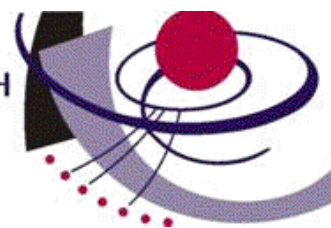


Women

in the Rural City of Wangaratta

WOMEN'S HEALTH
GOULBURN NORTH EAST



This information is a resource for the ongoing improvement of planning, delivering and evaluating services to women in Wangaratta. It shows the value of sex-disaggregated data.

In the Rural City of Wangaratta (RCOW):¹

- ∅ Women earn less than men. The March 2008 Poverty Line for a single person was \$378 per week. More than half RCOW women (54%) had a gross individual income of below \$400 in 2006 compared to 36% of men.
- ∅ Of people in RCOW earning more than \$1,000 per week, 69% are male.
- ∅ In Australia, women working full-time earn 16% less than men.²
- ∅ In RCOW, of people holding a diploma or degree or higher, 60% are women.
- ∅ Currently, the average superannuation payout for women is a third of that for men - \$37,000 compared with \$110,000.³
- ∅ RCOW women do more unpaid work. 15% of males did more than 15 hours per week of unpaid domestic work, compared to 42% of females.
- ∅ Women comprise 71% of the primary carers of elderly, disabled and mentally-ill members of the family.⁴ This responsibility greatly hinders a woman's ability to fully participate in paid work.⁵
- ∅ 13% of RCOW families with dependent children are headed by a sole parent compared to 15% in Victoria.
- ∅ In Australia in 2006, women headed 87% of sole parent families with children under 15.⁶ (Labour Force stats.) In RCOW, the rate from Census Data is 72%.
- ∅ In Australia, only 1.7% of women under 19 have children
- ∅ In 2006, 4.8% of births were to RCOW women aged less than 20 years, compared to 2.9% for Victoria.⁷

All citations are from the 2006 ABS Census, unless stated otherwise.

There are 13,554 women in the RCOW, comprising 51% of the population.⁸ In the over 85 population, 396 are women and 171 are men.

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people comprise 0.7% of the population compared to 1% in Victoria. The life expectancy of Aboriginal women is 64.8 years – 17 years less than for non-Aboriginal women.⁹

The rate of population growth in the Ovens-Murray region is projected to be half that of Victoria's from 2006-2036. The main driver of population change is the over 60s group, which will more than double in size and comprise more than a third of the population by 2036.¹⁰

87% of RCOW women are Australian-born. Mostly, those born overseas come from England, Italy, Germany, NZ, and the Netherlands.

17% of RCOW women have no religion. (Most are Christian – 71%.)

- Ø 27% of women in RCOW volunteer – 10% are 24 or younger. (One in 5 young women under 25 is a volunteer.)
- Ø 5.5% of RCOW women have a disability.
- Ø In 2008, 344 women accessed community-based mental health services (child and adolescent, adult or aged), and 31 women used a Psychiatric Disability Rehabilitation and Support Service.

CRIME

- Ø The rate for crime against the person is 903 per 100,000 in the RCOW compared to 818 in Victoria. The rate for crimes against property is 4,621 per 100,000 in the RCOW and 5,358 in Victoria.¹¹
- Ø In 2007-8 there was a high family violence incident call-out rate of 1128 per 100,000 people in RCOW compared to 603.8 for Victoria.¹²
- Ø There is a higher rate of drug offending in the RCOW than Victoria: 112 per 100,000 for drug cultivation and manufacture compared to 79 for Victoria; and 265 per 100,000 for drug possession and use compared to 191 in Victoria.¹³
- Ø In 2008, there were 6 female victims of rape, and 17 female victims of sexual assault. There were no male victims of rape, and 4 male victims of sexual assault. More men (110) than women (84) were assaulted.¹⁴

DISADVANTAGE

- Ø Compared to Victoria, the RCOW is average in terms of socioeconomic disadvantage (SEIFA), ranking 5th on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is most disadvantaged.¹⁵
- Ø In terms of 'Education and Occupation' disadvantage, the RCOW is ranked 4th on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is most disadvantaged.¹⁶
- Ø Towns in the RCOW do not appear in the list of the 40 most disadvantaged post code areas.¹⁷
- Ø The Rural City of Wangaratta has an aria (remoteness)¹⁸ score of approximately 1.3 indicating it is 'Highly Accessible' with relatively unrestricted accessibility to a wide range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.¹⁹

The Rural City of Wangaratta has established a Business Women's Network. This network benefits women who own and/or run their own business. Guest speakers are regularly invited, and there are opportunities for women to network.

