

7 Regional performance – social

7.1 Background

Development of the social resources in a region contributes to the ability of a regional community to pursue its own development.

7.2 Social goal for the regions

The Social Goal for the regions is *'Educated, healthy, safe and supportive communities'*

Page 99

7.3 Key result areas

The Key Result Areas in the Social theme are shown in Table 48.

Table 48: Key result areas in the social theme

Key Result Area	Context
Education and training	Access to and levels of achievement in primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education. Qualification profiles by region
Health and well-being	Access to medical facilities, and health promotion, recreational and cultural facilities. Healthy life expectancy, involvement in health enhancing behaviours, industrial impacts, mortality and morbidity
Community safety	Crime rates and reported offences, evaluation of policing and policing resources, levels of investment to protect households (including insurance), community feelings over safety, costs of crime, and crime as a function of demographics.
Social capital	Social cohesion and generalised reciprocity, generalised trust, community identity, capacity building
CALD, gender, youth, seniors	Access to CALD service and CALD participation in the community, gender equity issues, youth aspirations, employment and facilities. Aged care facilities and level of retention in the region
Community involvement in decision making	Government investment in consultation procedures, level of regional autonomy, levels of discretionary funding at regional scale, regional input to state level decisions
Personal financial independence	Investment in social security, percentage of people below the poverty line, homelessness
Equity in communication and professional services	Quality and cost of electronic services, level of use of services, access to regionally based professional services, use of local services

7.4 A framework for indicator development

Experience elsewhere is that reporting the social development and character of a region represents the most significant challenge in indicator design. The approach adopted recognised that it is in the social area where most direct government programs operate that provide day-to-day and face-to-face services to individuals and communities. Whereas government puts in place infrastructure

to enable economic development by a third party, in areas like education, health and policing, government is the direct investor in social outcomes through programs that it owns and manages. The logic therefore is that in the social theme, the need to track the level of government services and the outputs and outcomes from those services has some greater priority.

The model in Figure 1 works best at the program level when there is a very clear causal link between the service being provided (e.g. remedial teaching services) and the outcomes (e.g. the children's performance). At the whole of state, or regional scale, the link between the services provided by government and the outcomes will be less causal, and more influenced by social drivers outside the control of government – with examples being CALD and cultural issues, the demography of a region and the nature of the employment on offer. Because of the larger scope of this Project, the Department of Finance model in Figure 1 has been modified for the social theme to meet the particular needs of this project, as follows:

- outputs are termed as 'Services', being those activities undertaken in the regions by Government in line with its social goal and strategies in regional social development.
- the outcomes in Figure 1 are regarded for the purposes of this project as some of the influences on the **Status** of the region in social terms, with 'status' being an absolute measure of the object of interest. For instance, the percentage of the children in the region who complete Year 12 schooling is a stand-alone measure of the status of educational achievement. This measure can be tracked through time, with both absolute levels and trends benchmarked against the Perth metropolitan area.

While the quality and quantity of services will contribute to the region's status in particular areas, there will be other drivers of that status. These will also need to be recorded as part of an overall description of inherent differences between the regions.

Table 49 provides examples of service and status indicators for three of the key result areas.

Table 49: Examples of service and status indicators

Key result area	Service indicators (outputs)	Status indicators (outcomes)
Education and training	• Access to education resources	• Education achievement levels
Community safety	• Policing services	• Community feeling of safety
Communication and professional services	• Availability and costs of electronic access	• Use of electronic services by regional people

7.5 Regional social indicators

7.5.1 Key Result Area - Education and training

7.5.1.1 Services indicators

Indicator: Accessibility of primary, secondary and tertiary educational opportunities

Background

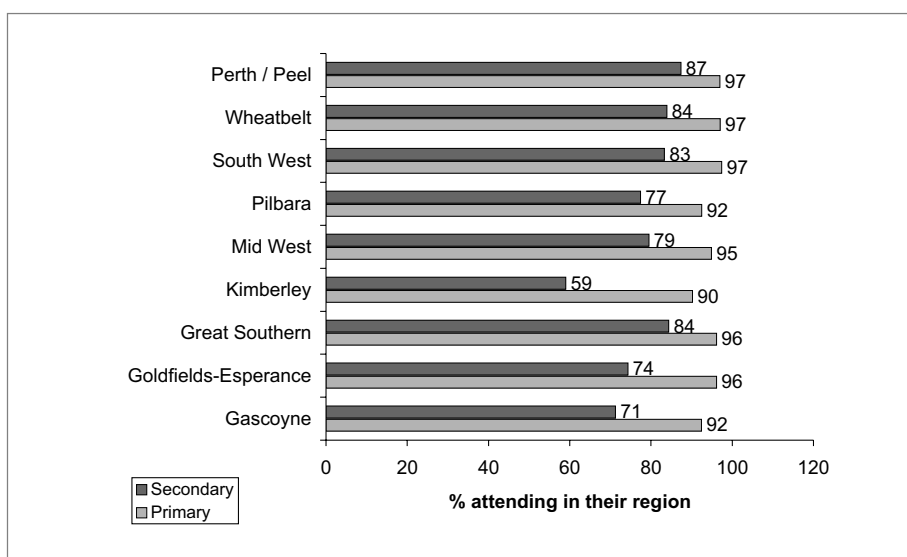
The State Government is committed to providing fair and reasonable access to high quality education for students in regional, rural and remote Western Australia. The State makes primary and secondary education available to all students in the State either through day-to-day attendance, boarding away from home, or provision of distance education facilities. Therefore, the above indicator is measured by the number of students who attend school in their own region, as opposed to travelling elsewhere (e.g. boarding school) or leaving school and completing an apprenticeship. Other measures include rates of participation, number of isolated and distance education students and total number of students.

Current Situation

Primary and Secondary education

Figure 12 shows the percentage of primary and secondary students that attend school in their own region. Reasons why children may not attend school in their own region could be because they do not attend school at all, they are undertaking an apprenticeship or are already in the workforce or most usually, they are completing their schooling elsewhere. These data are indicative at RDC scale as the regional boundaries for educational reporting are different to RDC regional boundaries (see Annex B).

Figure 12: Percentage of school age children attending school in their own region



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing (2001) and Department of Education.

Table 50 shows the number of isolated and distance education students in Western Australia and what percentage they make up of the total number. These numbers are for Government schools only (e.g. 'Schools of the Air').

Table 50: Number of isolated and distance education students, 2001

Isolated and Distance Education Numbers (%)

Primary and Pre-primary	530 (0.3)
Secondary	929 (1.1)
Total	1,459 (0.6)

NB For Government schools only – Semester 2, 2001

Source: Department of Education.

Table 51 illustrates the number of pre-primary and kindergarten, primary and secondary students in each of the Education Department's divisions. Regional Western Australia accounts for nearly 30 per cent of the student numbers compared to 27 per cent of the total State population.

Table 51: Student numbers by district

District	RDC Region	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary total	Total (%)
Albany	Great Southern	754	4,127	2,737	7,618 (3.0)
Bunbury	South West	1,382	6,962	4,379	12,723 (4.9)
Esperance	Goldf-Esp	369	1,981	996	3,346 (1.3)
Goldfields	Goldf-Esp	947	4,120	1,556	6,623 (2.6)
Kimberley	Kimberley	738	3,107	1,238	5,083 (2.0)
Mid West	Mid West	1,183	5,333	2,397	8,913 (3.5)
Midlands	Wheatbelt	1,084	5,816	3,306	10,206 (4.0)
Narrogin	Wheatbelt	602	2,700	1,748	5,050 (2.0)
Pilbara	Pilbara	1,136	5,002	2,123	8,261 (3.2)
Warren-Blackwood	South West	835	4,133	2,701	7,669 (3.0)
Regional WA	-	9,030	43,281	23,181	75,492 (29.3)
Metropolitan districts	Perth + Peel	19,458	99,246	63,536	182,240 (70.7)
Total WA	-	28,488	142,527	86,717	257,732 (100)

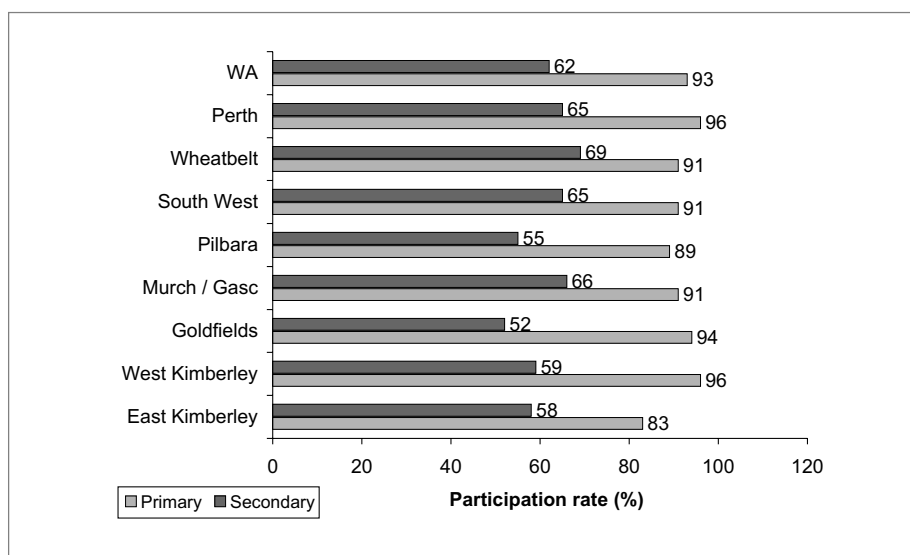
NB For Government schools only and including full and part time students – Semester 2 2001; for education department division boundaries, see Appendix 1.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing (2001) and Department of Education.

Indigenous primary and secondary school participation

Overall, primary school participation levels of Indigenous children is just below the level of enrolment by non-Indigenous children¹⁴. The participation rates of Indigenous children are presented in Figure 13 below. Primary school students are those aged between 5 and 12 years and secondary are those aged between 13 and 17 years. The data were compiled in 1998 by the Aboriginal Affairs Department, however taken from the 1996 ABS Census of Population and Housing.

Figure 13: School participation rates – Indigenous children, 1996



Source: Regional Indicators for Aboriginal People in Western Australia (1998).

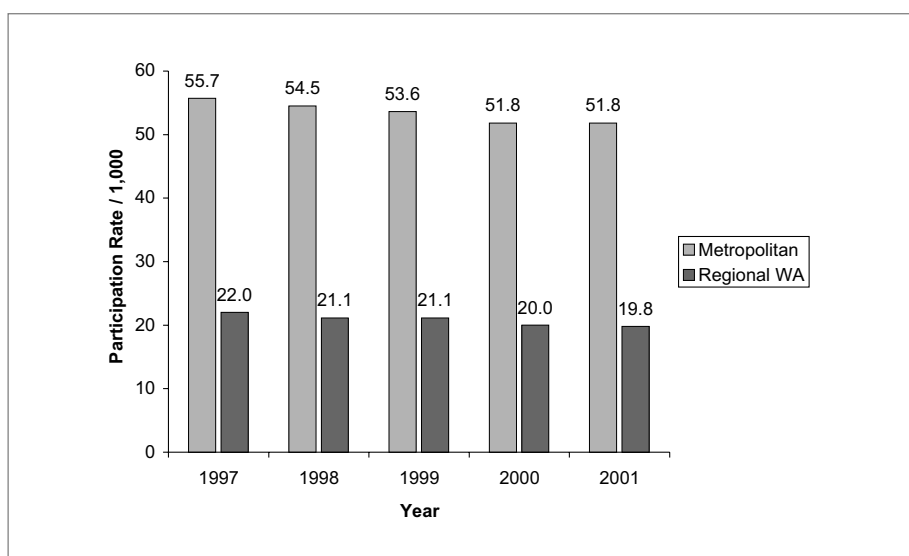
The participation rates of Indigenous primary school children were between 22 and 42 per cent higher than for Indigenous secondary school children across the regions. The lowest rate of participation amongst primary school children was in the East Kimberley region, where 17 per cent of children aged between 5 and 12 years were not enrolled in the current schooling system. The participation rates for secondary education ranged between 52 per cent in the Goldfields to 69 per cent in the Wheatbelt.

It should be noted that children could be educated from home without being enrolled in the education system. There are no statistics for children in this category, although it is likely to be a small number.

Higher education

Figure 14 shows the number of people per 1,000 (in the 17 to 64 year old age group) who are enrolled for higher education at the five Western Australian universities. Statistics are not available at a regional scale, but the data show that people from outside the metropolitan region have a lower rate of participation in higher education.

¹⁴ Regional Indicators for Aboriginal People in Western Australia, Aboriginal Affairs Department, 1998.

Figure 14: Higher education participation rates, 1997 – 2001

Source: Department of Education.

Table 52 shows the raw numbers of people enrolled in the four WA universities. The proportion of external to full-time and part-time students is higher for the more remote regions, particularly for the Kimberley and Pilbara regions, where it is the most common type of enrolment.

Table 52: Student numbers in higher education - 2001

Statistical Division	Approximate RDC region	Full-time	Part-time	External	Total
Kimberley	Kimberley	98	26	111	235
Pilbara	Pilbara	126	38	129	293
Central	Gascoyne Mid West	429	60	176	665
South Eastern	Goldfields-Esperance	300	119	154	573
Midlands Upper Great Southern	Wheatbelt	610	110	192	912
South West	Peel South West	1,923	561	410	2,894
Lower Great Southern	Great Southern	460	82	170	712
Perth	Metropolitan area	33,562	11,142	2,550	47,254

Source: Department of Education.

Comment

Isolated and distance education students make up only 1.9 per cent of the primary and secondary students in the State. The majority of students either have access to primary and secondary schools within the region, or relocate (e.g. boarding schools, school hostels) for their schooling.

The percentage of those relocating is significant, particularly in the more remote regions (inferred from Figure 12). The proportion of students who do not attend secondary school in their own region was the highest in the Kimberley, with 41 per cent of children aged between 13 and 17 either attending school in another region or being already in the workforce or in an apprenticeship. The other more remote regions such as the Gascoyne (29%), Goldfields-Esperance (26%) and Pilbara (23%) also have high percentages of students not attending secondary school in their own region. The proportion of students not attending primary school in their own region was much lower, ranging from 10 per cent in the Kimberley region to 3 per cent in the South West, Wheatbelt and Perth regions.

There is a lower level of participation in higher education in regional areas, with in 2001, 20 persons per 1,000 participating in regional Western Australia, compared to 52 per 1,000 in Perth metropolitan. This is likely to reflect migration away from regional WA when the time comes for enrolment in tertiary education.

Between 1997 and 2001 participation rates in higher education decreased in both regional Western Australia (-10%) and Perth metropolitan (-7%). The more remote regions have a higher proportion of external students, compared to full-time and part-time, with the Kimberley and Pilbara both having in excess of 40 per cent of students enrolled as external. Perth metropolitan, Peel and the Wheatbelt had the lowest proportion of students enrolled externally at 5, 14 and 21 per cent respectively.

Indicator: Ability to access the full array of vocational education and training opportunities in the region

Background

Vocational education and training is an important path to skilled employment. It is also the branch of post-compulsory education that is most closely linked with the immediate needs of industry and commerce, and courses are provided to meet regionally-specific needs throughout the State. The indicator has been measured by the participation rate at regional scale in courses that will lead to a formal qualification recognised in a workplace environment.

Current situation

Vocational education and training is provided in all of the regions, mainly through the State's network of Technical and Further Education Centres (TAFE). The numbers of people accessing this opportunity in 2001 and the percentage of the population (aged between 15 – 44 years) involved is shown in Table 53.

Table 53: Number of TAFE enrolments in the regions

Region	No. of TAFE enrolments	Percentage of population (15 44)
Gascoyne	268	1.9
Goldfields-Esperance	936	4.0
Great Southern	1,597	2.3
Kimberley	692	3.0
Mid West	1,279	2.5
Peel	1,518	3.4
Pilbara	1,282	2.6
South West	3,530	3.6
Wheatbelt	1,342	2.6
Regional WA	12,444	3.1
Perth	38,857	11.1
WA Total	51,301	8.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001).

Through the 'Regional Access' website which is linked from the Department of Training's website, it is possible to access information on traineeships and apprenticeships, career advice, training programs and courses, telecentres and other information. This information is available for all of the nine regions in Western Australia.

Comment

Overall, participation in the regions is about 70 per cent lower than in the Perth metropolitan area. Regional participation in vocational training and education is highest in the Goldfields-Esperance, South West, Peel and Kimberley regions. Lower participation rates occur in the Gascoyne, Mid West, Pilbara, Wheatbelt and Great Southern.

7.5.1.2 Status indicators

Indicator: Education system apparent retention rates

Background

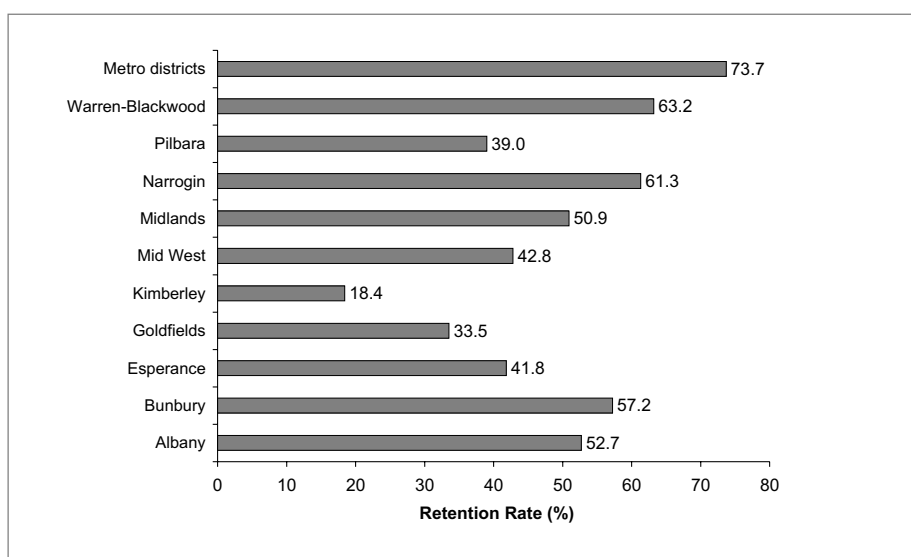
In 1998 the national apparent retention rate to Year 12 was 71.6 per cent; 65.7 per cent for government schools and 84.0 per cent for non-government schools. The retention rate for Western Australian students was similar at 71.1 per cent overall; 65.8 per cent for government schools and 82.7 per cent for non-government schools. These data were obtained from 'Schools Australia', published by the ABS and are used to enable state comparisons only. The Department of Education (now Department of Education and Training) calculates state retention rates differently, including fewer categories of Year 12 students and therefore producing lower rates.

There are a range of factors that will affect the calculation of apparent retention rates, some of these include students repeating a year of education, migration and other net changes to the school population, such as the enrolment of full-fee paying overseas students. The apparent retention rates shown in Figure 15 do not take into account these effects.

Current situation

Shown in Figure 15 are the apparent retention rates in government and non-government schools. These are measured as the number of students in Year 12 as a proportion of those in Year 8 four years earlier. The regions shown in Figure 15 are school education districts (see Annex B). The Metropolitan districts exhibited the highest rate of retention (73.7%), followed by Warren-Blackwood (63.2%) and Narrogin (61.3%).

Figure 15: Apparent retention rates to Year 12, 2001



Source: Department of Education.

The state apparent retention rates in Western Australia are 23.4 per cent for Indigenous students and 69.2 per cent for non-Indigenous students.

Comment

There is a marked difference in apparent retention rates across the State, with the rate in Perth being significantly higher than in any of the regions. Retention rates in the more remote regions are considerably lower than for the remainder of the State, with the Kimberley, Goldfields, Pilbara, Esperance and the Mid West districts recording retention rates of less than 50 per cent. These low rates of apparent retention in the remote regions (especially the Kimberley) will partly be due to children continuing their schooling in another region, such as in Perth. The Kimberley district is also unique as there is only one senior high school, which is in Broome with Year 10 schools elsewhere in the region.

The higher proportion of Indigenous students in parts of these regions, who traditionally have lower retention rates, will reduce the overall retention rate.

Indicator: Literacy and numeracy levels

Background

Enhancing literacy and numeracy standards across Regional Western Australia is an important objective for Government. Adequate literacy and numeracy achievement is critical for the development of young people in a region. Low literacy and numeracy achievement will contribute to later difficulties in securing employment and other forms of social disadvantage.

Current situation

The performance of Year 3 (see Table 54) students was similar for most regions and Perth, with some regional scores being higher for reading, writing and numeracy. The Goldfields, Pilbara and Kimberley regions had a higher proportion of Year 3 and 5 students who didn't meet the national literacy and numeracy benchmarks in 2001 than elsewhere in the State. The lowest level of achievement was in the Kimberley where 46 per cent and 42 per cent of Years 3 and 5 students respectively didn't meet the spelling benchmark. In the Pilbara about 30 per cent of Year 3 students didn't meet the writing and spelling benchmarks with the slightly lower achievement in these areas for the Year 5 cohort.

Year 5 Perth students slightly outperformed students in the rest of the State, having the highest percentage of students who achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks across all disciplines. Students in the Narrogin (Wheatbelt) and Bunbury (South West) regions performed well with Year 5 spelling in the Bunbury Region being the only category where less than 80 per cent of the students met the national benchmark.

