

3 Demography and socioeconomic status

Introduction

Socioeconomic disadvantage is a unique determinant of inequalities in health: evidence for this is presented in Chapter 1.

A range of data variables from the 1996 Population Census are mapped in this chapter to indicate variations in socioeconomic disadvantage at the small area level. The results of the correlation analysis, shown in Chapter 8, provide a measure of the strength of the association at the small area level in the distribution of the population with similar characteristics. The correlation analysis also draws attention to associations between the measures being discussed (eg. high rates of premature deaths of males, or high rates of admissions to hospital for circulatory system diseases) and the indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage mapped in this and the following chapters.

The next section describes the growth and distribution of the population in Australia (derived from Hugo 1991), discusses population projections and Indigenous population issues and raises some of the data issues that apply to the variables mapped and described in the remainder of the chapter.

Background

Population and distribution

With an area of 7.68 million square kilometres, Australia is about the same size as the United States, about 50 per cent larger than Europe and more than 30 times larger than the United Kingdom. Despite its area, its population of 17,892,358 at the 1996 Census is decidedly small in comparison with other developed countries. Since the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788, non-Aboriginal settlement has rapidly expanded in the coastal fringes of Australia, in the higher rainfall regions, and on the most fertile landscapes of the country. The remainder of the country has remained sparsely settled and given over to extensive agricultural and pastoral uses simply because the natural environment is incapable of sustaining more intensive land uses and their attendant populations.

In 1800, the non-Aboriginal population of Australia was a mere 5,217 located entirely in New South Wales. Hobart was settled in 1803 and Perth in 1829, so that by 1835, the non-Aboriginal population of Australia had increased to 113,000. The settlement of Melbourne began in 1835, of Adelaide in 1836 and

that of Brisbane in 1842, although a penal settlement had been established on St Helena Island in 1825. Darwin was established in 1869, and was called Palmerston until 1911, when control of the Territory transferred from South Australia to the Commonwealth government. By 1860, there were more than a million people in Australia, increasing to 3,770,000 in 1900. At this time, 36.1 per cent of the population lived in New South Wales, with a further 31.8 per cent in Victoria. Queensland was ranked third, and South Australia headed the smaller States.

Following federation in 1901, Australia experienced the social and economic impacts of two world wars and a depression, but remained essentially an agriculture based economy with its links to the rest of the world influenced by its colonial connections to Britain and its empire. In 1947 the Australian population had reached 7,579,358. New South Wales remained the largest State with 39.4 per cent of the Australian population. Victoria's proportion had fallen to 27.1, with 14.6 per cent in Queensland. The three smaller States each had less than ten per cent of the Australian resident population. The extent of population changes within the Australian States at each Census between 1947 and 1996 is shown in **Table 3.1**.

Since the end of World War Two, the Australian economy has undergone fundamental change. Although agriculture has remained an important sector within the economy, the emergence of a manufacturing base during the fifties and sixties had significant consequences for changes in the size and composition of the Australian population.

A large scale migration policy was developed to provide a suitable workforce for an expanding manufacturing economy, and during the 1950s more than one million immigrants entered Australia. A further 772,000 immigrants arrived during the sixties, nearly half of whom came from the United Kingdom and Ireland, a quarter from Italy and Greece and 16 per cent from Germany and the Netherlands. At the same time, conditions of full employment contributed to social circumstances resulting in high fertility levels. During the fifties, 1,370,000 births were recorded in Australia, declining only slightly to 1,215,000 during the following decade.

Table 3.1: State and Territory populations, 1947 to 1996

State	Year									
	1947	1954	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996
NSW	2,984,838	3,423,529	3,917,013	4,237,901	4,589,556	4,959,588	5,234,889	5,401,881	5,732,032	6,038,696
Vic	2,054,701	2,452,341	2,930,113	3,220,217	3,496,161	3,810,426	3,496,917	4,019,478	4,244,221	4,373,520
QLD	1,106,415	1,318,259	1,518,828	1,674,324	1,823,362	2,092,375	2,345,208	2,587,315	2,997,810	3,368,850
SA	646,073	797,094	969,340	1,094,984	1,172,774	1,274,070	1,318,769	1,345,945	1,400,622	1,427,936
WA	502,480	639,771	736,629	848,100	1,027,372	1,178,342	1,300,056	1,406,929	1,586,825	1,726,095
Tas	257,078	308,752	350,340	371,436	389,874	412,314	427,224	436,353	452,837	459,659
NT	10,868	16,469	27,095	56,504	85,519	98,228	122,616	154,848	175,891	195,101
ACT	16,905	30,315	58,826	96,032	143,843	207,740	227,581	249,407	279,323	299,243
Total	7,579,358	8,986,530	10,508,184	11,599,498	12,728,461	14,033,083	14,473,260	15,602,156	16,869,561	17,889,100

Source: ABS, Australian Year Book, various issues

The population expansion, through both natural increase and international migration, experienced in the two decades from the end of World War Two ended in the early seventies. The depressed economic environment, which prevailed from 1972, and social changes such as legalised abortion, use of the contraceptive pill, the women's movement etc. impacted on aspects of Australia's population structure. Firstly, the rate of natural increase declined rapidly. In the 1970s there were 1,003,000 births recorded in Australia, a reduction of 17.4 per cent on the previous decade. Reduced birth numbers continued during the eighties. The 812,000 births in this period represented a decline of 19.1 per cent on the levels between 1970 and 1979. The 479,000 immigrant arrivals during the seventies were 38 per cent less than the number of immigrants during the sixties. In the eighties, however, immigrant arrivals increased by 40.9 per cent to 675,000. A significant change occurred in the composition of the migration stream during these two decades. European migrants had predominated in the 20 years from 1950. However from the mid 1970s immigrants from European countries, and to a lesser extent from United Kingdom and Ireland, began to wane, with an increase in Asian immigration. By the beginning of the 1990s 40.8 per cent of the migration stream were born in North-East Asia or South-East Asia. By 1995-96 the Asian proportions had reduced, but nevertheless to 13.3 per cent originating in South-East Asia, with another 18.8 per cent from North-East Asia. At the same time, migrants from the United Kingdom represented only 11.4 per cent of all permanent arrivals, with a higher proportion (12.4 per cent) arriving from New Zealand (ABS 1998).

The composition of Australia's international migration stream, and especially the striking changes during the last 25 years, has led to a rapid transition to a multicultural society. There were 2,277,658 immigrants from predominantly non-English speaking countries, of whom 40.1 per cent live in New South Wales, 31.5 per cent in Victoria and 10.2 per cent in Queensland. A more diverse and ethnically complex society, as well as one in which a significant proportion has a poor grasp of the English language, creates new demands for existing services and institutions, including the delivery of health services.

Australia's climate dictates that most of the continent is sparsely settled. The Australian desert occupies about one third of the continent and a significant proportion of land outside of this desert region is at best marginal and incapable of supporting high population levels. The age of the continent and the lack of any recent geological activity mean that the soils are relatively infertile, and therefore unable to sustain widespread agriculture. The best soils, the best rainfall and the best climates are around the coastal fringes, and it has been in these regions that the bulk of the population has concentrated, in the capital cities and other major urban centres. Moreover, this trend to coastal concentration has intensified with time, with a long-standing preference for city living by immigrants, and continuing rural to urban migration during the entire post war period. Consequently, Australia is among the most urbanised countries of the world and, as **Table 3.2** shows, a very high proportion of each State's population resides in the capital city.

