2009:3

The total investment since 2005 is just over $5billion and the components of the framework are seen to be mutually reinforcing. Some of the key initiatives include:

- Investment in 70 new integrated children's centres across the state
- 24 Child and Family Information, Referral and Support Teams to help vulnerable families
- Improved child and family support in 30 disadvantaged areas through the Best Start Initiative
- Free kindergarten programs for Indigenous 3-4 year olds and provided in-home support for Indigenous first-time mothers
- Reformed family violence services
- Planning for a new program of family mentors to visit struggling parents at home and to provide intensive parenting assistance
- 57 Family Support Innovation Projects providing more intensive support to families known to child-protection services resulting in a lower number of re-notifications
- 70 regional network leaders to provide support and interventions to schools in their network
- Establishment of 100 community enterprises
- Expansion of the Early Intervention in Chronic Disease in Community Health initiative to 36 Local Government areas to help ensure that disadvantaged people with chronic diseases can access services

- Expansion of community based services to older people and a Seniors Register where people can elect to be contacted by volunteers to check their safety and reduce isolation
- Funding for Men's Sheds
- The first Charter for Human Rights and Responsibilities at a State level in Australia which took full effect in January 2008.

State Government of Victoria, 2009

A Fairer Victoria has resulted in a number of measurable outcomes including:

- Better universal access to kindergarten regardless of income
- Significant progress towards achieving 90% year 12 completion rate
- The incidence of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect is falling against national trends
- Improvements in the rate of people sleeping rough.

Department of Planning and Community Development, 2009:1

The Victorian Government has also developed Indicators of Community Strength focusing on three types of networks:

- 'Close personal networks
- Broader associational and community networks
- Governance networks.'

Pope, 2006:3

This framework includes detailed indicators as a basis for actually measuring community strength. These indicators also point to possible strategies for addressing lower levels of social cohesion in particular places. The framework uses data to highlight that not all population groups are equal in terms of their access to and participation in various types of networks and that 'economically disadvantaged groups in particular, appear to participate less in all three types of networks and are therefore less likely to have access to the benefits networks provide' (Pope, 2006:18). 'Participation has been shown to alleviate some of the negative outcomes of economic disadvantage' with evidence that levels of volunteering and being a member of a group correlates with decreasing imprisonment rates, improvements in birth weights and higher levels of psychological well-being (Pope, 2006:18). Some of the important elements involved in improving participation are identified by Pope (2006:19) as:

- Working to develop a community vision in relation to participation and governance
- Diverse approaches to community engagement
- Community plans
- Partnerships for change.

Discussion: The Implications of Comprehensive Strategies for Queensland

At a state level, Queensland has adopted a number of targets as part of Q2 which establishes five overarching goals to address a range of challenges including a Fair Queensland (Department of the Premier, 2009). There is also work underway in Queensland on indicators of community strength. At a State level there has also been some consideration of prevention and early intervention approaches to family support and child protection (Department of Child Safety, 2009). Coordinated and integrated policies such as a Fairer Victoria highlight the need for further consideration of how the total investment of the Queensland Government might be structured and implemented to reflect some of the key features of these higher-level, integrated strategies that have delivered significant outcomes.

A number of features of international examples are also important in considering the design and implementation of high level, coordinated policies in Australia and Queensland. On the one hand, they have been characterised as ambitious in that a high level policy framework driven in part through political leadership has engaged and synergised various departments and other stakeholders (such as the not-for-profit sector). However the evaluation of these ambitious targets did measure progress and demonstrated evidence of a reduction in poverty.

This opens the question of how a national and state level policy framework might be designed to reflect clearer targets for reducing poverty and disadvantage including spatial disadvantage. The Social Inclusion Agenda at the

national level in Australia and Queensland's Q2 framework, represent starting points. It will be essential however for all related policy areas to be drawn together under a broader vision for reducing disadvantage and in a way that overcomes institutional and cultural barriers to focusing on what really works and on implementation processes that have proven successful. The Australian Government's proposed blue print to reduce homelessness is perhaps one example of where significant planned investment is attached to clearly articulated targets including changes in how the homelessness service system currently works. As one example, this framework declares that homelessness is everyone's responsibility thus inviting a broader and more integrated response from diverse sectors.

These examples emphasise the importance of improved institutional arrangements including 'multi-year action plans with dedicated human and financial resources' and structures with a clear mandate and accountability requirements (Collin, 2007:11).

2.3.2 Prevention and Early Intervention

> I used to yell at the kids and swear at them. I know it sounds bad, but looking the way they do, they got to get used to it. People will swear at them and talk down to them their whole life.
>
> *Mother of three boys*

The emphasis on prevention and early intervention programs is often based on evidence from the field of neuroscience that 'the environment in which children are brought up during the first three years of life can impact on the brain's capacity to learn' (HM Treasury and Department of Education and Skills, 2007:11). Mercy and Saul (2009:2262) highlight the relationship between 'early adversity and health' stating that:

> *'Parental mental health and substance abuse problems, significant social deprivation or neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and exposure to violence between parents or other adults are examples of breakdowns in the protected and nurturing environments children need to become healthy adolescents and adults. Early exposure to such adversities has been linked to many emotional, behavioural and physical health problems ... A history of adverse exposures has been associated with health risks such as smoking and health problems such as obesity, diabetes, ischemic heart disease and sexually transmitted diseases'.*

They also highlight long term impacts including irreversible changes to the brain resulting in long term poor health and poorer skill development influencing income and socio-economic status (Mercy and Saul, 2009:2262).

A number of prevention and early intervention programs have been evaluated including the Nurse-Family Partnership as an example of an early intervention program providing:

- Home visitation to low income, first time mothers from pregnancy and through the child's infancy
- Engagement with mothers and the wider family in improving health related behaviours such as smoking, alcohol use and accessing health services
- Support to improve economic self-sufficiency.

Several rigorous trials have demonstrated:

- A reduction in abuse and injury
- Improvements in cognitive and socio-emotional outcomes in children
- A positive cost-benefit ratio
- At 15 years follow-up, there were reduced crime rates and anti-social behaviour.

Mercy and Saul, 2009:2263

The following US prevention and early intervention programs were cited in a document focused on child and family support generated by the UK Government, and also highlight benefits and outcomes:

Table 7. US Prevention and Early Intervention Programs

Program	Description
Parents as Teachers Program	▪ Operates in 50 States across America. ▪ Provides home visiting support to parents and children in the early years. ▪ Children who participated have higher test scores. ▪ Also evaluated that the overall benefits were higher than the cost of the actual program.
Perry Pre-School Project	▪ Took place in Michigan in the 1960s targeting children with low IQ and poor social and emotional skills. ▪ Proved that participants had measurably better outcomes as adults and that the benefits substantially outweighed the costs.
Iowa Strengthening Project	▪ Seven week program for children and their families operating across the US. ▪ Works to enhance parenting skills, parent-child relationships and family communication. ▪ Children in the program are less likely to commit crime, start smoking, drink alcohol and take drugs.
Chicago Child Parent Centre Program	▪ Aims to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged children through targeted teaching and health support in the early years. ▪ Participants at age 5 were more likely to be ready for school and at age 14 had higher test scores in reading and maths. By 20 years participants were more likely to have finished schools, had lower rates of being arrested and were less than half as likely to have been mistreated as children.

Adapted from HM Treasury and Department of Education and Skills, 2007:9

The Head Start program in the United States is a preschool program with the aim of reducing levels of disadvantage among some children compared to their peers (Garces et al., 2002:999). Head Start was launched in the early 1960s as a comprehensive program focused on child development. By 1988, a demonstration program was in place 'to provide integrated and continuous support services to low income families with infants' (Head Start History 2009:2). In an evaluation of the longer term effects of Head Start, economic and social success factors are examined by Garces et al. (2002:999). Although some long term benefits were found, this particular study was careful to point out that more research was needed to fully establish the long term implications of the program. Nonetheless, some of the reported outcomes included:

- Increased probability of completing high school and attending college
- Increased earnings by the early twenties
- Reduced criminal charges and convictions
- Some spill over effects between older and younger siblings.

Reynolds et al. reviewed 14 early childhood programs in relation to their impact on child maltreatment (2009). They concluded an overall 31% reduction in the rate of child maltreatment as a result of these interventions (2009:182). They summarise some critical components of successful interventions:

- Higher intensity interventions (both visiting programs and preschool)
- Comprehensiveness of programs (including various components such as family support, outreach and health services)
- Level of training of staff
- Long term follow-up.

Reynolds et al., 2009:196-198

In Queensland, the Pathways to Prevention Program took place in the Inala area on the outskirts of Brisbane. This project involved a partnership between Mission Australia and the Griffith University and was defined by a number of goals and principles. Interventions included:

- School based programs
- Child focused group programs
- Adult focused group programs
- Referral to specialist services
- Intensive family support.

Various favourable outcomes were measured including improvements in child behaviour, language and social skills (Homel, et al., 2006).

To expand early intervention approaches beyond pilot projects, Mercy and Saul advocate three interrelated systems:

- The synthesis and translation of information on effective interventions for practitioners
- Building the motivation and skills at the level of individuals, organisations and communities towards greater participation in prevention programs backed by evidence
- A capacity to deliver quality interventions at the national, state or local level.

The concept of earlier intervention has also been studied in relation to other groups such as older people. Shapiro and Taylor (2002:334) found that early intervention community based programs resulted in greater subjective well-being, lower levels of institutionalisation and a lower death rate compared to a control group not receiving these services. The intervention was designed to provide case management services earlier with a focus on enabling older people to remain independent for longer. Services included help at home, meals, personal care, transportation and respite. The study concluded that:

> *'early provision of in-home social services is positively associated with elders' subjective well-being and negatively associated with permanent nursing home placement and mortality ... (the participants) were less depressed, had a greater sense of satisfaction with their life overall and with their social relationships, had a greater degree of mastery, and were less likely to die or experience permanent nursing home placement'.*
>
> Shapiro and Taylor, 2002:339

The Benevolent Society in Australia cited a study commissioned by the Department of Family and Community Services in 2001 into the evidence-base that prevention and early intervention programs promote the development of stronger communities (TBS, 2008:22). The overarching analysis of these findings highlight that social cohesion can be built in disadvantaged communities through the following approaches:

- 'building trust and reciprocity among community members
- Identifying community leaders and highly motivated community members
- Mobilising and utilising the input and skills of relevant professionals working in a community
- Facilitating skills development in areas such as organising groups, running meetings, lobbying, writing grant applications
- Identifying funding sources and increasing the capacity of groups to bid for these funds
- Building links between community groups and organisations to publicise achievements and share and access resources and information.'

The Benevolent Society, 2008:22-23

The Benevolent Society's commitment to building social cohesion is based on its capacity to influence certain positive outcomes including family functions, engagement, employment, resilience, governance and voluntary structures (TBC, 2008:2).

The Society undertook some higher level analysis of the elements of successful interventions and programs and concluded the following were essential:

- 'An early intervention/prevention approach

- A combination of individual focused and community focused programs
- The participation of community members
- The combined efforts of community and government programs and support
- Addressing whole of community issues and problems
- The utilisation of schools - they are critical
- The implementation of job training
- The encouragement of volunteering, especially among older community members.'

TBS, 2008:4

Discussion: The Implications of Prevention and Early Intervention Strategies for Queensland

This review of prevention and early intervention initiatives highlights diverse strategies including those that focus on the early years and supporting families, a focus on a particular group such as older people and also the potential for strategies that work at the level of communities as a way of strengthening social cohesion. A framework for reducing spatial disadvantage in Queensland would seek to address prevention and early intervention at all of these levels. The justification for considering a stronger focus on prevention and early intervention is based on a number of cited initiatives highlighting that initial investments in prevention and early intervention have better results and cost less than crisis driven remediation at a later stage. This rationale is supported by the notion that 'failure to address ingrained unemployment and social exclusion has ongoing and increased costs for society' and that prevention and early intervention represent a better approach to financial investment by Governments (Mangan, 2007:16).

This view was supported by evidence cited by Homel et al. (2006:94) showing that 'preventative interventions'… were 'considerably cheaper than remedial interventions for both behaviour management and literacy enhancement programs'.

2.3.3 Specific Examples of Place-Based Policies and Programs

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom government developed a *National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal (*NSNR) to address issues of poverty and social exclusion (Canadian CED Network, 2007:15). This strategy included the following elements:

- A neighbourhood renewal fund
- Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) 'to facilitate multi-sector and multi-level efforts to improve service provision and economic opportunities in the poorest places'
- Community capacity building.

LSPs were seen as a critical component to reforming local service delivery in areas that were disadvantaged. NSNR was targeted to the 'poorest 20 percent of municipalities in England' and a focus on issues such as crime reduction, health improvements, more livable places, learning opportunities and the revival of local economies as a key to generating employment opportunities for local people (Canadian CED Network, 2007:15).

The UK Social Exclusion Task Force identified the value of 'an area-based approach focused on a small geographical area' and describes some elements of a neighbourhood approach to raising aspirations including:

- Mobilising the community - finding potential, positive campaigns, community empowerment and outreach techniques
- Changing attitudes and behaviours
- A coordinated and multi-agency approach - working at a neighbourhood level supports a greater capacity to join up services.

Social Exclusion Task Force, 2008a:25

Various other place-based initiatives from the United Kingdom have also been highlighted by The Benevolent Society as follows:

Table 8. UK Case Studies

Case study example	Location	Brief description
New Deal for Communities (NDC)	UK	Aimed to close the gap between 39 disadvantaged communities and the rest of the nation. Interventions include: ▪ Improvements to the physical environment ▪ Promoting enterprise and employability ▪ Enhancing safety and security ▪ Promoting health ▪ Enhancing education. Strategies include: ▪ Establishment of boards with community representation to run local projects ▪ Service delivery ▪ Financial support for community groups ▪ Neighbourhood warden programs ▪ Business broker programs ▪ Skills and knowledge training. NDC is considered to have had positive impacts on social cohesion, community outcomes such as reduced crime and increased educational attainment yet no change in employment rates for instance.
Families and Schools Together (FAST)	UK	A collaborative prevention and parent involvement program aiming to build social cohesion, networks and protective features towards addressing school failure, substance abuse, violence, child abuse and neglect. Teachers are involved in identifying children at risk whose families are then invited to join FAST. There is involvement by a facilitator, a substance abuse counsellor, parent partners, a teacher, a clinical social worker, a health/mental health partner and volunteers. The family is offered courses, therapy and other interventions. While evaluations have found positive outcomes, some studies have found the positive effects decrease over time.
Neighbourhood Renewal	UK	Implemented by the Joseph Rowntree (JFR) Foundation over 4 years in 20 communities across England, Wales and Scotland. Interventions included: ▪ The development of action plans ▪ Access to funding for projects ▪ Facilitators ▪ Networking events ▪ Project funds ▪ Help with evaluating progress ▪ Institutional support from the JRF (project status and dissemination of opportunities).

Adapted from TBS, 2008:14-22

Canada

In Canada, communities across the nation are linked through Vibrant Communities Trail Builders, 'to test the most effective ways to reduce poverty at a grass roots level' (Canadian CED Network, 2007:18). There are four key sets of strategies including:

- 'Comprehensive local initiatives
- Grassroots collaboration
- Identifying community assets and putting them to good use
- A commitment to learning.'

Canadian CED Network, 2007:18

The Trail Builders are involved in implementing 'strategic, well-planned poverty-reduction initiatives' over a seven year period (Canadian CED Network, 2007:18). Some of the features of this approach include:

- A lead organisation
- A local community plan for poverty reduction
- Administration of a grant fund
- Tracking outcomes and documenting lessons learned.

Another Canadian initiative called *Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC)* emphasises an approach combining resources in new ways towards better effectiveness and better coordination of policies and programs to address issues such as health, housing, substance abuse and learning (Canadian CED Network, 2007:19).

United States

In the United States there has been a range of funding options for local initiatives which include some federal funding as well as private financing (Canadian CED Network, 2007:16-17). This context has seen the voluntary sector play an important role in 'building, supporting and mobilising local capacity and community leadership' (Canadian CED Network, 2007:16-17).

A particular example of this is the Neighbourhood Strategies Project (NSP) spanning six years and funded by the New York Community Trust (Jenny, 2009). The focus is on the creation of economic opportunities for disadvantaged young people and adults in three particular neighbourhoods. Important to this initiative is 'the simultaneous implementation of three core strategies: increasing resident employment; stimulating local economic activity; and strengthening neighbourhood institutions and affiliations' (Jenny, 2009). There is heavy emphasis on treating these components in a fully integrated way while still focusing strongly on 'the fundamental place of work in individual, family and community development' (Jenny, 2009). Each neighbourhood has governance arrangements resulting in community based collaboration - one location has over 200 organisations, agencies and individuals involved in a collaborative structure - another has 60. Sometimes the collaborative structures include specific sub-committees. These structures also oversee the management of NSP programs. NSP includes an initial year of planning and then five years of implementation as well as robust evaluation (Jenny, 2009).

Other examples of place-based policies in the United States include the following:

Table 9. US Case Studies

Initiative	Elements
Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities	▪ Funding and tax credits for business in a number of zones and communities with the aim of strengthening zone economies and improve economic opportunities for residents resulting in increased jobs, resident employment and business ownership. ▪ Although these were achieved, the gains were considered quite modest compared with overall community needs.
Comprehensive Community Initiatives (CCIs).	▪ CCIs focused on the provision of a range of social services and the development of human capital (through schools, children's services, job training etc). ▪ Some also included economic development and improved housing. ▪ Some involved existing or new Community Development Corporations (CDCs). ▪ Committed to democratic decision making at the neighbourhood level. ▪ Included a focus on community building.

Adapted from Vidal and Keating, 2004:129

Australia

Gleeson and Carmichael (2001:49) highlight that 'Australia's regional policy record has been extremely limited by international standards' and that by contrast the European Union (EU) has 'a substantial regional policy infrastructure'. These policies are heavily focused on 'uneven development, especially social exclusion and poverty'.

Nonetheless, a variety of place-based policies and strategies have emerged. Zappala and Green evaluated place management as an approach for addressing disadvantage which focuses more on outcomes and quote Crofts' definition of place management as a 'unifying spatial framework … to ensure the achievement of desired outcomes for a specific geographic place' (2001:2-3).

Randolph (2003:17) reflects on 'place focused initiatives' in Australia which tended to be 'poorly coordinated and rarely (generating) any real synergies that lead to long term outcomes for the neighbourhoods into which they are targeted'. Randolph attributes this to:

- High level control over decision making within bureaucracies
- Little actual control of resources at the local level
- A tendency towards funding that is 'project based'.

Randolph, 2003:18

Zappala and Green (2001:8) refer to place management initiatives that involve different approaches on a continuum from 'place coordination' through to 'place entrepreneurship'. Citing an example of Place Management from Moree (NSW), they highlight the following components:

- Developing an inclusive vision for the area with a timescale of 10 years
- A place manager with local knowledge who lives and works in the area funded by ten government agencies but employed through a regional development board
- A degree of independence for the place manager with a visible, accessible shop front office.

Martin Stewart-Weeks advocates a form of place management that strives for new forms of governance in the work of addressing poverty and social exclusion (in Zappala and Green, 2001:9). While this approach might also involve the employment of a place manager, there is also a focus on the 'restructuring (of) organisations to reflect outcome responsibilities rather than functions or inputs' (Zappala and Green, 2001:9).

'*A Fairer Victoria* includes a place-based focus to reduce long-standing disadvantage in particular locations' including some of the following initiatives:

- Neighbourhood and Community Renewal Programs
- Capacity for over 50 community groups to strengthen social ties between neighbours
- Over 100 community infrastructure and urban design projects.

State Government of Victoria, 2009

Other initiatives have lowered the rate of rough sleeping, increased social housing units, reduced crime rates and attracted over 20,000 volunteers to community organisations (State Government of Victoria, 2009). The government is planning further investment to develop 'six Central Activities Districts as key hubs for residential development, employment, civic, retail and leisure activities' (State Government of Victoria, 2009:46).

Klein suggests that in addition to 'progressive macro social and economic policies' there is a need to supplement universal policies with targeted and place-based responses such as Neighbourhood Renewal (2004:114).

Some of the key principles underpinning Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) include:

- The importance of joined up government as well as inter-sectoral partnerships
- A shift from paternalistic service provision to social investment and citizen participation resulting in devolved power to communities
- Strategic partnerships at the local level between residents, state government departments, Local Government, local businesses, community groups and service providers
- Project governance arrangements involving a steering committee and working groups that implement action plans
- The employment of a place manager to build partnerships, find local champions and generally doing 'whatever needs to be done.'

Klein, 2004:114-116

In Victoria, NR has focused on a number of objectives including:

- 'Increased community pride and participation
- Improved employment, learning and local economic activity
- Enhanced housing and environment
- Reduced crime and greater safety
- Better health and wellbeing
- Increased access to services and improved government responsiveness.'

TBS, 2008:19

There have been five key action areas as follows:

- 'Place based partnerships developing local solutions to local problems
- Joined up and intensive transitional labour market programs targeted to those most in need
- Community infrastructure to support flexible and local service delivery
- Neighbourhood based social enterprises
- Early intervention in school and education.'

TBS, 2008:19

Interim evaluations have demonstrated measurable outcomes such as increased employment, housing improvements, more community hubs, new social enterprises and a reduction in crime (TBS, 2008:20).

The Melbourne 2030 framework is another example of a place-based response with the designation of various Activity Centres focused around transport and access nodes (Victorian Government, 2008:4). This framework recognises the need to shift from a focus on funding to a focus on places through 'integrated and coordinated multi-agency responses to bring the focus to (those) places' (Victorian Government, 2008:5). The Victorian Department of Planning

and Community Development supports place management in Activity Centres by funding 'place manager positions'. In a synthesis of literature and interviews with key stakeholders and place managers in Victoria, the Victorian Government has articulated a range of characteristics of place management to help focus its work in Activity Centres[16]. There are various models of place management with different emphases:

- Place management involving significant restructuring of the public sector around serious social issues with resources targeted and redistributed to meet the needs of locations
- The use of facilitation and persuasion to achieve outcomes
- Outcome management through place based roles.

Walsh cited by the Department of Planning and Community Development, 2008:7-8

Various Victorian programs have embraced place management including:

- The redevelopment of Dandenong which is managed through a formal Board and executive team (the Dandenong Development Board)
- The employment of a place manager in Footscray
- Geelong has employed a place management model for coordinating development. This included a program to raise funds for the area through rates.

Department of Planning and Community Development, 2008:8-9

The Government of Victoria developed a matrix of skills, roles and responsibilities for place managers which highlights the diversity and flexibility of the role (Department of Planning and Community Development, 2008:17-18). A place management approach is indicated where it is possible to define the boundaries of a place and where there is a 'sense of crisis associated with chronic social, economic and environmental problems' (Department of Planning and Community Development, 2008:12). Other important pre-conditions might include a need for visible actions and outcomes within clearly defined timeframes and the presence of opportunities that could be facilitated by someone in the role of driver (Department of Planning and Community Development, 2008:12).

Based on these pre-conditions, the role of a place manager might include:

- Place coordination and entrepreneurship
- Defining outcomes for a particular place
- Brokerage and facilitation
- Budget allocation
- Holistic planning for a place
- Doing 'whatever needs to be done' regarding causes and solutions
- Finding and supporting champions
- Work across agencies, helping to form coalitions and negotiating for others to take action
- Flexibility, creativity and innovation.

Department of Planning and Community Development, 2008:12

Queensland

The Community Renewal Program (CRP) in Queensland aims to 'reduce the level of disadvantage and raise the confidence and image of identified disadvantaged communities' (Reddel, 2008:7).

The CRP includes the following components:

- 'A place-based focus
- Delivery of services across a range of government activities
- Participation by government officials, elected political representatives, local community members, community organisations and the private sector
- An emphasis on the collection and analysis of indicators of community well-being.'

[16] The Melbourne 2030 Plan includes 26 Principal Activity Centres, 120 Major Activity Centres and 900 Neighbourhood Activity Centres (Victorian Government, 2008:6).

Reddel, 2008:7

In Goodna for example, a Service Integration Project was initiated as a participatory mechanism and 'highlighted the strength of collaborative network arrangements, the need for defined community goals and outcomes to guide these networks and the accepted "messiness" of government and community relations' (Reddel, 2008:8).

Vinson also cites the Queensland Pathways to Prevention Program, in Inala, which included specific support for building family capacity delivered through:

1. 'Individual support programs
2. Advocacy
3. Group support or training programs (including playgroups, life skills)
4. Family relief including holiday and recreation activities
5. Material assistance
6. Childcare.'

Vinson, 2009a:7

A further initiative in the North Gold Coast region is funded through the Federal Government Communities for Children program and was facilitated by Lifeline Community Care Queensland, a service agency of UnitingCare Queensland. The program includes various child focused hubs and services and activities such as parent drop-in mornings, parenting education, health and fitness activities, playgroups, new mums groups, access to child health nurses and reading programs (Oxenford and Coomera Community Youth Centre, 2009; Ingamells, 2007).

Brisbane was also the site of three place management projects initiated in 1999 by Brisbane City Council (BCC) and the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet (2000). The emphasis of place management in Brisbane was on 'measurable and sustainable improvement in quality of life for most disadvantaged residents in three target communities' (Bourke, 2001:98). Other outcomes included improved coordination and collaboration between and within governments, business and community in each location and to build on community strengths and to increase the capacity of the community to address local problems and issues (Bourke, 2001:98). Linkages among economic, social and environmental issues were actively facilitated as part of a focus on the development of innovative responses to entrenched issues. This initiative included governance arrangements involving all of the key stakeholders at various levels (strategic and operational) and joint funding arrangements emerged between BCC and the State government.

By its early stages, Brisbane's Place Management Program had brokered the involvement of 11 state agencies, two commonwealth departments, various BCC programs and the participation of over 100 community agencies and businesses (Bourke, 2001:99).

Lawson highlighted several achievements from Brisbane's Place Projects including 'improved effectiveness of existing programs through integration and collaboration, the development of innovative local responses' and improvements in significant issues such as crime, through local area improvements and the engagement of community groups (2009:3). Overall, the level of funding for and commitment to the Brisbane Place Projects by government was quite limited and most of the projects were also time limited. The participating agencies were able to join up various aspects of service delivery to a higher level through governance arrangements and also through practical partnerships.

A further example from the Queensland context is the Cape York Partnerships initiative:

> *'Cape York Partnerships (CYP) is a community development organisation formed in 1999 through an agreement between the Queensland Government and regional Indigenous organisations. It supports Indigenous individuals, families, clans and communities to move beyond passive welfare, towards a social recovery and to participate actively in the economy.'* (CYP Website, 2009 <http://www.capeyorkpartnerships.com>)

CYP includes a range of family initiatives including:

- Family income management

- Dealing with substance abuse and improving family health
- Educational engagement.

CYP Website, 2009 <http://www.capeyorkpartnerships.com

CYP is also exploring and developing a series of projects focused on 'Pride of Place' which work with local people and partners to improve the physical environment in particular locations. CYP has achieved a number of partnerships involving businesses, government and community services.

Related to the Cape York Partnerships, the Family Responsibilities Commission was enacted in Queensland in 2008 (Family Responsibilities Commission, 2009). It is an initiative emerging from four Cape York Communities (Aurukun, Hope Vale, Mossman Gorge and Coen), the State and Federal Governments, as well as the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership. The Commission utilises a range of approaches aimed at improving the safety and wellbeing of children and families.

South Australia

South Australia's Social Inclusion Board has developed an initiative (The Social Inclusion Initiative) that includes the following important elements:

- Mechanisms have been created that 'stand outside of government bureaucracy, but are connected to and work with, bureaucracy to deliver important reforms' (Cappo, 2009:ii).
- A focus on evidence as a basis for policy and programs
- Service delivery is 'joined-up' - responses 'cut across and through government departments and form partnerships with community and business' (Cappo, 2009:11). The result is a strong focus on prevention and early-intervention
- The initiative has a mandate from the Premier to act
- The initiative has a level of independence from government
- There is also a Social Inclusion Unit within the Premier's Department
- The authority to monitor implementation.

Cappo, 2009:i-13

This initiative has also defined a five stage process including:

- 'Scoping the issue
- Actively listening
- Developing advice
- Constructing an action plan
- Monitoring and evaluating implementation.'

Cappo, 2009:13

Some agendas for action including homelessness (a 14 point action plan), mental health and school retention have been identified (2009:13).

Discussion: The Implications of Place-Based Responses for Queensland

The provision of universal services and resources is a critical component of policies and programs geared towards reducing poverty and disadvantage. There is substantial evidence however, that place-based strategies have a role to play in reducing locational disadvantage. Examples from a broader international context and from Australia illustrate a number of defining features of successful place-based programs including:

- Supportive policy frameworks enabling of place-level work
- Governance arrangements, engagement and civic participation bringing all stakeholders and sectors together
- Joined up commitments from across government and between government and community sector providers
- Joined up commitments are mirrored by an integrated approach to local issues such as housing, employment, the local economy, transport, family support, local planning and community cohesion

- Funding for place-based responses that is flexible, allowing for innovation
- A clear vision and purpose tied to targets and rigorous evaluation
- The geographical scope is manageable yet also has strategic linkages to employment and other opportunities
- There is a focus on assets and capacities - not only needs and issues
- Community leadership is nurtured and resourced
- Staffing capacities are geared towards place-based approaches
- There is a culture of ongoing and measurable improvements.

The evidence of success in place-based responses combined with evidence of persistent spatial disadvantage in Queensland highlights the importance of expanding the availability of place-based programs aimed at responding to disadvantage. There is a platform of existing initiatives in Queensland to work from in determining how existing policy and program responses could become more place sensitive and how dedicated programs and funding could expand the capacity to measurably reduce spatial disadvantage in some key locations.

Rural and Regional Focus

In reflecting on changes in rural and regional Australia, Mission Australia has articulated a framework for understanding and facilitating 'sustainable positive change' (Mission Australia, 2006:2).

This framework highlights the importance of various 'capitals' including:

- The natural or environment capital: renewal and non-renewable resources involved in production and consumption, and also natural environmental assets
- Social capital: the ways people live together including networks, shared norms, values and opportunities for cooperation
- Human capital: includes the levels of education, knowledge, skills and health of people in the community as a basis for innovation, interaction and progress of ideas
- Institutional capital: includes government, the built environment and non-government sector
- Economic capital: income, wealth, land, goods, communications and crops.

Adapted from Mission Australia, 2006:4

Mission Australia's focus on these capitals in relation to rural and regional Australia is based on an assessment of a number of issues and opportunities including:

- Population decline including the impacts of internal migration
- The retention of young people linked to adequate opportunities for education, training and employment
- Access to services and support for people experiencing domestic violence
- Access to essential services and links with mobile and information technology based delivery systems.
- The need for capacity building policies and programs and equitable access to services and opportunities in areas of highest levels of social exclusion and disadvantage
- An enhanced role for Local Government including economic and social development as well as direct engagement with citizens
- More effective planning and policy development across government including more thorough assessment and mitigation of the unintended outcomes of policy decisions.

Adapted from Mission Australia, 2006:7

In this context and in recognition of the various 'capitals' Mission Australia recommended a range of strategies including:

- Enhanced training opportunities for Indigenous young people to work in a range of industries including health and aged care
- An enhanced role for Local Government in analysing local needs, mobilising the community and in service provision
- Better integration of a whole of government approach in relation to rural areas
- Targeted support for farming families

- Mobile outreach and information technology
- Impact assessment on policies in relation to rural areas
- Build capacity through network development
- Targeted additional resources to meet health needs (mental health, maternity health, Indigenous health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation)
- Enhanced core funding for existing services for victims of domestic and family violence.

Adapted from Mission Australia, 2006:48-49

In response to the needs of families moving to non-metropolitan areas, Healy et al. suggest measures to promote social inclusion and to encourage practice, programs and policies that address the implication of this trend. In particular, they suggest:

- Multi-service hubs with the capacity for active and assertive outreach
- Holistic service provision responding to diverse needs
- The capacity for flexibility in service provision including through mobile services
- Flexible funding arrangements
- Workforce strategies to attract and retain professionals
- Improvements to planning and transport
- Affordable recreational options.

Healy et al., 2009:6-7

Discussion: The Implications or Rural and Regional Strategies

When considering possible responses to locational disadvantage, the notion of focusing on strengths or 'capitals' offers considerable scope for actively working with the existing resources of a place and facilitating other inputs, resources and outcomes from that starting point. This is an important paradigm in the context of measuring locational disadvantage because particular places can become stigmatised in the process of being targeted as a place of relative disadvantage. This has associated impacts on the reputation of a place and also for the subjective view of people who live there who may be at risk of internalising a view of their local area that reflects disadvantage, poverty and a lack of progress. There are links between a paradigm focused on assets or capitals and place-based responses that include strategies actively working to improve an area's image and the pride and sense of identity of its residents. Any decision to focus on a particular place in an effort to reduce disadvantage will need to move beyond an assessment of disadvantage such as that undertaken in this report, to then fully assess the strengths, assets and resources from which sustainable change can be leveraged.

Alternative Funding and Community-Centred Economies

In the United States, where poverty has continued to grow, some stakeholders began to focus more on alternative sources of funding, including from the private sector (Stoesz and Saunders, 1999:389). This resulted in the development of a number of foundations and Community Development Corporations (CDCs) which have helped to fund a range of neighbourhood projects.

Some CDCs provide specialised support through community development banks or credit unions which have raised capital for initiatives such as housing, the creation of child-care places and job generation (Stoesz and Saunders, 1999:390). These type of approaches are a shift from 'aid to disadvantaged areas, (a social model that has focused on the deficits of individuals and is funded by income distribution), toward an economic model that emphasises investment and is financed through the generation of wealth' (Stoesz and Saunders, 1999:390). The point is made that 'depressed areas are great sources of funds (social security cheques, welfare payments, earnings etc) but these have been flowing into megabanks that use them elsewhere' (Stoesz and Saunders, 1999:390).

The authors are careful to point out that this approach might not represent a replacement for a basic level of support offered through benefits for example, but could offer some alternative strategies that deliver new opportunities to individuals as well as communities (Stoesz and Saunders, 1999:396).

The work of CDCs recognises that many assets are created, not only through private investment but also investment by the public sector and the community sector (Vidal and Keating, 2004:126). Regardless of the instigator, this focus on assets is referred to as a place-based approach: it concentrates on creating assets that benefit people in poor neighbourhoods, largely by building and tapping links to external resources' (Vidal and Keating, 2004:126). CDCs are essentially non-profit community organisations with a focus on 'fostering physical and economic assets in their communities' (Vidal and Keating, 2004:127).

Vidal and Keating draw some conclusions about the future of CDCs. They emphasise 'the power that a well-organised community - pulled together by a strong network of churches, social service agencies, block clubs and other community organisations - can exert to help a CDC gain traction on an otherwise impossible problem, or gain access to external development resources that would be otherwise unavailable' (2004:134).

In the context of the current global financial crisis, refocusing on local economies and how they are strengthened might offer directions for policies and programs aiming to address serious disadvantage. Michael Shuman has developed a comprehensive framework for locally focused economics which is illustrated in a case study example from St Lawrence County (Shuman, 2003:1). This community was characterised by a high level of disadvantage relative to New York State and the United States overall with chronic and high levels of unemployment and poverty, savings falling behind compared to other areas, population decline and the out-migration of students after graduation (Shuman, 2003:1). Shuman's framework challenges the notion that 'there is no alternative' (TINA) to the global economy and advocates:

- Local ownership of business resulting in local dollars being 're-spent many times in the same place' which is a basic pre-condition to community prosperity.
- Import substitution - involving the analysis of products and services that are imported into communities as a basis for identifying new business opportunities based on replacing those imports with local enterprises. Termed LOIS, this approach involves participation in economic planning to determine:
- Which indicators and benchmarks of progress should we identify and measure (standard and alternative)
- What is the full range of assets already in place including land, labour, technology, social, political etc?
- Where are the leakages - that is what goods and services that individuals and businesses procure from outside of the community that could actually become a local enterprise?

Shuman, 2003:5

Shuman has developed comprehensive resources and tools to guide and inform various stakeholders in the implementation of LOIS including specific advice for community builders and policy makers ranging from:

- Developing a shared vision involving multiple stakeholders, of the community's economic future
- A grassroots education strategy about how to best support local businesses
- Procurement of goods and services giving advantages to local businesses
- Support for local banks.

Shuman, 2006

Local economic development opportunities are a central theme in many strategies aimed at addressing spatial disadvantage. In addition to mainstream strategies to create or sustain employment in specific locations, there is an emerging field working to develop local economies in ways that enhance the capacity of local and regional communities to sustain businesses, generate assets and infrastructure and enable local spending on local goods and services. Further initiatives have also structured financial opportunities for funding place-based initiatives that go beyond traditional sources. These types of initiatives are worthy of further exploration particularly in the current context which sees community finance institutions in Queensland working to investigate these types of initiatives based on a growing body of international evidence. Dialogue between UnitingCare Queensland, Government and community finance institutions could initially explore the potential of these types of mechanisms and what would be involved in their implementation.

Conclusion

The review of national and comprehensive strategies to reduce poverty and disadvantage links to the important innovations at a federal government level in Australia to address social exclusion. Within this broader context at a national level, the examples cited provide at least some guidance as to the important features of policies that have achieved success including:

- Well defined policy guidelines and high level leadership
- The establishment of benchmarks and concrete targets
- Multi-faceted responses to a range of issues such as housing, employment and family support
- A monitoring system for evaluating progress
- A measurable reduction in poverty and disadvantage.

The State of Victoria has introduced a comprehensive policy called *Fairer Victoria* which offers an important Australian example interpreting how a range of policies and programs across government departments might be coordinated to achieve better outcomes for people.

The examples of more comprehensive policies are included as a basis for advocating to both the State and Federal governments the value of driving this level of planning, implementation and evaluation from a starting point of significant policy leadership.

This review also looks in considerable detail at examples of place-based initiatives, some of which include a capacity to capture and coordinate a range of resources and funding inputs that are universally available. While specific place-based programs are also important, there can be considerable synergy achieved by actively working to capture the full range of available supports and services with an overriding organising principle being a concerted effort in relation to a particular place. Place-based programs can be comprehensive and driven by larger scale policy frameworks, and there are also examples of place-based work driven from opportunities 'on the ground' that have taken incremental steps towards capturing and synergising a range of existing opportunities.

The material provided aims to encourage broader advocacy to each level of government to achieve a more explicit focus on a place-based approach to the implementation of policy and to also encourage initiatives that focus on making best use of existing resources, roles and opportunities.

3 Population Trends in Queensland

3.1 Population Growth

Queensland covers an area of 1,734,174 square kilometres, or 22.5% of the total area of Australia (Greig 2008:8). The 2006 Census recorded 3.89 million Queensland residents[17] (ABS, 2006a), which represented almost 20% of the total Australian population (19.81 million people). Queensland is the third most populous state in Australia, after New South Wales (33%) and Victoria (25%).

Since 2001, the Queensland population has increased by 299,115 people (almost 8%), which represents a higher growth rate than the Australian population growth rate of 4.9%. Over the seven years to June 2008, Queensland's average annual growth rate was 2.4% per year, making it the fastest-growing state or territory for that period (ABS, 2006d and 2008c). Both Australia and Queensland continued to have high growth rates for the year ending December 2008 at 1.9% and 2.5% respectively. The estimated resident population in Queensland had increased to 4.35 million by the end of December 2008 (ABS, 2008a and c).

3.2 Population Projections

Queensland's population is forecast to grow from 4.2 million in 2007 to 5.5 million people by 2021, and 6.3 million by 2031 (OESR, 2009) (see **Table 10** and **Figure 7** below). Growth is expected to principally come from overseas and interstate migration. The Queensland Government Planning Information and Forecasting Unit (PIFU) estimates the largest growth will be in the SEQ region where the population will be 4.2 million by 2031, which is larger than the current population for the whole of Queensland in 2006 at 4.1 million. The SDs projected to record the most growth are Wide Bay-Burnett (131,000 people), Fitzroy (110,000) and Northern (108,000) (Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning, 2008).

PIFU also estimates the number of persons aged 65 years and over will increase from 510,002 in 2007 to almost 1 million in 2021 and 1.3 million by 2031. This age group represented 12.2% of the population in 2007 and is projected to make up 20.3% of the population by 2031 (Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning, 2008)[18]. From projections, it is anticipated that the sex ratios between males and females will decline between 2007 and 2031, due to a narrowing of the gap between male and female life expectancies over time (OESR, 2009).

Table 10. Population Projections for Queensland

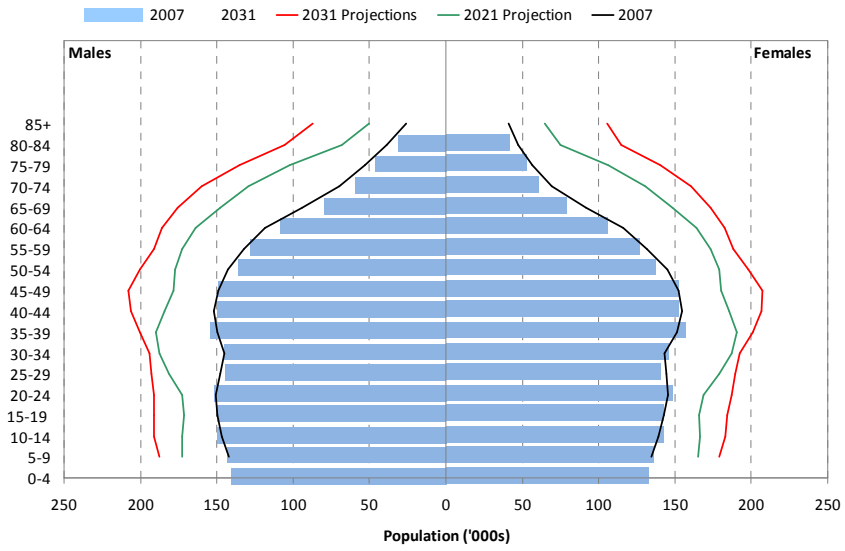
	2031		2021		2007	
QLD population	6,273,001		5,478,001		4,181,000	
% increase since 2007	50.0%		31.0%		-	
	Males	***Females***	***Males***	***Females***	***Males***	***Females***
QLD population	3,137,000	3,136,000	2,733,000	2,746,000	2,088,000	2,094,000
% increase since 2007	50.2%	49.8%	30.9%	31.1%	-	-

Source: ABS, 2006c and OESR, 2008A

[17] Usual Resident Population (URP)

[18] Also see Chapter 5 for discussions on population projections for older Queenslanders

Figure 7. Population Projections for Queensland



Source: ABS, 2006c and OESR, 2008

3.3 Population Distribution

In 2006, about 45% or 1.76 million Queenslanders lived in the Brisbane metropolitan region (ABS, 2006a). This figure is lower than other Australian metropolitan regions. In Victoria for example, 73% of the population lived in Melbourne while 63% of the total New South Wales population lived in Sydney.

Notably however, around 66% (or 2.58 million) of Queensland's total population was located in South East Queensland (SEQ)[19]. From June 2007 to June 2008, the population in SEQ increased by 67,500, which was 69% of Queensland's total growth for that period (ABS, 2008c).

According to the *SEQ Regional Plan 2009-2031*, the SEQ population is projected to grow from 2.8 million to 4.4 million people by 2031. The SEQ Regional Plan recognises the implications for service provision, community infrastructure and for addressing spatial disadvantage (Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning, 2009).

While the SEQ region is highly urbanised, the population density for Queensland overall was only 2.24 persons per kilometre. The Queensland population is the most decentralised of any mainland State in Australia. More than half or (approximately 56%) of the Queensland population live outside of the Brisbane metropolitan region and about 34% of Queensland population live outside of the SEQ. Queensland's Indigenous population is also more decentralised than the non-Indigenous population primarily due to the majority of the State's discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities being located in North Queensland and the Torres Strait region.

These unique characteristics highlight the importance of responding to rural, regional and remote communities whilst also addressing the needs and issues of high-growth in high population centres such as SEQ.

3.4 Age[20] and Gender Profile

The Queensland median age in 2006 was estimated at 36 years (36.6 years for females and 35.4 years for males), which is slightly lower than the Australian median age of 36.6 years. Following national trends, the Queensland median age increased from 33.3 years at June 1996 and 35.0 years at June 2001. The ABS estimates the Queensland

[19] SEQ comprises the Queensland Statistical Divisions of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton.
[20] Additional analysis of issues impacting on older people is also included in Chapter 5.

gender ratio (males per 100 females) in 2006 was 99.7 signifying a slightly higher female population (50.08%) than male (49.92%) equating to 2.05 million and 2.04 million respectively (ABS, 2006d).

Table 11. Median Age in Queensland Compared to Australia

	Males		Females		Persons		Gender Ratio
	Persons	*Median age*	*Persons*	*Median age*	*Persons*	*Median age*	
Queensland	2,042,685	35.4	2,048,861	36.6	4,091,546	36.0	99.7
Australia	10,290,338	35.9	10,411,150	37.4	20,701,488	36.6	98.8

Source: ABS, 2006d

The highest median ages were recorded in:

- Wide Bay-Burnett SD at 41.7 years (41.4 for males and 41.9 for females)
- Sunshine Coast SD at 40.8 years (39.8 for males and 41.6 for females) (ABS, 2006d).

Ten SLAs in SEQ and one SLA in each of Wide Bay-Burnett and Darling Downs SDs had a median age of 45 years or more. The SLA of Bribie Island recorded the highest median age in Australia of 54.5 years, which was 4.9 years higher than any other Queensland SLA.

There were 19 SLAs with a median age of less than 30 years. Ten of these were within the Brisbane SD, mostly in inner Brisbane or close to higher educational institutions. The Northern SD recorded five SLAs in this group, three of which were in the Townsville City LGA.

The lowest median age was recorded in North West statistical division (SD) at 30.3 years (31.0 for males and 29.7 for females), which was more than three and a half years below the median age of any other SD in Queensland.

Significantly, the gap between the median age of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders was 16 years, following the national trend. The median age of Indigenous Queenslanders was 20.4 years as compared with 36 years for the entire Queensland population. This figure is also lower than the overall Australian median age for Indigenous Australian population at 21.1 years (also compared with 37.2 years for non-Indigenous Australian residents). The median age of male Indigenous Queenslanders was even lower at 19.6 years (ABS, 2008b).

Table 12. Comparison of Median Ages between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Populations

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Total Queensland ERP			Total Australian ERP	
	Persons	Median Age	Persons	Median Age	Persons	Median Age	% Indigenous	% Indigenous	% Total
QLD	144,885	20.4	3,946,023	36.6	4,090,908	36	3.54%	28.02%	0.70%
Males	71,950	19.6	1,969,341	36.0	2,041,291	35.4	1.76%	13.92%	0.35%
Females	72,935	21.1	1,976,682	37.2	2,049,617	36.6	1.78%	14.11%	0.35%
Australia	517,043	21.0	20,180,837	37	20,697,880	36.6			2.50%

Source: ABS, 2008b

Life expectancy at birth for Queensland males was 78.5 years and for females 83.4 years in 2006. Death rates at all ages for Queensland males are higher than for females. The standardised death rate for Queensland males in 2006 was 7.3 deaths per 1,000 population compared with 4.9 per 1,000 for females (ABS, 2006d). Premature mortality rates for Queensland SDs and SEIFA IRSD Quintiles are considered in Chapter 5 of this report. It is worth noting that whilst historically, older age groups have been characterised by greater numbers of females, data from Deaths, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3302.0) show an increasing life expectancy at birth for Queensland males in the 10 years since 1996. In 2006, life expectancy at birth increased by 3.4 years for Queensland males and 2.5 years for Queensland females.

The estimate of life expectancy at birth for Queenslanders of Indigenous origin born in the period 1996-2001 was 58.9 years for males and 62.6 years for females (which is lower than the overall Australian estimates of 59.4 years for males and 64.8 years for females) (ABS, 2008b:15). The median age at death for Indigenous males in Queensland was 55.6 years in 2006, compared with 76.7 years for non-Indigenous males. For Indigenous females in Queensland, the

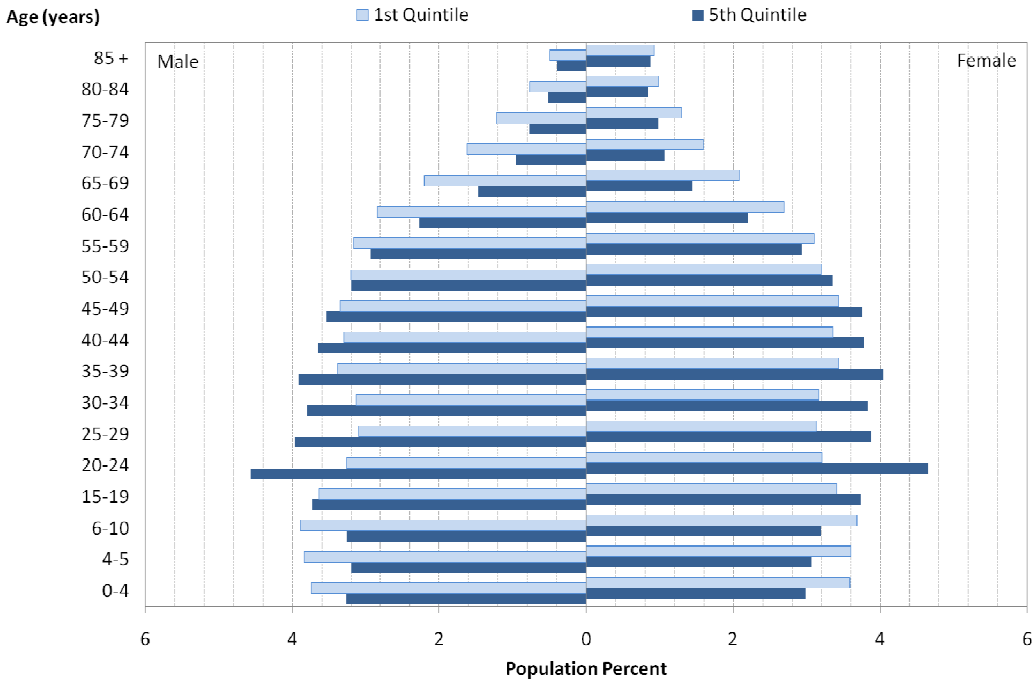
median age at death was 57.0 years in 2006, compared with 83.1 years for non-Indigenous females. Consistent with an increasing median age is a decrease over time in the proportion of Queensland's population aged 0-14 years:

- At June 2006, there were 834,600 people aged 0-14 years in Queensland, representing 20.4% of the state's population, compared with 22.0% at June 1996 and 21.3% at June 2001 (ABS, 2006d).
- The highest proportions of people in this age group were found in the North West and South West SDs, with 25.8% and 23.5%, respectively (ABS, 2006d). The lowest proportions of people in this age group were recorded in the south-eastern SDs of Gold Coast (18.4%) and Sunshine Coast (19.3%).
- At an SLA level, some areas in the north and far north of the state had over 30% of their population in the 0-14 year age group as follows:
  - Yarrabah (S) with 37.1%
  - Palm Island (S) with 35.5%
  - Torres (S) with 31.6%.

The population pyramid in **Figure 8** shows the differences in the age and gender structure of the Queensland population by SEIFA IRSD quintiles for SLAs in 2006[21]. The age/gender profiles for Queensland SLAs in 2006 vary dramatically between the lower and higher SEIFA IRSD quintiles. The most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas are characterised by younger populations, higher proportion of males, and a lower proportion of young adults. The population in the 1st and 2nd Quintiles have higher birth rates with larger proportions aged between 0-14, followed by lower proportions in the 15-34 year age groups. The proportions increase again between 35 and 60 years age groups, with more people living to old age.

These trends for the population residing in the bottom quintile are in stark contrast with the Queensland population in the top SEIFA IRSD Quintile. Queensland's relatively less disadvantaged areas have a low birth rate, a higher death rate for males than females in the older ages, a low overall death rate, a high working population, and a relatively long life expectancy.

Figure 8. Comparison of the Number of People in Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged) with Quintile 5 (least disadvantaged) by Age and Gender



Source: ABS, 2006a and 2007 sourced from PHIDU

[21] Population data is based on the ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2007 and quintiles calculated from data in the ABS SEIFA 2006 IRSD sourced from Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> (ABS, 2006a and 2007 sourced from PHIDU).

3.5 Indigenous Status

The ABS estimates that as at June 2001, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprised 3.5% of total Queensland population compared with 2.4% of Indigenous people in Australia (ABS, 2008b). This represented a total of 125,900 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in Queensland compared with 458,500 persons in Australia as a whole.

At the time of the 2006 Census, 127,600 people or 3.3% of the total Queensland population identified as being of Indigenous origin compared with 517,043 persons in Australia, with a median age of Indigenous males in 2006 was 19 years and for females was 21 years. Between the 2001 and 2006 censuses (OESR, 2008b), the Queensland Indigenous population increased by 13.3%

The Indigenous population is less centralised than the non-Indigenous population. More than a fifth (22.2%) of the Indigenous population lived in remote and very remote areas of Queensland (OESR, 2008b). These areas had just 2.5% of its non-Indigenous population. Throughout the state, 78.9% of Indigenous persons lived in urban centres of 1,000 people or more, compared with 85.4% of non-Indigenous persons.

The north and west regions in Queensland contained fewer people but had higher proportions of Indigenous persons. In the Torres Strait Region, 82.9% of all residents were of Indigenous origin, as were 54.7% in the Cape York and 24.2% in the Mount Isa Indigenous Regions (OESR, 2008b). The highest actual numbers of Queensland's Indigenous population lived in the following SDs: Far North (38,144 persons), Brisbane (33,905 persons), Northern (14,697 persons), Fitzroy (10,224 persons), and Wide-Bay Burnett (9,322 persons). Of these, the largest proportion of Indigenous people was in the Far North SD at 15% of the total resident population, followed by the Northern SD at 7% of the total resident population.

In considering the population distribution by SEIFA IRSD scores of Queensland SLAs, the largest proportion of the Indigenous population are found in the most disadvantaged areas (Quintile 1). A total of 53,385 Indigenous people were recorded as living in the lowest quintile (SLA level) of the SEIFA IRSD, representing 36.8% of the entire Indigenous population. SLAs located in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities made up 34 of the 97 most disadvantaged SLAs in the 1st Quintile with an estimated resident Indigenous population of over 70%: 29 of these 34 SLAs are in the Far North SD.

The Queensland SLA with the lowest SEIFA IRSD score was Palm Island (S) recorded at 480; followed by the SLAs of Yarrabah (S), Umagico (S), Cherbourg (S), and Injinoo (S) all of which had an Indigenous population of over 97% and recorded the lowest SEIFA IRSD Scores in Queensland.

SLAs in the Brisbane SD of Inala and Wacol are the first two SLAs outside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to record the lowest SEIFA IRSD scores, with an Indigenous population of 8.01% and 10.31%, respectively. Also in the Brisbane SD, the most disadvantaged SLAs with largest proportion of Indigenous people were Redland (S) Bal, Acacia Ridge, Kingston, and Woodridge, all with estimated Indigenous residents of over 5% of the total population.

The age profile for the Queensland Indigenous population is characteristically a much younger age structure due to high levels of fertility and mortality compared with the non-Indigenous population (**Figure 9**). There was a higher proportion of Indigenous people aged 0-14 age group (38.9% compared with 19.7% for Queensland overall); followed by the 15-24 age group at 18.9% (compared with 14% for Queensland overall). Only 8.11% of the total Indigenous population was aged 55 years and over compared with 29.46% of total non-Indigenous population, reducing to only 3% over the age of 65 years compared with 13% of the non-Indigenous population.

Figure 9. Distribution of Queensland's Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Population by Age Group and Gender

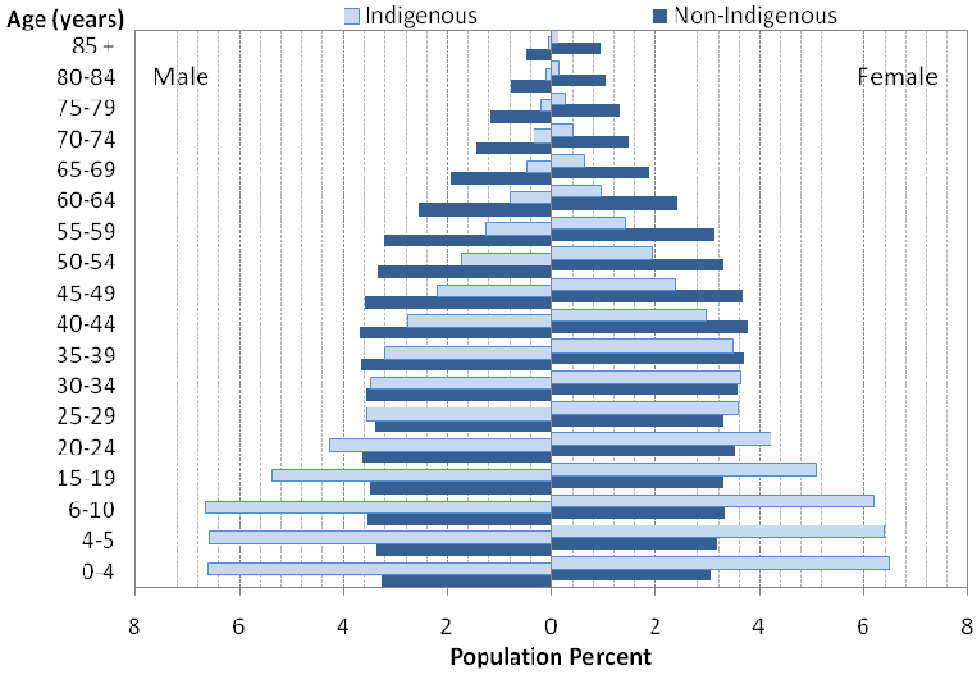
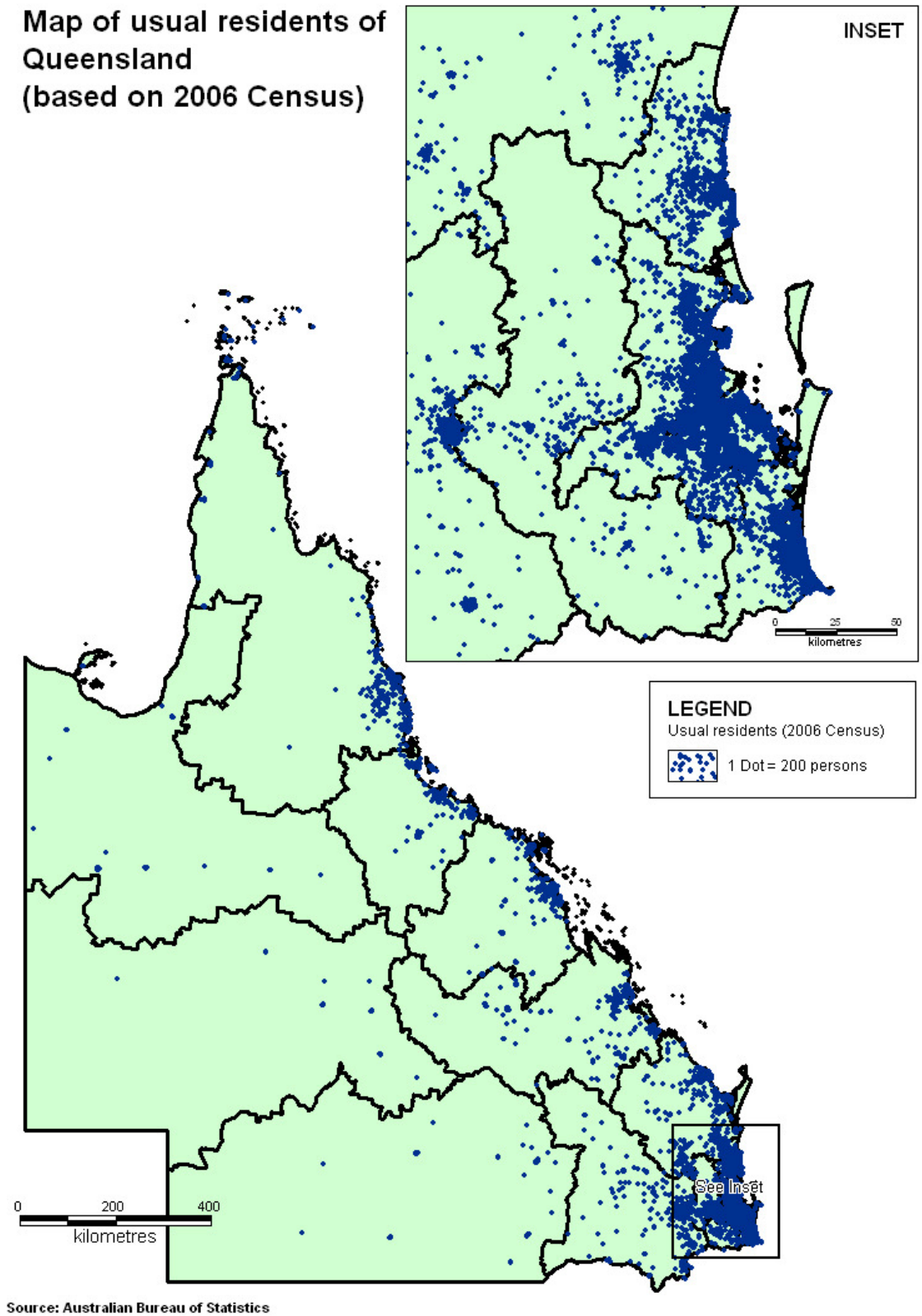
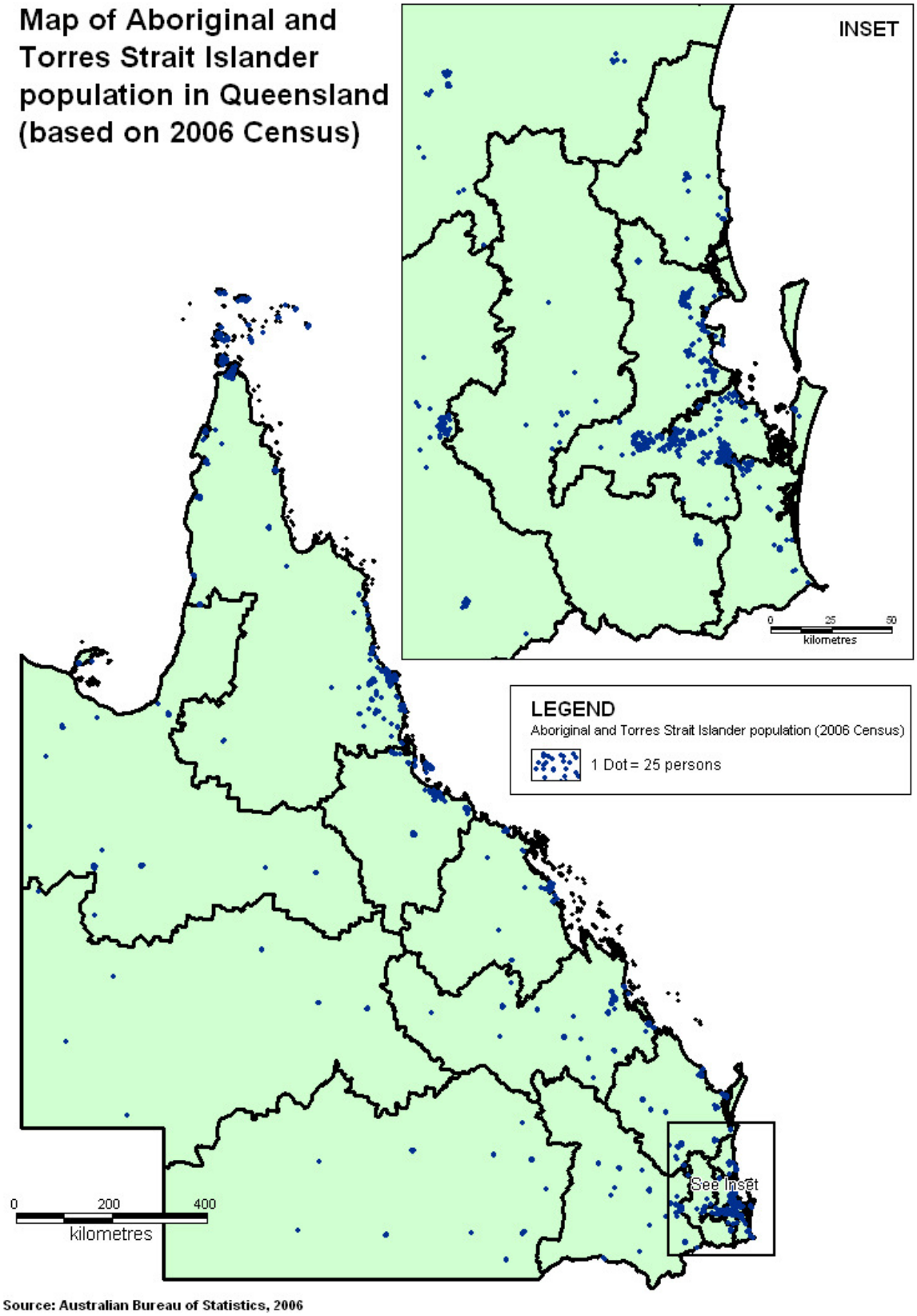


Figure 10. Map of Usual Residents of Queensland (based on 2006 Census)



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Figure 11. Map of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population in Queensland (Based on 2006 Census)



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4 2006 SEIFA Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (IRSD) for Queensland

This section analyses the 2006 SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) at the level of Statistical Divisions (SD). The CD level data has been grouped by larger areas of SDs. However, it should be noted that the variable weights for the IRSD are most accurate when applied at the CD level.

SEIFA data in this report at the level of SDs is presented to illustrate the relative position of larger areas. Smaller area data is analysed illustrating the existence of specific locations across all SDs where there is a higher concentration of disadvantaged populations. This process illustrates that larger areas can be characterised by substantial levels of disadvantage overall. This chapter also looks at smaller populations within each SD to reveal that relatively less disadvantaged larger areas can include smaller areas that experience significant levels of relative disadvantage compared to the broader community. This is highlighted in Brisbane as one example which has lowest overall level of relative disadvantage yet also a high actual number of people living in Quintile 1. This diversity has implications for policy and practice which will be revisited in the framework and recommendations in chapters 6 and 7 of this report.

The following table (**Table 1**) is provided again as a reference point for this section of the report:

Hierarchy of Areas in Queensland

Area Level	Number of areas	Minimum	Maximum	Average Population
Queensland	1	-	-	3,891,727
Statistical Divisions[22]	14	10,851	1,763,131	277,981
Local Government Areas	159	76	956,131	24,403
Statistical Local Areas	479	76	72,845	8,173
Queensland State Suburbs	1,965	17	25,203	2,049
Census Collection Districts[23]	7673	16	2,372	519

4.1 Overview of Queensland

The average SEIFA 2006 Index of Relative Disadvantage[24] (IRSD) score in Australia was set at 1,000. The Queensland average was also 1,000 and the weighted population average was 1,005. IRSD CD scores in Queensland ranged from 439 (minimum) to 1,182 (maximum). The Australian minimum score in 2006 was 205 and the maximum score was 1,199.

The following table shows Queensland's overall score in relation to the other States and Territories.

[22] This report includes detailed analysis of 13 of the 14 SDs excluding 'Off Shore and Migratory SD'.
[23] At the 2006 Census, there were 7,673 Queensland Collection Districts with a usual resident population of 3.89 million. CDs are generally made up of 225 households although there may be more households in some urban areas and fewer in remote areas. CDs are the basic geographical unit used for the Census and they fit within the boundaries of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) (ABS, 2001).
[24] SEIFA indexes were standardised so that the mean is 1,000 with a standard deviation of 100. This means that approximately 15% of CDs will have a score lower than 900, two-thirds of the areas will have score within 100 either side of the average of 1,000 (i.e. ranging between 900 and 1,100), and 15% of CDs having a score higher than 1,100 (ABS, 2006f).
The variables used to calculate the SEIFA IRSD are available in Appendix 1.

Table 13. Queensland and Other States and Territories by SEIFA IRSD Score[25]

Index: Australia = 1000	SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage, 2006			
	Index score	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD score	Usual resident population
AUSTRALIA	**1000**	**205**	**1199**	**19,811,514**
Northern Territory	878	205	1155	192,899
Tasmania	961	582	1159	476,480
South Australia	979	400	1160	1,514,336
New South Wales	1000	460	1191	6,549,177
Queensland	**1005**	**439**	**1182**	**3,891,727**
Western Australia	1007	222	1199	1,959,086
Victoria	1010	430	1194	4,932,422
Australian Capital Territory	1066	635	1188	324,034

Source: ABS, 2006a. The index score shown for Queensland is population weighted and the index scores for other States and Territories sourced from Public Health Information Development Unit.

Table 14 demonstrates the lower overall ranking for areas outside of Brisbane metropolitan area. This reflects the general trend towards lower SEIFA IRSD scores for areas outside main metropolitan centres in all States and Territories.

Table 14. SEIFA IRSD Scores for Australian States and Territories including Metropolitan and Country Areas

Index: Australia = 1000	SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 2006			
	Index score	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD score	Usual resident population
AUSTRALIA	**1000**	**205**	**1199**	**19,811,514**
Australian Capital Territory	1066	635	1188	323,328
Metro Canberra	*1066*	*635*	*1188*	*323,059*
ACT Balance	*1050*	*1016*	*1095*	*269*
Victoria	1010	430	1194	4,926,029
Metro Melbourne	*1022*	*430*	*1176*	*3,592,593*
Vic Balance	*986*	*553*	*1194*	*1,333,436*
Western Australia	1007	222	1199	1,953,102
Metro Perth	*1029*	*537*	*1199*	*1,445,077*
WA Balance	*963*	*222*	*1184*	*508,025*
Queensland	**1005**	**439**	**1182**	**3,891,727**
Metropolitan Brisbane	***1026***	***997***	***1182***	***1,763,131***
Qld Balance	***985***	***439***	***1142***	***2,128,596***
New South Wales	1000	460	1191	6,539,005
Metro Sydney	*1020*	*460*	*1191*	*4,119,190*
NSW Balance	*973*	*470*	*1174*	*2,419,815*
South Australia	979	400	1160	1,511,721
Metro Adelaide	*987*	*556*	*1160*	*1,105,841*
SA Balance	*961*	*400*	*1143*	*405,880*
Tasmania	961	582	1159	475,605
Metro Hobart	*982*	*630*	*1159*	*200,525*
Tas Balance	*948*	*582*	*1143*	*275,080*
Northern Territory	878	205	1155	190,997
Metro Darwin	*995*	*332*	*1147*	*105,992*
NT Balance	*753*	*205*	*1155*	*84,908*

Source: ABS, 2006a. The index score shown for Queensland is population weighted and the index scores for other States and Territories sourced from Public Health Information Development Unit.

The following table ranks each Queensland SD based on their overall SEIFA IRSD scores from the lowest average IRSD score to the highest (**Table 15**). **Figure 12** also illustrates Queensland CDs grouped into the larger geographical areas of SDs.

[25] The SEIFA IRSD scores and population figures were validated using SEIFA IRSD 2006 population distributions for larger areas (ABS, 2006a(iv)) and Census CDs (ABS, 2006a(i)). The SEIFA IRSD score for Queensland was also validated against those provided by OESR.

Table 15. Queensland Statistical Divisions - Summary Population Statistics and SEIFA IRSD Score and Ranking (from most disadvantaged to least disadvantaged)

QLD SD Ranking	Queensland Statistical Division	Usual Resident Population*	% of Total Population	Population Density	SEIFA IRSD Score#
1	**Wide Bay-Burnett**	**254,660**	**7**	**5**	**940**
2	**North West**	**30,941**	**1**	**0**	**947**
3	**Far North**	**231,052**	**6**	**1**	**954**
4	**West Moreton**	**68,628**	**2**	**6**	**962**
5	**South West**	**24,777**	**1**	**0**	**962**
6	Central West	10,851	0	0	967
7	Darling Downs	213,758	5	2	986
8	Fitzroy	188,404	5	2	989
9	Northern	196,669	5	2	993
10	Mackay	150,174	4	2	1,006
11	Sunshine Coast	276,266	7	88	1,013
12	Gold Coast	482,319	12	258	1,019
13	Brisbane	1,763,131	45	299	1,026
-	**Queensland**	**3,891,727**	**100**	**2**	**1,005**

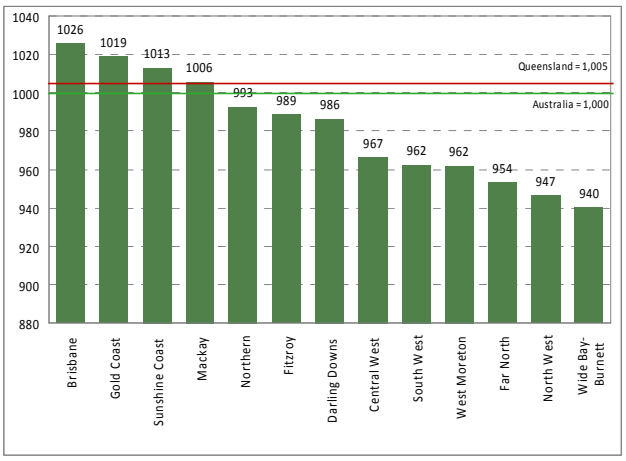
Source: (ABS, 2006a (iv)).

* Population Weighted Averages - The weighted method divides the data into five even groups, where each group has the same population. All quintiles have been calculated based on rankings within Queensland only. Source: ABS, 2006a (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

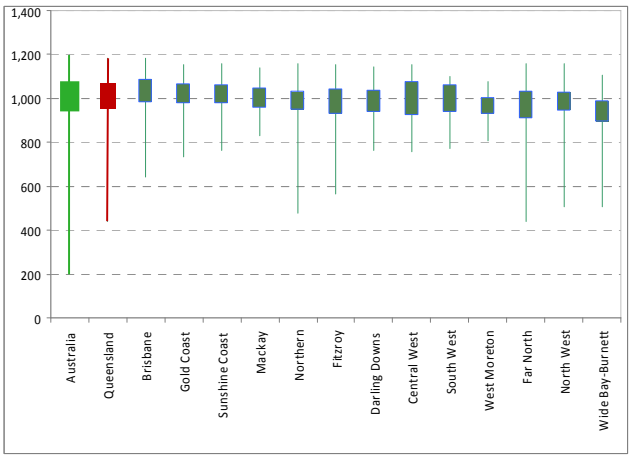
Figure 12 (a) graphs the average SEIFA IRSD scores for Queensland SDs compared to Australia and Queensland overall. **Figure 12 (b)** illustrates the range of scores for each SD. These illustrations assist in comparing the distribution of relative socioeconomic disadvantage across Queensland SDs, using the IRSD scores at CD level.

Figure 12. Queensland SEIFA Scores

(a) Average SEIFA IRSD Score for Queensland SDs



(b) Distribution of SEIFA IRSD CD Scores across Queensland SDs



Source: Calculated from ABS, 2006a

Table 16 outlines the overall population number and proportion in each Quintile with Quintile 1 being the most disadvantaged.

Table 16. Queensland Population by IRSD Quintiles, June 2006

	Total Usual Resident Population	Population by IRSD Quintiles					Population in CDs without a SEIFA Score
		Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
		Quintile 1 bottom 20%	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5 top 20%	
Queensland	3,891,727	708,530	738,073	744,264	809,876	866,493	24,491
		18%	19%	19%	21%	22%	0.63%
Australia	19,813,804	3,693,502	3,826,543	3,862,841	3,992,969	4,321,944	116,005
		19%	19%	19%	20%	22%	0.6%

Source: ABS, 2006a(i).

The most disadvantaged areas in Queensland represented in Quintile 1 had a total of 708,530 people compared to 3,693,502 for the total population in Australia. A total of 343,753 people resided in Queensland in 745 CDs in the bottom 10% with an IRSD score of less than 890 (Decile 1).

Table 17. Percentage of Population by IRSD Quintiles for Queensland SDs

Queensland SDs	Proportion of CD Population by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total Usual Population
	Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
	Quintile 1 bottom 20%	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5 top 20%	
Queensland	18	19	19	21	22	3,891,727
Brisbane	13	14	17	23	**32**	1,763,131
Gold Coast	10	19	21	**28**	22	482,319
Sunshine Coast	10	23	26	24	**38**	276,266
West Moreton	30	**34**	27	8	0	68,628
Wide Bay-Burnett	**47**	29	14	7	3	254,660
Darling Downs	24	**28**	20	14	14	213,758
South West	**36**	26	14	18	6	24,777
Fitzroy	**25**	19	22	21	12	188,404
Central West	**42**	30	1	16	10	10,851
Mackay	14	22	23	**25**	15	150,174
Northern	20	**26**	21	15	17	196,669
Far North	**32**	21	18	15	13	231,052
North West	**29**	28	22	11	6	30,941
Off-Shore Areas & Migratory	-	-	-	-	-	97 -

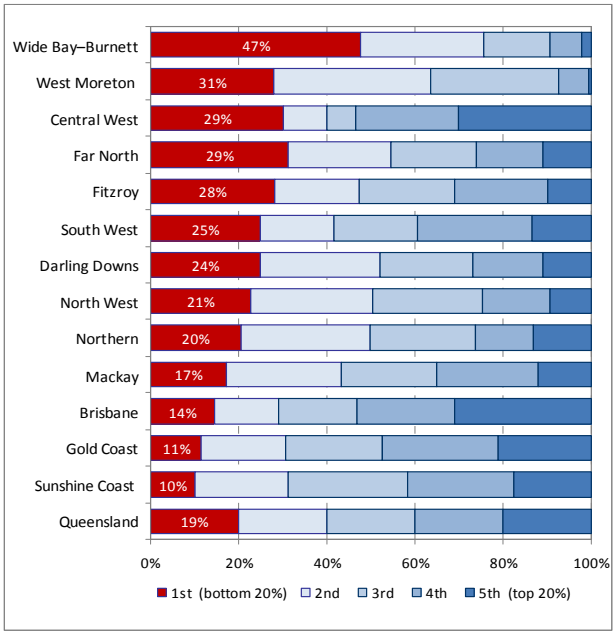
Calculated from ABS, 2006a and adapted from ABS SEIFA data tables with Queensland geographic areas provided by Information Products and Services - Regional, Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).
SDs based on 1216.0 - Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) - 2006, Jul 2006.
Population counts are based on place of usual residence.
CDs with no SEIFA score have been excluded from the calculations.
SEIFA quintiles are calculated using a population weighted quintile calculation. This method divides the data into five even groups, where each group has the same population. All quintiles have been calculated based on rankings within Queensland only.

Source: ABS, 2006a

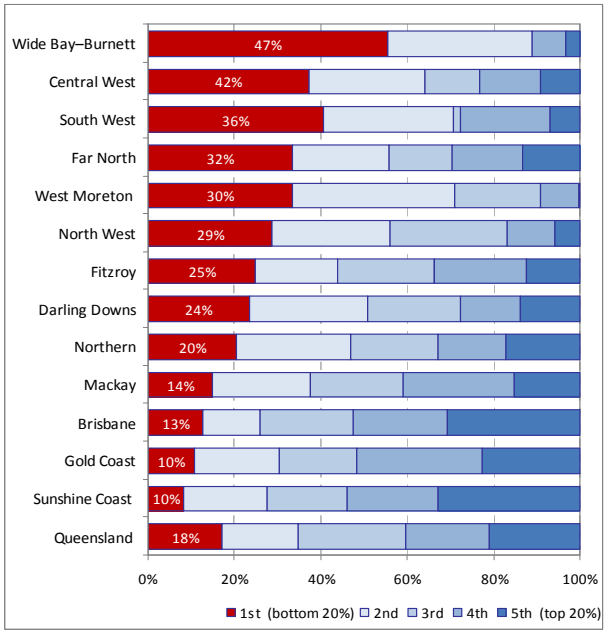
The following figures summarise the percentage of CDs and usual resident population in each SD for all Quintiles. This illustration shows that some SDs with higher proportions of people in the lowest Quintile also have very low proportions of people in Quintile 5.

Figure 13. Proportion of Total CD Population by SD and Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs by SD and Quintiles



(b) Proportion of Total Population by SD and Quintiles



Source: ABS, 2006a

4.2 Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division

Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	254,660	120,655
	Census Collection Districts	571	268
	Statistical Local Areas	25	17
	Area (sq km)	52,377	
	Density	4.86 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Inner R, Outer R	

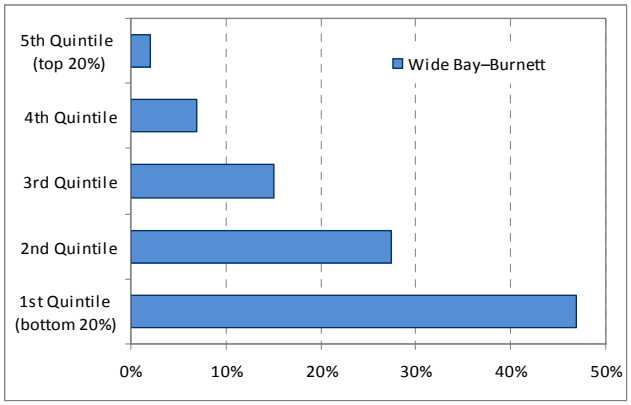
Overview

In 2006, Wide Bay-Burnett SD had 7% of Queensland's usual resident population and also the greatest level of relative disadvantage in Queensland with a SEIFA IRSD score of 940. Almost half of all residents (47%) were concentrated within Quintile 1 CDs. A further 29% of residents lived in CDs located in Quintile 2.

Figure 14 (a) and **(b)** and **Table 18** depict the Wide Bay-Burnett SD distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles.

Figure 14. Proportion of CDs in Wide Bay-Burnett SD by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs in Wide Bay-Burnett



(b) Proportion of CD Population in Wide Bay-Burnett

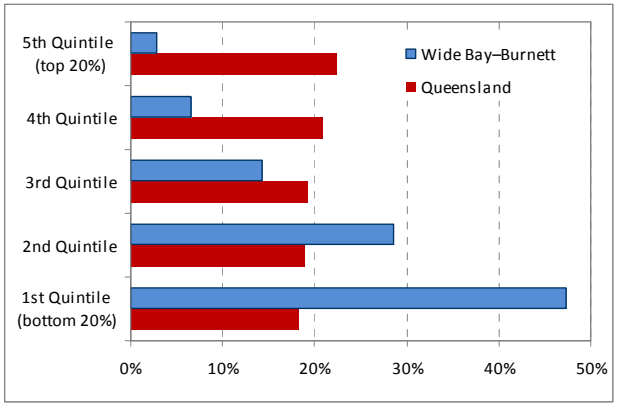


Table 18. Total Number of CDs and Population in the SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	**Total with IRSD Score**	**Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)**					**Total CDs with no IRSD Score**
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	571	562	268	157	86	40	12	9
			48%	28%	15%	7%	2%	2%
Population in CDs	254,660	253,996	120,655	72,943	36,221	16,851	7,326	664
			47%	29%	14%	7%	3%	0.3%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		940	883	964	1,008	1,047	1,085	-

Almost 50% or 120,655 people lived in the lowest Quintile CDs in Wide Bay-Burnett, expanding to 193,598 people when combining Quintiles 1 and 2.

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

At the 2006 Census, Wide Bay-Burnett SD had 25 SLAs (of a total 476), 17 of which (almost 70%) were in Quintile 1. In 2006, there were 22 LGAs in the Wide Bay-Burnett SD. Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council was the only LGA in the Wide Bay-Burnett SD to fall within Quintile 1. Almost 60% of the LGAs within this SD were in Quintile 2 with IRSD scores ranging from 915 to 937. The following table provides detailed rankings for SLAs in Quintile 1 within Wide Bay-Burnett.

Table 19. SLAs in Quintile 1 - Wide Bay-Burnett

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank
1	Cherbourg (S)	Inner Regional	Cherbourg Aboriginal (ShireC)	1128	506	17	4
2	Kolan (S)	Outer Regional	Bundaberg (RegC)	4563	883	118	46
3	Hervey Bay (C) - Pt B	Inner Regional	Fraser Coast (RegC)	4064	888	129	48
4	Eidsvold (S)	Outer Regional	North Burnett (RegC)	860	889	130	49
5	Tiaro (S)	Inner Regional	Fraser Coast (RegC) Gympie (RegC)	5324	893	137	53
6	Nanango (S)	Inner Regional	South Burnett (RegC)	9014	896	141	54
7	Biggenden (S)	Outer Regional	North Burnett (RegC)	1524	912	173	61
8	Wondai (S)	Outer Regional	South Burnett (RegC)	4398	915	179	63
9	Kilkivan (S)	Inner Regional	Gympie (RegC)	3452	926	209	71
10	Maryborough (C)	Inner Regional	Fraser Coast (RegC)	25703	927	214	74
11	Isis (S)	Inner Regional	Bundaberg (RegC)	6297	929	223	77
12	Bundaberg (C)	Inner Regional	Bundaberg (RegC)	45803	931	227	78
13	Gayndah (S)	Outer Regional	North Burnett (RegC)	2786	933	232	80
14	Miriam Vale (S)	Outer Regional	Gladstone (RegC)	5128	936	249	86
15	Cooloola (S) - Gympie only	Inner Regional	Gympie (RegC)	16452	937	251	87
16	Mundubbera (S)	Outer Regional	North Burnett (RegC)	2116	937	253	89
17	Perry (S)	Outer Regional	North Burnett (RegC)	428	940	267	94

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The following is an outline of the most disadvantaged CDs in the Wide Bay-Burnett SD. The Wide Bay-Burnett SD had the second highest number of Quintile 1 CDs in Queensland at 268. It also had the second highest concentration of total usual resident population living in Quintile 1 CDs at 120,655 people.

The most disadvantaged 1/10 of CDS in Quintile 1 (i.e., 27 CDs) had a total usual resident population of 11.793 people. These CDs were concentrated in the following suburbs with IRSD scores ranging from 506 to 830:

Table 20. Suburbs with the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts in Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division

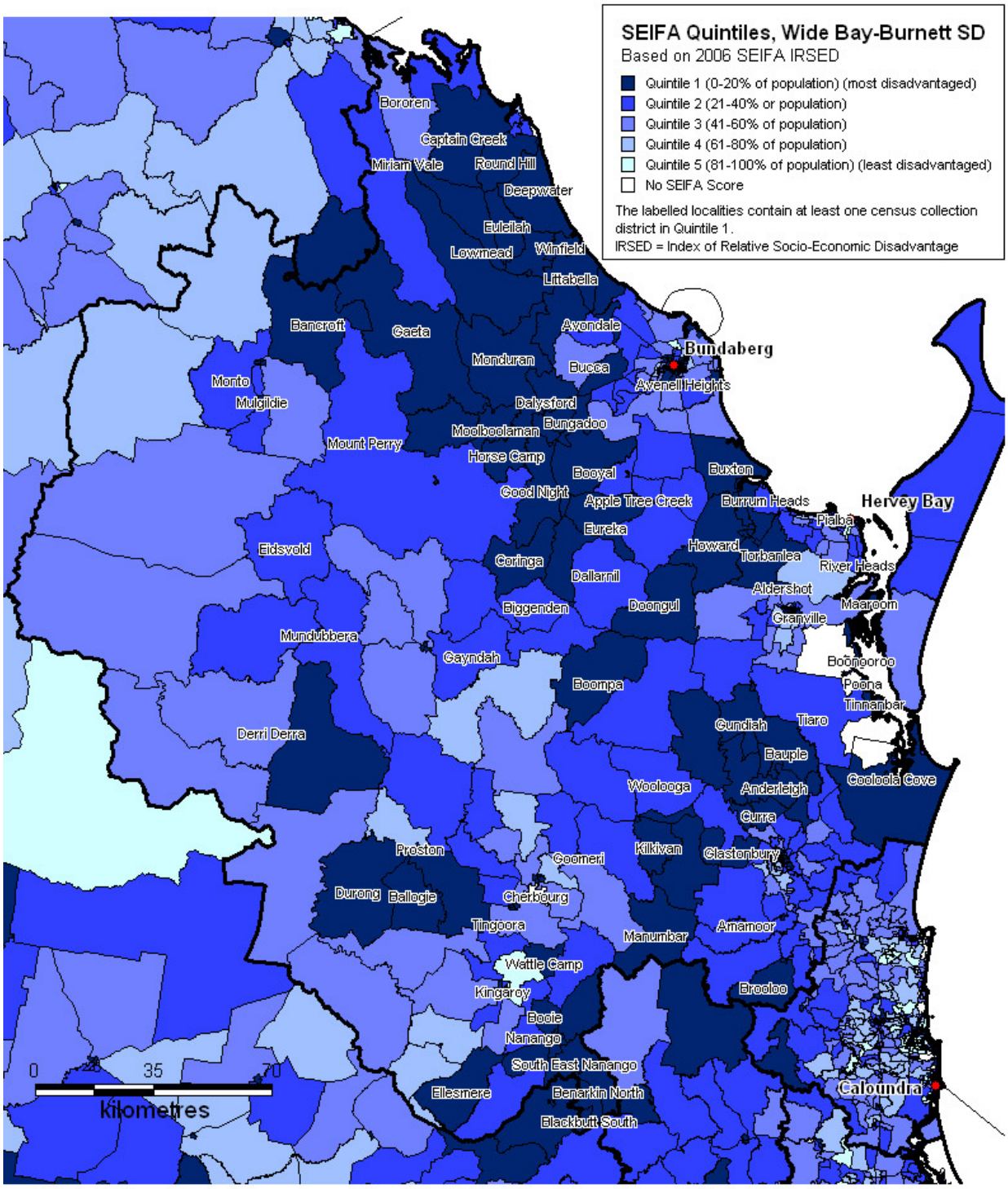
Bundaberg (RegC)	**Cherbourg Aboriginal (ShireC)**	**North Burnett (RegC)**	**Fraser Coast (RegC)**
Avenell Heights	Cherbourg	Eidsvold	Glenwood
Avoca			Granville
Bundaberg Central	**Gladstone (RegC)**	**South Burnett (RegC)**	Howard
Bundaberg East	Rosedale	Ballogie	Maryborough
Bundaberg South		Blackbutt North	Pialba
Bundaberg West	**Gympie (RegC)**	Kingaroy	
Horse Camp	Tin Can Bay	Wondai	
Wallaville			

A CD located at the Aboriginal community of Cherbourg was ranked the lowest overall in the Wide Bay-Burnett SD, with an IRSD score of 506. The area had the sixth lowest score in all of Queensland, making it one of the most disadvantaged areas in the State. Nationally, it is ranked 134.

CDs in the following suburbs ranked second to fifth in the SD:

- Bundaberg Central
- Maryborough
- Avenell Heights
- Ballogie.

Figure 15. SEIFA Quintiles, Wide Bay-Burnett SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.3 North West Statistical Division

North West Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	30,941	8,989
	Census Collection Districts	105	22
	Statistical Local Areas	8	4
	Area (sq km)	308,094	
	Density	0.10 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Remote, V Remote	

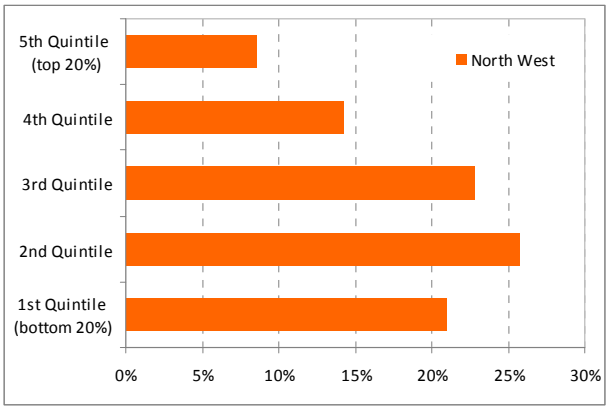
Overview

In 2006, the North West SD had a total usual resident population of 30,941. The region is considered the second most disadvantaged in Queensland with an overall weighted average SEIFA IRSD score of 947.

Figure 16 and **Table 21** show that North West SD has the majority of residents concentrated in the bottom three quintiles (79%), with just under 30% (or 8,989 people) being located in the bottom quintile. This is significantly higher than Queensland total.

Figure 16. North West SD Distribution of CDs and CD Population by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

(a). Proportion of CDs in North West across quintiles



(b). Proportion of CD Population in North West across quintiles

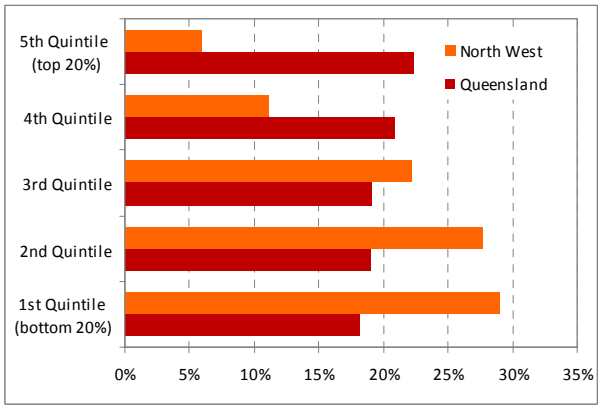


Table 21. Total Number of CDs and Population in the North West SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	105	98	22	27	24	15	9	7
			21%	26%	23%	14%	9%	7%
Population in CDs	30,941	29,712	8,989	8,572	6,876	3,440	1,835	1,229
			29%	28%	22%	11%	6%	4%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		947	830	965	1,007	1,050	1,098	-

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

At the 2006 Census, North West SD had eight SLAs in Queensland including four with IRSD scores in Quintile 1.

Mornington (S) had the lowest IRSD score of 561. It was ranked 17th in Queensland overall. The remaining three SLAs considered as the most disadvantaged in the area were: Carpentaria (S); Cloncurry (S); and Burke (S).

The SLAs of Flinders (S) in Quintile 2 and McKinlay (S) in Quintile 3 also had low scoring CDs in Quintile 1.

In 2006, there were eight LGAs in the North West SD. Mornington Shire Council recorded a low IRSD score of 561 (Quintile 1). Mornington Shire Council (LGA) is also ranked 17th in Queensland. The following four LGAs (reformed) contained CDs located in Quintile 1 highlighting that areas with lower levels of disadvantage can still include pockets of greater disadvantage which may warrant further investigation to identify the implications for service delivery and also for advocacy:

- Carpentaria Shire Council (Quintile 2)
- Burke Shire Council (Quintile 3)
- Flinders Shire Council (Quintile 3)
- McKinlay Shire Council (Quintile 5).

Table 22. SLAs in Quintile 1 - North West

2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
Mornington (S)	Very Remote	Mornington (ShireC)	1031	561	41	17	559	616
Carpentaria (S)	Very Remote	Carpentaria (ShireC)	1939	847	101	41	778	1002
Cloncurry (S)	Remote	Cloncurry (ShireC)	3135	927	213	73	506	1061
Burke (S)	Very Remote	Burke (ShireC)	497	938	258	91	885	976

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The following is an outline of the suburbs with the most disadvantaged CDs in the North West SD. The North West SD had a total of 22 CDs with IRSD scores in the bottom 20% ranging from 506 to 930. These CDs were concentrated in the following suburbs:

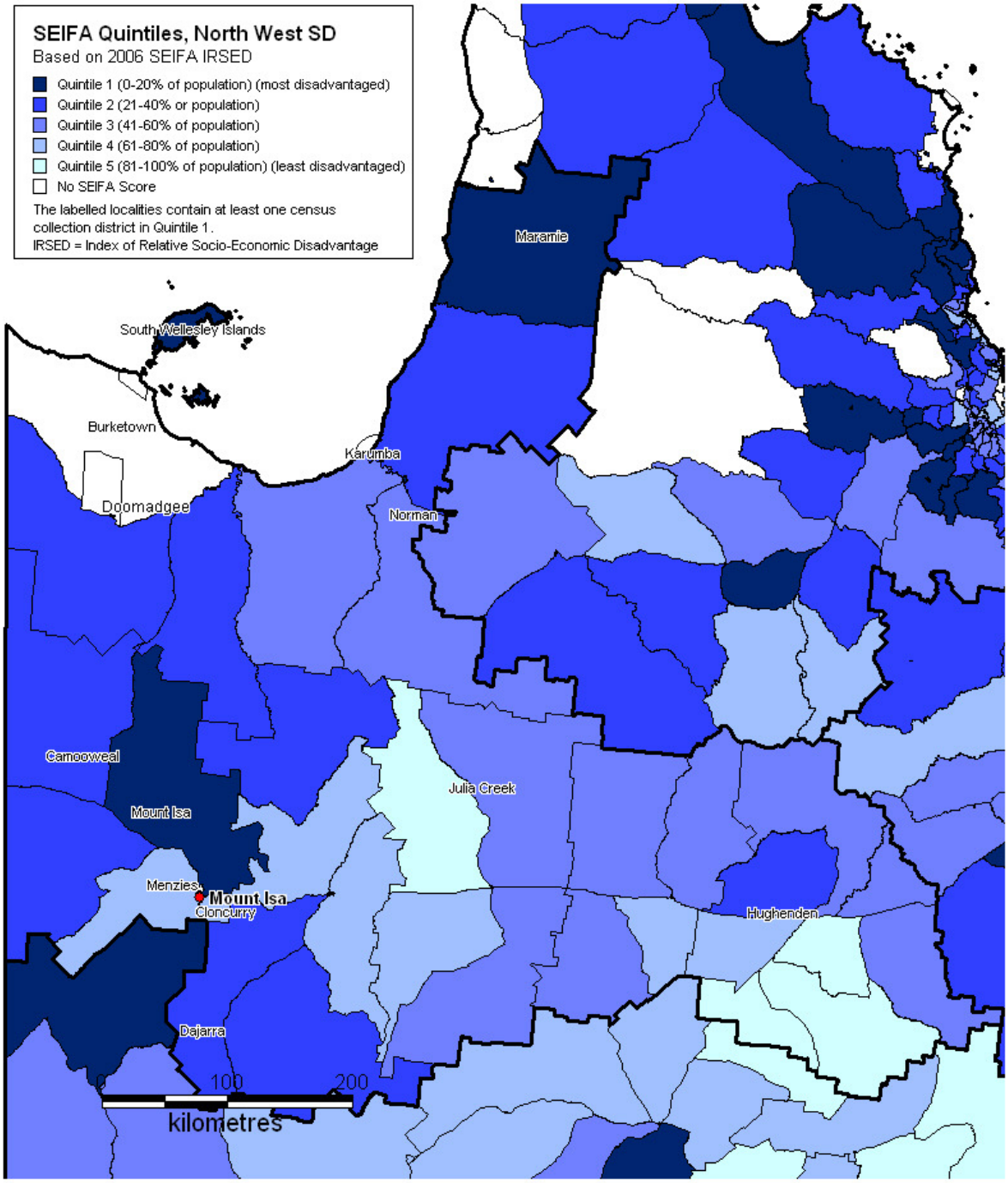
Table 23. Suburbs with the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts in North West Statistical Division

Burke (ShireC)	**Cloncurry (ShireC)**	**McKinlay (ShireC)**	**Mount Isa (CityC)**	**Mount Isa (CityC)**
Burketown	Cloncurry	Julia Creek	Camooweal	Pioneer
Carpentaria (ShireC)	Dajarra	**Mornington (ShireC)**	Menzies	The Gap
Karumba	**Flinders (ShireC)**	Wellesley Islands	Mornington	Townview
Maramie	Hughenden	South Wellesley Islands	Mount Isa	
Norman				

The most disadvantaged CD in the North West SD was located at the suburb of Dajarra in the Cloncurry Shire Council, with the lowest IRSD score of 506. The area is ranked fifth in Queensland and nationally it ranked at 133. CDs in the following suburbs ranked second to fifth with IRSD scores ranging from 559 to 758 were:

- Wellesley Islands
- South Wellesley
- Camooweal
- Pioneer.

Figure 17. SEIFA Quintiles, North West SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.4 Far North Statistical Division

Far North Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	231,052	73,321
	Census Collection Districts	549	158
	Statistical Local Areas	49	35
	Area (sq km)	273,162	
	Density	0.85 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Outer R, Remote V Remote	

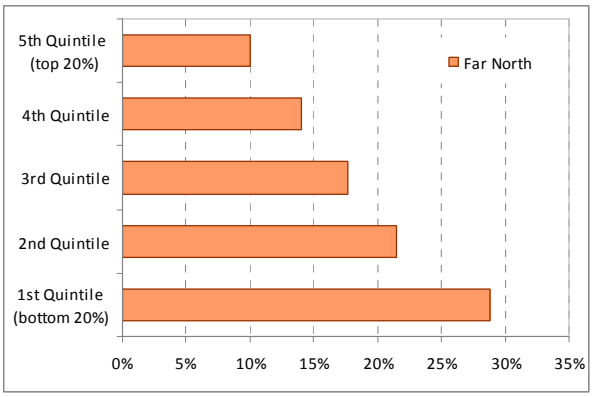
Overview

In 2006, the Far North SD had a total population of 231,052 which was almost 6% of the Queensland population. The region is the third most disadvantaged in Queensland with an overall weighted average SEIFA IRSD score of 954. Over 50% of residents were located in the lowest two quintiles. Far North had 73,321 residents located in 158 CDs in Quintile 1 (this equals 11% of the total usual Queensland population living in the most relatively disadvantaged areas). The Far North SD also included 31 of the 50 most disadvantaged CDs in Queensland.

Figure 12 (a) and **(b)** and **Table 24** show the distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles.

Figure 18. Proportion of CDs in Far North SD by IRSD Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs in Far North



(b) Proportion of CD Population in Far North across Quintiles

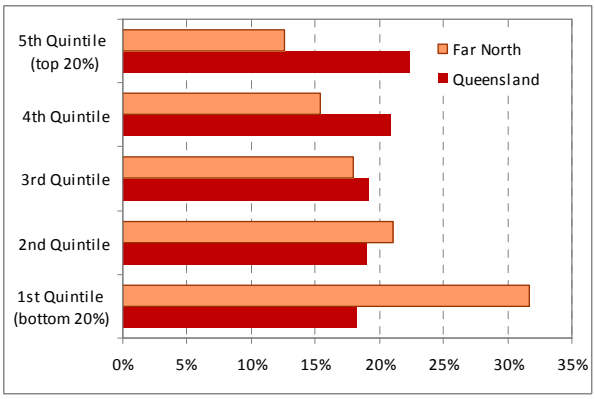


Table 24. Total Number of CDs and Population in the Far North SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ⟷ Relatively least disadvantaged					
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	549	504	158	118	97	77	55	45
			29%	21%	18%	14%	10%	8%
Population in CDs	231,052	227,973	73,321	48,558	41,478	35,516	29,099	3,079
			32%	21%	18%	15%	13%	1%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		954	816	964	1,010	1,952	1,102	-

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

At the 2006 Census, Far North SD had a total of 49 SLAs. 35 of these had low IRSD scores in Quintile 1. The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council SLA of Yarrabah (S) (consisting of one whole CD) had the lowest IRSD score of 485 in the Far North SD. It was ranked as the second most disadvantaged SLA in Queensland.

The following 10 SLAs in Quintiles 2, 3 and 4 also had low scoring Quintile 1 CDs:

- Quintile 2 SLAs of Atherton (S); Cairns (C) - City; Cardwell (S); Douglas (S); Johnstone (S)
- Quintile 3 SLAs of Cairns (C) - Pt B; Cairns (C) - Trinity; Eacham (S); Etheridge (S)
- Quintile 4 SLAs of Cairns (C) - Western Suburbs.

In 2006, there were 42 LGAs in the Far North SD, of which the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council recorded a low IRSD score of 485 (Quintile 1). Like the SLA rank, this Council is also ranked as the second most relatively disadvantaged LGA in Queensland. The following 18 LGAs (reformed) contained CDs located in Quintile 1:

- Aurukun Shire Council
- Cairns Regional Council
- Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- Cook Shire Council
- Croydon Shire Council
- Etheridge Shire Council
- Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
- Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
- Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council
- Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council
- Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
- Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
- Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
- Tablelands Regional Council
- Torres Shire Council
- Torres Strait Island Regional Council
- Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council.

Table 25 is an outline of SLAs in Quintile 1 for Far North SD. 26 of these SLAs are among the 30 most disadvantaged SLAs in Queensland.

Table 25. SLAs in Quintile 1 - Far North

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
1	Yarrabah (S)	Outer Regional	Yarrabah Aboriginal (ShireC)	2372	485	13	2	485	485
2	Umagico (S)	Very Remote	Northern Peninsula Area (RegC)	229	492	15	3	492	492
3	Injinoo (S)	Very Remote	Northern Peninsula Area (RegC)	417	507	18	5	507	507
4	Napranum (S)	Very Remote	Napranum Aboriginal (ShireC)	840	511	20	6	511	511
5	Kowanyama (S)	Very Remote	Kowanyama Aboriginal (ShireC)	1020	513	21	7	513	513

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
6	Mer (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	483	525	25	8	525	525
7	Boigu (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	284	525	26	9	525	525
8	Wujal Wujal (S)	Remote	Wujal Wujal Aboriginal (ShireC)	325	532	29	10	532	532
9	Aurukun (S)	Very Remote	Aurukun (ShireC)	1045	538	31	11	538	538
10	Warraber (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	246	543	32	12	543	543
11	Dauan (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	152	545	33	13	545	545
12	Iama (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	312	547	35	14	547	547
13	Saibai (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	337	549	36	15	549	549
14	Hope Vale (S)	Remote	Hope Vale Aboriginal (ShireC)	779	554	37	16	554	554
15	Badu (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	820	567	43	19	567	567
16	Yorke (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	298	570	46	20	570	570
17	Lockhart River (S)	Very Remote	Lockhart River Aboriginal (ShireC)	553	572	47	21	572	572
18	Erub (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	317	586	50	22	586	586
19	Hammond (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	214	600	52	23	600	600
20	Poruma (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	167	601	53	24	601	601
21	Pormpuraaw (S)	Very Remote	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal (ShireC)	600	601	54	25	601	601
22	Ugar (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	76	619	55	26	619	619
23	Bamaga (IC)	Very Remote	Northern Peninsula Area (RegC)	784	620	56	27	620	620
24	New Mapoon (S)	Very Remote	Northern Peninsula Area (RegC)	344	622	57	28	622	622
25	Mabuiag (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	248	625	58	29	625	625
26	Kubin (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	200	627	59	30	627	627
27	Mapoon (S)	Very Remote	Mapoon Aboriginal (ShireC)	239	655	62	31	655	655
28	Seisia (IC)	Very Remote	Northern Peninsula Area (RegC)	164	720	70	32	720	720
29	St Pauls (IC)	Very Remote	Torres Strait Island (RegC)	240	744	73	33	744	744
30	Torres (S)	Very Remote	Torres (ShireC)	3233	801	84	36	655	914
31	Croydon (S)	Very Remote	Croydon (ShireC)	254	821	89	38	738	1014
32	Cairns (C) - Central Suburbs	Outer Regional	Cairns (RegC)	21369	892	134	51	688	1052
33	Herberton (S)	Outer Regional	Tablelands (RegC)	5420	892	135	52	787	1030

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
34	Cook (S)	Remote	Cook (ShireC)	3466	908	163	58	661	1041
35	Mareeba (S)	Outer Regional	Tablelands (RegC)	18211	939	261	92	762	1056

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The Far North SD had a total of 158 CDs with IRSD scores in the bottom 20% ranging from 439 to 934. The 50 most disadvantaged CDs were concentrated in the following suburbs:

Table 26. Suburbs Including the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts in Far North Statistical Division

Aurukun (ShireC)	**Cairns (RegC)**	**Hope Vale Aboriginal (ShireC)**	**Napranum Aboriginal (ShireC)**
Aurukun	Bungalow	Hope Vale	Mission River
Cassowary Coast (RegC)	Cairns North	**Kowanyama Aboriginal (ShireC)**	**Northern Peninsula Area (RegC)**
Innisfail	Manoora	Kowanyama	Bamaga
Cook (ShireC)	Mooroobool	**Lockhart River Aboriginal (ShireC)**	Injinoo
Coen	Mossman Gorge	Lockhart	New Mapoon
Croydon (ShireC)	Portsmith	**Mapoon Aboriginal (ShireC)**	Seisia
Croydon	Westcourt	Mapoon	Umagico
Torres (ShireC)	Westcourt	**Torres Strait Island (RegC)**	**Torres Strait Island (RegC)**
Thursday Island	**Tablelands (RegC)**	Badu Island	Moa Island
Horn	Atherton	Boigu Island	Murray Islands
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal (ShireC)	Chillagoe	Coconut Island	Saibai Island
	Irvinebank	Darnley Island	Stephens Island
Wujal Wujal	Mareeba	Dauan Island	The Three Sisters
Yarrabah Aboriginal (ShireC)	Mareeba	Hammond Island	Yam Island
	Mareeba	Mabuiag Island	**Pormpuraaw Aboriginal (ShireC)**
Yarrabah	Mount Carbine	Masig Island	
	Mount Garnet		Pormpuraaw

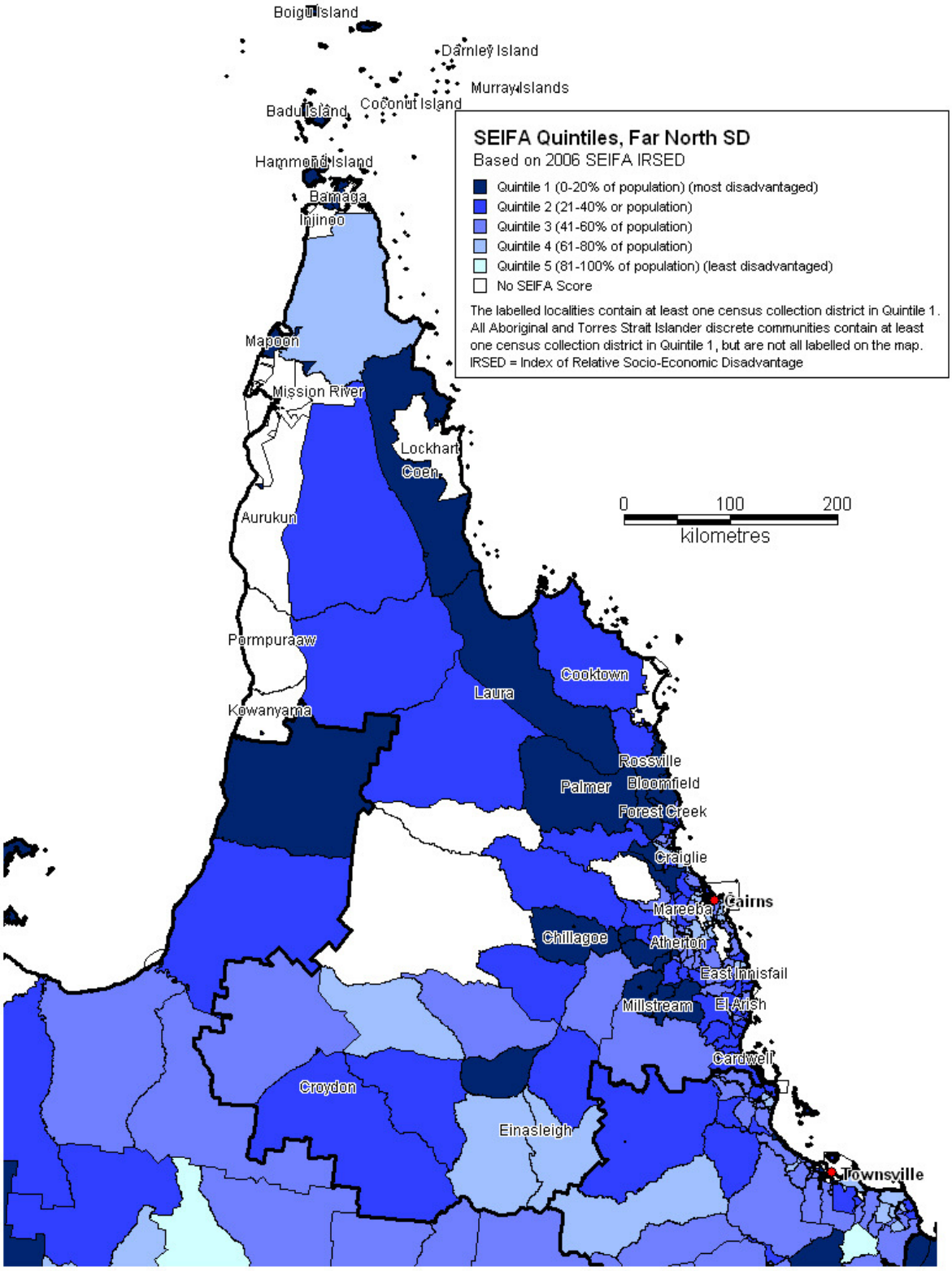
The CD located in the suburb of Mossman Gorge in the Far North Queensland SLA of Douglas is the most socioeconomically disadvantaged area in Queensland, with the lowest IRSD score of 439. The area also had the lowest rank in Queensland and was ranked at 57 nationally.

