

Gascoyne FAST FACTS

2017

Population

With a population of approximately 10,000 people in 2015, the Gascoyne has the lowest estimated resident population of all the regions in Western Australia.

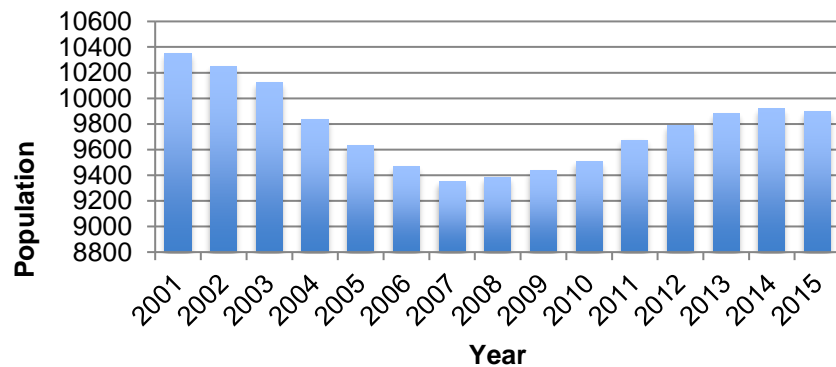


Figure 1: Estimated Gascoyne Resident Population 2001 – 2015 (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)).

As illustrated in figure 1, since 2001 the Gascoyne has exhibited significant depopulation, experiencing a net 4.3% decrease. Although there has been notable population growth between the years 2007 and 2014 (6.1%), the Gascoyne has experienced a recent 0.2% population decrease between 2014 and 2015.

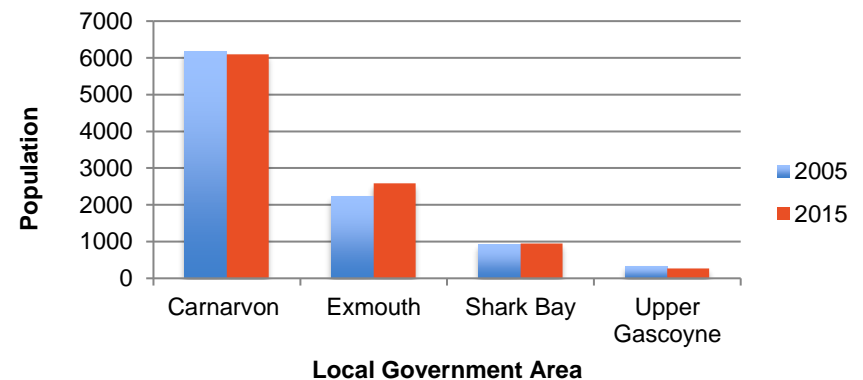


Figure 2: Estimated Resident Population for the Gascoyne's Local Government Areas (source: ABS).

The Shire of Carnarvon is the most populated of the Gascoyne's 4 local government areas with a population of just over 6,000 in 2015. As displayed in figure 2, the population in the Shire of Carnarvon has remained fairly static between 2005 and 2015.

- The greatest local population increase from 2005 to 2015 was in the Shire of **Exmouth (15.9%)**.
- The local government area experiencing the greatest population decrease from 2005 to 2015 was the Shire of **Upper Gascoyne (-20.5%)**.
- **Shark Bay** has experienced recent (2014 – 2015) population growth (**1.4%**), greater than the growth for **Western Australia (1.3%)** for the same time period.

In 2011, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up approximately 14.8% of the Gascoyne's population, which is significantly higher than the 3.1% that makes up the Western Australian population. The Shires of Upper Gascoyne (56.2%) and Carnarvon (19.2%) had the greatest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.

