

# Appendix B: Demographic analysis

Demographic profiling of the relevant districts has been undertaken, with comparison to the ACT as a whole.<sup>1</sup> The profiling focuses on demographic attributes that may influence the need for different types of community, sports, and recreational facilities.

## **Age and gender profile**

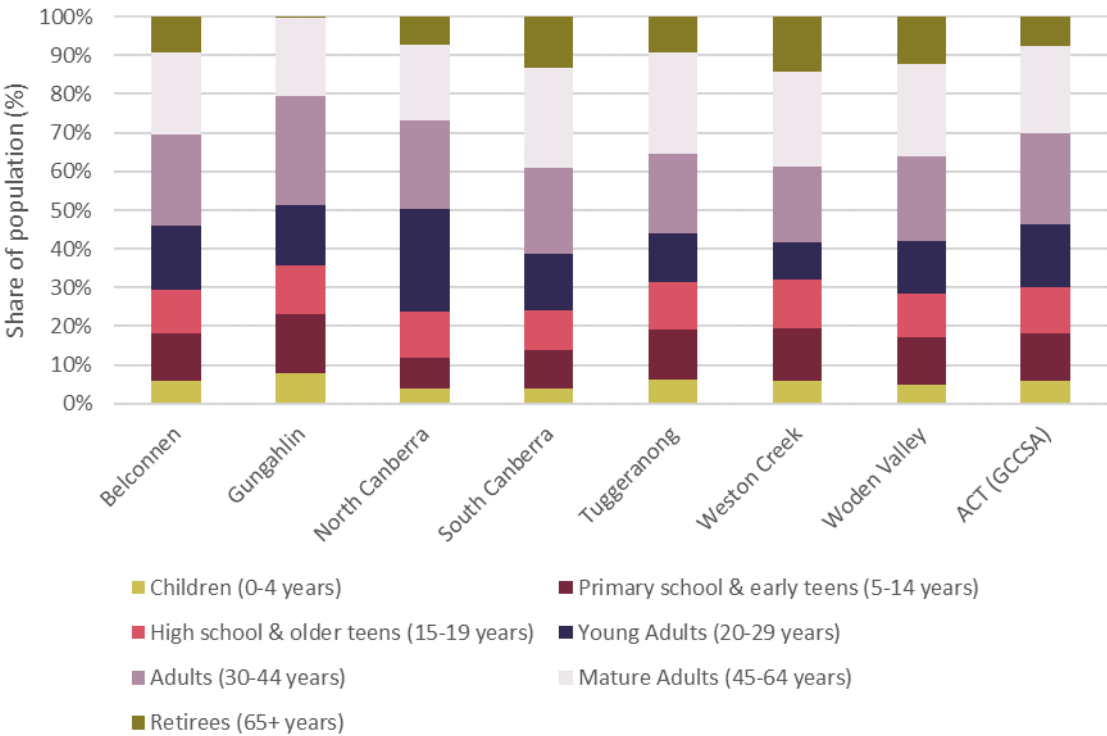
The latest ABS Census in 2021 reveals that the ACT had a young population, with retirees aged 65+ (14 per cent) being the second smallest age group, after children up to four years of age (six per cent). Adults aged 30-44 years (24 per cent) and mature adults aged 45-64 (22 per cent) comprised most of its population.

Relative to the ACT, Gungahlin had a smaller proportion of mature adults and retirees (27 per cent of its population).

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<sup>1</sup> The ACT boundary as defined by the ABS's Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA).

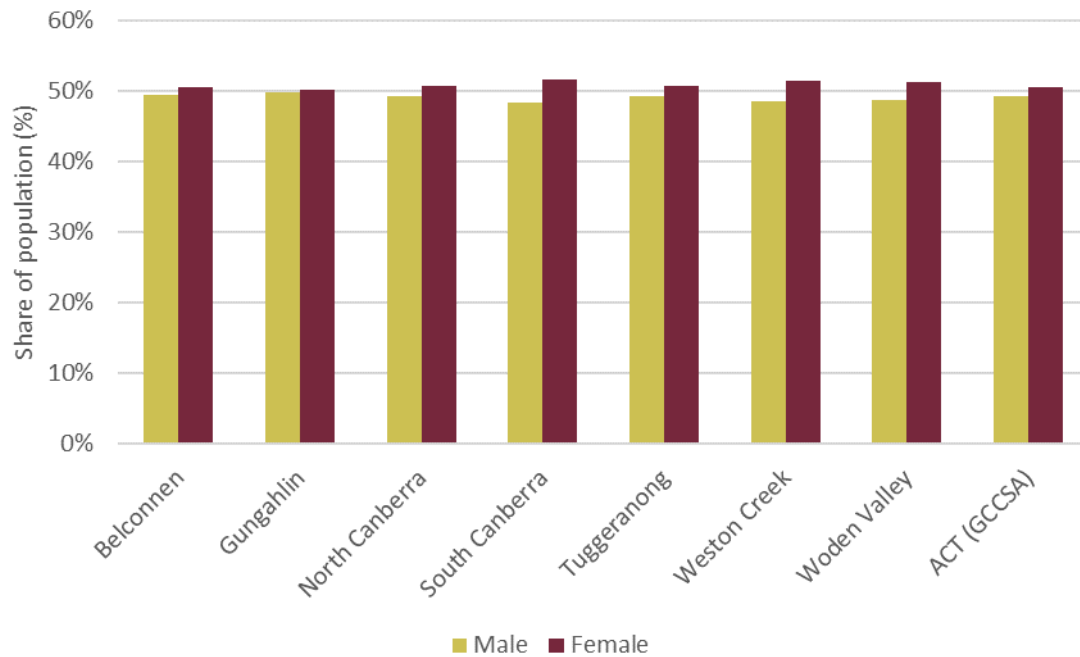
Figure 1: Age profile by district



Source: ABS, 2021.

In 2021, the ACT's population was 49 per cent male and 51 per cent female. Most districts had a greater female population, aside from Belconnen and Gungahlin, which had an even split of females and males.

**Figure 2: Gender profile by district**



Source: ABS, 2021.

### First Nations status

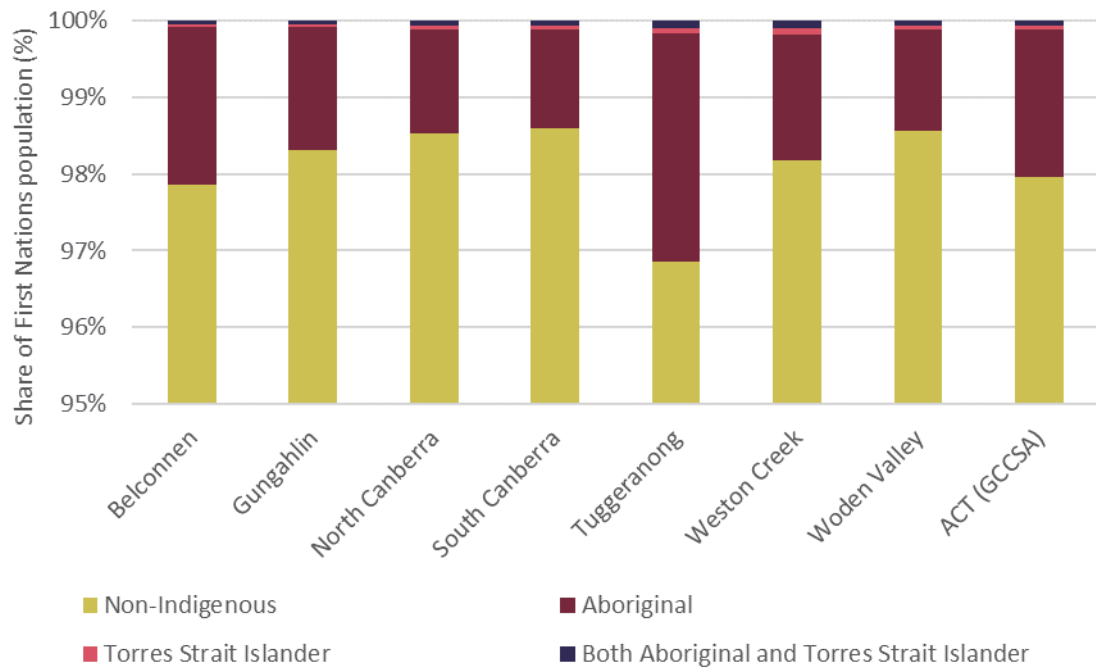
In 2021, the ACT had a First Nations population of 8,949 people, making up around two per cent of the population.<sup>2</sup>

Among the districts, Tuggeranong had a slightly higher percentage of its population who self-identified as having Aboriginal origin (three per cent), while Weston Creek had the highest percentage of people who self-identified as having Torres Strait Islander origin (0.08 per cent), and people of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (0.11 per cent).