Table 3.2: Proportion of the State and Northern Territory populations resident in the capital city¹, 1947 to 1996

State	Year									
	1947	1954	1961	1966	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996
NSW	49.7	54.4	55.7	60.0	61.0	63.4	62.6	62.3	61.7	62.0
Vic	59.7	62.1	65.3	69.3	71.4	71.5	80.3	70.5	71.2	71.8
QLD	36.3	38.1	40.9	46.5	47.5	47.8	46.7	44.4	44.4	44.2
SA	59.2	60.7	60.7	70.5	71.8	72.5	72.4	72.6	73.1	73.2
WA	54.2	54.5	57.1	65.9	68.3	70.7	70.9	70.7	72.0	72.1
Tas	29.8	30.8	33.1	38.0	39.2	39.9	40.1	40.1	41.0	41.3
NT	47.9	49.0	45.5	35.8	41.3	45.0	46.1	47.1	44.6	43.9
All capitals	51.1	54.0	56.3	61.6	63.3	64.4	65.7	62.9	62.9	62.8

¹Capital city is defined as the ABS capital city Statistical Division
Source: ABS, Australian Year Book, various issues

In 1996, more than 70 per cent of the population of South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria lived in the capital city statistical division. The proportion was less in New South Wales, while the extensive fertile coastline of Queensland, together with a number of large regional centres based on large scale and long term mining activity, has meant that the proportion of the State's population living in Brisbane has always been relatively low.

Table 3.3 shows the size of the Australian capital cities at the 1996 Census. The ranking has been subject to change during the century. At Federation, Melbourne, with over 500,000 people, was the largest city, just ahead of Sydney. By 1906 Sydney was the largest city. In 1937 Brisbane and Adelaide reversed positions, with Adelaide becoming the fourth largest, and in 1984 it dropped to fifth position, behind Perth. Hobart is now smaller than Canberra, and Darwin is growing rapidly.

In 1996 there were 11,233,028 people living within these Capital City Statistical Divisions, 62.8 per cent of the Australian population.

Table 3.3: Population in capital cities, 1996

Statistical Division	Population
Sydney	3,741,290
Melbourne	3,138,147
Brisbane	1,488,883
Adelaide	1,045,854
Perth	1,244,320
Hobart	189,944
Darwin	85,743
Canberra	298,847

Source: ABS Census 1996 Basic Community Profile Table B01

Projected population

Australia's future population will continue to be influenced by trends in fertility, mortality and international migrant intakes. Projections provide an indication of the likely size of Australia's population based on a number of assumptions related to these components. In **Table 3.4** projections of the Australian population illustrate three sets of assumptions involving fertility rates and international migration levels.

The projections indicate that between 1996 and 2016, low levels of migration and fertility would produce an Australian population some 3.6 per cent smaller than the population produced as a result of high immigration and fertility levels. Regardless of the underlying assumptions of each projection, it is clear that the rate of population growth between 2006 and 2016 will be substantially less than the rate expected in the decade leading to 2006.

Table 3.4: Projected population, Australia, 1996 to 2016

Year	High immigration level and high fertility		Low immigration level and high fertility		Low immigration level and low fertility	
	Population	Change Per cent	Population	Change Per cent	Population	Change Per cent
1996	17,889,100		17,889,100		17,889,100	
2006	20,366,200	13.8	20,189,400	12.9	20,084,300	12.3
2016	22,219,300	9.1	21,792,300	7.9	21,473,800	6.9

Source: ABS, Cat No 3222.0, Population Projections, 1997 to 2051, Canberra, 1998, Pages 46 to 47

Data issues

Data quality of Indigenous population counts

As noted in Chapter 2, *Methods*, the data describing the health status and utilisation of health services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are generally of poor quality. It has become clear with the release of results from the 1996 Census that population data are also less than ideal. **Table 3.5** shows the population of Indigenous Australians as recorded at the three most recent Censuses, as well as changes over the ten-year period from 1986 to 1996. The number of Indigenous people recorded has increased by 125,325 people, from 227,645 at the 1986 Census to 352,970 at the 1996 Census (an increase of 55.1 per cent). Of the total increase, over half (69,051, or 55.1 per cent) occurred in the non-metropolitan areas, an increase for these areas of 44.4 per cent over ten years. The capital cities, with 26.6 per cent of the population of Indigenous Australians in 1986, showed an apparently stronger growth rate, of 79.0 per cent.

At the of State/Territory level, the apparent rate of Indigenous population growth was highest in the Australian Capital Territory (137.6 per cent) and Tasmania (106.6 per cent), and lowest in the Northern Territory (33.2 per cent) and Western Australia (34.4 per cent). Queensland moved from having the largest population of Indigenous Australians in 1986 (with 61,268) to second largest, with 95,518 (after New South Wales with 101,485) in 1996. Sydney remained the capital city with the largest population of Indigenous people over the ten years to 1996. The major urban centres of Geelong and Newcastle/Wollongong had the largest increases of 359.7 per cent and 134.2 per cent, respectively. Such increases are not explained by the relatively higher fertility rates among Indigenous people, nor are they explained by a decline in mortality of Indigenous Australians. Rather, it appears that Australian's have been increasingly prepared to identify themselves as Indigenous on the Census form. The question remains as to what per cent of the actual population of Indigenous Australians these current levels of identification represent.

ABS SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage

At each Census since the 1986 Census, the ABS have produced a number of indexes which measure different aspects of the socioeconomic conditions of the populations of geographic areas (ABS 1998). These summary measures, the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), combine into one index a range of information relating to the social and economic characteristics of the populations at the regional level.

One of these indexes, the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD), summarises the information available from variables related to education, occupation, income, family structure, race (the proportion of Indigenous people), ethnicity (poor proficiency in use of the English language) and housing. The index reflects the extent of disadvantage represented by, for example, the proportion of low income families, of those with relatively low educational attainment and of high unemployment, in the area being examined. The variables are, therefore, similar to those presented in the remainder of this chapter. While the index number is a useful measure of socioeconomic disadvantage users should realise its limitations. For example, while it represents the results of a particular set of statistical analyses on a set of variables from the 1996 Census, changing the variables could change the particular index values calculated (although the relativities between the areas for these variables are, in general, likely to remain). It also has a wide range of uses, such as for the allocation of resources or as a shorthand description of populations living in an area, but is not a universal answer to all such needs.

The IRSD is calculated at the smallest geographic level for which data are available from population Censuses – the Census Collection District – and was then calculated for the larger areas in the atlas (Statistical Local Areas, Statistical Subdivisions, Statistical Divisions and States and Territories) by weighting the scores for these smaller units by their population.

Table 3.5: Population of Indigenous Australians, 1986 to 1996

Area	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
1986									
Capital City	18,589	6,173	11,257	5,825	10,087	2,136	5,536	1,056	60,659
Other Major Urban Centres	4,515	392	6,515	..	..	..	..	..	11,422
Rest of State/Territory	35,907	6,046	44,101	8,466	27,702	4,580	29,203	164	155,564
Whole State/Territory	59,011	12,611	61,268	14,291	37,789	6,716	34,739	1,220	227,645
1991									
Capital City	22,600	7,956	13,456	6,948	11,744	3,026	6,179	1,588	73,497
Other Major Urban Centres	6,641	625	7,462	..	..	..	..	..	14,728
Rest of State/Territory	40,778	8,154	49,977	9,284	30,035	5,859	33,731	187	177,234
Whole State/Territory	70,019	16,735	70,124	16,232	41,779	8,885	39,910	1,775	265,459
1996									
Capital City	34,438	10,725	21,887	9,387	17,198	4,705	7,368	2,896	108,604
Other Major Urban Centres	10,573	1,802	9,233	..	..	..	..	..	20,608
Rest of State/Territory	56,474	9,947	65,462	11,057	33,595	9,168	38,909	3	224,615
Whole State/Territory	101,485	22,474	95,518	20,444	50,793	13,873	46,277	2,899	352,970
<i>percentage change</i>									
Capital city									
1986 to 1991	21.6	28.9	19.5	19.3	16.4	41.7	11.6	50.4	21.2
1991 to 1996	52.4	34.8	62.7	35.1	46.4	55.5	19.2	82.4	47.8
1986 to 1996	85.3	73.7	94.4	61.2	70.5	120.3	33.1	174.2	79.0
Other major urban centre									
1986 to 1991	47.1	59.4	14.5	..	..	..	..	..	28.9
1991 to 1996	59.2	188.3	23.7	..	..	..	..	..	39.9
1986 to 1996	134.2	359.7	41.7	..	..	..	..	..	80.4
Rest of State/Territory									
1986 to 1991	13.6	34.9	13.3	9.7	8.4	27.9	15.5	..	13.9
1991 to 1996	38.5	22.0	31.0	19.1	11.9	56.5	15.4	..	26.7
1986 to 1996	57.3	64.5	48.4	30.6	21.3	100.2	33.2	..	44.4
Whole State/Territory									
1986 to 1991	18.7	32.7	14.5	13.6	10.6	32.3	14.9	45.5	16.6
1991 to 1996	44.9	64.3	36.2	25.9	21.6	56.1	16.0	63.3	33.0
1986 to 1996	72.0	78.2	55.9	43.1	34.4	106.6	33.2	137.6	55.1