Age Structure

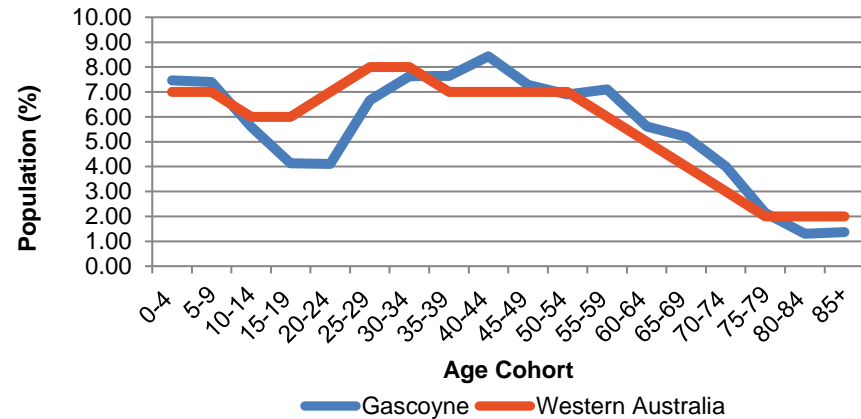


Figure 3: 2015 Age profiles for the Gascoyne region and Western Australia (source: ABS).

As highlighted in figure 3, the Gascoyne has a slightly greater representation of residents aged 0 – 9, making up 14.9% of the total population compared to the 14% that makes up Western Australia's. This is indicative of a greater presence of younger families in the Gascoyne region.

- There is a significant underrepresentation of the younger working class demographic (aged 15 – 29), possibly due to outmigration as the younger working-class residents seek greater education and employment prospects.
- The demography is skewed towards the older working class (aged 55 – 69).

Although there appears to be an underrepresentation of the population aged 80 and over in the Gascoyne, between 2011 and 2015, the proportion of residents aged 80 and over increased by 9.7%.

Significant depopulation by age cohort between 2011 and 2015 included:

- The proportion of residents aged 10-14 years decreased by 1.7%
- The proportion of residents aged 60 – 64 decreased by 1.6%.

Unemployment and Labour Force

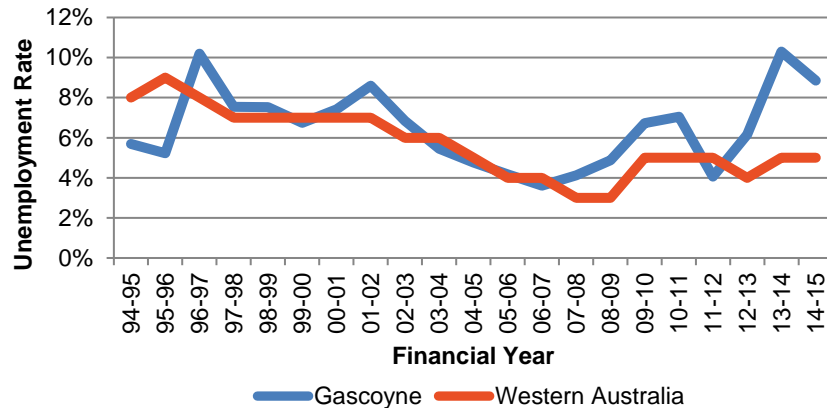


Figure 4: Unemployment Rate 1994 – 2015 (source: Department of Employment; ABS & DRD).

As illustrated in figure 4, unemployment rates in the Gascoyne have remained slightly above Western Australia's. Since 2011/12 unemployment rates in the Gascoyne have significantly risen, peaking at 10.3% in 2013/14. The unemployment rate has dropped to 8.9% in 2014/15, however is still the second highest in the State after the Kimberley region.

- Kimberley – 12.9%
- Gascoyne – 8.9%
- Peel – 7.4%
- Mid West – 7.1%
- Goldfields-Esperance – 5.3%

- South West – 4.3%
- Great Southern – 3.7%
- Wheatbelt – 3.7%
- Pilbara – 3.1%

Although the Gascoyne has the smallest regional labour force of the State's nine regions, between 2010/11 and 2014/15, the Gascoyne's labour force increased by 13.5%. In 2014/15, the local government areas made the following contributions to the Gascoyne's labour force:

- Shire of Carnarvon – 60.1%
- Shire of Exmouth – 27.1%
- Shire of Shark Bay – 9.9%
- Shire of Upper Gascoyne – 2.9%.