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<sup>2</sup> ABS 2021 Census QuickStats, <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/8>

**Figure 3: First Nations status by district**



Source: ABS, 2021.

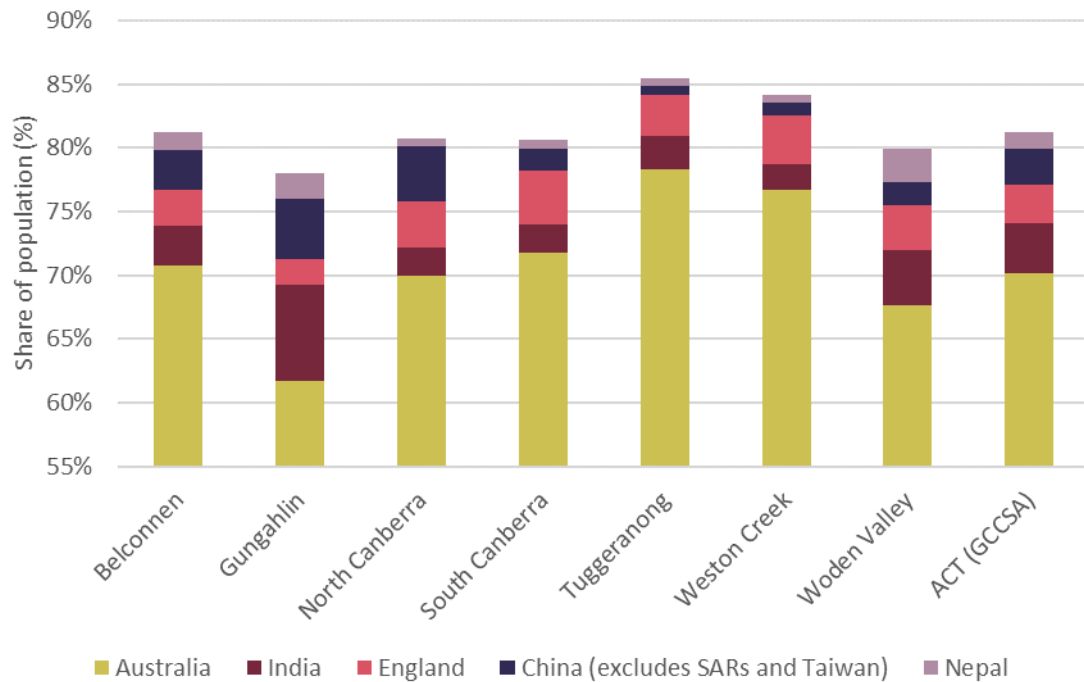
### Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CALD)

Most of the ACT's population was born in Australia (around 70 per cent), with the highest proportional countries of origin being India (four per cent), England (three per cent), China (three per cent) and Nepal (one per cent) respectively. The large share of residents being born in Australia is largely reflected across all districts, noting there are differences between them, including:

- Tuggeranong (78 per cent) and Weston Creek (77 per cent) had a higher percentage of people born in Australia.
- Gungahlin had the lowest percentage of people born in Australia (62 per cent), but the highest proportions of people born in India (eight per cent) and China (five per cent).
- Woden Valley had the highest percentage of people born in Nepal (three per cent).

Table 1 shows a district breakdown of the five most common countries people were born in.

Figure 4: Top five countries of birth in the ACT, by district



Source: ABS, 2021. Note, this excludes people who were born at sea, and responses that were inadequately described and not stated.

Table 1: Top five countries of birth by district

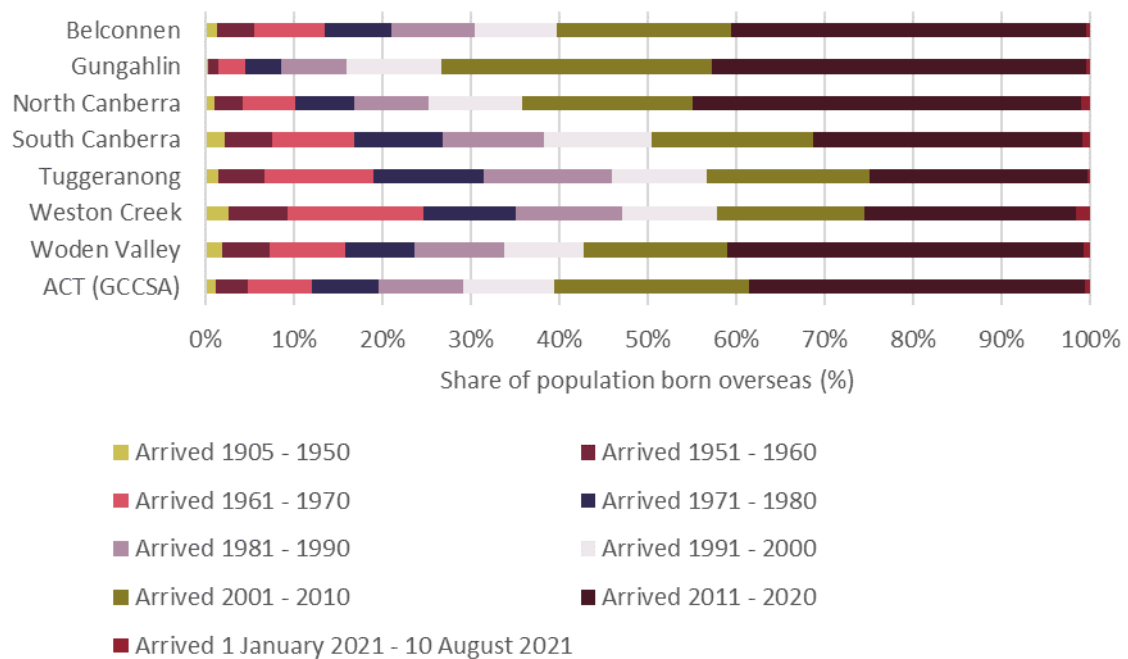
| District       | % born overseas | Top 5 countries of birth |              |              |                  |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Belconnen      | 29%             | Australia (71%)          | China (3%)   | India (3%)   | England (3%)     | Nepal (1%)       |
| Gungahlin      | 38%             | Australia (62%)          | India (8%)   | China (5%)   | England (2%)     | Nepal (2%)       |
| North Canberra | 30%             | Australia (70%)          | China (4%)   | England (4%) | India (2%)       | New Zealand (1%) |
| South Canberra | 28%             | Australia (72%)          | England (4%) | India (2%)   | China (2%)       | New Zealand (1%) |
| Tuggeranong    | 22%             | Australia (78%)          | England (3%) | India (3%)   | Philippines (1%) | New Zealand (1%) |
| Weston Creek   | 23%             | Australia (77%)          | England (4%) | India (2%)   | New Zealand (1%) | China (1%)       |
| Woden Valley   | 32%             | Australia (68%)          | India (4%)   | England (3%) | Nepal (3%)       | China (2%)       |
| ACT            | 30%             | Australia (70%)          | India (4%)   | England (3%) | China (3%)       | Nepal (1%)       |

Source: ABS, 2021. Note, China excludes SARs and Taiwan.

