



ACT Government

ACT Women's Statistics 2004



Quality of life

Most women are happy with their quality of life in the ACT, with 79.6% either delighted, pleased, or mostly satisfied with their life in the ACT. This was higher than for females nationally (75.7%), but slightly lower than for males in the ACT (80.7%)

Source: ABS, National Health Survey, 2001

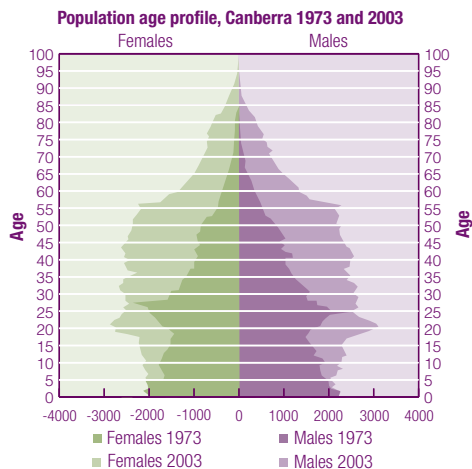
Population

In June 2003 there were 163,449 females in the ACT, compared with 159,401 males. This was 50.6% of the total population (compared with 50.3% nationally).

	Age group	Number	ACT%	Aust %
Girls	(0 to 14 years)	31,392	19.2%	19.4%
Young women	(15 to 24 years)	25,693	15.7%	13.5%
Women	(25 to 64 years)	90,088	55.1%	53.1%
Older women	(65 and over)	16,276	10.0%	14.1%

Source: ABS, Cat 3101.0, June 2003

The population of the ACT is steadily ageing, with much larger numbers in the older age groups. This trend is projected to continue.



Source: ABS, cat 3101.0, June 2003.

The average number of children for women has fallen consistently since the 1960s, and women in the ACT have the lowest number of births in Australia.

Source: ABS, Australian Demographic Statistics

Life expectancy

Females ACT	Females Aust	Males ACT
83.3 years	82.6 years	79.2 years

Source: ABS, Australian Social Trends, cat 4102.0, 2004

Educational attainment

	Females ACT	Females Aust
Had post-school qualifications	51.8%	41.2%

Source: ABS, 2001 Census

Average weekly earnings, 2003

The full time adult ordinary time earnings for ACT women was \$947 (83.2% of men's earnings of \$1138)

The all employees total earnings for ACT women was \$692.6 (70.3% of men's earnings of \$984.6)

Source: ABS 6302.0 Average Weekly Earnings, Australia

Industries

Work in Government administration is the major industry for both males and females in the ACT. A much higher proportion of females worked in Health and Education, and a much lower proportion worked in Construction.

	Females	Males
Government Admin & Defence	23.9%	24.7%
Health & Community Services	13.7%	3.6%
Property & Business Services	13.1%	16.7%
Retail Trade	13.0%	11.9%
Education	12.0%	6.2%
Accomm, Cafes, Restaurants	5.5%	4.7%
Personal & Other Services	4.2%	3.9%
Cultural & Recreational Services	3.9%	3.5%
Finance & Insurance	3.0%	1.9%
Manufacturing	2.0%	4.9%
Transport & Storage	1.6%	3.6%
Construction	1.2%	8.3%

Source: ABS, Census 2001

Superannuation

About 81% of women in the pre-retired population in the ACT had some superannuation compared to 71% nationally.

Source: ABS, 6360.0, Superannuation: Coverage and Financial Characteristics, Australia

Retired Persons, Superannuation income and Lump sum Payments

	Received income from superannuation or annuities	
	ACT	AUST
Female	23%	8%
Male	55%	21.5%

Source: ABS, 6360.0, Superannuation: Coverage and Financial Characteristics, Australia

Family and community support

Females in the ACT had higher levels of family and community support than females nationally. This support included contact with family or friends living outside the household, could ask for

small favours from persons living outside the household, and able to get support in time of crisis from persons living outside the household. In the ACT, 93.2% of women had this support, compared to 87.7% for women nationally.

	Females ACT	Females Aust
Undertaking voluntary work	39.8%	35.1%

Source: ABS, General Social Survey, 2002

Health

The proportion of females in the ACT who reported that they had a core activity limitation disability was 10.8%, compared to 13.1% for females nationally.

Source: ABS, General Social Survey, 2002

	Females ACT	Females Aust
Self-assessed health status as fair/poor	12.5%	15.8%
Experience personal stressors	65%	59%

Stressors include serious illness, accidents, death in the family, separation, and witness to violence.

Source: ABS, General Social Survey, 2002

	Females ACT	Females Aust	Males ACT
Had high levels of psychological distress	3.5%	1.6%	4.4%

Source: ABS, National Health Survey, 2001.

Identify as a current smoker

	2001	
	ACT	AUST
Females aged over 18 years	20.1%	21.1%

ABS, National Health Survey (2001). Cat 4364.0.

Risky/high risk alcohol use

	1995*		2001†	
	ACT	AUST	ACT	AUST
Female	7.1%	6.1%	9.2%	8.5%

*ABS, Australian Social Trends (1995)

†ABS, National Health Survey (2001). Cat 4364.0.

Participation in sport and recreation

A higher proportion of females in the ACT reported that they participated in sport and recreation activities (38.4%), than for females in metropolitan cities nationally (29.8%).

Source: ABS, General Social Survey, 2002

Crime and safety

	Females ACT	Females Aust
Report that they feel unsafe alone at home after dark	11.2%	14.5%
Report that they were a victim of physical or threatened violence in the past year	6.8%	7.2%
Report that they had been a victim of break-in in the past year	11.8%	11.2%

Source: ABS, General Social Survey, 2002

Recorded crime: Female victims of assaults and sexual assaults

In 2003, there were 844 recorded assaults on women, and 113 recorded sexual assaults on women in the ACT.

Recorded Crime-Victims

	Assault		Sexual Assault	
	ACT	AUST	ACT	AUST
Female	42.5%	41.8%	89%	81.6%

Source: Source: ABS, Recorded Crime-Victims, 2003 cat.4510.0

Victim-Offender Relationship, Females

	Assault		Sexual Assault	
	ACT	AUST	ACT	AUST
Known to victim	80%	65.8%	69%	57.5%
Known to victim, family member	55.6%	50.6%	25.6%	25.6%

Source: Source: ABS, Recorded Crime-Victims, 2003 cat.4510.0

Family violence incidents

For the year 2001/2002, there were 3,618 family violence incidents recorded by police, 79% of aggressors were male, and 74% of victims were female.

Source: AFP

Decision making

In 2002/03, 48% of ACT Government board members were women and 42% of Government remunerated board members were women.

Source: ACT Government unpublished data

In the current term of the ACT Legislative Assembly, of the 17 members there are seven women. One woman holds a ministry in the Government.

Source: ACT Government unpublished data

In June 2004, 10 out of the 28 council positions within the Australian National University and the University of Canberra were occupied by women.

Source: ANU, UC Annual Reports.

In 2003, female executives made up 33.9% of all executives in the ACT Public Service and 30.4% of the Commonwealth SES in 2003.

Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia (Cat no 6291.0.55.001)

Female representation in the ACT judiciary included three magistrates, one out of two special magistrates, but none of the five judges of the Supreme Court.

Source: ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety