

# WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TASMANIA FACT SHEET 2018



Tasmanian females were identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin (2016).<sup>2</sup>



Women and girls make up  
**51.1%**  
of the Tasmanian population (2016).<sup>1</sup>



**12.0%**

of Tasmanian females were born in a country other than Australia<sup>3</sup>, and over 140 different languages are spoken at home by Tasmanian women and girls.<sup>4</sup>



was the median age for Tasmanian females in 2016.<sup>5</sup>



**80.6%**

of sole parents in Tasmania were female (2016).<sup>6</sup>



**55.1%** of lone person households in Tasmania were female.<sup>7</sup>



**82.9**

years was the average life expectancy for Tasmanian women in 2014-2016.<sup>8</sup>



Demographic information provides an overview of the general characteristics of women and girls in Tasmania and the communities in which they live.

## Population size

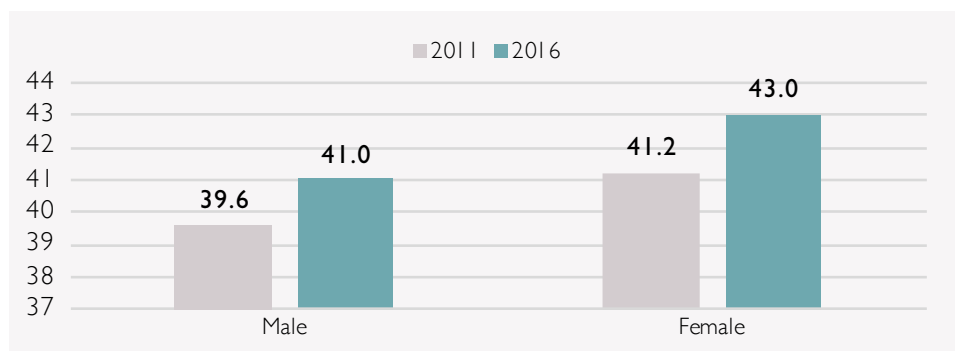
At the time of the 2016 Australian Census, 509,965 people lived in Tasmania, and women and girls made up 51.1 per cent of the population.<sup>9</sup>

## Population age

The median age for Tasmanian females in 2016 was 43 years, which is an increase from 41.2 years in 2011. At 42 years, Tasmania has the highest median age of all the states and territories.<sup>11</sup>

The median age for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Tasmania is significantly lower than the population as a whole, at just 24 years old.<sup>12</sup> This is an increase of 2 years since 2014.

Figure 1. Median age of Tasmanians by gender, 2011 and 2016



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016, Census QuickStats, Tasmania, ABS, Canberra.

## Cultural Diversity

At the 2016 Census, 23,572 people in Tasmania identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. Of these, 11,993 (4.8 percent) were women and girls,<sup>13</sup> compared to 4 per cent in the 2011 Census.<sup>14</sup>

12 per cent of Tasmanian females were born in a country other than Australia,<sup>15</sup> compared to 11.6 per cent in 2011.<sup>16</sup> Over 140 different languages are spoken at home by Tasmanian women and girls. The table below (Figure 2) shows the top countries of birth have changed since 2011, when most of the women and girls born overseas were born in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Germany and China.<sup>17</sup>