CDs in the following suburbs ranked second to fifth in the Northern SD with low IRSD scores ranging from 485 to 511:

- Yarrabah (S)
- Umagico (S)
- Injinoo (S)
- Napranum (S).

Twenty-four of the bottom 50 CDs in the Far North SD belong to discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Figure 19. SEIFA Quintiles, Far North SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.5 West Moreton Statistical Division

West Moreton Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	68,628	20,791
	Census Collection Districts	134	42
	Statistical Local Areas	6	0
	Area (sq km)	11,421	
	Density	6.01 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Inner R, Outer R	

Overview

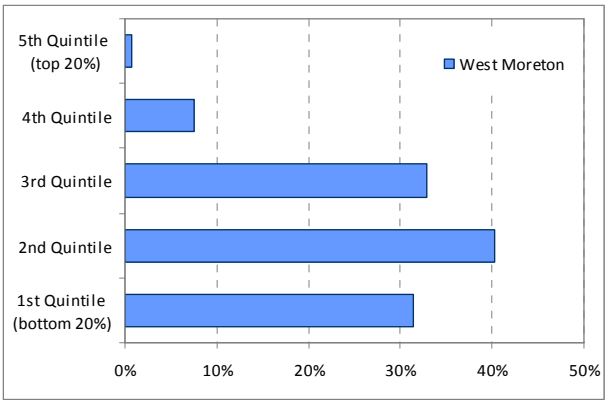
The West Moreton SD had 1.8% of the total usual resident population in Queensland equalling 68,628 people. West Moreton SD was ranked fourth in Queensland with an IRSD score of 962.

Figure 20 (a) and **(b)** and **Table 27** depict the West Moreton SD distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles. In 2006, more residents lived in the most disadvantaged areas of West Moreton than in the least disadvantaged areas. About 30% of West Moreton residents lived in the most disadvantaged CDs (Quintile 1) and a further 34% lived in CDs in Quintile 2 equalling a total of 44,028 people.

West Moreton had the lowest proportion of its population compared to other Queensland SDs living in Quintile 5 at only 0.3% (1,075 people).

Figure 20. Proportion of CDs in West Moreton SD by IRSD Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs in West Moreton SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of CD Population in West Moreton SD by IRSD Quintiles

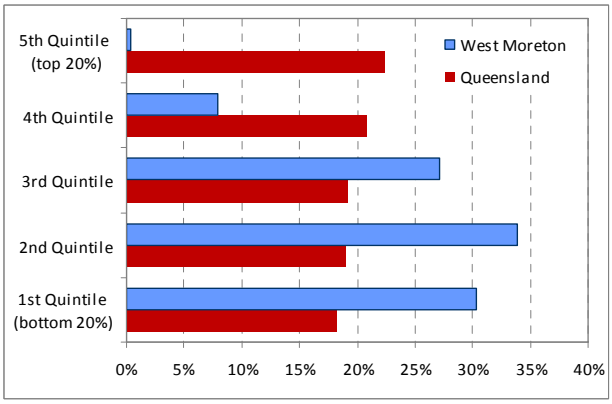


Table 27. Total Number of CDs and Population in the West Moreton SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	134	133	42	54	44	10	1	1
			31%	40%	33%	7%	1%	1%
Population in CDs	68,628	68,320	20,791	23,237	18,647	5,428	217	308
			30%	34%	27%	8%	0.3%	0.4%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		962	888	969	1,008	1,045	1,075	-

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

The West Moreton SD includes six SLAs, all of which include Quintile 1 CDs. All six SLAs were in Quintile 2:

- Beaudesert (S) - Pt C;
- Boonah (S)
- Esk (S)
- Gatton (S)
- Kilcoy (S)
- Laidley (S).

All West Moreton SLAs were identified as being in Quintile 2.

The West Moreton SD has five LGAs:

- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Somerset Regional Council
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council
- Logan City Council
- Scenic Rim Regional Council.

The Scenic Rim Regional Council had the highest IRSD score in the region of 996. The population distribution of this LGA was also concentrated in the middle Quintiles. The Regional Councils of Lockyer Valley (IRSD score 962) and Somerset (IRSD score 953) were more disadvantaged with the majority of residents residing in Quintiles 1 and 2.

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The West Moreton SD contained 42 CDs in Quintile 1, encompassing a population of 20,791. **Table 28** outlines suburbs that include CDs in Quintile 1:

Table 28. Suburbs in West Moreton including CDs in Quintile 1

Scenic Rim RegC	Somerset RegC	Somerset RegC	Lockyer Valley RegC	Lockyer Valley RegC
Beaudesert*	Coominya	Mount Tarampa	Gatton	Forest Hill
Rathdowney	Esk	Somerset Dam	Grantham	Kensington Grove
Boonah	Linville	Toogoolawah	Helidon	Laidley
Logan City C	Lowood	Jimna	Lawes	Lockrose
Beaudesert*	Moore	Kilcoy	Mount Sylvia	Lockyer Waters

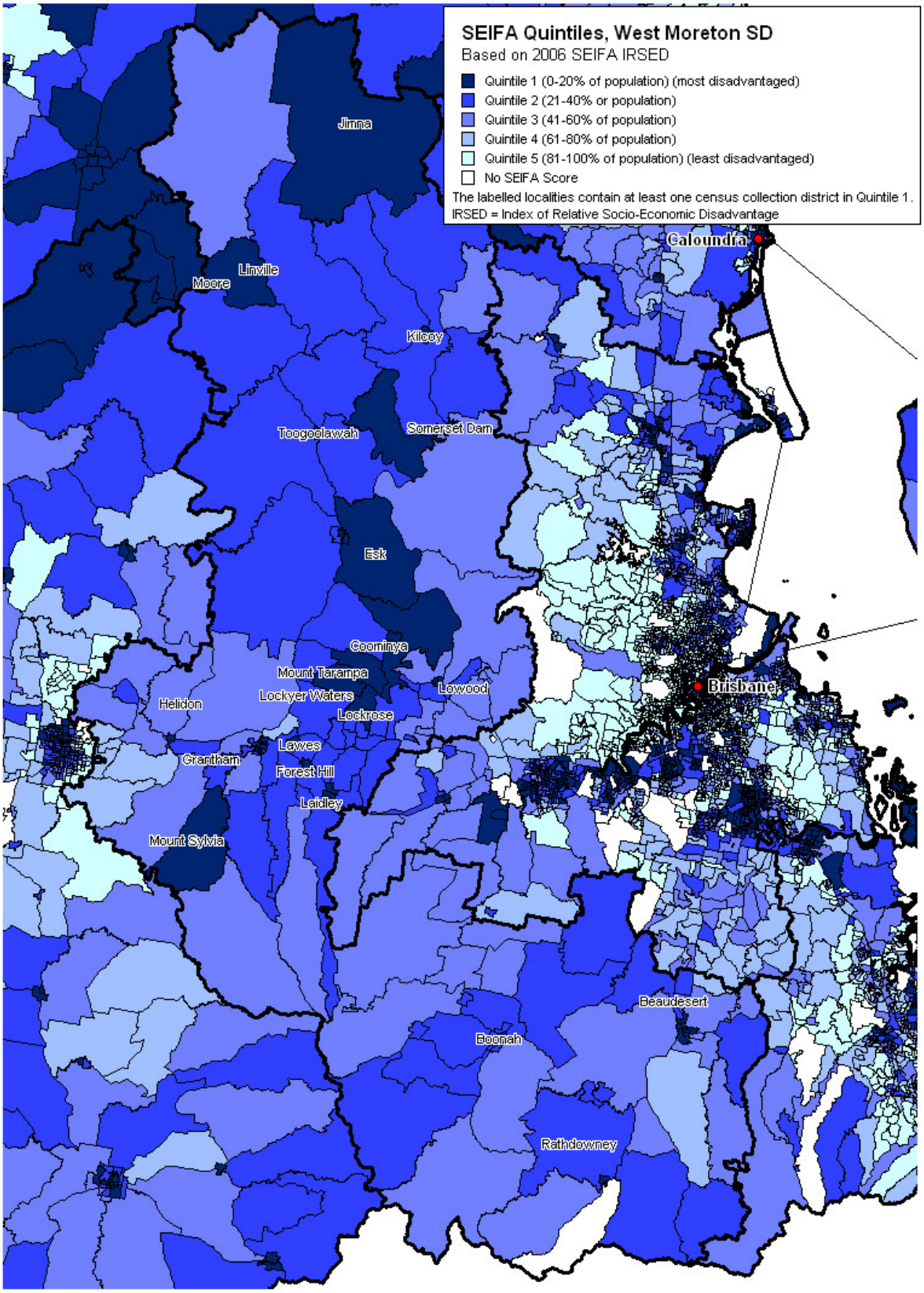
Note: the SLA of Beaudesert (S) - Pt C was split across two reformed LGA boundaries of Logan City Council and Scenic Rim Regional Council as a result of the 2006 the implementation of the *Local Government Reform Implementation Act 2007*.

Three of the bottom five CDs in the West Moreton SD were located in the SLA of Esk Shire in the Somerset Regional Council, with the most disadvantaged CD being located in the suburb of Lowood (ranked 180 in Queensland).

CDs ranked second to fifth most disadvantaged in the West Moreton SD were in the following suburbs:

- Laidley
- Linville
- Moore
- Beaudesert.

Figure 21. SEIFA Quintiles, West Moreton SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.6 South West Statistical Division

South West Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	24,777	8,803
	Census Collection Districts	96	24
	Statistical Local Areas	10	2
	Area (sq km)	319,883	
	Density	0.08 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Outer R, Remote, Very Remote	

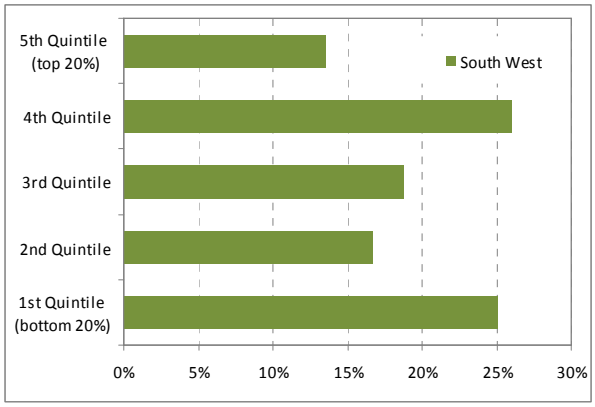
Overview

South West SD had 0.6% of Queensland's population equalling 24,777 people, of whom 8,803 people were located in CDs with IRSD scores in Quintile 1.

Figure 22 (a) and (b) and **Table 29** depict the South West SD distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles. In 2006, more residents lived in the most disadvantaged areas of the South West SD than in the least disadvantaged areas. The highest proportion, 36% of people, lived in 24 CDs with the lowest IRSD scores in Quintile 1 and 26% of the population was located in CDs with IRSD scores in Quintile 2.

Figure 22. South West SD Distribution of CDs and CD population by Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs in South West SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of CD Population in South West SD by IRSD Quintiles

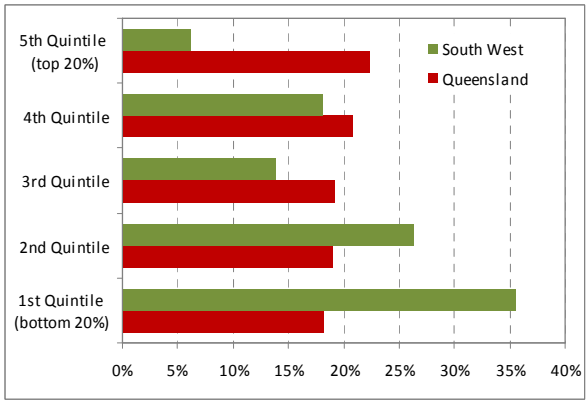


Table 29. Total Number of CDs and Population in the South West SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	96	96	24	16	18	25	13	-
			25%	17%	19%	26%	14%	0%
Population in CDs	24,777	24,777	8,803	6,531	3,432	4,487	1,524	-
			36%	26%	14%	18%	6%	0%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		962	874	958	1,012	1,057	1,088	-

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

At the 2006 Census, South West SD included 10 SLAs. The SLAs of Paroo (S) and Booringa (S) were the most disadvantaged in the South West SD with IRSD Scores of 775 and 857 respectively. They ranked 115 and 241 in the State. The remaining eight SLAs in the South West SD included low scoring CDs in Quintile 1 although their overall Quintile rankings were as follows:

- SLAs of Balonne (S); Bendemere (S); Bulloo (S); Murweh (S); Quilpie (S); Roma (T) - Quintile 2
- Warroo (S) in Quintile 3
- Bungil (S) in Quintile 4.

In 2006, there were 10 LGAs in the South West SD, none of which recorded IRSD scores in Quintile 1. However, some LGAs did include Quintile 1 CDs as follows:

- Balonne Shire Council
- Bulloo Shire Council
- Murweh Shire Council
- Quilpie Shire Council
- Roma Regional Council
- Paroo Shire Council.

Table 30 shows SLAs in South West SD, in Quintile 1.

Table 30. SLAs in South West in Quintile 1

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
1	Paroo (S)	Very Remote	Paroo Shire Council	1927	876	115	45	775	1102
2	Booringa (S)	Remote	Roma Regional Council	1705	934	241	82	857	1100

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The following is an outline of the most disadvantaged CDs in the South West SD. The South West SD had a total of 24 CDs in Quintile 1. These CDs were concentrated in the following suburbs with IRSD scores ranging from 775 to 931:

Table 31. Suburbs in the South West SD including CDs in Quintile 1

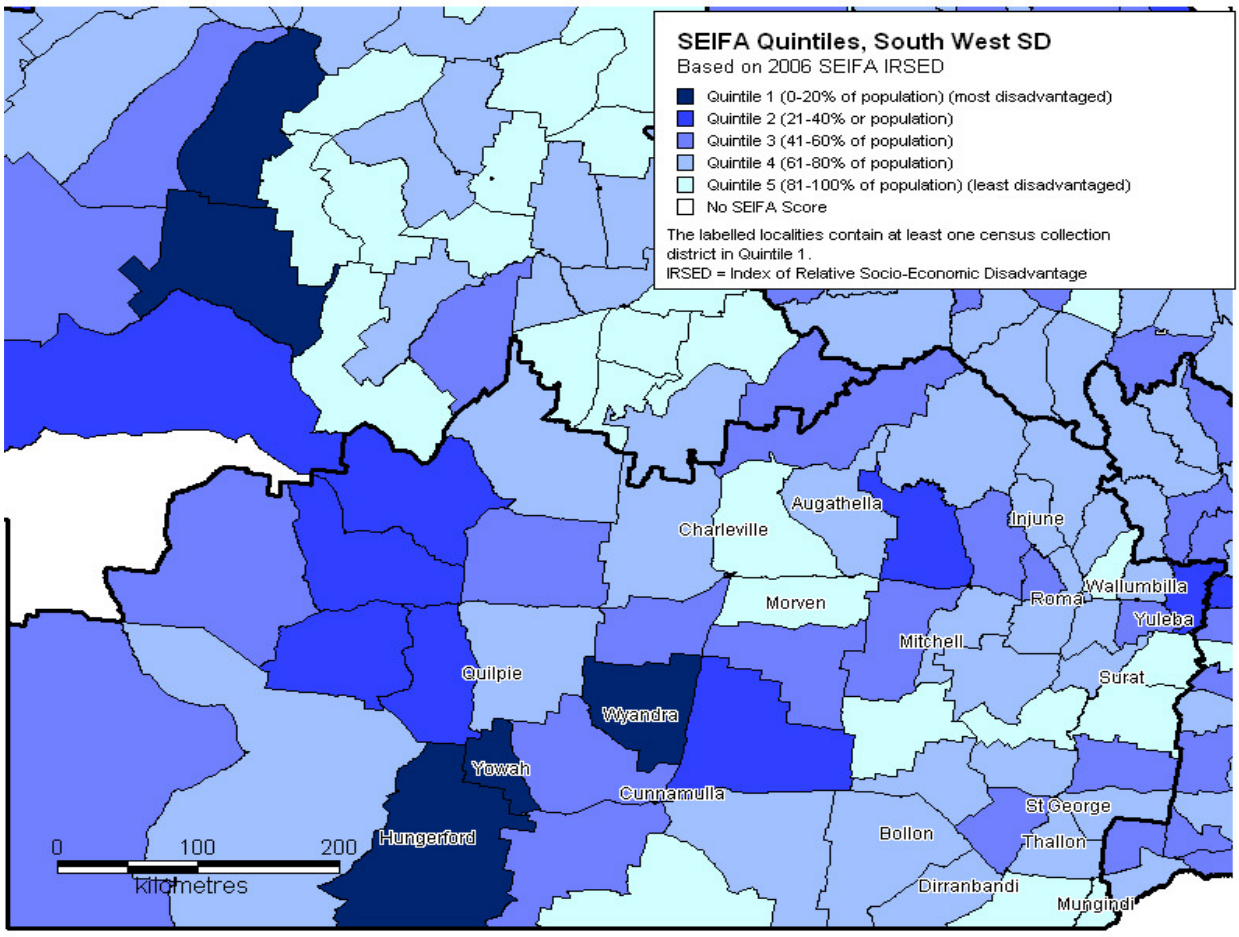
Balonne (ShireC)	Bulloo (ShireC)	Paroo (ShireC)	Roma (RegC)
Bollon	Hungerford	Cunnamulla	Injune
Dirranbandi		Wyandra	Mitchell
Mungindi	**Murweh (ShireC)**		Roma
St George	Augathella	**Quilpie (ShireC)**	Surat
Thallon	Charleville	Quilpie	Wallumbilla
	Morven		

Twelve CDs were in the bottom decile with a total usual resident population of almost 1,300 people. Cunnamulla in the Paroo Shire Council had the lowest ranking CD with an IRSD score of 775 (also ranking 116 in Queensland and 964 in Australia out of 37,457).

The most disadvantaged CDs ranking second to fifth with IRSD scores from 787 to 838 were in the following suburbs:

- Thallon
- Yuleba
- Morven
- Cunnamulla.

Figure 23. SEIFA Quintiles, South West SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.7 Central West Statistical Division

Central West Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	10,851	4,546
	Census Collection Districts	62	18
	Statistical Local Areas	11	4
	Area (sq km)	374,743	
	Density	0.03 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	V Remote	

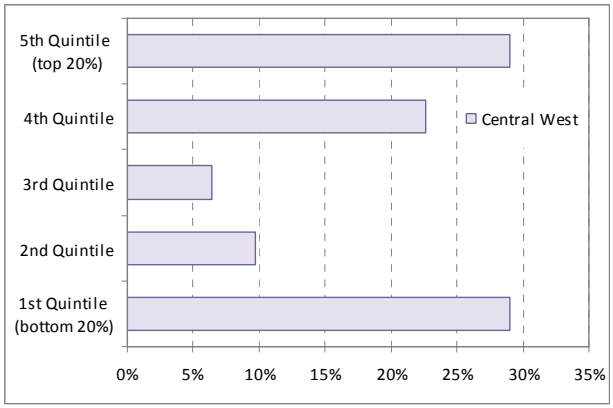
Overview

Central West SD had the lowest proportion of the usual Queensland resident population of 10,851 (0.3%) and an overall weighted average SEIFA IRSD score of 967.

Figure 24 (a) and **(b)** and **Table 32** depict the Central West SD distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles. In 2006 there was a significant gap between the most and least disadvantaged CDs in Central West, where there are equally high proportions of the most and least disadvantaged CDs (29% in bottom and top quintiles). The SD had 42% of its population located in Quintile 1 areas (42% or 4,546 people) which is very high compared to the overall figure for Queensland.

Figure 24. Central West SD Distribution of CDs and CD Population by Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs in Central West SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of CD Population in Central West SD by IRSD Quintiles

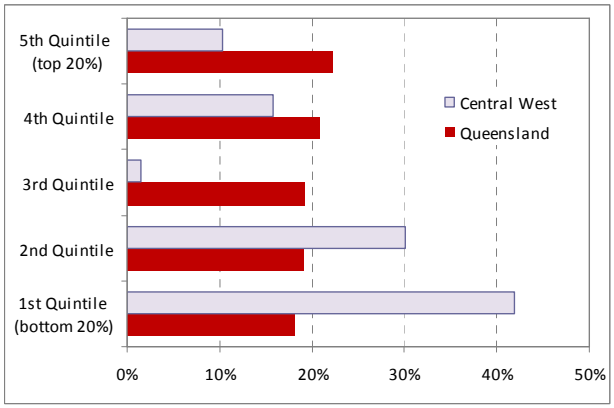


Table 32. Total Number of CDs and Population in the Central West SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	62	60	18	6	4	14	18	2
			29%	10%	6%	23%	29%	3%
Population in CDs	10,851	10,808	4,546	3,268	158	1,714	1,122	43
			42%	30%	1%	16%	10%	0%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		967	891	981	1,012	1,052	1,099	-

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

At the 2006 Census, Central West SD included 11 SLAs. Of these, four SLAs were in Quintile 1. The following SLAs had the lowest IRSD scores ranging from 869 to 937:

- Boulia (S)
- Diamantina (S)
- Winton (S)
- Blackall (S).

The remaining seven SLAs had low to mid ranging IRSD scores in Quintiles 2 and 3. Six of the SLAS also had low scoring CDs in Quintile 1 as follows:

- Quintile 2 SLAs of Aramac (S); Barcaldine (S); Barcoo (S); Isisford (S); Tambo (S)
- Quintile 3 SLA of Ilfracombe (S)..

The following Central West SLAs contained both the most and least disadvantaged CDs for the SD:

- Aramac (S)
- Barcoo (S)
- Blackall (S)
- Ilfracombe (S)
- Tambo (S)
- Winton (S).

In 2006, there were 11 LGAs in the Central West SD, none of which recorded an IRSD score in Quintile 1. However, the following six LGAs contained CDs located in Quintile 1:

- Barcaldine (RegC)
- Barcoo (ShireC)
- Blackall-Tambo (RegC)
- Boulia (ShireC)
- Diamantina (ShireC)
- Longreach (RegC)
- Winton (ShireC).

The following table outlines all SLAs in Quintile 1 for Central West.

Table 33. SLAs in Quintile 1 for Central West SD

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
1	Boulia (S)	Very Remote	Boulia (ShireC)	420	869	108	43	757	1043
2	Diamantina (S)	Very Remote	Diamantina (ShireC)	281	891	133	50	865	1015
3	Winton (S)	Very Remote	Winton (ShireC)	1380	937	252	88	877	1116
4	Blackall (S)	Very Remote	Blackall-Tambo (RegC)	1456	937	255	90	883	1110

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The Central West SD had a total of 18 CDs in Quintile 1. They were concentrated in the following suburbs with IRSD scores ranging from 757 to 931.

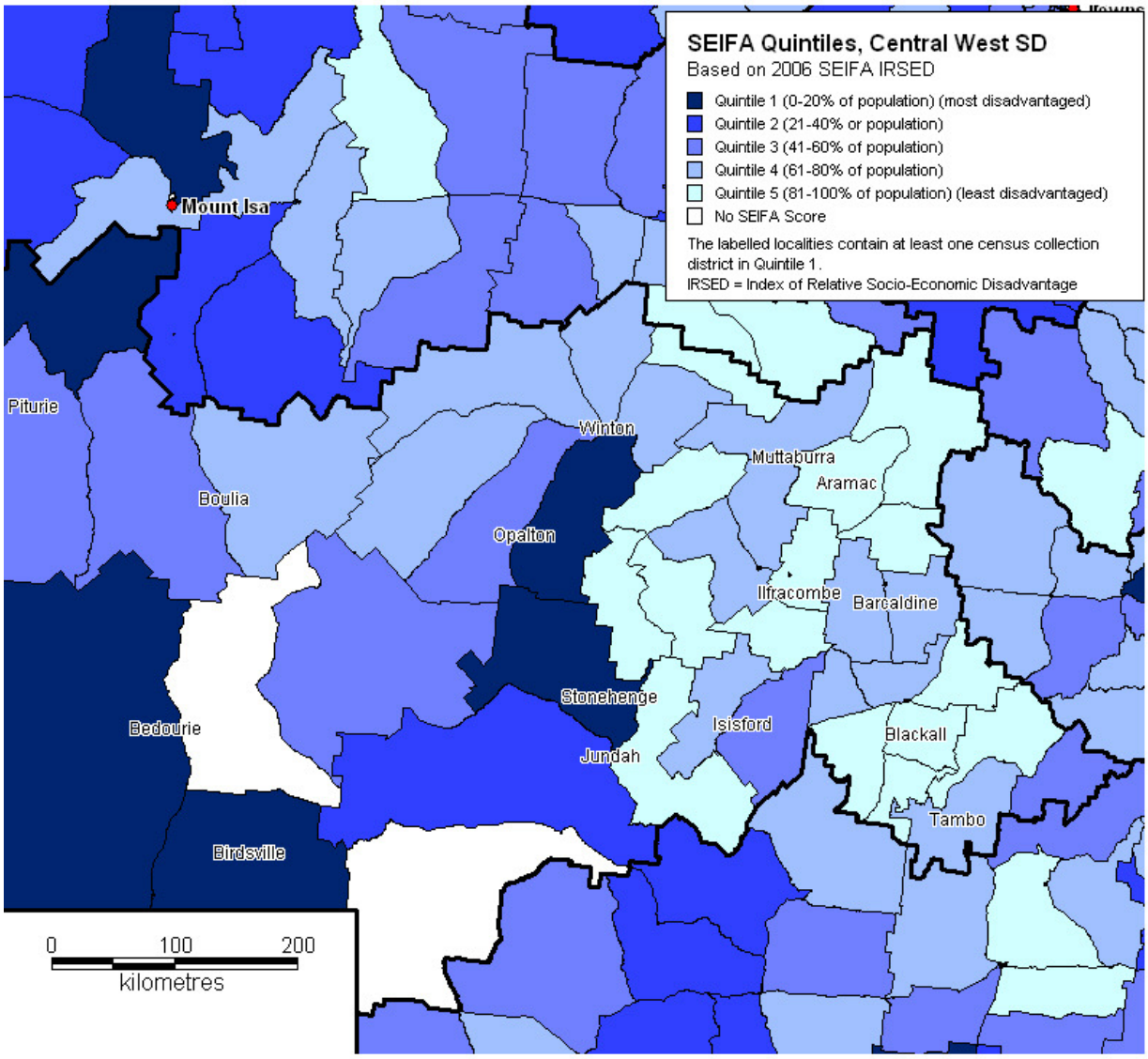
Table 34. Suburbs Including CDs in Quintile 1 - Central West SD

Barcaldine (RegC)	**Barcoo (ShireC)**	**Boulia (ShireC)**	**Longreach (RegC)**
Barcaldine	Stonehenge	Boulia	Isisford
Aramac	Jundah	Piturie	Ilfracombe
Muttaburra			
	Blackall-Tambo (RegC)	**Diamantina (ShireC)**	**Winton (ShireC)**
	Blackall	Bedourie	Opalton
	Tambo	Birdsville	Winton

The CD located at Boulia was ranked the lowest in the Central West SD, with an IRSD score of 757. The area was ranked 86th most disadvantaged in all of Queensland and at 793 nationally. CDs in the following suburbs ranked second to fifth in the Central West SD with low IRSD Scores ranging from 865 to 883:

- Boulia
- Bedourie
- Piturie
- Opalton
- Blackall.

Figure 25. SEIFA Quintiles, Central West SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.8 Darling Downs Statistical Division

Darling Downs Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	213,758	50,879
	Census Collection Districts	474	116
	Statistical Local Areas	30	4
	Area (sq km)	90,246	
	Density	2.37 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Inner R, Outer R, Remote	

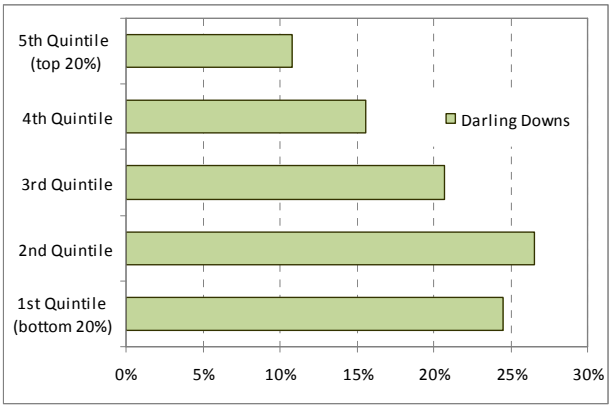
Overview

In 2006, Darling Downs SD had a total population of 213,758 (5.5% of the total Queensland population). The SEIFA IRSD score for the SD was 986. Darling Downs had 8% of the total Queensland population in Quintile 1.

Figure 26 (a) and **(b)** and **Table 35** illustrate the distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles.

Figure 26. Proportion of Darling Downs CDs in SD by IRSD Quintiles

(a) Proportion of Darling Downs CDs in SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of Darling Downs CD Population in SD by IRSD Quintiles

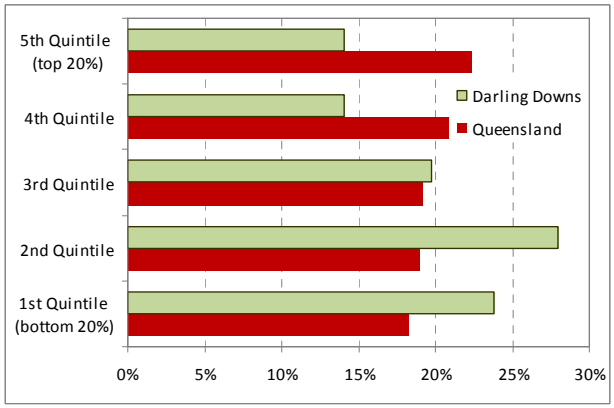


Table 35. Total Number of CDs and Population in the Darling Downs SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	474	465	116	126	98	74	51	9
			25%	27%	21%	16%	11%	2%
Population in CDs	213,758	212,909	50,879	59,776	42,123	30,048	30,083	849
			24%	28%	20%	14%	14%	0%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		986	882	965	1,009	1,051	1,100	-

24% of residents were located in Quintile 1 CDs and 28% of the population resided in the second most disadvantaged areas of the Darling Downs (Quintile 2). This equated to a population of 110,655.

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

The Darling Downs SD includes 30 SLAs. Five SLAs were in Quintile 1. The SLA of Tara was the most disadvantaged of all Darling Downs SLAs with an IRSD Score of 900 (and was ranked 57 in the State). The CDs within Tara Shire were wide ranging from 761 to 1,050.

SLAs ranking second to fifth with scores ranging from 932 to 940 were:

- Warwick (S) - Central
- Stanthorpe (S)
- Inglewood (S)
- Toowoomba (C) - North-West.

In 2006, there were 19 LGAs in the Darling Downs SD, none of which recorded IRSD scores in Quintile 1. However, LGAs including CDs within Quintile 1 were as follows:

- Banana Shire Council
- Dalby Regional Council
- Goondiwindi Regional Council
- Southern Downs Regional Council
- Toowoomba Regional Council.

Table 36. SLAs in Quintile 1

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
1	Tara (S)	Outer Regional	Dalby Regional Council	3675	900	148	57	761	1050
2	Warwick (S) - Central	Inner Regional	Southern Downs Regional Council	11217	932	228	79	815	1011
3	Stanthorpe (S)	Outer Regional	Southern Downs Regional Council	10123	935	245	85	822	1047
4	Inglewood (S)	Outer Regional	Goondiwindi Regional Council	2534	939	265	93	840	1026
5	Toowoomba (C) - North-West	Inner Regional	Toowoomba Regional Council	18374	940	270	96	805	1121

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The most disadvantaged CDs (12) were concentrated in the following suburbs with low ranging IRSD scores from 761 to 816:

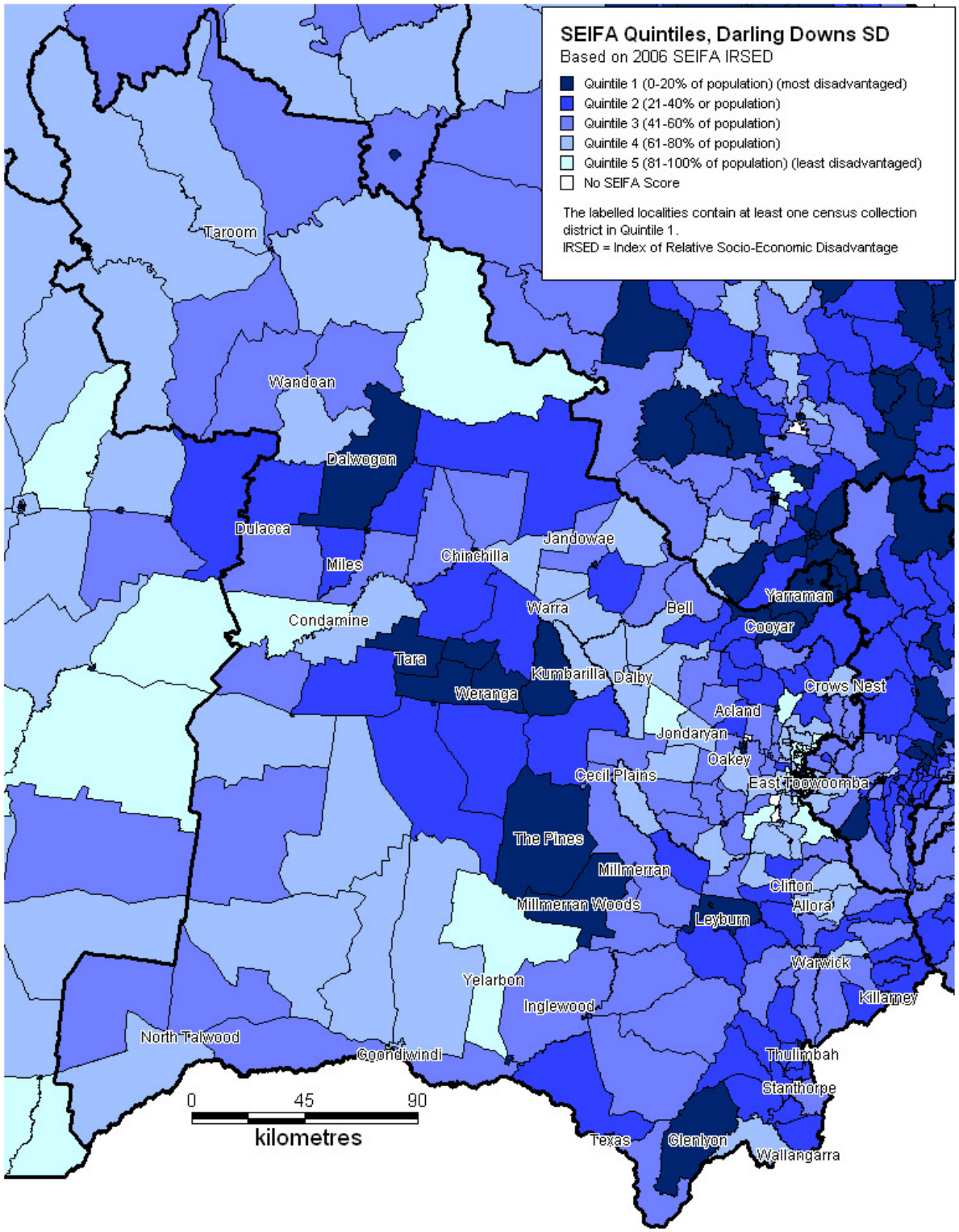
Table 37. Suburbs Including CDs in the Lowest Decile

Toowoomba (RegC)	Toowoomba (RegC)	Dalby (RegC)	Southern Downs (RegC)
Toowoomba City	Oakey	Tara	Warwick
South Toowoomba	Wilsonton	Weranga	
Harristown	East Toowoomba		
Wilsonton			

The CD located at the Dalby Regional Council suburb of Tara was ranked number one in the Darling Downs SD as the area with the greatest level of disadvantage. It was ranked 97 in Queensland with an Australian ranking of 832.
CDs in the following suburbs ranked second to fifth:

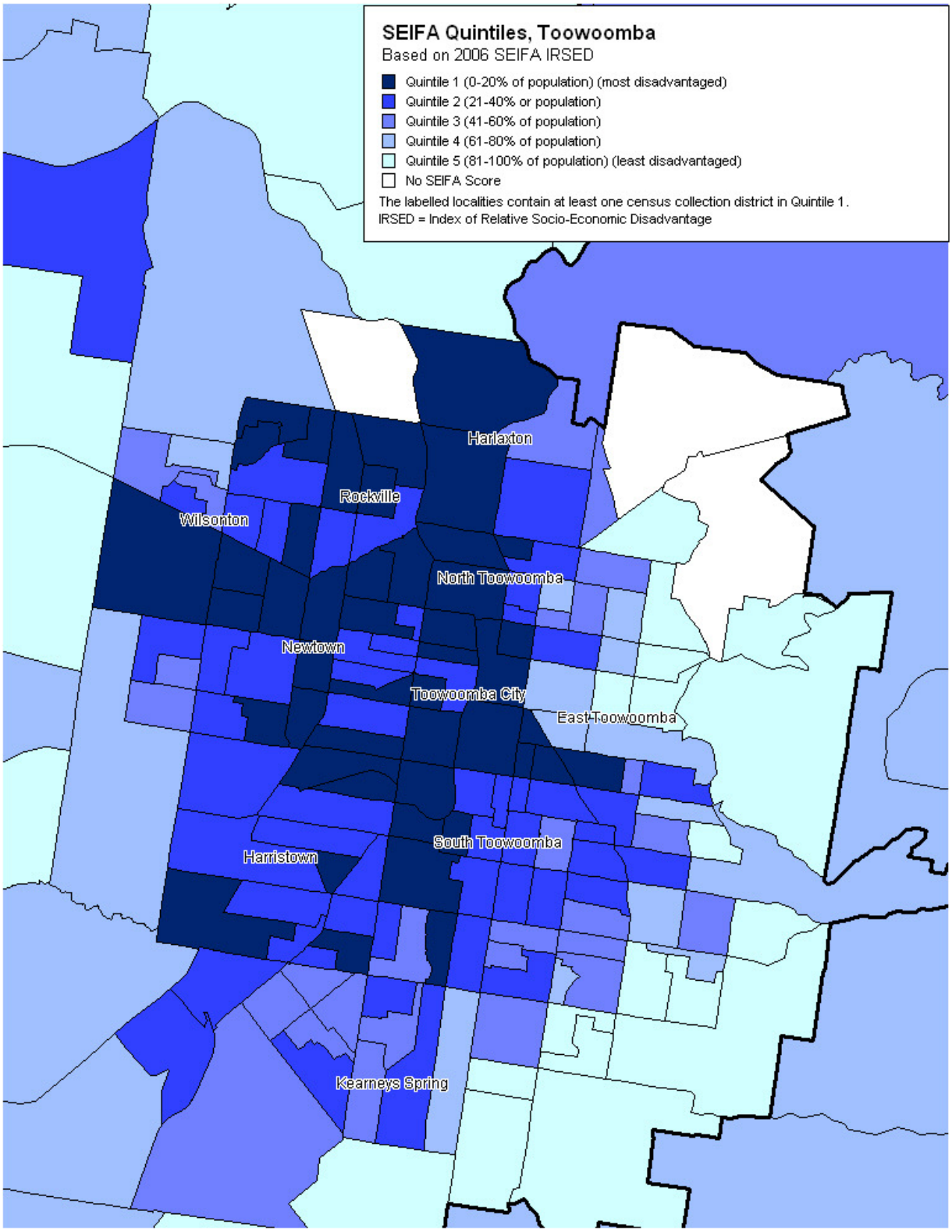
- Toowoomba City (Toowoomba City)
- Tara (Tara Shire)
- South Toowoomba (Toowoomba City)
- Weranga (Tara Shire).

Figure 27. SEIFA Quintiles, Darling Downs SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

Figure 28. SEIFA Quintiles, Toowoomba



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.9 Fitzroy Statistical Division

Fitzroy Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	188,404	46,793
	Census Collection Districts	417	115
	Statistical Local Areas	16	2
	Area (sq km)	122,967	
	Density	1.53 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Inner R, Outer R, Remote, Very Remote	

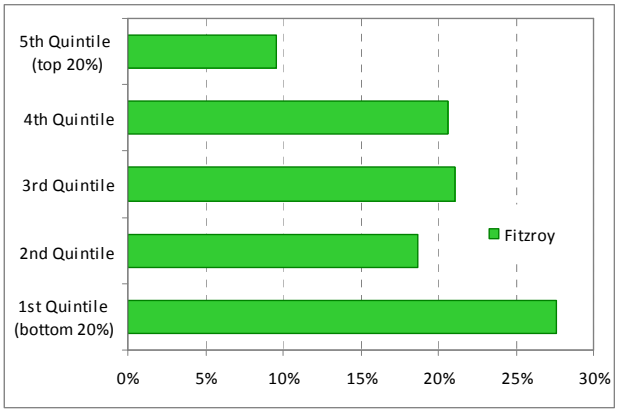
Overview

Fitzroy SD had a usual resident population of 188,404, which is almost 5% of the total Queensland population. Of this, 46,793 people reside in the most disadvantaged CDs in Quintile 1. The area has a weighted average SEIFA IRSD score of 989.

Figure 29 (a) and **(b)** and **Table 38** show the Fitzroy SD distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles.

Figure 29. Proportion of CDs in Fitzroy SD by IRSD Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs in Fitzroy SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of CD Population in Fitzroy SD by IRSD Quintiles

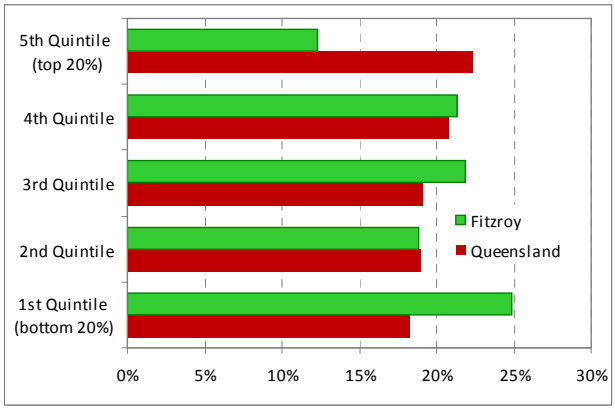


Table 38. Total Number of CDs and Population in the Fitzroy SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	417	407	115	78	88	86	40	10
			28%	19%	21%	21%	10%	2%
Population in CDs	188,404	187,816	46,793	35,431	41,242	40,257	23,095	588
			25%	19%	22%	21%	12%	0%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		989	873	965	1,011	1,050	1,095	-

46,793 residents (or 25% of the population) lived in 115 CDs with the lowest IRSD scores compared with 12% of the population in Quintile 5 (least disadvantaged).

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

Fitzroy SD includes 16 SLAs, two of which were in Quintile 1. The SLAs of Woorabinda (S) and Mount Morgan (S) had the lowest IRSD scores of 564 and 857 respectively. They ranked 18 and 37 in the State.

- The remaining 14 SLAs in the Fitzroy SD had IRSD scores ranging from Quintiles 2 to 5. Thirteen (13) SLAs had low scoring CDs in Quintile 1 as follows:
  - Quintile 2 SLAs of Calliope (S) - Pt B, Rockhampton (C), Jericho (S), Fitzroy - Pt A
  - Quintile 3 SLAs of Livingstone (S) - Pt B, Fitzroy (S) - Pt B, Banana (S), Gladstone (C), Duaringa (S)
  - Quintile 4 SLAs of Emerald (S), Fitzroy - Pts A.

In 2006, there were 13 LGAs in the Fitzroy SD, of which only the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council recorded a Quintile 1 IRSD score of 564. However, the following five LGAs contained CDs located in Quintile 1:

- Banana Shire Council
- Barcaldine Regional Council
- Central Highlands Regional Council
- Gladstone Regional Council
- Rockhampton Regional Council.

Table 39. SLAs in Quintile 1 - Fitzroy SD

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
1	Woorabinda (S)	Remote	Woorabinda Aboriginal (ShireC)	851	564	42	18	564	564
2	Mount Morgan (S)	Inner Regional	Rockhampton (RegC)	2984	807	85	37	753	874

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The Fitzroy SD had a total of 115 CDs in the lowest Quintile (1). Of the most disadvantaged, 50 were concentrated in the following suburbs with IRSD scores ranging from 564 to 879:

Table 40. Suburbs Including Lowest 50 CDs - Fitzroy SD

Central Highlands (RegC)	Gladstone (RegC)	Rockhampton (RegC)	Rockhampton (RegC)
Willows	Gladstone City	Mount Morgan	Berserker
The Gemfields	Boyne Valley	Rockhampton City	Wandal
Duaringa	Toolooa	Yeppoon	Marmor
	Clinton	Depot Hill	Berserker
Woorabinda Aboriginal (ShireC)		Walterhall	Wandal
	Banana (ShireC)	Allenstown	Kawana
Woorabinda	Banana (ShireC)	Struck Oil	Horse Creek
	Cracow	Port Curtis	Park Avenue
	Biloela		
	Wowan		

The CD located at the Aboriginal community of Woorabinda was ranked the lowest in the Fitzroy SD, with an IRSD score of 564. The area was ranked 20th most relatively disadvantaged in all of Queensland and 213 in Australia.

CDs in the following suburbs ranked second to fifth in the Fitzroy SD with low IRSD Scores ranging from 717 to 754:

- Willows
- The Gemfields
- Mount Morgan
- Rockhampton City.

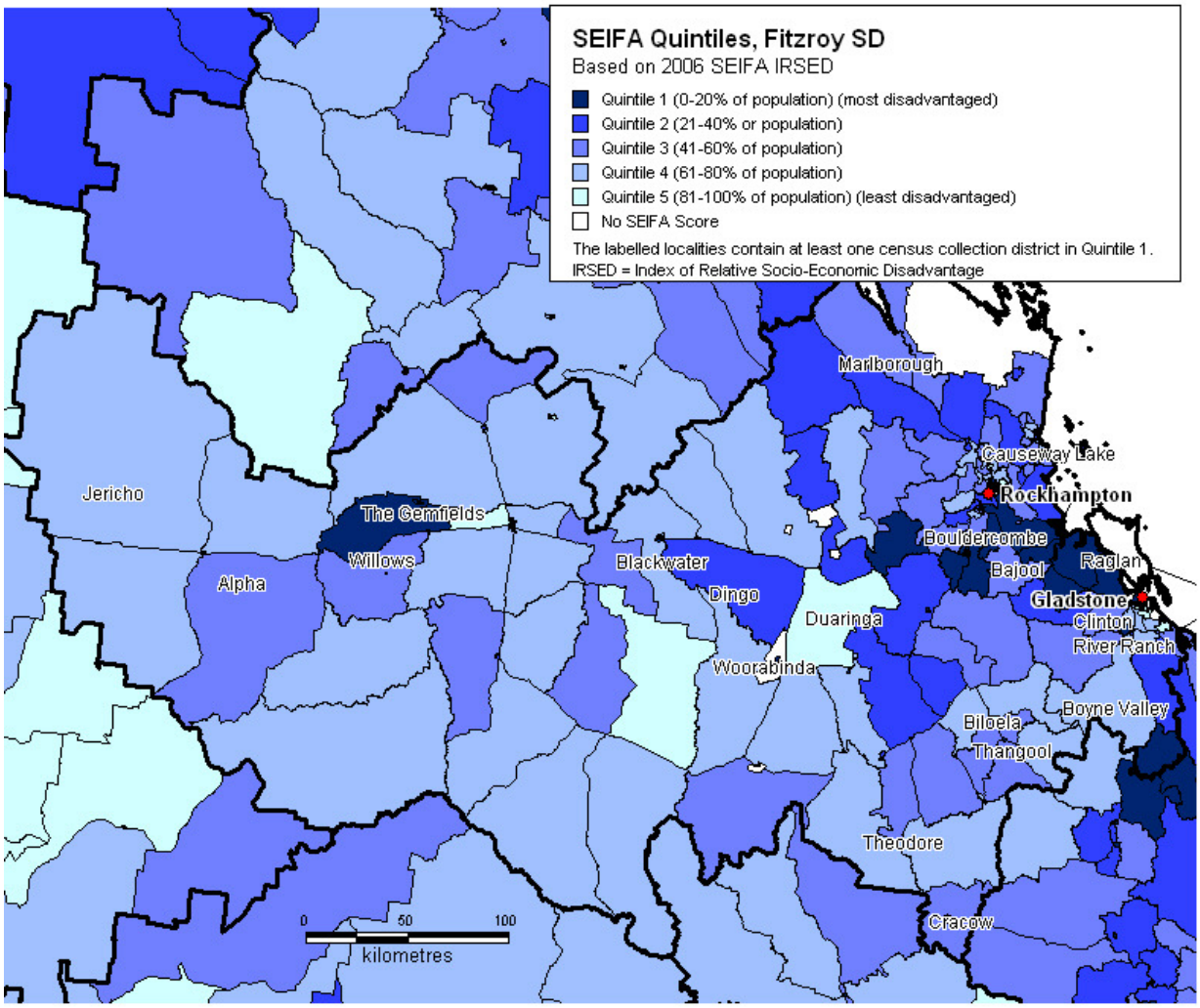
The suburb of Mt Morgan included four of the most disadvantaged CDs with the lowest rankings in the area.

A high level of relative disadvantage was concentrated in the Rockhampton Regional Council Suburbs of:

- Berserker (11 CDs)
- Rockhampton City (11 CDs)
- Mount Morgan (6 CDs)
- Koongal (6 CDs)
- Park Avenue (6 CDs)
- Yeppoon (5 CDs).

The Gemfields in the Emerald Shire of Central Highlands Regional Council also recorded five CDs in Quintile 1.

Figure 30. SEIFA Quintiles, Fitzroy SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.10 Northern Statistical Division

Northern Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	196,669	39,028
	Census Collection Districts	395	77
	Statistical Local Areas	36	6
	Area (sq km)	80,039	
	Density	2.46 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Outer R, Remote, V Remote	

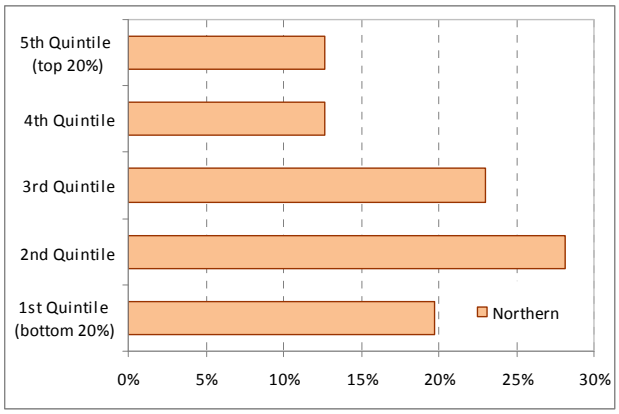
Overview

In 2006, the Northern SD had a population of 196,669 equalling approximately 5% of Queensland's total population. The region's overall weighted average SEIFA IRSD score was 993.

Figure 31 (a) and **(b)** and **Table 41** illustrate the Northern SD distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles.

Figure 31. Proportion of CDs in Northern SD by IRSD Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs in Northern SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of CD Population in Northern SD by IRSD Quintiles

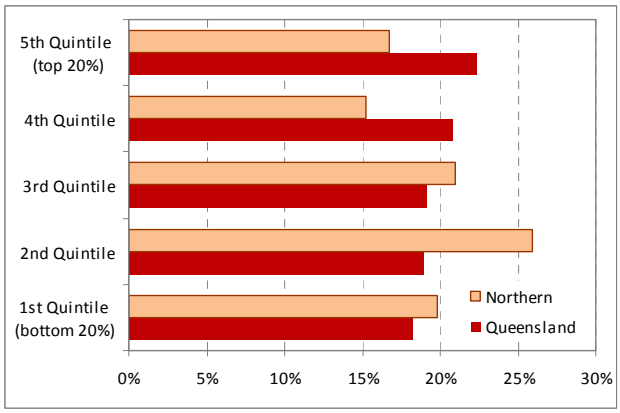


Table 41. Total Number of CDs and Population in the Northern SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	395	379	78	111	91	50	50	16
			20%	28%	23%	13%	13%	4%
Population in CDs	196,669	194,245	39,028	51,048	41,331	29,954	32,884	2,424
			20%	26%	21%	15%	17%	1%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		993	881	966	1,011	1,048	1,103	-

About 20% of the population in the Northern SD was located in the most disadvantaged CDs in Quintile 1 equalling 39,028 people. A further 51,048 people lived in Quintile 2 areas.

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

The Northern SD includes 36 SLAs of which six SLAs had low IRSD scores in Quintile 1 as follows:

- The Aboriginal Shire Council SLA of Palm Island (S) (consisted of one whole CD) had the lowest IRSD score of 480 in Queensland. It was ranked as the number one most relatively disadvantaged SLA.

- Other Northern SLAs that are considered the most disadvantaged in the area were:
  - Garbutt
  - Vincent
  - Stuart-Roseneath
  - Charters Towers (C)
  - Heatley.