Economy

The estimated Gross Regional Product of the Gascoyne in 2014/15 was \$775 million, representing 0.3% of the Gross State Product. This gives the Gascoyne's GRP an average annual growth rate of 8.1% between 2004/05 and 2014/15.

The top four industry share contributions to Gascoyne GRP in 2014/15 were:

- Mining 16.2%
- Construction 16.1%
- Transport, postal and warehousing 11.0%
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing 8.1%.

The following sectors experienced the greatest industry share average annual growth rate between 2012/13 and 2014/15:

- Construction (1.4%)
- Transport, postal and warehousing (1.4%)

- Public administration and admin (1.1%).

It is also notable that despite national consolidation of the agriculture, forestry and fishing (AFF) sector, the AFF industry share contribution to Gascoyne GRP increased by 1.4% from 2012/13 to 2014/15.

Mining

In 2014/15 the Gascoyne generated approximately \$133 million in mineral production. As highlighted in figure 5, the value of mining in the region has increased significantly since 2007/08, experiencing a 113% increase. The local government areas with the highest contribution to this sector in 2014/15 in the Gascoyne include:

- Shire of Carnarvon (64%; \$84.4 million)
- Shire of Shark Bay (36%; \$47.5 million).

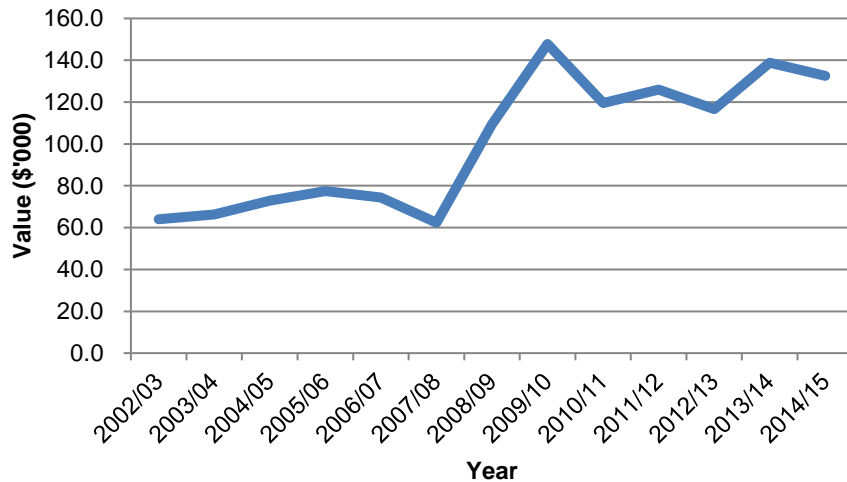


Figure 5: Value of Mineral Production in the Gascoyne 2002/03-2014/15 (source: Department of Mining and Petroleum).

Building and Construction

In 2015/16 the Gascoyne generated approximately \$29 million in residential building approvals, making up 0.4% of the total residential approval value in Western Australia.

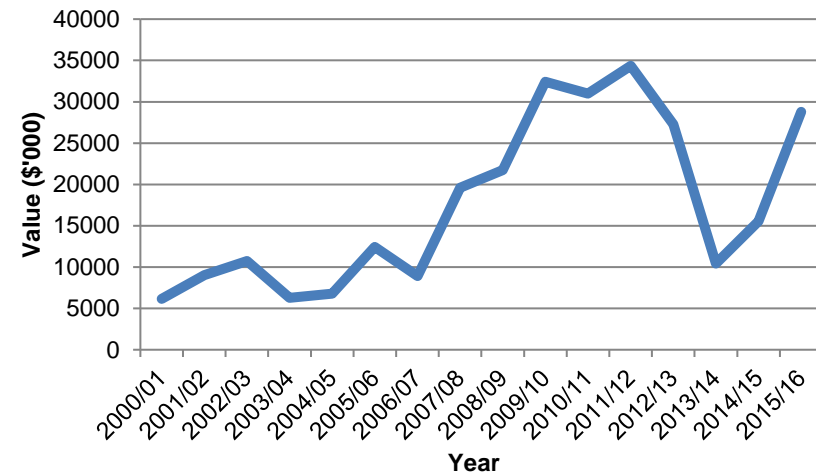


Figure 6: Value of Residential Building Approvals in the Gascoyne 2000/01 – 2015/16 (source: ABS and DRD).