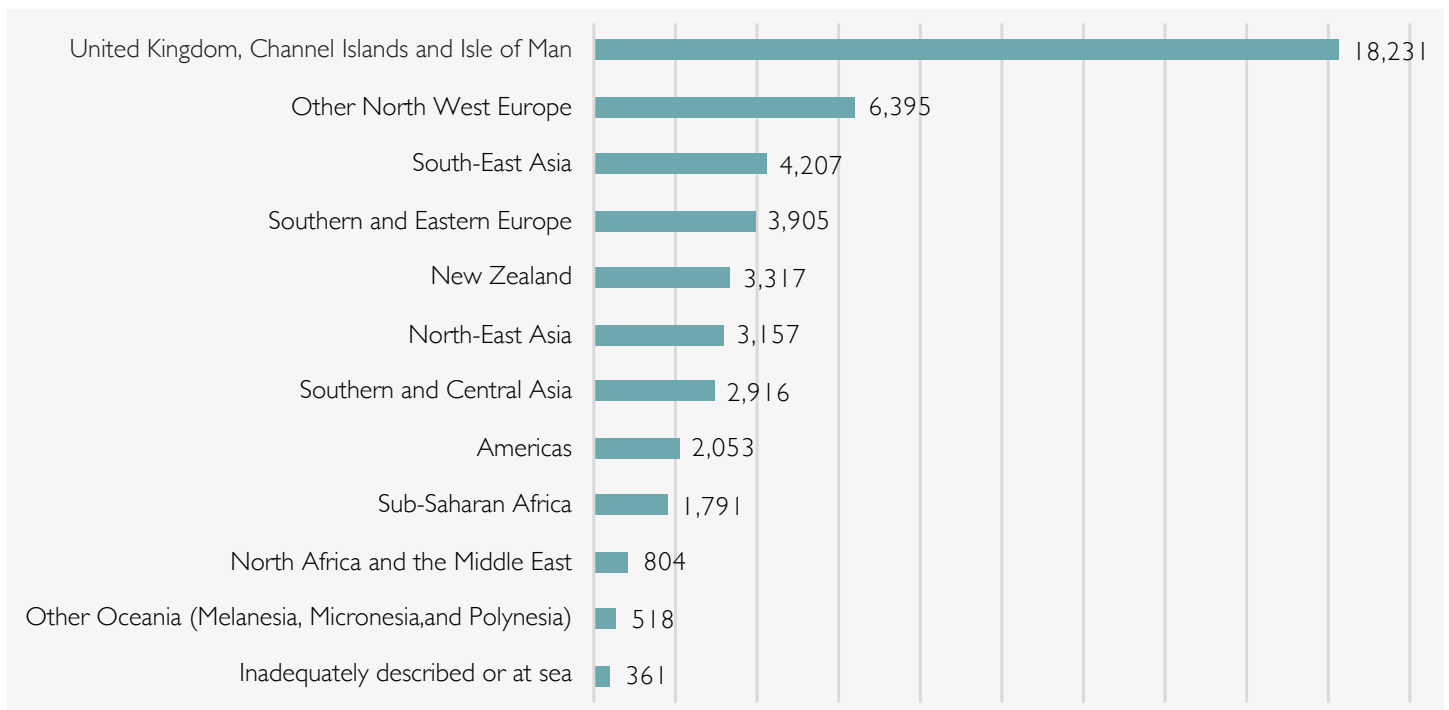
The languages spoken at home by Tasmanian persons 'who speak English not well or not at all' has changed since the 2011 Census. At that time the ten top languages were Mandarin, Nepali, German, Greek, Italian, Cantonese, Tagalog, Spanish, Dutch, and Persian/Dari. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of speakers of Mandarin, Nepali, Persian/Dari and Punjabi increased.<sup>18</sup>

**Figure 3. Top ten languages other than English spoken at home by Tasmanian women and girls, 2011 and 2016**

Languages	2016	2011	Changed position since 2011
1. Mandarin	2152	1101	No change
2. German	864	904	No change
3. Nepali	787	333	12th
4. Greek	591	572	5th
5. Italian	551	640	3rd
6. Dutch	516	595	4th
7. Cantonese	503	439	8th
8. Spanish	483	443	6th
9. Tagalog	470	347	11th
10. French	442	373	No change

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016, Catalogue 3235.0., Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2016, ABS, Canberra.

**Figure 2. Birthplaces other than Australia, Tasmanian women and girls, 2016 Census**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, Cultural Diversity, TableBuilder. ABS, Canberra. Findings based on use of ABS TableBuilder data.

Figure 4. Relationship in household by sex in Tasmania, 2011 and 2016

Relationship in household	2011			2016		
	Female	Male	Female (%)	Female	Male	Female (%)
Registered marriage	86,673	85,366	50.4	84,924	83,890	50.3
De facto marriage	21,110	20,584	50.6	22,284	21,822	50.5
Lone parent	18,596	4,225	81.5	18,883	4,545	80.6
Child under 15 years	43,221	45,500	48.7	40,856	43,005	48.7
Dependent student (15-24 years old)	10,060	10,010	50.1	10,097	10,510	49.0
Non-dependent child	8,587	15,249	36.0	9,028	15,436	36.9
Other related individual	3,636	3,321	52.3	3,854	3,511	52.3
Group household member	6,237	7,329	46.0	6,434	7,810	45.2
Lone person	29,790	24,250	55.1	32,266	26,245	55.1
Unrelated individual living in family household	1,357	2,042	39.9	1,591	2,179	42.2
Visitor (from within Australia)	10151	10,487	49.2	6,781	6,785	50.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017, Catalogue 2001.0, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile, Tasmania, Table G23a, Relationship in Household by Age, by Sex, ABS, Canberra.

## Living Arrangements

Household living arrangements in Tasmania have remained stable between 2011 and 2016, with females and males making up a relatively balanced share of the different types of relationship in households.

In 2016, the majority of sole parents were female (80.6 per cent), a slight reduction since 2011 when it was 81.5 per cent. Females remained much less likely than males to live with one or more parents once they become non-dependent, making up 36.9 per cent of this group, and males 63.1 per cent. Women are also more likely than males to live alone – 55.1 per cent of lone person households were female, and 44.9 per cent male.<sup>19</sup>

## Family households

At the time of the 2016 Australian Census, there were 134,343 (60.7 per cent) family-based households in Tasmania.<sup>20</sup> There has been no significant change in this number since 2011 (134,196).<sup>21</sup> The number of couples without children continued to increase, with this family type growing by 8.2 per cent from 2006 to 2011.<sup>22</sup> There has been a decline in coupled families with children from 2011, while the proportion of one parent families remained stable.<sup>23</sup>

Figure 5. Family-based households by type, Tasmania, 2016 and 2011, percentage

Relationship in household	2011	2016
Couple families without children	39.7	43.1
Couple families with children	42.0	38.2
One parent family households	17.0	17.4
Other mixes of family <sup>1</sup>	1.3	1.3

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017, Catalogue 2001.0, 2016 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile, Tasmania, Table G23a, Relationship in Household by Sex, ABS, Canberra. & Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, Catalogue 2001.6, Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile (Tasmania), Table B25, ABS, Canberra.





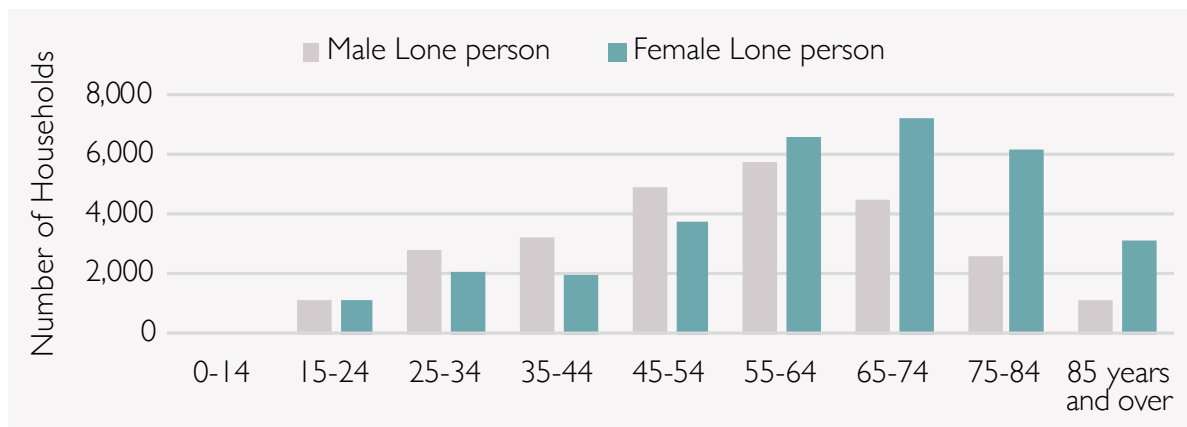
### Lone person households

At the time of the 2016 Australian Census, over 58,000 Tasmanian residents were living alone. The sex ratio of lone person households between 2011 and 2016 has not changed. While men between the ages of 25 and 54 years were more likely to be living on their own, from the age of 55 years more women than men live alone. The proportion of women living alone increases with age. By the age of 65 years, women make up over 60 per cent of lone person households in Tasmania.<sup>25</sup>

### Aged care facilities

As at 30 June 2017, 67.1 per cent of people living permanently in aged care facilities in Tasmania were female (2,966).<sup>26</sup> This is comparable to June 2013, when 2,989 (68.9 per cent) were female.<sup>27</sup> It is also similar to the national rate.<sup>28</sup>

Figure 6. Lone person households in Tasmania, breakdown by sex, by age, 2016



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017, Catalogue 2001.0, 2016, Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile, Tasmania, Table G23a, Relationship in Household by Age, by Sex, ABS, Canberra.

## Marriage and Divorce

The 2016 Census found 45.8 per cent of Tasmanian residents aged 15 years and over (167,398) were in a registered marriage and 12.5 per cent (45,527) were in a de facto marriage. This shows a decrease in registered marriages (from 48 per cent) and increase in de facto marriages (up from 11.6 percent) in the 2011 Census results.<sup>29</sup>

### Marriage

In 2016, of those marriages registered in Tasmania (not necessarily all between Tasmanian residents), the median age at first marriage was 29 years for women, and 30.3 years for men.<sup>30</sup> In 2011, the median age for women was 28 years and for men it was 29.9 years, and in 2014 it was 30.3 years for females and 32.3 years for males in 2014.<sup>31</sup>

In December 2017, Australia legislated for marriage equality. By June 2016, 69 marriages between same sex couples had been registered in Tasmania, two-thirds (46) of which were between female couples.<sup>32</sup>

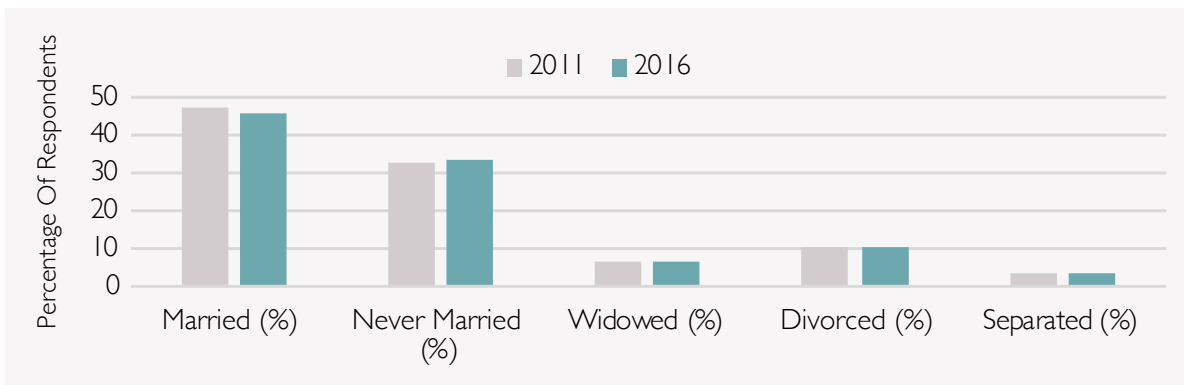
### Divorce

Tasmanian women are more likely than men to apply for divorce. In 2016, 1,019 divorces were granted in Tasmania. Of these, 40 per cent (410) of the applications were made by women. This is slightly more than in 2011, when women made 38.9% (393) applications. Men made 27 per cent (272) divorce applications in 2016, and 29.5% (298) in 2011.<sup>33</sup> Other applications are made jointly.