Table 54: Proportion of Government school students who achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks, 2001

Region (RDC)	Year 3 (%)				Year 5 (%)			
	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Numeracy	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Numeracy
Albany (Great Southern)	91	86	79	88	91	77	76	86
Bunbury (South West)	94	83	81	93	92	80	76	86
Esperance (Goldfields-Esperance)	91	79	79	90	93	81	77	86
Goldfields (Goldfields-Esperance)	88	72	71	86	87	70	70	77
Kimberley	84	60	54	78	74	63	58	63
Mid West	89	77	72	91	89	80	72	82
Midlands (Wheatbelt)	93	83	79	89	90	77	76	83
Narrogin (Wheatbelt)	91	82	80	82	93	83	78	87
Pilbara	86	70	71	82	84	66	68	78
Warren-Blackwood (South West)	95	85	78	89	93	77	74	87
Perth	93	83	82	91	94	83	83	88

Source: Department of Education.

* The above regions are the Department of Education's districts (see Annex B)

Table 55 presents the proportion of Indigenous Government school students in the State who achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks in 2001, compared to the results for the whole school population. The smallest gap between the proportion of all students and Indigenous students meeting the national benchmarks was for reading (Year 3), a 16 per cent difference. However, for writing and spelling (Years 3 and 5), 30 per cent less Indigenous students met the national benchmarks when compared to the State average.

Table 55: Proportion of Indigenous Government school students who achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks, 2001

Benchmark Year 3	Total (%)	Indigenous (%)
Reading	92	76
Writing	82	52
Spelling	80	48
Numeracy	90	70
Year 5		
Reading	93	72
Writing	81	50
Spelling	80	50
Numeracy	86	58

Source: Department of Education.

NB: Not by region and for Government schools only

Comment

The proportion of students achieving national literacy and numeracy benchmarks was slightly lower in most categories in regional Western Australia than Perth, with only Year 3 reading, writing and numeracy scoring marginally higher in some of the regions. The gap between regions and Perth was greater in spelling performance.

There exists a large gap between the proportion of Indigenous students achieving the national literacy and numeracy benchmarks and the total population in the State. The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students ranges from 16 per cent for Year 3 reading to as high as 32 per cent for Year 3 spelling.

Indicator: Skills profile of the workforce in the region

Background

Western Australia covers the resource-rich western third of Australia and has a diverse range of industries spread across the State. It is a major world source of commodities and is expanding rapidly in the manufacturing and services sectors. The State has a highly educated workforce of 850,000. The State Government promotes skill development in the regions to exploit the economic development opportunities and also to build economic and community diversity.

Current situation

Within the Perth metropolitan area the majority of people work in the professional or clerical and services sector. Across the regions, the majority of the workforce are professionals, labourers or clerical. In the more remote regions such as the Pilbara, Kimberley and Goldfields-Esperance, professionals and labourers together make up over 50 per cent of the workforce.

Table 56: Occupation profile of the workforce in the regions

Occupation Region (%)	Gascoyne	Goldfld -Espnce	Gt Southern	Kimb-erley	Mid West	Peel	Pilbara	South West	Wheat-belt	Regional WA	Perth
Managers & Administrators	14.2	9.0	19.0	8.9	12.7	7.3	6.1	10.3	28.0	12.9	7.1
Professionals	25.1	24.4	23.4	26.7	24.3	23.0	25.8	24.1	18.8	23.6	31.6
Tradespersons & Related Workers	12.7	17.2	12.6	11.8	14.7	17.1	19.5	14.9	12.6	15.0	12.6
Clerical & service	21.9	20.5	23.6	22.9	23.2	28.0	19.9	25.2	18.7	23.0	31.8
Labourers & Related Workers	22.7	26.9	19.5	26.2	22.9	22.5	26.6	23.6	19.8	23.3	15.1

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing (2001).

NB Figures are percentages of persons employed in each profile within the region. The figures in each region do not add up to 100% as the 'not stated' and 'inadequately described' categories are not reported.

Comment

Approximately 32 per cent of Perth's workforce were professionals which was 8 per cent higher than the average for regional Western Australia. In the clerical and service sector, the proportion of Perth's workforce was almost 9 per cent greater than the average for regional Western Australia. However, every region, except for the Pilbara, had a higher percentage of managers and administrators compared to Perth.

Within regional Western Australia, the Wheatbelt had the highest proportion of managers and administrators (28%) while Goldfields-Esperance had the highest proportion of labourers (27%) and the Pilbara had the highest proportion of tradespersons (20%).

7.5.2 Health and well-being

7.5.2.1 Healthcare services

Indicator: Accessibility to professional care in the region

Background

Regional residents expect that the government will make provision for improved service delivery in accordance with their particular needs to help maintain and enhance their quality of life.

Current situation

Table 57 illustrates the number of professional care outlets throughout Western Australia and are all services that are provided by the Department of Health, Home and Community Care. Outlets refer to specific locations where the service is operated from or coordinated from. Respite Care is the provision of an alternative care arrangement which both intends, and enables, a time limited break for the person who is the primarily carer. Food Service outlets include 'meals on wheels'; Home Maintenance includes services such as lawn mowing, cleaning and regular maintenance and Home Community Care Program Support provides the logistical support.

The Wheatbelt has the most professional care outlets of any region in Western Australia, 30 per cent or more of the regional outlets. The Mid West and South West have a higher proportion of the State's professional care outlets compared to other regions.

Table 57: Professional care outlets in Western Australia

Region	Nursing	Para-medical	Respite Care	Food Service	Home Maintenance	HCC Program Support	Transport	Personal Care
Gascoyne / Mid West	7	2	2	11	10	12	13	3
Goldfields-Esperance	nd	1	3	3	5	6	4	1
Great Southern	2	nd	1	6	3	5	6	1
Kimberley	2	1	3	6	4	4	7	1
Peel	1	nd	nd	2	2	1	2	nd
Pilbara	2	nd	1	8	2	3	7	2
South West	2	nd	2	10	5	6	10	1
Wheatbelt	7	6	11	27	26	25	34	10
Regional WA	23	10	23	70	52	56	79	19
Perth	11	6	29	30	20	32	40	15
WA Total	34	16	52	100	72	88	119	34

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (1996).

nd = no data available

Comment

Provision of adequate professional care services is fundamental to the health and well-being of people within the regions. Some of the professional care services are also important in the context of emergency situations, which often become more critical due to the remoteness associated with living in regional Western Australia.

7.5.2.2 Well-being Services

Indicator: Provision of recreational and cultural facilities and programs

Provision of recreational facilities and programs

Background

The need for high quality, well planned and sustainable recreational facilities is paramount to the health of a region. It encourages physical activity, supports community well-being and cohesion and has the potential to attract state/ national / international events that have a positive social and economic impact. The Western Australian Government has supported the development of facilities through the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Funding program since 1982, and has negotiated capital works funding for major sporting infrastructure on a needs basis.

Page 115

Current situation

The State Government employs Regional Sport and Development Officers who operate in all regions. These people who work closely with local government authorities are key contacts for various sporting groups / agencies; e.g. Indigenous sport, disabled sports, cricket, football etc. The majority of local government sporting venues are located in the Wheatbelt (39) and South West (13) regions. Local government venues are defined as government funded sporting venues and are those listed in the 2001/02 Sport and Recreation directory. Venues include leisure and aquatic centres, swimming pools, recreation centres, and skate parks.

Table 58: Provision of recreational facilities and programs

Region	No. of regional sport development officers	No. of Local government venues
Gascoyne	4	3
Goldfields-Esperance	4	7
Great Southern	8	6
Kimberley	5	4
Mid West	4	4
Peel	5	6
Pilbara	4	7
South West	7	13
Wheatbelt	8	39
Regional WA	49	89
Perth	na*	62
WA Total	49	151

Source: Department of Sport and Recreation.

* There is very little need in Perth metropolitan for the equivalent of regional sport development officers, instead there are specialist development officers for particular activities.

Table 59 reproduces some of the findings from the 'Living in the Regions' report, which asked people in the regions to comment on the quality of the sport and recreation facilities in their region. Seventy seven per cent of respondents in general or strong agreement that the general recreation facilities in the area were good, with 83 per cent making the same assessment about sporting facilities. The percentage rating of satisfaction (measured by the percentage 'net agree') varied between regions for both classes of assets. Satisfaction with both sporting and recreation facilities was highest in the Great Southern. Sporting facilities were least well regarded in the Kimberley and Gascoyne (70 per cent net agreement), and the Kimberley respondents also had the lowest level of net satisfaction with their recreational facilities.

Table 59: Quality of sport and recreation facilities

Region	Sporting - the sporting facilities are good in this area.'			Recreation - the general recreation facilities are good in this area'		
	Generally agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)	Net agree (%)	Generally agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)	Net agree (%)
Gascoyne	54	16	70	59	13	72
Goldfields-Esperance	58	18	76	53	15	68
Great Southern	57	34	91	67	22	89
Kimberley	58	12	70	53	10	63
Mid West	61	29	90	60	20	80
Peel	61	19	80	62	20	82
Pilbara	60	25	85	52	20	72
South West	62	26	88	59	17	76
Wheatbelt	58	26	84	68	11	79
Regional WA	59	24	83	60	17	77

Source: Living in the Regions (1999), published by the Department of Commerce and Trade.

Comment

Sport and recreation facilities and services are seen as important social assets in regional Western Australia, particularly in smaller centres, where participation in team and individual sports has traditionally been high. Community facilities are important and complement the processes of economic development and help in attracting and retaining population in the regions. For example, in the Great Southern region, there are over 300 sport and recreation clubs representing over 80 different activities or disciplines.

Provision of cultural facilities and programs

Background

The State Department of Culture and the Arts is currently developing a Whole of State Government Statement on arts and culture. This Statement will document how State Government agencies are using arts and culture to achieve their objectives across a range of portfolios, including health, housing and transport, justice, education and policing. The Statement will demonstrate how arts and culture can play a role in all aspects of government. The development of arts and cultural programs and facilities in rural and remote communities is of high priority, and an appropriate

monitoring system will be put in place to report on regional activities to ensure commitment is maintained in this area.

Current situation

The State Government Department of Culture and the Arts provides a comprehensive listing of arts and cultural organisations, venues, industry and news in Western Australia, as well as links to many art organisations, arts calendars and advisory and funding bodies. It is a valuable resource tool for both people in the arts industry and the general public throughout Western Australia.

At present, there is no reliable way to measure the level of arts and cultural activity in the regions. The Department of Culture and Arts is investigating approaches to develop quantitative and qualitative indicators that measure access to and participation in the arts in regional areas of Western Australia. Other initiatives include establishing a database of people living in regional areas who express a desire to be consulted by arts and cultural agencies regarding policy and programming decisions.

Current activities of the Culture and Arts Portfolio Agencies and their roles are shown in Table 60.

Table 60: Activities of the Culture and Arts Portfolio Agencies, 2002

Agency	Examples of Roles
Dept of Culture and the Arts – Planning and Policy Division	Undertakes policy development in relation to regional arts and cultural development. Coordinates planning of portfolio capital works in regional areas. Supports the statewide ArtsEdge aesthetic education program.
Art Gallery of Western Australia	In conjunction with the City Authorities, provides funding and expertise for the operation of the Bunbury and Geraldton regional art galleries. Where appropriate, provides advice and assistance to regional galleries and arts centres. Makes available exhibitions and public programs to regional WA on a cost-recovery basis.
ArtsWA	Provides funding advisory and support services to regional WA. Provides funding for regional development to Country Arts WA, Community Arts Network WA, the State Literature Officer, the Art on the Move exhibition touring structure and other organisations. Initiates relevant projects for development of regional artists and activity.
ScreenWest	Supports the development of film and television in regional Western Australia. Promotes regional Western Australia as a location for national and international film companies.
State Library of Western Australia	Supports the free public service to Western Australian citizens in partnership with local government, including 150 public libraries in regional areas. Provides services and financial support to eleven key centres charged with developing and maintaining public services in their region.
State Records Office	Operates a website to provide non-metropolitan clients with a wealth of information about the State archives collection and services available to government and the community. Provides training and consultancies in regional centres on request.
Western Australian Museum	Operates three regional museums in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Albany and Geraldton. Operates the Museums Assistance Program, which provides a statewide information, advisory and training service to approximately 250 diverse community based cultural heritage organisations in all areas of their planning, management and operation.

Source: Department of Culture and the Arts.

Table 61 shows the number of key theatres, regional presenters, galleries, libraries and museums in the regions. All of the regions have at least one major theatre, and a similar distribution occurs with Regional Presenters and Galleries.

Any interpretation of these figures should take into account the following qualifications.

- The figures represent a diverse range of organisations within each category, including volunteer, part-time and professionally staffed organisations. For example, one region may have one well-equipped gallery that is staffed full-time while another region might have several spaces that are not dedicated galleries but can be used for this purpose occasionally.
- While all regions have at least one key theatre, ability to see events in this facility will depend on a person's place of residence in the region relative to the theatre's location. Thus the Queen's Theatre in Geraldton is a significant venue, but is located several hundred kilometres from the remoter parts of the Mid West region.
- Some types of important cultural facilities are not included in this table, e.g. cinemas and Indigenous cultural/interpretive centres.
- Facilities are an indicator of infrastructure, but not of level of activity.

Table 61: Provision of cultural facilities and programs, 2002

Region	Key Theatres	Regional Presenters	Regional Galleries	Regional Libraries	Regional Museums
Gascoyne	1	3	1	4	5
Goldfields-Esperance	2	7	3	14	11
Great Southern	1	12	1	19	15
Kimberley	1	6	nd	7	9
Mid West	1	7	1	25	15
Peel	1	3	2	2	3
Pilbara	2	9	4	13	7
South West	2	13	3	23	11
Wheatbelt	1	19	5	51	27
Regional WA	12	79	20	158	103

Source: Department of Culture and the Arts.

Key Theatres: theatres with a seating capacity of 300 or more and members of CircuitWest regional performing arts touring network.

Regional Presenters: sourced from Country Arts WA's list of organisations/groups that can present performances of touring productions.

Regional Galleries: sourced from Art on the Move WA's database of galleries/organisations that can present touring exhibitions.

Regional Libraries: members of the State-wide public library network supported by local governments and the State Library of WA.

Regional Museums: sourced from the Western Australian Museum's Museum Assistance Program database (includes small community museums and major regional museums).

Comment

Other government departments also play a vital role in partnering the Department of Culture and the Arts to deliver arts and culture to the regions. Key funding partners at the State level include the Lotteries Commission, Healthway and the Department for Community Development – Youth Affairs. Funding partners at the Federal level include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, the Australia Council, Playing Australia, Festivals Australia and Visions Australia. Local governments must also be acknowledged as a key partner in assisting access to arts and culture throughout the State. Their crucial contribution in the form of staff-time and direct funding support is recognised and encouraged.

7.5.2.3 Health and Well-being Status

Indicator: Current prevalence of chronic diseases

Background

Chronic disease is defined as a health condition that lasts a year or longer, limits what a person can do and may require ongoing care. Examples of chronic disease are diabetes, cancer, asthma, heart disease and arthritis. As a part of the State Government Regional Health Strategy, called *More Doctors, Better Services*, the Rural Chronic Disease Initiative (RCDI) aims to address the health problems facing rural, regional and remote communities.

Current situation

Table 62 presents the prevalence of chronic disease in males and female aged 18 years and over throughout the nine regions and in the Perth metropolitan area.

In the Gascoyne and Peel regions there are a significantly greater proportion of females than males who have diabetes, with Gascoyne reporting 9.1 per cent of females having diabetes opposed to only 1.4 per cent of males. In the Peel region 7.6 per cent of females and 2.5 per cent of males have diabetes. In the Kimberley and Mid West regions a greater proportion of males have heart disease than females with 7.0 per cent and 8.4 per cent of males having heart disease in those regions respectively. As to be expected, more females suffer from osteoporosis than do males and the incidence is highest in the Goldfields-Esperance region at 6.0 per cent.

Table 62: Prevalence of chronic disease, 18 years aged and over, 2001

Prevalence of chronic disease (%)	Sex	Gascoyne	Goldfields-Esperance	Great Southern	Kimberley	Mid West	Peel	Pilbara	South West	Wheatbelt	Perth Metro
Diabetes	M	1.4	4.6	3.5	2.5	4.8	2.5	3.4	4.7	7.5	4.3
	F	9.1	5.6	5.1	2.7	6.5	7.6	2.6	4.5	4.8	5.1
Heart Disease	M	3.6	5.4	4.3	7.0	8.4	7.0	2.2	6.1	7.3	5.3
	F	4.3	4.6	4.7	1.9	2.7	7.9	2.4	5.1	5.3	4.6
Arthritis	M	11.7	14.9	15.0	12.6	16.1	18.2	8.2	16.6	20.3	14.2
	F	22.3	16.4	23.7	10.1	18.9	24.7	14.7	19.3	23.2	21.7
Cancer	M	3.8	2.5	5.5	4.3	3.9	6.0	2.2	4.5	4.4	4.7
	F	6.7	4.7	4.5	3.3	5.4	5.2	3.2	5.8	5.8	5.1
Asthma	M	7.8	11.6	9.5	14.3	5.2	5.7	9.3	6.6	8.5	7.8
	F	7.7	11.1	10.6	13.2	11.3	9.0	13.2	9.9	11.2	11.8
Other respiratory diseases	M	3.1	1.4	1.9	1.4	3.2	3.0	1.9	0.8	1.7	2.4
	F	0.0	3.4	2.1	0.0	3.3	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.8
Stroke	M	1.6	1.4	1.0	1.4	3.2	2.4	0.0	0.8	0.9	1.4
	F	0.0	2.6	2.1	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.5
Osteoporosis	M	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.6	1.9	0.6	0.0	1.3	1.0
	F	2.6	6.0	4.3	0.0	3.3	5.6	0.0	4.0	3.7	5.6

Source: Department of Health.

NB Data are for the 18 years and over age group

Comment

The Wheatbelt, Mid West and Peel had higher percentages of people suffering from chronic disease when compared to the other regions. However, the differences in the levels of incidence are not very high, and there is no evidence of an overall significant trend between the status of Perth and regional people.

Indicator: Risk factors for disease

Background

For some Western Australians, the probability of developing disease will increase with their exposure to certain risk factors. The major behavioural risk factors are smoking, excess alcohol consumption, poor diet and nutrition and inadequate physical activity. Other physiological risk factors contributing to ill health, disability and mortality are obesity, high blood pressure and raised blood cholesterol.

Tobacco smoking is a major risk factor in the development of cardiovascular and respiratory disease and certain types of cancer. Major public health campaigns are undertaken regularly to encourage people in WA to reduce the risk to their own and others' health by giving up smoking. Programs such as the WA '*Quit Campaign*' aim to promote healthy behaviours that reduce the risk of diseases related to tobacco consumption.

Other health campaigns to increase the health and well being of Western Australian's and reduce the risk of disease include the '*Find 30*' campaign which is aimed at encouraging people to partake in 30 minutes of moderate physical activity a day. There is also the '*Go for 2 and 5*' promotion which encourages people to consume two servings of fruit and five of vegetables a day to improve health and reduce the risk of chronic disease.

Current situation

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines are used as benchmarks for acceptable behaviour in respect of health risks. Table 63 reports the percentages of people in each region, and in Perth whose behaviour is putting them at an unacceptable risk level.

These data show that there are clear differences between regions in 'risk behaviour', although there is no overall difference between regional and metropolitan populations. The Kimberley and Pilbara regions both have a large proportion of the population who smoke and also drink outside the NHMRC¹⁵ guidelines. Conversely, the Kimberley also reported the lowest levels of obesity, high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels. The statistics for the people in the Peel region reported a much lower percentage of the population drinking outside the NHMRC guidelines, with only 8.6 per cent of males and 21.2 per cent of females in this risk category.

Goldfields-Esperance and Perth metropolitan recorded high levels of people not engaging in sufficient physical activity. Across eight of the nine regions a greater proportion of males undertake a level of physical activity that is within the guidelines, except in the Kimberley where females had higher levels of acceptable physical activity in 2001.

¹⁵ National Health and Medical Research Council

Table 63: Risk factors for disease, 2001

Health risk factors (% of population)	Sex	Gascoyne	Goldfields-Esperance	Great Southern	Kimberley	Mid West	Peel	Pilbara	South West	Wheatbelt	Perth Metro	State
Currently smoke	M	32.8	27.9	23.6	41.5	34.5	27.4	33.1	20.7	25.2	26.1	26.7
	F	31.0	24.4	20.8	31.1	27.6	23.0	32.3	19.2	19.7	18.3	19.8
Drinks outside NHMRC guidelines*	M	31.7	22.4	20.5	20.8	28.8	8.6	37.7	27.2	25.4	24.3	23.7
	F	37.1	39.4	25.0	43.1	38.0	21.2	44.8	31.7	24.6	27.3	28.0
Does insufficient physical activity**	M	14.1	32.4	30.0	27.6	26.5	26.3	24.1	25.5	30.1	30.4	29.3
	F	39.0	42.1	35.1	24.3	34.4	37.6	35.3	32.3	38.4	42.0	40.1
Eats insufficient vegetables***	M	85.0	81.9	69.1	77.3	78.4	78.3	73.7	70.0	80.9	78.2	77.8
	F	73.1	70.4	61.4	73.9	65.2	59.4	73.7	58.0	64.5	66.8	65.7
Is obese****	M	13.9	13.9	14.7	8.5	15.8	13.9	13.1	15.4	16.2	11.8	12.6
	F	16.2	17.6	14.5	6.6	14.5	16.5	14.6	14.4	17.5	12.2	13.2
Has high blood pressure	M	10.9	11.6	4.8	5.7	6.5	8.1	6.2	7.7	11.1	9.1	8.8
	F	10.3	12.8	13.8	4.4	11.3	12.6	4.7	10.7	10.8	8.9	9.2
Has high cholesterol	M	6.3	4.3	8.6	4.3	5.2	11.3	3.7	6.2	5.1	7.9	7.5
	F	5.1	6.0	8.5	0.0	6.0	9.5	3.8	5.6	4.6	6.7	6.6

Source: Department of Health.