- A total of 17 other SLAs also had low scoring CDs in Quintile 1:

  - Quintile 2 SLAs of:
    - Wulguru
    - Kelso
    - Burdekin (S)
    - Hinchinbrook (S)
    - Gulliver
    - South Townsville
    - Dalrymple (S)
    - Rosslea.
  - Quintile 3 SLAs of:
    - Thuringowa (C) - Pt A Bal
    - Thuringowa (C) - Pt B
    - Aitkenvale
    - Hermit Park
    - Magnetic Island
    - Townsville (C) - Pt B.
  - Quintile 4 SLAs of:
    - Kirwan
    - Currajong
    - Mt Louisa-Mt St John-Bohle
  - The Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council also ranked as the number one most relatively disadvantaged LGA in Queensland.

The following LGAs also contained CDs located in Quintile 1:

- Burdekin Shire Council
- Charters Towers Regional Council
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Townsville City Council.

Table 42. Quintile 1 SLAs in Northern SD

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
1	Palm Island (S)	Remote	Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council	1982	480	10	1	480	480
2	Garbutt	Outer Regional	Townsville City Council	2389	821	90	39	625	1004
3	Vincent	Outer Regional	Townsville City Council	2592	911	169	60	758	1020
4	Stuart-Roseneath	Outer Regional	Townsville City Council	1236	929	222	76	920	938
5	Charters Towers (C)	Outer Regional	Charters Towers Regional Council	7976	933	234	81	877	1020
6	Heatley	Outer Regional	Townsville City Council	4266	935	243	83	771	1012

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The following is an outline of the most relatively disadvantaged CDs in the Northern SD. The Northern SD had a total of 78 CDs with IRSD scores in the bottom 20% ranging from 480 to 932. The most disadvantaged CDs were concentrated in the following suburbs:

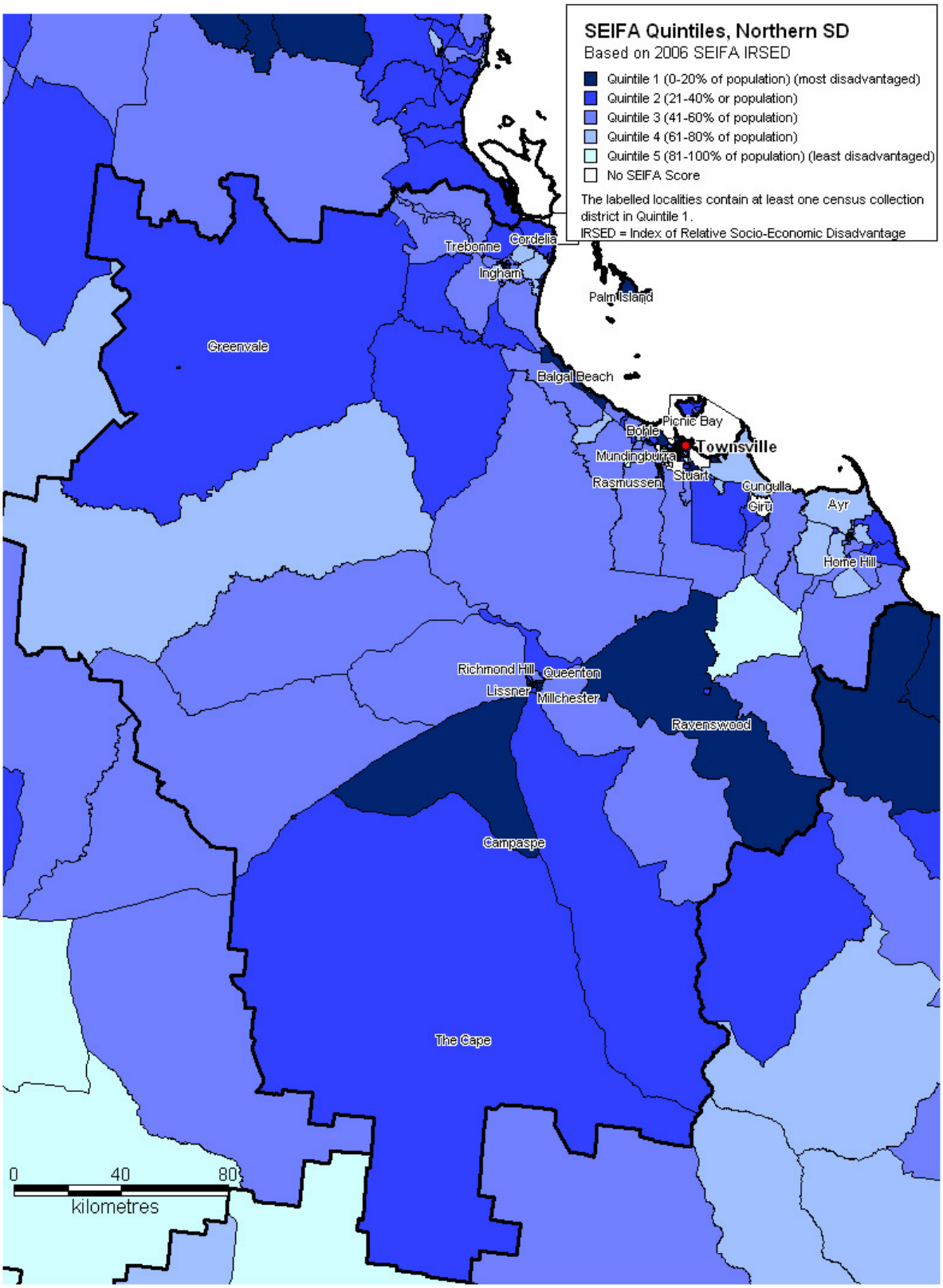
Table 43. Suburbs Including Lowest CDs - Northern SD

Burdekin (ShireC)	**Charters Towers (RegC)**	**Palm Island Aboriginal (ShireC)**	**Townsville (C)**	**Townsville (C)**
Ayr	Greenvale		Currajong	Rasmussen
Home Hill	Lissner	Palm Island	Deeragun	Rollingstone
Hinchinbrook (ShireC)	Millchester	**Townsville (C)**	Garbutt	Rosslea
	Queenton	Aitkenvale	Heatley	South Townsville
Cordelia	Richmond Hill	Bohle	Hermit Park	Vincent
Halifax	The Cape	Cape Cleveland	Kelso	
Ingham		Condon	Kirwan	

CDs in the following suburbs ranked second to fifth in the Northern SD with low IRSD scores ranging from 625 to 771:

- Garbutt
- The Cape
- Vincent
- Heatley.

Figure 32. SEIFA Quintiles, Northern SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.11 Mackay Statistical Division

Mackay Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	150,174	21,697
	Census Collection Districts	312	54
	Statistical Local Areas	9	1
	Area (sq km)	90,347	
	Density	1.66 person per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Inner R, Outer R, Remote	

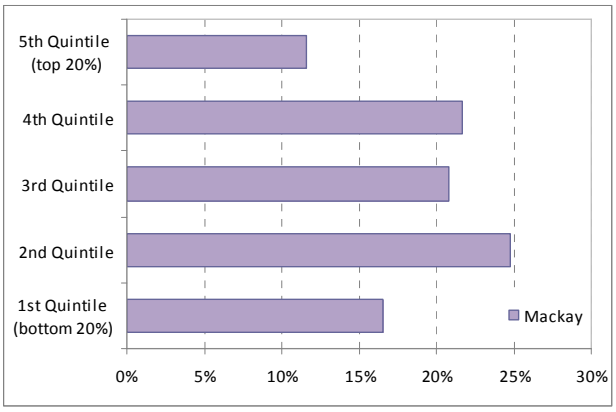
Overview

In 2006, Mackay SD had 3.4% the Queensland population (150,174 people), and the fourth highest overall weighted average SEIFA IRSD score of 1,006. About 14% of the population was in the lowest Quintile CDs (equalling 21,697 people).

Figure 33 (a) and **(b)** and **Table 44** illustrate the Mackay SD distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles.

Figure 33. Proportion of CDs in Mackay SD by IRSD Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs in Mackay SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of CD Population in Mackay SD by IRSD Quintiles

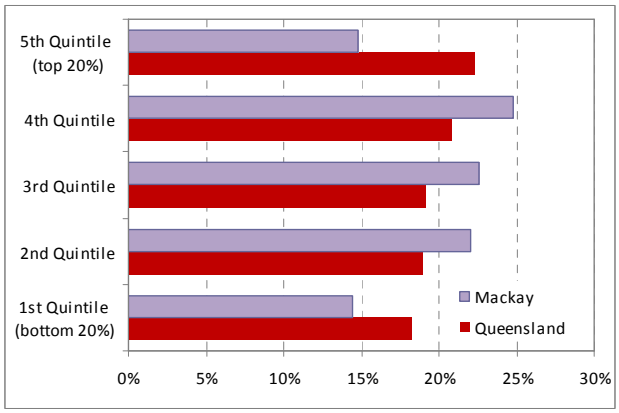


Table 44. Total Number of CDs and Population in the Mackay SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	327	313	54	81	68	71	38	14
			17%	25%	21%	22%	12%	4%
Population in CDs	150,174	148,217	21,697	33,093	33,947	37,221	22,259	1,957
			14%	22%	23%	25%	15%	1%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		1,006	897	965	1,013	1,052	1,090	-

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

At the 2006 Census, Mackay had nine SLAs with Bowen (S) as the only SLA in Quintile 1 with an IRSD score of 928.

Six SLAs also had low scoring CDs in Quintile 1 as follows:

- Quintile 2 SLAs of Mirani (S); Sarina (S)
- Quintile 3 SLA of Mackay (C) - Pt A, Mackay (C) - Pt B, Whitsunday (S)
- Quintile 4 SLAs of Broadsound (S).

In 2006, there were eight LGAs in the Mackay SD, none of which recorded an IRSD score in Quintile 1. The following LGAs however contained CDs located in Quintile 1:

- Mackay Regional Council
- Isaac Regional Council
- Whitsunday Regional Council.

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The following is an outline of the most relatively disadvantaged CDs in the Mackay SD. The Mackay SD had a total of 54 CDs with IRSD scores in the bottom 20% ranging from 829 to 934, which were concentrated in the following suburbs:

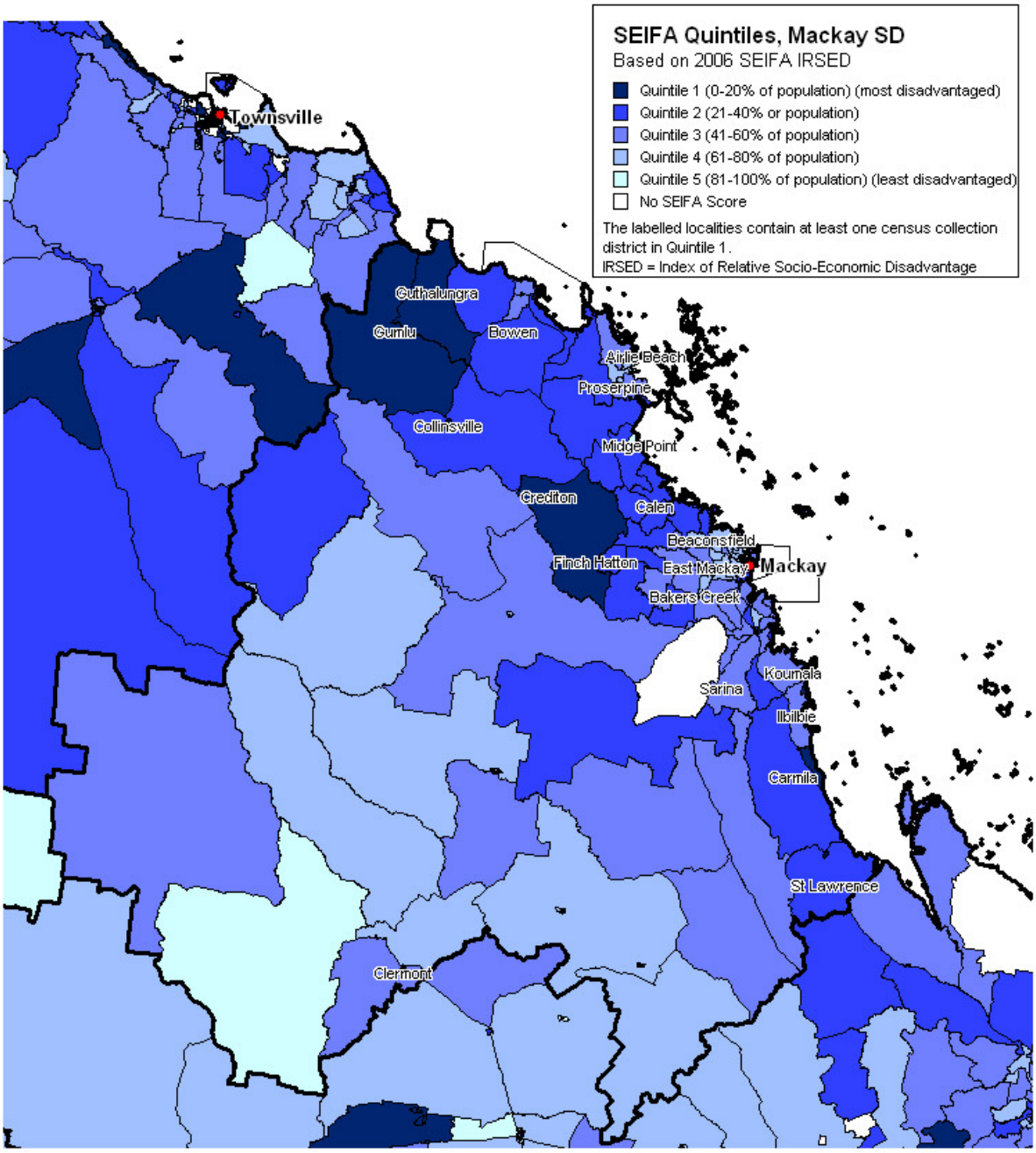
Table 45. Suburbs Including the Lowest CDs

Isaac (RegC)	**Mackay (RegC)**	**Mackay (RegC)**	**Whitsunday (RegC)**
Carmila	Crediton	Paget	Airlie Beach
Clairview	East Mackay	Sarina	Bowen
Ilbilbie	Eungella	Slade Point	Collinsville
St Lawrence	Finch Hatton	South Mackay	Gumlu
	Koumala	West Mackay	Guthalungra
Mackay (RegC)	Mackay		Proserpine
Bakers Creek	Midge Point		
Calen	North Mackay		

Airlie Beach in the Whitsunday Regional Council was ranked the lowest in the Mackay SD, with an IRSD score of 829. The area also had the lowest number of usual resident population with 77 people. CDs in the following suburbs ranked second to fifth in the Mackay SD with low IRSD scores ranging from 836 to 854:

- Bowen
- Mackay
- Koumala
- Bowen.

Figure 34. SEIFA Quintiles, Mackay DS



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.12 Sunshine Coast Statistical Division

Sunshine Coast Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	276,266	26,631
	Census Collection Districts	564	57
	Statistical Local Areas	16	0
	Area (sq km)		3,125
	Density		88.4 persons per sq km
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs		Major Cities, Inner R

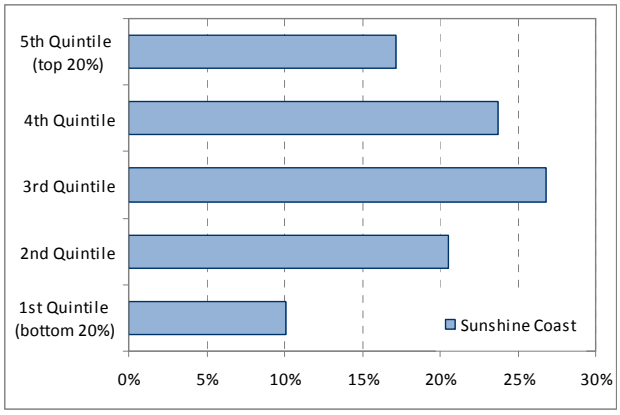
Overview

Sunshine Coast SD includes 7.1% of Queensland's usual resident population equalling 276,266 people. It is the third most populated area in Queensland and has the third highest weighted average SEIFA IRSD score at 1,013. 10% of residents in the Sunshine Coast Regional Council LGA were in Quintile 1.

Figure 35 (a) and (**b**) show distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles.

Figure 35. Proportion of CDs in Sunshine Coast SD by IRSD Quintiles

(a) Proportion of CDs in Sunshine Coast SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of CD Population in Sunshine Coast SD by IRSD Quintiles

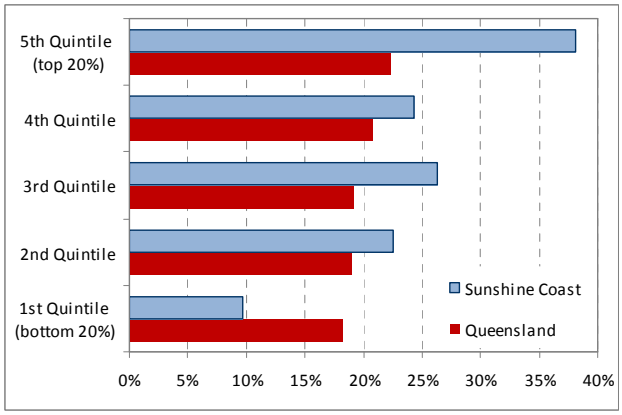


Table 46. Total Number of CDs and Population in Sunshine Coast SD by IRSD Quintiles

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	564	554	57	116	151	134	97	10
			10%	21%	27%	24%	17%	2%
Population in CDs	276,266	275,615	26,631	62,350	72,543	67,307	105,240	651
			9.6%	23%	26%	24%	38%	0%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		1,013	888	965	1,012	1,051	1,096	-

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

The Sunshine Coast SD contained 16 SLAs. None of these were identified as being in Quintile 1. However, disadvantaged locations are evident at a smaller area level. There were Quintile 1 CDs in almost all of the SLAs in the Sunshine Coast SD (excluding Maroochy (S) - Paynter-Petrie Creek) as follows:

- Quintile 2 - Maroochy (S) - Maroochydore and Nambour; Noosa (S) - Tewantin
- Quintile 3 - Caloundra (C) - Caloundra N., Caloundra S., Hinterland, Kawana, and Rail Corridor; Maroochy (S) - Coastal North, and Mooloolaba; and Noosa (S) Bal
- Quintile 4 - Maroochy (S) - Buderim; Maroochy (S) Bal; Noosa (S) - Noosa-Noosaville and Sunshine-Peregian.

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

9.6% of Sunshine Coast residents lived in the most disadvantaged CDs. The Sunshine Coast SD had 57 Quintile 1 CDs in Queensland, with a total usual resident population of 26,631 people.

The following suburbs included Quintile 1 CDs in the Sunshine Coast SD:

Table 47. Sunshine Coast Suburbs Including Quintile 1 CDs

Caloundra City	Caloundra City	Maroochy Shire	Noosa Shire
Battery Hill	Little Mountain	Kenilworth	Cooran
Beerwah	Maleny	Marcoola	Cooroy
Caloundra	Minyama	Maroochydore	Kin Kin
Currimundi	Moffat Beach	Mooloolaba	Noosaville
Dicky Beach	Warana	Mooloolaba	Sunshine Beach
Golden Beach		Mountain Creek	Tewantin
Harper Creek		Nambour	
Kings Beach		Sippy Downs	

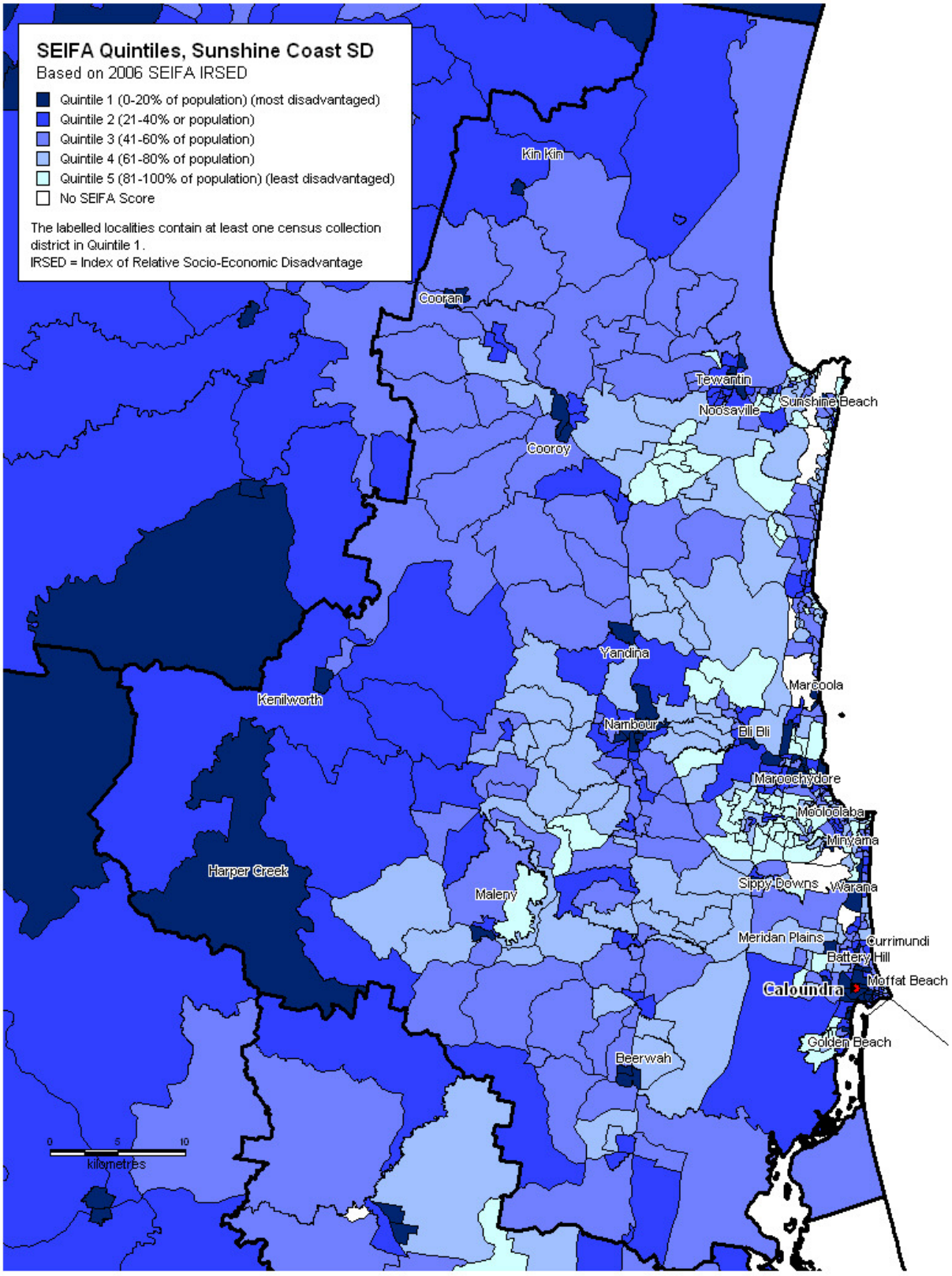
The CD located at Noosaville was ranked as the most disadvantaged CD in the Sunshine Coast SD. It had an overall Queensland ranking of 98 (out of 7,458 CDs), and Australian ranking of 834.

- The second most disadvantaged Sunshine Coast CD was located in the suburb of Caloundra with a Queensland rank of 126.

- CDs in the following suburbs ranked from third to fifth most disadvantaged:
  - Maroochy
  - Nambour
  - Warana.

- Suburbs with highest number of CDs in Quintile 1 included:
  - Maroochydore (10)
  - Nambour (8)
  - Caloundra (8)
  - Tewantin (4).

Figure 36. SEIFA Quintiles, Sunshine Coast SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.13 Gold Coast Statistical Division

Gold Coast Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	482,319	49,940
	Census Collection Districts	898	101
	Statistical Local Areas	46	4
	Area (sq km)	1,870	
	Density	257.9 persons per sq km	
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs	Major Cities	

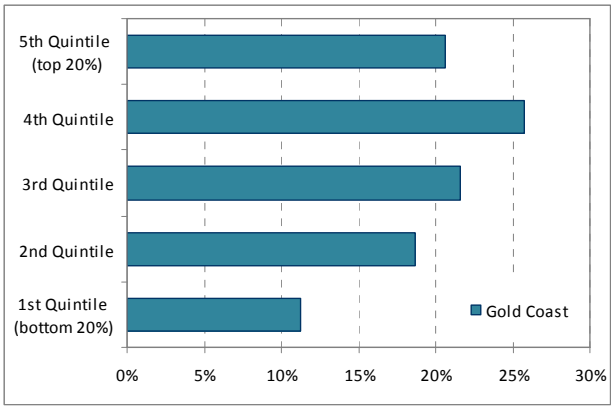
Overview

The Gold Coast SD has 12.4% of Queensland's population and the second highest weighted average SEIFA IRSD score at 1,019. Just over 10% of the Gold Coast population lived in the most disadvantaged CDs equalling 49,940 people.

Figure 37 (a) and **(b)** and **Table 48** show the distribution of CDs and CD population by quintiles.

Figure 37. Proportion of CDs in SD by IRSD Quintiles - Gold Coast SD

(a) Proportion of CDs in SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of CD Population in SD by IRSD Quintiles

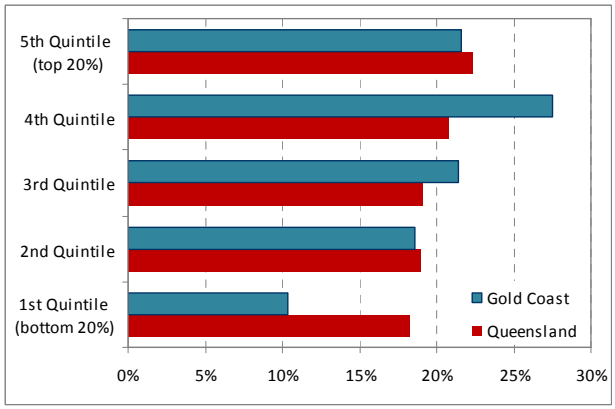


Table 48. Total Number of CDs and Population by IRSD Quintiles - Gold Coast SD

	Total	Total with IRSD Score	Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)					Total CDs with no IRSD Score
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	898	879	101	168	194	231	185	19
			11%	19%	22%	26%	21%	2%
Population in CDs	482,319	479,974	49,940	89,800	103,213	132,891	104,130	2,345
			10%	19%	22%	28%	22%	0%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		1,019	882	966	1,010	1,052	1,097	-

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

The Gold Coast SD includes 45 SLAs. Three Gold Coast SLAs were located in Quintile 1 as follows:

- Eagleby (870)

- Beenleigh (911)
- Coolangatta (940).

Table 49. SLAs in Quintile 1 - Gold Coast SD

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	SLA by Remoteness	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
1	Eagleby	Major Cities	Logan City Council	8833	870	112	44	754	957
2	Beenleigh	Major Cities	Logan City Council	7816	911	168	59	733	1051
3	Coolangatta	Major Cities	Gold Coast City Council	4868	940	268	95	834	1069

Even though at an LGA level, the Gold Coast City Council had an overall score of 1024, it is important to note that pockets of disadvantage are evident at a smaller area level. The Logan City Council area for example had an IRSD Score of 971, with the highest proportion of residents located in Quintile 1 (27.4%).

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The following is an outline of suburbs containing the most disadvantaged CDs in the Gold Coast SD.

Table 50. Suburbs Including Lowest CDs - Gold Coast SD

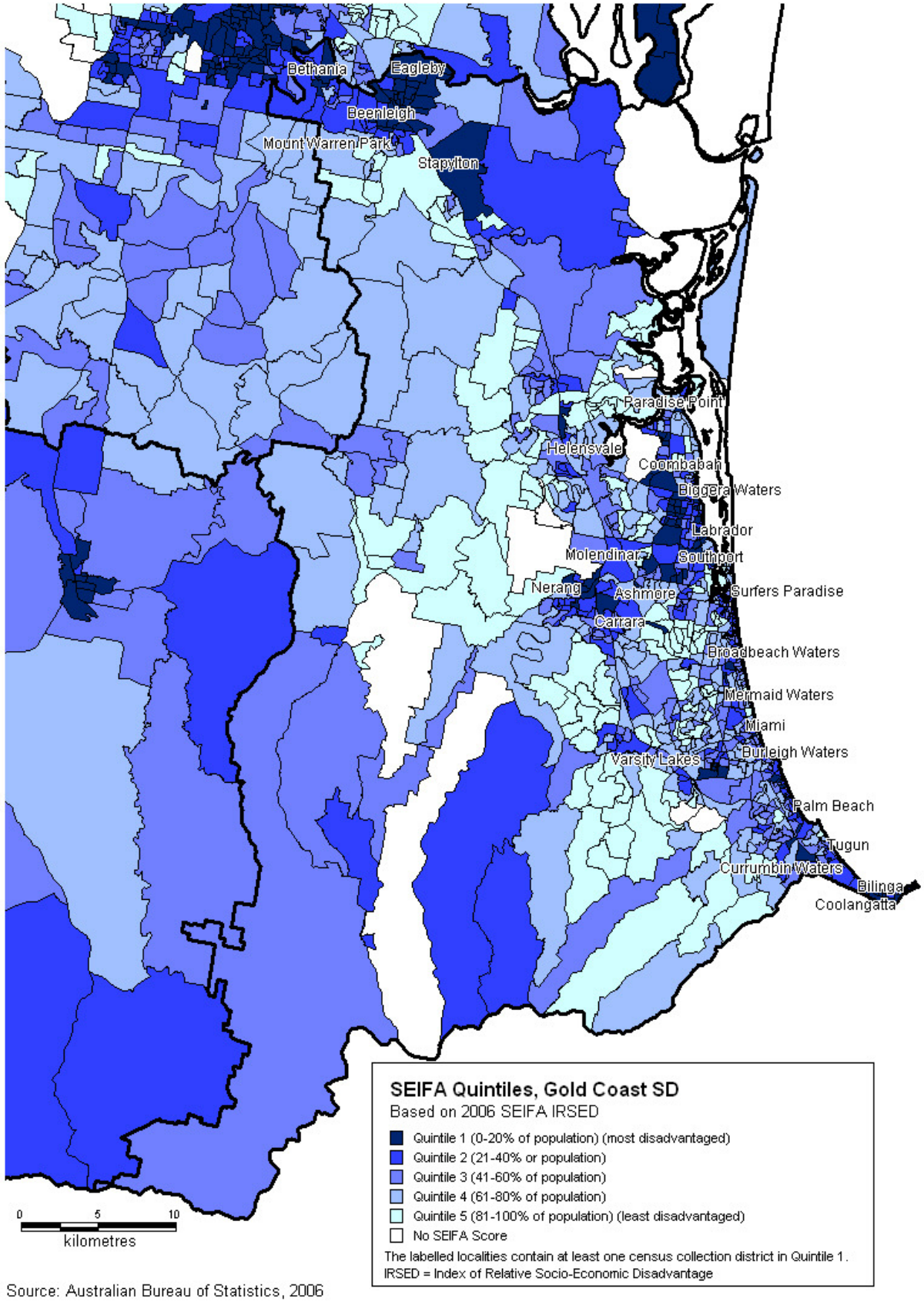
Gold Coast City	Gold Coast City	Gold Coast City	Logan City[26]
Ashmore	Currumbin Waters	Palm Beach	Beenleigh
Biggera Waters	Labrador	Paradise Point	Eagleby
Carrara	Miami	Southport	Mount Warren Park
Coolangatta	Molendinar	Surfers Paradise	
Coombabah	Nerang	Varsity Lakes	

The Gold Coast SD contained 101 CDs in Quintile 1 with a population of 49,940 people. Of these CDs, 10 with a total usual resident population of 4,763 people were in the bottom decile (bottom 10% of all Gold Coast SD CDs). These CDs were located in the Gold Coast City Council suburb of Varsity Lakes and the Logan City Council suburbs of Eagleby and Beenleigh.

A CD located at the Logan City suburb of Beenleigh was ranked number one as the most disadvantaged CD in the SD. It had an overall Queensland ranking of 64 (out of 7,458 CDs) and Australian ranking of 644 (out of 37,457).

[26] Please note that suburbs now included in Logan City as part of Brisbane SD (LGA Reform) were included in Brisbane and Gold Coast SDs in 2006.

Figure 38. SEIFA Quintiles, Gold Coast SD



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.14 Brisbane Statistical Division

Brisbane Statistical Division		Total	Quintile 1
	Usual Resident Population	1,763,131	236,457
	Census Collection Districts	3,048	438
	Statistical Local Areas	216	17
	Area (sq km)		1,740,374
	Density		298.6 persons per sq km
	Remoteness Area 2006 of Quintile 1 CDs		Major Cities

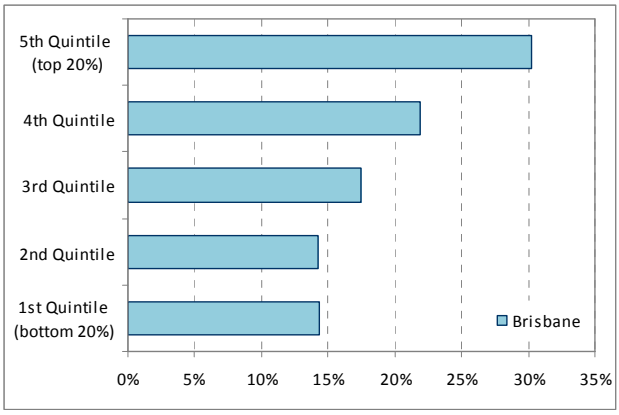
Overview

Brisbane SD has the highest percentage of usual resident population in Queensland at 45% and is the most densely populated geographic area within Queensland. Brisbane SD had the highest weighted average SEIFA IRSD score at 1,026, making it the least disadvantaged SD in Queensland overall although 13% of all residents lived in CDs in the lowest quintile (most disadvantaged).

Figure 39 (a) and **(b)**, and **Table 51** illustrate the proportion of CDs and population in Brisbane that fall into each quintile (14% of CDs are in the Quintile 1 with 13% of the whole Brisbane population are in Quintile 1).

Figure 39. Proportion of CDs in Brisbane SD by IRSD Quintiles - Brisbane SD

(a) Proportion of CDs in Brisbane SD by IRSD Quintiles



(b) Proportion of CD Population in Brisbane SD by IRSD Quintiles

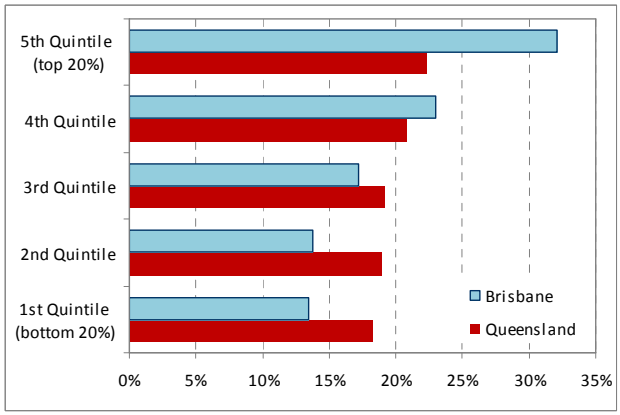


Table 51. Total Number of CDs and Population by IRSD Quintiles - Brisbane SD

	Total	**Total with IRSD Score**	**Proportion by IRSD Quintiles (%)**					**Total CDs with no IRSD Score**
			Relatively most disadvantaged ←				→ Relatively least disadvantaged	
			1 bottom 20%	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5 top 20%*	
CDs	3,048	2,992	438	434	531	666	923	56
			14%	14%	17%	22%	30%	2%
Population in CDs	1,763,131	1,752,874	236,457	242,466	303,052	404,762	566,137	10,257
			13%	14%	17%	23%	32%	1%
Average IRSD Score for CDs		1,026	864	965	1,012	1,051	1,107	-

While Brisbane has a lower proportion of its residents in Quintile 1, 13% of the entire population of Brisbane represents a significant actual number of people (236,457).

Location of the Most Relatively Disadvantaged Groups by SLA and LGA

The Brisbane SD contained 215 SLAs, 17 of which were in Quintile 1 (19% of all Quintile 1 SLAs in Queensland).

Table 52. Brisbane SLAs in Quintile 1

	2006 Statistical Local Area Name (SLA)	LGA Reform	Usual Resident Population	Score	Rank in Australia	QLD Rank	Minimum CD score	Maximum CD Score
1	Inala	Brisbane City Council	13169	753	74	34	658	820
2	Wacol	Brisbane City Council	4452	763	75	35	685	992
3	Woodridge	Logan City Council	18453	823	92	40	675	973
4	Kingston	Logan City Council[27]	12834	852	103	42	757	936
5	Acacia Ridge	Brisbane City Council	6859	884	122	47	698	988
6	Redland (S) Bal	Redland City Council	6910	897	144	55	812	1034
7	Richlands	Brisbane City Council	829	898	145	56	876	942
8	Caboolture (S) - Central	Moreton Bay Regional Council	18269	913	175	62	724	1047
9	Margate-Woody Point	Moreton Bay Regional Council	10355	915	180	64	835	1006
10	Durack	Brisbane City Council	6119	917	184	65	895	951
11	Marsden	Logan City Council	19302	917	185	66	804	978
12	Loganlea	Logan City Council	8335	918	186	67	774	1045
13	Waterford West	Logan City Council	5493	920	193	68	818	1005
14	Darra-Sumner	Brisbane City Council	4051	921	196	69	868	1080
15	Zillmere	Brisbane City Council	7467	923	200	70	640	1015
16	Deception Bay	Moreton Bay Regional Council	20365	926	211	72	753	1059
17	Pinkenba-Eagle Farm	Brisbane City Council	341	935	244	84	927	936

There are five Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the Brisbane SD. None these LGAs had a state-wide LGA ranking in the bottom 20% (Quintile 1), however all had pockets of relative disadvantage.

Location of the Most Disadvantaged Collection Districts

The Brisbane SD contained 438 Quintile 1 CDs.

Of the 438 CDs in the bottom Quintile:

- 131 were situated in the Brisbane City Council (22 of which were in the bottom decile of Brisbane SD CDs)
- 79 were in Ipswich City Council (8 in the bottom decile)
- 86 in Logan City Council (9 in the bottom decile)
- 120 in Moreton Bay Regional Council (4 in the bottom decile)
- 22 in Redland City Council (none in the bottom decile).

Of the 438 CDs, 44 with an aggregate usual resident population of 23,576 people were in the bottom decile. These CDs were located in the suburbs listed in Table 53.

[27] Please note that suburbs now included in Logan City as part of Brisbane SD (LGA Reform) were included in Brisbane and Gold Coast SDs in 2006.

Table 53. Suburbs Including CDs in Decile 1

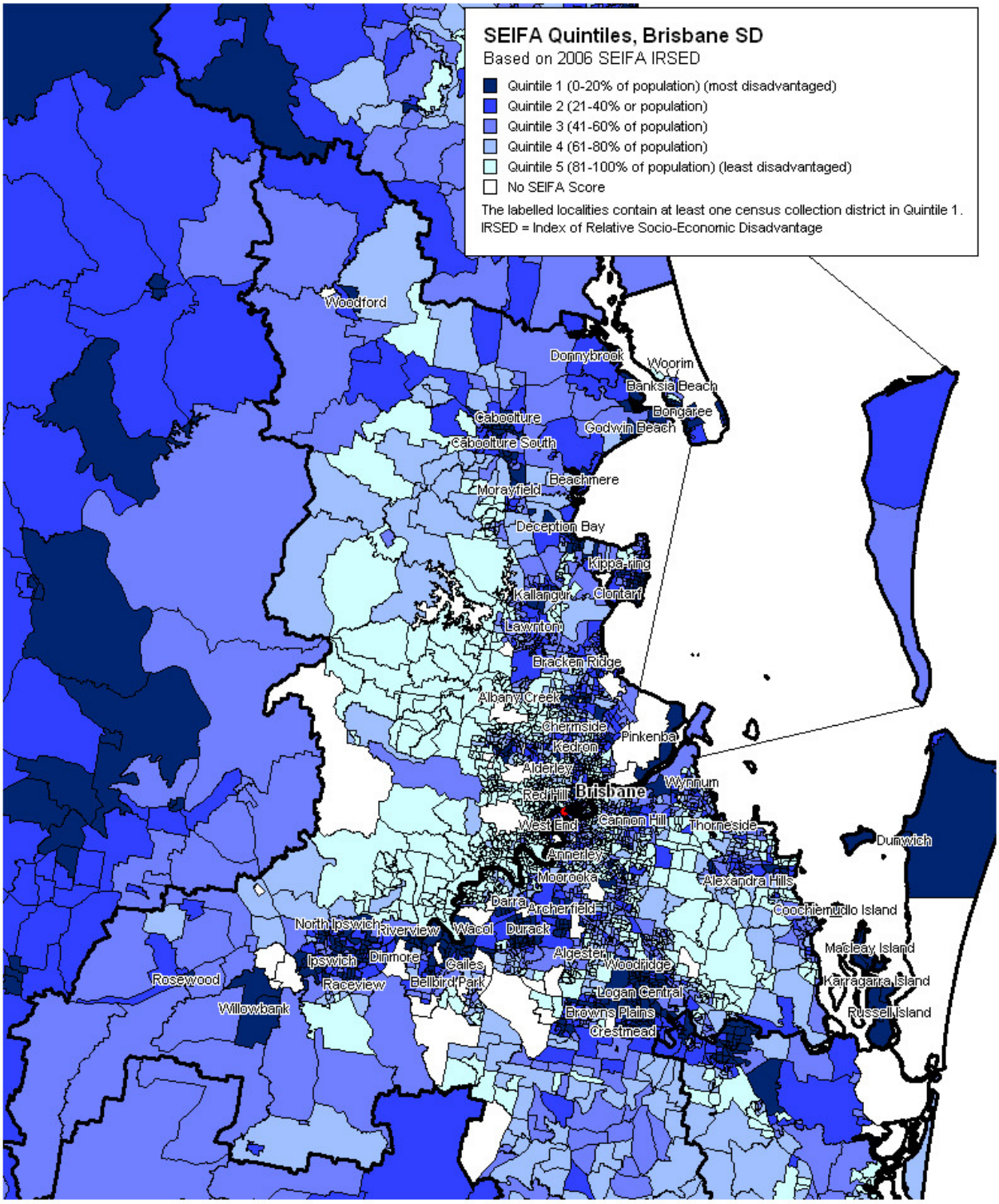
Brisbane City	Caboolture Shire	Ipswich City	Logan City
Acacia Ridge	Caboolture	Gailes	Kingston
Aspley	Deception Bay	Goodna	Logan Central
Carole Park		Ipswich	Woodridge
Inala		Leichhardt	
Zillmere		Riverview	

The CD with the greatest level of disadvantage in the Brisbane SD was located within the Brisbane City Suburb of Zillmere with an IRSD Score of 640 (a ranking of 36 in Queensland and 328 in Australia).

Two CDs in the Suburb of Inala ranked second and third as the most disadvantaged in Brisbane (with an overall Queensland ranking of 39 and 41 respectively). The fourth most disadvantaged CD was within the Logan City suburb of Logan Central in the SLA of Woodridge (with a Queensland ranking of 42).

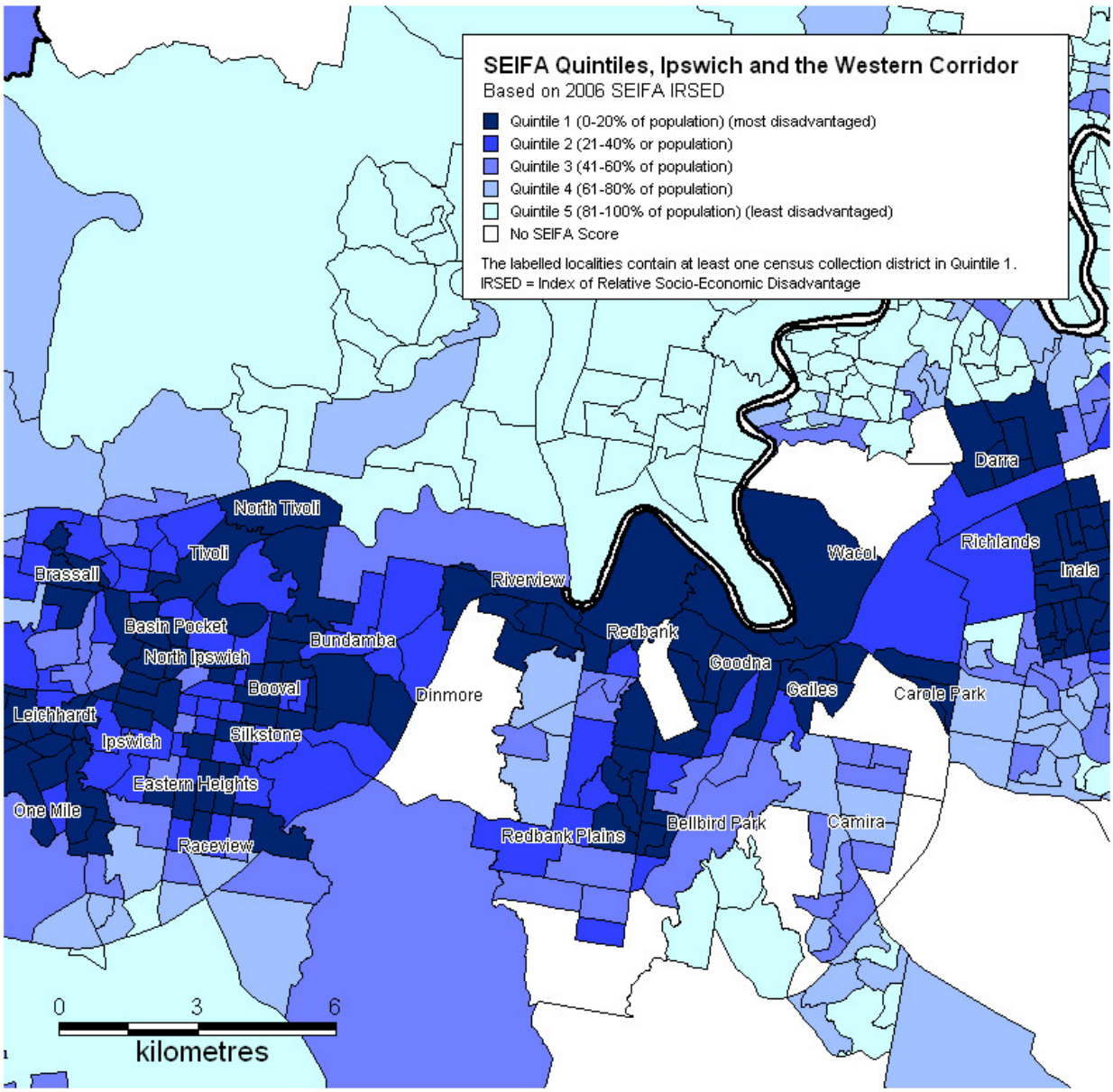
The fifth most disadvantaged CD in Brisbane SD was within the Ipswich City suburb of Goodna (Ipswich (C) - East SLA) (ranking at 43rd in Queensland overall).

Figure 40. SEIFA Quintiles, Brisbane SD



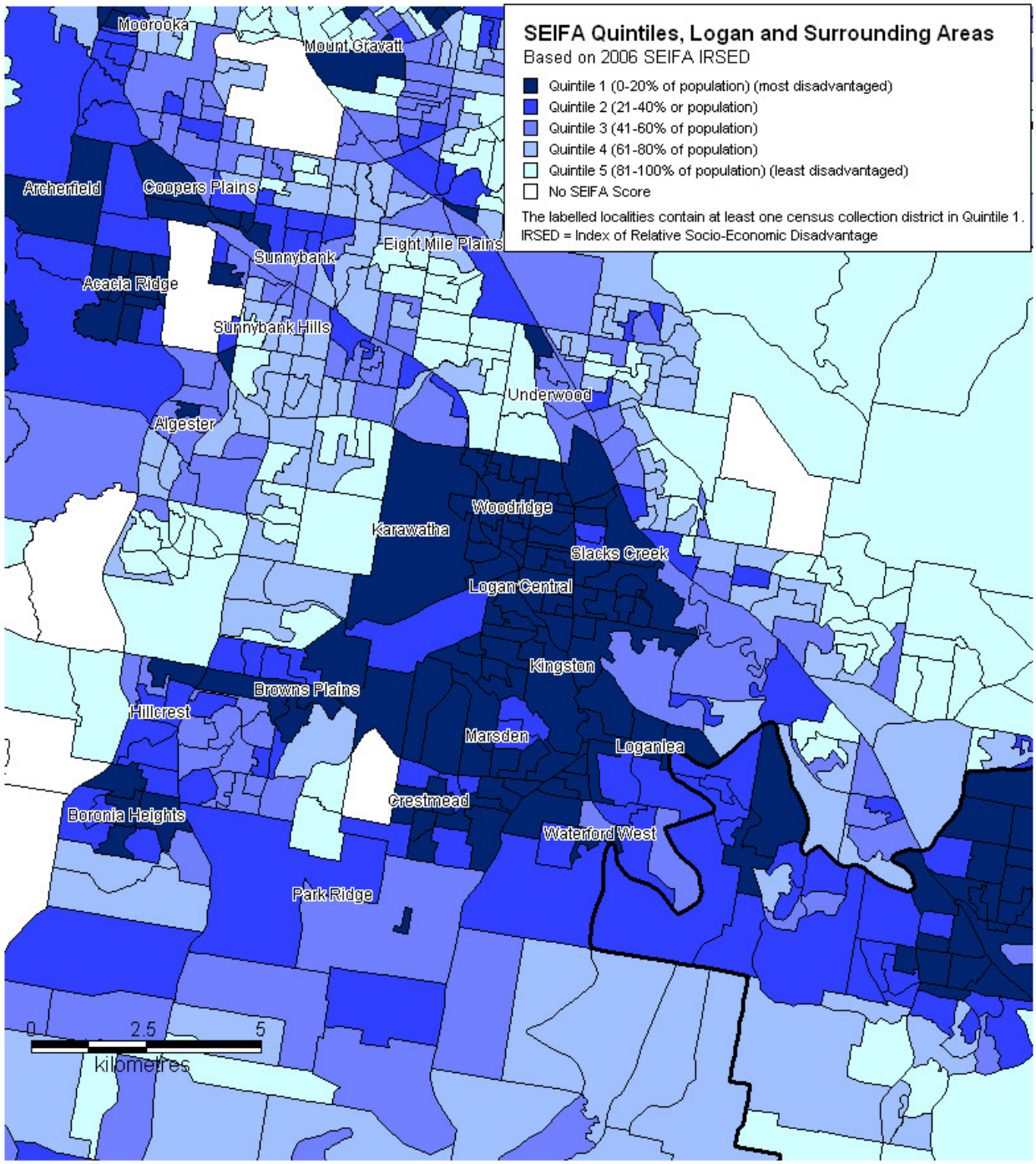
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

Figure 41. SEIFA Quintiles, Ipswich and the Western Corridor



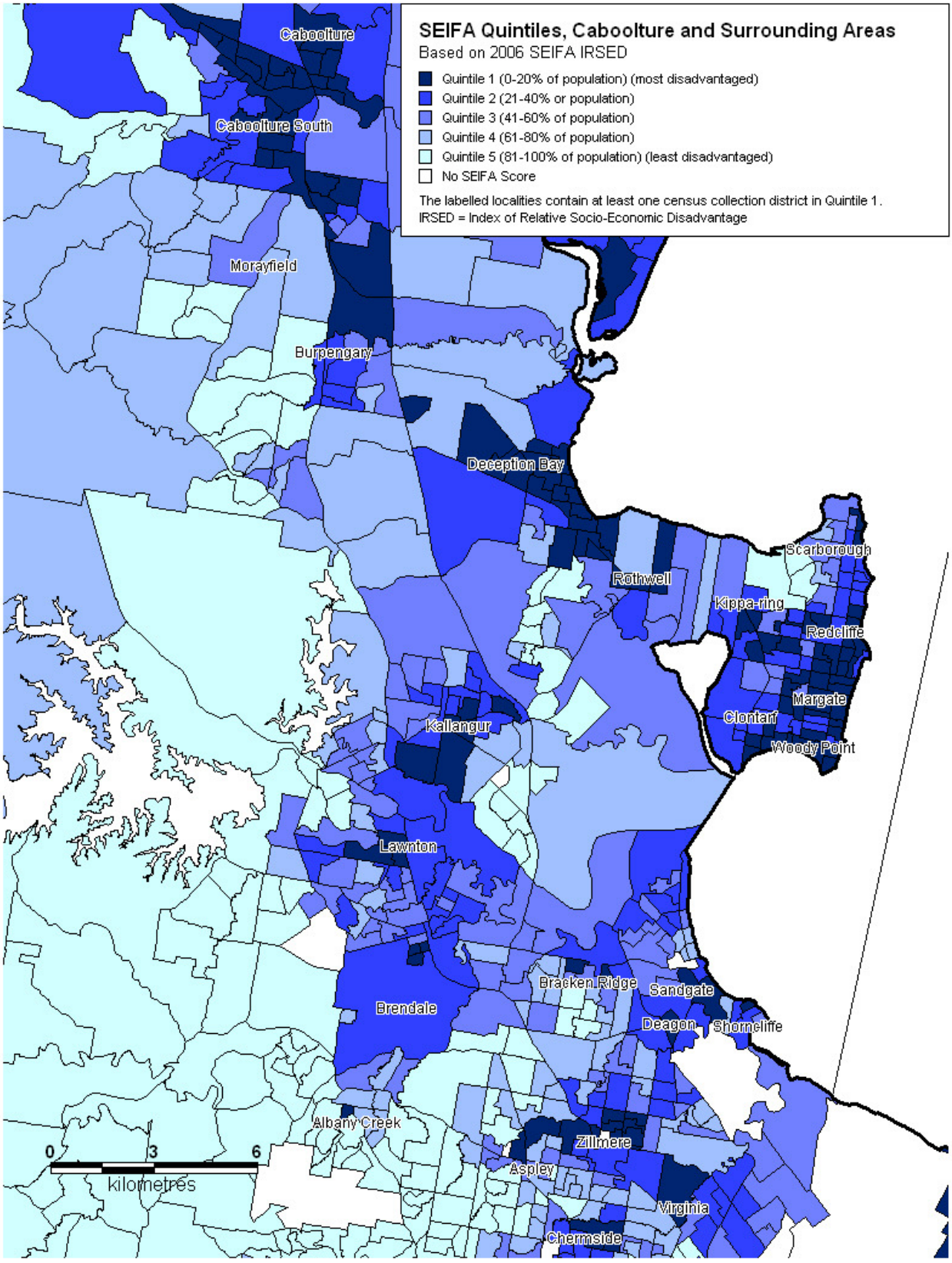
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

Figure 42. SEIFA Quintiles, Logan and Surrounding Areas



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

Figure 43. SEIFA Quintiles, Caboolture and Surrounding Areas



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006

4.15 Discussion

This chapter details SEIFA IRSD rankings for each SD including specific details about SLAs, LGAs and CDs that are the most disadvantaged areas within that SD. It is significant that all SDs have populations of disadvantaged people distributed across all Quintile areas. This highlights the importance of universal policy and program responses to disadvantage.