Women are also younger than men when they divorce. In 2016, the median age at divorce was 44 years for women and 48 years for men compared to 43.4 years for women and 45.9 years for men in 2011.<sup>34</sup>

Figure 7. Registered marital status of Tasmanian residents, 2011 and 2016



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census QuickStats, Tasmania, ABS, Canberra.

### Fertility

The number of births in Tasmania has fluctuated over the years since 2011. In 2016, 5,968 births were registered in Tasmania, compared with 5,680 the previous year<sup>35</sup>, 5,935 in 2014.<sup>36</sup> and 6,608 in 2011.<sup>37</sup>

In 2016 the Tasmanian fertility rate, or the average number of babies born to Tasmanian women in their lifetime, was 2.0, slightly higher than the national rate of 1.79. This is a decrease from 2011 when the Tasmanian fertility rate was the highest in the nation at 2.16.<sup>38</sup>

Tasmanian women tend to have children younger than women in the rest of Australia. The median age for Tasmanian mothers giving birth in 2016 was 29.8 years old, which is 1.3 years younger than the national average (31.1 years).<sup>39</sup> In 2011, the median age for Tasmanian mothers was 29.2 years and 29.6 years in 2014, lower than the national average age of 30.7 years and 30.9 years respectively.<sup>40</sup>

### Life Expectancy

Tasmanian women have a higher life expectancy at birth than men. The average life expectancy for Tasmanian women in 2016 was 82.9 years, an increase of 0.6 years since 2006. Male life expectancy was 78.8 years which is an increase of 1.4 years for the same period.<sup>41</sup> The life expectancy for Tasmanian women is lower than the national average, which was 84.6 years in 2014-16 and 84.3 years in 2010-12.<sup>42</sup>

Women living in Launceston and in the North East of Tasmania have the highest life expectancy at 83.3 years. That is 1.8 years more than those living in the West and North West (81.5 years) and marginally higher than women living in the South of the State (83.1).<sup>43</sup>

### Deaths

In 2016, there were 4,595 recorded deaths in Tasmania. Of these, 2,229 deaths (48.5 per cent) were females. The standardised death rate (deaths per 1,000 standard population) for females was 5.4, and 7.4 for males.<sup>44</sup>

There has been a slight increase in the number of recorded deaths in Tasmania in the years from 2011, when there were 4,245 deaths and 4,444 in 2013. While female deaths have increased slightly over the period, with 2,106 deaths in 2011 and 2,185 in 2013, the standardised death rate for females in 2011 and 2013 was higher at 5.5.<sup>45</sup>

The leading cause of death for Tasmanian females in 2016 was ischaemic heart disease (coronary heart diseases) and dementia and Alzheimer disease causing around 10 per cent of female deaths.<sup>46</sup> This is consistent with the national trend. Dementia and Alzheimer disease is now the leading cause of death for women in Australia.<sup>47</sup>

Ischaemic heart disease was the leading cause of death for males in Tasmania, causing over 15 per cent of registered deaths in 2016.<sup>48</sup>

#### Further reading:

- *Tasmanian Women's Strategy 2018-2021*
- Tasmanian Women and Girls Fact Sheets on: Financial Security, Health and Wellbeing, Safety and Justice, Leadership and Participation and Demographics are available at [www.women.tas.gov.au](http://www.women.tas.gov.au).

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17. Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2016 Women and Girls in Tasmania, Fact Sheet 7 Demographics, p4
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21. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile (Tasmania), Table B25, ABS, Canberra.
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46. Note: Leading causes of death are ranked based on the World Health Organisation's recommended groupings (Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Volume 84, Number 4, April 2006, 297-304), and are not directly comparable with previous versions of this fact sheet, which used a different methodology.
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