The 2021 ABS Census data shows that out of the 147,603 Canberra residents who were born overseas, most were new migrants who had arrived in Australia between 2011 and 2020 (38 per cent of the ACT

population). North Canberra had 44 per cent of its population arrive in Australia from 2011 to 2020, as opposed to Tuggeranong (25 per cent) and Weston Creek (24 per cent). Tuggeranong and Weston Creek had a higher percentage of earlier arrivals – a particularly high percentage of people from 1961 to 1990, 39 per cent and 38 per cent of their respective populations.

**Figure 5: Year of arrival in Australia by district**

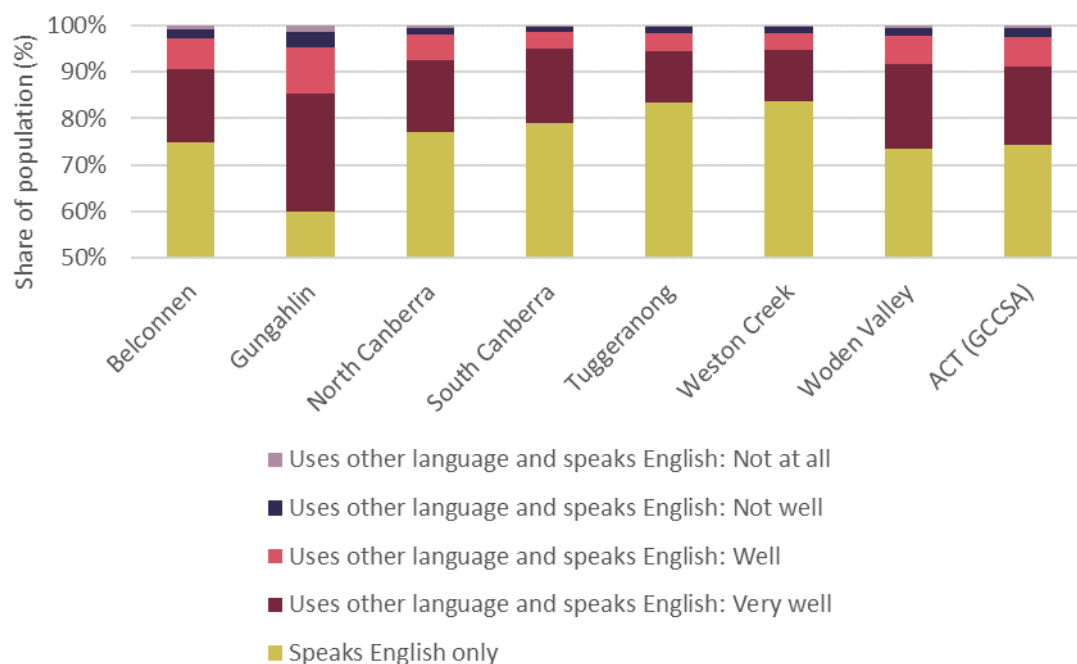


Source: ABS, 2021.

Around 74 per cent of the ACT's population in 2021 spoke only English in 2021, with a further 23 per cent able to speak English well or very well.

Weston Creek (84 per cent) and Tuggeranong (83 per cent) had the highest percentage of residents who spoke only English, compared to the ACT (74 per cent). Gungahlin residents identified themselves to be the least proficient at English – 60 per cent of people not speaking English at all and 25 per cent not speaking English well.

**Figure 6: Proficiency in English**



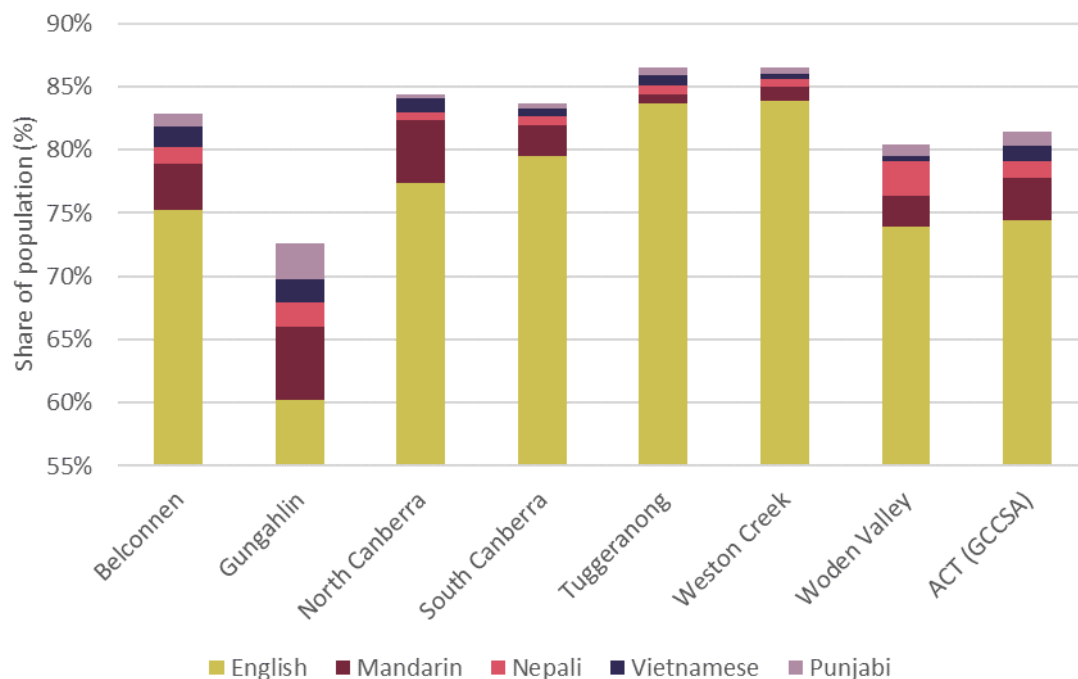
Source: ABS, 2021.

In the ACT, the most spoken languages at home as documented in the 2021 ABS Census were English (74 per cent), Mandarin (three per cent), Nepali (one per cent), Vietnamese (one per cent) and Punjabi (one per cent).

Gungahlin had a higher percentage of residents who spoke a language other than English at home (40 per cent) compared to the ACT (26 per cent). Mandarin was spoken by six per cent of people, while three per cent of people spoke Vietnamese.

Across the ACT, 212 languages were spoken by residents in 2021. South Canberra was the least linguistically diverse, with its population speaking a total of 101 different languages at home, followed by Weston Creek (107). On the upper end, Belconnen residents spoke 153 languages and Gungahlin residents spoke 145 languages. Table 2 provides a district breakdown of the five most spoken languages by district.

Figure 7: Top five languages spoken at home in the ACT, by district



Source: ABS, 2021. Note, this excludes responses that were inadequately described, not stated and not applicable.

