

North West Precinct Demographic Profile

This profile is a snapshot of the demographic characteristics of Banyule's North West Precinct. It is part of a suite of profiles produced to help understand the characteristics of the municipality, assist in planning services and facilities to better meet needs, provide consistent evidence-based data and to anticipate future population changes.

Location



The suburbs of **Watsonia**, **Watsonia North** and part of the suburb of **Bundoora** make up the North West Precinct. It is an established residential area that includes an industrial area in the suburb of Bundoora and commercial areas in the suburb of Watsonia. Its physical character is defined by its mainly older housing stock developed primarily in the 1960's and 1970's. One major feature of the area is Watsonia Shopping Centre.



Population & age group

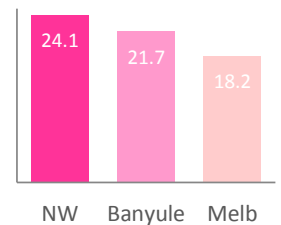


The total resident population in the precinct is 18,507. Over half (52%) of residents live in the suburb of Bundoora. The North West Precinct has the highest population density across the municipality with 23.8 persons per hectare.

Relative to the municipality the precinct also has:

- the second lowest proportion of newborns and pre-schoolers (aged 0-4 years).
- the highest proportion of residents aged 18-24 years.
- the lowest proportion of older workers and pre-retirees (aged 50-59 years).
- the highest proportion and number of empty nesters and retirees (aged 60-69 years).
- the second highest proportion aged 60 years and over - see chart.

Aged 60+ years (%)



Forecast

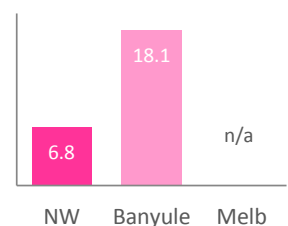


From 2011 to 2017, the population is forecast to increase by 847 residents to 19,355. The largest increase (+338) is forecast for the seniors age group (70-84 years), followed by the 25-34 years age group (+306).

From 2011 to 2031 the population is forecast to increase by 1,264 residents to 19,771. The largest increase (+513) is forecast for the seniors age group. Over this period, the proportion of 18-24 year olds will drop.

The overall population change is relatively low - see chart.

Forecast population change from 2011 to 2031 (%)



ATSI

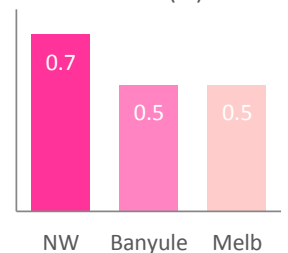


The North West Precinct has a higher than average proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) - see chart. It is second highest in the municipality but at the suburb level it is relatively low in Watsonia North (0.3%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the ATSI population of the precinct increased from 104 to 129 (+25 persons), mostly in the suburb of Watsonia.

N.B. The ATSI community is typically under-represented in Census data, so the actual population may be higher.

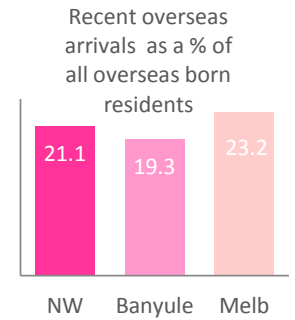
ATSI (%)



Country of birth



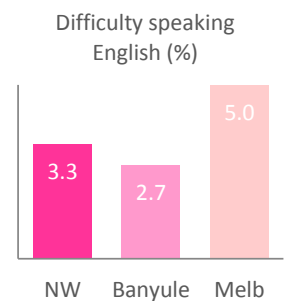
The proportion of residents born overseas (23.7%) is a little higher than Banyule (22.1%) but lower than Greater Melbourne (31.4%). The proportion of recent overseas arrivals is lower compared to both Banyule and Greater Melbourne (see chart) but higher in the suburb of Bundoora (26%). In contrast, Watsonia North has the lowest proportion of recent arrivals across all 18 suburbs in the municipality (8.2%). The main overseas countries of birth are: China, United Kingdom, Italy, India and Greece. Between 2006 and 2011, the greatest growth occurred from China, India and Sri Lanka.