NB Data are for the 18 years and over age group

* Two standard drinks a day for women and four standard drinks a day for men are the guidelines.

** Sufficient activity is defined as doing at least 150 minutes of moderate activity such as brisk walking or bicycling over at least 5 days per week OR a persons must do at least 60 minutes of vigorous activity such as running per week.

*** Sufficient vegetables consist of 5 serves per day.

**** Body Mass Index (BMI) is calculated by dividing weight (in kilograms) by height (in metres) squared. A BMI of 30 or more is defined as Obese. < 18.5 is underweight, 18.5 – 25 is normal and between 26 and 29.9 is defined as overweight.

Comment

A greater percentage of those people living in more remote regions are likely to smoke, and / or drink outside the NHMRC guidelines. The suggestion is that the more traditional lifestyle patterns in many of the remote mining and pastoral settlements can often involve drinking and smoking more than those living in more urbanised environments. There was no significant difference between regional locations for the percentage of the population who are subject to any of the other health risk factors.

Indicator: Proportion of people reporting mental health problems

Background

Almost 20 per cent (one in five) of all people experience a mental health problem at some time in their life, with anxiety and depression (psychological distress) being the most common mental health problems. Over the next 20 years, problems associated with psychological distress is expected to increase¹⁶ and in recognition of its importance, it has been designated as one of the seven National Health Priority Areas.

Mental health relates to emotions, thoughts and behaviours. A person with good mental health is generally able to handle day-to-day events and obstacles, work towards important goals and function effectively in society. However, even minor mental health problems may affect everyday activities to the extent that individuals cannot function as they would wish, or are expected to, within their family and community.

Current situation

Table 64 presents statistics for the percentage of people reporting psychological distress across the regions. Proportionally fewer males reported medium to very high levels of psychological distress across almost all regions compared with females.

These data reveal some clear regional differences. The Kimberley (16.2%) and Goldfields-Esperance (15.4%) regions reported the highest percentage of the female population reporting a medium to very high level of psychological stress – compared to a 11.9 per cent incidence in Perth. For males, the Peel region stands out, with 14.8 per cent reporting problems, which is about twice the rate of incidence in most other regions, and 5.1 per cent higher than the incidence in the neighbouring metropolitan area. The lowest levels of distress were reported in the Pilbara region with 8.5 per cent of females and 4.3 per cent of males reporting problems. State-based data, not shown here indicates that the highest proportions of people reporting high to very high psychological distress were the 18-34 year-olds.

Table 64: Proportion of people reporting psychological distress, 2001

Situation	Sex	Gascoyne	Goldfields-Esperance	Great Southern	Kimberley	Mid West	Peel	Pilbara	South West	Wheatbelt	Perth Metro
Prevalence of feeling a medium to very high level of psychological distress	M	10.9	7.2	7.6	7.1	8.4	14.8	4.3	5.0	6.8	9.7
	F	7.7	15.4	8.5	16.2	10.0	11.5	8.5	9.1	11.2	11.9
Proportion having no sense of control over their lives most of the time	M	3.1	5.1	3.8	4.3	4.5	7.3	5.6	3.5	3.0	5.0
	F	2.6	3.4	2.1	5.9	3.3	2.6	3.8	1.6	3.3	4.5

Source: Department of Health.

NB Data are for the 18 years and over age group

¹⁶ 2000 Health and Wellbeing Survey, The Health Department of Western Australia

The region with the largest proportion of females feeling as if they have no control over their life most of the time was in the Kimberley (5.9%) and for males it was the Peel region (7.3%). Peel, Pilbara and Perth metropolitan were the regions that stood out as having a relatively high proportion of the population who felt they didn't have control over their life most of the time.

The prevalence of mental health problems is shown in Table 65. More women than men reported having mental health problems with the highest proportion being in Goldfields-Esperance (17.9%) and the lowest in the Gascoyne region (7.7%). Overall, males living in regional Western Australia reported a lower level of mental health problems than those living in metropolitan Perth, the exception being in the Kimberley where 12.9 per cent of males have recognised mental health problems. Ten per cent of males living in Perth metropolitan reported having mental health problems.

Table 65: Prevalence of mental health problems, 2001

Page 126

Prevalence of mental health problems (%)	Gascoyne	Goldfields-Esperance	Great Southern	Kimberley	Mid West	Peel	Pilbara	South West	Wheatbelt	Perth Metro
Male	3.1	9.4	6.7	12.9	9.7	13.2	3.7	6.2	11.1	10.0
Female	7.7	17.9	16.0	13.2	13.3	14.9	8.5	13.5	13.3	15.2

Source: Department of Health.

NB Data are for the 18 years and over age group

Previous research has found that many people with a mental health problem also have a physical health problem. Similarly it is not uncommon to find that distress is more common among the unwell, especially

those who have had a stroke or those with respiratory problems.

Comment

The highest percentages of females that feel they have no sense of control over their lives, most of the time, live in the more remote regions, such as the Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields-Esperance. However the highest percentages of males that felt the same way reside in Peel, Perth metropolitan and the Pilbara. Collectively, these statistics show some clear differences in the psychological well-being of different regional populations.

Indicator: Traumatic related work fatalities

Background

Enhancing safety in the workplace is a primary objective for Government and responsible employers, and is promoted and enforced through legislation and safety campaigns. Most major employers in the regions, particularly mining companies place a high emphasis on creating a culture that provides a safer working environment.

Current situation

The data for workplace fatalities presented in Table 66 are provided by Worksafe for the period 1992/93 to 2000/01 and have been broken down into regional areas. The latter section includes statistics from the State of the Work Environment – Traumatic Work Related Fatalities report¹⁷. Due to inaccuracy and underreporting of incidents at workplace level, additional data on reported loss-time incidents in the workplace are not able to be used.

The average number of deaths per 1,000 workers from 1992 to 2001 varied between 0.1 in Perth to 1.4 in the Kimberley region (Table 66). The Kimberley, South West and Wheatbelt recorded the greatest number of deaths at 1.4, 1.0 and 1.0 per 1,000 respectively. There is no evident trend across the years of reporting.

Table 66: Traumatic related work fatalities

Region	1992 93 to 94 95	1995 96 to 97 98	1998 99 to 00 01	Avg No of deaths year	Avg No deaths 1,000 workers
Gascoyne	2	1	2	0.6	0.9
Goldfields-Esperance	4	4	3	1.2	0.8
Great Southern	2	1	2	0.6	0.4
Kimberley	3	1	5	1.0	1.4
Mid West	2	0	2	0.4	0.3
Peel	0	0	2	0.2	0.2
Pilbara	11	2	9	2.4	0.8
South West	7	11	4	2.4	1.0
Wheatbelt	5	3	4	1.3	1.0
Regional WA	36	23	33	10.2	0.8
Perth	20	16	9	5.0	0.1
State Total	56	39	42	15.2	0.2

Source: Department of Consumer and Employment Protection.

¹⁷ State of the Work Environment – Traumatic Work Related Fatalities 1988/89 – 1997/98, Department of Consumer and Employment Protection

From the State of the Work Environment Report

The State of the Work Environment Report (2000) notes that fatal accidents were more likely to occur in industries which involve physical labour outdoors or underground. Between 1988/89 and 1998/99, one hundred and ninety nine work related fatalities (73.7% of the total reported) occurred in the Mining, Agriculture and Construction industry groups, with the greatest proportion occurring in the mining industry (36.3%). The majority of these were in metallic mineral mining. Agriculture was the industry with the second highest proportion of fatalities (22.2%), with the majority of agricultural fatalities occurring in either the fishing or agriculture sub-industries.

There are a number of areas of specific concern when considering the incidence of work-related fatalities. These include electrocutions, falls from heights and tractor-related fatalities. During the period between 1988/89 and 1998/99 there were 26 electrocutions, 21 fatal falls from height, 16 tractor-related fatalities and 10 fork-lift related fatalities. Together these represented 26.0% of all work-related fatalities in Western Australia during the period.

Comment

The total number of deaths per 1,000 workers was the lowest in the Mid West, Peel, Great Southern and Perth. Perth is expected to have a lot less deaths than in regional Western Australia due to the high proportion of 'white collar' jobs in Perth, which are not as dangerous as some 'blue collar' jobs involving manual labor such as mining, manufacturing, farming, and drilling. However, irrespective of the nature of the industry, any level of workplace fatalities is viewed as being quite unacceptable by Government, industry and community.

Indicator: Mortality rates (cancer, respiratory disease, circulatory disease and diabetes)

Background

For Western Australians, the leading causes of death are ischaemic¹⁸ heart disease, various cancers, stroke and other forms of heart disease. These conditions are usually in the top six to seven causes of death for both males and females.

Current situation

For each of the nine regions and Perth, the standardised rate ratios for the top 10 causes of death for male and females were calculated by the Health Department of Western Australia. Table 67 depicts the causes of death, within the top ten causes, which were significantly higher or lower than the State ratio for males. Table 68 represents the female population.

Table 67: Causes of death higher / lower than the State rate, males 2001

Region	Significantly ¹ higher than the State rate ² (standardised rate ratio)	Significantly lower than the State rate (standardised rate ratio)
Gascoyne	None	All other cancers (0.75)
Goldfields-Esperance	Ischaemic heart disease (1.5) Suicide and self inflicted injury (1.75) Cerebrovascular disease (1.5) Transport related accidents (1.75)	None
Great Southern	Other forms of heart disease (1.8)	Colorectal cancer (0.75)
Kimberley	Suicide and self injury (3.0) Transport related accidents (2.75) Cerebrovascular disease (2.0) Pneumonia and influenza (4.0) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease & allied conditions (2.0) Ill-defined & unknown causes of morbidity and mortality (3.75)	None
Mid West	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease & allied conditions (1.8)	None
Peel	Transport related accidents (1.7)	None
Pilbara	None	None
South West	Prostate cancer (1.3) Transport related accidents (1.3)	None
Wheatbelt	Transport related accidents (2.4)	Ischaemic heart disease (0.85) Cerebrovascular disease (0.8)
Perth	None	Suicide & self inflicted injury (0.97)

¹ Outside the 95 per cent confidence interval

² State rate = 1.0

Source: Department of Health.

¹⁸ When there is an inadequate supply of blood to the heart.

Causes of death in the regions that are significantly higher than the State rate for males are 'suicide and self injury' and 'transport related accidents'. For females they are 'diabetes' and 'transport related injuries'. Causes of death amongst males that are much higher at regional than at State level are 'Pneumonia and influenza' (4.0), 'Ill-defined and unknown causes of morbidity and mortality' (3.75) and 'Suicide and self injury' (3.0), all in the Kimberley region. Causes of death amongst females in the regions that are much higher than the State rate are, in the Kimberley, 'Diabetes' (7.5), 'Liver disease' (6.4) and 'Ill-defined & unknown causes of morbidity & mortality' (4.75). In the Pilbara they are 'Liver disease' (3.6) and 'Diabetes' (3.4).

Amongst Western Australia males living in the regions, there were few causes of death with significantly lower incidence than in the State population (Table 68). A similar pattern is evident for regional females, although the incidence of death by 'cerebrovascular disease' occurred at a significantly lower rate in two of the regions (Mid West and Wheatbelt).

Table 68: Causes of death higher / lower than the State rate, females 2001

Region	Significantly¹ higher than the State rate² (standardised rate ratio)	Significantly lower than the State rate (standardised rate ratio)
Gascoyne	None	None
Goldfields-Esperance	Ischaemic heart disease (1.4) Pneumonia and influenza (1.25) Transport related accidents (3.0)	None
Great Southern	Other forms of heart disease (1.7) Colorectal cancer (1.5)	None
Kimberley	Diabetes (7.5) Ill-defined & unknown causes of morbidity & mortality (4.75) Transport related accidents (2.5) Liver disease (6.4)	All other cancers (0.5)
Mid West	None	Cerebrovascular disease (0.7) Colorectal cancer (0.7)
Peel	Disease of arteries, arterioles &	None capillaries (1.9)
Pilbara	Other forms of heart disease (2.5) Diabetes (3.4) Ill-defined & unknown causes of morbidity & mortality (3.0) Liver disease (3.6)	None
South West	Alzheimers disease (1.8)	None
Wheatbelt	Disease of arteries, arterioles & capillaries (1.6)	Ischaemic heart disease (0.85) Cerebrovascular disease (0.8) Pneumonia & influenza (0.6)
Perth	None	Other forms of heart disease (0.95)

¹ Outside the 95 per cent confidence interval ² State rate = 1.0

Source: Department of Health.

The major cause of death for males in all of the regions was ischaemic heart disease, accounting for between 11 and 24 per cent of deaths. The major cause of death for females in eight of the regions was 'Ischaemic heart disease', accounting for 18 to 20 per cent of deaths. In the Kimberley region the major cause of deaths were 'Diabetes' (12%) and in the Pilbara is was 'Other forms of cancers' (11%).

The top 10 causes of death account for between 64 to 74 per cent of deaths in males and 56 to 69 per cent in females. The range for females is approximately 7 per cent lower for females than males, indicating that minor causes of death account for a greater percentage of deaths in females than in males.

Comment

The information suggests that regional residents are more prone to life threatening conditions than those living in Perth. Most of the main causes of death have a higher incidence in the regions than in the metropolitan area. This is especially the case in the Kimberley and Goldfields-Esperance for males and the Kimberley, Goldfields-Esperance and Pilbara for females (illustrated in Table 67 and Table 68).

The major cause of death amongst all regions, including Perth in 2001 was ischaemic heart disease except for females in the Kimberley (diabetes) and Pilbara (all other cancers). The greater death rate amongst females from diabetes in the Kimberley region may be influenced by the higher proportion of Indigenous people in the region, who are recognised as having a higher incidence of the disease.

Indicator: Life expectancy

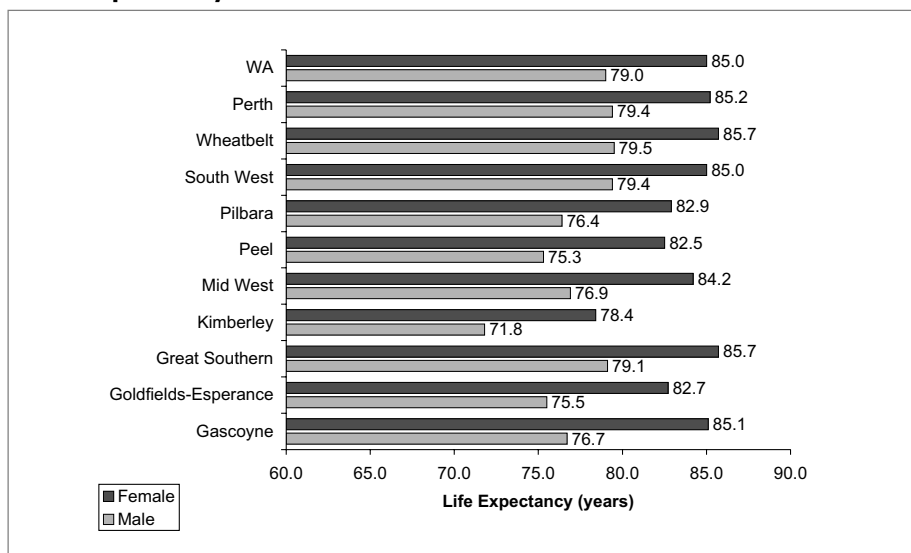
Background

Life expectancy and infant mortality data have some validity in assessing overall health conditions in a country / region.

Current situation

Life expectancy is defined as the average number of years a person is expected to live if the current mortality conditions (i.e. age-specific mortality rates) prevailed throughout their lives. The values of life expectancy in Figure 16 are 'experimental' estimates and are indicative only. Life expectancy for males ranges from 71.8 years in the Kimberley to 79.5 year in the Wheatbelt. Life expectancy for females is consistently higher, ranging from 78.4 years in the Kimberley to 85.7 years in the Wheatbelt and Great Southern.

Figure 16: Life expectancy, 2001



Source: Department of Health.

In 1998, Indigenous WA females had a life expectancy at birth 6.8 years higher than equivalent Indigenous males (Table 69). At this time, life expectancy amongst Indigenous males and females was 59.6 years and 66.4 years respectively. Between 1992 and 1998 there was a 1.6 year increase in the life expectancy of Indigenous males from 58.0 years to 59.6 years and for Indigenous females, a 2.4 year increase from 64.0 years to 66.4 years.

Table 69: Indigenous life expectancy, 1998

	Males	Females
Indigenous	59.6	66.4
Non-Indigenous	76.4	82.1
Difference	- 16.8	- 15.7

Source: Department of Health.

Comment

Life expectancy for both males and females is lowest in the Kimberley region, and highest in the agricultural regions of the Great Southern and Wheatbelt regions. For males, the Great Southern, South West and Wheatbelt regions recorded levels of life expectancy greater than the Western Australian average. For females, those same three regions along with the Gascoyne held a life expectancy greater than the State average. In aggregate, Western Australia's life expectancy for males and females is above the Australian average, which is 76.6 for males and 82.0 for females.

In general, Indigenous people have poorer health and higher mortality rates than non-Indigenous people. Consequently, life expectancy among Indigenous people is significantly lower than for the rest of the population. In 1998, life expectancy amongst Indigenous people in Western Australia was some 24 to 28 per cent lower than for non-Indigenous people.

7.5.3 Community Safety

7.5.3.1 Preventative services

Indicator: Level of resources

Background

The Western Australian Police Service provides policing services through a regional structure comprising three regions, 14 districts and 162 police stations. The police service is a State Government funded agency and the total cost of providing this service to the community of Western Australia in 2000/01 was \$512.2 million or \$271 per person.

There are three primary outcomes to which the police service directs their resources - community safety, road safety and crime and justice. These primary outcomes are delivered through *frontline policing* and *support to frontline policing*.

- *Frontline policing* is operationally focused and involves implementing key policing initiatives through districts and specialist areas.
- *Support to frontline policing* assists in delivering the primary outcomes by management initiatives and strategies, standards and infrastructure support initiatives, with the aim of enabling the officers to go about their daily activities more effectively.

Current situation

Table 70 shows the level of human resources allocated per police region in Western Australia. The North-Eastern Region comprises four police districts: Goldfields-Esperance, Kimberley, Mid West - Gascoyne and Pilbara; the Southern Region comprises four police districts: Great Southern, Peel, South West and Wheatbelt; and the Metropolitan Region comprises six police districts: Cannington, Fremantle, Joondalup, Midland, Mirrabooka and Perth.

As a result of the isolation and hence large distances that have to be traveled in the North-Eastern Region, the number of sworn officers is larger than in the Southern Region and the ratio of police to population greater due to the lower population.

Table 70: Level of resources, Police services 2002

Particulars	North-Eastern Region	Southern Region	Metro Region
Area in square kilometres	2,334,729	193,212	4,481
Population	190,141	330,677	1,385,296
No of Sworn Officers	661	632	2,199
No of Unworn personnel	58	78	155
Ratio of Police to population	1:288	1:523	1:630
No of Police stations	52	67	43

Source: Police Department, Annual Report (2002).

NB: The police regional boundaries do not exactly align with the RDC boundaries, as explained in the text.

7.5.3.2 Crime status

Indicator: Reported offences (against person, property and public order)

Background

The data on annual rate of reported offences were obtained from Mapping Crime, Offenders and Socio-demographic factors (1999). These data are disaggregated down to a regional level and shown in Table 71. Other data, at a state or national scale were obtained from the Crime and Justice Statistics for Western Australia: 2001 report. In comparison to other Australian states and territories, Western Australia had average or below recorded crime rates for most offence categories in 2001. The rate of recorded crime in Western Australia rose by 3.1 per cent in the 12 months to December 2001, and the total number of recorded offences rose by 4.6 per cent.

Current situation

Table 71 shows the average annual rate per 1,000 persons of reported offences through out Western Australia from 1996 to 1998.

Table 71: Annual rate of reported offences per 1,000 persons, 1996 to 1998

RDC Regions	Against the person	Property	Drug	Good Order ¹⁹	Miscellaneous	Total
Gascoyne	20	120	11	6	3	160
Goldfields- Esperance	16	140	13	3	6	179
Great Southern	8	80	9	2	3	102
Kimberley	30	139	9	6	4	189
Mid West	14	141	10	4	3	172
Peel	9	112	6	2	3	133
Pilbara	15	100	10	3	3	131
South West	7	76	10	3	3	99
Wheatbelt	10	76	11	4	3	103
Regional WA	13	105	10	3	3	134
Perth	12	151	8	3	6	180
WA Overall	12	138	8	3	5	167

Source: Mapping Crime, Offenders and Socio-demographic factors (1999).

The regions as a whole have a lower crime rate than the metropolitan area (Table 71). The highest number of offences against the person and good order per 1,000 persons were reported in the Gascoyne and Kimberley. The highest number of offences recorded per 1,000 persons against property occurred in the Perth metropolitan area (151), Mid West (141), Goldfields-Esperance (140) and the Kimberley (139). However, when broken down into more detail it is evident that

¹⁹ Offences such as resisting or hindering police and disorderly conduct are commonly seen as good order offences, but are not recorded in the Crime Mapping (1999) report as they are not recorded in the Western Australian Police Service Incident Management System.

four of the regions – Kimberley, Goldfields-Esperance, Mid West and Gascoyne – have crime rates which are in the vicinity or greater than those in the metropolitan area. The remaining five regions – South West, Great Southern, Wheatbelt, Pilbara and Peel – have much lower rates of crime.