Table 2: Top five languages spoken in each district

| District       | % other than English | Top 5 languages |               |                 |                 |                                     |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Belconnen      | 25%                  | English (75%)   | Mandarin (4%) | Vietnamese (2%) | Nepali (1%)     | Spanish (1%)                        |
| Gungahlin      | 40%                  | English (60%)   | Mandarin (6%) | Punjabi (3%)    | Hindi (2%)      | Urdu (2%)                           |
| North Canberra | 23%                  | English (77%)   | Mandarin (5%) | Vietnamese (1%) | Cantonese (1%)  | Spanish (1%)                        |
| South Canberra | 20%                  | English (80%)   | Mandarin (2%) | French (2%)     | Italian (1%)    | Greek (1%)                          |
| Tuggeranong    | 16%                  | English (84%)   | Arabic (1%)   | Malayalam (1%)  | Spanish (1%)    | Vietnamese (1%)                     |
| Weston Creek   | 16%                  | English (84%)   | Mandarin (1%) | Italian (1%)    | Malayalam (1%)  | French (1%)                         |
| Woden Valley   | 26%                  | English (74%)   | Nepali (3%)   | Mandarin (2%)   | Malayalam (1%)  | Other Southern Asian Languages (1%) |
| ACT            | 26%                  | English (74%)   | Mandarin (3%) | Nepali (1%)     | Vietnamese (1%) | Punjabi (1%)                        |

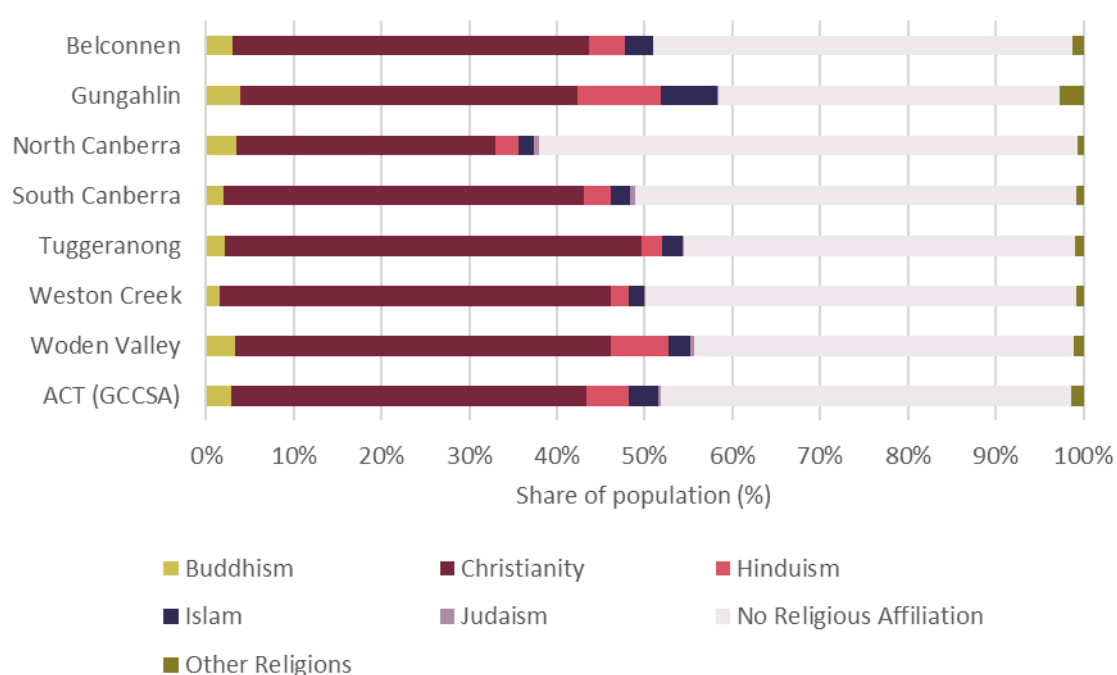
Source: ABS, 2021.



In the 2021 ABS Census, just less than half of the ACT population (47 per cent) indicated that they did not have any religious affiliation or that they had secular or other spiritual beliefs. The most common religion was Christianity (40 per cent), followed by Hinduism (five per cent), Buddhism (three per cent) and Islam (three per cent).

Across almost all of the districts, most people either had no religious affiliation or secular or spiritual beliefs. North Canberra had the highest proportion, at 61 per cent. There was only a higher percentage of Christians (48 per cent) than people who had no religious affiliation or secular or spiritual beliefs in Tuggeranong (45 per cent). Christians and people who had no religious affiliation or secular or spiritual beliefs were equally represented in Gungahlin (39 per cent) as well as in Woden Valley (43 per cent).

**Figure 8: Religious affiliation by district**

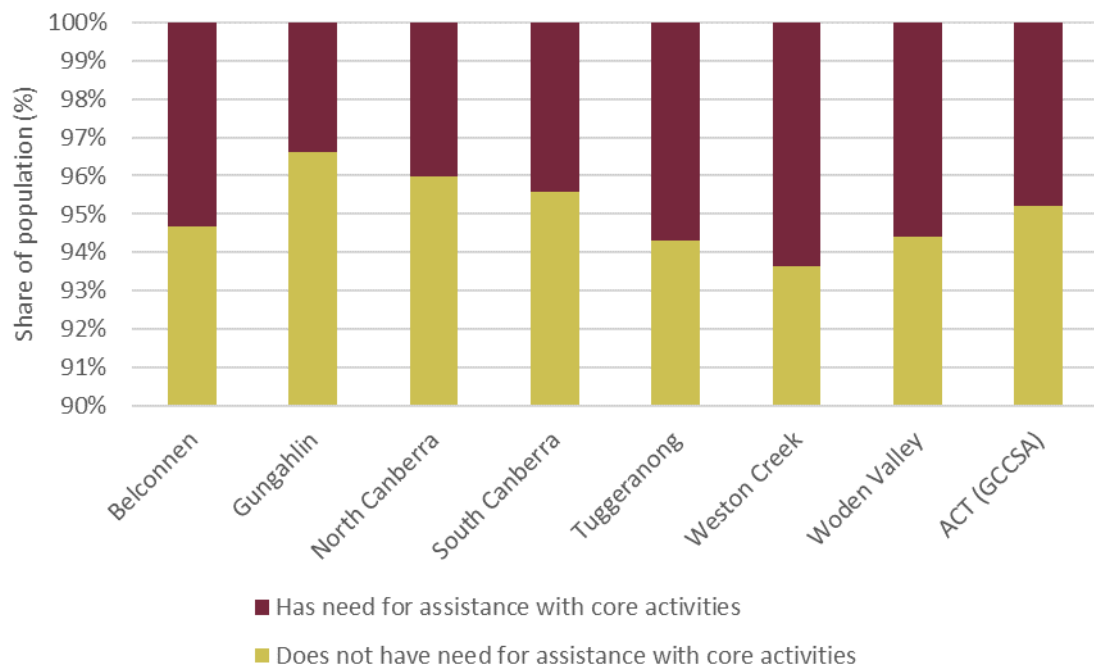


Source: ABS, 2021. Note, this excludes responses that were inadequately described and not stated. No religious affiliation also includes secular beliefs and other spiritual beliefs.

### Level of disability

According to the 2021 ABS Census, around five percent of the ACT population had a need for assistance with core activities. Only Gungahlin (three per cent), North Canberra (four per cent) and South Canberra (four per cent) had a relatively lower need for assistance, with some of the districts with generally older populations such as Weston Creek seeing a larger share.