Source: ABS special data services

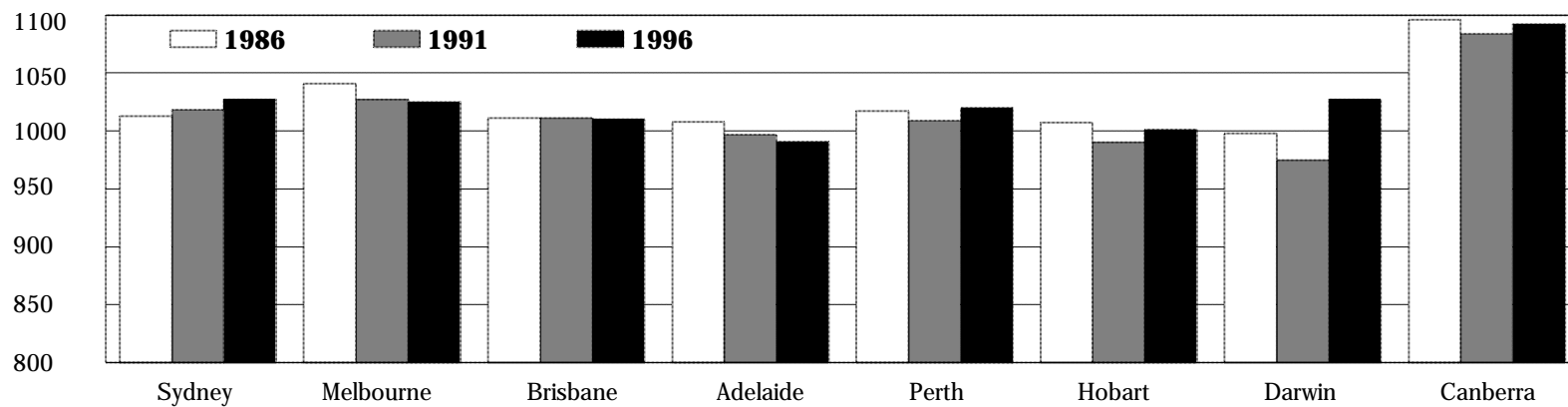
The IRSD is calculated to show the relativity of areas to the Australian average for the particular set of variables that comprise it. The average score is set at 1000. Areas with relatively less disadvantaged populations (ie. those of higher socioeconomic status) have an index number of above 1000 and those with relatively greater disadvantage (ie. of lower socioeconomic status) have an index number of less than 1000. It is unfortunate that an IRSD uses high index scores to indicate advantage, when it would be intuitively expected that high index scores would indicate disadvantage, as implied by the name of the index.

The following text provides additional detail to that on pages 76 to 78 for the index.

Figure 3.1 indicates the steady increase over each of the last three Censuses (1986, 1991, 1996) in the scores for **Sydney**; the steady decline for **Adelaide**; the stable situation in **Brisbane**; the slowing of the decline in **Melbourne**; and the turnaround experienced by the other capital cities, following a decline in index scores from 1986 to 1991. **Adelaide** had the lowest score of the capital cities for the first time in any of these three periods. The very high index score in Canberra relative to the other capitals reflects the demographic and economic conditions in Australia's capital.

Figure 3.1: SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, capital cities

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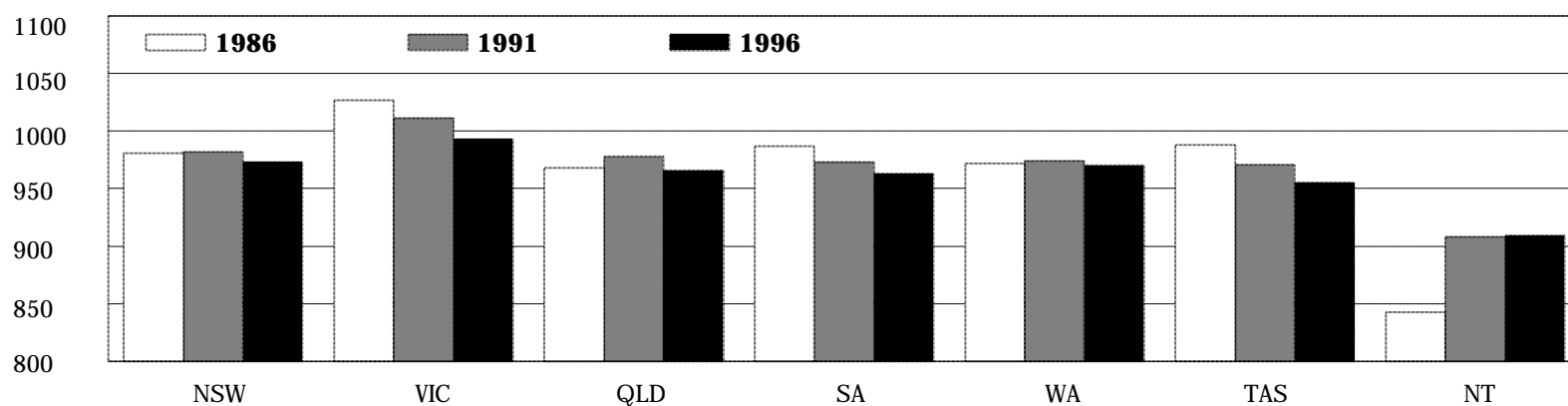
Source: ABS special data services

Figure 3.2 indicates the steady decline over the last three Censuses (1986, 1991, 1996) in the scores for the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania and the marked increase in the Northern Territory (although remaining as the lowest score); and the small decline

experienced by the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, following the increase from 1986 to 1991.

Figure 3.2: SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Rest of State/Territory

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Source: ABS special data services

Age-sex standardisation

Age-sex standardisation was used to adjust the data mapped for the variable for early school leavers (Maps 3.14 and 3.15).

It is straight forward to calculate from the Census the percentage of the adult population in each Statistical Subdivision (SSD) leaving school at the age of 15 or less, but a significant part of the variation between SSDs in this measure is caused by age structure. A person aged 70 is less likely to have stayed at school past the age of 15 than a person aged 20, simply because of the changes over the past 55 years in the education system. Age-sex standardisation measures variations in educational participation in a way not affected by age structure. For each SSD, a theoretical expected number of adult residents who left school at age 15 or less has been calculated, assuming that each 5 year

age group in its population had the same educational participation record as that same age group in the Australian population as a whole. This expected number is then compared with the actual number, to establish whether the number of people who did not continue at school beyond 15 is significantly greater or less than one would expect given the area's age structure. A similar analysis compares the level of participation for each State/Territory and capital city, again using Australia as the standard.

Data definitions

The variables mapped in this chapter and details of the way in which they have been defined are shown in Table 3.6.