Nonetheless, some areas emerge as having overall high proportions and numbers of residents in the most disadvantaged Quintile, requiring a clear focus on specific strategies aimed at reducing locational disadvantage.

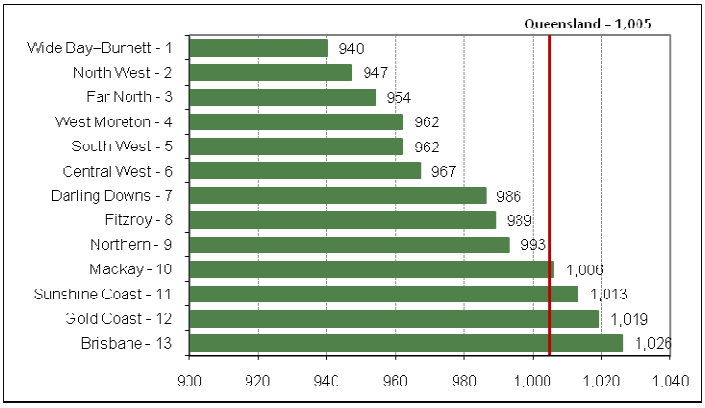
Overall, the following five SDs were ranked as having the highest level of relative disadvantage:

Table 54. 5 Most Disadvantaged SDs in Queensland

1	Wide Bay-Burnett
2	North West
3	Far North
4	West Moreton
5	South West

Figure 44 ranks all SDs compared to Queensland overall.

Figure 44. SEIFA IRSD Scores for Queensland Statistical Divisions



Wide Bay-Burnett has the highest proportion of CDs in the bottom quintile at 47%, followed by West Moreton at 31%. Over 70% of all CDs in both SDs were in Quintiles 1 and 2. Wide Bay-Burnett had the highest proportion of usual residents in the bottom Quintile at 47%.

Whilst West Moreton and Wide Bay-Burnett have very high proportions of relatively disadvantaged CDs, it is also clear that they have very low proportions of the least disadvantaged CDs. The Far North and Fitzroy SDs also have a significantly higher proportion of CDs in the most disadvantaged Quintiles (1 and 2).

In Central West there is a significant gap between the most and least disadvantaged CDs where there are equally high proportions at 29% of CDs in the bottom and top quintiles. Central West had the second highest proportion of usual residents in the first Quintile at 42% in Queensland.

A total of 51% of all CDs in the Darling Downs SD were in Quintiles 1 and 2, followed by Far North (50%) and Northern (48%) SDs. A total of 30% CDs in Brisbane are in Quintiles 1 and 2, whereas 31% of CDs are in Quintile 5.

This chapter includes the most disadvantaged SLAs in each SD. The following tables summarise the 30 most disadvantaged SLAs in all of Queensland and also the suburbs including the most disadvantaged CDs. These tables illustrate the extent that Queensland's most disadvantaged smaller areas are communities with a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Table 55. 30 Most Disadvantaged SLAs in Queensland

Rank	SLA	IRSD Score
1	Palm Island (S)	480
2	Yarrabah (S)	485
3	Umagico (S)	492
4	Cherbourg (S)	506
5	Injinoo (S)	507
6	Napranum (S)	511
7	Kowanyama (S)	513
8	Boigu (IC)	525
9	Mer (IC)	525
10	Wujal Wujal (S)	532
11	Aurukun (S)	538
12	Warraber (IC)	543
13	Dauan (IC)	545
14	Iama (IC)	547
15	Saibai (IC)	549

Rank	SLA	IRSD Score
16	Hope Vale (S)	554
17	Mornington (S)	561
18	Woorabinda (S)	564
19	Badu (IC)	567
20	Yorke (IC)	570
21	Lockhart River (S)	572
22	Erub (IC)	586
23	Hammond (IC)	600
24	Pormpuraaw (S)	601
25	Poruma (IC)	601
26	Ugar (IC)	619
27	Bamaga (IC)	620
28	New Mapoon (S)	622
29	Mabuiag (IC)	625
30	Kubin (IC)	627

Table 56. Suburb Areas Including the Most Disadvantaged CDs in Queensland

QLD Rank	CD by Suburb	CD by SLA	Score	URP
1	Mossman Gorge	Douglas (S)	439	145
2	Palm Island	Palm Island (S)	480	1982
3	Yarrabah	Yarrabah (S)	485	2372
4	Umagico	Umagico (S)	492	229
5	Dajarra	Cloncurry (S)	506	179
6	Cherbourg	Cherbourg (S)	506	1128
7	Injinoo	Injinoo (S)	507	416
8	Mission River	Napranum (S)	511	831
9	Kowanyama	Kowanyama (S)	513	1019
10	Murray Islands	Mer (IC)	525	483

QLD Rank	CD by Suburb	CD by SLA	Score	URP
11	Boigu Island	Boigu (IC)	525	284
12	Wujal Wujal	Wujal Wujal (S)	532	325
13	Aurukun	Aurukun (S)	538	1042
14	The Three Sisters	Warraber (IC)	543	246
15	Dauan Island	Dauan (IC)	545	152
16	Yam Island	Iama (IC)	547	312
17	Saibai Island	Saibai (IC)	549	337
18	Hope Vale	Hope Vale (S)	554	765
19	Wellesley Islands	Mornington (S)	559	990
20	Woorabinda	Woorabinda (S)	564	851

Palm Island (S) recorded the lowest SEIFA IRSD Score in Queensland of 480; followed by the SLAs of Yarrabah (S), Umagico (S), Cherbourg (S), and Injinoo (S), all of which had an Indigenous population of over 97%. The following SLAs contained the lowest scoring CDs in Queensland: Douglas (S); Palm Island (S); Yarrabah (S); Umagico (S); Cloncurry (S); Cherbourg (S); Injinoo (S); Napranum (S); Kowanyama (S); and Mer (IC).

The Brisbane SLAs of Inala and Wacol are the first SLAs outside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to record the lowest SEIFA IRSD scores. These areas both include an Indigenous population of 8.01% and 10.31%, respectively. Also in the Brisbane SD, SLAs with the largest proportion of Indigenous population for the SD were Redland (S) Bal, Acacia Ridge, Kingston, and Woodridge, all with estimated Indigenous residents of over 5% of the total population and were the lowest scoring SLAs after Inala and Wacol.

While these areas emerge as more disadvantaged overall, all Queensland SDs also have clusters of residents living in areas with higher relative disadvantage. Some SDs such as Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast have significant actual numbers of people living in CDs in Quintile 1.

This highlights three broad issues when considering the implications of spatial disadvantage for policies, programs and service delivery:

- The need for a focus on areas with high overall levels of disadvantage such as Wide Bay-Burnett where 47% of the population live in Quintile 1 (the most disadvantaged 20% of locations). Communities characterised by high overall numbers and proportions of people living in relatively disadvantaged areas confront significant and inter-related issues emerging from entrenched and widespread patterns of social exclusion.

- The need for policies and strategies that reduce the trends pushing people on lower incomes from less disadvantaged areas into areas that are more disadvantaged (Healy et al., 2009). Strategies that focus on mitigating the level of disadvantage experienced by a critical number of people in places such as Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast can help to reduce the push factors causing more people to locate in areas of relative disadvantage. These strategies are also important in responding to significant pockets of relative disadvantage impacting upon the level of opportunity and social inclusion of some particular groups in certain locations even if those locations at the highest level of aggregated data appear relatively advantaged.

- Sustained efforts through universal policies targeting people and particular issues that are available regardless of where a person lives.

Similarly, this report generally provides information on both the proportion and numbers of people impacted by particular indicators of disadvantage. Actual numbers help to identify the critical mass of people affected by an issue with associated implications for service delivery. The proportion of households or people experiencing a measure of disadvantage is significant because this can signal potential impacts on the capacity of a community to be resilient and to find community driven solutions to issues. Where the proportion of households experiencing particular types of disadvantage is high, the ability of civil society to support community services and social networks may be reduced. An activity such as raising funds for the local school, or the capacity to sustain the community in times of economic stress may be severely affected when a higher proportion of the total community are disadvantaged in one or more ways. This can have associated costs in the form of tertiary interventions in the justice, health and child protection systems. Where the overall proportion of disadvantaged residents is lower such as in the case in Brisbane it is important to consider that:

- This can still represent a significant number of people in poverty.

- There may also be implications for certain individuals and groups experiencing minority status and marginalisation within a broader community when that broader community has the capacity and resources to participate in a range of social and economic opportunities. While the statistical majority might enjoy access to higher incomes, employment and education, there are others who are missing out. This can have implications for social cohesion and might even result in community dynamics attributing blame to individuals, groups and places instead of the issues being defined in terms of the systemic and structural forces at play.

5 Indicators of Disadvantage

The previous section used SEIFA IRSD scores to illustrate the spatial dimensions of socioeconomic disadvantage at the SD level with some analysis of the most disadvantaged SLAs and CDs at a smaller area level. In order to examine more specifically the drivers of disadvantage, a number of widely used indicators are now analysed in relation to SDs and SLAs. Population data on families, proficiency in the English language, health, housing, income, and unemployment[28] are compared with SEIFA scores as the proxy indicator of socioeconomic status.

The indicators chosen for further analysis were identified from the review of literature and in collaboration with UnitingCare Queensland to consider:

- Readily available data sources in light of the scope of this project (namely from the ABS, the Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU), the Queensland Government Office of Economic and Statistical Research, and the Queensland Government Department of Communities)

- Priority areas for service delivery within UnitingCare Queensland such as older people, people with disabilities and families.

In this context, the following indicators were chosen for further analysis:

- Income
  - Median household income
  - Aged Pensions
  - Disability Support Pensions
  - Sole Parent Pensions
  - Unemployment Benefits
- Unemployment
- Education
- Household type
- Families
- Older people
- People from non-English speaking background
- People with a disability
- Housing
- Private dwellings without a motor vehicle
- Health including premature mortality by cause.

It is important to note that a number of indicators by definition will have a high correlation with SEIFA IRSD[29]. The variables used to create the IRSD were area-level measures represented as proportions of people or households within an area. This section of the report considers a number of person-level measures for identifying disadvantage. An additional table is provided on the website[30], which presents details at an SLA level for most indicators.

[29] Appendix 1 outlines all variables included within the SEIFA IRSD.

[30] An additional table outlining the 60 most disadvantaged SLAs against each indicator appears on the Centre for Social Justice website: www.ucareqld.com.au/SocialJustice

5.1 Income

> We can't support ourselves. Where I live it's $250 a fortnight. I only get $420 on the dole. How am I supposed to support myself and my kids in a house with that amount of money? I struggle to eat. *Mother experiencing poverty, Qld, 2007*
>
> One Christmas we came home with $14 in our pocket. We sat around with the kids and made a game of cutting out decorations to put on the tree. We were all together so it was a good Christmas. But we always had to try and hide the poverty from the kids. *Mother experiencing poverty, Qld 2008*
>
> I hid my poverty by never telling anyone where I lived and never inviting anyone home. *A person relating a childhood experience of poverty, Qld, 2007*
>
> Walsh, 2007

The following section on income highlights median incomes. This section also analyses the extent to which populations within SDs are in receipt of income support in the form of aged pensions, disability support pensions, sole-parent pensions and unemployment benefits. The income measure included in the SEIFA IRSD was the proportion of people with stated annual household equivalised income between $13,000 and $20,799.

It is also important to acknowledge that income is one way of measuring poverty although the concept of poverty has broader features and implications than income alone (Saunders et al., 2007:7). Saunders et al. (2007:8) write that:

> *'Although income is a primary determinant of the standard of living of most people, other factors also play an important role in protecting people from poverty. If poverty is ultimately a matter of inadequate resources, then it has to be acknowledged that resources must be defined to include, in addition to income, such factors as accumulated wealth, access to credit and to the family and social networks on which many people rely in times of need*[31]*'.*

Other researchers use half of median household income (after adjusting for household size) as a measure of poverty in Australia (Tanton et al., 2008:4). Lister (2004 quoted in Saunders et al., 2007:7) highlights the importance of a restricted capacity to participate because of limited financial resources as a core feature of poverty while also acknowledging other dimensions such as powerlessness.

This current report acknowledges and analyses a range of factors impacting upon poverty and social exclusion. The following section on income is included because there is no doubt that low household income is a critical factor in vulnerability to social exclusion. Low incomes have a significant impact on the capacity to access a range of recreational and social opportunities, and might also limit access to transport, health services and educational opportunities.

Median Household Income in Queensland

In 2006, the median household weekly income in Queensland was $1,031 compared with $597 in 1996 and $749 in 2001. The Queensland median in 2006 was slightly higher than the Australian figure of $1,027.

Figure 45 ranks SDs from lowest to highest median household income for 2001 and 2006. Wide Bay-Burnett recorded the lowest median household weekly income of all SDs in both Census years ($530 and $674 respectively). West

[31] Saunders et al. have developed a broader framework than simply poverty to emerge with indicators of disadvantage, deprivation and social exclusion in Australia.

Moreton and Central West recorded the second and third lowest median household weekly income of $802 and $810 respectively.

Figure 45. Median Household Income by Statistical Division, 2001 to 2006

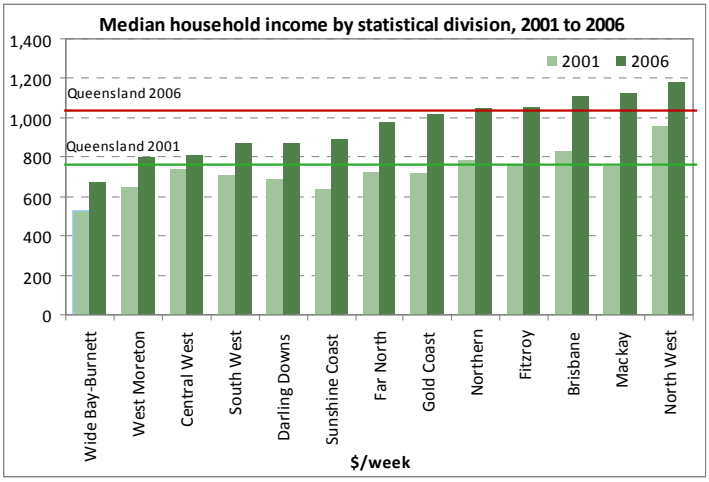


Figure 46 illustrates the median household income for each SD while **Figure 47** highlights the percentage change in median household income for all SDs. This shows that Central West had the third lowest value for median household income and the lowest increase between 2001 and 2006 of any SD. While the increase for Queensland overall was 38%, areas such as Central West, South West and West Moreton had lower income values as well as lower increases over five years signaling a persistence in lower than average income levels for some areas.

The median household income of Wide Bay-Burnett is 65% of the median income for Queensland overall. Half of all households in Wide Bay-Burnett therefore receive less than 65% of the median household income for Queensland.

Figure 46. Median Household Income by Queensland Statistical Division, 2006

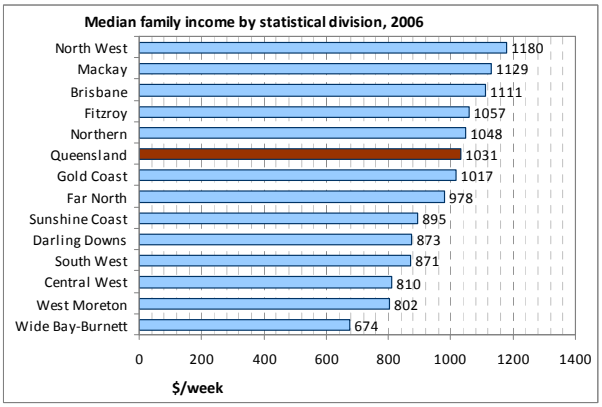
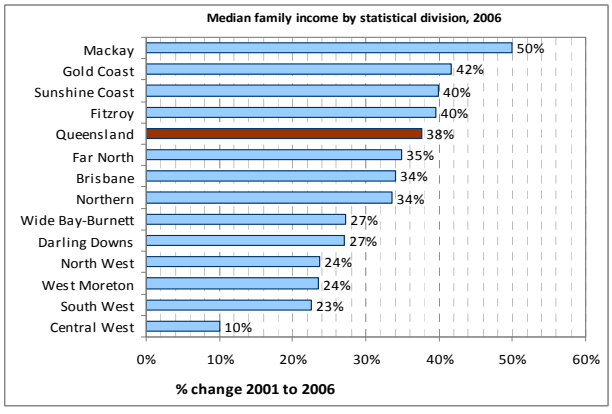


Figure 47. Percentage Change between 2001 and 2006 of Median Household Income by Queensland Statistical Division



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Time Series Profile - T02; and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Table 57 highlights the implications of percentage increases between different SDs in dollar values. For Queensland the overall increase in value between 1996 and 2006 was $434 compared to only $220 for Wide Bay-Burnett and $297 for West Moreton. The implications are that some areas not only have lower overall income levels but also experience lower value increments compared with areas ranked as less disadvantaged overall.

Table 57. Median Household Income by Statistical Division, 1996 to 2006[32]

Statistical division	SEIFA IRSD		— $/week —		
	Score	Rank	1996	2001	2006
Queensland	**1005**		**597**	**749**	**1,031**
Wide Bay-Burnett	940	1	454	530	674
Sunshine Coast	1013	11	482	640	895
West Moreton	962	4	505	649	802
South West	962	5	507	711	871
Darling Downs	986	7	518	687	873
Central West	967	6	523	736	810
Gold Coast	1019	12	558	718	1,017
Fitzroy	989	8	611	757	1,057
Far North	954	3	613	725	978
Mackay	1006	10	643	753	1,129
Northern	993	9	647	785	1,048
Brisbane	1026	13	661	829	1,111
North West	947	2	794	954	1,180

Table 58 illustrates the 30 SLAs with the lowest median household incomes in Queensland highlighting that there are SLAs with median incomes significantly lower than Queensland's overall median.

Table 58. 30 SLAs with the Lowest Median Household Incomes in Queensland

	Region	SD	SEIFA IRSD	Quintile	Median household income (g) ($/week)
1	Mount Morgan (S)	Fitzroy	807.47	1	511
2	Woorabinda (S)	Fitzroy	564.49	1	531
3	Umagico (S)	Far North	492.18	1	565
4	Redland (S) Bal	Brisbane	897.33	1	569
5	Biggenden (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	911.78	1	574
6	Tiaro (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	893.03	1	575
7	Herberton (S)	Far North	891.95	1	577
8	Injinoo (S)	Far North	506.86	1	579
9	Nanango (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	895.69	1	587
10	Cherbourg (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	505.9	1	588
11	Kolan (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	882.74	1	591
12	Isisford (S)	Central West	955.73	2	592
13	Paroo (S)	South West	875.78	1	595
14	New Mapoon (S)	Far North	622.47	1	597
15	Wondai (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	915.01	1	597
16	Hervey Bay (C)-Pt B	Wide Bay-Burnett	888.12	1	605
17	Kilkivan (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	926.29	1	608
18	Bribie Island	Brisbane	944.59	2	611
19	Inala	Brisbane	752.61	1	613
20	Garbutt	Northern	820.64	1	619
21	Tara (S)	Darling Downs	899.75	1	621
22	Isis (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	929.39	1	623
23	Perry (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	939.58	1	625
24	Napranum (S)	Far North	510.72	1	627
25	Stanthorpe (S)	Darling Downs	935.16	1	639
26	Eidsvold (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	888.96	1	640
27	Inglewood (S)	Darling Downs	939.35	1	641
28	Monto (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	948.07	2	645
29	Hervey Bay (C)-Pt A	Wide Bay-Burnett	955.44	2	653

[32] (a) Based on place of enumeration.
(b) Applicable to occupied private dwellings. Excludes 'Other not classifiable' households. Excludes households where at least one member aged 15 years and over did not state an income & households where at least one member aged 15 years and over was temporarily absent on Census Night.
(c) Based on ASGC 2006.
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Time Series Profile - T02; and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

	Region	SD	SEIFA IRSD	Quintile	Median household income (g) ($/week)
30	Hope Vale (S)	Far North	554.47	1	655

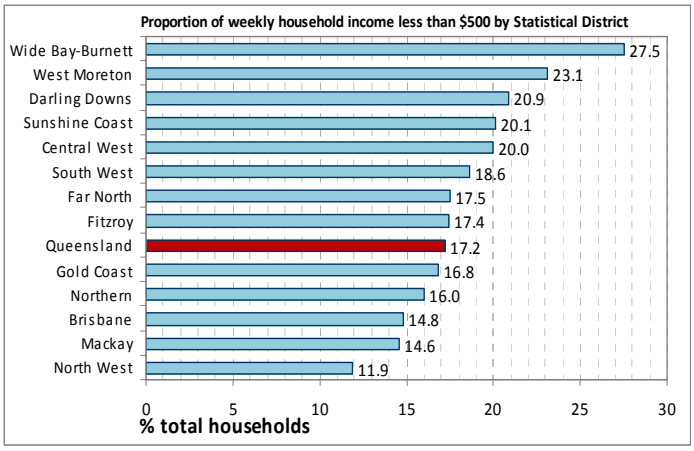
Proportion of Weekly Household Income Below $500

To further examine low income households in Queensland, **Figure 48** and **Table 59** illustrate the proportion of households in each SD with a household income of less than $500 per week. Wide Bay-Burnett recorded the highest proportion of households earning less than $500 per week at 27.5%. West Moreton also recorded a relatively high proportion at 23%, followed by another three SDs (Darling Downs, Sunshine Coast and Central West) with over 20% of households in this income bracket.

Table 59. Proportion of Weekly Household Income Less Than $500 by Statistical Division[33]

Statistical Division	SEIFA IRSD Score	SEIFA IRSD Ranking	% of total households
Queensland	1005	-	17.2%
Wide Bay-Burnett	940	1	27.5%
West Moreton	962	4	23.1%
Darling Downs	986	7	20.9%
Sunshine Coast	1013	11	20.1%
Central West	967	6	20.0%
South West	962	5	18.6%
Far North	954	3	17.5%
Fitzroy	989	8	17.4%
Gold Coast	1019	12	16.8%
Northern	993	9	16.0%
Brisbane	1026	13	14.8%
Mackay	1006	10	14.6%
North West	947	2	11.9%

Figure 48. Proportion of Weekly Household Income Less Than $500 by Statistical Division



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Basic Community Profile - B28. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

Table 60 lists the 30 Queensland SLAs with the highest proportion of households with income of less than $500 per week. Almost 42% of households in Mount Morgan in the Fitzroy SD receive less than $500 per week. The Brisbane SLA of Redland Balance recorded 36.7% of households in this income bracket.

Table 60. Thirty Statistical Local Area with Highest Proportion of Weekly Household Income Less Than $500

Statistical Local Area	SD	% of Total	IRSD Score	Quintile
Mount Morgan (S)	Fitzroy	41.8%	807.47	1
Redland (S) Bal	Brisbane	36.7%	897.33	1
Umagico (S)	Far North	36.5%	492.18	1
Woorabinda (S)	Fitzroy	35.8%	564.49	1
Saibai (IC)	Far North	35.1%	548.56	1
Injinoo (S)	Far North	35.1%	506.86	1
Biggenden (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	34.9%	911.78	1
Mornington (S)	North West	34.8%	560.78	1
Hervey Bay (C) - Pt B	Wide Bay-Burnett	34.7%	888.12	1
Mer (IC)	Far North	34.4%	524.64	1
Nanango (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	33.9%	895.69	1

[33] 1. Count of occupied private dwellings (excludes 'Visitors only' and 'Other non classifiable' households.) Comprises 'Lone person' and 'Group households'.
2. The proportion includes cases where total family income was stated, and excludes cases where either all incomes were not stated or only partial income was stated.

Statistical Local Area	SD	% of Total	IRSD Score	Quintile
Tiaro (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	33.5%	893.03	1
Garbutt	Northern	33.4%	820.64	1
Hammond (IC)	Far North	33.3%	600.28	1
New Mapoon (S)	Far North	33.3%	622.47	1
Herberton (S)	Far North	33.2%	891.95	1
Cherbourg (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	32.9%	505.9	1
Kolan (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	32.3%	882.74	1
Mapoon (S)	Far North	32.3%	655.47	1
Inala	Brisbane	31.8%	752.61	1
Bribie Island	Brisbane	31.6%	944.59	2
Wondai (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	31.4%	915.01	1
Paroo (S)	South West	30.4%	875.78	1
Margate-Woody Point	Brisbane	30.2%	915.08	1
Hope Vale (S)	Far North	30.1%	554.47	1
Kilkivan (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	29.9%	926.29	1
Stanthorpe (S)	Darling Downs	29.8%	935.16	1
Isis (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	29.0%	929.39	1
Tara (S)	Darling Downs	29.0%	899.75	1
Napranum (S)	Far North	28.6%	510.72	1

Income Support - Age Pensioners[34]

Income Support Age Pensioners

Figure 50 and Error! Reference source not found. demonstrate that Queensland generally has a lower proportion of people on aged pensions than Australia overall (68% compared to 70.5%). Wide Bay-Burnett has a significantly higher proportion of aged pensioners at 74.4% compared to either Queensland or Australia. Fitzroy, Brisbane and Northern SDs also have a higher proportion of aged pensions than Queensland overall.

Figure 49. Proportion of Age Pensioners[35] of All Males Aged 65 Years and Over and Females Aged 63 Years and Over across Queensland Statistical Divisions

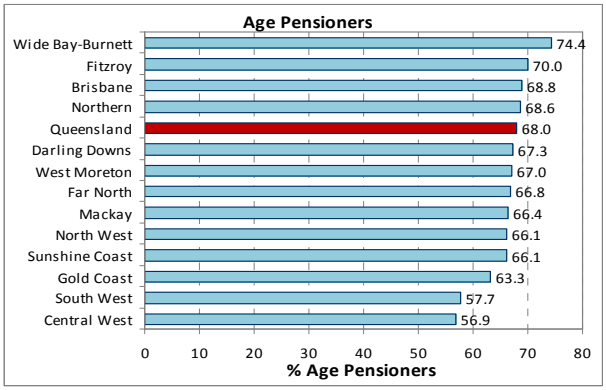
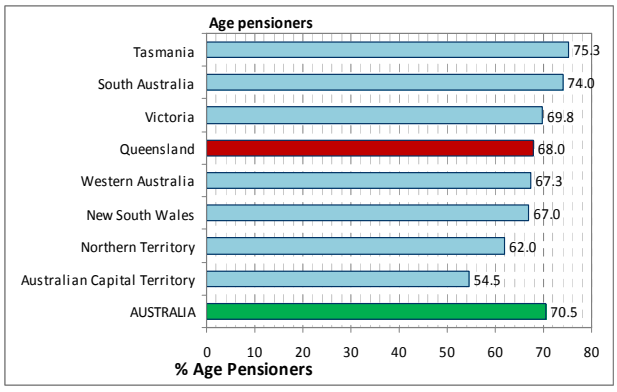


Figure 50. Proportion of Age Pensioners of All Males Aged 65 Years and Over and Females Aged 63 Years and Over across Australia



[34] Note: People eligible for an Age Pension from Centrelink comprise females aged 63 years and over and males aged 65 years and over; the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides a Service Pension (Age) to eligible males at the age of 60 years and females at age 55 years.

[35] Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; 2) Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1 July 2006; and ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

Figure 51. Age Pensioners as a Proportion of Males Aged 65 Years and Over and Females Aged 63 years and Over by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

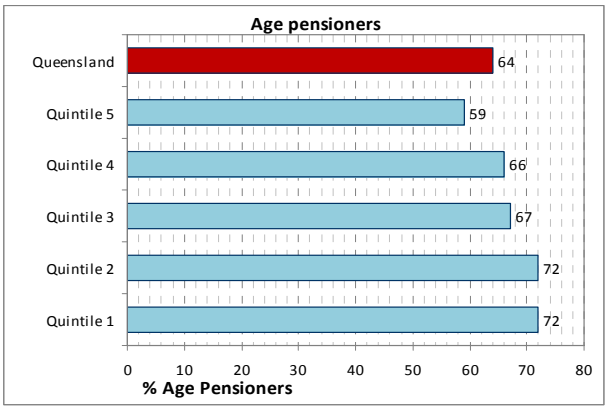
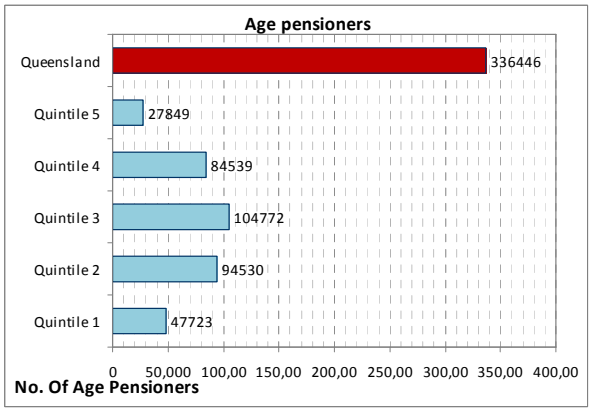


Figure 52. Number of Age Pensioners by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; 2) Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1 July 2006; and ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

These graphs indicate that:

- While 47,723 age pensioners live in areas classified in Quintile 1 of the SEIFA IRSD (highest relative disadvantage), the majority of people on the aged pension live in areas classified across Quintiles 2-5.
- 72% of all older people living in areas classified as Quintile 1 are aged pensioners compared to 64% for Queensland overall.
- More aged pensioners live in Quintile 1 areas than Quintile 5.

Disability Support Pensioners[36]

5.4% of Australians overall are in receipt of a disability support pension (DSP) compared with 5.1% for Queensland. Far North, Sunshine Coast, Darling Downs, West Moreton and Wide Bay-Burnett all have higher proportions of disability support pensioners overall compared to Queensland.

Figure 53. Disability Pensioners as a Proportion of All Males Aged between 16 and 64 and Females Aged 16-63 Years across Australia

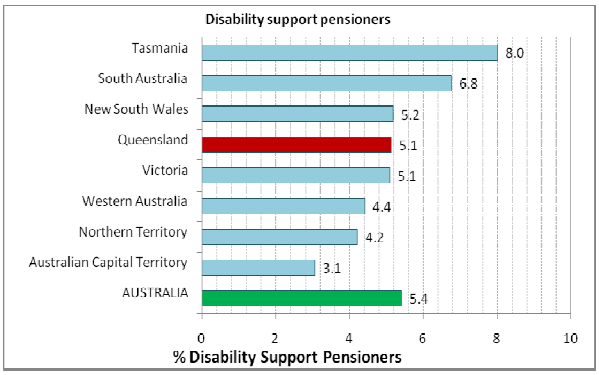
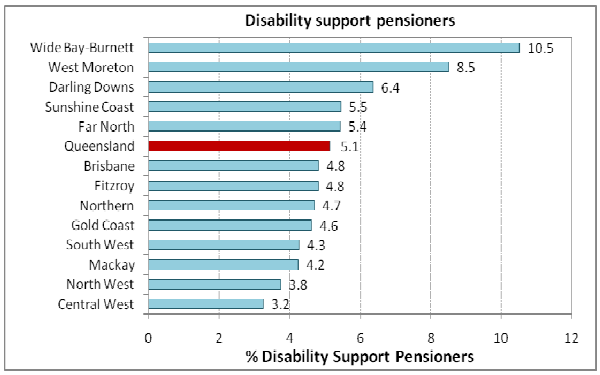


Figure 54. Disability Pensioners as a Proportion of All Males Aged 16-64 Years and Females Aged 16-63 Years across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; 2) Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1 July 2006; and ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

[36] Note: Details of males under 65 years of age and females under 60 years of age receiving DVA Service Pension (permanently incapacitated) – an income support pension – have been combined with the Disability Support Pension (DSP) data : people above these ages receive an Age Pension / Service Pension (Age)

Figure 54 shows the total proportion of residents in each SD in receipt of disability support pensions. 10.5% of all Wide Bay-Burnett residents between the ages of 16 and 62 receive DSP which is more than double the overall proportion for Queensland and a total number of people equalling 16,949 (see **Table 61**). West Moreton also has a significant proportion of people on this pension at 8.5% equalling 3,818 people.

Table 61. Disability Pensioners by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	SEIFA IRSD Index score (based on Australian score = 1000)	Queensland Rank	Disability support pensioners	Males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-62	% disability support pensioners
Queensland	**1005**		**136,883**	**2,667,726**	**5.1**
Central West	967	6	239	7,366	3.2
North West	947	2	824	21,938	3.8
Mackay	1,006	10	4,523	106,539	4.2
South West	962	5	708	16,589	4.3
Gold Coast	1,019	12	15,692	339,897	4.6
Northern	993	9	6,467	137,730	4.7
Brisbane	1,026	13	58,677	1,218,601	4.8
Fitzroy	989	8	6,194	128,747	4.8
Far North	954	3	8,773	161,506	5.4
Sunshine Coast	1,013	11	9,983	182,880	5.5
Darling Downs	986	7	8,898	139,894	6.4
West Moreton	962	4	3,818	44,838	8.5
Wide Bay-Burnett	940	1	16,949	161,201	10.5

Figure 55 shows that 8.9% of all people living in Quintile 1 areas are in receipt of DSP compared to only 2.7% in Quintile 5. This translates to a total of 25,955 people living on the DSP who also live in areas ranked as the most disadvantaged.

Figure 55. Disability Support Pensioners as a Proportion of Males Aged Under 65 Years and Females Aged Under 63 Years by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

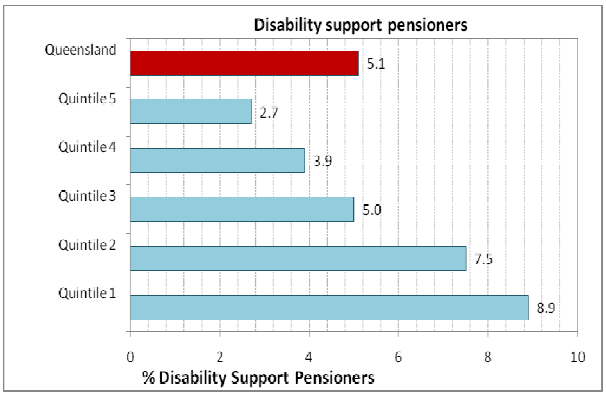
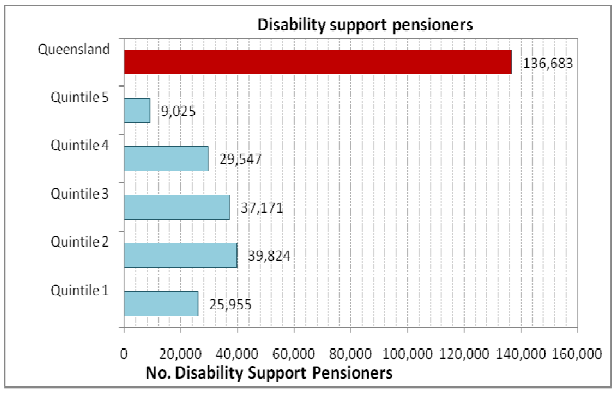


Figure 56. Number of Disability Pensioners by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; 2) Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1 July 2006; and ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

Even in SDs with a proportion of residents on DSP closer to or less than the overall proportion for Queensland, the actual numbers of people on DSP can still warrant consideration when planning measures to reduce disadvantage. The overall majority of people on DSP live in areas ranked within Quintiles 2-4 which supports the importance of universal policies available to people regardless of their location. Where a higher proportion of people in Quintile 1 areas also live with a disability, there is also a rationale for strategies that actively facilitate access to universal service provision within that area, in addition to place based strategies.

Sole Parent Pensions

Figure 57 and **Figure 58** illustrate that Queensland overall has a slightly higher percentage of female sole parents in receipt of a pension compared to Australia. Wide Bay-Burnett has a significantly higher than average proportion of female sole parent pensioners at 10.2%, followed by Far North and North West at 9.9% and 9.7% respectively. The Sunshine Coast has 8.9% or an actual number of 6,943 recipients in receipt of the female sole parent pension and the Gold Coast has 7.7% equalling to 11,307 people despite having an overall SEIFA IRSD ranking of 11 and 12 (See **Table 62**).

Figure 57. Female Sole Parents as a Proportion of Females Aged 15-54 Years across Australia

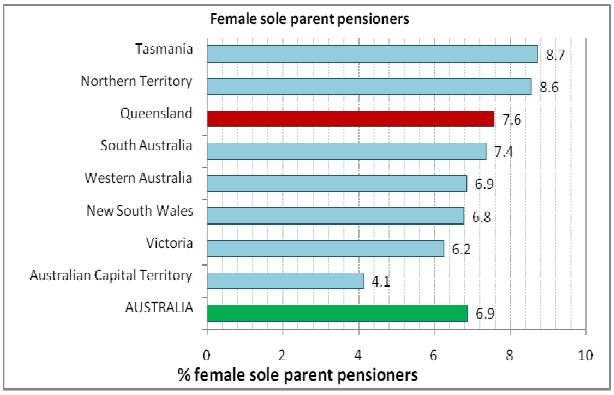
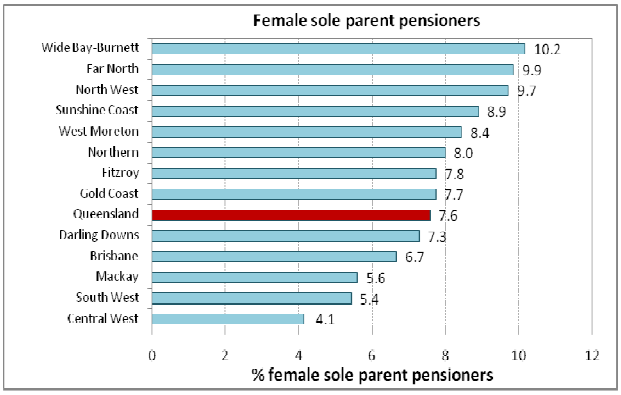


Figure 58. Female Sole Parents as a Proportion of Females Aged 15-54 Years across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; and 2) ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

Table 62. Female Sole Parents across Queensland Statistical Divisions

	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score	Female sole parent pensioners	Females aged 15-54	% female sole parent pensioners
Queensland			**87,368**	**1,153,695**	**7.6**
Central West	6	967	132	3,182	4.1
South West	**5**	**962**	378	6,967	5.4
Mackay	10	1,006	2,478	44,220	5.6
Brisbane	13	1,026	35,761	536,934	6.7
Darling Downs	7	986	4,382	60,162	7.3
Gold Coast	12	1,019	11,307	146,180	7.7
Fitzroy	8	989	4,244	54,758	7.8
Northern	9	993	4,774	59,757	8.0
West Moreton	**4**	**962**	1,564	18,556	8.4
Sunshine Coast	11	1,013	6,943	78,029	8.9
North West	**2**	**947**	894	9,206	9.7
Far North	**3**	**954**	6,869	69,682	9.9
Wide Bay-Burnett	**1**	**940**	6,722	66,062	10.2

Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; and 2) ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

Figure 59. Female Sole Parents as a Proportion of Females Aged 15-54 Years by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

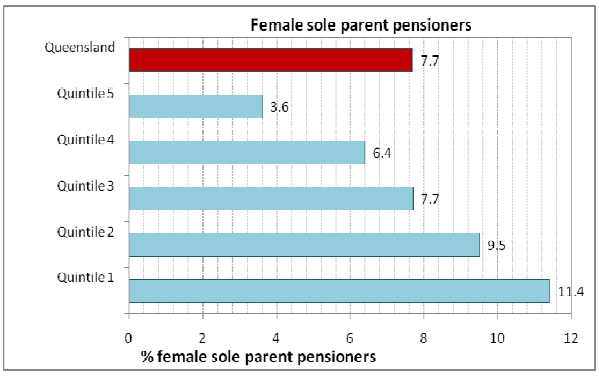
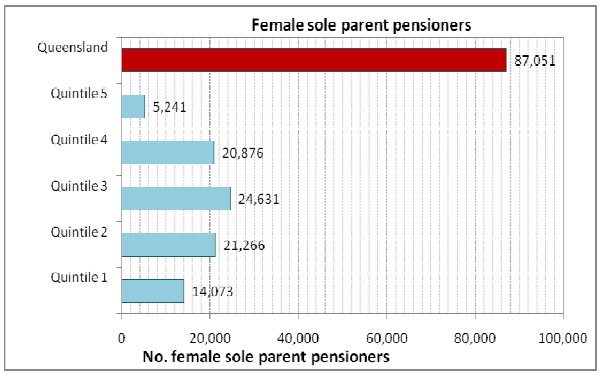


Figure 60. Number of Female Sole Parents by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; and 2) ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

Figure 59 and **Figure 60** show that 11.4% of all females aged between 15 and 54 in Quintile 1 are sole parent pensioners while only 3.5% are in Quintile 5 areas.

Again, at a statistical sub-division level it is important to note that some areas such as Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast include areas where the proportion of female sole parent pensioners is higher than average. Areas such as Caboolture Shire, Ipswich City, Logan City and Redcliffe City for example are significantly higher than the Brisbane average of 6.7% (11.1, 10.9, 10.8 and 11.0 respectively).

Unemployment Benefits

Figure 61 and **Figure 62** illustrate Queensland as having a slightly lower proportion of people on unemployment benefits than Australia, however several SDs are equal to or are higher than the national average including:

- Northern
- Sunshine Coast
- North West
- Far North
- Wide Bay-Burnett.

Figure 61. People Receiving an Unemployment Benefit across Australia

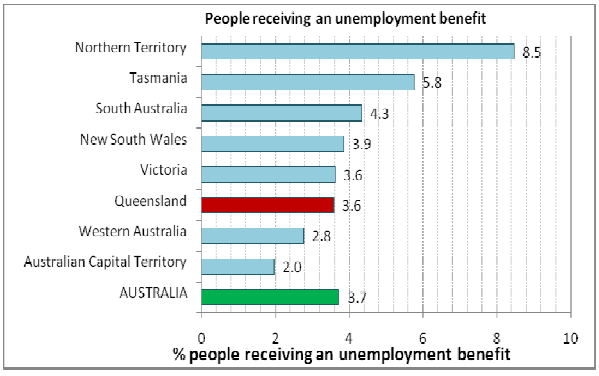
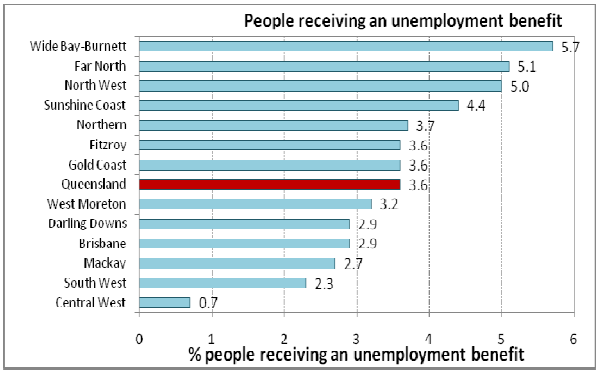


Figure 62. People Receiving an Unemployment Benefit across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; and 2) ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

Table 63 highlights the actual numbers of people on unemployment benefits at the SD level. The highest numbers are in the Sunshine Coast, Far North, Wide Bay-Burnett, Gold Coast and Brisbane.

Table 63. People Receiving an Unemployment Benefit by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score	People receiving an unemployment benefit	Males aged 15-64 and females aged 15-62	% people receiving an unemployment benefit
Queensland			**97,551**	**2,726,335**	**3.6**
Central West	6	967	55	7,501	0.7
South West	**5**	**962**	388	16,905	2.3
Mackay	10	1,006	2,939	108,855	2.7
Brisbane	13	1,026	36,321	1,243,926	2.9
Darling Downs	7	986	4,199	143,496	2.9
West Moreton	**4**	**962**	1,453	46,076	3.2
Fitzroy	8	989	4,750	131,953	3.6
Gold Coast	12	1,019	12,420	346,697	3.6
Northern	9	993	5,271	141,028	3.7
Sunshine Coast	11	1,013	8,153	187,168	4.4
North West	**2**	**947**	1,114	22,383	5.0
Far North	**3**	**954**	8,474	165,202	5.1
Wide Bay-Burnett	**1**	**940**	9,357	165,145	5.7

Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; and 2) ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

Figure 63 and **Figure 64** highlight a greater proportion and actual number of people in Quintile 1 areas are on unemployment benefits compared to Quintile 5 areas.

Figure 63. Number of People Receiving an Unemployment Benefit by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

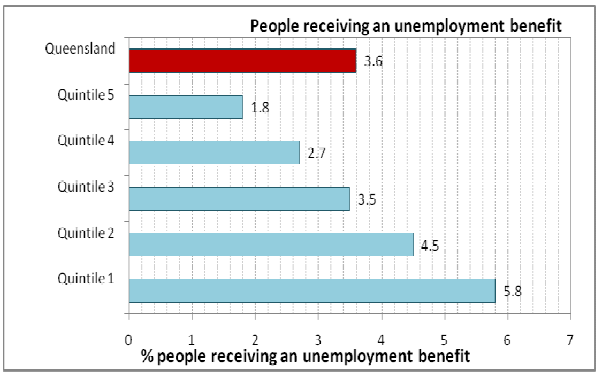
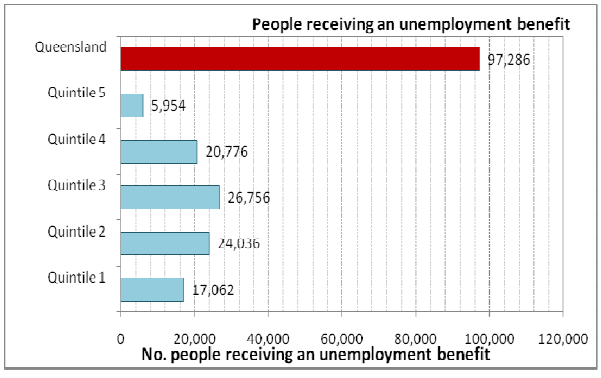


Figure 64. % of People Receiving an Unemployment Benefit by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Centrelink, June 2006; and 2) ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2006

While the overall proportion of people on unemployment benefits in Queensland is 3.6%, there are smaller areas where the proportion is significantly higher than this. A more detailed breakdown as a basis for service planning and prioritisation of resources is important.

5.2 Unemployment

Unemployment levels in Queensland have been the subject of significant debate with the Queensland State Government setting targets for reducing the level of unemployment as a benchmark of success. The recent economic downturn has prompted both the State and Federal Governments to launch significant economic stimulus plans with a heavy focus on maintaining employment particularly in certain industries such as development and construction.

In the context of the recent downturn, Baum and Mitchell have published an employment vulnerability index (EVI) for Australia's major urban regions (2008:2). This research identifies suburbs with higher concentrations of jobs considered to be most at risk in the current economic context. 151 suburbs were identified as 'red alert' suburbs in Queensland indicating those suburbs with high potential job losses. This number represents 20.3% of the total number of suburbs analysed in Queensland compared to 11.3% and 17.4% for New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (Vic) respectively. The overall percentage of red alert suburbs in Australia was 15.2%. Brisbane also includes suburbs that are vulnerable to job losses (Baum and Mitchell, 2009:22).

This report has previously also cited analysis about the extent that overall economic growth can mask poverty and disadvantage for particular groups and locations. While Queensland has enjoyed relatively low levels of unemployment overall, there have been persistently high levels of unemployment for some particular groups of people (Indigenous people and young people for example), and places. Low overall unemployment levels may also obscure the extent to which some people are under-employed in part-time or casual positions.

Rates of Unemployment

Figure 65. Estimated Unemployment, June 2007 across Australia

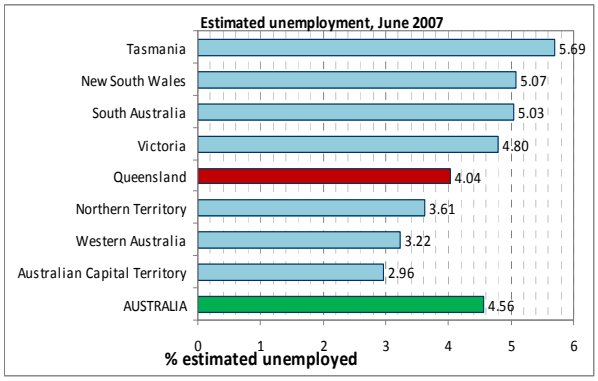
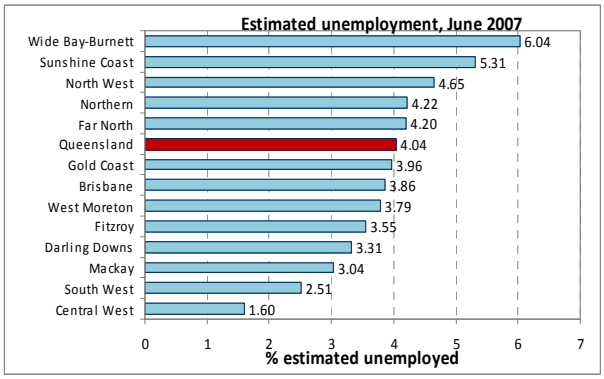


Figure 66. Estimated Unemployment, June 2007 across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Unemployed people and Labour force: *Small Area Labour Markets - Australia* Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, June 2007

Table 64 highlights the number of unemployed people within each SD.

Table 64. Estimated Unemployment, June 2007 by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	QLD SD Ranking	SEIFA IRSD Score#	Estimated unemployed	Estimated labour force	% estimated unemployed
Queensland	**-**	**1,005**	**88,332**	**2,189,073**	**4.0**
Central West	6	967	134	8,373	1.6
South West	**5**	**962**	443	17,669	2.5
Mackay	10	1,006	2,509	82,519	3.0
Darling Downs	7	986	3,988	120,365	3.3
Fitzroy	8	989	3,787	106,533	3.6
West Moreton	**4**	**962**	1,456	38,450	3.8
Brisbane	13	1,026	39,236	1,015,493	3.9
Gold Coast	12	1,019	10,676	269,499	4.0
Far North	**3**	**954**	5,581	132,831	4.2
Northern	9	993	4,919	116,514	4.2
North West	**2**	**947**	992	21,305	4.7
Sunshine Coast	11	1,013	7,756	145,988	5.3
Wide Bay-Burnett	**1**	**940**	6,855	113,534	6.0

Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Unemployed people and Labour force: *Small Area Labour Markets - Australia* Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, June 2007

Figure 67 illustrates that 7% of the labour force living in areas ranked within Quintile 1 are unemployed compared to only 2% of people in Quintile 5. The proportions of unemployed people within each quintile increases as the level of disadvantage increases. In absolute numbers however, **Figure 68** shows that unemployed people live across all Quintiles with the majority residing within areas ranked 2-5.

Figure 67. Estimated Unemployment, June 2007 by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

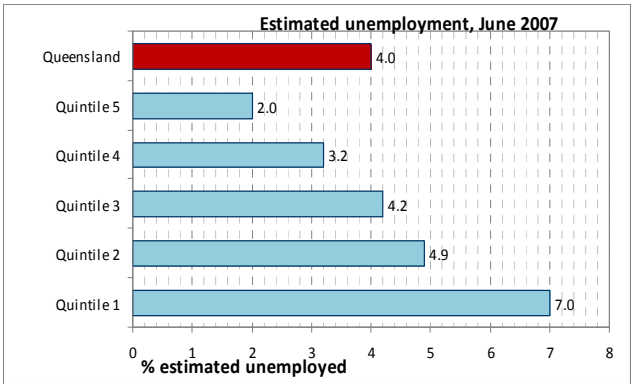
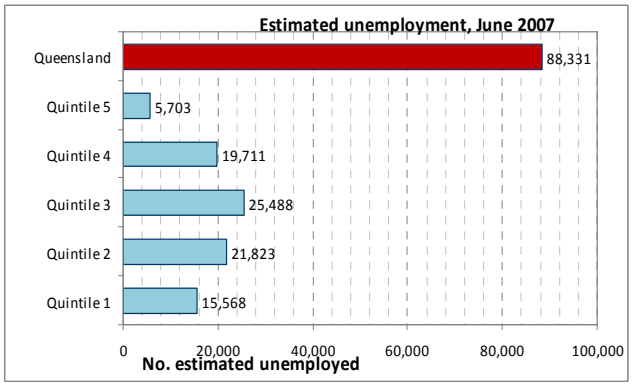


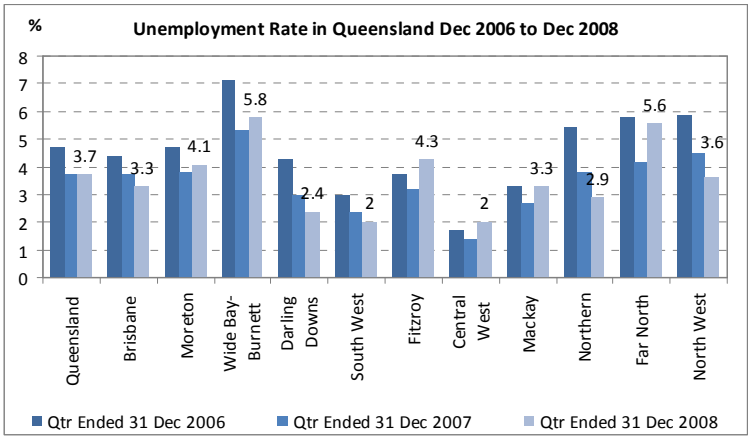
Figure 68. Estimated Unemployment, June 2007 by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) Unemployed people and Labour force: *Small Area Labour Markets - Australia* Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, June 2007 and SEIFA IRSD Quintiles calculated from ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Figure 69 highlights unemployment trends at an SD level between 2006 and 2008 and shows that unemployment has increased overall in Fitzroy and Central West in that time. Some areas have shown increases in unemployment since 2007 including Moreton, Wide Bay-Burnett, Mackay and Far North.

Figure 69. Queensland Unemployment Rate December 2006 to December 2008



Source: DEEWR, Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Small Area Labour Markets Australia. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

Table 65 highlights the number of unemployed persons for each SD between 2006 and 2008. Some areas between 2007 and 2008 have increases in numbers despite earlier trends where unemployment decreased.

Table 65. Queensland Unemployed Persons and Unemployment rate 31 December 2006 to 31 December 2008[37]

Statistical Division	Qtr Ended 31 Dec 2006		Qtr Ended 31 Dec 2007		Qtr Ended 31 Dec 2008	
	Unemployed Persons	Unemployment Rate (%)	Unemployed Persons	Unemployment Rate (%)	Unemployed Persons	Unemployment Rate (%)
Queensland	99,988	4.7	82,572	3.7	84,046	3.7
Brisbane	44,529	4.4	38,351	3.7	35,233	3.3
Moreton	20,126	4.7	17,068	3.8	18,123	4.1
Wide Bay-Burnett	7,907	7.1	6,243	5.3	7,152	5.8
Darling Downs	4,983	4.3	3,670	3.0	2,947	2.4
South West	517	3.0	427	2.4	368	2.0
Fitzroy	4,009	3.7	3,474	3.2	4,828	4.3
Central West	143	1.7	123	1.4	177	2.0
Mackay	2,709	3.3	2,258	2.7	2,855	3.3
Northern	6,305	5.4	4,385	3.8	3,542	2.9
Far North	7,444	5.8	5,589	4.2	7,980	5.6
North West	1,316	5.9	984	4.5	841	3.6
Off-Shore Areas & Migratory	0	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.

Source: DEEWR, Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Small Area Labour Markets Australia. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

The Queensland unemployment rate has declined between 2006 and 2008 from 4.7% in December 2006 to 3.7% in December 2007 and 2008 (see **Table 65**). The latest monthly unemployment rate for Queensland published by the ABS for August 2009 is 5.7% probably reflecting the global financial crisis and associated impacts on employment in particular industries (the highest figure since August 2004) (ABS, 2009).