Table 72 provides information on the extent of crime occurring in Perth and in the non-metropolitan regions of Western Australia for 2001. These more recent data are presented in a different format to that shown in the previous table. It must be noted that the nine regions only approximately correspond to the ABS statistical divisions of the same name (see Annex E for the corresponding Regional Development Commission regions). Of all offences reported in 2001, 75.4 per cent were located in the Perth region. However, while 76.9 per cent of property offences occurred in Perth, only 67.5 per cent of offences against the person were recorded in the metropolitan area (Fernandez and Loh 2001).

The rate of 'against the person' (violent) offences per 1,000 persons was highest in the Kimberley (33.1), Pilbara (24.4), South Eastern (23.5) and Central (21.0) regions; and lowest in the South West (9.1). Perth recorded the highest rate of robbery offences (1.3 per 1,000 persons), the Upper Great Southern region had the highest rate of sex offences (4.2 per 1,000 persons) and the South Eastern region had the highest rate of property offences (195.3 per 1,000 persons). Differing rates of specific property offences, such as residential and commercial burglary and motor vehicle theft, are also presented in the table.

Table 72: Reported offences against the person and property per 1,000 persons, 2001

Offences reported to police	Perth (metro.)	Non-metropolitan regions				LGS	UGS	SW	State Total
		Mid	Cen	Pil	Kim				
Offences against the persons									
Assault ¹	7.2	9.6	15.3	18.6	26.4	17.9	8.9	5.9	8.3
Sex offences	1.7	2.1	2.4	3.4	3.0	1.9	4.2	1.6	1.8
Robbery	1.3	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.1	0.5	1.1
Other	1.8	1.9	2.6	2.1	3.1	2.8	1.9	1.1	1.8
Total against person	11.9	13.7	21.0	24.4	33.1	23.5	15.1	9.1	12.9
Property offences									
Burglary									
- dwellings	20.7	8.7	20.0	15.7	24.6	31.3	7.6	12.5	19.4
- dwellings ²	52.5	18.5	43.4	36.4	61.4	78.8	24.4	28.8	47.8
- commercial	6.1	5.0	6.8	5.5	7.2	9.0	4.4	4.1	6.2
Vehicle theft	7.5	2.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	7.9	3.0	3.4	6.6
Other	117.7	74.8	115.9	108.9	113.9	147.2	79.7	84.5	112.6
Total property	151.9	91.3	147.4	134.9	150.3	195.3	88.4	106.5	144.8
Total offences	174.9	120.0	187.0	175.8	199.6	242.3	115.8	128.7	170.1

Source: Fernandez and Loh (2001).

1. Assault category includes homicide offences.

2. One report may contain multiple offences.

Rates are per 1,000 dwellings. Estimates for stocks of dwellings in the regions are taken from the 2001 census.

Rates for Burglary of commercial premises may be better expressed by number of commercial buildings but is here rated by number of persons because of numbers of commercial premises are not available.

Mid = Midlands, Cen = Central, Pil = Pilbara, Kim = Kimberley, SE = South Eastern, LGS = Lower Great Southern, UGS = Upper Great Southern, SW = South West.

Indigenous

The level of over-representation of Indigenous persons in police arrest statistics has stabilized since 1998. However, in 2001, Indigenous people were almost ten times more likely to be apprehended by police than non-Indigenous people. In the case of arrests for violent offences, this differential is even more marked. Indigenous people were almost twenty times more likely to be arrested for offences against the person than non-Indigenous people, and Indigenous females were over thirty six times more likely to be arrested for such offences than non-Indigenous females (Fernandez and Loh 2001).

In general, the apprehension rates for non-Indigenous adults and juveniles were higher in the northern regions than in the southern regions. While Indigenous adult apprehensions showed a similar pattern, the highest apprehension rates for Indigenous juveniles occurred in the southern regions. Interestingly, while non-Indigenous juvenile and adult apprehension rates were comparable south of the Kimberley, in the Kimberley apprehension rates for Indigenous adults were two to three times the apprehension rates of Indigenous juveniles. The apprehension rates for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous juveniles and adults in the Wheatbelt were markedly higher than the apprehension rates in the adjoining Gascoyne, Metropolitan and South West areas (Acacio and Healy 1998).

Juvenile justice

Compared with 2000 figures, the number of juvenile cautions issued by police in 2001 decreased by 4.5 per cent, which is the first annual decrease since 1997. The number of charges and juveniles dealt with by the Children's Court declined in 2001. Compared with 2000 figures, charges finalized by the Court fell by 2.7 per cent, while the number of juveniles dealt with decreased by 6.4 per cent. Since 1998, the juvenile justice detention rate in WA has declined.

At a national scale, the WA juvenile detention rate (43.5 per 100,000 juvenile persons) was again one of the highest in the country. The Western Australian Indigenous juvenile detention rate was 588.5 per 100,000 Indigenous juveniles, which was sixty five times greater than that for non-Indigenous juveniles and 2.1 times the national rate.

Comment

Indigenous apprehension rates are significantly higher at up to eight times the rate for non-Indigenous people with adult Indigenous apprehension rates increasing between 1991 and 1997. Generally the apprehension rates for non-Indigenous adults and juveniles were higher in the northern regions and lower in the southern regions. While Indigenous apprehensions showed a similar pattern, the highest apprehension rates for Indigenous juveniles occurred in the South regions. The Wheatbelt area has the highest apprehension rates in the State regardless of race.

Reported offences per 1,000 persons were lower in regional Western Australia than Perth for property, miscellaneous and also overall. Regional areas however recorded more offenses per 1,000 persons for offences against the persons and drugs. Recorded offences against property were very low in the Great Southern, South West and Wheatbelt regions.

Indicator: Feeling of safety within the community

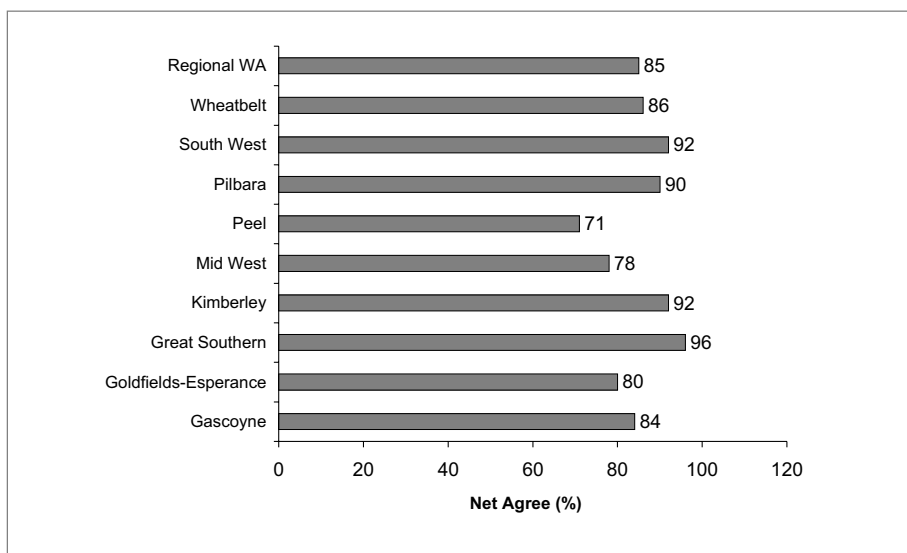
Background

The feeling of safety in the community is a status indicator that relates to quality of life, community cohesion and trust. A survey was undertaken for the Department of Commerce and Trade and the Regional Development Commissions in 1998, which formed the basis for the 'Living in the Regions Report'. The measure used to assess perceived safety was to obtain people's agreement or disagreement with the statement: 'I feel much safer here than I would in a place like Perth'.

Current situation

The findings of the survey are shown in Figure 17. The percentage of people who either generally or strongly agreed with the above statement ranges from 71 per cent in Peel to 96 per cent in the Great Southern. Overall the regional average was 85 per cent.

Figure 17: Feeling of safety within the community



Source: Living in the Regions (1999), published by the Department of Commerce and Trade.

Comment

Variation in the feeling of safety within the community across the regions was significant, with the percentage of people feeling more safe than they would feel in Perth varying from 71 per cent in the Peel region to 96 per cent in the Great Southern region. Notwithstanding the variation between regions, the high percentage of agreement in all regions suggested that for regional respondents, Perth is regarded as less 'safe' than the region in which they were living.

7.5.4 Social Capital

Indicator: Social capital

Background

In the 2000 Health and Wellbeing Survey, a reliable index of social capital was included, which was the first time such an index had been used in an Australian population health survey. The Social Capital Index ©²⁰ has been developed as a valid and reliable means of relating the relative social health of a community to its physical health and well-being. The Short-form (SF-11) version of the Social Capital Index © has eleven separate items which respondents score on a strongly agree – strongly disagree scale. The scores for each item are then aggregated into the following three core dimensions.

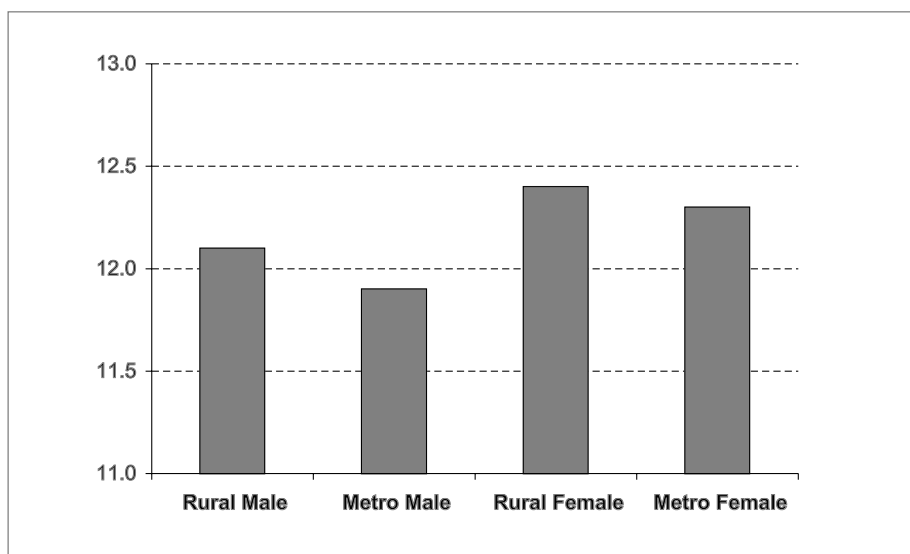
- ‘Social cohesion and generalised reciprocity’ – includes items which measure the importance of neighbourhood relationships, friendships and support to respondents.
- ‘Generalised trust’ – includes items which measure a respondent’s preparedness to trust neighbours and the general community.
- ‘Community identity’ – includes items which measure a respondent’s sense of belonging in their local neighbourhood and their satisfaction with the local community.

A further aggregation of the three dimensions can produce a single score for social capital.

Current situation

The Social Capital Index © has been used by the WA Department of Health to report on social capital in regional and metropolitan WA. Separate scores for each region are not yet readily available. Figure 18 shows the available data.

Figure 18: Mean Social Capital by gender and location



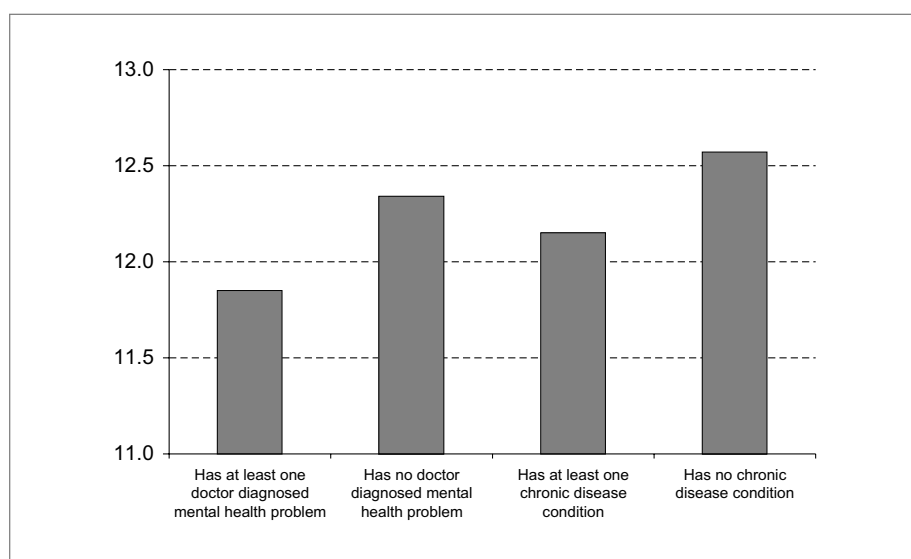
Source: Health and Wellbeing Survey (2000).

²⁰ Copyright for the Social Capital Index © is held by Dr Janice Dillon, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Curtin. Permission to describe and present the Index is acknowledged.

The social capital score is slightly higher amongst rural dwellers than those who live in the Perth metropolitan area. Further, in both domains, females have higher social capital scores than do males.

Mean Social Capital scores by physical and mental health status indicators are presented in Figure 19. These data show that a higher proportion of people with below average social capital scores have at least one doctor diagnosed mental health problem compared with people who have average or above social capital scores. Also, a higher proportion of people with below average social capital scores have at least one chronic disease condition compared with people who have average or above social capital scores.

Figure 19: Mean social capital scores by physical and mental health status indicators



Source: Health and Wellbeing Survey (2000).

Comment

Although the data are only available at the very coarse scale of region versus metropolitan area, the findings suggest that social capital in the regions is reasonably well developed. Exploration of the Social Capital Index © at finer scale in future Reports will provide regional governance with a tool to use in designing and implementing community development programs.

Indicator: Perceived community spirit

Background

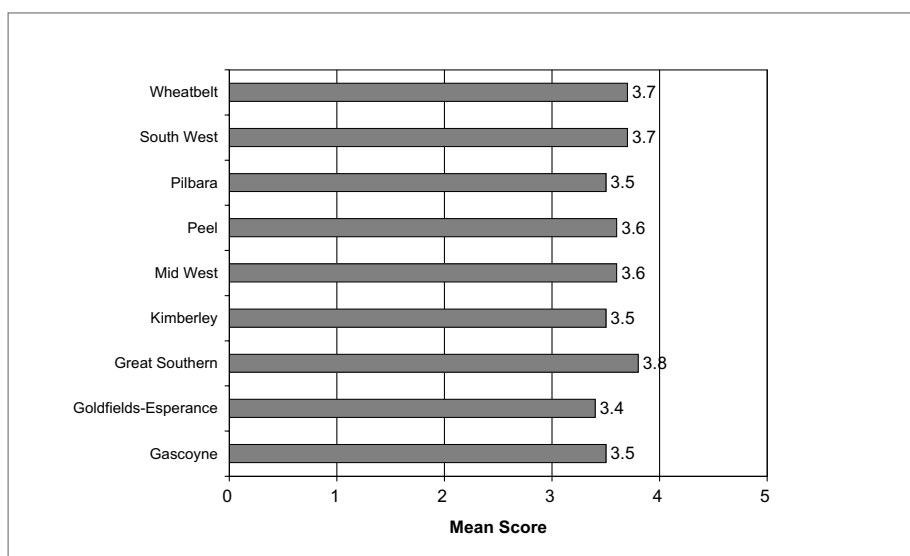
The Living in the Regions (1999) study attempted to gauge perceived community spirit by combining the responses to five statements into an index of 'perceived community spirit':

1. 'This is a really friendly place to live.'
2. 'There is a lot of division in this community.' (reverse scored)
3. 'There are great stresses on family life in this area.' (reversed scored)
4. 'Sometimes the size of this community means you have no privacy.' (reverse scored)
5. 'This area is great for kids to grow up in.'

Current situation

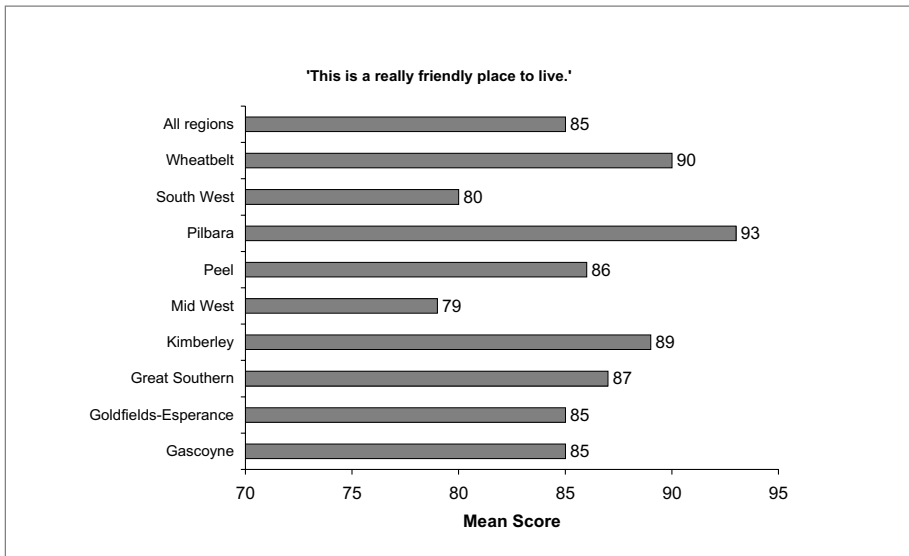
The results of the survey, taken from the Living in the Regions (1999) Report are shown in Figure 20. Community spirit was high across all regions, varying from 3.4 in the Goldfields-Esperance to 3.8 in the Great Southern. When the scores for each region are combined to give an all regions' view of perceived community spirit, a mean score of 3.6 is achieved.

Figure 20: Perceived community spirit

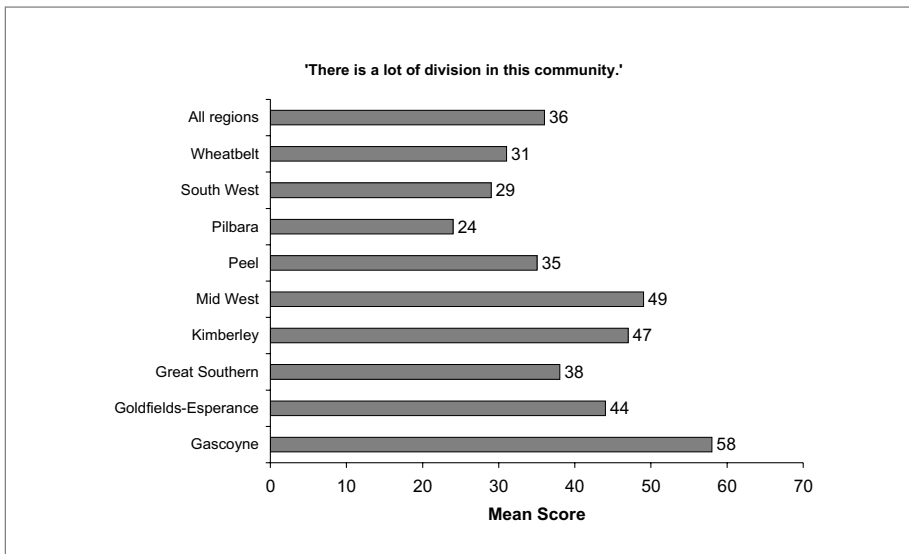


The following figures show the total proportion of people surveyed who either generally agreed or strongly agreed with the statement shown. The responses for each of the five statements were then aggregated to create the net assessment of perceived community spirit shown in Figure 20.