Table 3.6: Details of demographic and socioeconomic variables mapped

Topic and variable name	Numerator	Denominator
Age distribution		
children aged 0 to 4	All children aged from 0 to 4 years	Total population
people aged 65 and over	All people aged 65 years & over	Total population
Families		
single parent families	Single parent families with dependent children [under 15 yrs]	All families
low income families ¹	Families with income less than \$21,000 p.a. [\$400 per week]	All families with an income
high income families ²	Families with income of \$52,000 or more p.a. [\$1,000 per week]	All families with an income
Labour force		
unskilled and semi-skilled workers	Intermediate production & transport workers; labourers & related workers	Total employed labour force
high status occupations ²	Managers and administrators; & professionals	Total employed labour force
unemployed people	People with labour force status as unemployed	Total labour force
female labour force participation	All females aged 20 to 54 years in the labour force	All females aged 20 to 54 years
Educational participation and achievement		
early school leavers ³	People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school	Population aged 15 years & over
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander		
	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	Total population
People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries		
resident for five years or more	Number born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident for five years or more	Total population
resident for less than five years	Number born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident for less than five years	Total population
proficiency in English	People aged five years and over and born in predominantly non-English speaking countries who speak English 'not well' or 'not at all'	Population aged 5 years and over
Housing		
housing authority rented dwellings	Occupied private dwellings rented from the State/Territory housing authority	All occupied private dwellings
dwellings with no motor vehicle	Occupied private dwellings with no motor vehicles garaged or parked there on Census night	All occupied private dwellings

¹When interpreting the figures for low income families in the text in this chapter, it should be noted that the indicators of low income used in the comparisons (\$12,000 per annum or less in 1986 and less than \$21,000 per annum in 1996) do not equate to equivalent incomes and have thus not been adjusted based on changes to buying power. Rather, they are based on categories of income available from the Census and denote comparability of income in 1986, 1991 and 1996 based on the levels of incomes of recipients of the sole parents' allowance and unemployment allowances.

²These variables were not mapped but are included in the correlation analyses.

³This variable was adjusted using age-sex standardisation: a description of this process is in the text above.

Source: Compiled from project sources

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Children aged 0 to 4 years, 1996

Capital city comparison

Children are major users of health services, especially in the first years of life. Children living in families of lower socioeconomic status are more likely to have poorer health status and generally make more use of primary and secondary health services than those who are better off. Their distribution at a local area level is therefore an indicator of likely health service demand and the need for preventative programs.

Children aged from 0 to 4 years comprised 7.1 per cent of Australia's total population at the 1996 Census, and 6.9 per cent of the population of the capital cities (Table 3.7). In the last three Censuses, the proportion of young children in **Adelaide**, the capital city with the highest proportion of population at older ages and the lowest Total Fertility Rate (see Chapter 5), was the lowest of all these cities. The percentages for most of the other capitals equated to or were slightly above the average. In contrast **Darwin**, with 8.1 per cent, had a considerably higher proportion of children aged from 0 to 4 years.

The proportion of the total population aged from 0 to 4 years in Australia's capital cities decreased marginally in the ten years to 1996, from 7.3 per cent in 1986 to 7.2 per cent in 1991 and 6.9 per cent in 1996.

Table 3.7: Proportion of population aged 0 to 4 years, capital cities

	Per cent								
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	7.0	6.9	7.1	6.4	6.8	6.9	8.1	7.3	6.9
1986	7.3	7.0	7.5	6.9	7.6	7.8	9.0	8.3	7.3

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

Of the 260,285 young children in **Sydney**, the lowest proportions were generally in the inner city areas, and the highest were towards the urban periphery. **Outer South Western Sydney** and **Outer Western Sydney** had proportions of 9.4 per cent and 8.5 per cent respectively, markedly higher than the **Sydney** average of 7.0 per cent. In **Fairfield-Liverpool** and **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills**, children aged from 0 to 4 years old comprised 8.5 and 8.2 per cent of the population, respectively. The largest numbers of young children were in **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** (28,676 children), **St George-Sutherland** (25,585) and **Fairfield-Liverpool** (25,577). **Newcastle** had a population of 31,860 children aged from 0 to 4 years (7.1 per cent of the population), and **Wollongong** had 18,123 young children (7.3 per cent).

Children aged from 0 to 4 years comprised 9.7 per cent of the population in **South Eastern Outer Melbourne**, 9.6 per cent in **Melton-Wyndham** and 9.2 per cent in **Hume**. The largest numbers of **Melbourne's** 215,273 young children were located in **Western Melbourne** with 27,424 children, **Southern Melbourne** with 21,660, and **Eastern Middle Melbourne** with 21,207. In **Geelong**, there were 10,018 children aged from 0 to 4 years, 6.9 per cent of the city's population.

The highest proportions of children aged from 0 to 4 years in **Brisbane** were in **Logan** (8.9 per cent), **Caboolture** (8.8 per cent) and **Gold Coast Part A** (8.7 per cent). There were 48,463 children aged from 0 to 4 years in **Brisbane City**, 14,170 in **Logan** and 10,320 in **Ipswich**. The 22,092 children aged from 0 to 4 years in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** comprised 5.9 per cent of the population. In **Townsville-Thuringowa**, there were 9,590 children aged from 0 to 4 years, 7.8 per cent of the population.

In **Adelaide**, the proportions of the population aged from 0 to 4 years ranged from 7.7 per cent in **Northern** (25,007 children aged from 0 to 4 years old) to 6.4 per cent in **Southern** (19,573).

There were 85,167 children aged from 0 to 4 years in **Perth** in 1996, 6.8 per cent of the population. **East Metropolitan** and **South West Metropolitan** had the highest proportions in this age group, with 7.6 per cent and 7.2 per cent respectively. The largest numbers of 0 to 4 year olds lived in **North Metropolitan** (25,669 children) and **South East Metropolitan** (20,057).

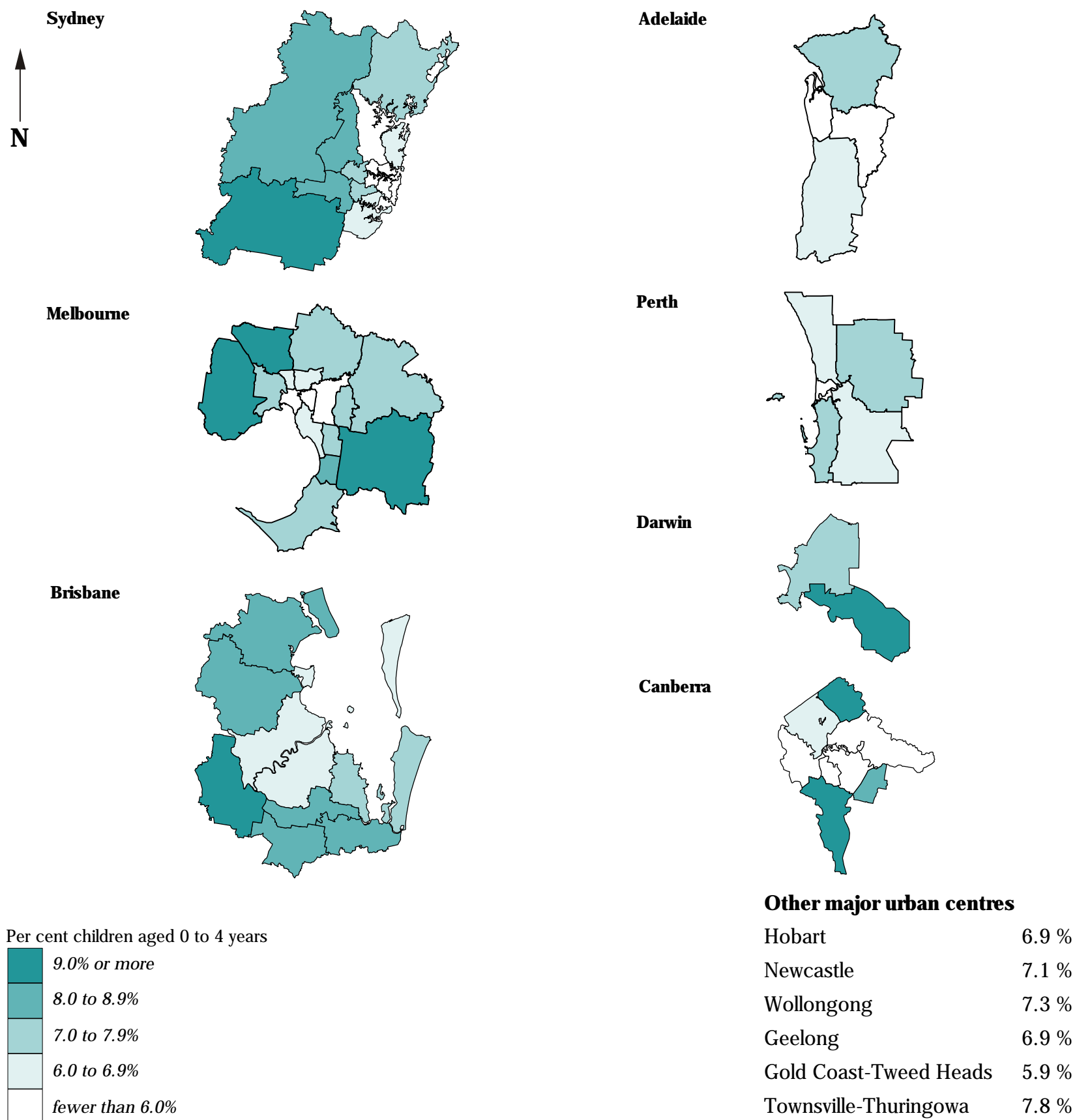
In **Hobart**, there were 13,021 children aged from 0 to 4 years in 1996, 6.9 per cent of the population.