5.3 Education

Education is an important factor in the capacity to seek and find employment. Some areas are particularly vulnerable to outward migration of young people in search of education and employment opportunities (Mission Australia, 2006).

The implications of spatial disadvantage also extend to factors such as educational aspirations among young people. The Social Exclusion Task Force found that 'young people with low educational aspirations often live in certain types of deprived neighbourhoods' (2008:15). Areas where educational attainment was lower than expected included characteristics such as being a rural area with close knit social networks, poor transport opportunities and a stable population (Social Exclusion Task Force, 2008:17). Children whose parents had low educational attainment are also more likely to leave school early resulting in a higher risk that disadvantage and social exclusion becomes inter-generational and persistent.

This report considers data for the highest year of school completed as at the 2006 Census for Queensland SDs and SLAs to identify correlation between an area's low socioeconomic status and higher proportions of people leaving school early with a Year 9 or equivalent qualification or less. Because the education variables included in SEIFA IRSD are a proportion of people aged 15 years and over with no post-school qualifications and those who did not go to school, a high correlation is expected.

Figure 70 and **Figure 71** illustrate that some SDs have significantly higher proportion of the population as having completed school to year 8 or year 9 compared with Queensland overall.

[37] Note: Figures are synthetic estimates based on ABS Employment and Centrelink unemployment numbers from the 1996 and 2001 Estimates Census of Population and Housing. It is therefore inappropriate to derive employment estimates from these statistics. The State total generated in QRSIS is the sum of the individual regions and this may not match other DEWR published figures. State published estimates from DEWR are now calculated using revised ABS data.

Figure 70. Proportion of People with a Highest Level of Schooling of Year 8 or Below across Queensland Statistical Divisions

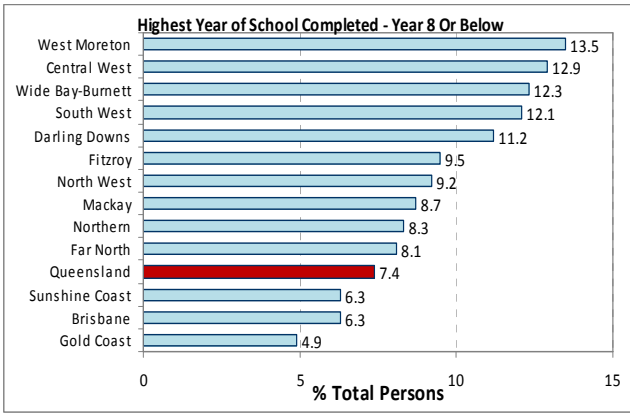
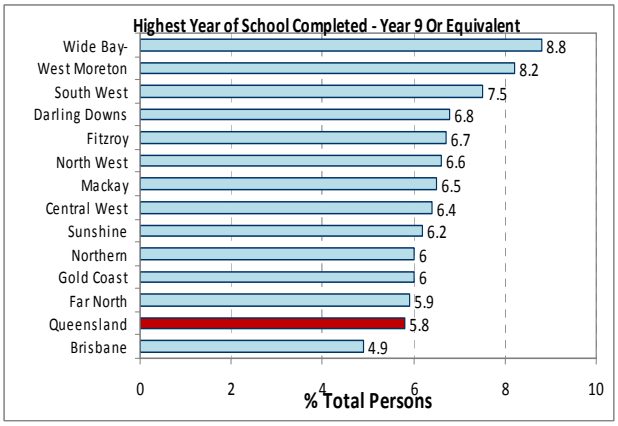


Figure 71. Proportion of People with a Highest Level of Schooling of Year 9 or Equivalent across Queensland Statistical Divisions

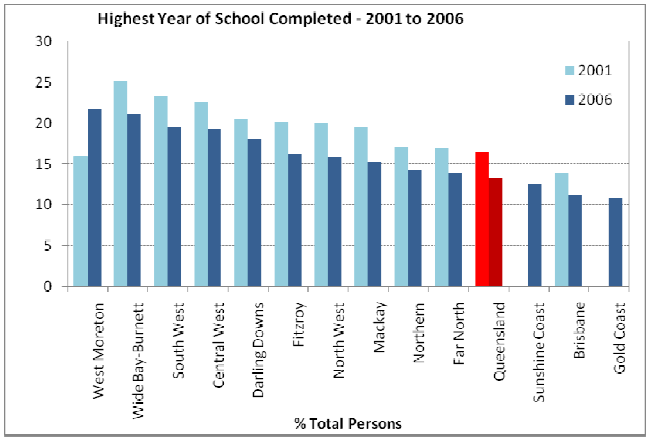


Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Basic Community Profile - B15. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

Table 66. Early School Leaving Compared with 2001 Census

Region	Queensland Ranking	SEIFA IRSD Score	Year 9 or less % of total persons	
			2006	2001
Queensland	-	1005	13.2	16.5
Gold Coast	12	1,019	10.9	n/a
Sunshine Coast	11	1,013	12.5	n/a
Brisbane	13	1,026	11.2	14.0
West Moreton	**4**	**962**	21.7	16.0
Far North	**3**	**954**	14.0	17.0
Northern	9	993	14.3	17.1
Mackay	10	1,006	15.2	19.5
North West	**2**	**947**	15.8	20.0
Fitzroy	8	989	16.2	20.2
Darling Downs	7	986	18.0	20.5
Central West	6	967	19.3	22.6
South West	**5**	**962**	19.6	23.2
Wide Bay-Burnett	**1**	**940**	21.1	25.2

Figure 72. Early School Leaving in 2001 and 2006 by Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Basic Community Profile - B15, and ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile Table 12 - Second Release. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

The table and figures below show a high correlation between people leaving school early and the most disadvantaged SLAs in Quintile 1. However the bottom 30 SLAs containing the highest number of early school leavers are dominated by SLAs in Quintiles 2 and 3, with three SLAs in Quintile 4. West Moreton was the only SD where the % of early school leavers went up between 2001 and 2006.

Figure 73. Number of Early School Leavers in 2006 by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

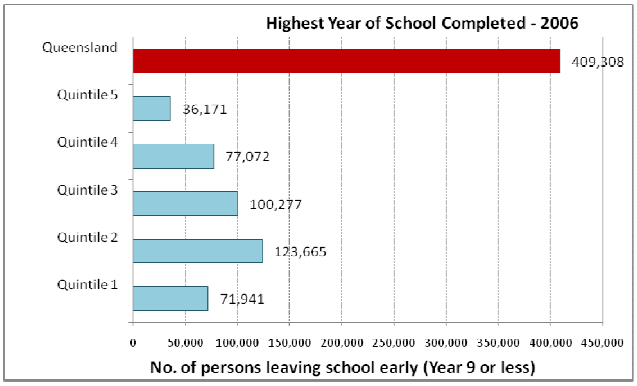
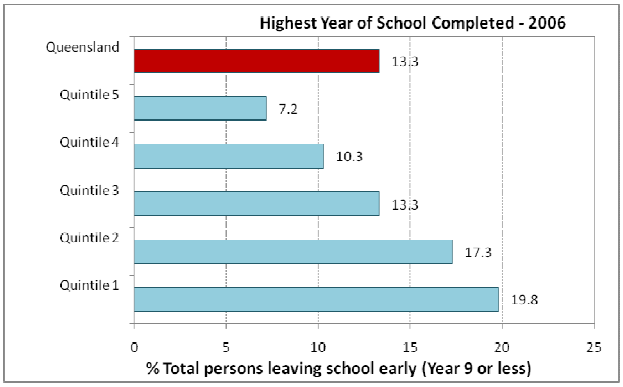


Figure 74. Proportion of Early School Leavers in 2006 by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: Calculated from ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Basic Community Profile - B15. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)) and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

5.4 Household Type

This section highlights projections for different household types including lone-person households and one-parent households between 2006 and 2031. Lone-person households are predicted to increase by 88% which is higher than the overall projected increase for Queensland at 63%. Couple households without children will increase by 83% and one-parent households are projected to increase by 64%. The proportion of the population living in lone-person households will be greater by 2031.

The projected increases in lone-person households and one-parent households are significant because of the general extent that these households have been shown to be more vulnerable to poverty and disadvantage (UQSRC, 2006).

Certain households, depending on their configuration, can also be more vulnerable to loneliness and isolation. Using the HILDA survey data, Flood found that people living alone reported higher levels of loneliness and social isolation (2005:36). This manifests in people reporting:

- Having no-one to confide in or assist them
- Lacking friendships and social connections.

People who reported feeling very lonely were most often men and women who were living alone. 'For both men and women, being a single parent living with children is a further risk factor for social loneliness' (Flood, 2005:36). Overall, Flood found that men were consistently lonelier than women throughout the lifecycle, are more likely to have poorer levels of physical, emotional and mental health and have lower levels of interaction within their neighbourhood (Flood, 2005:36).

UQSRC found that single parents with dependent children and lone person households were also more likely to rely on government pensions or benefits (51.3% and 42.1% respectively) compared to the average (23.8%) and to have difficulty raising funds in an emergency (2006:11,17). The predicted growth in numbers of lone person and one-parent family households places more households at risk of being on a low income and experiencing social isolation.

Household Projections

Table 67 shows the percentage increase for each household type between 2006 and 2031. Lone-person households are projected to grow by the highest percentage at 88% and above the Queensland total average at 63%. Couples without children are also projected to increase at a rate greater than the Queensland average at 83% while one-parent families are projected to be the third greatest increase of all household types.

Table 67. Household Projections by Household Type for Queensland, 2006 to 2031

Household type	Year ('000)						% change 2006 to 2031
	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	
Couple family with children households	471.3	500.8	533.1	565.3	598.6	628.1	33%
Group households	64.3	68.3	73.0	76.7	80.7	85.3	33%
Other family households	19.2	21.2	23.0	24.2	25.6	27.1	41%
Not classifiable	70.0	78.0	85.8	92.8	99.1	105.3	50%
One-parent family households	176.0	206.9	231.4	252.0	270.1	288.4	64%
Couple without children households	428.0	504.5	586.5	660.9	724.3	784.4	83%
Lone-person households	357.1	416.9	480.9	545.5	607.6	670.5	88%
Queensland Total	**1585.9**	**1796.6**	**2013.7**	**2217.4**	**2406.0**	**2589.1**	**63%**

Source: Queensland State and Regional Household and Dwelling Projections 2006 to 2031 (2008 release), Queensland Centre for Population Research, University of Queensland

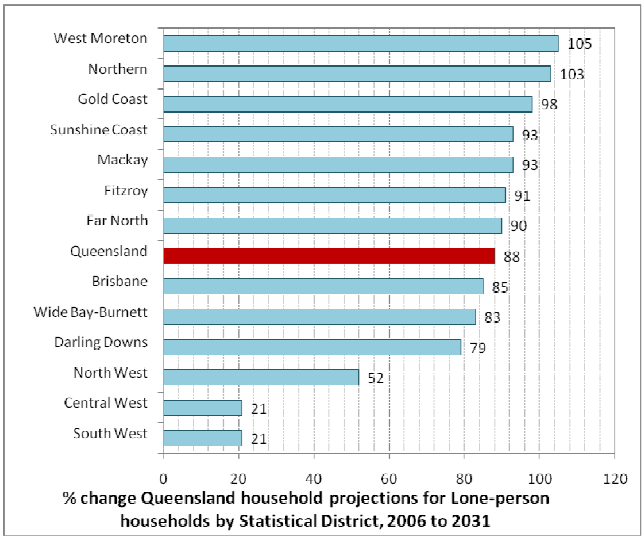
Table 68 highlights SDs where the growth in one-person households is likely to exceed the average (88%). By 2031, it is predicted that 670,500 households in Queensland will be lone person households with associated impacts on social cohesion, the risk of isolation and lower incomes and important implications for service delivery and community development responses.

Table 68. Household Projections for Lone-Person Households by Queensland Statistical Division, 2006 to 2031

Lone person households by Statistical Division	Year ('000)						% Change 2006 to 2031	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score
	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031			
Central West	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	21%	6	967
South West	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4	21%	5	962
North West	2.7	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.1	52%	2	947
Darling Downs	21.3	24.6	27.9	31.3	34.6	38.1	79%	7	986
Wide Bay-Burnett	25.8	30.4	34.6	38.6	42.7	47.2	83%	1	940
Brisbane	153.6	175.7	202.1	230.0	256.9	283.8	85%	13	1,026
Far North	23.0	28.1	32.3	36.3	39.9	43.6	90%	3	954
Fitzroy	16.9	20.4	23.3	26.2	29.1	32.2	91%	8	989
Mackay	12.3	14.8	17.5	19.9	21.8	23.7	93%	10	1,006
Sunshine Coast	27.2	31.9	36.7	41.7	46.9	52.5	93%	11	1,013
Gold Coast	46.7	55.6	65.1	74.6	83.8	92.5	98%	12	1,019
Northern	17.7	21.6	25.9	29.6	32.9	36.0	103%	9	993
West Moreton	5.7	6.6	7.6	8.9	10.2	11.7	105%	4	962
Queensland Total	**357.1**	**417.1**	**480.9**	**545.4**	**607.5**	**670.5**	**88%**	-	-

Source: Queensland State and Regional Household and Dwelling Projections 2006 to 2031 (2008 release), Queensland Centre for Population Research, University of Queensland

Figure 75. Percentage Change Between 2006 to 2031 for Household Projections for Lone-person Households by Queensland Statistical Division



The following table shows projected increases in one-parent households by Statistical Division expected by 2031. Wide Bay-Burnett, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and West Moreton are all predicted to increase more than the state average.

Table 69. Projected Increases in One-Parent Households for Statistical Divisions by 2031

		Year ('000)						
One parent households by Statistical Division	**Qld Rank**	**2006**	**2011**	**2016**	**2021**	**2026**	**2031**	**% change 2006 to 2031**
South West	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	O%
North West	2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	8%
Central West	6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	25%
Far North	3	11.6	13.4	14.5	15.3	16.1	17	47%
Darling Downs	7	9	10.2	11.1	12	12.7	13.5	50%
Northern	9	9.1	10.9	12.2	13.2	13.9	14.5	59%
Brisbane	13	78.3	90.7	100.8	109.4	117.3	125.2	60%
Fitzroy	8	8	9.4	10.4	11.3	12.1	13	63%
Mackay	10	5.4	6.3	7.3	7.9	8.5	8.9	65%
Wide Bay-Burnett	1	12.2	15	16.8	18.2	19.5	20.8	70%
Sunshine Coast	11	13.4	16	18	19.8	21.5	23.3	74%
Gold Coast	12	23.6	28.8	33.3	37.2	40.3	43.3	83%
West Moreton	4	2.9	3.6	4.3	4.9	5.5	6	107%
Queensland		**176.2**	**206.9**	**231.4**	**252.0**	**270.1**	**288.4**	**64%**

5.5 Families

Lifeline Community Care (North Queensland) provides services to young people aged 10 to 17 years of age who are from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. The Youth Services Teams collaborate with other non government services and organisations so that our collective resources, funding and staff can be utilised to the upmost potential for the most effective and robust outcomes for young people.

The following examples illustrate the effectiveness of these partnerships.

- Funding for a youth activities program called Parkour was about to cease. Parkour was started by the Youth Services Network in Townsville of which LCCNQ is a member. Parkour engages young people in developing their physical, social and emotional abilities. The activities are delivered in parks and other public spaces and have produced a large excited, energetic group of young people who are thriving on learning about themselves and doing physical activity at the same time. Rather than lose this valuable program the LCCNQ youth services team worked with their funding body to enable them to incorporate the program into their existing service delivery. This meant that this successful and unique program could be sustained for the benefit of young people in Townsville.
- Due to the ongoing success of the Parkour program Queensland Health and a local Police and Citizen's Youth Club (PCYC) have offered the Youth Service additional funding to employ another youth worker to run activities at the PCYC and a program called 'Getting Active in Parks'.

With the increase in partnerships and 'spreading the word', other partners such as Education Queensland have now approached Youth Services to create a new program to help young people disengaged from school complete year 10.

At the end of the day, the message is clear and simple. Services have the ability to make changes and cause 'ripple effects' by taking a community approach and developing programs in the best interests of young people. It is only when we work together that we can make things happen.

'It takes a community to raise a child' said Valerie the team leader of the Youth Services Team.

The following section analyses the location of families with children under the age of 15 years including:

- Lone parent households
- Welfare dependent households
- Jobless households.

McNamara et al. (2008) explore the dynamics of child social exclusion by measuring a range of variables. Spatial patterns emerged showing that 'areas with high child social exclusion are somewhat more likely to be in rural than urban areas, with relatively large numbers of small areas away from the populous and urbanised coastal areas falling into the bottom one or two social exclusion quintiles' (McNamara et al., 2008:15). It was also demonstrated that Brisbane has 'some areas which fall into the bottom two quintiles of child social exclusion risk' and consistent with other cities, this tended to be in the outer areas (McNamara et al., 2008:15). The implications of social exclusion are illustrated in McNamara's findings that:

- '60 per cent of children in the most at-risk areas come from a family where no-one has completed year 12 compared with just over 4 per cent of children in the least at-risk areas.

- Over two thirds of those children in the most at-risk SLAs live in public housing … 46.8 per cent of children in the highest risk areas live in homes without a car compared to only 1.3 per cent of children in the lowest-risk areas.'

- Over 28 per cent of capital city children fall in the top quintile (least exclusion) compared with less than 5 per cent of children in rural and regional areas.

McNamara, 2008:25, 27

The following table highlights the comparisons between the SLAs most and least at risk of child social exclusion. The risk of social exclusion is significantly higher among children in the 50 most disadvantaged SLAs than the least disadvantaged SLAs.

Table 70. Comparison of SLAs Most and Least at Risk of Child Social Exclusion

	Bottom 50 SLAs	Top 50 SLAs
Child and family characteristics	**Mean proportion of children at risk of social exclusion**	**Mean proportion of children at risk of social exclusion**
One parent family	36.4	10
Not year 12	60.1	4.3
Blue collar	25.7	4.9
Rent public housing	70.6	0.7
Parents not working	39.6	6.6
No internet connection	78.2	5.5
No motor vehicle	46.8	1.3
No parent volunteering	79.4	57.3
Bottom income quintile	58.6	6.7

Source: McNamara et al., 2008:26

Miranti et al. (2008) have examined small area trends within Australia in relation to children with jobless parents. They cite Leigh (2007 in Miranti et al., 2008:2) who found 'there was a high probability that children living with parents in the bottom quintile of the income distribution will remain living in that bottom quintile later in life'. Miranti et al. found that the overall number of children living in jobless households decreased between 1996 and 2006 (2008:24). Nonetheless there were still 684,000 children living with jobless parents in 2006 and of these 110,100 were in Queensland (aged 0-14) (Miranti et al., 2008:13). Various other characteristics were found in families where children were living with jobless parents including:

- 70% of children were living in jobless households where the head of the household was without post-school qualifications
- There was increased risk where the head of the household was younger than 30
- The overall risk of living with jobless parents was higher in households headed by a single parent
- The majority of children in jobless families are from capital cities however the risk of being in jobless families is higher for children in the balance of areas outside of capital cities.

Miranti et al., 2008:25.

Healy et al. (2009:7) describe the impacts and issues for young families migrating to non-metropolitan areas often in search of more affordable housing and other lifestyle opportunities. A number of challenges are faced by these families including a greater risk of social exclusion. Families can find themselves 'pushed' from metropolitan areas as a result of housing costs for example, and then face long commuting times to find employment (particularly in some locations). The families involved in the study highlighted a range of themes that contributed to their experiences of social exclusion including:

- 'Dislocation from informal networks
- Lack of local transport services
- Commuting for work
- Insularity
- Mobility of the community

- Inadequate service systems.' Healy et al., 2009:6.

A compelling reason for addressing the impacts of poverty and social disadvantage is because 'children in particular often carry the negative effects that result from childhood poverty into their adult lives' (Saunders et al., 2007:1). Many prevention and early interventions programs responding to poverty and disadvantage are based on a substantial body of research indicating that the first three years of life have a long term impact on the brain's ability to learn resulting in poorer health, lower incomes and socio-economic status later in life (Mercy and Saul, 2009:2262).

Single Parent Families with Children Aged Under 15 Years, 2006

In 2006, the number of Queensland families counted in the ABS Census totalled 1,032,019. Of these, 98,066 (9.5%) were single parent families with children under 15 years. Nationally, Queensland has the third highest proportion of single parent families with children under 15 years when compared with other States and Territories, after the Northern Territory at 13.6% and Tasmania at 10%. Queensland at 9.5% is higher than the overall Australian figure of 8.7%.

Figure 76. Proportion of Single Parent Families across Australia

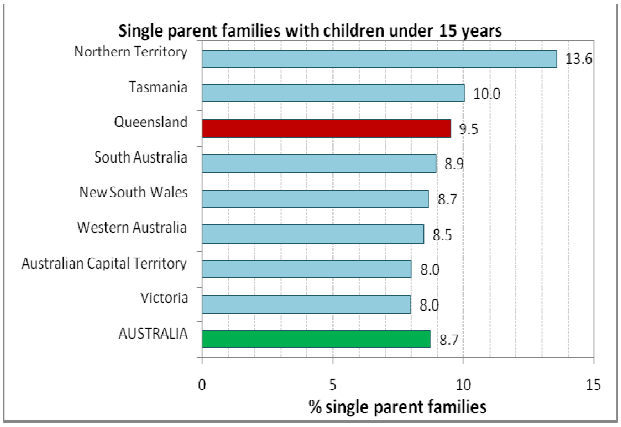
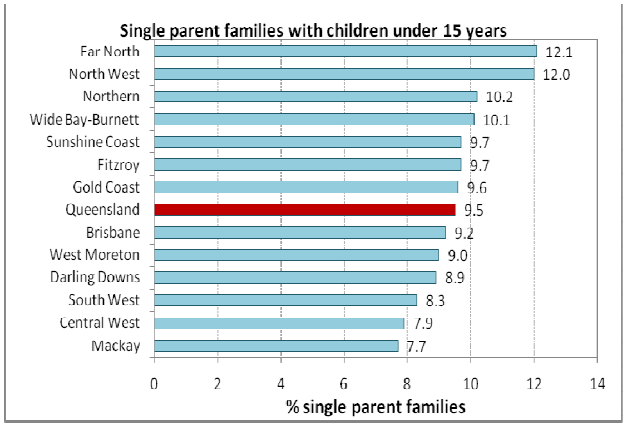


Figure 77. Proportion of Single Parent Families across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>.

Wide Bay-Burnett, scoring the lowest of all SDs on the IRSD, recorded 10.1% of its population as single parents with children aged under 15 years. Far North and North West had the highest proportions at 12.1% and 12.0%.

Figure 78 and **Figure 79** illustrate significant differences in the proportion of single parent families in each quintile. The most disadvantaged Queensland SLAs with low SEIFA IRSD scores (Quintile 1) had a higher proportion of single parent families with children aged under 15 years than the Queensland figure (13.8% compared with 9.5%).

Figure 78. Proportion of Single Parent Families in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

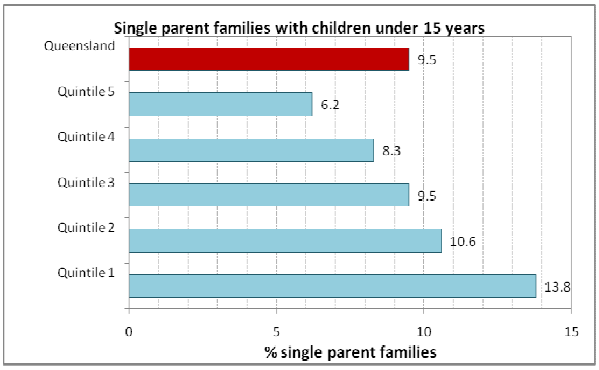
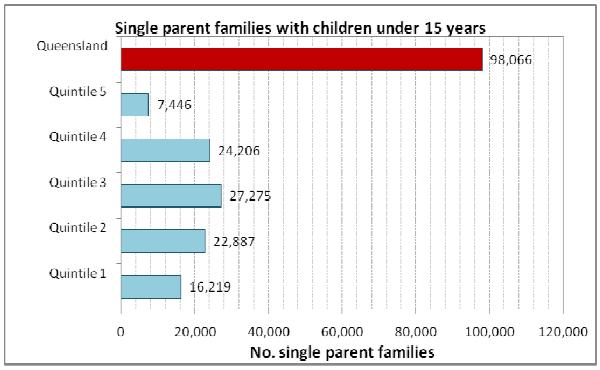


Figure 79. Number of Single Parent Families in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and SEIFA IRSD Quintiles calculated from ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Jobless Families with Children Aged Under 15 years

In 2006, there were 58,643 jobless families with children under 15 years in Queensland (representing 14% of all Queensland families with children under 15 years).

Figure 80. Proportion of Jobless Families across Australia

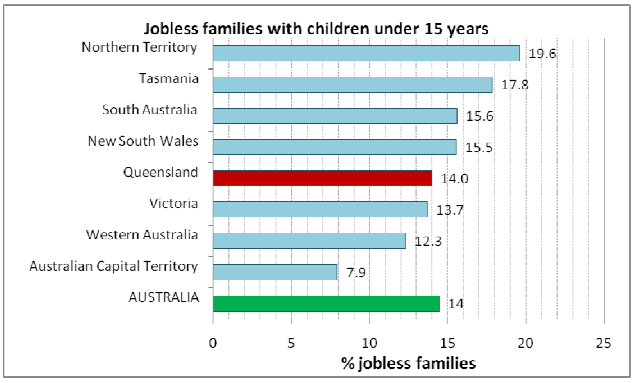
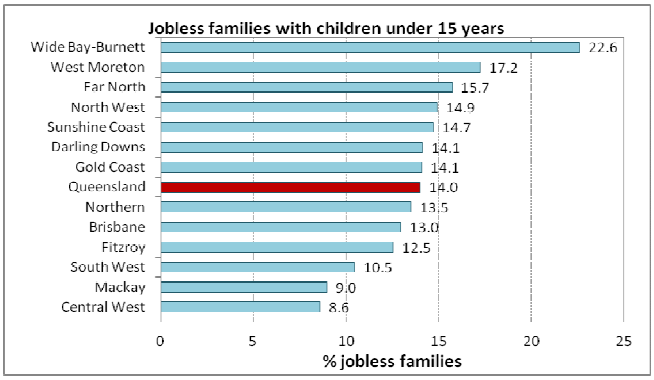


Figure 81. Proportion of Jobless Families across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished), sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>.

As seen in **Figure 80** and **Figure 81,** the proportion of jobless families is highly correlated with overall SEIFA IRSD scores at an SD level. Wide Bay-Burnett, scoring the lowest of all SDs, had a proportion of 22.6%, which is more than double the Queensland figure of 9.5% and well above the overall Australian figure of 14%.

Table 71 illustrates those SDs with significant absolute numbers of jobless families with children under 15 years including:

- Far North
- Sunshine Coast
- Wide Bay-Burnett
- Gold Coast
- Brisbane.

Table 71. Jobless Families with Children Under 15 Years by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	Jobless families with children under 15 years	Total families with children under 15 years	% jobless families
Queensland	**58,643**	**419,654**	**14.0**
Central West	100	1,167	8.6
South West	298	2,842	10.5
North West	515	3,455	14.9
West Moreton	1,314	7,625	17.2
Mackay	1,480	16,521	9.0
Fitzroy	2,701	21,547	12.5
Northern	2,961	21,953	13.5
Darling Downs	3,283	23215	14.1
Far North	4,051	25,750	15.7
Sunshine Coast	4,269	29,022	14.7
Wide Bay-Burnett	5,989	26,477	22.6
Gold Coast	6,947	49,271	14.1
Brisbane	24,735	190,814	13.0

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished), sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Wide Bay-Burnett and West Moreton had the highest proportion of jobless families with Children under 15 years highlighting concerns about the health of the local economies in these SDs.

Figure 82 and **Figure 83** show that 25% of all families with children under 15 years in Quintile 1 areas are jobless compared to only 7% in Quintile 5.

Figure 82. Proportion of Jobless Families in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

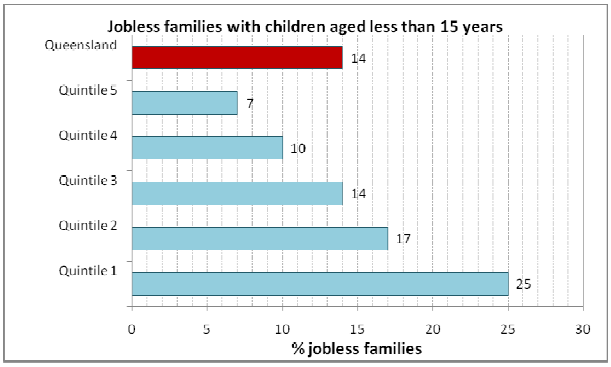
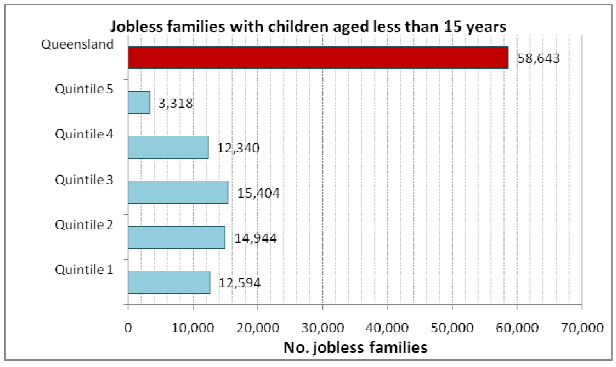


Figure 83. Number of Jobless Families in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished), sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and SEIFA IRSD Quintiles calculated from ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Welfare-Dependent and Other Low Income Families with Children

In 2006, Queensland had just above the national average of welfare-dependent and other low income families with children at 10.2% or 105,257 families. As such, Queensland had the third highest proportion when compared with other States and Territories, after the Northern Territory at 18.3% and Tasmania at 11.6%

Figure 84. Proportion of Welfare-Dependent and Other Low Income Families with Children across Australia

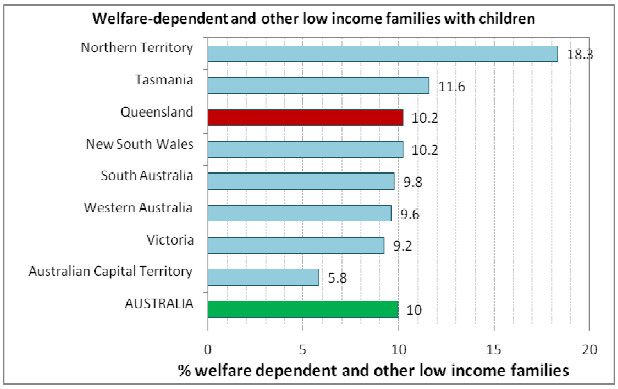
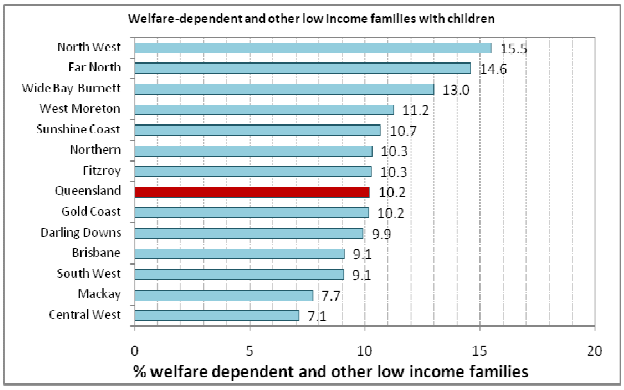


Figure 85. Proportion of Welfare-Dependent and Other Low Income Families with Children across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: Compiled[38] by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> from: 1) Low income families: Centrelink, June 2006; and Families: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Significantly, the Sunshine Coast, which is relatively less disadvantaged overall, includes some smaller areas with higher than average proportions of families in this group. These areas are concentrated around the SLAs of Caloundra (C) - Hinterland, Noosa (S) Bal, Maroochy (S) - Maroochydore, Noosa (S) - Tewantin, and Maroochy (S) - Coastal North.

Table 72. Welfare-Dependent and Other Low Income Families with Children by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	Welfare-dependent and other low income families	Total families	% welfare dependent and other low income families	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score
Queensland	**104,424**	**1,032,023**	**10.2**		
Central West	198	2,776	7.1	6	967
Mackay	2,982	38,573	7.7	10	1,006
Brisbane	42,443	466,051	9.1	13	1,026
South West	579	6,384	9.1	5	962
Darling Downs	5,616	56,609	9.9	7	986
Gold Coast	13,075	128,735	10.2	12	1,019
Fitzroy	5,030	48,928	10.3	8	989
Northern	5,283	51,225	10.3	9	993
Sunshine Coast	8,226	77,097	10.7	11	1,013
West Moreton	2,126	18,924	11.2	4	962
Wide Bay-Burnett	9,228	71,080	13.0	1	940
Far North	8,560	58,679	14.6	3	954
North West	1,078	6,962	15.5	2	947

Source: ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001 and compiled[39] by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> from: 1) Low income families: Centrelink, June 2006; and Families: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

[38] Note: For 2006, families included are those with children and with income under $22,966 p.a. in receipt of the Family Tax Benefit (A) (whether receiving income support payments or not). These families would all receive the Family Tax Benefit (A) at the maximum level.
The level of income used for these analyses was based on the *Poverty Lines: Australia, June Quarter 2006* which contains a weekly income for single parent with two children, including housing costs. *Poverty Lines: Australia* is a quarterly newsletter that updates the Henderson Poverty Line as defined in the 1973 Commonwealth Commission of Inquiry into Poverty. Poverty lines are presented for a range of family sizes, in order to avoid situation of poverty. The updated Poverty Lines take into account changes in the average income level of all Australians, reflecting the idea that poverty is relative. For further information see *Poverty Lines: Australia Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research.*

[39] Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>

Figure 86 highlights that 16.1% of all families in Quintile 1 are welfare-dependent families with children, while only 5.1% of families in Quintile 5 areas are welfare-dependent. The majority of welfare dependent families live in Quintiles 2-4 highlighting the importance of universal and targeted policies and programs that focus on family support.

Figure 86. Proportion of Welfare-Dependent and Other Low Income Families with Children in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

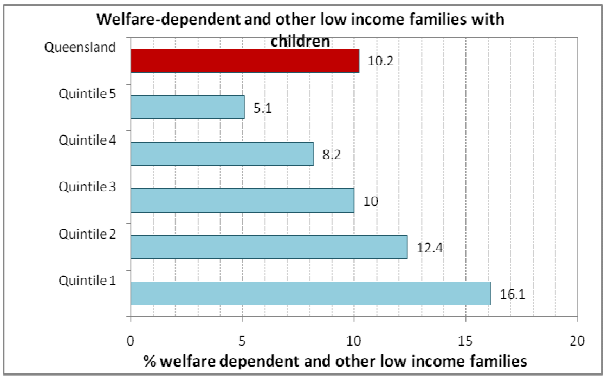
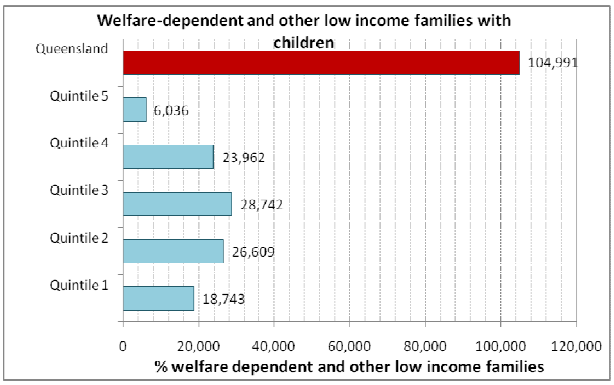


Figure 87. Number of Welfare-Dependent and Other Low Income Families with Children in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> from: 1) Low income families: Centrelink, June 2006; and Families: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing and SEIFA IRSD Quintiles calculated from ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

5.6 Older People

The question of poverty among older people has recently been widely debated in the context of a campaign to increase the aged pension to reflect the growing cost of living and more generally that the aged pension in Australia has been a lower proportion of average wages than some other countries.

The nature of poverty among older people has been documented in a report by Age Concern in the UK (Adams and West, 2006). The report warns that 'pensioners are being forced to live "just above the breadline", with inflation-busting bills leaving them with little money to enjoy retirement, ... thousands of older people are missing out on a decent quality of life, which could be putting them at risk of isolation and depression' (Age Concern Website, 2009 <http://www.ageconcern.org.uk>). This report highlights a range of issues:

- Even though some people reported that they manage, many reported worrying about money and that coping was stressful.
- Even if people reported being able to pay for the 'basics', it was difficult or impossible to afford new clothing, recreation and social opportunities, entertaining friends or the occasional treat.
- Access to suitable transport was a major barrier to socializing.
- Even people with some savings were reluctant to use them because of anxiety about future needs.
- Health, access to services, social life and relationships were all viewed as important to a reasonable standard of living.

Adams and West, 2006:4

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation analysed well-being among older people and found that particular groups of older people were more vulnerable to social exclusion including:

- Women
- Persons living alone
- Those that are widowed, divorced or separated
- People in poor health
- People with lower educational levels

- People living in deprived neighbourhoods.

Burholt and Windle, 2006:ix

QCOSS (2008) has also highlighted the affordability of housing for older people in the following policy position:

> *'As the population in Queensland ages the need for affordable, amenable and secure housing is imperative if people are to "age well" and "age in place". There is an urgency to address this for the growing number of elderly people living in housing stress in the private rental market. Overcoming transport disadvantage in parts of Queensland is essential if older people are not to become isolated and socially excluded'.*

All of these factors are compounded if the older person lives in a rural and remote community where access to quality services and aged care is extremely limited.

Population of Older People

In 2006, just over half a million or 511,466 of people in Queensland were aged 65 years and over. Of this group, 64,129 or 12% lived in lowest socioeconomic SLAs (in the 1st Quintile).

The following table shows the number and percentage of people aged 65 and 75 years and older against Quintiles 1-5 of the IRSD. The proportions at the oldest ages (65 years and over) are smallest for Quintiles 1 and 5 (at 12.5% and 8.9% respectively).

Table 73. Proportion of Older People by Quintiles of the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage

Older people	65 and over	%	75 and over	%
Quintile 1	64,129	12.5	27,669	11.9
Quintile 2	126,880	24.8	57,820	24.8
Quintile 3	151,072	29.5	69,309	29.7
Quintile 4	123,883	24.2	57,026	24.4
Quintile 5	45,502	8.9	21,399	9.2
Queensland	**511,500**	**100.0**	**233,238**	**100.0**

Source: ABS, 2006c and OESR, 2008A

At June 2006, there were 57,100 people aged 85 years and over, an increase of 12,600 people since June 2001 (ABS, 2006d). The proportion of the population aged 85 years and over is increasing, rising from 1.0% of the Queensland population in June 1996 to 1.2% in June 2001 and 1.4% in June 2006. The SDs with the highest proportions of their population in the 85 years and over age group were Sunshine Coast (with 1.8%), followed by Wide Bay-Burnett and Darling Downs (each with 1.7%), and Gold Coast (1.6%). At an SLA level, Sandgate and Chermside had the highest proportion of people in this age group at 5.7% each.

Population Projections for Older Queenslanders

Section 3.2 of Chapter 3 outlined the significant trend towards an ageing population in Queensland. The ABS reports the proportion of Australians aged 65 years and over has increased from 12% in June 1996 to 12.5% in June 2001 and 13% in June 2006. Since June 2001, the Queensland population in this age group has also increased by 71,300 (14.4%) to reach 493,500 at June 2006 (ABS, 2006d). The number of older Queenslanders is expected to more than double by 2031 from 510,002 in 2007 to almost 1 million in 2021 and 1.3 million in 2031. This age group represented 12.2% of the population in 2007 and is projected to make up 20.3% of the population by 2031.

Table 74. Population Projections for Older Queenslanders

	2031		2021		2007	
65+ years	1,274,001		922,001		510,002	
% total population	20.3%		16.8%		12.2%	
% change since 2007	149.0%%		80.8%		-	
	Males	***Females***	***Males***	***Females***	***Males***	***Females***
65+ years	615,000	660,000	443,000	480,000	238,000	274,000
% gender	19.6%	21.0%	16.2%	17.5%	11.4%	13.0%
% change since 2007	158.4%	140.9%	86.1%	75.21%	-	-

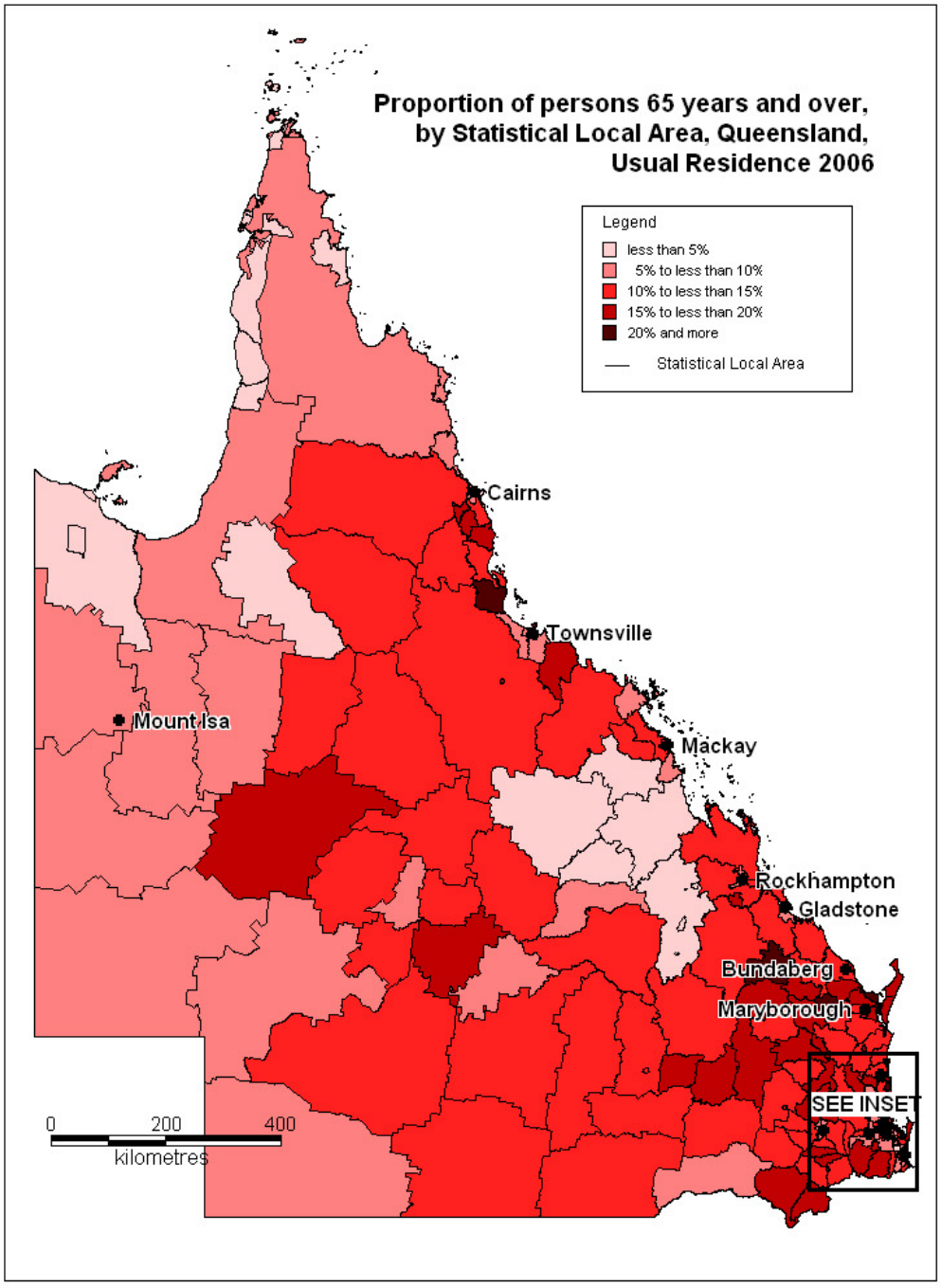
Source: ABS, 2006c and OESR, 2008A

PIFU estimates the fastest growth in numbers of older people will be in the north of Queensland. In contrast, numbers of children are expected to grow fastest in the areas west of the SEQ region. The most rapid increases in the number of older people is expected for the Northern and Far North SDs, whereas West Moreton SD is projected to have the fastest growth in children under 15 years of age (Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning, 2008).

Over one-third of all growth across SEQ will be in people aged 65 years or older within the next 25 years, accounting for 20 out of every 100 people in the region (527,000 people). The largest projected growth for this cohort will be in the Redland area at two-thirds of all projected growth. In contrast, Ipswich will capture one-third of expected growth of children aged younger than 15 years in SEQ (Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning, 2008).

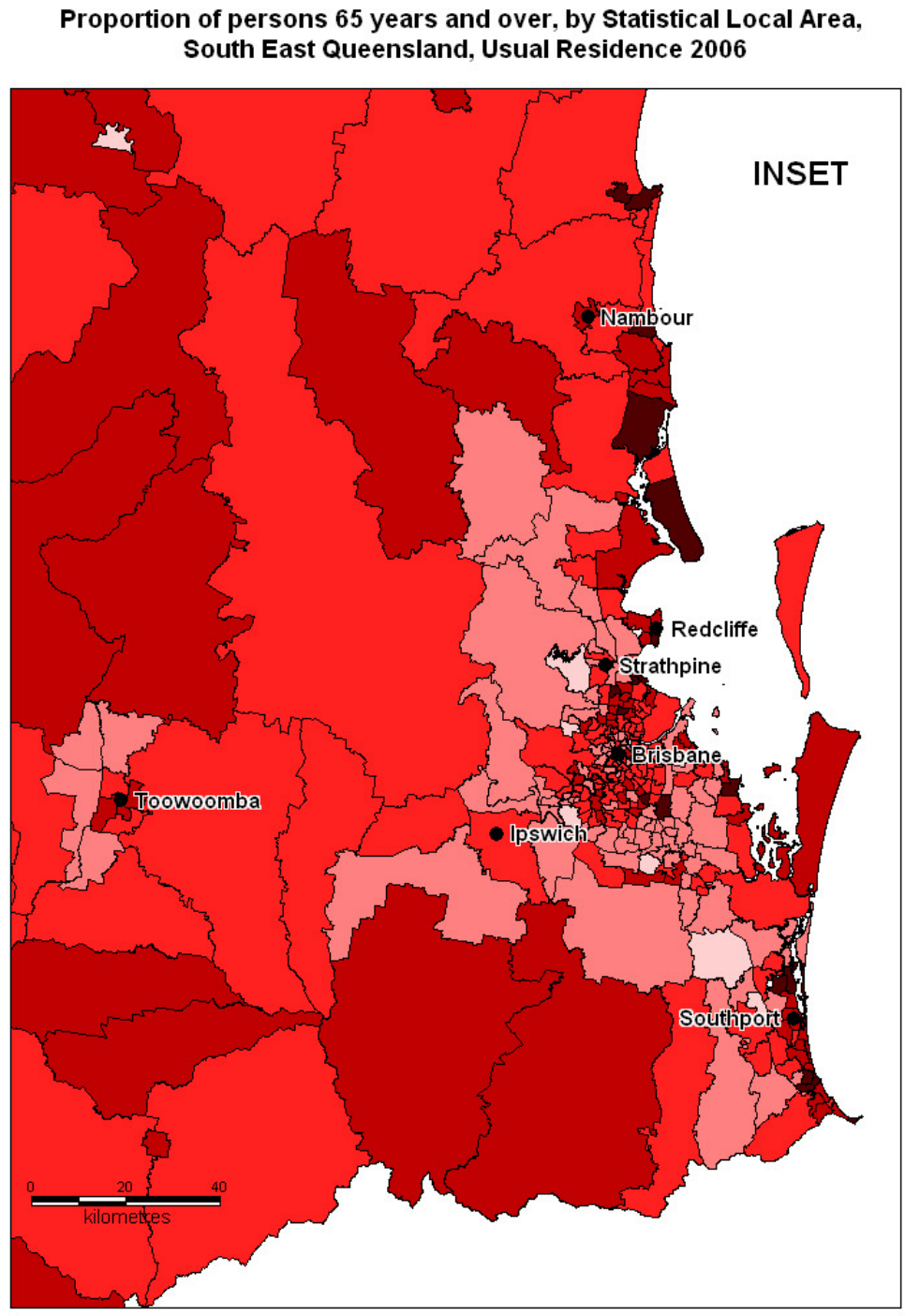
Regional communities will also experience rapid ageing with older people representing 21% of the population of the Eastern Queensland by 2031, up from 12.2% in 2006. In Burdekin Shire people aged 65 years or older will represent one-third of the population by 2031. In contrast, Townsville will have the largest growth in children aged younger than 15 years creating a large demand for services for this group such as schools.

Figure 88. Proportion of Persons 65 Years and Over, Queensland, 2006



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Basic Community Profile - B01.

Figure 89. Proportion of Persons 65 Years and Over, Queensland, 2006

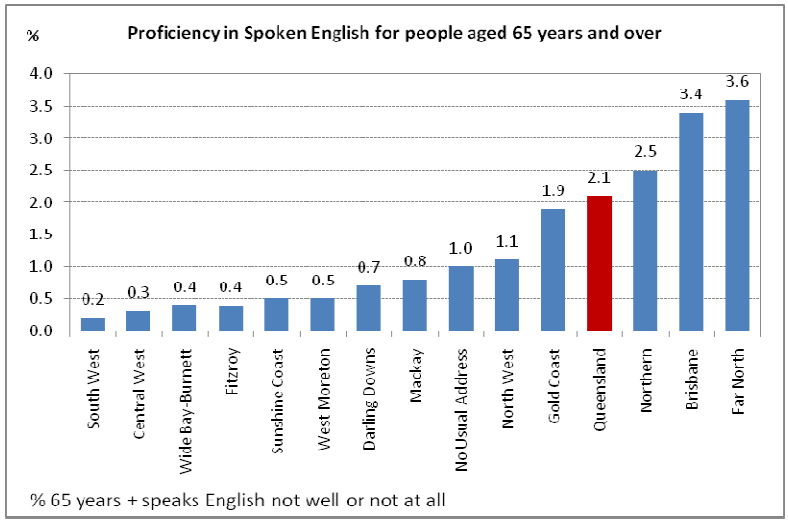


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Basic Community Profile - B01.

Proficiency in Spoken English for People Aged 65 Years and Over

Northern, Brisbane and Far North SDs have a higher than average proportion of people older than 65 years who do not speak English well or at all. Table 5.15 shows the absolute numbers of people in each SD further breaking this down to quantify those who speak English not well and not at all.

Figure 90. Proportion of People Aged 65 Years Who Speak English Not Well or Not at All



Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, CDATA Online Statistical Division (SD) and Age 5 Year Age Groups (AGEP) by Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)

Table 75. People Aged 65 Years Who Speak English Not Well or Not at All by Queensland Statistical Divisions

Statistical Division (SD)	Not well	Not at all	Not well or Not at all	Total	% 65+
Queensland	**7,759**	**2,433**	**10,192**	**482,885**	**2.1**
Brisbane	4,746	1,852	6,598	196,728	3.4
Gold Coast	1,019	258	1,277	67,910	1.9
Sunshine Coast	223	26	249	45,703	0.5
West Moreton	46	4	50	9,614	0.5
Wide Bay-Burnett	150	19	169	44,206	0.4
Darling Downs	183	26	209	30,608	0.7
South West	4	3	7	2,971	0.2
Fitzroy	63	20	83	20,515	0.4
Central West	4	0	4	1,424	0.3
Mackay	100	13	113	14,786	0.8
Northern	455	76	531	21,129	2.5
Far North	735	130	865	23,852	3.6
North West	19	3	22	1,989	1.1
No Usual Address	12	3	15	1,441	1.0

Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, CDATA Online Statistical Division (SD) and Age 5 Year Age Groups (AGEP) by Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)

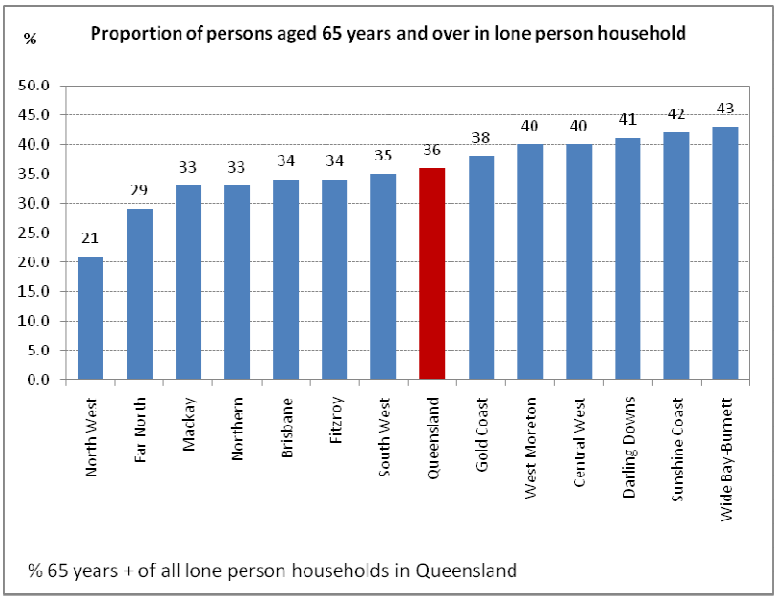
Lone Persons Aged 65 Years and Over

> You are no longer worth anything when you are old. People don't even see you anymore. When I walk down the street, no one ever says hello any more. Some days I wait out the front of my flat and wait till the post man comes to the letter box so that I had talk to him and ask for my mail. Sometimes he shakes my hand and says hello. He would have been the only person to hold my hand and talk to me all week.
>
> *Anonymous 67 year old woman, 2009*

The greater vulnerability of lone person households to poverty and isolation has been discussed in Section 5.4. **Figure 91** shows that some SDs in particular have higher than average proportions of older people living alone including:

- Gold Coast
- West Moreton
- Central West
- Darling Downs
- Sunshine Coast
- Wide Bay-Burnett.

Figure 91. Proportion of Persons Aged 65 Years and Over in a Lone Person Household



Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile - B22. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).

Table 76 shows in actual numbers, how many people older than 65 years are living alone (further broken down to reflect the numbers in each age bracket). Again this highlights SDs where the proportions might be lower but where total numbers are significant and warrant further consideration in service planning.

Table 76. People Aged 65 Years Who Live Alone by Queensland Statistical Divisions

Statistical Division	IRSD Score	Rank	65-74 Years	75-84 Years	85 Years +	Total 65 Years +	Total Lone Persons	% 65+
Queensland	1,005		**49,778**	**48,807**	**17,461**	**116,046**	**323,431**	**36%**
Central West	967	6	226	186	51	463	1,156	40%
North West	947	2	263	197	47	507	2,361	21%
South West	962	5	398	350	90	838	2,362	35%
West Moreton	962	4	989	828	278	2,095	5,203	40%
Mackay	1,006	10	1,619	1,399	479	3,497	10,622	33%
Fitzroy	989	8	2,355	1,997	665	5,017	14,718	34%
Northern	993	9	2,395	2,151	695	5,241	15,662	33%
Far North	954	3	2,794	2,329	695	5,818	20,224	29%
Darling Downs	986	7	3,326	3,284	1,213	7,823	18,929	41%
Wide Bay-Burnett	940	1	4,564	3,982	1,346	9,892	22,971	43%
Sunshine Coast	1,013	11	4,214	4,431	1,549	10,194	24,207	42%
Gold Coast	1,019	12	6,663	6,733	2,362	15,758	41,820	38%
Brisbane	1,026	13	19,974	20,936	7,989	48,899	143,188	34%

Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile - B22. (QRSIS database maintained by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR)).
Notes
1. Count of persons in occupied private dwellings (excludes persons in 'Visitors only' and 'Other not classifiable' households.)
Based on place of usual residence.
(a) Includes same sex couples.
(b) Comprises persons who were not at home on Census Night and stated their relationship in another household as 'Visitor'.