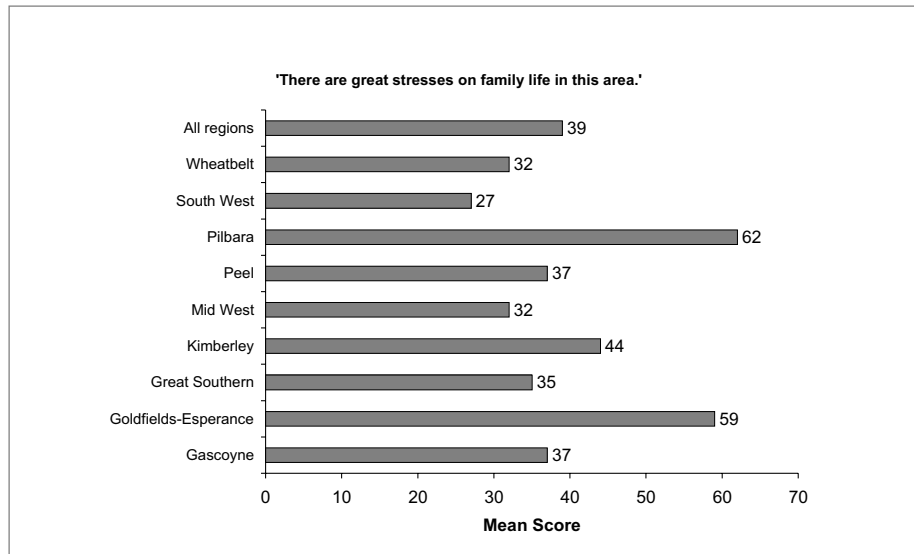
Friendliness



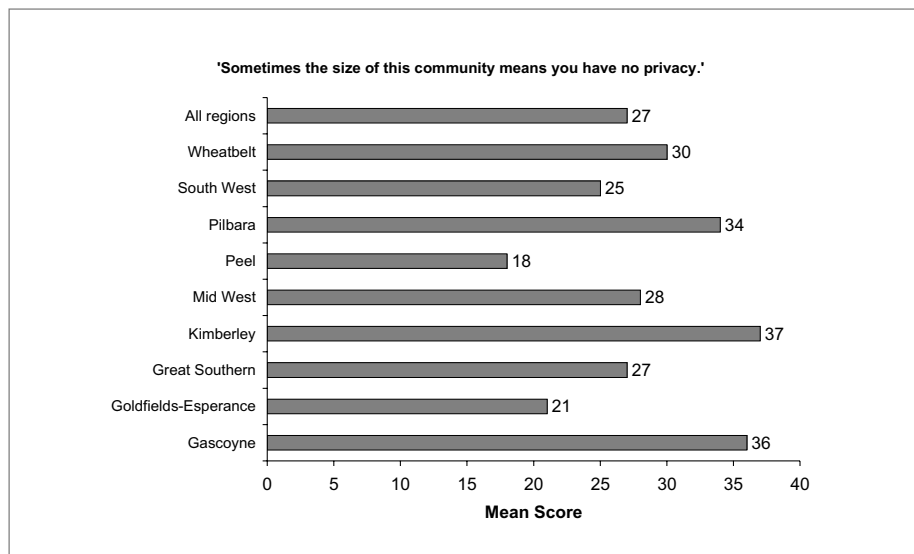
Division



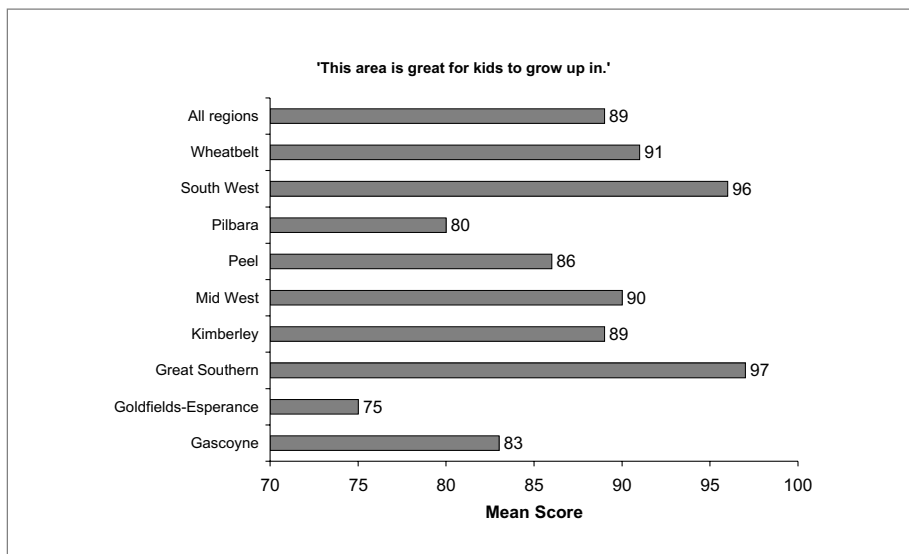
Family stress



Small town effects



Great place for kids



Source: Living in the Regions (1999), published by the Department of Commerce and Trade.

Comment

The aggregate perception of community spirit shown in Figure 20 was clearly positive, which provides evidence for the widely held view that country areas are friendly and thrive on community spirit. There was little variation across the regions, although mean scores were marginally higher in the Wheatbelt and Southern regions.

In respect of the contributing factors, perceived friendliness was similar across the regions. The perception of division in regional communities varied between regions, with about half the respondents in the Gascoyne, Mid West, and Kimberley reporting 'a lot of division in their communities'. Conversely, less than 30 per cent of Pilbara and South West respondents agreed with the statement. About 30 to 40 per cent of respondents felt there were great stresses on family life in their locality, with higher levels recorded in the Pilbara and Goldfields-Esperance regions. Just over a quarter of respondents felt their privacy was reduced because of the size of their community. Finally, there was widespread agreement that the regions are a great place to bring up children, with respondents in the Goldfields-Esperance region being the only people to score agreement at less than 80 per cent.

7.5.5 Culturally and linguistically diverse, gender, youth and seniors

7.5.5.1 Seniors services

Indicator: Ability to provide senior services in town of normal residence

Background

Australia, in common with most western nations has an ageing population. Provision of services for seniors to enable them to maintain quality of life will be a growing need in coming years.

Current situation

Seniors (people aged 60 years and over) numbered approximately 266,246 and made up 14.3 per cent of Western Australia's population as at 30 June 2000. Western Australia has the lowest proportion of seniors in any state, however seniors are expected to comprise 23 per cent of Western Australia's population by 2021 due to the ageing of the post war baby boomers, reductions in infant mortality and improvements in longevity. The majority of seniors live in Perth and as at June 2000, 74.5 per cent of seniors lived in the metropolitan area and the remainder 25.5 per cent lived in the country areas. This distribution is only slightly different than the overall distribution of population between Perth and the regions.

Table 73 shows the number of residential aged care places and community aged care program places throughout Western Australia in 1996. In brackets are the number of places per 1,000 senior persons (60 years +). The Gascoyne and Pilbara have few residential aged care places, with 3.5 and 16.3 places per 1,000 senior persons respectively. However, the number of community aged care program places per 1,000 persons is significantly higher in the Pilbara than elsewhere in the regions, which reflects the lower number of seniors in the region.

Table 73: Number of aged and community care places, 1996

Region	No. of residential aged care places (per 1,000 persons)	No. of community aged care program places (per 1,000 persons)
Gascoyne	13 (3.5)	21 (5.6)
Goldfields-Esperance	237 (56.1)	35 (8.3)
Great Southern	299 (40.2)	45 (6.1)
Kimberley	121 (27.5)	42 (9.5)
Mid West	220 (33.7)	23 (3.5)
Peel	471 (42.3)	58 (5.2)
Pilbara	49 (16.3)	50 (16.6)
South West	673 (26.5)	107 (4.2)
Wheatbelt	270 (27.5)	67 (6.8)
Regional WA	2,353 (31.1)	447 (5.9)
Perth	9,540 (54.2)	1,076 (6.1)
Western Australia	11,893 (47.3)	1,524 (6.1)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (1996).

* For the senior population (60 years and over)

There are comparatively more non-Indigenous than Indigenous seniors in Western Australia with the life expectancy of non-Indigenous people at birth being 22 years greater for males and 19 years greater for females.

Comment

Increased regional mobility has led to many families living far from their family of origin and hence not living in close proximity to their ageing parents or relatives. This places increased reliance on senior services in a person's town of normal residence. If such services are not provided, an ageing person may be forced to move to a more populous location where such services are provided.

In 1996, the number of residential aged care places was low in the Gascoyne and the Pilbara. Perth, Goldfields-Esperance, Peel and Great Southern all recorded 40 or more residential aged care places per 1,000 senior persons. The number of community aged care program places did not differ as much throughout the regions, ranging from 3.5 per 1,000 senior persons in the Mid West to 16.6 per 1,000 senior persons in the Pilbara. The number of community aged care program places per 1,000 senior persons did not differ greatly between regional Western Australia and Perth.

7.5.5.2 Services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people

Indicator: Ability to access CALD services in town of normal residence

Background

Multiculturalism in Western Australia is a commitment to social equality based on four key principles – civic ideals, fairness, equity and participation. From this perspective, it is vital that the delivery of services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) minorities resident in rural, regional and remote Western Australia is appropriate and accessible. Moreover, multiculturalism also means that all citizens, including those from culturally diverse backgrounds, are able to participate effectively, creatively and critically in community and public life.

Current situation

Services to CALD minorities in non-metropolitan Western Australia are provided through a range of mainstream and ethno-specific agencies including:

- State Government Agencies – such as the Health Department, the Education Department, the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Department for Community Development.
- Commonwealth Agencies, such as Centrelink
- Local Government Agencies
- Non-government service providers, such as the Uniting Church Frontier Services, particularly in the provision of settlement services for new migrants

A list of specific settlement services in non-metropolitan Western Australia, funded primarily by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs are as follows:

- Migrant Resource Centres
- Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS)
- Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)
- Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

Local Government organisations in regional Western Australia vary in respect of the development of services and initiatives that focus on their multicultural communities. The Town of Port Hedland, the Shires of Broome and Busselton and the City of Bunbury have developed multicultural services and initiatives.

A list of some of the main organisations, including CALD groups that provide social and cultural activities for CALD communities is shown in Table 74. The list is not complete, and in particular does not include all Local Government Authorities or Commonwealth and State Government agencies who provide services as part of the normal responsibilities that can be accessed by CALD communities for advice and assistance. However, many of the organisations rely on Commonwealth and State funding assistance for their operations. Further, the organisations in this list are not providing services exclusively to CALD communities – for example, women's refuges are open to all women in need of the services. Similarly, the services provided by the Department for Community Development are available to all.

Table 74: Examples of organisations and services for CALD minorities in the regions

Organisation	Location(s)	Service
COMMUNITY SETTLEMENT SERVICE SCHEME		Each of the agencies listed in this section have a Community Settlement Services worker funded by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs who provide dedicated information and referral services to assist recently arrived migrants to access services such as education, training, health, welfare and language services.
Carnarvon Family Support Service	Carnarvon	General settlement, referral and advocacy services with a focus on education, isolation and cultural differences.
Geraldton Regional Community Education Centre Association	Geraldton	Settlement services, information, referral and community development.
South West Migration Service	Bunbury	Assisting in migrant settlement- referral service.
Uniting Church Frontier Services	Newman, South Hedland, West Pilbara, Karratha, Tom Price	Generalist settlement services and community work.
OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS		
Bunbury Migrant Resource Group	Bunbury	Unfunded by the Commonwealth but also provides dedicated information and referral services to assist recently arrived migrants to access services such as education, training, health, welfare and language services.
HEALTH		
Multicultural Access Contact Officers	Albany, Carnarvon, Derby, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Narrogin, Northam, Warren/Blackwood	There is a statewide network of Multicultural Access Contact Officers (MACO) co-ordinated by the Multicultural Access Unit of the Health Department in partnership with the WA Health Sector. The MACO's role is to assist in ensuring that culturally appropriate services are implemented and that knowledge of issues and needs of culturally diverse clients are addressed.
EMPLOYMENT		
CENTRELINK	Albany CSC, Bunbury CSC, Carnarvon CSC, Collie CSC, Esperance CSC, Geraldton CSC, Kalgoorlie CSC, Karratha CSC, Mandurah CSC, Northam CSC, South Hedland CSC	Pensions, allowances/benefits, family payments, miscellaneous payments and special services for migrants. In addition to the Community Support Officers located at these centres a number of multicultural services officers are employed in the metropolitan area and their role has recently been expanded to include one day per week dedicated to service non-metropolitan Centrelink locations. Centrelink also has a Language Services Unit providing telephone and on-site interpreting (over 200 contract interpreters in 68 languages) which provide regional services.
LEGAL		
Regional Citizens Advice Bureau	Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Esperance, Mandurah	Provision of free information, advice and legal assistance to people who cannot afford to consult a private solicitor. Migrants are served by this agency through specific programs which consider their special language and cultural needs.
Legal Aid Western Australia	Bunbury, Broome, Hedland	As above.

Organisation	Location(s)	Service
FAMILY ISSUES		
Relationships Australia (WA) Inc	Bunbury, South Hedland	Provides counselling for families in relationship problems, emotional distress and domestic violence. Family mediation and pre-marital counselling are also provided.
Women's Refuge Centres	Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Esperance, Fitzroy Crossing, Geraldton, Halls Creek, Hedland, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Kununurra, Mandurah, Narrogin, Northam, Rockingham, Roebourne, Wyndham	Provision of safe temporary accommodation and advice for women in crisis.
COMMUNITY		
Department for Community Development	Offices in Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Busselton, Carnarvon, Collie, Derby, Esperance, Fitzroy Crossing, Geraldton, Halls Creek, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Katanning, Kellerberrin, Kununurra, Laverton, Leonora, Mandurah, Manjimup, Margaret River, Meekatharra, Merredin, Moora, Mullewa, Narrogin, Newman, Norseman, Northam, Onslow, Port Hedland, Roebourne, South Hedland, Southern Cross, Tom Price, Wyndham.	Support to individuals, families and communities in caring for and nurturing their members.
OTHER		
Office of Multicultural Interests		Online Multicultural Communities Project (Provision of web-based services to multicultural communities across the State)

Source: Office of Multicultural Interests.

Comment

Ascertaining the effectiveness of service delivery to CALD minorities or those from culturally diverse backgrounds in rural, regional and remote Western Australia is difficult to answer, primarily due to the paucity of data about the extent to which mainstream services reach these customers and clients. In addition, the proportion of CALD minorities resident in the non-metropolitan area is relatively small, and this has tended to pose the question of whether it is cost-effective to deliver particular or specialist services to a small population. Finally, it is difficult to determine the extent to which clients / customers / citizens are satisfied with service delivery, and indeed whether these meet their specific needs, since empirical and quantifiable data is limited.

7.5.5.3 Youth services

Indicator: Availability of facilities in town / community of residence

Background

Youth Advisory Councils

A network of Youth Advisory Councils (YACs) have been developed throughout the State in association with local government authorities. YACs are made up of young people representing their communities and are designed to enable members to advise government about issues facing young people and ways to address those issues.

YACs provide advice to state and local government on youth affairs, respond to local youth needs, administer grant funds, act as a focal point for local youth issues, and improve the flow of information and links to the Government and the community.

Page 151

Youth Coordinating Networks

Metropolitan and regional Youth Coordinating Networks (YCNs) support existing service providers through access to a statewide coordination and information network. YCNs are able to assist in the coordination and provision of services and programs to young people in their respective regions by networking amongst service providers and government agencies. The Office for Children & Young People's Policy supports and provides an annual grant of \$2,500 to each group (currently 24) to assist in convening meetings and for secretariat/administration and training support.

Regional Youth Development Officers

Regional Youth Development Officers (RYDOs) positions are located in Broome, Kalgoorlie, Manjimup (0.5FTE) and Margaret River (0.5FTE). RYDOs aim to:

- Promote and implement youth policies, programs and objectives of the Office for Children and Young People's Policy in regional areas.
- Collaborate with all tiers of government and community based organisations to coordinate the delivery of policy and programs for young people throughout the State.

RYDOs provide the regions with a point of reference for information dissemination on youth related issues within the local community and help to ensure a cohesive and coordinated approach to the provision and delivery of services.

Current situation

In the State 104 YACs have been established. There are currently 59 active regional YACs as listed in Table 75, with the number of Local Government Authorities listed alongside to give an indication of the relative level of activity. The YACs in the Shire of Wyndham / East Kimberley (at Wyndham) and Shire of Derby / West Kimberley (at Derby) are predominantly Indigenous YACs. Table 36 also provides information on the status of Youth Coordinating Networks in the regions.

Table 75: Active youth organisations, 2002

Region	No. active ACs	Youth Coordinating Networks (no. LGAs)
Kimberley	4 (4)	Broome Youth Co-ordinating Network Group (LGA of Broome) East Kimberley Regional Youth Coordinating Network (LGA Wyndham-East Kimberley) Derby Youth Coordinating Network (LGA Derby-West Kimberley)
Pilbara	5 (4)	Hedland Regional Youth Co-ordinating Network (LGA Port Hedland) Karratha/Roebourne Youth Co-ordinating Network (Towns of Karratha, Roebourne, Dampier, Wickham, Port Samson)
Gascoyne	1 (4)	Gascoyne Region State Youth Coordinating Network (LGAs of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Shark Bay and Upper Gascoyne)
Mid West	4 (19)	Geraldton Youth Service Providers Network (LGAs of Irwin, Geraldton, Mullewa, Greenough)
Goldfields-Esperance	7 (9)	Goldfields Youth Coordinating Network (LGAs of Kalgoorlie Boulder and Coolgardie)
Wheatbelt	19 (44)	Avon Valley Youth Co-ordinating Network (LGAs of Northam, Toodyay, York) Central Heartlands Youth Coordinating Network (LGAs Quairading, Bruce Rock, Narembeen, Southern Cross, Merredin, Kellerberrin, Mukinbudin)
Peel	3 (5)	Peel Regional Youth Forum Services Interagency Network (LGAs Mandurah, Murray and Waroona)
South West	13 (12)	Bunbury Youth Interagency Network (LGAs of Bunbury, Dardanup) South West (Eastern Corridor) Youth Co-ordinating Network (LGAs of Manjimup, Bridgetown/Greenbushes, Donnybrook/Balingup and Boyup Brook, Darkan, Collie) Cape to Cape Youth Coordinating Network (LGAs of Capel, Busselton, Margaret River-Augusta) Collie Youth Coordinating Network (LGA of Collie) Donnybrook Youth Coordinating Network (LGA Donnybrook)
Great Southern	5 (12)	Great Southern Community Youth Committee (LGAs of Kent, Tambellup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Denmark, Mt Barker, Albany, Cranbrook, Gnowangerup, Broomehill)

Source: Office for Children and Young People's Policy.

Comment

In its pre-election policy *A Focus on Young People*, the State Government made a commitment to cater for young people's need for public spaces by providing '\$1 million over four years for the development of youth oriented cultural venues and public spaces in rural and regional areas' (preliminary working title '*Youth Spaces*'). The objective of *Youth Spaces* is to:

"increase the participation of young people in cultural, community and recreational activities through well planned, safe and secure 'youth-friendly' facilities and venues".

Planning is being progressed by an inter-agency and community group, with the Office for Children and Young People's Policy acting as the administrator of the project.

7.5.5.4 Gender services

Indicator: Ability to access facilities in town / community of residence

Background

Many government agencies provide gender-related services as part of their normal responsibilities. These include services available from health, community development and education agencies.

However, there are limited data available on the accessibility of gender-specific facilities throughout the regions. Those quantitative data that are available include the number of representatives for women specific services in each region and the number of Women's Refuge Centres.

Current situation

Table 76 shows the number of Women's Refuge Centres and Domestic Violence Prevention Unit committees in the regions. The Women's Refuge Centres are run by the Women's Refuge Group of WA (Inc.). Women's Refuge Services provide a broad range of vital support services to women and children escaping domestic violence. Their services are primarily preventative, in that they are aimed at preventing further violence and abuse to women and children. The primary purpose is to offer women and children a safe place where they can be assisted to recover from the impact of violence and abuse and begin to rebuild family lives. Some of the services that refuges provide are:

- crisis short-term accommodation;
- information and referral service;
- crisis intervention;
- court support and advocacy;
- child support and activities for children;
- emergency food, toiletries, clothing and money;
- clear and accurate information on obtaining medium to long-term accommodation;
- paralegal support and advocacy;
- training and education;
- health issues;
- financial independence, and
- culturally appropriate services for women from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Currently, there are 35 Women's Refuge Services in Western Australia. Twenty of these are in regional locations.

Table 76: Availability of women's related facilities in regional WA

Region	Domestic Violence Prevention Unit¹	No. of Women's Refuge Centres
Gascoyne	0	1
Goldfields-Esperance	1	2
Great Southern	1	1
Kimberley	1	5
Mid West	1	1
Peel	2	2
Pilbara	1	5
South West	1	1
Wheatbelt	2	2
Regional WA	10	20

¹ The number of committees.
Source: Woman's Refuge Group (2002).

Comment

The number of refuge centres and domestic violence prevention units are spread relatively evenly throughout the regions.

7.5.5.5 Seniors status

Indicator: Seniors resident in the region

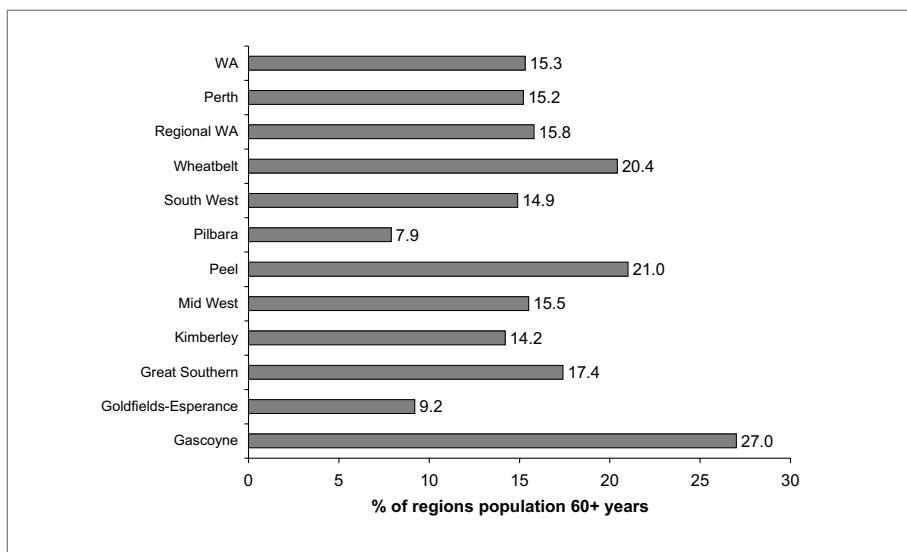
Background

It is important for the social health of the regions to ensure that if seniors (those people aged 60 years and older) choose to live in a particular region they are able to do so. These people may have been living in the region for many years, or wish to relocate to the region. This means not only providing appropriate facilities for seniors but also ensuring that they are of high quality and attractive. One way of gauging whether or not seniors feel they can live in a particular region, is to look at the proportion of seniors residing in the regions.