Darwin had an overall average of 8.1 per cent of the population aged from 0 to 4 years. The highest proportion of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD was in **Palmerston-East Arm** (13.0 per cent), while in **Darwin City** they represented 7.2 per cent of the population. There were 5,242 children aged from 0 to 4 years in **Darwin City** and 1,710 **Palmerston-East Arm**.

In **Canberra**, the highest proportions of 0 to 4 year olds were in **Gungahlin-Hall** (10.4 per cent and the second highest of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) and **Tuggeranong** (10.0 per cent). The largest numbers were in **Tuggeranong** and **Belconnen**, with 8,671 and 5,402 children aged from 0 to 4 years old in their populations respectively.

Map 3.1: Children aged 0 to 4 years, major urban centres, 1996

as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Children aged 0 to 4 years, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The proportions of children aged from 0 to 4 years in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia (the areas designated *Rest of State/Territory* in the table) were higher than in the capital cities. At the *Whole of State/Territory* level South Australia had the lowest proportion (6.7 per cent) and the Northern Territory had the highest (8.6 per cent), with the other States having percentages near the average of 7.1 per cent (Table 3.8).

Comparisons between the 1986, 1991 and 1996 Censuses indicate a consistent reduction in the proportions of children aged from 0 to 4 years during the past decade. This trend of declining numbers of children over time is apparent across all of the States and Territories, and is particularly significant in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas, where the average declined from 8.4 per cent to 7.5 per cent between 1986 and 1996.

Table 3.8: Proportion of population aged 0 to 4 years, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	7.0	6.9	7.1	6.4	6.8	6.9	8.1	7.3 ²	6.9
Other major urban centres ³	7.2	6.9	6.4	..	..	..	..	..	6.8
Rest of State/Territory	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	8.0	7.6	9.0	— ⁴	7.5
Whole of State/Territory	7.1	7.0	7.1	6.7	7.2	7.3	8.6	7.2	7.1
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.3	9.2	8.3	10.2	— ⁴	8.4

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

At the 1996 Census, 7.4 per cent of the population in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales were aged from 0 to 4 years. The Statistical Subdivision (SSD) of **Upper Darling** had the highest percentage, with 9.9 per cent. High proportions were also recorded in **North Central Plain** (8.7 per cent) and **Central Macquarie** (8.5 per cent). The largest numbers were located in the northern coastal areas of the State, with 11,199 young children living in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance**, 9,348 in **Clarence** and 8,765 in **Hastings**.

Outside the Victorian major urban centres, 7.5 per cent of the population were comprised of children aged from 0 to 4 years, a total of 81,811 children. The distribution across the State was uniform, with the majority of areas mapped in the second to lowest range, of between seven and eight per cent. SSDs mapped above this range included **Mildura** (13.5 per cent), **Shepparton** (11.8 per cent), **East Central Highlands** (11.3 per cent), **La Trobe Valley** (10.7 per cent), **South West Goulburn** (9.8 per cent), **Wodonga** (9.4 per cent) and **South Loddon** (8.4 per cent). The largest numbers of children aged from 0 to 4 years were in **La Trobe Valley** (5,806 children), **Ballarat** (5,545), **North Goulburn** (5,246) and **Bendigo** (5,245).

In 1996, there were 105,849 children aged from 0 to 4 years in the non-metropolitan areas of Queensland, 7.4 per cent of the population. The highest proportions were in the SSDs of **North West** (9.0 per cent), **Gladstone** (8.6 per cent), **South West** (8.3 per cent), **Fitzroy SD Balance** and **Far North SD Balance** (both with 8.1 per cent). The largest numbers of children were located in the adjacent SSDs of **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (12,275 children), **Moreton SD Balance** (11,030) and **Sunshine Coast** (10,463).

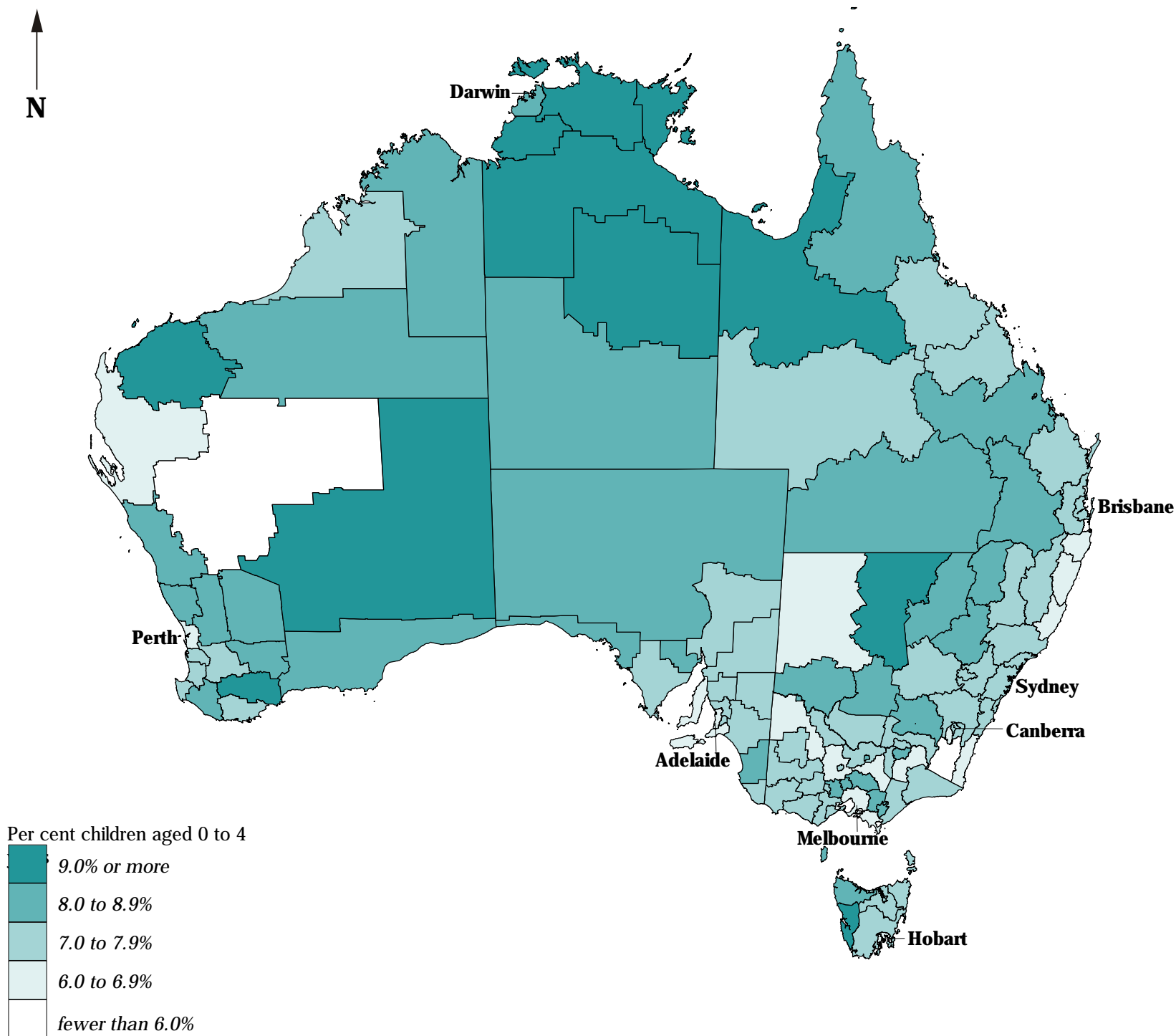
Proportions of children aged from 0 to 4 years in the non-metropolitan areas of South Australia ranged from 6.1 per cent in **Fleurieu** to 8.7 per cent in **Far North**. The average across the State was 7.4 per cent, a total of 28,283 children. SSDs with high numbers of children aged from 0 to 4 years were also widely spread, with 3,152 living in **Lower South East**, 2,841 in **Barossa** and 2,792 in **Yorke and Lower North**.