Housing Stress and Older People

This section of the report examines information on regional and small area affordability for low income private renters aged 65 years and over, since older households in private rental are particularly vulnerable to rental costs. In 2006, there were 43,315 low income households dependent on Centrelink incomes who were aged 65 years and over and were living in private rental accommodation in Queensland[40]. Of this group, 36% or 15,451 households paid more than 30% of their gross income on housing costs and therefore are considered to be experiencing 'housing stress'[41]. This older age group in housing stress made up 19% of all low income households in Queensland in 'housing stress' (83,456 households).

Figure 92 shows low income Queensland households aged 65 years and over as a proportion of all low income households living the Statistical Division, illustrating that the South East Queensland SDs of Gold Coast, Brisbane, and Sunshine Coast had the highest proportion of older low income households in housing stress (40%, 39% and 38% respectively). Mackay had the fourth highest proportion at 33%, followed by the Far North and Northern SDs at 31% each. Living closer to services and facilities such as transport, aged care as well as social support, may result in people facing higher housing costs.

Central West, North West, and South West had the lowest proportion of low income households aged 65 years and over in housing stress. A contributing factor of the lower rates of private rental stress for centrelink dependent households in this age group in these SDs may be lower housing costs in western Queensland (including rent for dwellings, electricity and other household fuels) compared with Brisbane (as identified in the OESR spatial price index for housing as at May 2006).[42]

[40] Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Housing Dataset of confidentialised Centrelink recipient records as at June 2008, summary tables provided by Queensland Department of Communities.
Based on actual private rents paid by Centrelink beneficiaries less Commonwealth Rent Assistance, expressed as a proportion of declared gross income. Centrelink beneficiaries include all households receiving benefits or allowances from Centrelink, including Family Allowance Part B recipients. This Centrelink file is provided under strict conditions for statistical analysis only.
[41] The Department of Housing considers that rents exceeding 30% of gross income are unaffordable to low income households, and those who exceed this rate are considered to be in 'housing stress'.
[42] Queensland Government (2006) Index Of Retail Prices In Queensland Regional Centres - May 2006 Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland.

The geographical spread of the 15,451 older low income households in rental stress is illustrated in figure 93. The South East Queensland region comprising Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton SDs had the highest proportion, with Brisbane at 42%. The Gold Coast had the second highest proportion of older low income households experiencing housing stress at 20%, followed by the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay-Burnett (at almost 9% and 8% respectively). Outside the South East Queensland region, the next highest proportion of older households in housing stress were located in the Darling Downs (5%), Far North (4.9%), Northern (3.8%), Fitzroy (3.2%), Mackay (2.5%), and West Moreton (1.5%). There was less than 0.2% of older people experiencing housing stress in the SDs of Central West, North West, and South West.

Figure 92. Proportion of Low Income Households Aged 65 Years and Over in Unaffordable Private Rental across Queensland Statistical Divisions

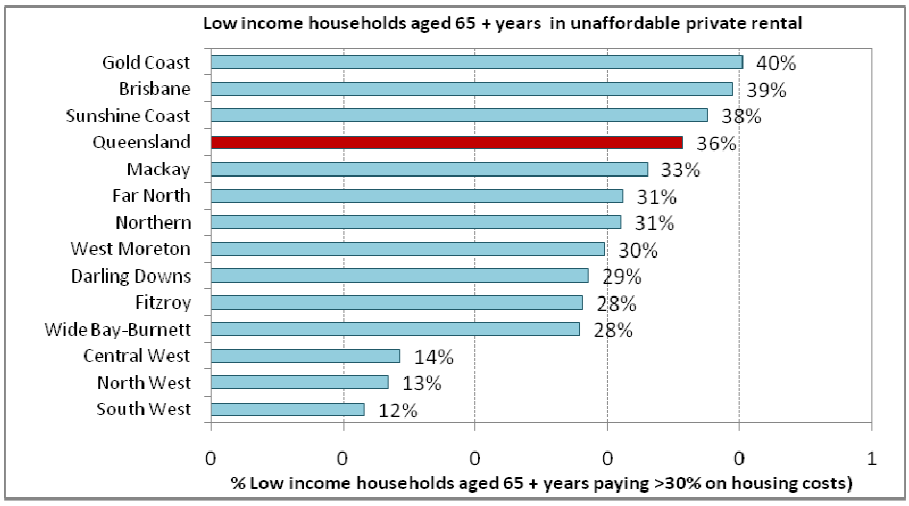
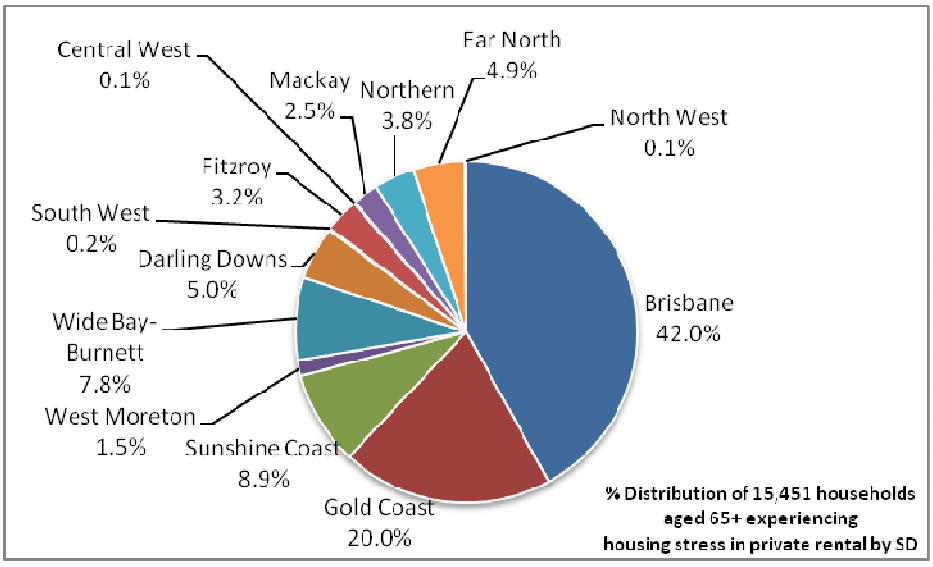


Figure 93. Distribution of Low Income Households Aged 65 Years and Over in Housing Stress in Private Rental Accommodation across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: AIHW Housing Dataset of confidentialised Centrelink recipient records as at June 2008, summary tables provided by Queensland Department of Communities.

In considering the socioeconomic status of SDs based on overall SEIFA IRSD scores, it is clear that there are higher proportions of older low income households who are experiencing housing stress whilst living in relatively less disadvantage areas.

Figure 94. Proportion of Low Income Households Aged 65 Years and Over in Unaffordable Private Rental by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

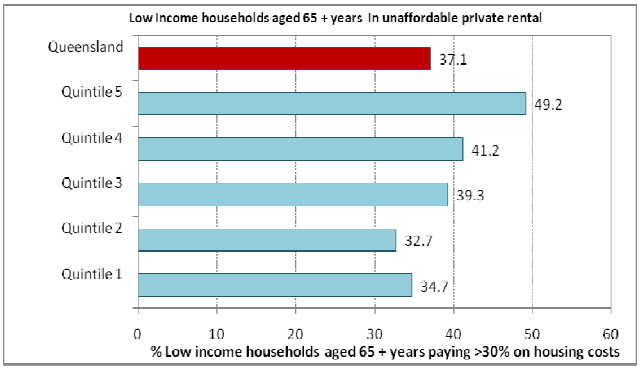
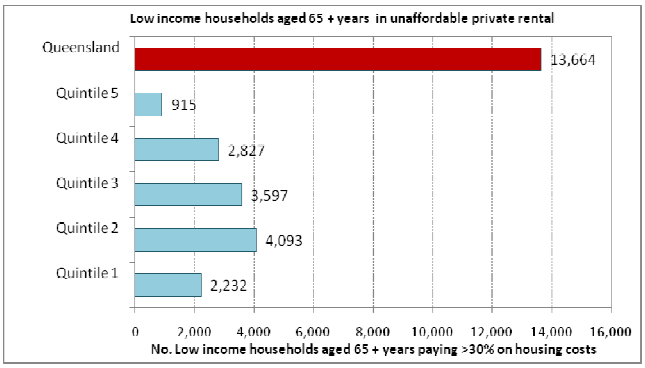


Figure 95. Number of Low Income Households Aged 65 Years and Over in Unaffordable Private Rental by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: AIHW Housing Dataset of confidentialised Centrelink recipient records as at June 2008, summary tables provided by Queensland Department of Communities.

Table 77. Low Income Households Aged 65 Years and Over in Unaffordable Private Rental by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	SEIFA IRSD Index score (based on Australian score = 1000)	Queensland Rank	Households aged 65+ in housing stress paying >30% on housing costs	Low income households in private rental	% aged 65+ Housing Stress in private rental
Queensland	**1005**	**-**	**15,451**	**43,315**	**36%**
Gold Coast	1019	12	3,087	7,674	40%
Brisbane	1026	13	6,491	16,444	39%
Sunshine Coast	1013	11	1,370	3,643	38%
Mackay	1006	10	381	1,155	33%
Northern	993	9	591	1,907	31%
Far North	954	3	757	2,428	31%
West Moreton	962	4	229	770	30%
Darling Downs	986	7	779	2,728	29%
Wide Bay-Burnett	940	1	1,208	4,327	28%
Fitzroy	989	8	499	1,776	28%
Central West	967	6	15	105	14%
North West	947	2	19	142	13%
South West	962	5	25	216	12%

Source: AIHW Housing Dataset of confidentialised Centrelink recipient records as at June 2008, summary tables provided by Queensland Department of Communities.

5.7 People from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds[43]

Migration can potentially impact on individuals and families in a variety of ways including changes to economic status, adapting to an environment and culture that is different, language barriers, and the challenge of re-establishing social connections (Department of Communities, 2007:34).

[43] Notes: Countries designated as predominantly non-English speaking exclude the following counties that are designated as 'English speaking' Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

When people belong to a minority group defined by smaller numbers, then the following can also have an impact:

- Discrimination
- Exclusion arising from a lack of group identity and sense of belonging
- Social or physical isolation from mainstream society.

When a person or household comes to Australia under refugee status, the issues can be more significant and complex:

> *'Refugee settlement is highly sensitive as refugees experience displacement prior to arrival and in most cases have departed involuntarily from their country of origin. Refugees have faced physical hardships, emotional trauma, torture and deprivation, and often witness disasters, wars and the deaths of immediate family members prior to fleeing. In each of these instances, refugees have experienced situations that provoke strong reactions and emotions. Complex refugee processing systems, detention and waiting in refugee camps can exacerbate this, making migration patterns and settlement processes for refugees very different from those of other migrants. Refugees carry with them the history of their traumatic experiences, which influences how they adjust and settle to a new life in the host country.'*
>
> Department of Communities, 2007

A recent exploration of tenancy issues for new and emerging communities by The Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland found significant evidence of the following issues:

- Households were vulnerable to moving several times in the first months and sometimes years of their settlement with negative impacts on the sense of security and belonging
- New and emerging communities are disproportionately affected by poverty which has a bearing on the quality of housing that is accessed (and a high proportion of people paying more than 30% of income on rent)
- Lack of employment and rental history also impacts on housing outcomes
- A heavy reliance on relatives and friends for help
- Lower levels of knowledge and understanding about housing systems
- Vulnerability to spatial segregation
- Experiences of discrimination and a reluctance to exercise their rights.

ECCQ, 2009: 7-8

People from Non-English Speaking Background, Resident in Australia for Less Than Five Years

Figure 96. Proportion of People Born In A Non-English Speaking Country Resident in Australia Less Than Five Years across Australia

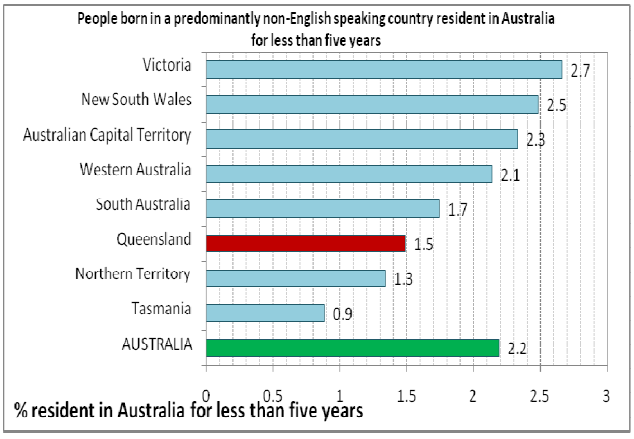
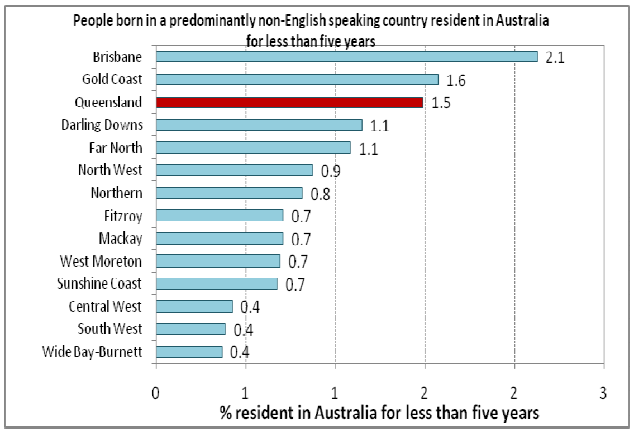


Figure 97. Proportion of People Born In A Non-English Speaking Country Resident in Australia Less Than Five Years across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>

The proportion of people born in a predominantly non-English speaking country (and resident in Australia for less than five years) is lower than the national average (1.5% compared to 2.2%), **Table 78** (below) illustrates the actual numbers of people in each SD. Darling Downs for example has a significant and emerging community of people who have settled in Australia as refugees (2,453). **Figure 98** highlights that a total of 4,891 people resided in areas ranked within Quintile 1.

Table 78. People Born in a Predominantly Non-English Speaking Country Resident in Australia for Less Than Five Years by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	Resident in Australia for less than five years	Total population	% resident in Australia for less than five years
Queensland	**58,068**	**3,904,534**	**1.5**
Wide Bay-Burnett	933	254,661	0.4
South West	95	24,779	0.4
Central West	46	10,852	0.4
Sunshine Coast	1,864	276,267	0.7
West Moreton	475	68,629	0.7
Mackay	1,060	150,177	0.7
Fitzroy	1,332	188,403	0.7
Northern	1604	196,671	0.8
North West	270	30,942	0.9
Far North	2,502	231,051	1.1
Darling Downs	2,453	213,754	1.1
Gold Coast	7,584	482,324	1.6
Brisbane	37,498	1,763,132	2.1

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Figure 98. Number of People Born In a Predominantly Non-English Speaking Country Resident in Australia for Less Than Five Years in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

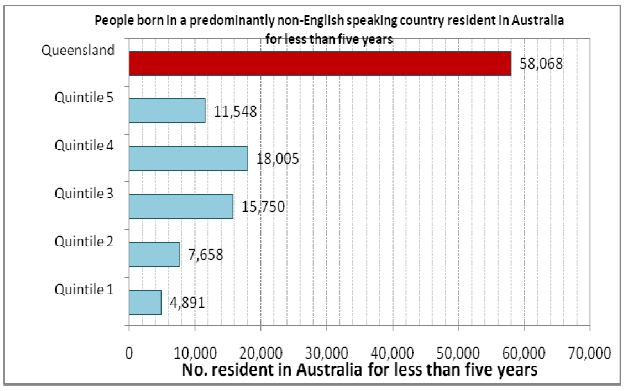
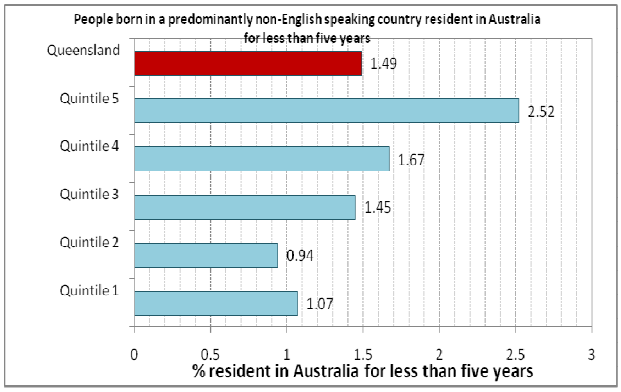


Figure 99. Proportion of People Born In a Predominantly Non-English Speaking Country Resident in Australia for Less Than Five Years in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and SEIFA IRSD Quintiles calculated from ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

People from Non-English Speaking Background Reporting Poor Proficiency in English[44]

Figure 100. Proportion of People Born in a Non-English Speaking Country Reporting Poor Proficiency in English across Australia

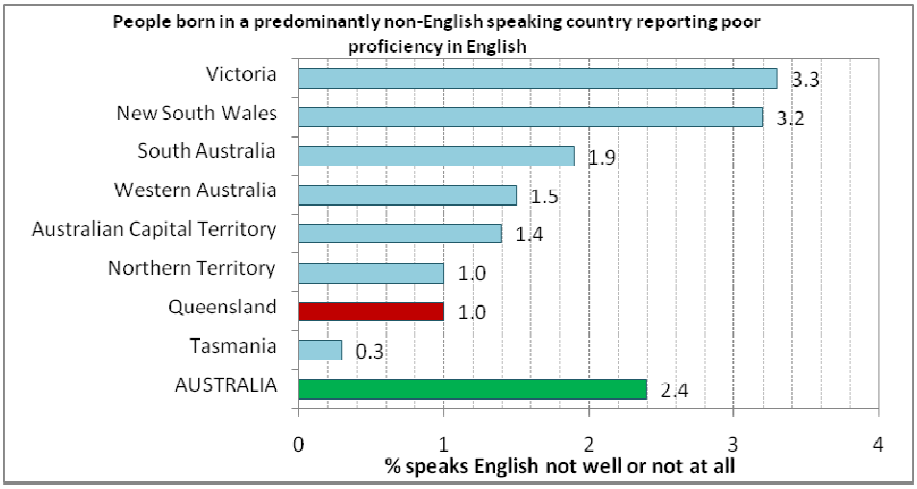
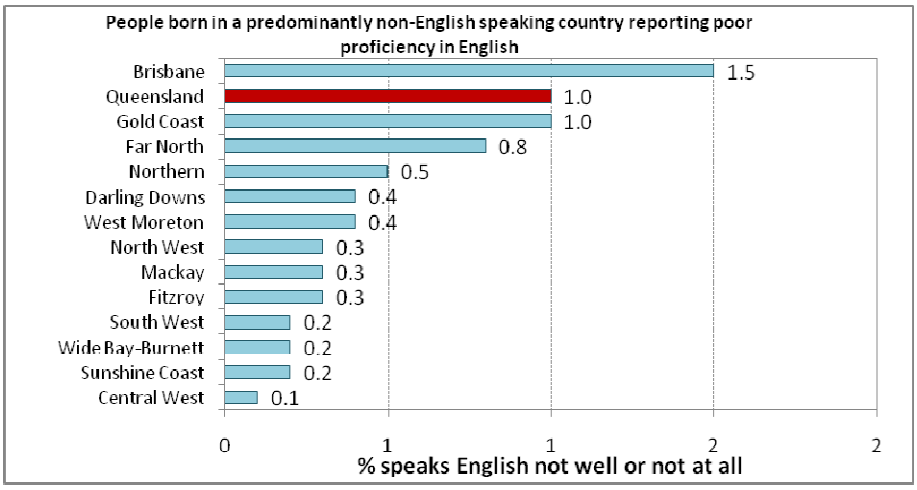


Figure 101. Proportion of People Born in a Non-English Speaking Country Reporting Poor Proficiency in English across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>

People with poor proficiency in English are a lower proportion of Queensland's population than the Australian average. **Table 79** illustrates that some SDs have an absolute number of people with a low proficiency in English that might impact on how services are designed and targeted in particular communities.

[44] Notes: Countries designated as predominantly non-English speaking exclude the following counties that are designated as 'English speaking' Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Table 79. People Born in a Predominantly Non-English Speaking Country Reporting Poor Proficiency in English by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	Speaks English not well or not at all	People aged 5 years and over	% speaks English not well or not at all
Queensland	**35,676**	**3,647,454**	**1.0**
Central West	6	10,042	0.1
Sunshine Coast	545	260,361	0.2
Wide Bay-Burnett	531	239,436	0.2
South West	45	22,831	0.2
Fitzroy	519	174,868	0.3
Mackay	367	139,723	0.3
North West	76	28,031	0.3
West Moreton	240	64,379	0.4
Darling Downs	785	198,838	0.4
Northern	911	183,078	0.5
Far North	1,820	214,174	0.8
Gold Coast	4,585	453,805	1.0
Brisbane	25,127	1,645,514	1.5

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

People reporting poor proficiency in English reside in areas across all quintiles. 6,265 people with poor proficiency in English did reside in Quintile 1 compared to only 4,886 in Quintile 5. This distribution highlights that some people in areas with overall lower levels of disadvantage may still require particular assistance with associated impacts on service delivery. Living in an area of greatest relative disadvantage may nonetheless compound the experience of poor proficiency in English depending on available services and infrastructure such as transport, particularly where language and/or cultural groups represent a small minority.

Figure 102. Proportion of People Born In a Predominantly Non-English Speaking Country Reporting Poor Proficiency in English in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

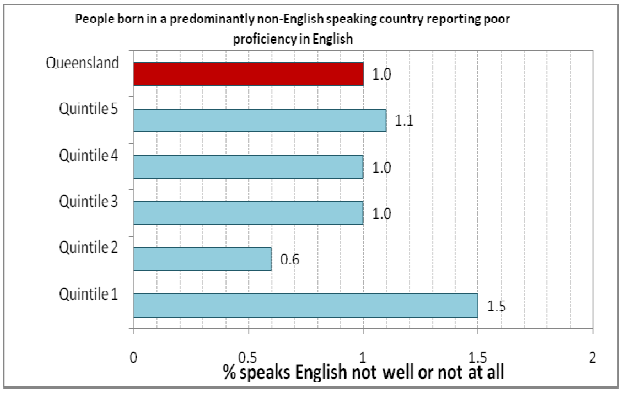
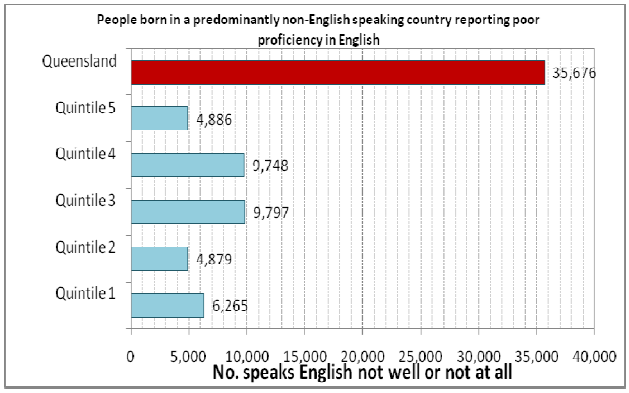


Figure 103. Number of People Born In a Predominantly Non-English Speaking Country Reporting Poor Proficiency in English in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing, sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and SEIFA IRSD Quintiles calculated from ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

5.8 People with a Disability

'Research by the Social Policy Research Centre found that where there is someone in a household with a disability, poverty rates are higher and hardship is more prevalent' (SPRC, 2007:1).

This study identified a number of characteristics among the study sample, including that people with a disability were:

- More likely to live alone than the wider sample
- More likely to be renting public housing or live in a boarding house
- More likely to be unemployed
- More likely to be on the Disability Support Pension than to be in receipt of wages or salary.

SPRC, 2007:1-2

This study highlighted that the sample had difficulty gaining access to a range of services including health services, disability services, mental health services, dental services and a bulk billing doctor. 54.3% of participants with a disability didn't have access to someone who could look after them when sick and needing help around the house. 40% of the sample indicated they did not have a secure and decent home and 34% indicated they did not have regular social contact with other people.

There are a number of young people with a disability, living in aged care facilities because of a lack of accessible private housing and community support. Families are often without sufficient respite and struggle to identify appropriate alternative sources of support for their family member as parents age. There is also a significant link between disability and vulnerability to housing stress and homelessness. People with a disability including mental illness are also over-represented in the prison system.

Last year's 2020 summit recommended that the government look at the feasibility of a national disability insurance scheme:

> *'We have moved from a situation where people with disabilities were shut in Dickensian institutions to one where we have moved them into the community but they are still largely excluded. In the vast majority of cases they are dependent on the care and support of family members and that is provided until they collapse from the strain or die'.*

The following figures and tables highlight that some SDs have a higher proportion of people with a profound or severe disability than Queensland and Australia overall including:

- Sunshine Coast
- Darling Downs
- West Moreton
- Wide Bay-Burnett.

It is also important to note that while there are people living with a disability across all quintiles, a higher number of people live in areas within Quintile 1 (most disadvantaged) than Quintile 5 (least disadvantaged). **Table 80** also shows the actual number of people living with a severe disability in each SD.

Figure 104. Proportion of People with a Profound or Severe Disability* across Australia

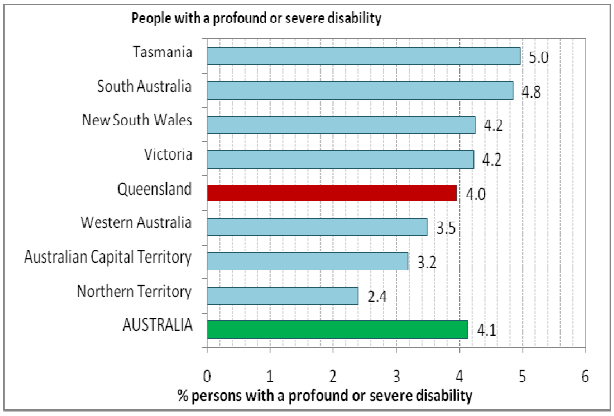
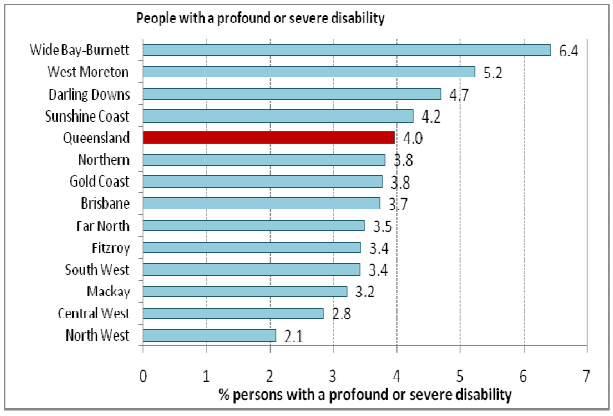


Figure 105. Proportion of People with a Profound or Severe Disability* across Queensland Statistical Divisions



*includes people in long-term accommodation Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> from 1) Total: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing; 2) people living in long term residential accommodation: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished)

Table 80. People with a Profound or Severe Disability (includes people in long-term accommodation) by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	Persons with a profound or severe disability	Total population	% persons with a profound or severe disability	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Rank
North West	646	30,944	2.1	2	947
Central West	308	10,848	2.8	6	967
Mackay	4,818	150,174	3.2	10	1,006
Fitzroy	6,464	188,412	3.4	8	989
South West	846	24,774	3.4	5	962
Far North	8,046	231,023	3.5	3	954
Brisbane	65,738	1,763,155	3.7	13	1,026
Gold Coast	18,169	482,322	3.8	12	1,019
Northern	7,500	196,688	3.8	9	993
Queensland	**154,707**	**3,904,533**	**4.0**	**-**	**1005**
Sunshine Coast	11,741	276,272	4.2	11	1,013
Darling Downs	10,037	213,758	4.7	7	986
West Moreton	3,587	68,632	5.2	4	962
Wide Bay-Burnett	16,354	254,667	6.4	1	940

Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> from 1) Total: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing; 2) people living in long term residential accommodation: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Figure 106. Proportion of People with a Profound or Severe Disability* across Australia

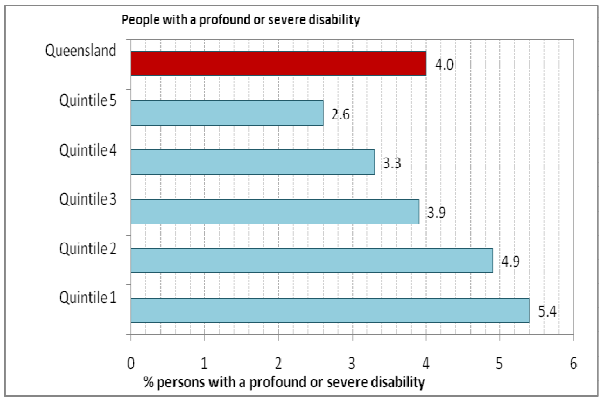
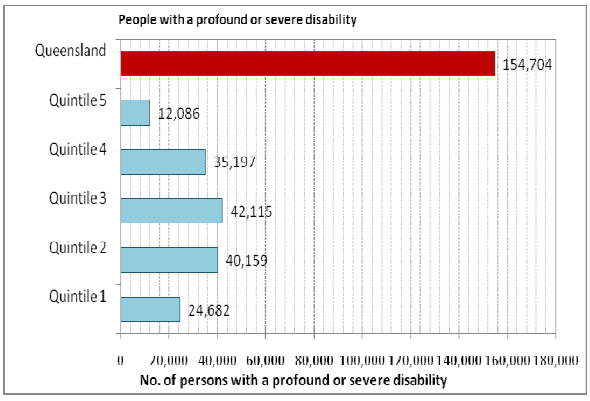


Figure 107. Number of People with a Profound or Severe Disability* across Queensland Statistical Divisions



*Includes people in long-term accommodation

Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> from 1) Total: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing; 2) people living in long term residential accommodation: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

People with a Profound or Severe Disability and Living in the Community

The following figures highlights that West Moreton and Wide Bay-Burnett have a significantly higher proportion of residents living with a severe disability in the community.

Figure 108. Proportion of People with a Profound or Severe Disability and Living in the Community across Australia

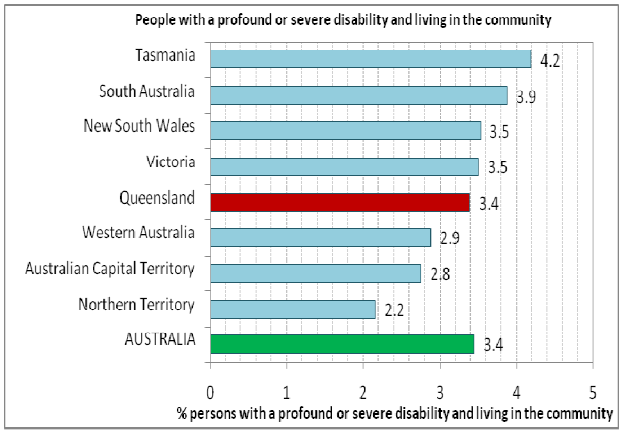
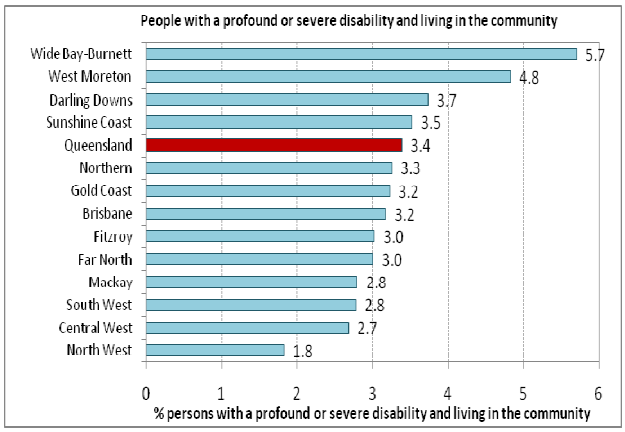


Figure 109. Proportion of People with a Profound or Severe Disability and Living in the Community across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> from 1) Total: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing; 2) people living in long term residential accommodation: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished)

Table 81. People with a Profound or Severe Disability and Living in the Community by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	Persons with a profound or severe disability and living in the community	Total population	% persons with a profound or severe disability and living in the community	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score
Queensland	**132,255**	**3,904,533**	**3.4**	**-**	**1005**
North West	566	30,944	1.8	2	947
Central West	291	10,848	2.7	6	967
Mackay	4,199	150,174	2.8	10	1,006
South West	689	24,774	2.8	5	962
Far North	6,937	231,023	3.0	3	954
Fitzroy	5,697	188,412	3.0	8	989
Brisbane	55,938	1,763,155	3.2	13	1,026
Gold Coast	15,559	482,322	3.2	12	1,019
Northern	6,399	196,688	3.3	9	993
Sunshine Coast	9,726	276,272	3.5	11	1,013
Darling Downs	7,978	213,758	3.7	7	986
West Moreton	3,313	68,632	4.8	4	962
Wide Bay-Burnett	14,510	254,667	5.7	1	940

Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> from 1) Total: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing; 2) people living in long term residential accommodation: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Figure 110. Proportion of People with a Profound or Severe Disability and Living in the Community across Australia

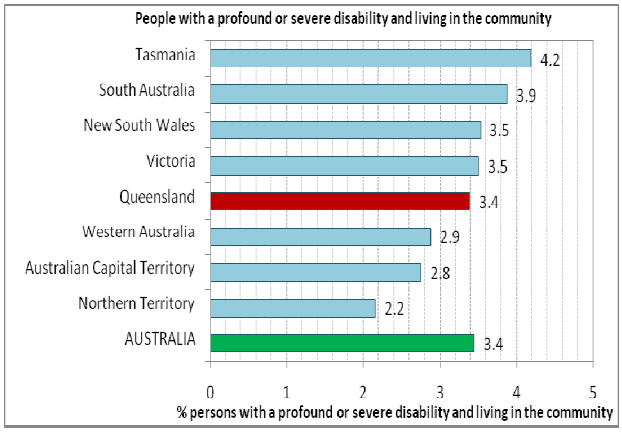
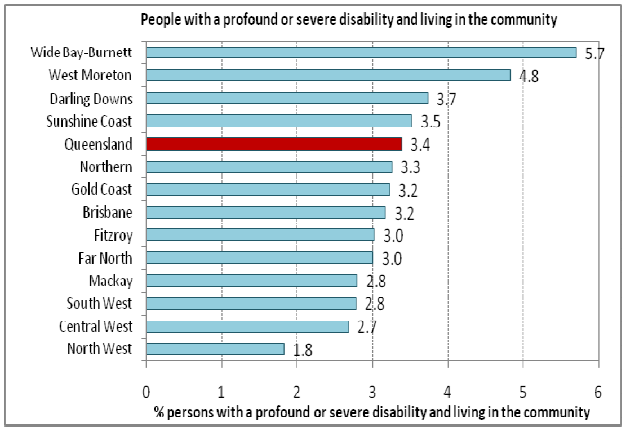


Figure 111. Proportion of People with a Profound or Severe Disability and Living in the Community across Queensland Statistical Divisions



5.9 Housing

> I remember a few times sitting in the city and I used to watch people, you know, with their mates drinking and playing pool and sort of realising that I'll never have that. [Once I became homeless] even my [social] group had trouble talking to me. And that's where it all started; like no one knew how to talk to me … anymore. *Person experiencing homelessness QLD 2007.*
>
> You become a bit of dust. I feel completely rejected by society. I can't afford to dress well, and I can't afford to do my washing every day. I look grubby. I feel belittled. I've lost my sense of pride, and I've lost my sense of self esteem. *Person experiencing homelessness Qld 2007.*
>
> Walsh, 2007

Housing affordability has been widely debated in the context of recent Federal Government initiatives to address an overall lack of housing supply that is available and accessible to people on lower incomes. A generally accepted definition of housing affordability is when housing costs no more than 30% of income for the households in the bottom 40% of incomes (Yates and Milligan, 2007:4).

In a report on housing affordability, Yates and Milligan highlight that:

- Certain households and groups are more at risk of housing affordability problems including young people, single people, households with children and private renters.
- Lower income renters have more significant problems than lower income purchasers and many private renters no longer aspire to purchasing a dwelling.
- 50% of private renter households in housing stress are experiencing 'severe' problems with housing affordability.
- For many lower income households, housing stress is a long term problem.
- Lack of housing affordability can result in people moving more often with an impact on social cohesion.
- Declining housing affordability may have impacts on the labour market and 'may be a driving factor contributing to social exclusion and spatial polarisation'.

Yates and Milligan, 2007:4-7

AHURI quoted by Mission Australia highlights a mismatch 'between where housing is affordable and jobs are located' resulting in particular impacts on the migration patterns of welfare recipients with 9500 more welfare recipients moving out of metropolitan areas than into metropolitan areas (in 2000) (Mission Australia, 2006:7).

Dwellings Rented from the Government Housing Authority

The following tables illustrate that Queensland has a lower proportion of dwellings rented from the government housing authority than Australia overall.

Figure 112. Proportion of Dwellings Rented from the Government Housing Authority across Australia

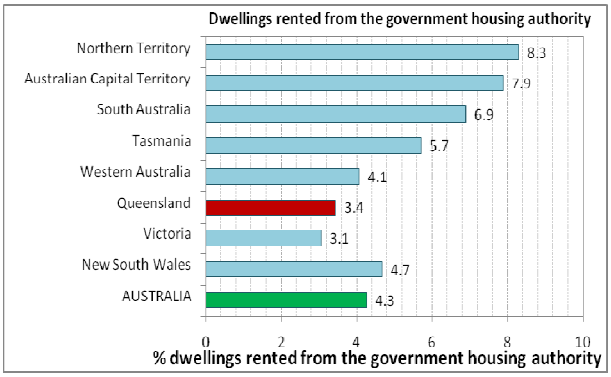
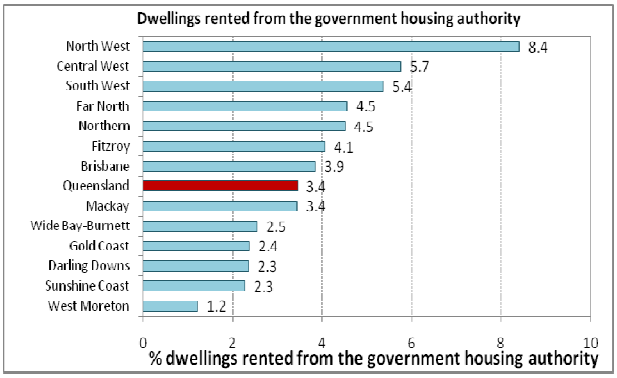


Figure 113. Proportion of Dwellings Rented from the Government Housing Authority across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>

Table 82 illustrates that some SDs have a lower proportion of government housing authority housing than Queensland overall. The Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast are within the high-growth SEQ region where there are significant pressures on existing housing supply, exacerbating the impact of lower than average levels of subsidised housing. Some areas such as Wide Bay-Burnett and West Moreton have relatively high levels of disadvantage yet lower than average levels of public housing which may impact negatively in terms of housing stress.

Table 82. Dwellings Rented from the Government Housing Authority by Statistical Divisions

	Dwellings rented from the government housing authority	Total dwellings	% dwellings rented from the government housing authority	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score
Queensland	**47,878**	**1,391,632**	**3.4**	**-**	**1005**
West Moreton	298	24,360	1.2	4	962
Darling Downs	1,810	77,126	2.3	7	986
Sunshine Coast	2,350	103,673	2.3	11	1,013
Gold Coast	4,201	176,957	2.4	12	1,019
Wide Bay-Burnett	2,424	95,335	2.5	1	940
Mackay	1,719	50,025	3.4	10	1,006
Brisbane	24,200	628,216	3.9	13	1,026
Fitzroy	2,625	64,708	4.1	8	989
Far North	3,651	80,270	4.5	3	954
Northern	3,098	68,681	4.5	9	993
South West	477	8,888	5.4	5	962
Central West	230	4,001	5.7	6	967
North West	791	9,408	8.4	2	947

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

The following graph shows that 10,713 dwellings are within Quintile 1 areas equalling 6.7% of all dwellings compared to only 1.5% or 2,421 dwellings in Quintile 5 areas.

Figure 114. Proportion of Dwellings Rented from the Government Housing Authority by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

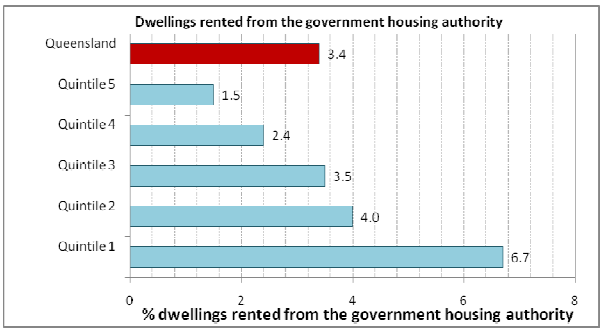
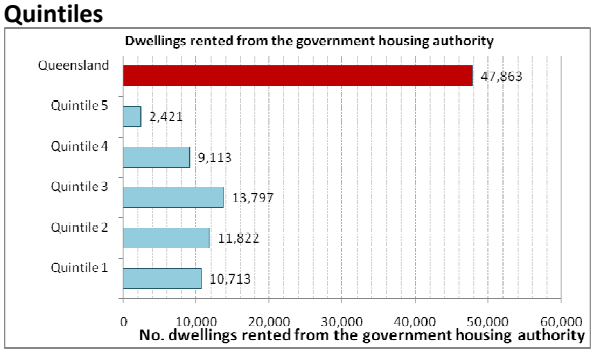


Figure 115. Number of Dwellings Rented from the Government Housing Authority by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Households in Dwellings Receiving Rent Assistance from Centrelink

Figures 116 and 117 show that Queensland has a higher than average overall proportion of households in receipt of rent assistance (17.8% compared to 14.2% for Australia overall). It is significant that four SDs include an even higher proportion of households in receipt of rent assistance which indicates the extent of households with incomes low enough to qualify for this assistance and may also relate to the lower than average levels of available subsidised housing. Again, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast areas with significant overall populations include over one fifth of all households in receipt of rent assistance. A total of 9 SDs had a higher overall proportion of households in receipt of rent assistance than the Australian average. In examples such as Brisbane, 16.9% of all households equating to 104,023 households are in receipt of rent assistance.

As a possible indicator of housing stress, the households in receipt of rent assistance might for example be vulnerable to upward trends on prices in the private rental market as well as low vacancy rates. Healy (2009:7) et al. highlight housing as one push factor causing family households to leave more advantaged places for urban fringe, coastal and other more remote places and advocated for policies and programs that reduce the 'push factors' leading young families in particular, to move where they are potentially more vulnerable to social exclusion.

Figure 116. Proportion of Households in Dwellings Receiving Rent Assistance from Centrelink across Australia

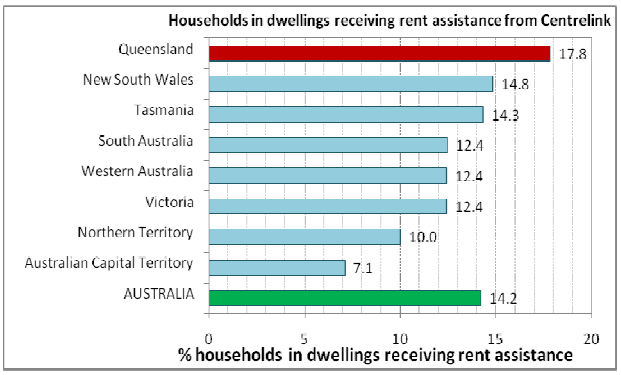
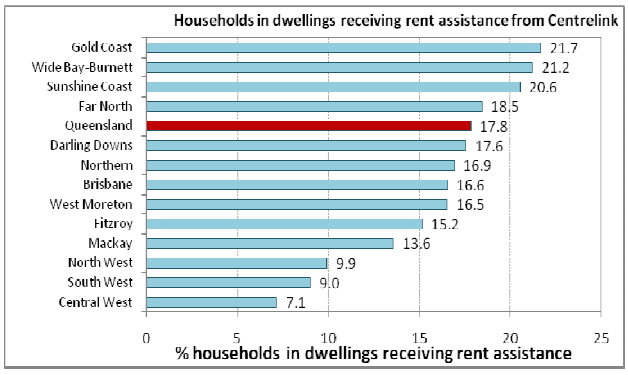


Figure 117. Proportion of Households in Dwellings Receiving Rent Assistance from Centrelink across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) National Renters; Centrelink, March Quarter 2006; and 2) Dwellings: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Table 83. Households in Dwellings Receiving Rent Assistance from Centrelink by Queensland Statistical Divisions

	Households in dwellings receiving rent assistance from Centrelink	Total dwellings	% households in dwellings receiving rent assistance	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score
Queensland	**248,127**	**1,391,634**	**17.8**		
Central West	286	4,009	7.1	6	967
South West	799	8,887	9.0	5	962
North West	930	9,401	9.9	2	947
Mackay	6,793	50,028	13.6	10	1,006
Fitzroy	9,812	64,710	15.2	8	989
West Moreton	4,029	24,365	16.5	4	962
Brisbane	104,023	628,179	16.6	13	1,026
Northern	11,631	68,680	16.9	9	993
Darling Downs	13,550	77,126	17.6	7	986
Far North	14,822	80,266	18.5	3	954
Sunshine Coast	21,306	103,668	20.6	11	1,013
Wide Bay-Burnett	20,240	95,332	21.2	1	940
Gold Coast	38,375	176,950	21.7	12	1,019

Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> using data from 1) National Renters; Centrelink, March Quarter 2006; and 2) Dwellings: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Housing Stress - Renters[45]

Rental stress is defined as when households in the lowest 40% of income distribution (with less than 80% of median income) spend more than 30% of income on rent.

Figure 118. Proportion of Rental Stress across Australia

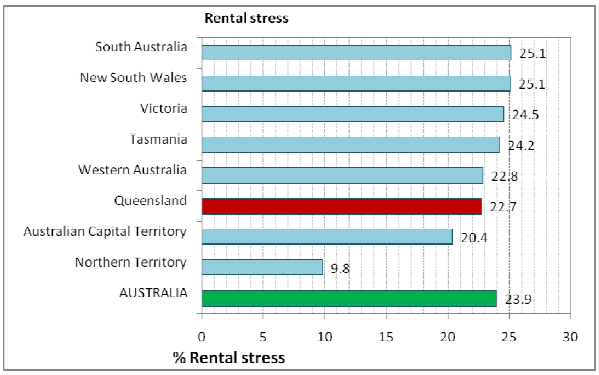
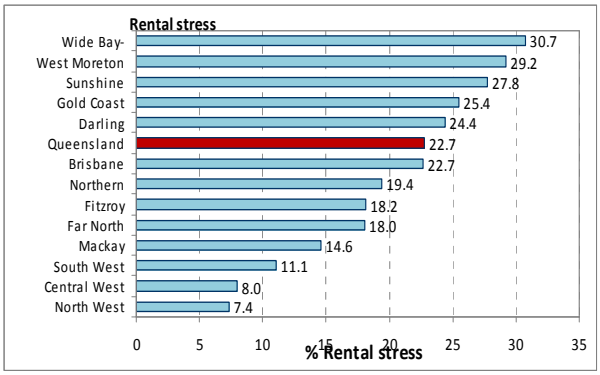


Figure 119. Proportion of Rental Stress across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>

The graphs above illustrate that 22.7% of households in Queensland are considered to be in housing stress according to the definition provided. Five SDs including the Gold and Sunshine Coasts are higher than the Queensland average and Wide Bay-Burnett measures 30.7% of its population in rental stress. West Moreton is also high at 29.2%. This underlines the need for spatially sensitive policies that also respond to areas that are less disadvantaged overall but include smaller areas with higher levels of disadvantage.

[45] Notes: includes households in bottom 40% of income distribution (with less than 80% of median income) spending more than 30% of income on rent.

Table 84. Rental Stress in Queensland by Statistical Divisions

	Low income households (households in bottom 40% of income distribution) with rental stress	Rented private dwellings	% rental stress	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score
Queensland	**102,879**	**452,596**	**22.7**		
North West	325	4,405	7.4	2	947
Central West	122	1,525	8.0	6	967
South West	340	3,072	11.1	5	962
Mackay	2,530	17,288	14.6	10	1,006
Far North	5,942	33,008	18.0	3	954
Fitzroy	3,903	21,497	18.2	8	989
Northern	4,615	23,815	19.4	9	993
Brisbane	44,918	198,241	22.7	13	1,026
Darling Downs	5,479	22,442	24.4	7	986
Gold Coast	16,181	63,597	25.4	12	1,019
Sunshine Coast	9,153	32,944	27.8	11	1,013
West Moreton	1,433	4,906	29.2	4	962
Wide Bay-Burnett	7,938	25,856	30.7	1	940

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Figure 120. Proportion of Rental Stress in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

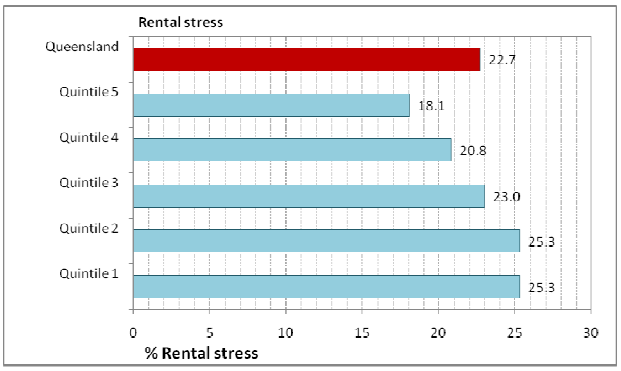
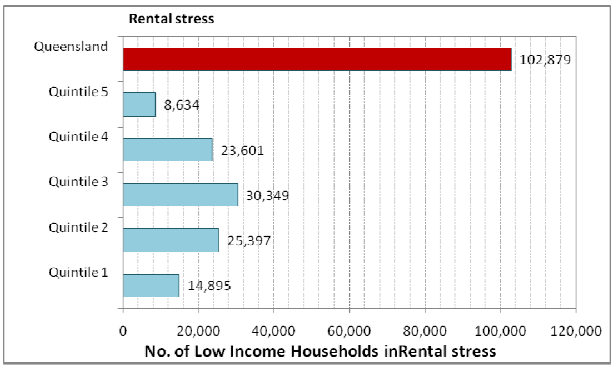


Figure 121. Number of Low Income Households with Rental Stress in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Housing Stress - Mortgage[46]

Mortgage stress exists when households in the lowest 40% of income distribution (with less than 80% of median income) are spending more than 30% of income on mortgage repayments[47].

[46] This includes households in bottom 40% of income distribution (with less than 80% of median income) spending more than 30% of income on rent.

[47] See also 5.10 for information on mortgage and fuel vulnerability.

Figure 122. Proportion of Population in Mortgage Stress across Australia

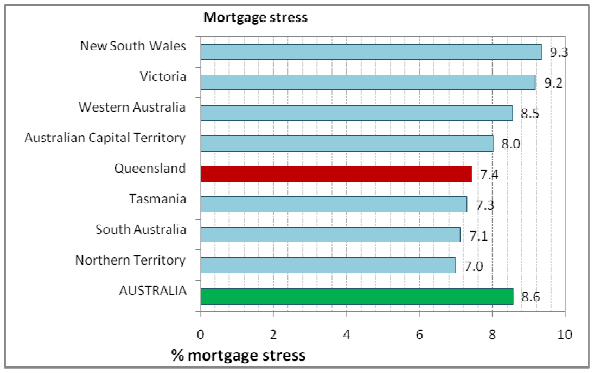
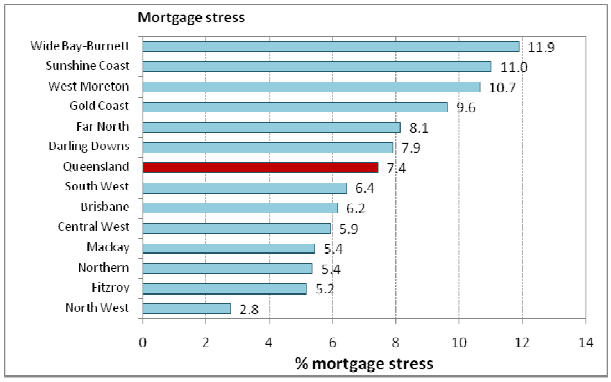


Figure 123. Proportion of Population in Mortgage Stress across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>

While the overall proportion of households in Queensland in mortgage stress is slightly lower than the national average (7.4% compared to 8.6%), some SDs are higher than the national average including:

- Wide Bay-Burnett
- Sunshine Coast
- West Moreton
- Gold Coast.

These areas are the same areas experiencing high levels of rental stress.

The following table highlights in actual numbers, the households measured as experiencing mortgage stress.

Table 85. Mortgage Stress in Queensland by Statistical Divisions

	Low income households (households in bottom 40% of income distribution) with mortgage stress	Mortgaged private dwellings	% mortgage stress	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score
Queensland	**35,146**	**473,249**	**7.4**		
North West	72	2,597	2.8	2	947
Fitzroy	1,125	21,769	5.2	8	989
Mackay	872	16,068	5.4	10	1,006
Northern	1,250	23,346	5.4	9	993
Central West	50	843	5.9	6	967
Brisbane	14,063	228,208	6.2	13	1,026
South West	146	2,272	6.4	5	962
Darling Downs	1,885	23,863	7.9	7	986
Far North	1,936	23,787	8.1	3	954
Gold Coast	5,793	60,166	9.6	12	1,019
West Moreton	985	9,248	10.7	4	962
Sunshine Coast	3,666	33,282	11.0	11	1,013
Wide Bay-Burnett	3,303	27,800	11.9	1	940

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

Figure 124. Number of Low Income Households with Mortgage Stress in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

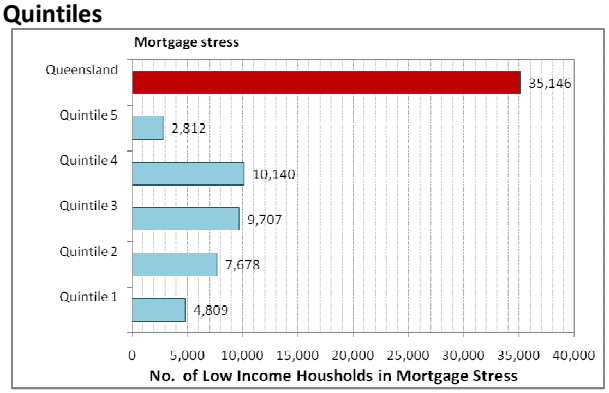
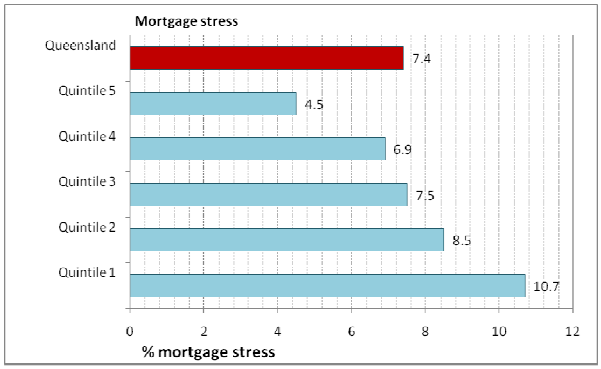


Figure 125. Proportion of Mortgage Stress in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

5.10 Private Dwellings with No Motor Vehicle

Introduction

Some locations are particularly vulnerable to expenses such as mortgage and fuel. Dodson and Sipe have developed the 'vulnerability assessment for mortgage, petrol and inflation risks and expenditure' or VAMPIRE and applied it to Australian cities including Brisbane (2006:7,23-24).