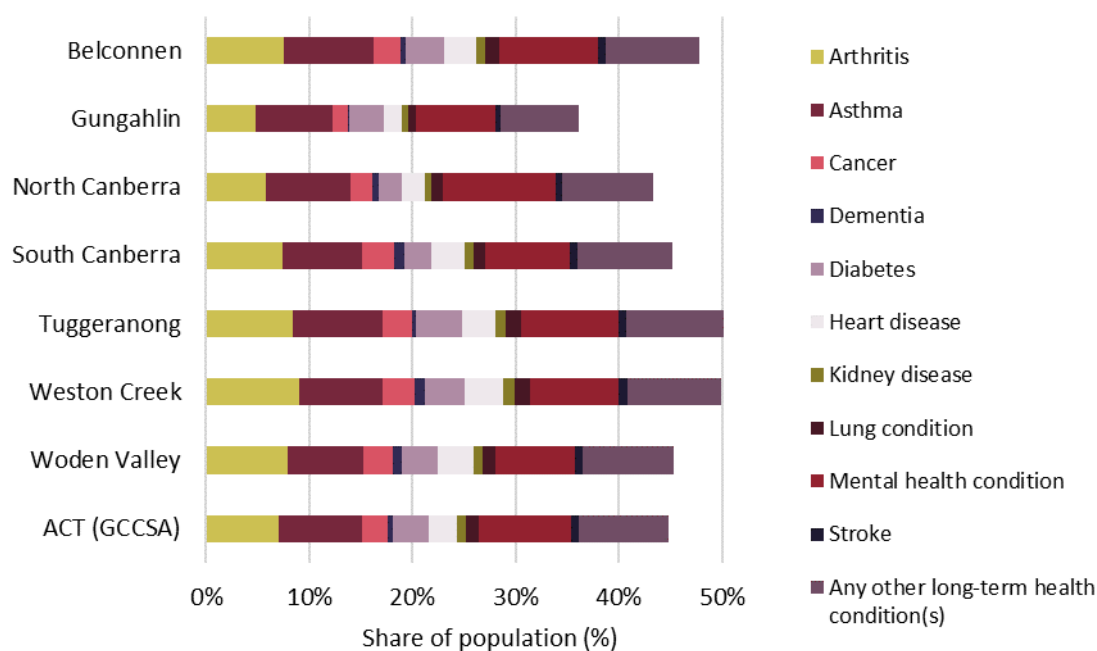
**Figure 9: Need for assistance by district**



Source: ABS, 2021.

The most common long-term health conditions identified in the ACT were mental health conditions, arthritis, asthma, and other long-term health conditions. The proportional breakdown of long-term health conditions across the district were similar, with Tuggeranong and Weston Creek seeing around 50 per cent of the population with some form of health condition. Gungahlin has a noticeably lower share of the population with a condition, likely influenced by its overall younger population.

Figure 10: Long-term health conditions



Source: ABS, 2021.<sup>3</sup>

#### Level of socioeconomic status (SEIFA)

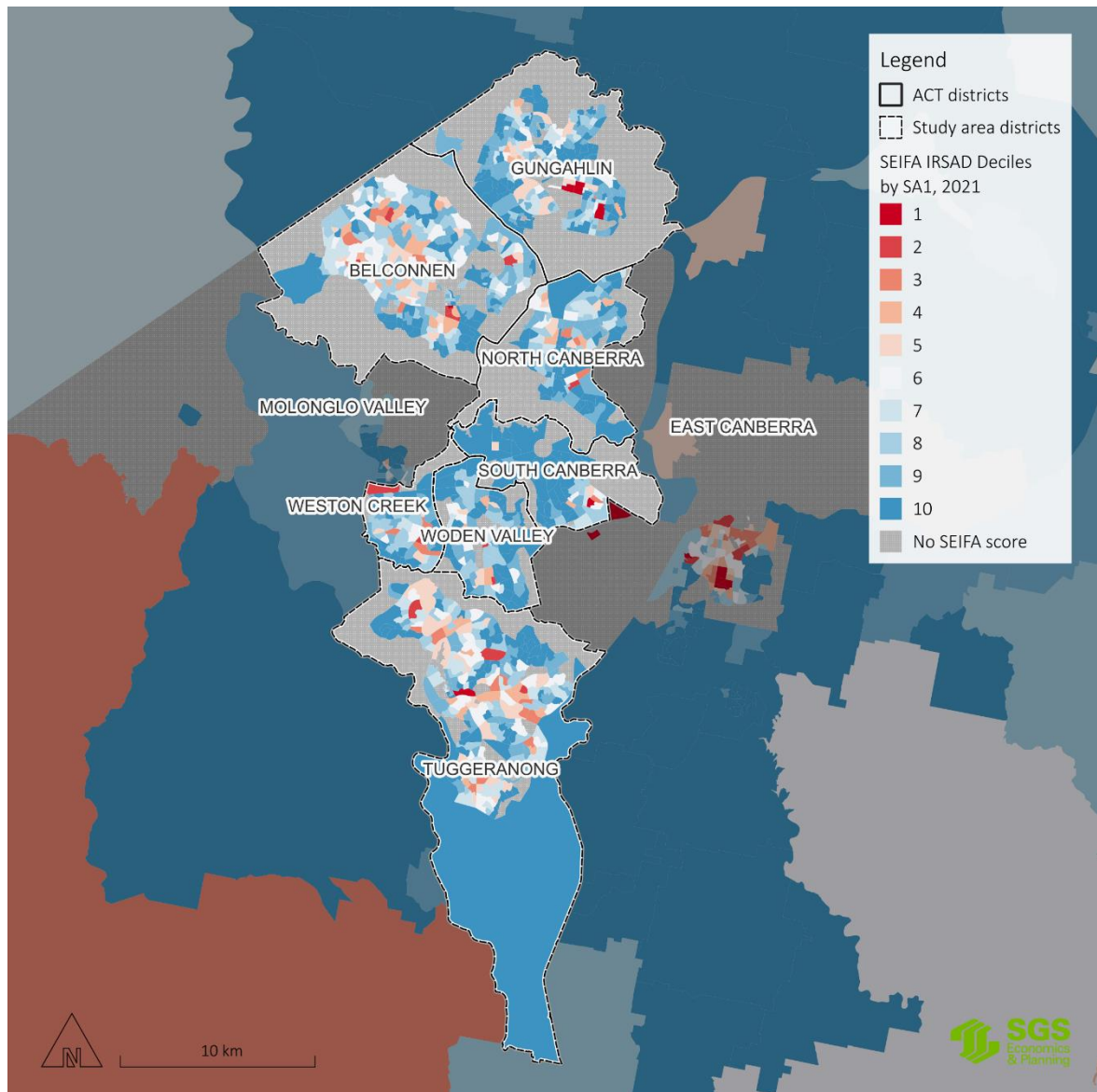
Figure 11 below shows the relative socio-economic status of the ACT in 2021 using the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) at the Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) geography. The SA1s are divided into deciles, with a decile of one (red) being the most disadvantaged, and ten, the most advantaged (blue).<sup>4</sup>

In 2021, the ACT had a mix of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. In the central parts of the ACT, such as the North Canberra and South Canberra districts, there were high levels of socio-economic advantage, though with pockets of relative disadvantage. Suburbs in Tuggeranong and Belconnen were generally more disadvantaged socio-economically compared to the other districts, particularly in some of the outer suburban areas. Some parts of Gungahlin also show as disadvantaged (though this is skewed by some of these areas being recently developed with very low populations as of the Census, such as Jacka).

<sup>3</sup> Cancer includes remission; dementia includes Alzheimer's; diabetes excludes gestational diabetes; heart disease includes heart attack or angina; lung condition includes COPD or emphysema; mental health condition includes depression or anxiety.

<sup>4</sup> Due to confidentiality, some areas were not given a SEIFA score by the ABS.