In 1996, children aged from 0 to 4 years comprised 8.0 per cent of the population in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia, a total of 38,455 children. The highest proportion was recorded in **Fortescue**, in the Pilbara region (9.3 per cent). **Pallinup** and **Lefroy** both had proportions of 9.1 per cent. There were 4,973 children aged from 0 to 4 years in **Preston** and 4,029 in adjacent **Dale**, with another 3,847 children in remote **Lefroy**.

The average percentage of children aged from 0 to 4 years across the non-metropolitan areas of Tasmania was 7.6 per cent (20,539 children). A high 10.1 per cent was recorded in **Lyell**, with 8.3 per cent in **North Western Rural**. The largest numbers, however, were in the urbanised and industrialised SSDs of **Launceston** (7,157 children) and **Burnie-Devonport** (5,605).

In 1996, there were 9,808 children aged from 0 to 4 years in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory, 9.0 per cent of the population. The two highest proportions recorded for the non-metropolitan areas of Australia were in **Daly** (11.6 per cent) and **East Arnhem** (10.9 per cent), with a similarly high 10.3 per cent in **Bathurst-Melville**. The largest numbers were in the SSDs of **Central NT** (3,344 children aged from 0 to 4 years) and **Lower Top End NT** (1,781).

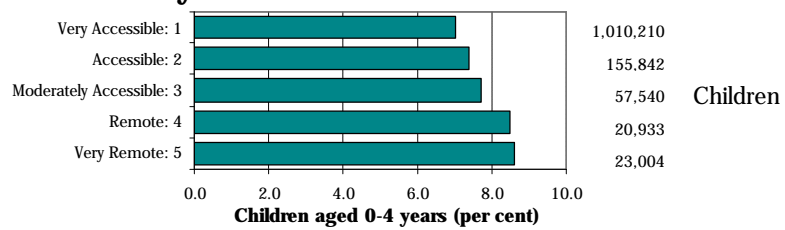
Map 3.2: Children aged 0 to 4 years, Australia, 1996
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The highest proportions of young children aged from 0 to 4 years live in the most remote areas of Australia (8.6 per cent of the population in the Very Remote and 8.5 per cent in the Remote ARIA categories), although the numbers are largest in the most highly populated areas, and drop off markedly at each level of increasing remoteness.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People aged 65 years and over, 1996

Capital city comparison

Australia is an ageing society, brought about in part by reduced mortality rates at older ages, a trend that has become especially evident over the past two to three decades. Increased morbidity is often associated with reduced mortality, and the incidence of an older population is likely to indicate areas where increased health services will be required.

People aged 65 years and over comprised 12.1 per cent of the Australian population at the 1996 Census, with a slightly smaller proportion in the capital cities (11.6 per cent) (Table 3.9). This latter proportion compares to percentages of 10.9 per cent in 1991 and 10.4 per cent in 1986, reflecting the general ageing of the population, a trend expected to continue well into the next century (ABS, 1998). Importantly, this rising proportion of older people represents an increase of 275,655 people aged 65 years and over between 1986 and 1996.

At the 1996 Census, 11.8 per cent of the population of **Sydney** (442,053 people) was aged 65 years and over. **Adelaide** had by far the highest percentage of older people, with **Darwin** and **Canberra** recording proportions well below the national average for the capital cities.

Table 3.9: Proportion of population aged 65 years and over, capital cities

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra¹	All capitals
1996	11.8	11.5	11.0	14.1	10.8	12.5	5.0	7.1	11.6
1986	10.8	10.2	10.5	12.0	10.0	10.9	3.3	5.2	10.4

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

Gosford-Wyong and **Inner Western Sydney** had the highest proportions of people aged 65 years and over in **Sydney**, with 17.5 per cent and 15.2 per cent of their populations, respectively, at the 1996 Census. **Lower Northern Sydney**, **Northern Beaches** and **St George-Sutherland** each had 14 per cent or more of their populations in this age category. Of the total of 442,053 people aged 65 years and over, the largest numbers were located in **St George-Sutherland** (54,896 people), **Canterbury-Bankstown** (39,199) and **Lower Northern Sydney** (38,465). In **Newcastle** there were 63,855 people aged 65 years and over (14.2 per cent of the population) and in **Wollongong** there were 30,897 (12.5 per cent of the population).

At the 1996 Census there were 362,192 people aged 65 years and over in **Melbourne**. The Statistical Subdivision (SSD) of **Mornington Peninsula** (17.0 per cent), located east of Philip Bay, and the inner SSDs of **Southern Melbourne** (16.2 per cent), **Boroondara** (15.7 per cent) and **Moreland** (15.5 per cent) had the highest proportions of older people. There were 58,116 people aged 65 years and over living in **Southern Melbourne**, 50,891 in **Eastern Middle Melbourne** and 43,150 in **Western Melbourne**. **Geelong** had 19,851 people aged 65 years and over, representing 13.6 per cent of the population.

In **Brisbane**, with 163,158 people aged 65 years and over, above average percentages were recorded in **Redcliffe** (19.1 per cent) and the highest proportion for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD), **Brisbane City** (13.0 per cent) and **Caboolture** (11.3 per cent). The large number of older people in **Brisbane City** (104,927) was largely a reflection of the size of this SSD. Other large populations were in **Caboolture** (10,717 people) and **Redland** (10,509). **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** had 68,054 people in this age group (18.1 per cent of the population) and **Townsville-Thuringowa** had 11,492 people (9.3 per cent).

In 1996, 147,337 people in **Adelaide** were aged 65 years and over, 14.1 per cent of the population. Within **Adelaide**, the highest proportions in this age group were recorded in the

Western (18.3 per cent and the second highest proportion for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) and **Eastern** (16.1 per cent) SSDs. The lowest was in **Northern**, with 10.0 per cent. The largest number of people in this age group was in **Southern** (43,306 people), with 37,015 in **Western**.