As illustrated in figure 6, residential building approvals in the Gascoyne have historically fluctuated, declining significantly since 2011/12. This is consistent with the economic down turn following the GFC and the general statewide trend of building decline at that time. Building activity has since made a significant recovery (2013/14 to 2015/16), consistent with the increasing construction industry share contribution to Gascoyne GRP (refer to Economy).

According to the Department of Training and Workforce Development, high rates of residential building approvals indicate strong economic performance as well as highlight future potential population growth. Between 2013/14 and 2015/16, the value of building approvals in the Gascoyne increased by 176%, revealing the Gascoyne’s capacity for future growth.

The local government area’s share to Gascoyne residential building

value in 2015/16 were:

- Shire of Exmouth – 43.7%
- Shire of Carnarvon – 36.7%
- Shire of Upper Gascoyne – 15.1%
- Shire of Shark Bay – 4.5%.

Tourism

At an industry value of \$223 million in 2014, the Gascoyne’s tourism industry is the region’s most valuable sector. In 2014, a much greater proportion (approximately 76%) of visitors (approximately 348,173) to the Shires of Carnarvon, Exmouth and Shark Bay were domestic with only 24% international. The top international markets were to Germany and the United Kingdom.

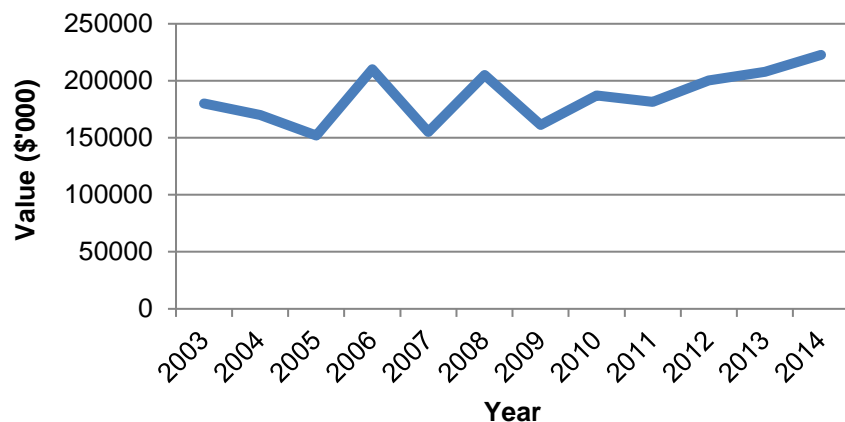


Figure 7: Estimated Production Value of the Gascoyne’s Tourism Industry 2003 – 2014 (source: Tourism WA).

As displayed in figure 7, the tourism production value has experienced a steady increase from 2011 – 2014 (22.8%). As the

Gascoyne continues to capitalise on the region’s abundance of natural amenity and beautiful landscapes, the Department of Training and Workforce Development predicts that the tourism sector will remain as one of the region’s leading growth industries.

According to Tourism WA, the Shire of Carnarvon experienced the most visitors in 2014, followed by the Shire of Exmouth and the Shire of Shark Bay.

Agriculture

Horticulture

In 2015 the Gascoyne’s horticultural industry had an industry value of \$72 million and produced 38,242 tonnes of fruit and vegetables.