Current situation

Figure 21 shows the percentage of seniors living in the region as a percentage of the region's total population. The Gascoyne and Peel have the greatest proportion of seniors within their region, at 27 per cent and 21 per cent respectively. The lowest retention rate is 7.9 per cent in the Pilbara. All regions except for the South West (14.9%), Kimberley (14.2%), Goldfields-Esperance (9.2%) and Pilbara (7.9%) had a higher percentage of senior persons than Perth (15.2%).

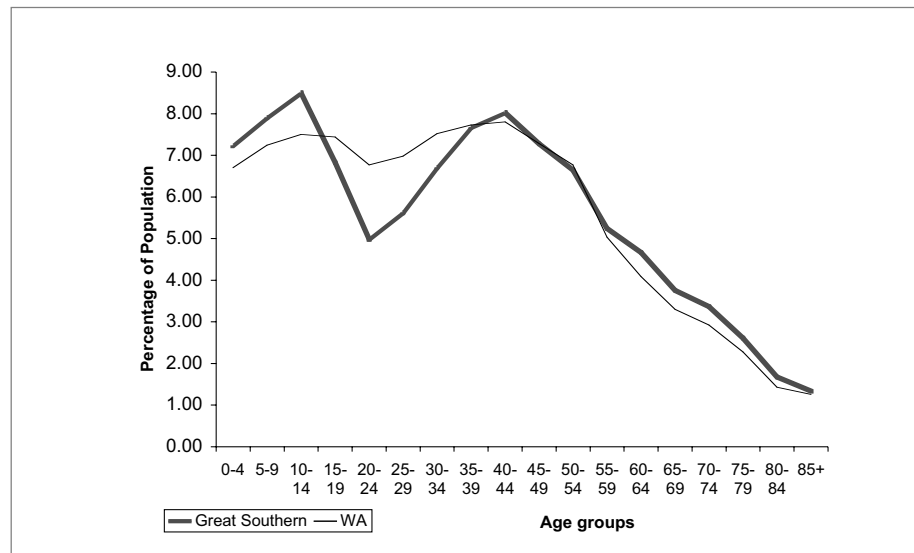
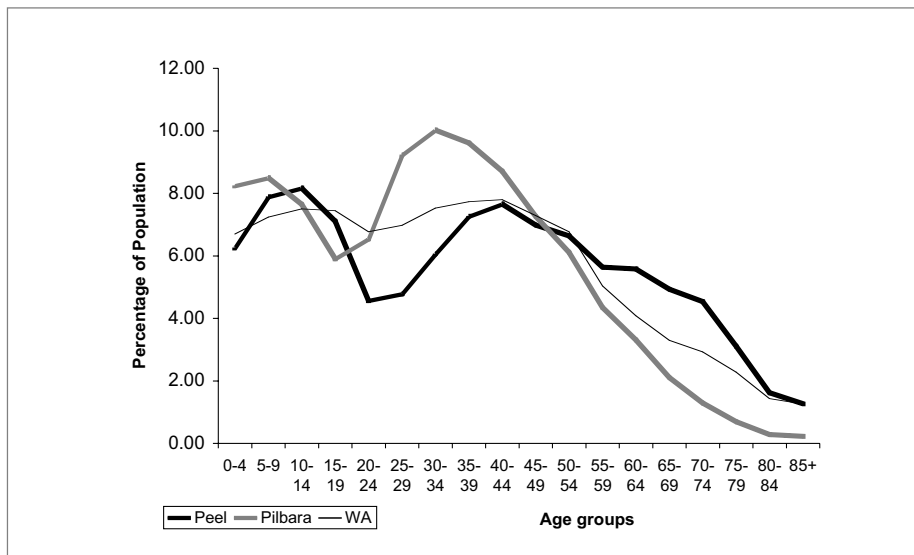
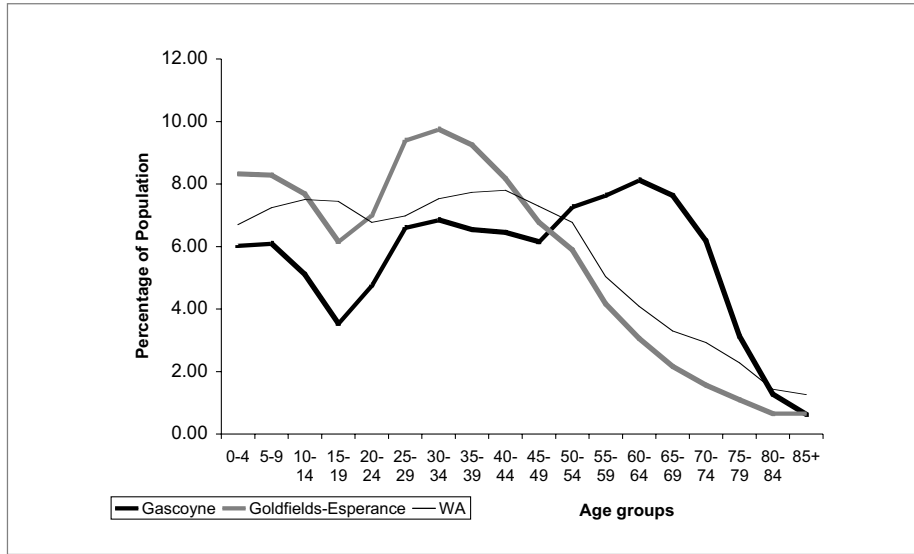
Figure 21: Percentage of the population as seniors (60+ years), 2001

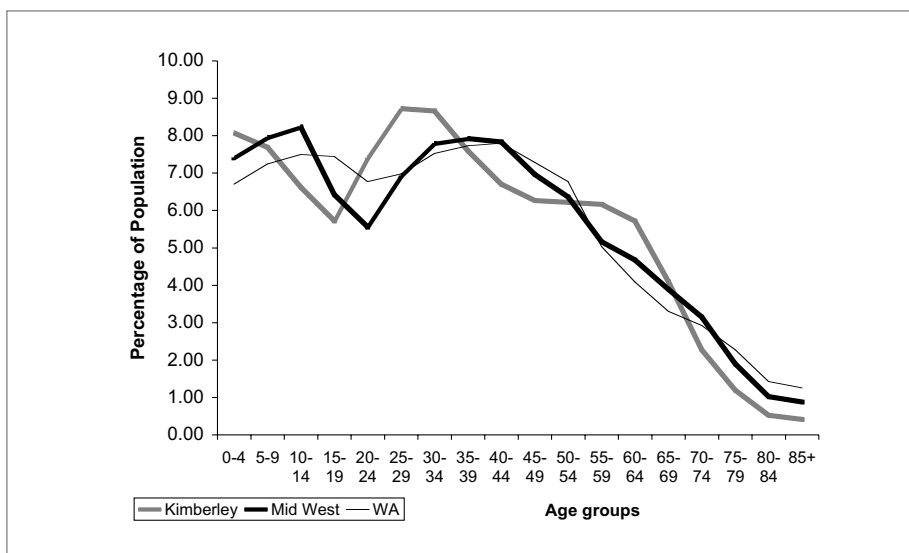
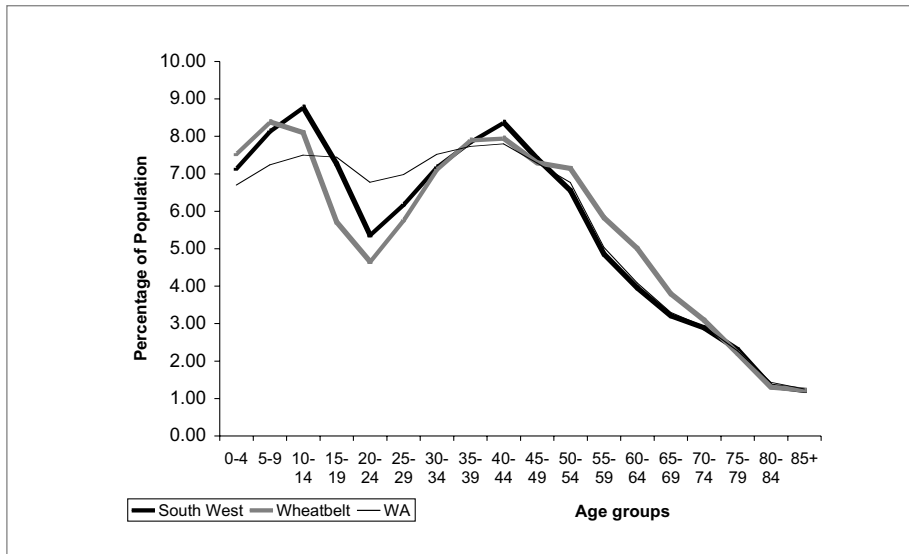


Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing (2001).

Figure 22 puts the percentage of senior people in each region into the context of the overall age distribution for the regions. The age distribution for the total WA population is provided in each graph as a benchmark. With the exception of the Gascoyne, all other show a similar pattern with an under-representation of youth and young adults, and an over-representation of people in their 30s and early 40s.

Figure 22: Age distributions across the regions, 2001





Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing (2001).

Comment

The Gascoyne and Peel regions have the highest retention rate of people living in the region aged 60 and over, with the Wheatbelt also over-represented in this age-group. The other regions did not exhibit population distributions to that extreme, with generally, slightly less elderly in the regions than the State population distribution. The Pilbara and Goldfields-Esperance regions have much lower percentages of senior people amongst their populations.

The majority of seniors in the State live in Perth, the South West, Peel and Wheatbelt, making up just below 90 per cent of the population aged 60 years and over. Such a high proportion of senior people living across only three regional areas and the Perth metropolitan area is an indication of the attractiveness of these areas as a place to retire to, and may also reflect the availability or close proximity to facilities used by senior persons.

7.5.5.6 Culturally and linguistically diverse status

Indicator: Involvement in public and community life

Background

A suitable indicator for the social and community status of people of CALD origin is their relative involvement in public life – such as local government council memberships, industry, service and cultural/ recreation organisation involvement. However, information is sparse in the level of involvement of people of CALD origin in these organisations.

Current situation

Table 77 shows the array of CALD organisations operating in the regions. Although not necessarily a measure of full CALD involvement in public and community life, the existence of these organisations is an indicator of the robustness and activity generated in each region by people of CALD origin.

Table 77: Examples of CALD organisations in the regions

Organisation	Location	RDC Region	Service purpose
Dalmacija Club Inc	Carnarvon	Gascoyne	Social and cultural
Eastern Goldfields Italian Club	Kalgoorlie	Goldfields-Esperance	Social and cultural
Philippine-Aust Association	Katanning	Great Southern	Social and cultural
Shinju Matsuri Inc	Broome	Kimberley	Social and cultural
Kimberley Indonesia Friendship Association	Broome		Social and cultural
Chinese Community Inc	Broome		Social and cultural
Filipino Community in Broome	Broome		Social and cultural
Thai Association	Geraldton	Mid West	Social and cultural
Vietnamese Association Geraldton	Glenfield		Social and cultural
Cocos Island Community	Geraldton		Social and cultural
Geraldton & Dist Italian Sporting & Social	Geraldton		Social, sporting and cultural
Geraldton Mid-West Irish Club	Geraldton		Social and cultural
Macedonian Community	Geraldton		Social and cultural
Mid-West Filipino-Australian Cultural Club	Geraldton		Social and cultural
Filipino Australian Friendship Association	South Hedland	Pilbara	Social and cultural
Newman Muslim Association	Newman		Social and cultural
United Hellenic Association of Bunbury	Bunbury	South West	Social and cultural
Vietnamese Association Bunbury	Australind		Social and cultural
South West Italian Club	Bunbury		Social and cultural
Collie Italian and Sporting Club	Collie		Social and cultural
Polish Association of Bunbury	Bunbury		Social and cultural

German International Club	Bunbury	Social and cultural
Italian Club	Bunbury	Social and cultural
Filipino Community	Australind	Social and cultural
M/Cultural Assoc of Busselton & Districts	Busselton	Social and cultural

Source: Office of Multicultural Interests.

Comment

The information shows a preponderance of activity in the Kimberley, Mid West and South West. However, it is likely that the list of organisations is incomplete for some regions.

7.5.5.7 Youth status

Indicator: Retention of young people in the regions

Background

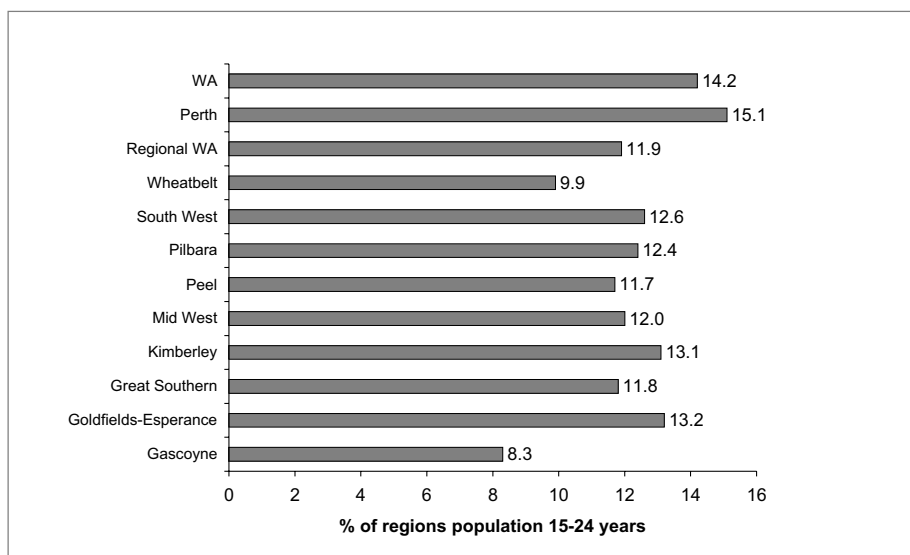
The Department for Community Development – Youth Affairs, oversees the development, coordination and implementation of youth policy initiatives and programs across government and non-government sectors. In addition the Department improves access to information and links to community resources for youth and develops programs that address the needs of young people. Young persons are defined as those in the 15-24 age group.

Current situation

The age distributions shown in Figure 22 indicate that there are proportionally less young people living in the regions compared to Western Australia as a whole. The age distributions experience a marked drop off in the 10 to 25 year age category across all regions.

Figure 23 shows the proportion of young people living in the region as a percentage of the region’s total population. The proportion of young people living in the regions ranged from 8.3 per cent in the Gascoyne to 13.2 per cent in the Goldfields-Esperance region. Approximately 12 per cent of regional Western Australia’s population consists of young people, compared to 14 per cent of the total State population.

Figure 23: Percentage of the population as youth (15-24 years), 2001



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing (2001).

Comment

There was no trend between regional isolation and the percentage of population as youth. For example, those regions that are relatively more isolated (Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne) did not have a smaller percentage of youth than the less isolated regions (South West, Great Southern). The three regions with the smallest percentage of population as youth are the Gascoyne, Mid West and Wheatbelt.

Although these data show that youth are under-represented in regional populations, information reported elsewhere show that involvement in community activities through Youth Advisory Councils is significant (see Table 75) and the survey data contained in *Living in the Regions* (1999) and shown in Figure 20 show that most regional residents regard the environment as being generally favourable for family life.

Indicator: Youth suicide rates

Background

The levels of youth suicide is a significant indicator used world-wide to track the general status of young people's well-being. In many countries and regions, it is a leading cause of death among older adolescents.

While it is still a rare event at the local community level, the rate at which the problem has grown overall in Western Australia in the last few decades gives cause for concern. It is also recognised as one aspect of the much larger issue of youth mental health. There is concern about the growing numbers of young people experiencing depressive disorders and about the increase in intentional self-harm amongst some groups of young people.

Admission to hospital because of intentional self-injury is over 15 times more common than death due to suicide. In 1998 there were 834 young Western Australians admitted to public and private hospitals following suicide attempts and many more whose attempts did not result in hospitalisation. This compares with 55 young people who died due to suicide. When comparing youth suicide rates to other industrialised countries, Australia as a whole is in the upper third of the rates, slightly higher than Canada and substantially lower than New Zealand and Finland.

Current Situation

The table below contains the youth suicide rates (per 100,000 persons) between 1991 and 2000 for the nine regions and comparable to Perth Metropolitan and the State. The data show very high rates amongst males compared to females across all regions and in Perth, with the incidence of young male suicide being well above the incidence in Perth in six of the nine regions.

Table 78: Youth suicide rates, 1991 to 2000

Region	Youth suicide (per 100,000 persons)	
	Males (15-24)	Females (15-24)
Gascoyne	26.8	0.0
Goldfields-Esperance	35.8	2.5
Great Southern	30.5	0.0
Kimberley	110.4	0.0
Mid West	43.3	6.2
Peel	49.2	0.0
Pilbara	25.1	3.7
South West	21.3	8.3
Wheatbelt	36.9	2.6
Perth	25.4	5.9
Western Australia	28.0	5.5

Source: Department of Health.

Comment

Comparisons of youth suicide deaths in urban, rural and remote areas indicate that males living in rural and remote areas have a much higher rate of suicide than their urban counterparts. A study by the Office of Youth Affairs (now The Department for Community Development – Office of Children and Young People’s Policy) in 1998 determined that there was significant variation among rural districts, with the incidence of youth suicide being highest in remote settlements of less than 4,000 people.

Indicator: Youth unemployment rates

Background

High levels of youth unemployment can have serious negative effects on a region, with anti-social behaviours, poor health and well-being amongst the young being undesirable outcomes.

Current situation

Western Australia's youth unemployment rate was 20.6 per cent in September 2002, a decrease of 4.2 percentage points over the previous month (Labour Force Statistics 2002). This degree of variation shows that monthly youth unemployment data are extremely volatile when not seasonally adjusted. Western Australia's youth unemployment rate is slightly lower than the national youth unemployment rate (21.4%), and averaged 21.3 per cent in the year to July 2001 compared with the national average of 22.6 per cent.

Figures from the 2001 Census show that in all regions unemployment in the 15 – 19 year category was higher than for those in the 20 – 24 years age group. Youth unemployment was the lowest in the Kimberley (9.7% and 7.9%) and highest in the Peel (22.1% and 17.4%). The regional unemployment rate was lower than the Perth average for both age groups.

Table 79: Youth unemployment rates

Region	Unemployment rate (%)	
	15 19 years	20 24 years
Gascoyne	13.9	10.7
Goldfields-Esperance	13.8	9.7
Great Southern	16.4	14.0
Kimberley	9.7	7.9
Mid West	21.1	16.2
Peel	22.1	17.4
Pilbara	10.8	8.1
South West	15.0	12.4
Wheatbelt	15.9	10.2
Regional WA	16.1	12.0
Perth	16.5	12.3
Western Australia	16.4	12.3

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing (2001).

Comment

The youth labour market (especially 15–19 years) is characterised by extensive alternatives to employment in the form of various education options and a predominance of part time employment. An additional characteristic of youth in the workplace is that they are generally unemployed for shorter periods of time, with the median duration of unemployment for males being 9.4 weeks and for females, 9.2 weeks (Lewis and Mclean 1998).

The youth labour market in Western Australia can be summarised as having the following characteristics:

- A lower participation rate than the general population, mainly due to the attendance at educational institutions by young people;
- A predominance of part-time employment;
- A high rate of unemployment and underemployment compared to the general population, and
- A lower median duration of unemployment than the general population.

Traditionally, small businesses in Australia have also been a significant employer of young people. Reduced engagement in this sector contributed to the drop in youth employment from 22.4 per cent in May 2002 to 18.9 per cent in June 2002. This has been influenced by increased retention rates in the post-compulsory years in education, which has reduced the employment rate for full time teenage employees.

7.5.5.8 Gender status

Indicator: Gender balance in public life and senior private and public sector management

Background

Governments and communities over recent decades have encouraged female participation in commerce, industry and public life.

Current situation

Table 80 shows the gender balance in the nine regions and Perth as a percentage of the total workforce across all economic sectors. The average proportion of females employed across all industries is very similar over the nine regions, varying by only 5 per cent, from 37 per cent in the Gascoyne to 42 per cent in the Peel. The industries with the greatest proportion of females employed were 'Health and Community Services' (86% - Wheatbelt), 'Education' (78% - Wheatbelt) and 'Finance and Insurance' (77% - Pilbara).

Across the regions, industries employing the smallest proportion of females were 'Electricity, Gas and Water Supply' (9% - Mid West), 'Mining' (10% - Great Southern) and 'Construction' (12% - Pilbara). Nine out of the eighteen industries employed a greater proportion of females in regional Western Australia compared to Perth, as follows:

- 1) 'Retail trade';
- 2) 'Accommodation, cafes and restaurants';
- 3) 'Communication services';
- 4) 'Finance and insurance';
- 5) 'Property and business services';
- 6) 'Government administration and defence';
- 7) 'Education';
- 8) 'Health and community services'; and
- 9) 'Cultural and recreation services'.

The 'Mining' and 'Electricity, Gas and Water Supply' sectors in regional Western Australia showed the greatest gap compared to Perth in the employment of females, employing 13 and 12 per cent less respectively.