Language



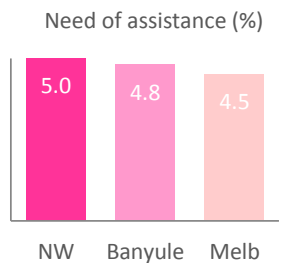
A higher proportion of residents speak a language other than English at home (24.3% compared to 19.6% for Banyule). However, at the suburb level Bundoora has a relatively higher proportion at 30.6% which is more in line with Greater Melbourne at 29.1%. The proportion of residents indicating difficulty speaking English is higher than the average for Banyule but lower than Greater Melbourne - see chart. Once again the proportion is higher for the suburb of Bundoora (4.4%, 425 persons). The main non-English languages spoken at home are: Italian, Mandarin, Greek, Macedonian and Cantonese. Between 2006 to 2011, languages that experienced the most growth were: Mandarin, Tamil, Arabic and Hindi.



Need for assistance



Overall 930 residents indicate a **need for assistance**¹ with core activities due to a disability, long-term health condition, or old age. This represents 5% of the North Precinct population, a little higher than Banyule and Greater Melbourne which have proportions at 4.8% and 4.5% respectively. At the suburb level, Watsonia had a higher proportion of residents in need of assistance (6%).

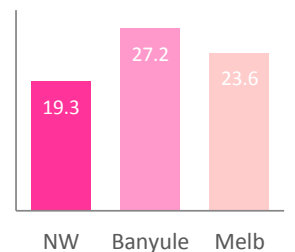


Education



Just under half of all residents aged 15 years or above have completed Year 12 or equivalent (49.7%), the lowest across the municipality. In comparison, 56% completed in Banyule and 54.6% in Greater Melbourne. The proportion that completed a bachelor or higher degree is also lowest - see chart.

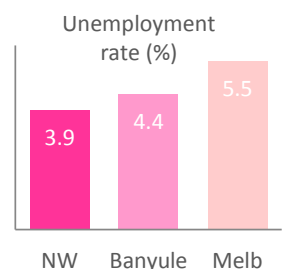
Completed a bachelor or higher degree (%)



Employment



The unemployment rate is lower compared to Banyule and Greater Melbourne - see chart. At the suburb level, Watsonia North has the second lowest rate (2.5%) across all 18 suburbs in the municipality. There are pockets of higher unemployment, particularly within Bundoora. Most employed residents work in **health care and social assistance** followed by **retail trade**.

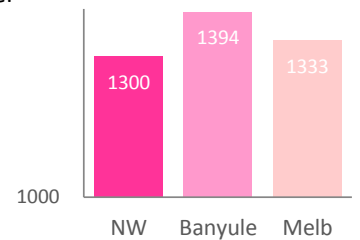


Income



Households in the North West Precinct were more likely to have earned a lower income and less likely to have earned a higher income than those in Banyule and Greater Melbourne. The proportion of residents earning a lower income is second highest across the municipality. Conversely, the proportion of residents earning a higher income is second lowest across the municipality. The average median household income for the North West is relatively low - see chart.

Median household income (\$)

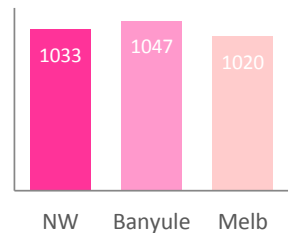


SEIFA



A higher score on the **Socio-Economic Index for Areas** indicates a lower level of disadvantage. The average index score of the North West Precinct is 1033, the second lowest across the municipality and lower than the score for Banyule. This indicates the North West is disadvantaged in relation to Banyule. At the suburb level, Bundoora and Watsonia have lower scores (1026 and 1009 respectively), while Watsonia North has a relatively high score (1063), indicating advantage.

SEIFA



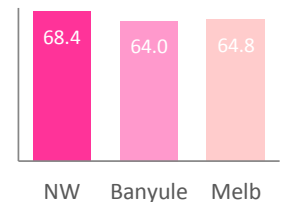
Travel to work



Across the municipality, the North West Precinct has the second highest proportion of residents (aged 15 and above) that travel to work by car - see chart.

Between the years 2006 to 2011 the proportion and number of public transport users has increased (+324 persons). At the suburb level, Bundoora has the most tram users across all 18 suburbs in the municipality.