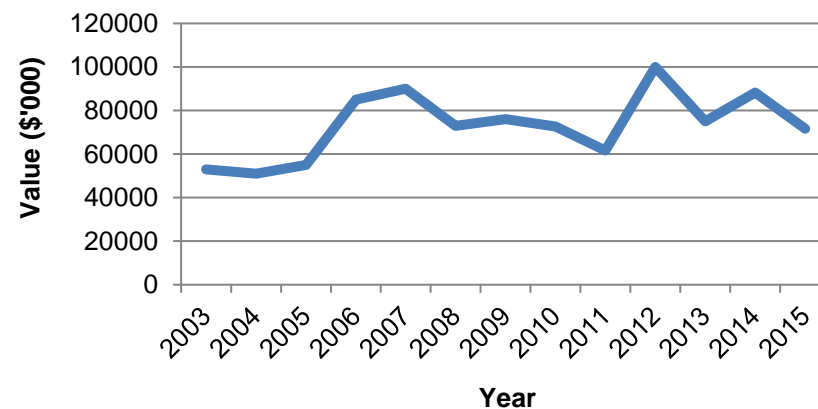


Figure 8: Gascoyne Horticultural Production Industry Value (2003 – 2015) (source: Department of Agriculture and Food WA).

Figure 8 highlights the increase in horticultural activity following 2011. After peaking in 2012, the Gascoyne’s horticultural industry

experienced a period of decline (2012 – 2013). Production value recovered in 2014, however, severe Topical Cyclone Olwyn (2015), which hit Carnarvon’s horticultural precinct, destroyed large quantities of crops, hence leading to a decline in horticultural production value in 2015.

The highest value commodities in 2015 were:

- Tomatoes (9,445 tonnes; \$13M)
- Cherry tomatoes (3800 tonnes; \$12M)
- Capsicums (excluding chillies) (2187 tonnes; \$8M)
- Melons (9101 tonnes; \$8M)
- Grapes (1102 tonnes; \$4M).

The Gascoyne’s horticulture sector significantly contributes to Western Australia’s total production value of (2011/12):

- Bananas (99.5%)
- Capsicums (excluding chillies) (62.0%)
- Mangoes (47.4%)
- Tomatoes (43.5%)
- Melons (25%).

Pastoral

The Gascoyne’s pastoral industry value was approximately \$30 million in 2014.

In 2011/12:

- The total value of livestock slaughtered and other disposals made up 2% of Western Australia’s.
- The total value of wool production in the Gascoyne made up 0.9% of Western Australia’s.

Fishing and Aquaculture

In 2014/15 fishing in the Gascoyne generated approximately \$43 million, contributing 9% to Western Australia’s total fishing industry value. This was the third highest regional contribution to State fishing after the Mid West and the Wheatbelt.

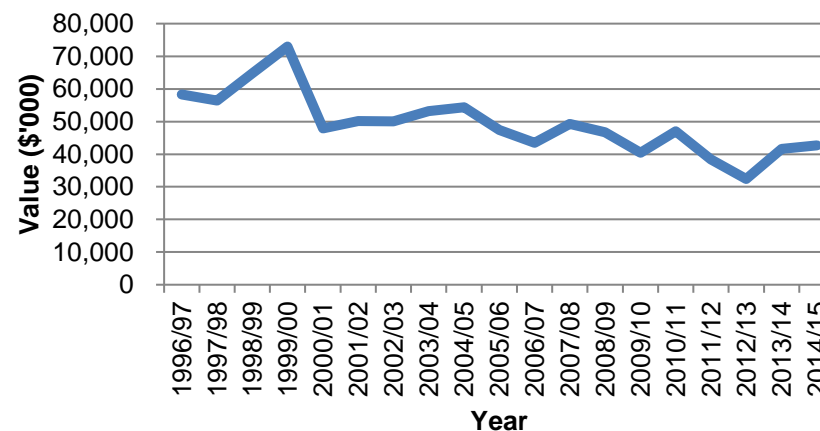


Figure 9: Estimated Value of the Gascoyne’s Fishing Industry 1996/97 – 2014/15 (source: Department of Fisheries).

As illustrated in figure 9, the Gascoyne’s fishing industry has experienced a net decline (1996/97 – 2014/15), however recent trends reveal an increase (2013/13 – 2014/15) of 31.8%. Prawns constitute the greatest catch by weight and value (2489 tonnes; 74% of industry value), followed by fish and then crabs.