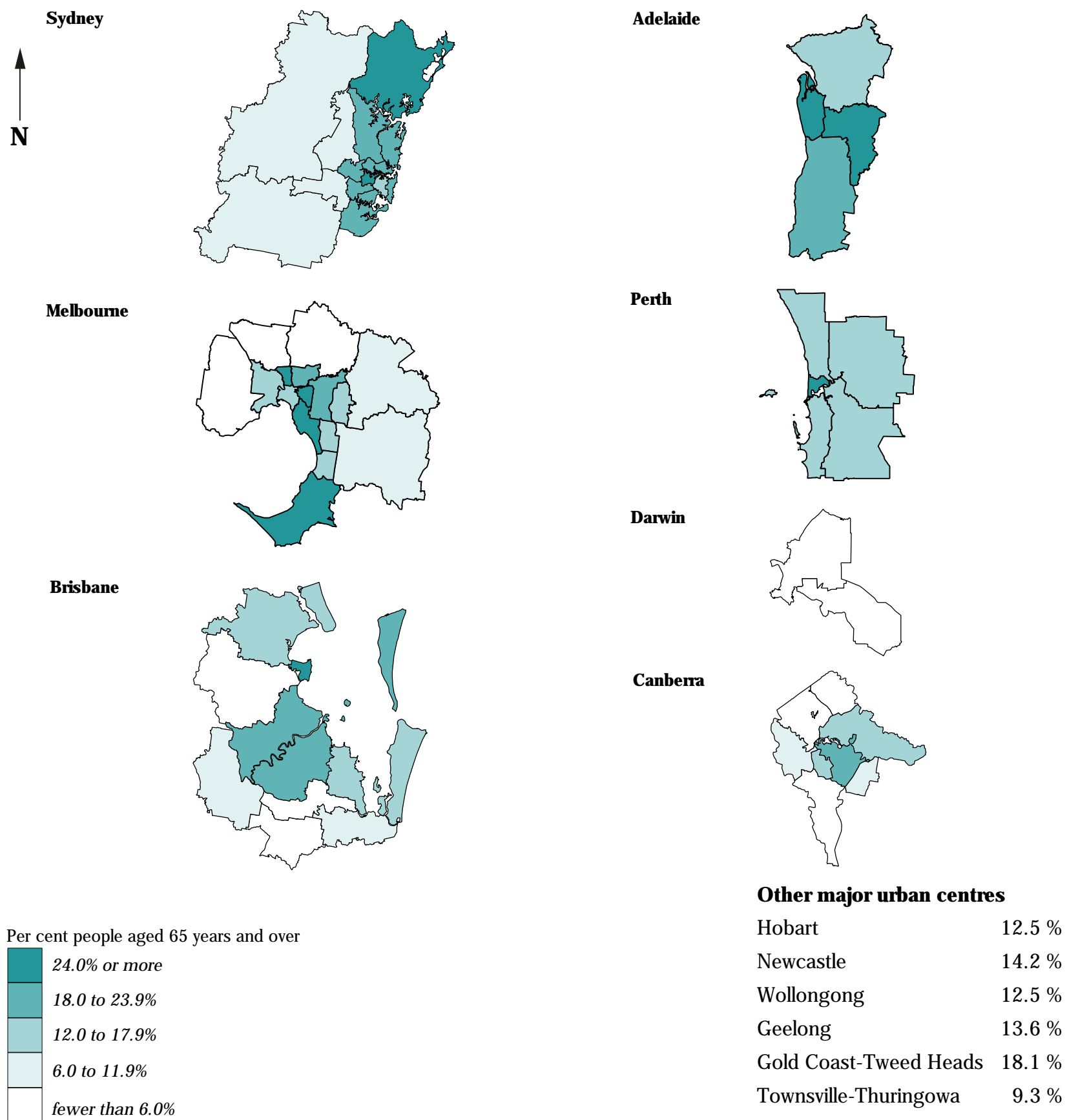
Perth had 134,311 people aged 65 years and over in the population at the 1996 Census. In **Central Metropolitan**, 15.5 per cent of the population were in this age group, while the proportion in **South West Metropolitan** was 11.4 per cent. There were 37,253 people in this age group residing in **North Metropolitan** and 30,804 in **South East Metropolitan**.

In **Hobart**, there were 23,797 people aged 65 years and over, 12.5 per cent of the total population.

Only five per cent of **Darwin's** population was aged 65 years and over in 1996 (4,301 people). **Darwin City** had both the largest number of people in this age group (3,873 people), and the highest proportion of the population (5.3 per cent).

The population aged 65 years and over in **Canberra** had increased by 67.1 per cent over the ten years from 1986 to 1996. It grew from 12,667 in 1986 to 17,140 in 1991 and to 21,172 in 1996. The highest percentages were in **South Canberra** (14.7 per cent), **North Canberra** (11.9 per cent) and **Woden Valley** (11.3 per cent). The largest numbers were in **Belconnen**, with 4,709 people, and **North Canberra**, with 4,700 people aged 65 years and over.

Map 3.3: People aged 65 years and over, major urban centres, 1996
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People aged 65 years and over, 1996

State/Territory comparison

New South Wales has the highest proportion of people aged 65 years and over located in areas outside of the capital and other major urban centres. As shown in **Table 3.10**, it has almost three times the level recorded in the Northern Territory, where high fertility levels and high rates of net in-migration of youthful populations work to reduce the proportion of older people in the total population. Despite the attraction of Queensland as a retirement destination for older people, it has lower than the average proportion of people in this age group in all but the *Other major urban centres* category, the latter reflecting the high proportion of older people in the population of **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**. Nation-wide, the most significant increase in the numbers of older people was in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas, with an increase of 36.6 per cent between 1986 and 1996.

Table 3.10: Proportion of population aged 65 years and over, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	11.8	11.5	11.0	14.1	10.8	12.5	5.0	7.1 ²	11.6
Other major urban centres ³	13.6	13.6	15.9	..	..	..	..	..	14.5
Rest of State/Territory	14.4	13.3	12.2	13.2	9.7	12.2	4.9	- ⁴	12.8
Whole of State/Territory	12.7	12.0	12.0	13.8	10.5	12.3	4.9	7.1	12.1
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	11.6	11.2	10.3	10.5	7.7	10.5	4.1	- ⁴	10.5

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of State

The highest proportions of the population in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales aged 65 years and over were in **Tweed Heads** (26.4 per cent and the highest proportion for any non-metropolitan SSD), **Lower South Coast** (19.8 per cent) and **Hastings** (18.5 per cent). Proportions of 15 per cent or more were also recorded in **Upper Murray**, **Clarence**, **Illawarra SD Balance**, **Far West** and **Hunter SD Balance**. The largest numbers of older people were located in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (with 23,648 people), **Hastings** (23,572), and **Clarence** (22,411).

In 1996, there were 144,854 people in the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria aged 65 years and over, 13.3 per cent of the population. The highest proportions were in **North Wimmera** (20.1 per cent), **South Gippsland** (17.0 per cent), **North Loddon** (16.3 per cent) and **West Mallee** (16.0 per cent). There were 9,976 people aged 65 years and over in **Ballarat**, with a further 9,938 in **North Goulburn** and 9,628 in **Bendigo**.

Over 170,000 people outside the major urban centres in Queensland were aged 65 years and over. The highest proportions of this age group were to the north of **Brisbane** in **Sunshine Coast** and **Bundaberg**, with 19.5 per cent and 15.7 per cent respectively. The largest numbers of people aged 65 years and over were in **Sunshine Coast** (32,420 people) and **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (25,309 people).