Travel to work by car (%)



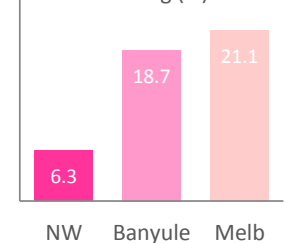
Housing & tenure



The North West Precinct has:

- the highest proportion of separate housing and the lowest proportion of medium density housing across the municipality.
- a higher proportion of fully owned or mortgaged housing compared to Banyule and Greater Melbourne.
- the second highest proportion of social housing - mostly in the suburb of Watsonia.
- the highest **mortgage stress**² and second highest **rental stress**².
- an average median monthly mortgage repayment of \$1827.
- an average median weekly rental payment of \$304.

Medium density housing (%)



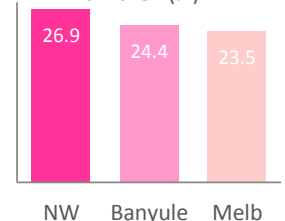
Households



Compared to Banyule and Greater Melbourne, households in the North West Precinct have:

- a higher proportion of couples with or without children
- a lower proportion of lone persons
- a lower proportion of single parent families with young children
- emerging household types consisting of lone persons.

Couples without children (%)

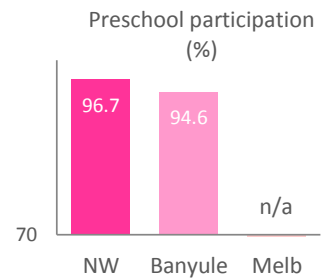


Early development



Data related to the **developmental vulnerability**³ of children is not available for Bundoora, therefore comparable data at the precinct level is not available. At the suburb level, Watsonia North is ranked third in the municipality for developmental vulnerability of children. This is despite the North West having the highest preschool participation rate. The proportion of children in day care and the proportion of residents providing unpaid childcare is slightly lower compared to Banyule.

Source: 2012 AEDI

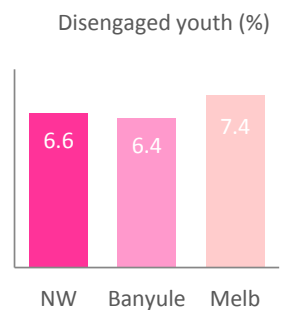


Youth



The precinct has the largest number and proportion of older youth (aged 18-24 years) across the municipality. Overall the proportion of **disengaged youth**⁴ is fairly similar to that of Banyule, however it varies at the suburb level. Watsonia has a higher proportion (14.1%) compared to Bundoora (3.3%) and Watsonia North (7.8%).

The youth unemployment rate is fairly similar to that of Banyule and Greater Melbourne, however that too varies across the three suburbs - Bundoora has a high rate at 15.3% while Watsonia North has one of the lowest rates at 4.6%.



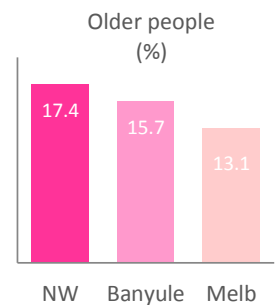
Older People



Across the municipality, the North West Precinct has the second largest number and proportion of residents aged 65 years and over (3,224 persons, 17.4%).

The number of older lone person households is around 640, representing 9.3%, which is about the average for Banyule. At the suburb level, Watsonia has a relatively high proportion of older lone person households (11.8%), while Watsonia North has a considerably lower proportion at 5.5%.

The proportion of older couples without children is relatively high (11.8% compared to 9.7% for Banyule and 8% for Greater Melbourne).



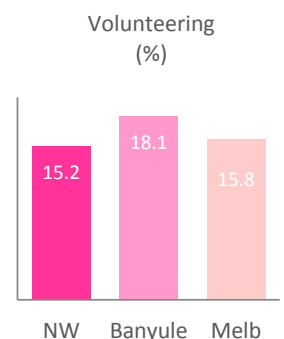
Volunteering & unpaid care



A relatively small proportion of residents aged 15 and over (and the second lowest proportion across the municipality), volunteered for an organisation or group - see chart.

The number of residents that provided unpaid care or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, long term illness or old age was 1,874 (12.3%).

Between the years 2006 and 2011, the proportion of residents volunteering increased in the North West Precinct but decreased slightly in Banyule. In the same period, the proportion of unpaid care increased in both the precinct and Banyule.



Community views

What respondents to the 2014 Household Survey like and dislike about living in the area.



Top 3 likes

- Distance to shops
- Distance to parks/gardens
- Access to public transport



Top 3 dislikes

- Traffic issues
- Cost of housing in the area
- Distance to place of work

In addition, households were more likely than average to dislike the quality of homes in the area and the community feel of the area.

Key findings and challenges

The overall profile of the North West Precinct is not that dissimilar to Banyule. There are notable differences but these are more apparent at the suburb level. The precinct has a lower socio-economic profile than Banyule but at the suburb level Watsonia North has a higher socio economic profile.

The proportion of **overseas born, recent overseas arrivals** and residents speaking a **language other than English** at home is a little higher compared to Banyule. This is due to the suburb of Bundoora where the cultural diversity and the cultural profile is more in line with that of Greater Melbourne. The challenge for the precinct is that 602 residents indicated **difficulty speaking English**, the third highest number across the municipality. The number of persons from Asian countries is increasing while the number of persons from European countries is slowly decreasing.

Over the next two decades the population growth is projected to be slow with an increase of 1264 persons. Most of this growth is expected in the age group 70-84 years. The precinct has an ageing population and currently has the highest proportion of empty nesters and retirees (aged 60-69 years). The ageing population may be a challenge for the precinct as it has a slightly higher than average proportion of residents in **need of assistance**. The proportion of residents undertaking **unpaid care** is similar to that of Banyule, however the precinct has a lower proportion (second lowest across the municipality), of residents **volunteering**.

The main household type is **couples with children** but **lone person households** are emerging as the older population increases. The proportion of **couples without dependents** is forecast to increase in the suburb of Watsonia as children leave home. Across the precinct there may be a demand for smaller and more suitable housing. Currently, the precinct has the highest **population density**, the lowest proportion of **medium density housing** and the second highest proportion of **social housing** across the municipality. At the suburb level, the medium and high density housing and the social housing are concentrated in the suburb of Watsonia.

The proportion of households experiencing **mortgage stress** is particularly high in the suburb of Bundoora. It is the highest proportion across the municipality and higher than the rest of the country. Watsonia has only slightly higher mortgage stress compared to Banyule but this may still be challenging given the higher proportion of **single parent families**. In addition, both Bundoora and Watsonia have a higher proportion (25% or 1 in 4 residents) earning an income in the lower range. In comparison Banyule has 1 in 5 residents earning an income in the lower range.

The precinct has the lowest **education** levels across the municipality. Residents were least likely to have **completed Year 12 or equivalent** and least likely to have **completed a bachelor or higher degree**. Although the overall **unemployment rate** is lower than the rate for Banyule, the **youth unemployment rate** is relatively high in the suburbs of Bundoora and Watsonia. Improving the youth unemployment rate may be a challenge, especially in the suburb of Watsonia which has the second highest **youth disengagement rate** across all 18 suburbs in the municipality. Therefore encouraging access to youth programs and services will continue to be vital.

In relation to younger children, the **preschool participation** rates in the precinct are highest across the municipality so the challenge will be to continue this success. At the suburb level, the proportion of children **developmentally vulnerable** is unexpectedly high in Watsonia North.

More information



This profile is part of a suite of resources produced by Banyule's Community and Social Planning Unit which includes seven more detailed Precinct Profiles.

More resources can be found at www.banyule.vic.gov.au/stats

Notes

- 1 Identifies people who report a **need for assistance** due to a profound or severe core activity limitation. It does not necessarily represent the total number of residents with a disability - hence not all persons with a disability require assistance with their daily core activities.
- 2 **Mortgage stress** and **rental stress** are defined as households in the lowest 40% of incomes who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on home loan repayments or rent.
- 3 **Developmental vulnerability** is based on the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI), a population measure of 5 areas or domains of children's development as they enter school. Children who score in the lowest 10 per cent of the AEDI population are classified as 'developmentally vulnerable'.
- 4 **Disengaged youth** is defined as 15-24 year olds not in employment or education. The rate is based on the total number of 15-24 year olds. In contrast the Youth Unemployment rate is based on 15-24 year olds seeking and available for work.

Data source

Unless otherwise stated, data is sourced from id - compiled by id consultants using Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011.