The Gascoyne’s aquaculture industry makes up 8.5% of Western Australia’s value, again, the third highest regional contribution (after the Kimberley and Pilbara). This is attributed to the high value product of pearls (maxima), contributing 98% of the Gascoyne’s aquaculture production in 2014/15.

Income

The median annual personal income in 2013 for the Gascoyne region was approximately \$46,500. This was above the Great Southern, Wheatbelt and South West regions, however was still significantly lower than the State and National Values (\$53,500 and \$48,000 respectively).

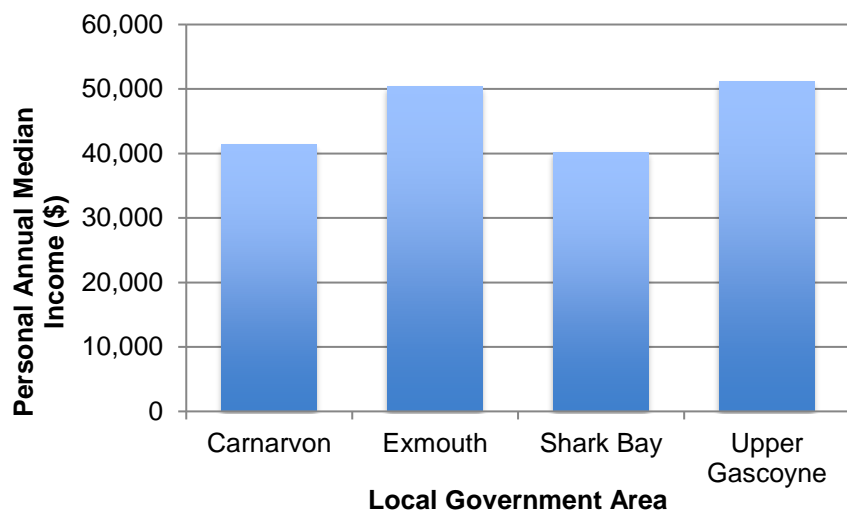


Figure 10: Median Annual Personal Income in 2013 by the Gascoyne's Local Government Areas (source: ABS).

As figure 10 illustrates, the Shires of Carnarvon and Shark Bay both have significantly low median incomes, whilst the Shires of Exmouth and the Upper Gascoyne have comparatively greater median incomes. In 2013, the Shires of both Exmouth and the Upper Gascoyne had greater personal median incomes than Australia.

Education

The Gascoyne has 8 schools with a student population of 1606 in 2017.

School Name	Classification	Year Groups	Total Students
Carnarvon Christian School (Inc)	Non-government	K-06	132
Carnarvon Community College	K-12 Schools	K-12	540
Carnarvon School of the Air	Distance Education	K-06	43
Exmouth District High School	District High Schools	K-12	474
Gascoyne Junction Remote Community School	Primary Schools	PPR-06	8
Shark Bay School	Primary Schools	K-12	94
St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic School	Non-government	K-10	299
Useless Loop Primary School	Primary Schools	K-05	16

Table 1: Summary of Gascoyne Schools 2017 (source: Department of Education).

In 2015, attendance rates ranged from 66.3%(Gascoyne Junction Remote Community School) to 93.5% (Useless Loop Primary School). A total of five of the Gascoyne's 8 schools had attendance rates lower than Western Australia (92.7%).

In 2016, only two schools in the Gascoyne region scored above the average Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage¹. These were the Carnarvon School of the Air and the Exmouth District High School. Gascoyne Junction Remote Community College scored significantly below the average, representing educational disadvantaged backgrounds for students in the area.

Regional and state discrepancies regarding the proportion of students completing year 12 can be attributed to a high number of students migrating to urban areas to pursue their education. All four of the Gascoyne's Shires had significantly lower proportions of students completing year 12 when compared to Western Australia (82%) in 2011:

- Exmouth – 45.2%
- Shark Bay – 39.9%
- Carnarvon – 38.9%
- Upper Gascoyne – 29.3%.