Women are encouraged to pursue leadership roles in local government, either as paid staff members of as a member of a Board or a Committee.

Women's Health Goulburn North East is the government funded specialist women's health service for the Goulburn Valley and North-East Victoria.

We are dedicated to promoting the health and wellbeing of all women and to improving the delivery of health and community services for women in their local communities.

Our work is underpinned by a social model of health which recognizes that a complex array of factors influence a woman's sense of self, health, safety and wellbeing.

We acknowledge that many women have limited access to social and economic resources. We respect and affirm diversity among women.

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For citations, please see www.whealth.com.au

WOMEN'S HEALTH
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- ¹ Unless otherwise stated, all statistics are taken from the 2006 ABS Census. www.abs.gov.au (Accessed January 2009)
- ² ABS, 2008, Average Weekly Earnings, February 2008, Cat. No. 6302.0, ABS, Canberra
- ³ http://www.hreoc.gov.au/sex_discrimination/programs/gender_gap.html
- ⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2004) Disability, Aging and Carers Australia: Summary of Findings, 2003. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Balance of Victoria. Cat. No. 4430.0. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4430.02003?OpenDocument> (Cited from WHV: The Index. www.theindex.org) (Accessed 15.1.2009)
- ⁵ Crowther, E (2004). *MI support, Mental Illness Fellowship*. Autumn/Early Winter. (Cited from WHV: The Index. www.theindex.org. Accessed 15.1.2009)
- ⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007). One-Parent Families, Australian Social Trends, 2007. Australian Bureau of Statistics Canberra, Cat. no. 4102.0. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/F4B15709EC89CB1ECA25732C002079B2?opendocument> (Accessed 9 March 2008)
- ⁷ Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Unit, Department of Human Services. www.health.vic.gov.au/perinatal/stats/birthsvic06.htm (Accessed 13.1.12009)
- ⁸ All references to ABS, 2006 refer to: Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 2068.0 - 2006 Census Tables. www.abs.gov.au (Accessed 15.1.2009)
- ⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007) Year Book Australia 2008. Cat. No. 1301.0. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1301.0Main+Features12008?OpenDocument> (Cited from WHV: The Index. www.theindex.org) (Accessed 15.1.2009)
- ¹⁰ Department of Planning and Community Development (2008) Victoria in Future 2008, First Release [http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/4F485F14CED427C8CA2575120021F673/\\$File/Ovens+Murray+info+sheet_v2.pdf](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/4F485F14CED427C8CA2575120021F673/$File/Ovens+Murray+info+sheet_v2.pdf) AND for Goulburn Valley: [http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/BA56BCB98905D429CA257512001EDC1A/\\$File/Goulburn+info+sheet_v2.pdf](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/BA56BCB98905D429CA257512001EDC1A/$File/Goulburn+info+sheet_v2.pdf) (Accessed 14.1.2009)
- ¹¹ Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics . www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- ¹² Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics. Recorded Family Incident Reports. Data extracted from LEAP on 18/7/08. http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=33954 (Accessed 19.1.2008)
- ¹³ Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics . www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- ¹⁴ Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics . www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- ¹⁵ 2033.0.55.001 - Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data Cube only, 2006 Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage. www.abs.gov.au (Accessed 14.1.2009) The ABS uses measures from the 2006 census to give a SEIFA rank to each Local Government Area to show how disadvantaged that area is compared to other areas. The most disadvantaged areas are in the first decile (10%) and the least disadvantaged areas are in the 10th decile. The City of Wangaratta has a SEIFA ranking in the 5th decile for Victoria and the 7th decile for Australia.
- ¹⁶ 2033.0.55.001 - Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data Cube only, 2006 Index of Education and Occupation. www.abs.gov.au (Accessed 14.1.2009) The 1st decile indicates most disadvantage and the 10th indicates least disadvantage in Victoria.
- ¹⁷ Vinson, T (2007) *Dropping off the Edge: The distribution of disadvantage in Australia*. Richmond: Jesuit Social Services. pp 69-71.
- ¹⁸ ARIA is an index of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centers.
- ¹⁹ <http://www9.health.gov.au/aria/ariaipt.cfm> (Accessed 14.1.2009)