**Figure 11: Level of socio-economic advantage (ISRAD) by SA1**

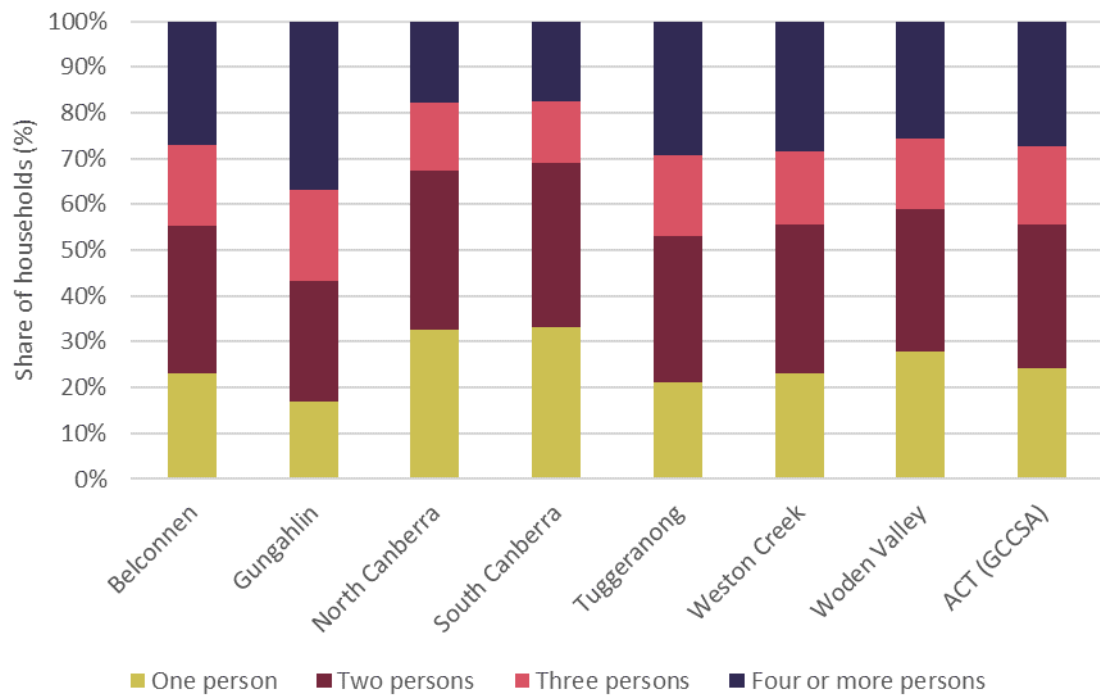


Source: ABS, 2021.

### Household size

In the ACT, many households were small as of 2021, with only one or two people per household. On average, ACT households were comprised of 2.5 people. Gungahlin has a significantly higher percentage of three person households (20 per cent) and four or more persons households (37 per cent).

**Figure 12: Household size by district**



Source: ABS, 2021.

The average household size in each district in 2021 is provided in Table 3 below, compared to the average across the ACT. Gungahlin had the largest average household size at 2.9 persons per household (reflecting its status as a growth area which tend to have more detached dwellings and larger households), while North Canberra and South Canberra respectively had the smallest average at 2.2.

**Table 3: Average household sizes in each district**

| District       | Average household size |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Belconnen      | 2.5                    |
| Gungahlin      | 2.9                    |
| North Canberra | 2.2                    |
| South Canberra | 2.2                    |
| Tuggeranong    | 2.6                    |
| Weston Creek   | 2.6                    |
| Woden Valley   | 2.4                    |
| ACT            | 2.5                    |

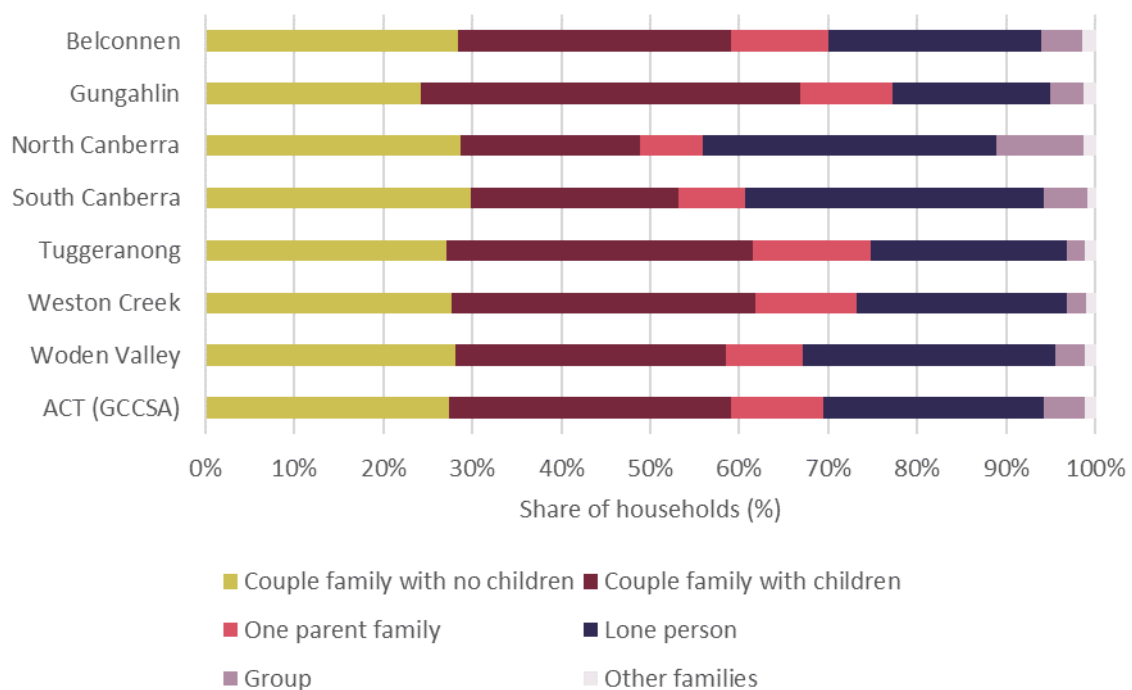
Source: ABS QuickStats, 2021.

## Household composition

The 2021 ABS Census shows that overall in the ACT, over 50 per cent of households were made up of couple families either with or without children, with lone person households also representing a substantial share.

North Canberra had a significantly smaller percentage of couple families with children (23 per cent), and a large percentage of group households (10 per cent) and lone person households (33 per cent) – influenced somewhat by the district’s proximity to the ACT’s university campuses. South Canberra had the largest percentage of lone person households (34 per cent - almost double that of Gungahlin’s at 18 per cent), likely influenced by an older age profile in the population. Gungahlin, on the other hand, had the highest percentage of couple families with children (43 per cent), reflecting its development as a growth area.

**Figure 13: Household composition by district**



Source: ABS, 2021. Note, this excludes multiple family households, visitors only households, other non-classifiable households and not applicable responses.

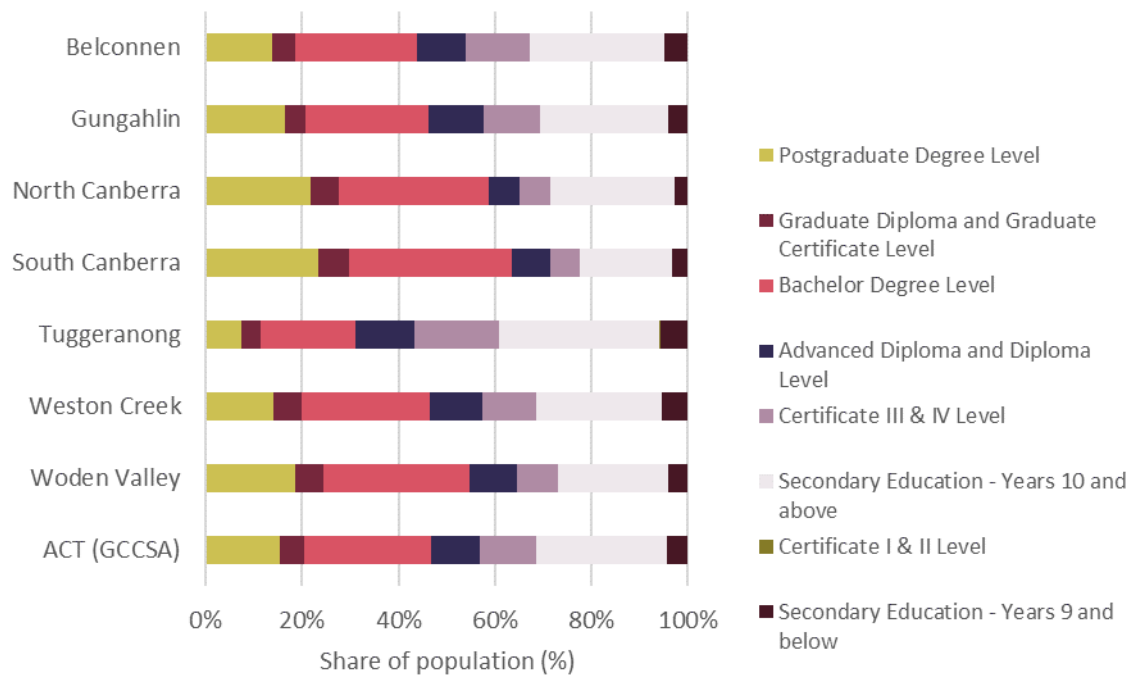
## Level of education

At the time of the 2021 ABS Census, 33 per cent of the ACT’s population aged 15 years and over did not pursue further education beyond Year 12. Around 26 per cent of residents had a bachelor’s degree, while 15 per cent had a postgraduate degree – in total, 68 per cent of residents has some form of post-school qualification.