Exmouth District High school experienced a significant increase in the median ATAR score from 2015 (72.8) to 2016 (88.85). The 2016 ATAR score was 8 points higher than the State's (80.85).

Health

Under the Royalties for Regions Gascoyne Revitalisation Plan, in 2016, the Carnarvon Health Campus and Exmouth Health Service both received facility upgrades valued at \$26.8 million and \$8.1 million respectively. The redevelopments came to fruition due to the increasing demands of inpatient activity, bed days and medical assistance and now provide multi-purpose health services. The Gascoyne is now better equipped to cater for the health needs of the region.

¹ Determined by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority. See My School for further information.

Youth

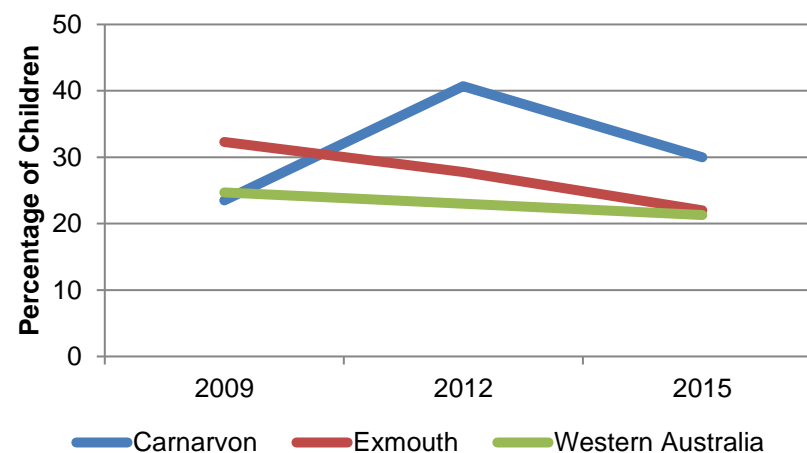


Figure 11: Proportion of Children vulnerable (2015) in one or more domains (source: Australian Early Development Census).

Carnarvon has a significantly higher percentage of vulnerable children², across nearly all domains, when compared to Exmouth and Western Australia (figure 11). Exmouth had lower proportions of vulnerable children compared to WA in emotional maturity (4.9%) and communication skills and general knowledge (7.3%).

- As displayed in figure 11, the percentage of vulnerable children (in one or more domains) is decreasing (2012 - 2015) in Carnarvon and Exmouth.
- In 2015, the Shires of Upper Gascoyne (8.8%) and Exmouth (2.3%) had the highest proportion of single parents under the age of 25, higher than the State (1.5%).

² The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) determines vulnerable children under the following domains: physical health, social competence, emotional

- In the Mid West health region (encompassing the Gascoyne health district), a lower proportion of Aboriginal children had been vaccinated when compared to non-Aboriginal children.

Adults

- Between 2008 and 2012, the total number of alcohol related hospitalisations in Carnarvon increased by 9.2%.
- In 2012/13, the proportion of drug treatments in Carnarvon for meth/amphetamines and opioids were lower than the State. However, the proportions of alcohol and cannabinoids treatments were higher.
- Between 1997 and 2007, 66% of mortalities in the Gascoyne region were classified as avoidable through screening, primary health care and surgery.
- Prevalence rates of mortality from endocrine disorders and injury poisoning were higher than the State for males.
- Prevalence rates of mortality from diseases of the respiratory system were higher than the State for females.
- In 2008/09, 5% of total hospitalisations were due to mental and behavioural disorders.

Aged

Consistent with national trends, the Gascoyne region is transitioning into an ageing demographic. Further, the ABS predicts that by 2021, the number of people with a disability will increase by over 210,000. This places added pressure on health and aged care facilities as health conditions such as chronic disease, dementia and cancers become more prevalent.

To cater for these new pressures, construction of a \$16.58 million, 38-bed residential aged care facility is on track to be located at the

maturity, language and cognitive skills and communication and general knowledge

Carnarvon Health Campus.

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