Table 80: Percentage of females in the workforce across different industries in Western Australia, 2001

Industry	Gascoyne	Goldfields- Esperance	Great Southern	Kimberley	Mid West	Peel	Pilbara	South West	Wheatbelt	Regional WA	Perth	State Total
Agric. Forest & Fishing	32.4	27.0	29.8	28.9	27.5	35.5	30.3	30.5	27.8	29.1	38.1	30.7
Mining	9.8	14.0	9.7	13.2	12.0	12.9	12.2	10.4	12.8	12.6	25.3	17.3
Manufacturing	24.8	17.3	27.6	23.4	20.3	17.0	14.8	20.2	23.5	20.0	23.8	23.0
Elect, Gas & Water	9.4	11.3	14.2	14.1	9.3	14.4	15.9	11.0	12.3	12.3	23.8	20.3
Construction	13.8	13.2	13.8	14.2	12.2	15.0	11.8	13.6	12.2	13.3	14.8	14.3
Wholesale Trade	31.2	22.7	27.0	28.2	26.4	34.8	19.3	32.1	27.2	28.2	32.4	31.4
Retail Trade	57.0	56.5	52.4	51.6	54.8	59.0	62.6	57.8	54.0	56.5	52.9	53.8
Accom, Cafes & Rest	62.4	66.5	67.1	57.8	67.1	67.8	67.3	69.3	71.8	67.1	56.5	59.7
Transport and Storage	28.3	21.0	26.4	23.9	20.9	28.3	28.3	24.3	21.3	24.2	26.5	25.9
Communication Services	30.5	36.7	36.2	42.7	37.6	39.9	46.9	38.9	44.7	40.0	33.6	34.7
Finance and Insurance	51.8	71.6	64.1	56.6	58.1	63.8	76.6	65.9	67.3	65.0	58.9	59.7
Property & Business Services	41.5	42.3	47.7	44.1	47.2	52.0	41.7	49.8	54.7	47.5	45.0	45.4
Govt Admin & Defence	39.4	47.0	48.9	41.5	46.9	50.1	50.5	54.7	46.0	47.2	47.0	47.1
Education	71.4	74.3	69.8	70.0	71.7	70.3	75.0	71.2	78.2	72.6	67.8	69.0
Health & Comm. Services	79.5	82.3	81.6	70.3	83.1	83.8	80.8	83.4	86.1	82.0	78.3	79.1
Cultural & Rec. Serv.	39.6	58.7	55.0	45.6	54.9	47.8	58.6	51.1	53.2	51.8	48.9	49.4
Personal & Other Serv.	35.0	44.2	40.5	36.4	40.4	46.4	42.7	47.4	43.0	42.8	46.8	45.8
Average	41.9	37.1	44.2	42.3	40.7	43.9	36.3	43.9	41.5	41.6	45.9	44.8

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing Census (2001)

Indicator: Ratio of average male salary/wage to female salary/wage

Background

This indicator presents the male and female average weekly earnings for three regions in Western Australia and also the average annual male and female salaries across the State. The aim is to provide some insight into labour market issues that currently affect Western Australian women.

Current situation

The average weekly earnings of males versus females is shown in Table 81. In August 2000 male earnings in Western Australia were on average equal to \$881 per week. Nationally, the average was \$847. Male earnings in Western Australia increased by 6.4 per cent, while equivalent female earnings grew by 6.5 per cent.

Notwithstanding the relatively strong growth in female earnings within Western Australia, there remains a substantial gap between the average earnings of females and males. In August 2000, the female / male wage ratio in Western Australia was 77.9 per cent, compared with a national ratio of 83.8 per cent. This continues a long-term trend for the Western Australian ratio (0.78) to be lower than the national ratio.

Table 81: Male and female average weekly earnings, 1999

Average weekly earnings ()	Perth Metropolitan	Lower Western WA ¹	Balance of WA
Male	759	780	880
Female	486	393	441
Ratio of male: female	1:0.64	1:0.50	1:0.50

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (1999).

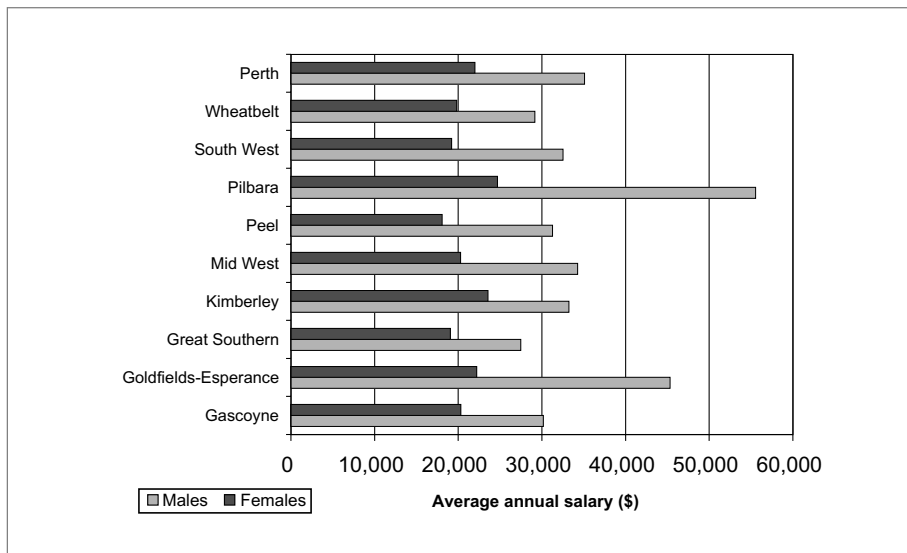
¹ Lower Western WA approximately includes the Peel, Great Southern and South West regions.

Gender comparisons of annual retirement incomes illustrate that there are significant differences in the earnings of retired Australian men and women (Women in the WA Labour Market, 2000). The average annual income for women aged 55 or more was 42 per cent lower than the average annual income for men aged 55 or more. In 1995/96 women aged 55 living in metropolitan areas earned on average, 4 per cent more than rural women in the same age group. In Western Australia, metropolitan women aged 55 or over earned 31 per cent more than their rural counterparts.

A recent study of more than 500 Master of Business Administration graduates from the University of Western Australia found that female managers with an MBA are paid half the salary of men with the same qualification. The median salary of women who have completed their postgraduate Master of Business Administration was found to be \$75,000, while men who had undertaken the MBA program have a median salary of \$150,000. However, the earnings gap could be partly explained by the fact that MBA-qualified women worked on average in lower levels of management and smaller firms than men. They were also younger than their male counterparts and more recently completed their degree, and therefore were less likely to be as advanced in their careers.

Figure 24 shows the average annual salaries of males and females throughout the regions in Western Australia. The difference between female and male earnings ranged from \$8,400 in the Great Southern to \$31,000 in the Pilbara.

Figure 24: Average annual male and female salaries, 2001



Source: Data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2001) and synthesised by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development (2002).

Comment

These statistics represent a range of implications for women in the Western Australia labour market. Once in the workforce, women tend to earn less than their male counterparts and despite relatively strong earnings growth nationally, women have experienced lower rates of earnings growth than men. Statistics on retirement incomes illustrate that women's relatively low working life earnings extend into lower rates of incomes after they leave the workforce.

7.5.6 Community involvement in public decision making

Background

Government is committed to increasing the quantity and quality of community involvement in public decision making. The rationale is that active citizenship will build a better community through improved trust, higher community confidence, and enhanced ability to meet the challenges and uncertainties affecting the State's people.

Current situation

Government has established the Citizens and Civics Unit (CCU) in the Department of Premier and Cabinet to facilitate the development of citizenship policy, strategy and initiatives. To realise this, the Citizens and Civics Unit has a number of objectives. The CCU functions are three-fold:

- advises on WA Government policy on citizenship, civics and strengthening democracy;
- identifies information, skills and mechanisms for effective participation and real input into public life and decision making, and
- fosters dialogue between the people of WA, their governments and other institutions.

Interest in improved citizenship is strong in WA. Over 500 individuals and organisations have contributed to planning processes for the CCU.

The most obvious examples of regional involvement is decision-making occurs through the local governments in the regions. Examples of regional management of public organisations, both statutory and non-statutory are shown below in Table 82.

Table 82: Some examples of community management of State and local agencies in the region

Region	Public organisations with regional community involved in management
Gascoyne	Shark Bay World Heritage Property Gascoyne Development Commission Gascoyne-Murchison Strategy Local governments
Goldfields-Esperance	Centre for Management of Arid Environments, Kalgoorlie Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission Esperance Port Authority Local governments
Great Southern	Albany Port Authority Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management, Albany Great Southern Development Commission Local governments South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team
Kimberley	Broome Port Authority Kimberley Development Commission Local governments Ord Irrigation Water Management Wyndham Port Authority
Mid West	Geraldton Port Authority Local governments Mid West Development Commission Northern Agricultural Catchments Council

Peel	Local governments Peel Development Commission South West Catchments Council
Pilbara	Local governments Pilbara Development Commission Port Hedland Port Authority
South West	Blackwood Basin Group Bunbury Port Authority Local governments South West Development Commission South West Catchments Council
Wheatbelt	Avon Catchments Council Avon Waterways Management Commission Local governments Wheatbelt Development Commission

Source: Agency Annual Reports

Beyond this list, there are many groups established at regional scale to provide non-binding advice to Government in the discharge of its responsibilities. These bodies include Advisory Committees relating to:

- the management of the flora and fauna on land held by the Conservation Commission;
- the delivery of water services;
- regional and local planning activities;
- community development including sport, recreation and youth activities;
- regional transport management, and
- agricultural and fisheries industry management.

Comment

The CCU has developed a strategic plan and has published a number of documents to support increased community involvement in Government decision making. These include *Citizenship: Building a Shared Future*, and *Consulting Citizens – a Resource Guide*.

7.5.7 Personal financial independence

7.5.7.1 Services

Indicator: Investment in social security services

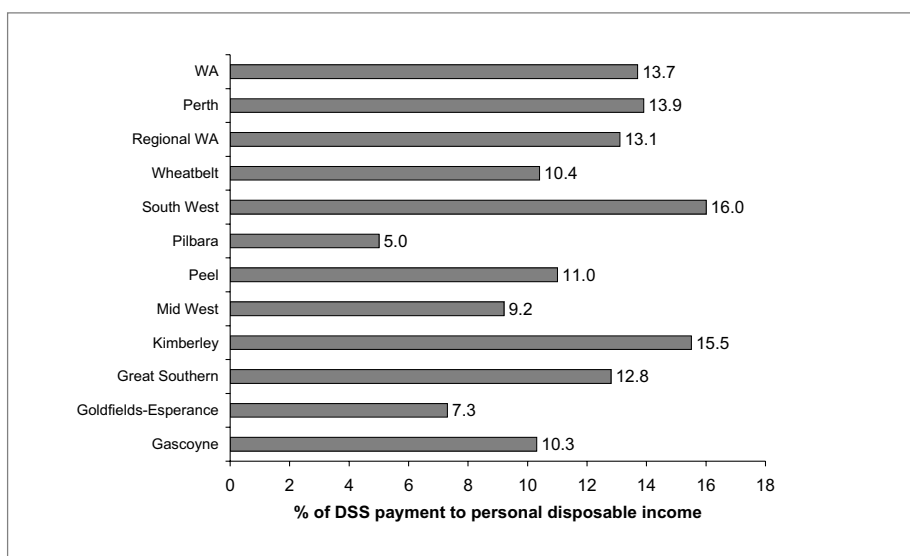
Background

Income from transfer payments, in particular those provided by the Australian social security system, such as income support, are an important source of income for many Australian households and consequently an important resource for the communities in which they live. Investment made by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Social Security (DSS) includes the total of primary payments, add-ons (Pharmaceutical Allowance, Remote Area Allowance, Incentive Allowance, Disability Youth Supplement, Training Allowance, Living Away from Home Allowance, Home Based Maintenance Allowance), rent assistance and family payment received by clients and spouse for all recipients in the area. It does not include payments to participants in training and job creation schemes such as Community Development and Employment Program (CDEP) projects.

Current situation

The following is derived from a Department of Social Security (DSS) technical paper²¹ published in 1998. Shown in Figure 25 are indicative estimates of the ratio of DSS payments (as a proxy for 'social security') to personal disposable income. They are simple unweighted averages for the ABS Statistical Local Areas that are included in each region.

Figure 25: Ratio of DSS payments to personal disposable income, 1998



Source: Commonwealth Department of Social Security, Technical Paper No 2 (1998).

Within Western Australia there were no regions in the top quartile of dependency (above 25% of disposable income being derived from benefits). However, there were a number of locations

²¹ The Contribution of DSS Payments to Regional Income 1998, DSS Technical Paper No 2. Bray, J.R. and Mudd, W.

where the ratio exceeded 20 per cent, such as Bassendean (21.1%) in Perth region, South Kwinana (25.8%) and the Shire of Murray (Peel), the Shire of Murchison (Mid West), and the City of Albany (Great Southern).

Except for the Kimberley region (15.5%), regions located in the southern part of Western Australia had a higher dependency on DSS payments compared to the northern regions. The South West (16%), Great Southern (13%) and Peel (11%) are more dependent on DSS payments than the Pilbara (5%), Mid West (9%) and Goldfields-Esperance (7%). Overall, Lower Western WA recorded 17.5 per cent dependency compared to 10 per cent for the remainder of the State.

Comment

In all states other than Western Australia the levels of reliance upon transfer payments, in aggregate, and amongst children and adults, are higher in non-metropolitan locations and the ratio of income tax to transfer payments lower in every State²². However, there was very little difference in the level of dependency on DSS payments between Perth metropolitan (13.9%) and regional Western Australia (13.1%).

Community Development and Employment Program (CDEP) payments are not included in the above data. In a number of locations in Western Australia payments under this program, which support Indigenous people in community-based training and employment projects, exceed the level of DSS payments. For example CDEP funding in the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley (Kimberley region) is estimated at \$17.2 million compared with \$15.1 million from DSS payments. In the Shire of Wiluna (Mid West region), CDEP funding of \$1.4 million is around 20 per cent higher than the \$1.1 million received from DSS payments.

CDEP project funding also plays an important role in providing income support to Indigenous people in other remote shires, such as Ashburton, (\$1.2 million) in the Pilbara region and Broome (\$14.0 million), Halls Creek (\$10.1 million) and Wyndham-East Kimberley (\$8.3 million) shires in the Kimberley region.

If these payments were taken into account in determining the ratios shown in Figure 25, a different picture would emerge in respect of the levels of dependence on external transfer payments.

²² The Contribution of DSS Payments to Regional Income 1998, DSS Technical Paper No 2. Bray, J.R. and Mudd, W.

7.5.7.2 Status

Indicator: Income distribution

Background

Differences in average incomes between regions occur largely as a result of differences in workforce participation, employment levels and workforce composition (occupation, industry and educational qualifications) in each region. This indicator is represented by household and personal income distribution.

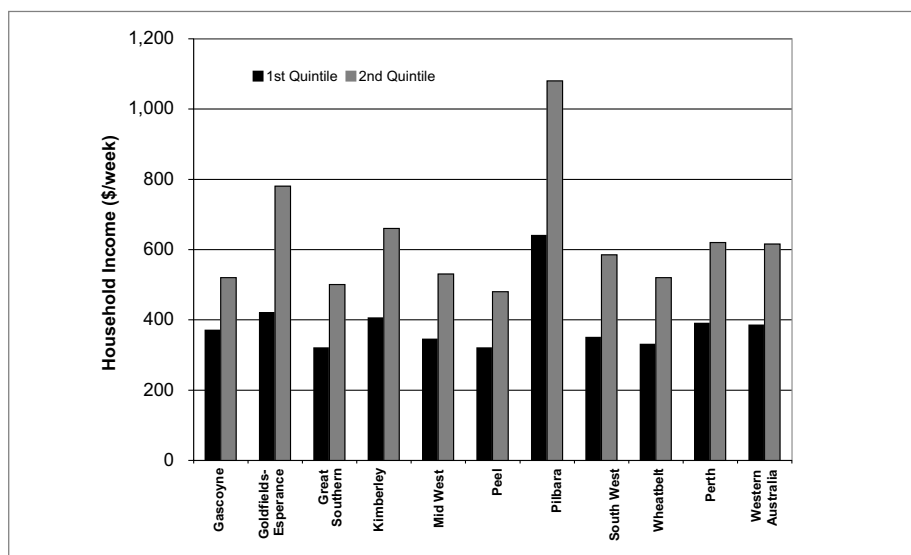
Current situation

Household income parameters for Western Australia at June 2001 were:

Mean	-	\$914 per week or \$47,000 p.a.
Median	-	\$788 per week or \$41,000 p.a.
Second quintile	-	\$631 per week or \$32,800 p.a.
First quintile	-	\$370 per week or \$19,200 p.a.

Figure 26 presents the household income of the lowest two income quintiles²³ for the various regions.

Figure 26: Regional household lower income distribution, 2001



Source: Department of Housing and Works (2002).

Table 83 shows the percentage of people in each region earning within respective income ranges. Data were taken from the ABS Census of Population and Housing. In calculating the percentage of persons in each income bracket, ‘overseas visitors’ and those who ‘didn’t state their income’ were not included in the analysis. The median weekly individual income for Western Australia recorded

²³ A 20 per cent proportion of any numerical quantity.

in 2001 Census was \$374 or just under half (48%) of the median household income (Department of Housing and Works 2002). The regions with a large proportion of their residents earning in excess of \$1,000 per week include the Pilbara (30.6%) and Goldfields-Esperance (21.6%). Peel and the Great Southern had a significant proportion of people within their region earning less than \$300 per week, at 50.5 and 48.0 per cent respectively. There was not a big difference in the percentage of peoples earnings within each category between regional Western Australia and Perth.

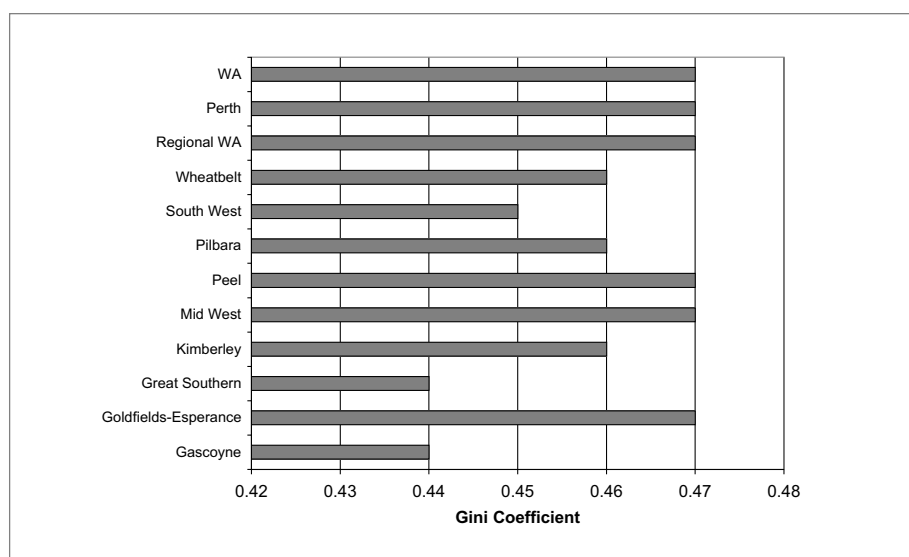
Table 83: Weekly personal income distribution

Income (%)	Gascoyne	Gold-Espnce	Gt-South	Kimb-erley	Mid West	Peel	Pilbara	South West	Wheat-belt	Reg WA	Perth	State Total
\$0 income	5.2	6.6	7.3	5.3	7.2	6.8	6.9	6.6	8.9	6.9	7.4	7.3
\$1-\$119	4.8	6.8	7.7	4.3	7.1	8.2	6.3	8.1	7.2	7.2	8.0	7.8
\$120-\$299	34.8	23.0	33.1	33.7	30.1	35.5	18.4	29.7	30.9	29.9	27.3	28.0
\$300-\$499	21.8	15.2	21.9	17.3	18.5	19.1	13.4	20.5	20.7	19.0	17.7	18.0
\$500-\$699	13.4	12.6	14.6	13.9	13.2	11.4	10.8	14.0	14.8	13.3	14.9	14.5
\$700-\$999	10.8	14.2	9.8	12.5	12.0	9.6	13.7	11.4	10.2	11.5	13.3	12.8
\$1000+	9.3	21.6	5.7	13.0	11.9	9.4	30.6	9.6	7.3	12.3	11.5	11.7

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing (2001).

Figure 27 illustrates Gini coefficients throughout the regions in Western Australia. Gini coefficient is an aggregate numerical measure of income inequality ranging from zero (perfect equality) to one (perfect inequality) (Todaro 1990). Gini coefficients ranged from 0.44 in the Gascoyne and Great Southern to 0.47 in Perth, Peel, Mid West and Goldfields-Esperance.

Figure 27: Gini coefficients, 2001



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing (2001), calculated by URS Australia (2003).

The Gini coefficients show that little variation in income equality between regions and Perth, with only the Great Southern and Gascoyne standing out as having more equal income distributions. Comparing with Table 83 suggests this is mainly due to an absence of high earning people in these regions.

Comment

It is evident from the above statistics that the regions with a large proportion of high income earners are the Pilbara and Goldfields-Esperance regions. This could be attributed to the high number of large scale mining operations in these regions, where workers are paid higher incomes, often to compensate for the isolation, lifestyle, longer hours and / or harsher working conditions. Regions where a majority of individuals / households earned relatively low incomes were the Great Southern and Peel regions.

7.5.8 Equity in communication and professional services

7.5.8.1 Communication and information services and status

Data disaggregated down to a regional level is not possible at this stage for the following communications indicators, with the exception of 'Internet Access' indicator. However, the sources of information are in the context of Australia as a whole and the results are indicative of Western Australia's situation. The gap in the standard of telecommunications between metropolitan and regional areas needs to be minimised in order to create equity throughout the State.

Indicator: Internet access

Background

Improving regional access to the 'information superhighway' is an important component of Government policy at State and Commonwealth levels. Regional people themselves are placing high priority on the ability to access quality electronic communications. Access to the internet in regional areas alone is not the major problem, it is the access speed. Lower access speeds result in Internet users receiving data less efficiently over the Internet and significantly longer download times, thus diminishing the Internet's effectiveness.