Tuggeranong had a significantly smaller percentage of people whose qualifications were at the postgraduate degree level (seven per cent) compared to the other districts. Around 39 per cent of its

residents had secondary school as their highest level of educational attainment, and 18 per cent of residents had Certificate III and IV qualifications, representing the highest shares among the districts. South Canberra had the highest percentage of residents with a graduate diploma and graduate certificate (seven per cent), bachelor's degree (34 per cent) and postgraduate degree (23 per cent).

**Figure 14: Level of highest educational attainment by district**



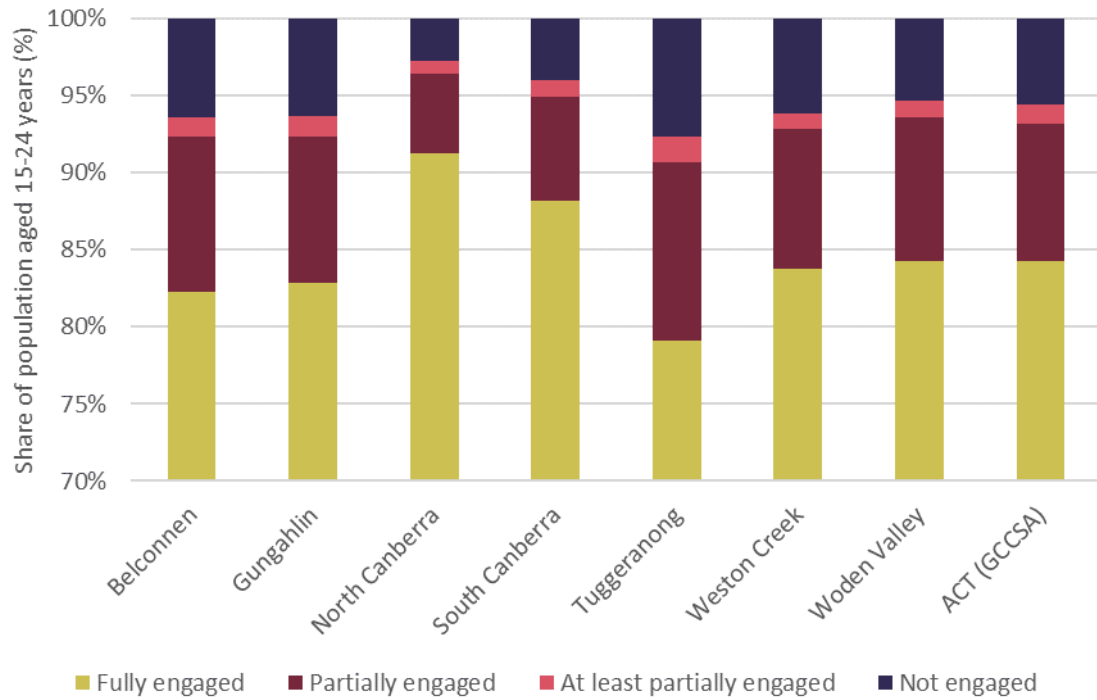
Source: ABS, 2021.

### Youth disengagement

Around 84 per cent of those in the youth age bracket (aged 15-24 years) in the ACT were fully engaged with employment and/or education as of the 2021 ABS Census.

A comparison of youth engagement across district demonstrates that Tuggeranong had lower youth engagement, with 79 per cent fully engaged and nine per cent not engaged. North Canberra had the highest rates of full engagement (91 per cent of youths fully engaged).

**Figure 15: Youth disengagement by district**



Source: ABS, 2021.

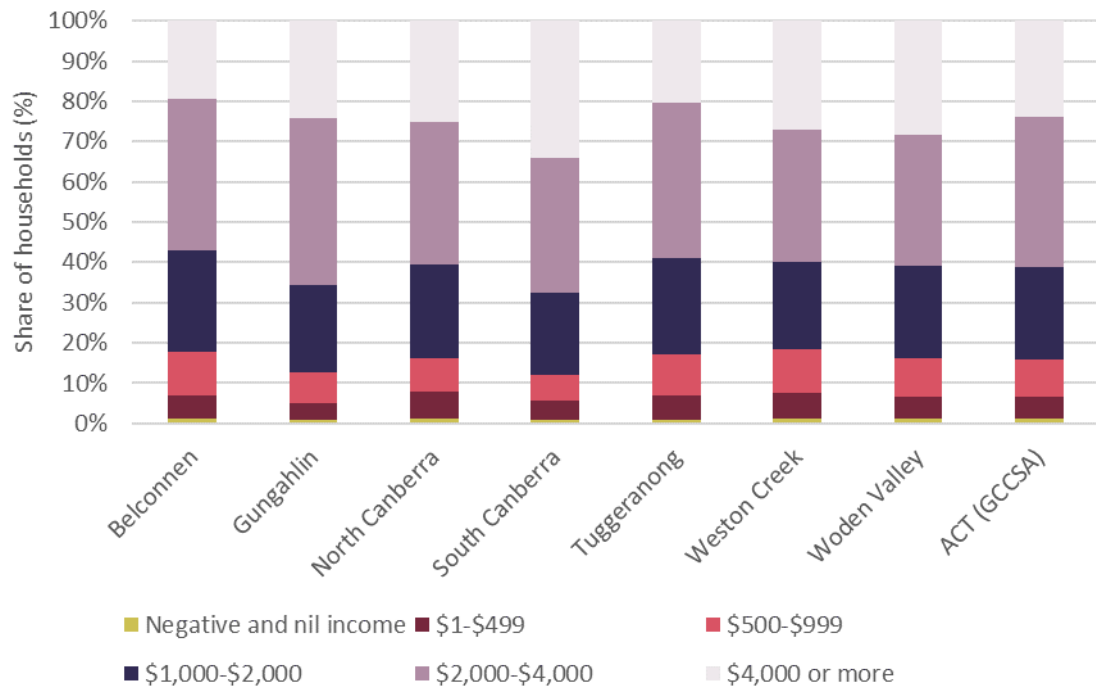
### Household incomes

As of 2021, the majority of households in the ACT reported a weekly income above \$2,000, with around 33 per cent in the \$2,000-\$4,000 bracket, and 28 per cent at \$4,000 or more, as shown in Figure 16 below.

Relative to the ACT (28 per cent), southern Canberra had a higher proportion of households earning \$4,000 or more (34 per cent), while Tuggeranong has the smallest share of households earning this amount. Weekly incomes of less than \$500 were most common among households in North Canberra. This is also reflected in the median incomes of each district,



Figure 16: Weekly household income by district



Source: ABS, 2021.