> *'High mortgage and oil vulnerability scores were found in many middle, outer and fringe suburban localities. The highest VAMPIRE levels were found predominantly in the outer growth corridors - towards Caboolture to the north, Ipswich to the west, Beenleigh to the south and Cleveland to the east. Each of these corridors contains many CDs with VAMPIRE scores above 17, indicating high levels of mortgage and oil vulnerability. Particularly high concentrations of high vulnerability localities exist in the eastern Caboolture corridor, around Capalaba in the east, Beenleigh and Parkinson in the south'.*
>
> Dodson and Sipe, 2006:23.

Importantly, Dodson and Sipe summarise the situation in Brisbane as a:

> *'graduated spatial divide between the inner and middle areas with higher quality public transport exhibiting lower mortgage and oil vulnerability than those in the more dispersed and poorly served outer suburban locations' (2006:24).*

It has not been possible to examine proximity to public transport for all SDs however work by Dodson and Sipe in relation to the Gold Coast region illustrates how particular areas can be relatively disadvantaged in terms of access.

In the Gold Coast region, there is greater vulnerability in areas west of the pacific highway including Coomera, Nerang, Mudgeeraba and Tugan as well as Varsity Lakes and Mermaid Waters (Dodson and Sipe, 2006:24). The lowest vulnerability was in areas with higher quality public transport. In a detailed study of transport disadvantage and social status in the Gold Coast Region, it was demonstrated that areas in the lowest quartile of the SEIFA index (defined as disadvantaged) had relatively poor access to high frequency public transport (Buchanan et al., 2005:49).

> *'On a weekday morning only 17 percent of disadvantaged people living on the Gold Coast are covered by public transport operating at least every 15 minutes ... A further 33 percent have access to public transport at intervals of greater than 30 minutes; and nine percent have no service' (Buchanan et al., 2005:49).*

It was also possible to demonstrate that unemployed people had limited access to higher frequency services at peak hour in the morning (only 13 percent) (Buchanan et al., 2005:53).

Given the interrelated nature of housing, transport and employment, it is essential that growth management strategies in SEQ ensure the provision of affordable housing in all transit oriented developments to allow more disadvantaged people improved access to transport and services rather than concentrating high income households in well serviced locations.

Queensland

While Queensland has a lower than national average in relation to dwellings with no private motor vehicle, Far North and North West SDs are in fact higher than the national average. Given the impact of distances in Queensland where households have to travel for access to shops, services, employment and healthcare, car ownership signals a significant dependence on fuel and a vulnerability to fluctuations in fuel prices.

Figure 126. Proportion of Private Dwellings with No Motor Vehicle across Australia

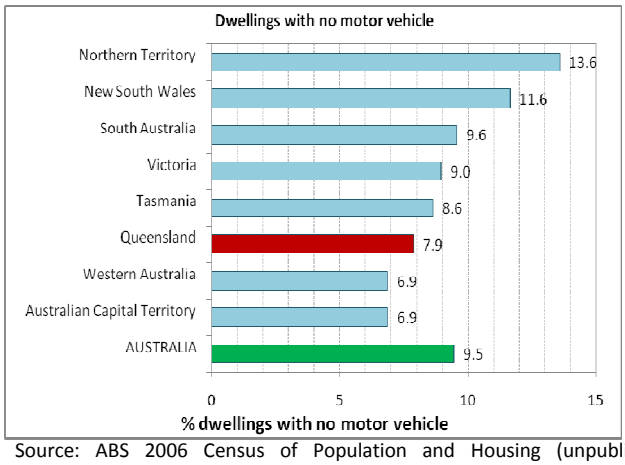
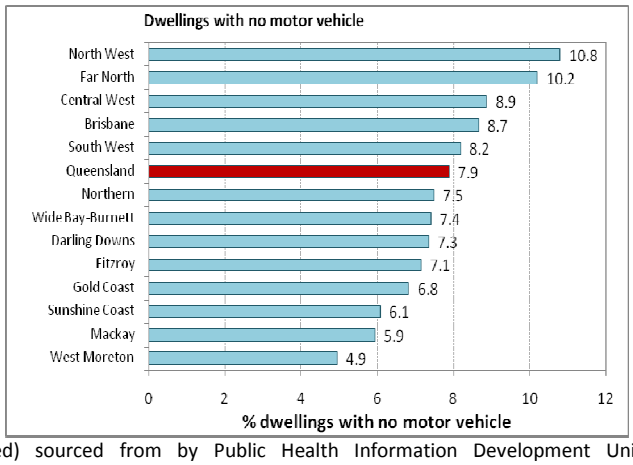


Figure 127. Proportion of Private Dwellings with No Motor Vehicle across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au>

Table 86. Private Dwellings with No Motor Vehicle in Queensland by Statistical Divisions

	Private dwellings with no motor vehicle	Total private dwellings	% dwellings with no motor vehicle	Queensland Rank	SEIFA IRSD Score
Queensland	**109,756**	**1,391,635**	**7.9**	**-**	**1005**
West Moreton	1,203	24,359	4.9	4	962
Mackay	2,973	50,024	5.9	10	1,006
Sunshine Coast	6,300	103,673	6.1	11	1,013
Gold Coast	12,075	176,957	6.8	12	1,019
Fitzroy	4,626	64,708	7.1	8	989
Darling Downs	5,667	77,127	7.3	7	986
Wide Bay-Burnett	7,064	95,337	7.4	1	940
Northern	5,140	68,678	7.5	9	993
South West	727	8,890	8.2	5	962
Brisbane	54,424	628,216	8.7	13	1,026
Central West	355	4,002	8.9	6	967
Far North	8,181	80,268	10.2	3	954
North West	1,015	9,404	10.8	2	947

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

The following graphs highlight that 11.1% of dwellings in Quintile 1 areas (most disadvantaged) are without vehicles compared to on 7.2% of households in Quintile 5.

Figure 128. Proportion of Private Dwellings with No Motor Vehicle in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

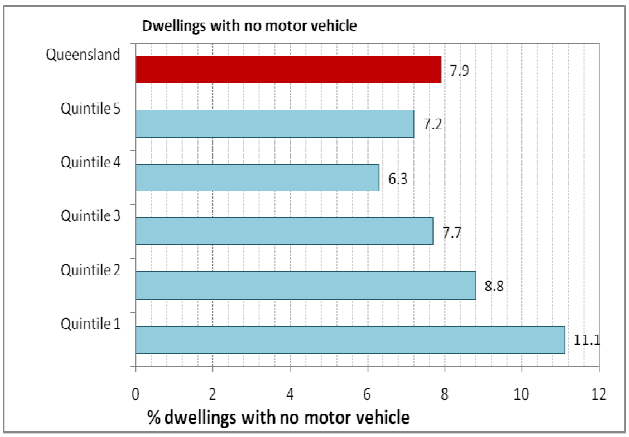
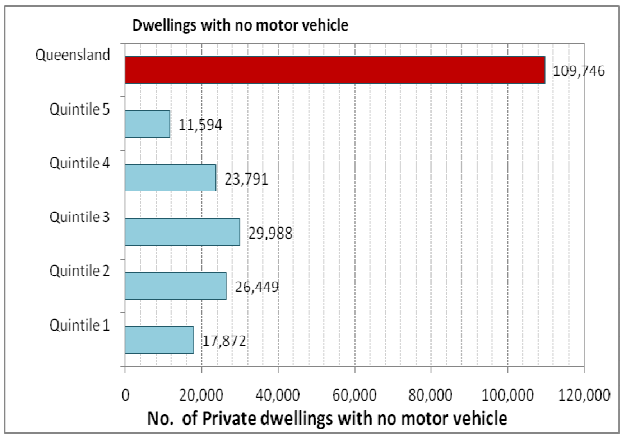


Figure 129. Number of Private Dwellings with No Motor Vehicle in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (unpublished) sourced from by Public Health Information Development Unit <http://www.publichealth.gov.au> and ABS 2006 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data only, 2006 ABS Cat. No. 2033.0.55.001

5.11 Health

> *'People with limited funds often choose not to travel (to health services) which contributes to the higher mortality rates in rural and remote areas … for example women will often opt for the more radical treatment of a mastectomy, as travel for chemotherapy or radiotherapy is not an option financially or for family reasons.'*
>
> NHHRC, 2008:233

This section of the report examines a number of health indicators to illustrate the association between socioeconomic disadvantage and some of the conditions, diseases, and circumstances causing death and disability in Queensland. Indicators considered are estimated premature mortality by cause, estimated number of people with Type 2 diabetes, and estimated number of males and females with mental and behavioural problems.

The relationship between health outcomes and socioeconomic disadvantage has been identified in a number of publications. The Queensland Chief Health Officer's report on *The Health of Queenslanders 2008: Prevention of Chronic Disease* and a number of other Queensland Health documents have demonstrated that socioeconomic disadvantage accounts for a high proportion of the burden of disease and injury in Queensland[48].

Vinson highlights the particular impacts of 'poor social and economic circumstances' on health with people in lower socio-economic circumstances having 'at least twice the risk of serious illness and premature death than those near the top' (2007:7). The World Health Organisation's *Social Determinants of Health* provide an important analysis of the influence of social factors on health outcomes with evidence of the impacts of 'early biological damage' and that 'neighbourhood of residence is associated with health prior to birth' (Vinson, 2007:7). Klein writes that people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Victoria for example, are 'more likely to suffer diseases, accidents and homicides at rates significantly higher than the rest of the state' (2004:110).

NATSEM has also demonstrated that there are differences in the level of expenditure by different households on health goods and services (Brown et al., 2008:69). Families in the low income and low wealth quintiles were found to be disadvantaged in their overall level of expenditure (Brown et al., 2008:69). 'Households living in the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas … have relatively low levels of health expenditure' (2008:69).

Using the ABS' 2006 SEIFA Index of Advantage/Disadvantage, derived at the level of statistical local areas, Queensland Health reports that disproportionately higher rates of Queensland's health burden is experienced by the population in the most disadvantaged quintile. Additionally, in terms of health adjusted life expectancy between people living in most socioeconomically advantaged areas and those living in most disadvantaged areas '4.3 years are lost due to socioeconomic disadvantage, mostly caused by cardiovascular disease, mental health, and cancer' (Begg et al., 2008: 96).

Larger gaps in health adjusted life expectancy are also experienced in Queensland's remote areas rather than in cities. When considering the burden of disease for geographical locations, Queensland Health (2008) found the burden of disease in remote areas was 1.5 times higher than major cities. The causes that contributed most to this difference were cardiovascular diseases (16.8%), diabetes (16.1%) and unintentional injuries (14.3%). Queensland Health further highlights that people who live in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage as well as in regional and remote Queensland have a 'profile of higher health risk behaviours, compared to those in advantaged areas ... put(ting) people at greater risk of chronic disease and reduced health and wellbeing'. (Queensland Health, 2008: 97, 101).

[48] This is in the context of considering the challenges and opportunities in the development of programs of responsive interventions 'to address the specific aspects of disadvantaged populations within Queensland' (Queensland Health, 2008: 97).

Premature Mortality - Deaths 15 to 64 Years

The premature mortality rate presented here is based on average total deaths of persons at ages 15 to 64 years for the period between 2002 and 2006[49]. Information is provided for the combined total of all causes as well as by the following broad causal groups: cancers; circulatory system diseases; respiratory system diseases; external causes[50]; and other causes[51].

The average annual death rate for people aged 15-64 years in Queensland for the period 2002-2006 was 190 deaths per 100,000. This rate is similar to the average annual death rate for the whole of Australia (187 deaths per 100,000) for this age group. This compares with the average premature death rate over this period for the larger age group of 0 to 74 years for whom the rate was 261 deaths per 100,000. For 2006, Queensland Health (2008) reported a 4% increase in premature mortality compared to the previous time period.

Figure 130. Average Annual Mortality Rate per 100,000 for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 across Australia

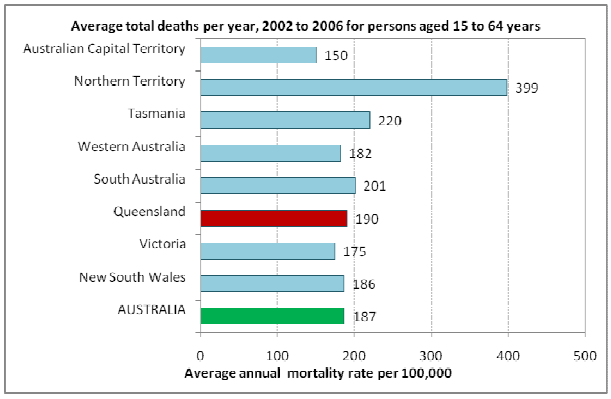
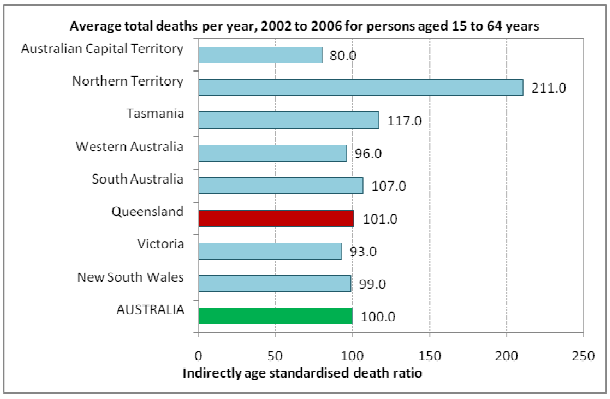


Figure 131. Age Standardised Mortality Ratio for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 across Australia



The following figures show the average annual mortality rate per 100,000 and the age standardised mortality ratio respectively, for persons aged 15 to 64 years for whole of Queensland and 13 Statistical Divisions. The North West district has the highest death rate of 421 per 100,000 people. The lowest mortality rate is in Brisbane with 173 deaths per 100,000 people. The Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane are below the average mortality rate for the whole of Queensland. Based on the age standardised mortality ratio (SMR) West Moreton and Fitzroy, are approximately 100 which indicates that the number of deaths is equal to expected number of deaths in these populations. The Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane all have SMRs below 100 which means there are less observed deaths than expected within those populations.

[49] In this analysis premature mortality is being examined as deaths in the 15-64 year age group. The selection of this age group was due to the life expectancy in 2006 for Queensland males was 78.5 years and for females 83.4 years. Additionally, the 15 to 64 year age group is also considered to be of 'working' age and therefore a loss of life has a large impact on society.
Data source: Compiled by Prometheus from ABS Deaths, 2002 to 2006; and ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2002 to 2006
Data limitations Estimates were not collected for a number of areas by remoteness - 22 SLAs classified as very remote not counted; 2 SLAs in remote areas not counted; and 1 each in Outer Regional and Major Cities - which may include a number of the lower quintile SLAs. Therefore, calculations for average annual rates and age-standardised death ratios by quintiles may not be a true representation due to missing data for a number of areas.

[50] External causes of death relate to cases where the underlying cause of death is determined to be one of a group of causes external to the body (for example suicide, transport accidents, falls, poisoning etc).

[51] Other causes of death include infectious diseases, endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, mental and behavioural disorders, Diseases of the blood, nervous system, eye, ear, digestive system, and pregnancy and childbirth etc

Figure 132. Average Annual Mortality Rate per 100,000 Deaths for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 across Queensland and Statistical Divisions

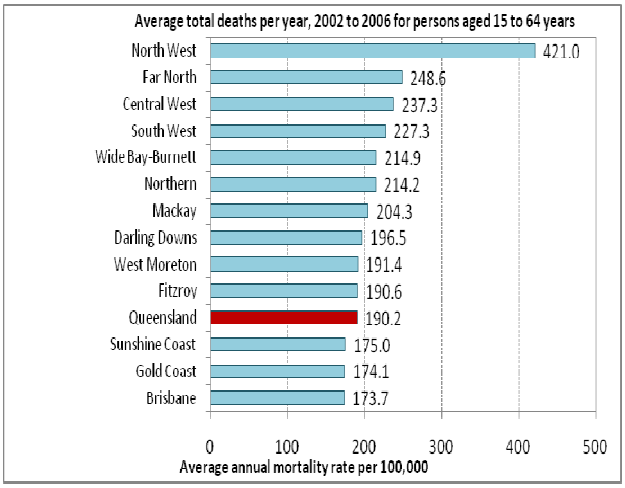


Figure 133. Age Standardised Death Ratio for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 across Queensland and Statistical Divisions

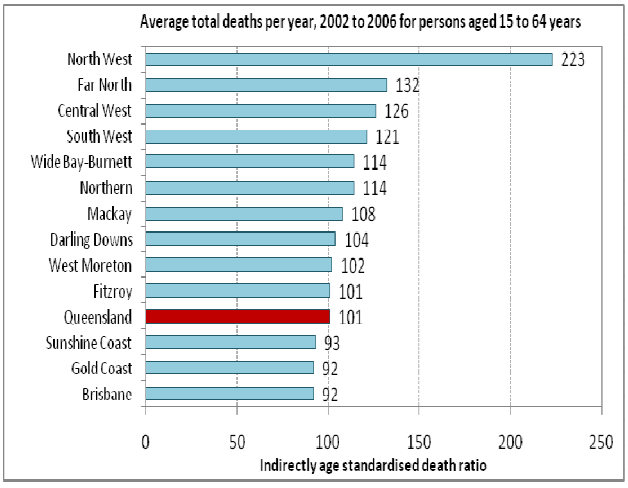
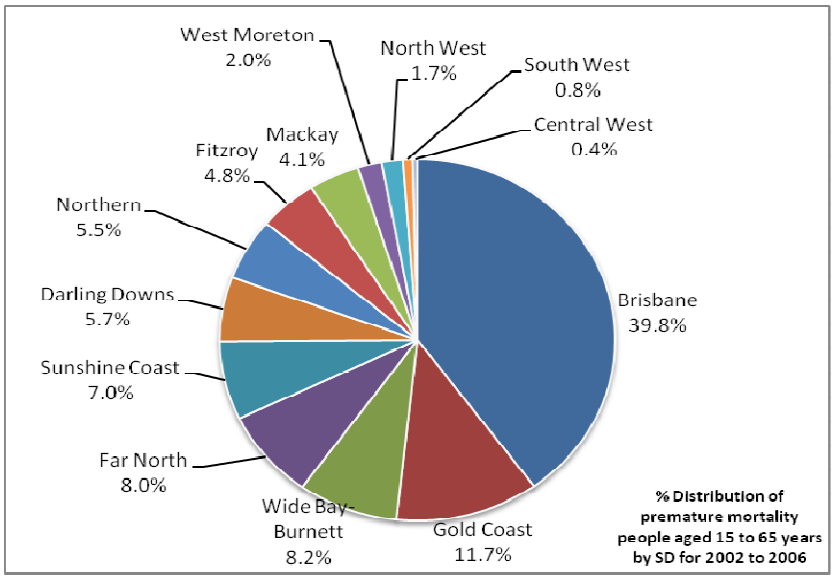


Figure 110. Proportion of Average Annual Deaths for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 across Queensland Statistical Divisions



Source: Compiled by Prometheus from ABS Deaths, 2002 to 2006; and ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2002 to 2006

Figure 110 above shows the proportion of total deaths for each Statistical Division in Queensland for people aged 15 to 64 years. Brisbane has the highest proportion of total deaths with 39.8%.

Figures 135 and 136 show the number and proportion of total deaths for persons aged 15 to 64 years by causes.

Figure 135. Proportion of Average Annual Mortality for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 by Causes

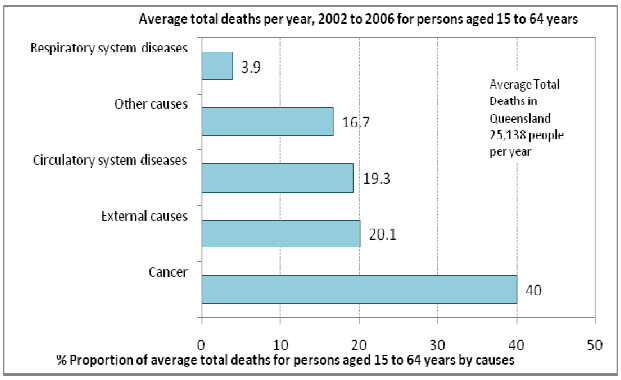
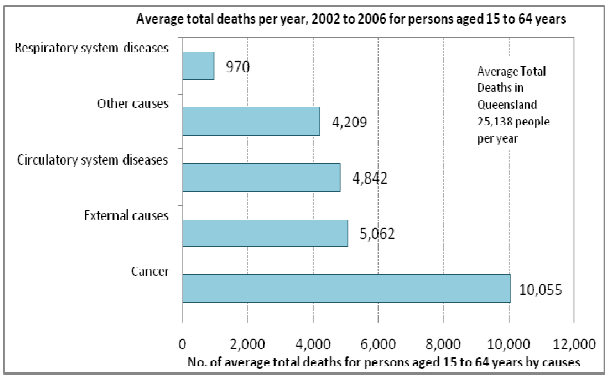
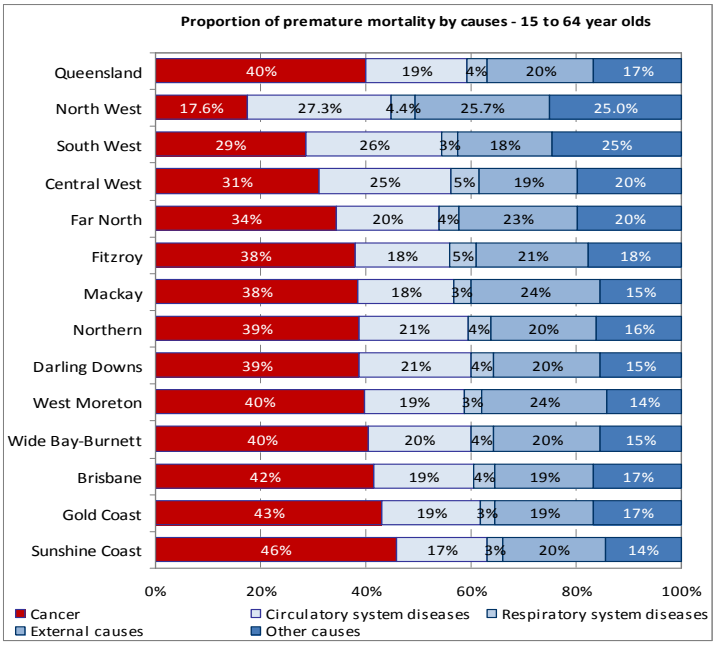


Figure 136. Number of Average Annual Deaths for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 by Causes



The proportion of total mortality for persons aged 15 to 64 years between 2002 and 2006 is shown in **Figure .** The average number of deaths each year from each cause is shown in **Figure** . The main underlying cause of premature mortality for this age group (15-64 years) and in this time period was cancer which accounted for 40% of all deaths. Premature deaths due to circulatory system diseases and external causes accounted for half the rate of deaths from cancer (19.3% and 20.1% respectively). External causes are deaths from accidents and injury by environmental events and include things such as traffic accidents, suicides, accidental drowning and falls etc. In this time period only 3.9% of total deaths were attributable to respiratory system diseases. Other causes of death accounted for 16.7% of all premature deaths in 2002-2006.

Figure 111. Proportion of Annual Deaths for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 by Causes and SDs



The proportion of annual average mortality for persons aged 15 to 64 years between 2002 and 2006 by Statistical Division is shown in **Figure 111**. The highest proportion of deaths from cancer was seen in the Sunshine Coast where almost half the deaths were related to cancer. The North West area has the lowest proportion of deaths due to cancer, but the highest proportion of mortality due to circulatory disease compared with other Statistical Divisions. Deaths due to external causes and 'other' contributed 50% of premature mortality in the North West. Brisbane and the Gold Coast had similar proportions of cause of death for each disease category compared to the whole of Queensland.

When socioeconomic status is taken into consideration, a number of variations are evident in premature mortality rates. Typically people in the more disadvantaged areas have higher death rates than those in less disadvantaged areas. This may be due to a number of factors including poor access to health services, lack of health education, high unemployment rates and poverty. The mortality rates at the SLA level also shows the rates being higher in Indigenous communities and areas of greater remoteness. Begg et al. (2009:1) reports that 'across Queensland, Indigenous people, people living in areas of greater remoteness and people living in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage experienced much greater rates than other Queenslanders in 2006'.

Table 87 below shows the IRSD score for each Statistical Division in Queensland. Based on the average annual mortality rate per 100,000, four of the five most socioeconomically disadvantaged areas (Wide Bay Burnett, North West, Far North & South West) have the highest mortality rates. As expected, the converse is true for the three least socioeconomically disadvantaged areas (Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast) with the lowest annual mortality rates. These less socioeconomically disadvantaged SDs located in South East Queensland have the highest population concentration in the State, with potentially greater access to health services, lower unemployment rates and a higher level of education than those located in more remote areas. These factors may therefore contribute to an improvement of health status.

Table 87. Total Deaths for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years in Queensland between 2002 and 2006 by Statistical Divisions

SD	SEIFA IRSD		Number total deaths, persons aged 15 to 64 years	Average annual mortality rate per 100,000	Indirectly age standardised death ratio	Significance
	Index score	Rank				
Queensland	**1005**		**25,138**	**190.2**	**101**	
Brisbane	1026	13	10,009	173.7	92	**
Gold Coast	1019	12	2,938	174.1	92	**
Sunshine Coast	1013	11	1,752	175.0	93	**
West Moreton	962	4	492	191.4	102	
Wide Bay-Burnett	940	1	2,050	214.9	114	**
Darling Downs	986	7	1,438	196.5	104	
South West	962	5	200	227.3	121	*
Fitzroy	989	8	1,202	190.6	101	
Central West	967	6	96	237.3	126	*
Mackay	1006	10	1,042	204.3	108	*
Northern	993	9	1,387	214.2	114	**
Far North	954	3	1,999	248.6	132	**
North West	947	2	432	421.0	223	**

Source: Compiled by Prometheus from ABS Deaths, 2002 to 2006; and ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2002 to 2006
* statistically significant, at the 5% confidence level
** statistically significant, at the 1% confidence level

Premature deaths occur in places of lower socioeconomic areas due to geographical location, lack of access to routine healthcare, low level of education and higher levels of unemployment (Queensland Health 2008). The average annual mortality rate per 100,000 was 1.9 times higher in the most disadvantaged socioeconomic quintile compared with the least disadvantaged quintile. This is further supported by Queensland Health (Begg et al. 2009) who report that the mortality rate to be 1.4 times higher in the most disadvantaged socioeconomic quintile compared with the most advantaged quintile (based on the 2006 SEIFA Index for relative advantage/disadvantage).

Figure 138. Age Standardised Mortality Ratio for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles

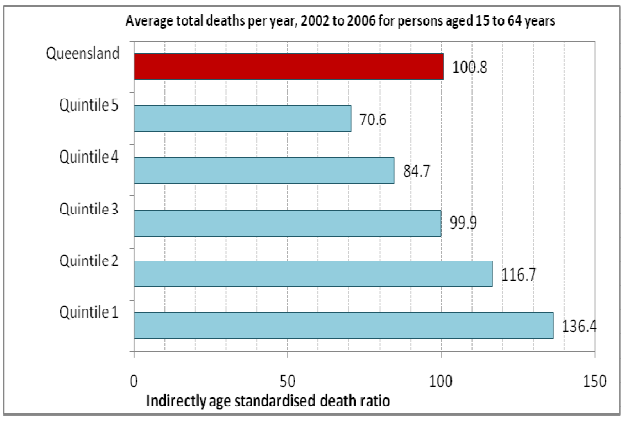
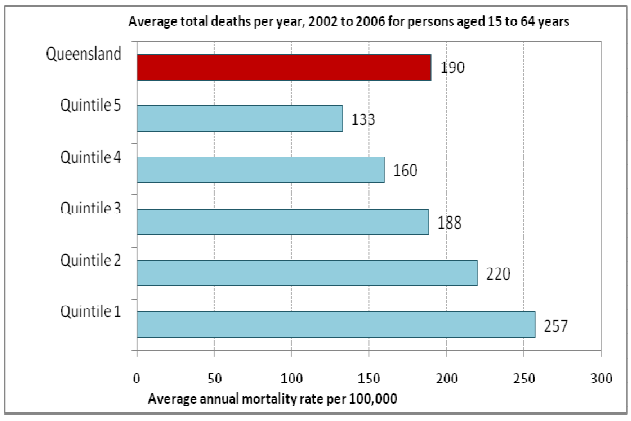


Figure 139. Average Annual Mortality Rate per 100,000 for Persons Aged 15 to 64 Years between 2002 and 2006 in Queensland by SEIFA IRSD Quintiles



Source: Compiled by Prometheus from ABS Deaths, 2002 to 2006; and ABS Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2002 to 2006

Figure and **Figure** show the age standardised mortality ratio and average annual mortality rate per 100,000 respectively. From these figures, it is evident that Quintile 1, which corresponds to the most socioeconomic disadvantage SLAs, have the highest mortality rate per 100,000 and age standardised mortality ratio. Mortality rates appear to be trending upwards as an area's relative socioeconomic status improves. Quintile 5 which is the least socioeconomically effected population has the lowest average annual mortality rate and is almost half that of Quintile 1. Quintile 3 has the same average death rate per 100,000 and age standardised mortality ratio as Queensland on average as a whole.

This trend is also evident in considering the premature mortality rates by broad cause groupings. For cancer the average annual rate per 100,000 for the whole of Queensland is 76.2, which is approximately the same as for people in Quintile 3. Quintile 1 has the highest mortality rate caused by Cancer of 86.1 per 100,000 whilst Quintile 5 has the lowest at 59.6 per 100,000. This means that approximately 1.7 times more people are dying from cancer in the lower socioeconomic areas compared with the highest socioeconomic areas. Similarly, people with cardiovascular disease are twice as likely to die prematurely in areas with relatively greater socioeconomic disadvantage, compared with the least socioeconomically disadvantaged areas. The mortality rate for respiratory disease is quite similar between each of the Quintiles, although there is a slight difference between the highest and lowest Quintile. For external and other causes, the pattern is the same as in the other mortality causes mentioned above. External causes such as accidents, suicide and interpersonal violence are 2.3 times more likely to result in premature mortality in the areas experiencing the greatest socioeconomic disadvantage than those considered least socioeconomically disadvantaged.

6 Conclusion

This report has identified areas of disadvantage in Queensland at the level of Statistical Divisions. The report further identifies areas of relative disadvantage at a smaller level including:

- Statistical Local Areas
- Local Government Areas
- Census Collection Districts.

Overall, at the level of SLAs and CDs, the most disadvantaged areas are generally Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities highlighting the persistent levels of disadvantage in these areas.

The report identifies also that disadvantaged households are distributed across areas ranked from Quintile 1 to Quintile 5 (from most to least disadvantaged) which highlights the importance of universal and targeted policies and programs as a basis for reducing disadvantage.

At the same time, this analysis of SEIFA illustrates that some areas include particularly high concentrations of disadvantaged households. The spatial concentration of disadvantaged households experiencing multiple indicators of social exclusion requires specific attention at a policy and program level with associated budgets, and targets and designed to reflect a strong evidence base.

The process of identifying areas of relative disadvantage does not take account of the strengths, assets and resources of a place. Certain assumptions might be made about the extent of infrastructure, transport, access and opportunity in a particular location because of issues such as remoteness. The next step for strategies aimed at reducing locational disadvantage would be a further analysis of the community, including a thorough assessment of stakeholders, resources and strengths. Further analysis of the reasons for high levels of disadvantage and its persistence would be required on a place by place basis, to fully inform the development of specific responses.

Nonetheless, certain lessons can be drawn from analysing initiatives that have already demonstrated some degree of success as a basis for a range of policy and program responses including:

- Comprehensive strategies to reduce poverty and social exclusion (at a National or State level) which address a number of integrated areas such as economics, employment, service delivery, planning and community participation
- Innovation in community development and service delivery including early intervention and prevention and models that are flexible, integrated, client-centred, and that build community and client participation
- Placed-based responses including integrated planning
- Community economic development
- Advocacy based on evidence of what works, including spatially responsive approaches to universal policies, programs and services.

A number of countries and Australian States have adopted comprehensive, multi-faceted and integrated strategies aimed at ending poverty and social exclusion. Key elements of these strategies include high level policy leadership, targets, inter-sectoral partnerships and rigorous evaluation including the measurement of progress.

Implementation at this level is generally supported by institutional arrangements within government to ensure that all relevant departments work together to meet established targets. Significant additional funding is usually provided. Centralised anti-poverty policies and programs create a new level of leadership, funding and capacity that are difficult to achieve by communities and neighbourhoods on their own, starting with bottom up processes.

Typically these comprehensive strategies might aim to address a range of issues that contribute to poverty depending on the nature of the community in question, including:

- Lack of access to education and training

- Low labour market participation
- Poor local economies
- Degraded local environments in need of regeneration
- Poor working conditions
- A need for affordable housing
- Lack of accessible public transport systems
- Poor health including mental health
- Involvement in crime
- Limited access to high-quality child-care, early education and family support
- Low social cohesion
- Low levels of social capital including volunteering.

Adapted from Collin, 2007:2-3

Debate and analysis of poverty, deprivation, social exclusion and disadvantage in Australia and overseas highlights a range of possible policy solutions. Some policy solutions are focused on individual target groups such as older people, women, Indigenous people and people with a disability. Some are focused more on major structural issues such as labour market participation. Yet others are defined in terms of responding to an integrated set of issues and problems for particular places.

The 2010 Scan of Disadvantage recognises that many different responses have been tested and evaluated yet doesn't necessarily draw conclusions about the relative merits of focusing solutions on people, issues or places. Because the main purpose is to identify spatial disadvantage, this report strives to articulate a framework for how universal policies, policies responding to people and issues as well as 'place' focused policies might be synthesised to drive home measurable improvements in the circumstances of people affected by spatial disadvantage in Queensland. As such, 'place-based poverty reduction is part of a wider social inclusion framework' (CED, 2007:4).

This report concludes that treating people and place policies as binary propositions is potentially unhelpful and that instead '*making universal policies more spatially aware is the long term answer to problems disadvantaged areas and their populations currently face*' (McPherson and Randolph, 2001:7). The potential of area based strategies may include making *'mainstream policies work more effectively, especially by encouraging agencies to collaborate through partnerships'* (Randolph, 2003:19). As such, it is important to focus on responses that:

- actively facilitate available universal and targeted policies and programs with a focus on a particular area

- focus on place, including dedicated programs and budgets geared to achieve a high level of integration and coordination of all stakeholders, resources and assets towards a determined effort to reduce spatial disadvantage.

7 A Policy and Program Framework Responding to Spatial Disadvantage

Lifeline Community Care Queensland
Communities for Children project at the Gold Coast

When the Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children Program began in late 2004, there were very few services for families and children located in the site. The rapid development of housing estates resulted in many young families in the area, and few points of access for them to meet each other, or gain support for their important roles.

Canal developments with walled communities and expensive houses, are one characteristic of the Northern Gold Coast. There is also a corridor of proliferating housing developments intended for first home buyers in the average income bracket. Additionally there are numerous pockets of rental properties attracting low income families to this area. Cut through by the nation's main north-south motorway, it is not an easy place to develop a sense of community. In the more affluent areas surrounding the site, major developers have provided some community infrastructure, but within the site itself, small developers have provided little by way of community resources. This meant there were limited halls, community centres, or meeting spaces from which to launch activities.

One of the many challenges facing the project was the need to quickly develop a web of inter-related activities and programs across the site that would be easily accessible to all families.

Five interrelated strategies supported this plan: Early Childhood Community Hubs, Creating Community Connections, Strengthening Family Relationships, Children's Developmental Strategy and Social Infrastructure Strategy.

A particular characteristic of the plan was its outreach to the places where people live. A web of connected Early Childhood Hubs was constructed across the site, attached to schools, a community centre and a church. Drop-in Centres, playtime, craft, cooking, groups facilitated by a maternal child health nurse, baby playtime, infant massage, reading activities, breakfast clubs, move to music and Stepping Stones to prep, are just some of the activities held in the Hubs. The activities are designed to ensure that children's language and cognitive development, physical and large motor skill development, nutrition and social skills are well developed. Importantly the activities are all easy access, freely available, fun, inclusive of all family members and offer opportunities to build sustainable peer relations and community networks.

Many families coming to these activities would be reluctant to present to more conventional child or family welfare services. These kind of 'soft entry' approaches can be viewed as signaling a more complete paradigm shift away from the usual intake, assessment and individual intervention of welfare services to a more universal form of proactive engagement which complements and builds upon the strengths of both those who participate and the communities and societies in which they live.

Ingamells, 2007

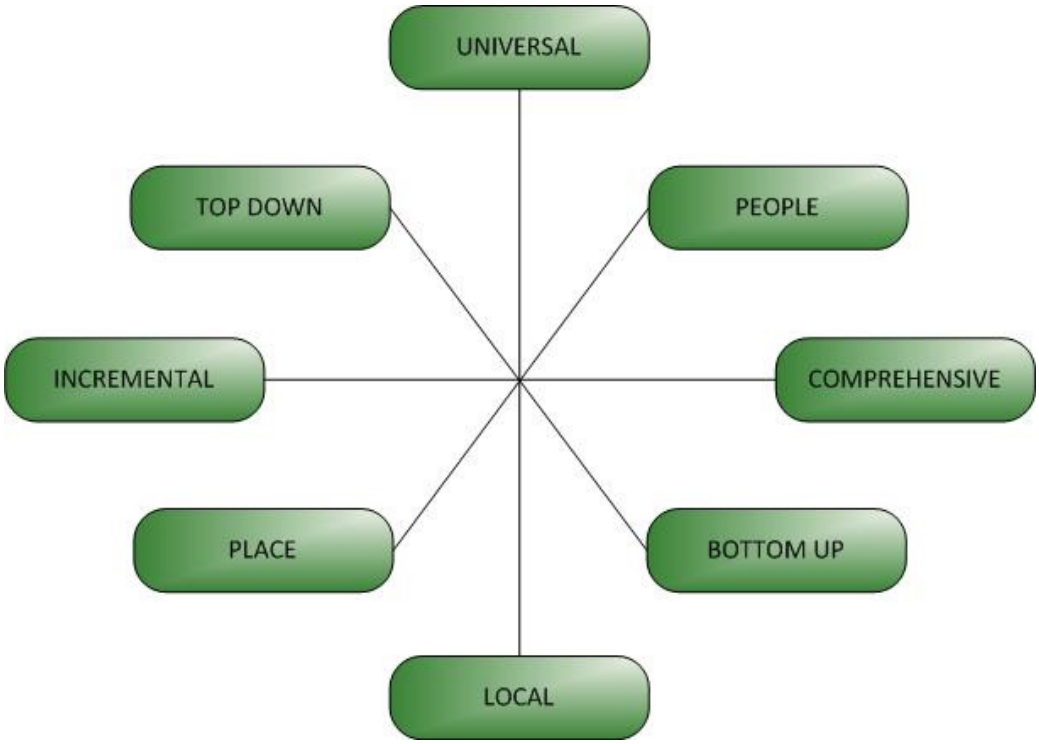
7.1 A Framework for Place-Based Responses

The following framework has been synthesized from the range of place based initiatives cited earlier. This framework recognizes the various modes of working including:

- Service delivery
- Community development
- Local economic development
- Advocacy for improved policies and programs.

There are also various starting points and dimensions to consider. In Section 6, the value of National and State level policy frameworks with high level leadership and significant resources is acknowledged and forms the basis of some recommendations in Section 7. The following compass (adapted from Kelly and Burkett, 2007) highlights a number of possible starting points and dimensions that represent opportunities to deepen the capacity for reflective practice across any of the modes and in any scale of initiative.

Figure 112. Compass for Starting Points



For example, a particular initiative might represent an example of top-down policy with certain impacts and opportunities for a disadvantaged location. The challenge might be to consider how top-down initiatives can enable bottom-up engagement in opportunities as they emerge. Similarly, a community might already have experimented with innovation and begun to work incrementally on an issue or situation. This type of incremental effort is grounded in local knowledge, strengths and capacities and has been driven from within the community, thus reflecting a bottom up approach. As a result of this initiative, there might emerge a case study or precedent that is the basis for advocacy about more comprehensive policies that better support grass root efforts at reducing disadvantage. None of the points on this compass are binary concepts that require a decision of one or the other. The challenge is to synergise these different dimensions and therefore generate practice frameworks that can engage with the level of complexity involved in entrenched and longstanding disadvantage.

It can also be true that some programs tend to focus more on incremental approaches and target particular groups or issues from a top-down perspective. To seriously address spatial disadvantage, it is helpful to adopt approaches that are local in focus where the geography of a place is defined as a basis for comprehensive strategies focusing on that area and which support bottom-up engagement.

The following framework is synthesised from the literature review and has evolved also through the consultation component involving key stakeholders within UnitingCare Queensland. It outlines important elements within place-based responses with some explanatory notes exploring key components of each element.

Every area will have a different starting point depending on existing capacity and existing or emerging opportunities at a local, regional or national level. These elements are presented for consideration in the process of planning particular area based approaches.

1. Assessment and Planning

Element	Explanatory notes
Vision, purpose	A vision and purpose is shared among key stakeholders (can be part of the action-planning process) A clear vision and purpose to reduce poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion is articulated.
Geography	The boundaries and scale of the area is smaller rather than larger, although boundaries avoid treating places as 'containers'. Linkages with strategic opportunities, infrastructure etc. are important. The area in relation to particular issues like employment, might be broader/strategic.
Scale	Where initiatives are being driven from the bottom-up, it can be helpful to decide on a few strategic and achievable initiatives as a way of building a foundation for taking next steps and for continued dialogue with funding bodies and decision makers. Similarly, larger scale, comprehensive, place-based programs, can respond to wide-ranging and connected issues.
Policy context	Assess which existing federal and state level policies and programs already impact on a place. Identify any emerging opportunities to tailor a universal or issue/target group specific policy or program to a particular place. Advocate for specific policies and programs that are 'place' focused.

2. Structural Support and Governance Arrangements

Element	Explanatory notes
Governance, engagement and civic participation	Governance arrangements will actively involve local residents and other key stakeholders - however governance and engagement processes take account of power and resource differences and do not overtax communities. Governance arrangements will involve all key stakeholders in: ▪ Achieving interagency and inter-sectoral agreements that are formal and outcome focused ▪ Further assessing need, the drivers of disadvantage, trends and also assets and resources ▪ Developing local area action plans ▪ Effectively implementing these plans with a focus on outcomes and solutions ▪ Making best use of universal policies and programs through actively facilitating better integration of these policies into outcomes for a particular place (including analysing which universal and place-focussed initiatives should be better facilitated and integrated towards outcomes) ▪ Ongoing dialogue with all levels of government to encourage a place-based approach to priority needs and issues.
Joined up commitments	Place-based responses involve multiple stakeholders in joined up responses to issues. Strong structural arrangements are facilitated between government departments, across levels of government and among government, community and business sectors. Innovative partnerships will help to build investment capacity. Operational structures will also be in place to support interagency collaboration towards particular practices and outcomes. Where governance arrangements establish a framework and show leadership, operational structures are close to or at the front-line and focus hard on making things happen for people and places.
Funding	Budgets and staffing roles are identified and allocated. Funding for place-based responses is available. In more incremental and bottom-up approaches, there is a commitment to synergising all existing resources to achieve new and better outcomes. Innovative funding options such as foundations and trusts are explored and initiated.
Evaluation	An independent evaluation framework is developed which includes key measures of success, targets and milestones. Relationships with research institutions help to monitor implementation and measure outcomes/successes.

3. Processes

Element	Explanatory notes
Culture	Organisations foster a culture supportive of innovation and learning, focusing more clearly on outcomes rather than outputs. Innovation and creativity are encouraged and sanctioned to flow from the front-line up, sideways and top-down. Initiatives, roles and resources are geared towards identifying and overcoming inhibiting factors in responding to needs - obstacles are challenged.
Flexibility	Different solutions are allowed to emerge in different areas reflecting local needs and conditions (Randolph, 2000). Funding options are flexible within and across program areas. New funding programs emerge with a focus on the capacity for innovation in particular places.
Focus on assets and capacities	While the overarching purpose is to reduce locational disadvantage, there is also a focus on the strengths and assets of a place. Place-based initiatives will focus on developing the capacity and strengths of a particular place, and focus on the attributes and various 'capitals' present in that place. Initiatives focus on achieving better responses to individuals and households in a place, but also build networks, affiliations and associations through which people build social relationships and governance networks. While defining spatial disadvantage as an issue, a focus on assets helps to avoid stigmatising places and the people who live there, and also avoids blaming individual traits for the cumulative effects on places.
Practice	A practice framework/model includes : ▪ Scope for direct service delivery including a focus on prevention an early intervention ▪ Community development work ▪ Advocacy. Practices are: ▪ Solution focused ▪ Strongly related to the implementation of the action plan and tied to evaluation processes ▪ Geared to ensure access to services and participation opportunities: there is no wrong door.
Time	Time is an important resource. Significant examples of success involve reasonable time commitments. Initiatives are scaled over a period of time that allows for successful implementation of a staged action plan (at least 5-10 years).

4. Roles

Roles	Explanatory Notes
Leadership	Commitment to working assertively to achieve innovation, a focus on solutions and the removal of barriers. Includes the capacity for vision and leadership to achieve the implementation and evaluation of plans. Can be taken up by various players (government and non-government). Champions are identified.
Staffing	In addition to leadership, coordinating, facilitating roles are defined and put in place on the ground to build partnerships, identify and capitalise on opportunities and support innovation and synergy. Organisational and workforce development strategies providing training, support and supervision to people in key roles, particularly at the front line. Staffing roles including a place manager or facilitator based with a lead agency with the capacity, authority and budget to drive outcomes.
Citizens	Citizens are actively engaged in governance arrangements, and social capital strategies are implemented to result in stronger social cohesion, more networks, reduced isolation. The level of volunteering in the area increases and existing volunteers are well-supported.

5. Example Issues

Example Issues	Explanatory Notes
Problem/ solution focus	Processes, programs, funding are flexible enough to focus in on the problem and generate solutions. Governance and engagement processes allow any local issues to be identified and responded to (safety, transport, housing, health, isolation etc.).
Economic	Economic strategies focus on: ▪ Generating employment ▪ Boosting the local economy ▪ 'Stimulating local-level responses to entrenched disadvantage' through social enterprise.
Housing	Housing strategies link National and State level programs with specific places. Affordable housing is available in less disadvantaged areas helping to reduce the push factors. Housing in disadvantaged areas helps to reduce isolation and lack of access by being near transport and other infrastructure.
Families	Focus on enhanced service delivery and prevention early intervention approaches.
Transport	Comprehensive and integrated transport initiatives make best use of private, public and community transport options.
Supporting infrastructure	Places, spaces and buildings are identified and available to underpin the solutions. Integration of places, buildings with improvement programs with employment programs achieve layered responses including: ▪ Physical improvements ▪ Employment outcomes for local people ▪ A stronger sense of place identity and belonging. There is an awareness of and utilisation of broader infrastructure such as schools, libraries, hospitals, churches etc. Transport needs are assessed and responded to through a combination of mainstream and community transport responses.
Urban and Regional Planning	Important to link with this dimension in terms of access to affordable housing, infrastructure, transport and community involvement in planning. Also affects push factors causing more disadvantaged people to leave less disadvantaged areas.

8 Recommendations

8.1 Targeted Strategies and Programs to Address Locational Disadvantage

Targeted Strategies and Programs to Address Locational Disadvantage

1. That the Federal and State Governments in collaboration with non-government partners, adopt integrated strategies to reduce social exclusion that address universal policy priorities such as poverty reduction, employment, family support, social cohesion, housing affordability as well as targets for reducing spatial disadvantage in specific localities.

2. That the Queensland State Government in partnership with the Commonwealth, Local Government and non-government partners, expand and/or replicate successful state level, place-based programs, such as Community Renewal. An evaluation framework should be developed to assist with monitoring performance and enhancing implementation of any new or expanded programs. Place-based responses should include the following:

    - strategies that reduce the factors pushing people on lower incomes from more advantaged areas into areas that are more disadvantaged
    - responses to economic exclusion through a range of measures such as job creation, sustainable local economies and enterprise development (including social enterprise)
    - specific strategies to address community economic development, community development and participation, as well as improvements to service planning and delivery
    - processes to identify the particular needs, issues and strengths of a community as part of a local or regional planning process.

3. Areas targeted for place-based responses to disadvantage should include urban communities with a high number of people in Quintile 1 SLAs as well as communities where the proportions of people in Quintiles 1 and 2 are very high compared to the overall population.

4. That the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments work in collaboration with non-government partners, to implement more flexible funding and service delivery arrangements including multi purpose service hubs and place-based budgets for particular locations characterised by high levels of spatial disadvantage.

5. That the Queensland Government continues to improve the integration of health, education and social and community services planning in relation to localities or regions including strengthening regional planning and governance arrangements in areas of significant disadvantage.

6. That the Queensland Government in collaboration with the community services sector, with non-government partners, develops a web-based clearing house for sharing practice about strategies aimed at reducing disadvantage with a strong focus on success and measurable outcomes.

Targeted Strategies and Programs to Address Indigenous Disadvantage

7. That the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments implement specific, targeted responses to Indigenous disadvantage in all urban, regional, and remote areas that show high Indigenous disadvantage. Governments should continue to ensure that such responses are grounded in partnerships with Indigenous people.

UnitingCare Queensland (UCQ) Place-Based Responses

8. That UCQ work with government (all levels) and local communities to prioritise a small number of disadvantaged locations for new strategic and integrated interventions aimed at measurably reducing spatial disadvantage.

9. That UCQ develop a research consortium involving government agencies, non-government services and universities to undertake targeted small area level analysis of disadvantage.

10. That UCQ, the Queensland Government and academic partners convene a summit for researchers and practitioners to present and debate place-based responses to poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion.

11. That UCQ develops partnerships with community development finance institutions, government and the private sector to investigate the formation of a Community Development Corporation or a Community Economic Development Foundation with the purpose of generating alternative and flexible funding sources for place-based initiatives.

12. That UCQ continues the development and implementation of an Indigenous Reconciliation Strategy with particular focus on:

    - the recruitment and retention of Indigenous staff
    - increasing the access of Indigenous people to UCQ services
    - responding positively to requests from Indigenous communities to assist them to build the capacity of their local Indigenous services.

13. That UCQ work with the Commonwealth and State Governments to pilot flexible multi-purpose services to respond to the needs of aging and disabled people in rural and remote communities.

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Appendix 1: Variables Measured in the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage

The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage is derived from Census variables related to disadvantage, such as low income, low educational attainment, unemployment, and dwellings without motor vehicles. In essence, it measures only disadvantage variables to provide an overall picture of the socioeconomic resources of people and households within an area. Because all the variables used in SEIFA were created from the 2006 Census; the list of variables was constrained by information collected at the Census. A full list of these variables is provided below.

Included Variables

- % Occupied private dwellings with no internet connection
- % Employed people classified as Labourers
- % People aged 15 years and over with no post-school qualifications
- % People with stated annual household equivalised income between $13,000 and $20,799 (approx. 2nd and 3rd deciles)
- % Households renting from Government or Community organisation
- % People (in the labour force) unemployed
- % One parent families with dependent offspring only
- % Households paying rent less than $120 per week (excluding $0 per week)
- % People aged under 70 who have a long-term health condition or disability and need assistance with core activities
- % Occupied private dwellings with no car
- % People who identified themselves as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Straight Islander origin
- % Occupied private dwellings requiring one or more extra bedrooms (based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard)
- % People aged 15 years and over who are separated or divorced
- % Employed people classified as Machinery Operators and Drivers
- % People aged 15 years and over who did not go to school
- % Employed people classified as Low Skill Community and Personal Service Workers
- % People who do not speak English well

Variables Dropped

- % Employed people classified as Low Skill Clerical and Administrative Workers
- % Employed people classified as Low Skill Sales Workers
- % Occupied private dwellings with one or no bedrooms
- % People aged 15 years and over who left school at Year 11 or lower

ABS, 2006: paper 2039, Appendix.

Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage, variable weights in 2001 and 2006

Dimension	Variable description	2001 weight	2006 weight
INCOME	% People with stated annual household equivalised income between $13,000 and $20,799 (approx. 2nd and 3rd deciles)	-	-0.30
	% Families with income less than $15,600	-0.23	-
	% Families with offspring having parental income less than $15,600	-0.29	-
EDUCATION	% People aged 15 years and over with no post-school qualifications	-0.31	-0.30
	% People aged 15 years and over who did not go to school	-0.19	-0.17
	% People aged 15 years and over who left school at Year 10 or lower	-0.25	-
EMPLOYMENT	% People (in the labour force) unemployed	-	-0.27
	% Males in labour force unemployed	-0.27	-
	% Females in labour force unemployed	-0.27	-
OCCUPATION	% Employed people classified as Labourers	-	-0.30
	% Employed people classified as Machinery Operators and Drivers	-	-0.20
	% Employed people classified as Low Skill Community and Personal Service Workers	-	-0.17
	% Employed males as classified as 'Labourers and Related Workers'	-0.27	-
	% Employed females classified as 'Labourers and Related Workers'	-0.27	-
	% Employed males classified as 'Intermediate Production and Transport Workers'	0.24	-
	% Employed females classified as 'Intermediate Production and Transport Workers'	-0.19	-
	% Employed females classified as 'Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers'	0.13	-
	% Employed males classified as 'Tradespersons'	-0.11	-
HOUSING	% Households renting from a Government or Community organisation	-	-0.27
	% Occupied private dwellings requiring one or more extra bedrooms(based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard)	-	-0.20
	% Households paying rent who pay less than $120 per week (excluding $0 per week)	-	-0.26
	% Households renting from a Government organisation	-0.22	-
	% Occupied private dwellings with two or more families	-0.13	-
OTHER	% Families that are one parent families with dependent offspring only	-0.25	-0.26
	% Occupied private dwellings with no car	-0.19	-0.22
	% People aged 15 years and over who are separated or divorced	-0.19	-0.20
	% People who identified themselves as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin	-0.18	-0.20
	% People who do not speak English well	-0.15	-0.13
	% Occupied private dwellings with no Internet connection	-	-0.33
	% People aged under 70 who need assistance with core activities due to a long-term health condition, disability or old age	-	-0.24

Source: ABS, 2006a:69

The Centre for Social Justice commissioned Pam Bourke Consulting to prepare this report. It was researched and written by Fiona Caniglia, Pam Bourke and Angkana Praphakom Whiley.

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