Current situation

According to the ABS Internet Activity Survey, Perth had in September 2001, 80 Internet Service Providers (ISPs) servicing 269,000 subscribers (75% of State subscribers) and the remainder of the State had 30 ISPs servicing 88,000 subscribers. The 2001 State total of 110 ISPs was down from 120 in December 2000.

The quality of service of dial-up Internet access is affected by:

- the quality and configuration of customer equipment (primarily PC and modem), and the connection by the customer into the network;
- the quality (including length) of the link from the customer to the exchange (and from there to the ISP);
- the quality and adequacy of the ISP equipment and links to the Internet, and
- the quality and adequacy of links within the Internet to the requested server (website), and the quality and adequacy of that server itself.

The main quality of service factors reported by consumers relate to data speed and call drop-out, or inability to establish or maintain a connection to an ISP (Regional Telecommunications Inquiry 2002). Perth metropolitan residents can receive access speeds of up to 56kbps over the Public Switched Telephone Network, however regional residents generally experience speeds between 14.4kbps and 28.8 kbps.

A key finding of the Regional Telecommunications Inquiry (2002) was that dial-up technology is becoming inadequate to meet the service needs of users and there is a need for service providers to more effectively promote and facilitate access to faster and more effective services, such as Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) and Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) for the next generation of speed and functionality.

The need for such improvements are enforced in a study undertaken by the Great Southern Area Consultative Committee (2001) of 74 Internet users in the Great Southern region, in which 20 users (27%) connected at speeds less than 19.2kbps. Only 22 users (30%) were able to consistently connect at speeds 28.8 kbps or greater. In parts of the Kimberley, Pilbara and remote areas of the Mid West and Goldfields the 19.2 kbps is in fact only achieved by data compression with the systems actually running at 14.4 kbps or less.

ADSL, carrying data at speeds of 512 kbps is available to some consumers in Perth metropolitan who want high-speed Internet connection. ADSL is still being rolled out in regional Western Australia and is currently available in twenty regional exchanges with another six expected to come on line in December 2002. The further development of satellite services will assist regional consumers, with Telstra offering a subsidised satellite service, which provides access to the Internet at data speeds ranging from 33.6 kbps both ways to 400 kbps download and 64kbps upload.

Point of Presence (POP) refers to a server in a geographic location where an ISP can be accessed by a subscriber via access lines. The majority of subscribers throughout the State able to access a POP server were located in either Highly Accessible (89%) or Accessible (8%) regions (see Section 5.1 for an explanation of regional accessibility). Only one per cent of subscribers accessing a POP server were located in Very Remote or Remote regions and two per cent in Moderately accessible regions. The number of subscribers per access line in Highly Accessible regions was 8.8, in Accessible regions - 9.3, Moderately Accessible regions - 9.5, Remote regions - 11.3 and Very Remote regions - 7.3.

Table 84 is an indication of the accessibility to various Internet services.

Table 84: Public Internet access and providers in the regions, 1999

Region	No. PATs¹ in region	No. of centres with Internet access	Total No. of ISPs in region	Web Site Development	Web Site Hosting
Gascoyne	12	3	3	-	-
Goldfields-Esperance	10	8	13	-	1
Great Southern	37	32	8	-	-
Kimberley	39	3	5	-	-
Mid West	20	17	9	-	-
Peel	3	8	11	1	-
Pilbara	9	6	7	-	-
South West	43	14	15	-	1
Wheatbelt	129	59	3	1	-
Regional WA	302	150	95	2	2

¹ Public Access Terminals

Source: Internet Availability Survey (1999) and ABS Internet Activity (2001).

Comment

All Western Australians can now access an Internet Service Provider (ISP) for the cost of an untimed local call, and at equitable ISP charges. A large number of ISPs now offer national dial-up access at the rate of an untimed local call (Regional Telecommunications Inquiry 2002). Furthermore, competition between national providers has driven down the prices charged by ISPs located in the regions, and regional, rural and remote consumers have benefited accordingly.

Key themes emerging from the 606 public submissions (Australia wide) to the Regional Telecommunications Inquiry (2002) were:

- a continuing priority on expanding affordable mobile services to the greatest extent possible;
- the need for improved speed of Internet services, and
- some issues with the reliability of telephone services.

The submissions received on Internet speed demonstrate a greatly increased awareness in regional, rural and remote Western Australia of the value of higher bandwidth Internet services, and a rapidly growing, real level of demand for these services. Thus while it would appear that the accessibility to PATs and ISPs in regional, rural and remote Western Australia has improved greatly in recent years, the reliability and quality of such services needs to be improved to meet consumer demand and expectations.

Indicator: Coverage by fixed telephone and mobile phone

Background

A large majority of Australians now expect not only a reliable telephone service, but access to mobile phone services. People in regional, rural and remote Western Australia want access to services on an equitable basis compared with their counterparts in metropolitan and large urban centres. The highest priority for residential consumers is the basic fixed telephone service and almost all businesses need fixed telephone services including fax capability (Regional Telecommunications Inquiry 2002).

Current situation

Fixed lines

In 1999, 8.3 per cent of discrete Indigenous communities in Western Australia with more than 50 inhabitants were without a public telephone. Nearly 54 per cent had one telephone and 38 per cent two or more telephones. This compares more favourably to the whole of Australia, where 24 per cent of discrete Indigenous communities with more than 50 inhabitants go without a public phone (Daly 1999).

Areas of concern in relation to fixed telephones, identified by the Regional Telecommunications Inquiry (2002) were timely connection of new services without infrastructure in urban and major rural areas, service reliability, the repair of faults and the provision of fixed telephone and payphone services generally in remote Indigenous communities. The Inquiry also noted that the lack of enhanced calling features is significant in rural and remote areas.

Retail telecommunications pricing in Australia is subject to considerable regulation. Except for consumers in the Extended Zones (the most remote parts of the State as defined by the Commonwealth Government and Telstra), access to untimed local calls is guaranteed, and comparable benefits are available to those customers who do not have access to untimed local calls. However, untimed local calls in the Extended Zones have now been ensured through the Government's \$150m Extended Zones Agreement with Telstra.

Mobile telephones

Mobile phone services are the major growth area in the Australian telecommunications market. Mobile phone coverage exists across 100 per cent of Western Australia, as a result of three systems that are in place:

1. GSM (Global Systems for Mobiles): Available in Perth, regional centres and larger regional towns;
2. CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access): Available in Perth, regional centres, larger and smaller regional towns, and
3. Satellite: Covers entire State.

As of June 2002, the Australian Communications Authority reports that there were 12,670,000 mobile phone services in Australia. GSM accounted for 11,750,000, while 880,000 were CDMA.

Satellite phones are more expensive to purchase (approximately \$1,000 to \$3,000) and call costs range between \$0.86 and \$2.84 per minute as opposed to around \$0.40 per minute for CDMA. Telstra's CDMA mobile telephone network now covers 96.9 per cent of the Australian population via 2,100 base stations and Telstra's GSM mobile network covers 95 per cent of the population. An advantage of CDMA over GSM is that it has a larger range.

Mobile phone service in regional, rural and remote Western Australia was a key issue for the Regional Telecommunications Inquiry (2002), revealing that consumers have a high level of need for these services and a high expectation that these services should be made as widely as possible, including through Government support if necessary.

Wireless West (based on CDMA) has resulted in a large part of the South West being covered by mobile telephone, however there are still large gaps in coverage, notably in the Shires of Manjimup, Nannup and Denmark. In the northern and eastern parts of the State coverage is poor, even along the national highways. For example, travelling North along National Highway 1 from Perth, mobile coverage is restricted to relatively short distances outside towns such as Geraldton, Carnarvon, Karratha, Port Hedland, Broome, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Kununurra. Based on Telstra's coverage maps it is estimated that of the 1,200 km highway from Geraldton to Karratha, less than 150 km has mobile phone coverage. Similarly it is estimated that of the almost 1,000 km of highway from Kalgoorlie to the South Australian border there is less than 100km covered by mobile telephony.

Comment

Western Australians generally have adequate access to a range of high quality basic and advanced telecommunications services comparable to the leading information economies in the world. However, a significant proportion of those who live and work in rural and remote Australia have concerns regarding key aspects of services which, at this stage, are not adequate. The concerns relate to the basic fixed telephone service, mobile phone coverage and Internet access.

It is important that the existing telecommunications disadvantage experienced by many Australians in rural and remote areas is addressed, especially considering that rural (farm, forestry, and fisheries) and mining sectors collectively account for nearly 60 per cent of Australia's total exports (Telecommunications Service Inquiry 2000) and 83 per cent of Western Australia's exports. If rural and remote communities and their economies are to grow and prosper, effective access to telecommunication services is of utmost importance.

Indicator: Quality of service

The Regional Telecommunications Inquiry (2002) heard and reported the frustrations of many consumers, particularly concentrated in rural and remote Australia, in getting basic and reliable telephones connected quickly and repaired in a timely manner. Also it was noted that some call centres were unaware of the circumstances and could not provide a continuity of contact to track their service request. A large number of those surveyed indicated that the problems they experienced were a result of service reliability, dated network capabilities or issues regarding the infrastructure.

The highest priority for residential customers was the basic fixed telephone service, although mobile phones and internet access are important to a growing proportion of those customers. Market research conducted for the inquiry found that most Australians are generally satisfied with the services delivered by their telecommunications provider. The research also found, however, higher than average levels of dissatisfaction in some key areas, such as prompt fault repair and the ease with which they can deal with their service provider. Service reliability and customer / service provider contact are key areas of concern for a number of consumers. Dissatisfaction levels were higher in remote areas, particularly amongst small businesses – although even in that sector levels of satisfaction outweighed dissatisfaction.

Indicator: Internet use

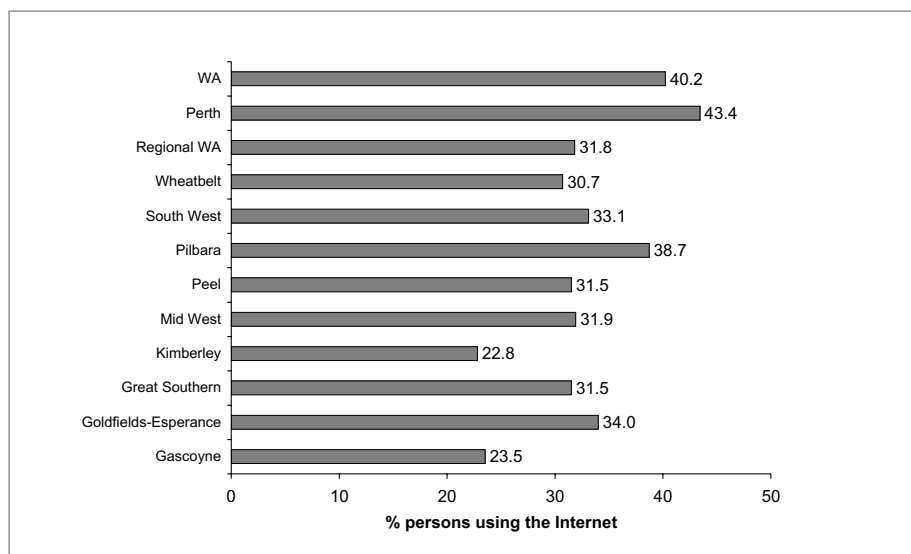
Background

Internet usage throughout the State has been derived from the ABS quarterly publication on Internet activity. In the year 2000, 42.3 per cent of 'Perth metropolitan' households contained a computer, compared to 40.6 per cent of 'other' households and 53.4 per cent of 'farms' (Daly 2000). This report also found that the share of farms with computer access was lower than for other home-based businesses; 45 per cent compared with 70 per cent in the capital cities and 59 per cent of home-based businesses in other areas (Australia wide).

Current situation

Figure 28 is derived from 2001 ABS Census of Population and Housing data and shows the percentage of people who use the Internet. Percentages were calculated based only on those persons who stated if they used the Internet or not and include internet use at home, work and/or elsewhere. Persons using the Internet ranged from 22.8 per cent in the Kimberley to 43.4 per cent in Perth.

Figure 28: Internet usage, 2001



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing (2001).

As shown in Table 85, the average number of subscribers per line is the highest in the Great Southern and Perth at 9.2 and 9.1 subscribers per line respectively. The Wheatbelt had the lowest number at 5.1 subscribers per line. The average data download per subscriber, in the June 2001 quarter, ranged from 145MB in the Gascoyne and Mid West to 347MB in the Pilbara. Data download usage in Perth is equivalent to that experienced in the Pilbara, being 345 MB per subscriber.

Table 85: Internet subscribers and data downloaded per subscriber, June Quarter 2001

Region	Average number of subscribers per line	Average data downloaded per subscriber (MB)
Gascoyne	7.4	145
Goldfields-Esperance	8.8	241
Great Southern	9.2	197
Kimberley	ND	ND
Mid West	7.4	145
Peel	8.4	209
Pilbara	ND	347
South West	8.4	209
Wheatbelt	5.1	195
Perth	9.1	345
Western Australia	8.8	313

Source: ABS Internet Activity (2001).

ND = no data available.

Comment

In Western Australia, the number of subscribers to the Internet increased from 318,000 in December 2000 to 357,000 in March 2001. The proportion of households with access to computers and the Internet continues to rise with higher levels of access associated with households with higher incomes, households with children under 18 years and households located in metropolitan areas.

7.5.8.2 Professional status and services

Indicator: Professional presence in the region

Background

Professional presence in the regions is a measure of the economic diversity and also the ability of regional residents to access professional services in areas such as education, the law, accountancy and medicine.

Current situation

Professional presence is represented as the percentage of the total workforce that is employed as professionals and also the number of professionals per 1,000 workers within each profession. The data are from the ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing.

Page 185

Shown in Table 86 are the number of professionals per 1,000 workers for each discipline along with the proportion of the total workforce that are categorised as professionals. Perth has the highest percentage of the workforce employed as professionals at just below 18 per cent of the workforce. The percentage of professional employees in the workforce throughout regional Western Australia ranges between 8.9 per cent in the Wheatbelt and 15.3 per cent in the Kimberley.

Across all regions, school teachers make up a large percentage of professional employees, ranging from between 26.0 per cent in the Pilbara to as high as 38.2 per cent in the Kimberley. Goldfields-Esperance had a high proportion of 'Natural and Physical Science' employees, compared to the other regions. Other regions and professions that had a high proportion of workers in the regions were as follows:

- Pilbara – 'Building and Engineering';
- Kimberley – 'School Teachers', 'Social Welfare Professionals', and
- Perth – 'Accountants, Auditors and Corporate Treasurers'.

This distribution of professional presence clearly mirrors the economic and social nature and imperatives of the various regions.

Comment

As to be expected, Perth had the greatest percentage of professionals compared to the remainder of the State. However, the Kimberley region's workforce is comprised of over 15 per cent professionals which is mainly due to the large proportion of school teachers. It is interesting to note that in the Peel region (1996), nearly 42 per cent of the workforce were employed outside the region, in contrast to the 15 per cent of the region's employees who lived elsewhere. The major reason for this phenomenon is the region's close proximity to Perth, with many people choosing to live in the Peel region and commute to their workplace in the metropolitan area.

Table 86: Professionals per 1,000 workers, 1996

Profession	Gascoyne	Goldfields- Esperance	Great Southern	Kimberley	Mid West	Peel	Pilbara	South West	Wheatbelt	Perth
Professionals, n.f.d. ¹	1.5	0.8	0.9	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.8	2.6
Natural and Physical Science	7.9	22.3	6.6	8.3	12.9	4.9	11.4	7.8	6.9	7.6
Building and Engineering	8.3	18.4	3.8	8.2	10.1	9.8	22.6	8.7	4.1	15.1
Accountants, Auditors and Corporate Treasurers	4.1	5.6	5.8	5.3	5.8	4.7	4.6	6.3	3.9	13.6
Sales, Marketing and Advertising	2.6	3.6	2.3	2.9	2.2	3.0	2.2	3.0	2.2	7.6
Computing Professionals	2.6	1.9	1.4	2.6	1.7	2.8	3.5	2.3	0.9	9.8
Miscellaneous Business and Information	5.4	7.7	6.1	8.0	5.9	7.0	12.6	7.3	4.5	14.0
Medical Practitioners	2.8	2.2	2.4	4.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.9	1.7	6.1
Nursing Professionals	17.4	12.6	15.4	18.3	14.3	14.5	10.7	15.8	13.7	20.9
Miscellaneous Health Professionals	6.3	3.5	6.7	5.6	4.8	4.7	3.3	6.2	3.6	8.4
School Teachers	28.1	23.7	34.2	38.2	30.9	32.5	26.0	33.0	30.5	29.4
University and Vocational Education Teachers	2.6	3.7	4.9	5.1	3.5	2.4	5.2	4.5	2.1	9.4
Miscellaneous Education	2.0	2.1	3.7	4.0	2.1	3.2	2.3	2.8	2.1	4.7
Social Welfare Professionals	7.9	5.1	6.2	11.8	6.0	7.0	5.8	5.7	4.9	7.5
Miscellaneous Social	1.7	1.1	1.9	3.5	2.0	1.0	2.1	2.2	0.5	5.7
Artists and Related	1.7	3.7	4.6	9.9	4.3	4.6	2.0	6.2	2.7	9.7
Miscellaneous	22.2	4.1	4.0	14.4	8.6	4.0	13.1	3.7	3.5	5.1
Total Professionals (% of workforce)	12.54	12.21	11.09	15.27	11.92	10.97	13.04	12.01	8.87	17.76

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (1996).

¹n.f.d. = not fully defined

8 Regional performance – environment

Environmental accounting is generally well developed in Australia. In part this has been driven by formal national and state commitments to a range of environmental requirements including sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and prevention of desertification. Regional reporting of environmental outputs and outcomes needs to be aligned with these commitments.

8.1 Background

As presented in *Australia: State of the Environment 1996* (Commonwealth of Australia 1996), sustainable development requires the maintenance of the following three key components of the environment:

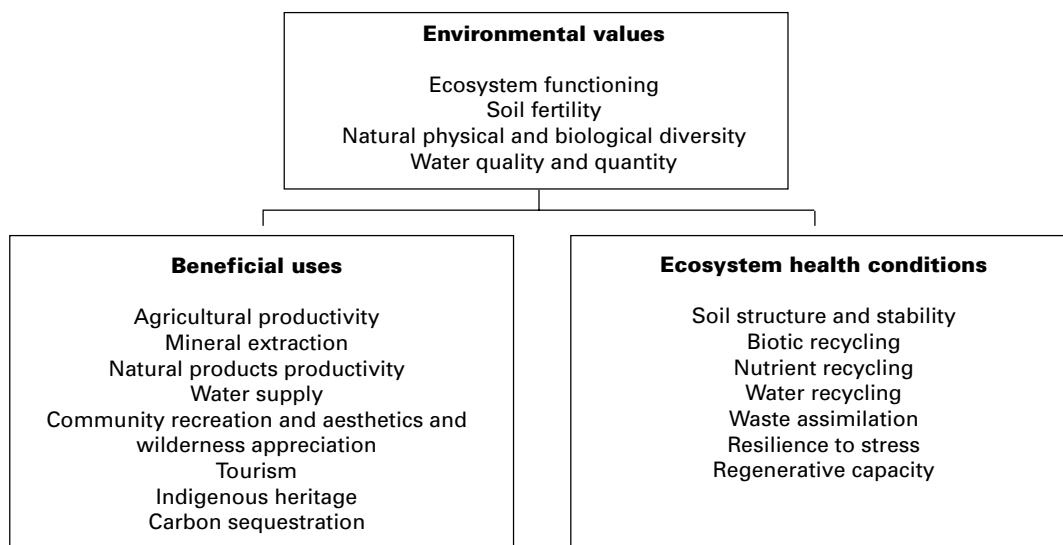
- Biodiversity – the variety of species, populations and, habitats and ecosystems.
- Ecological integrity – the general health and resilience of natural systems, including their ability to withstand stresses and assimilate waste.
- Natural capital – the stock of land, air, water and biotic resources that support essential ecological processes and sustain human existence.

In Western Australian parlance, the terms to describe the environment are those used by the Environmental Protection Authority, being:

- *'environmental value'* which is formally defined as 'particular values or uses of the environment that are important for a healthy ecosystem or for public benefit, welfare, safety or health and which require protection from the effects of pollution, waste discharges and deposits' (ANZECC and ARMCANZ 1994). The fundamental environmental values contribute to forms of 'services' to life on earth, as follows:
 - those that support economic and social services are termed *'beneficial uses'*, while
 - the values that maintain the environment's own productivity are described as *'ecosystem health conditions'*.

The relationship between these three components is shown in Figure 29.

Figure 29: Environmental components



8.2 Environmental goal for regions

The goal for environmental management in the regions is:

Developing a valued, healthy and protected environment

8.3 Key result areas

Table 87 presents the key result areas for environmental management in the regions.

Table 87: Key result areas for environmental management

Key Result Area	Context		Management (response)
	Use (pressures)	Stocks (state)	
Land	Agriculture, mining,	Current condition urban development etc • Land	Environmental governance – investment in ameliorative activities – new technology, quality of reserve systems, and management plans.
Water	Water consumption etc	• Water resources	
Marine	Fishing, shipping,	• Ocean environments coastal developments	
Air	Airborne emissions,	• Atmosphere greenhouse gases	
Biodiversity	Pressures on habitats,	• Biodiversity feral predation etc	