Table 4: Median household income by district

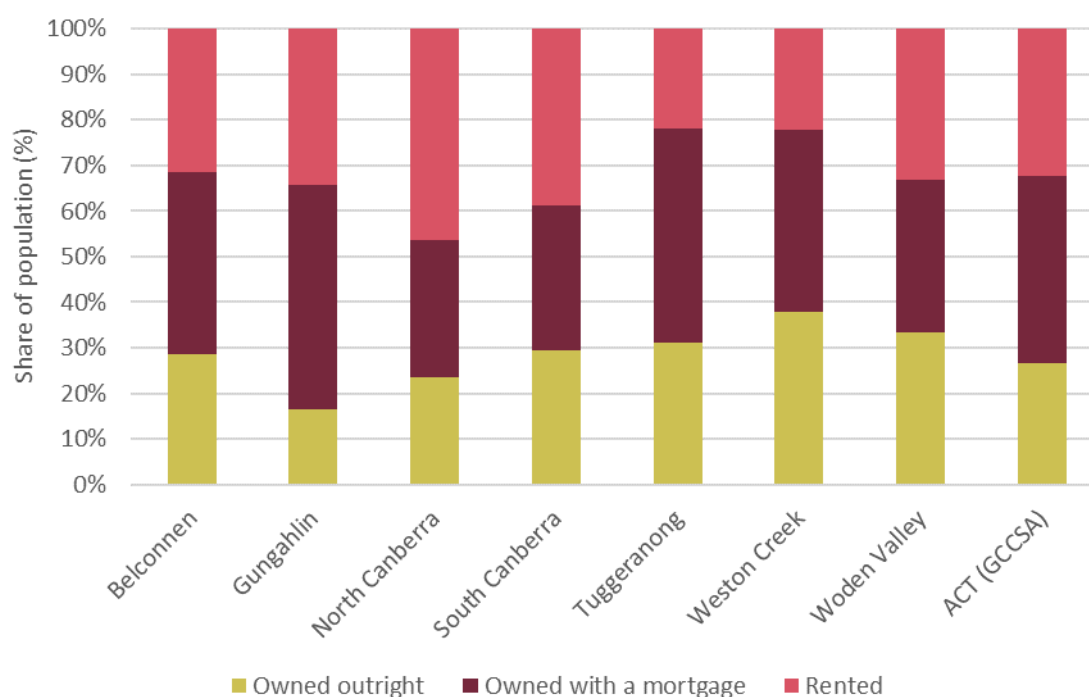
| District       | Median household income |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Belconnen      | \$2,227                 |
| Gungahlin      | \$2,537                 |
| North Canberra | \$2,341                 |
| South Canberra | \$2,711                 |
| Tuggeranong    | \$2,305                 |
| Weston Creek   | \$2,377                 |
| Woden Valley   | \$2,375                 |
| <b>ACT</b>     | <b>\$2,373</b>          |

Source: ABS QuickStats, 2021.

## Housing tenure

At the time of the 2021 ABS Census, the most common form of housing tenure in the ACT was ownership with a mortgage (41 per cent), followed by outright ownership (32 per cent). The North Canberra district had the largest share of households that were renting, linked in part to the district's proximity to university campuses (Figure 17). Weston Creek and Woden had the highest shares of households owning their dwellings outright, likely to be influenced by some of the older demographics in these areas.

**Figure 17: Housing tenure by district**



Source: ABS, 2021.

As of the Census, around six per cent of households in the ACT were renting through social housing (either public housing provided by the State or through a community housing provider). The highest shares of these households were in North Canberra and Weston Creek (at around seven per cent), and around four per cent in the other districts.

Most households across the ACT lived in separate houses at the time of the 2021 ABS Census, however, the predominant dwelling types differed between districts. North Canberra and South Canberra have higher shares of apartment dwellings and consequently lower shares of detached houses compared to the other districts. The older outer suburban areas like Tuggeranong and Weston Creek have the highest shares of detached housing, while Gungahlin, as the most recent ACT growth area, has a lower share in comparison, reflective of policy shifts focusing on delivering more diverse housing types.

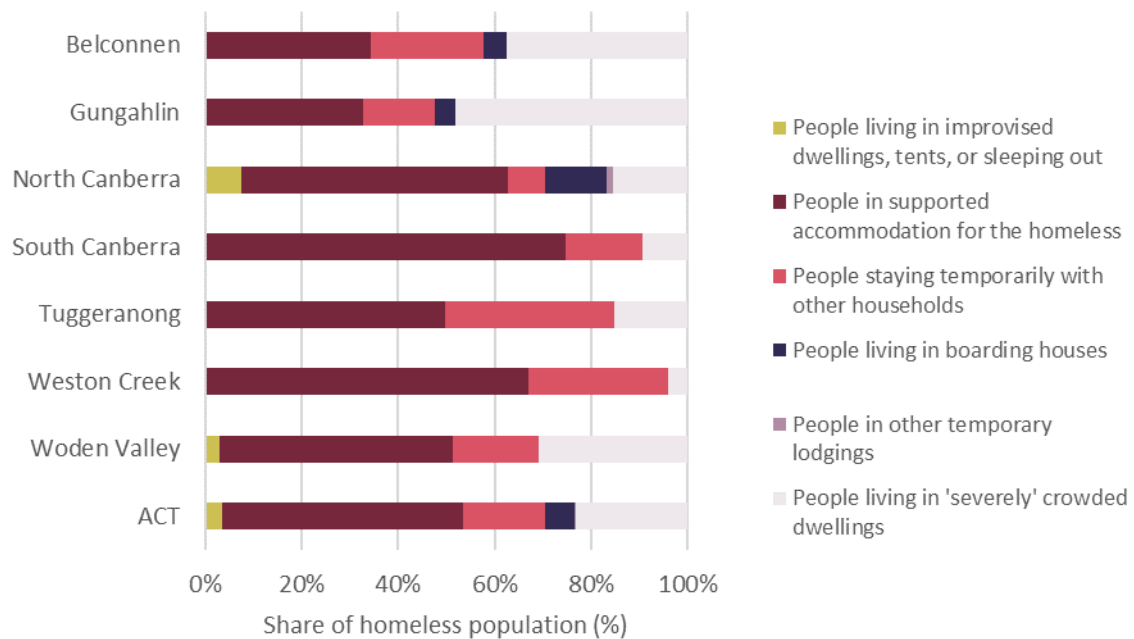
**Figure 18: Dwelling type by district**



Source: ABS, 2021.

As of the Census, around 1,600 people in the ACT were recorded as being homeless, with the largest share (around 36 per cent) being in North Canberra. The types of accommodation the homeless population stayed at varied between the districts, as shown in Figure 19, with supported accommodated being the most common. Around 13 per cent of North Canberra's homeless population were recorded as living in boarding houses, which was more than double the share across the ACT (six per cent – likely linked to these services being concentrated in the Inner North).

**Figure 19: Homelessness by district**



Source: ABS, 2021. Note, numbers have been randomly adjusted for confidentiality purposes and may not be accurate.

### Housing stress

As of the time of the Census, across the ACT around 23 per cent of renting households and nine per cent of households with a mortgage were spending more than 30 per cent of their incomes on housing – an indicator of housing stress (see Table 5).

This picture of housing stress is likely to have shifted considerably in the time since the Census, with continued growth in housing prices and rents, interest rate increases, and other inflationary pressures in the wider economy.

**Table 5: Shares of rental and mortgage stress by district**

| District       | Renter households paying more than 30% of income | Households with a mortgage paying more than 30% of income |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Belconnen      | 25.0%                                            | 9.2%                                                      |
| Gungahlin      | 21.9%                                            | 10.7%                                                     |
| North Canberra | 24.2%                                            | 8.8%                                                      |
| South Canberra | 20.3%                                            | 10.1%                                                     |
| Tuggeranong    | 23.9%                                            | 9.4%                                                      |
| Weston Creek   | 22.6%                                            | 7.5%                                                      |
| Woden Valley   | 19.4%                                            | 8.3%                                                      |
| <b>ACT</b>     | <b>23.0%</b>                                     | <b>9.4%</b>                                               |

Source: ABS QuickStats, 2021.

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