In 1996, there were 50,347 people aged 65 years and over in the non-metropolitan areas of South Australia. The highest proportions were in **Fleurieu**, with 20.8 per cent (the second highest proportion for any non-metropolitan SSD), and **Yorke**, with 20.6 per cent. High proportions were also recorded in **Lower North** (15.1 per cent) and **Pirrie** (14.6 per cent). The

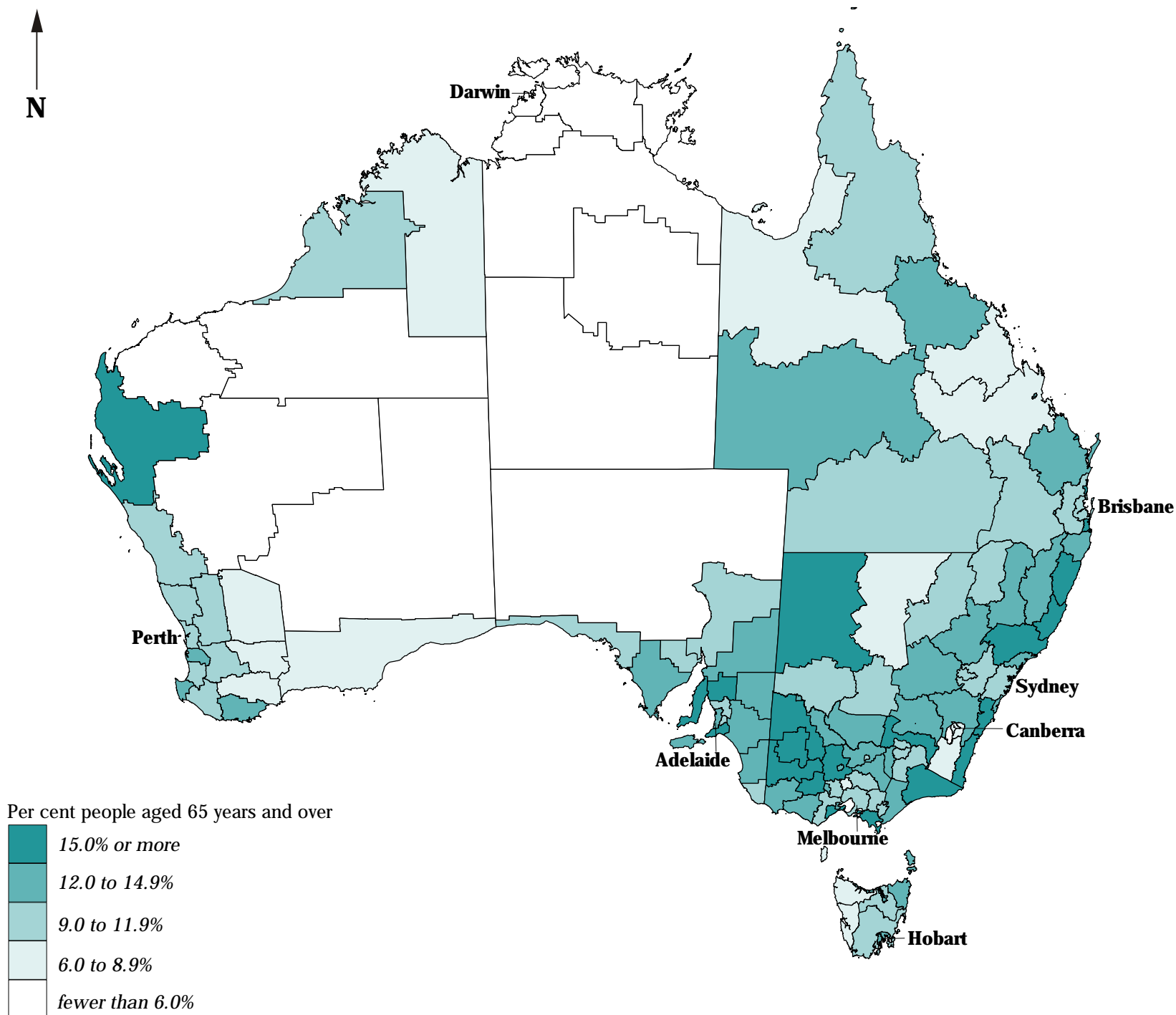
largest numbers of older people were concentrated in the retirement areas of the State, with 5,608 in **Fleurieu**, 4,785 in **Yorke** and 4,784 in **Lower South East**.

There were 46,623 people aged 65 years and over resident in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia, with the highest proportions in **Gascoyne** (17.5 per cent), **Dale** (14.5 per cent) and **Vasse** (13.2 per cent). The largest numbers of older people were located in Statistical Subdivisions in the State's south-west, in **Dale** (7,507 people), **Preston** (6,546) and **King** (4,556).

Outside **Hobart**, Tasmania had 32,920 people aged 65 years and over in 1996. The highest proportions were in **North Eastern** (14.1 per cent), **Burnie-Devonport** (13.5 per cent) and **Launceston** (13.0 per cent). The largest numbers were in **Launceston**, with 12,469 people in this age group, and **Burnie-Devonport**, with 10,205.

In the Northern Territory, there were 5,325 people aged 65 years and over, representing 5.6 per cent of the population in **Lower Top End NT** and 5.5 per cent in both **Darwin Rural Areas** and **Barkly**. The largest numbers of older people were in **Central NT** (2,227 people) and **Lower Top End NT** (1,076 people).

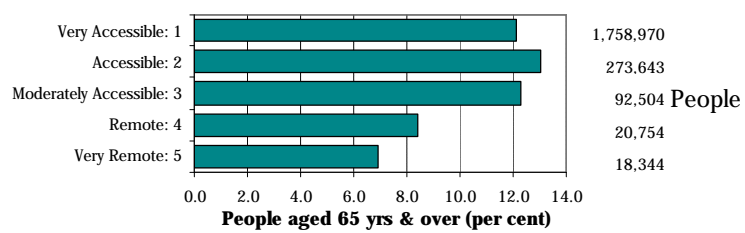
Map 3.4: People aged 65 years and over, Australia, 1996
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The highest proportions of people aged 65 years and over live in the areas categorised as Accessible (13.0 per cent), Moderately Accessible (12.3 per cent) and Very Accessible (12.1 per cent). The Very Remote and Remote areas have lower rates of 6.9 per cent and 8.4 per cent, respectively. These results indicate the value that older Australians place on access to health, welfare and other services, which are largely located in the more accessible areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Single parent families, 1996

Capital city comparison

Single parent families are defined as all single parent families with dependent children aged less than 15 years; the proportion of single parent families is derived as the percentage of all families. Throughout Australia, the majority of single parent families are characterised by poverty and hardship, have poor health and are major users of public health services. Details of their location are, therefore, of importance to public policy makers and those providing health, education, welfare, housing and transport services. There are, however, differences in the circumstances of single parent families, and it is useful to note the differences between the data in **Table 3.6** for all single parent families and those in **Table 4.4** (page 92) for females receiving the Sole Parent Pension. Generally, proportions of sole parent pensioners are lower: Canberra-Queanbeyan is the exception, with an above average proportion of single parent families (**Table 3.6**) but a below average proportion of welfare dependent single mothers (**Table 4.4**). These differences indicate a higher proportion of female single parents in the workforce in Canberra-Queanbeyan. The proportion of single parent families in Australia's capital cities was 9.7 per cent in 1996 (**Table 3.9**), varying from 9.1 per cent in **Melbourne**, to 13.8 per cent in **Darwin** (**Table 3.11**). The increase in the number of single parent families (in Australia as a whole and in each capital city) has been one of the most important demographic trends in Australia in recent years. The increase for Australia as a whole was from 324,171 single parent families in 1986 (7.8 per cent of all families) to 460,618 (9.9 per cent of all families) in 1996.

Table 3.11: Single parent families, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	9.3	9.1	10.5	10.4	10.1	12.1	13.8	11.5	9.7
1986	7.8	6.9	8.3	8.0	9.1	9.3	11.1	9.2	7.9

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

The highest proportion of single parent families in **Sydney** was in **Outer South Western Sydney**, 13.3 per cent of all families. Five other Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) had proportions of ten per cent or more. Four of these, **Gosford-Wyong** (11.2), **Outer Western Sydney** and **Fairfield-Liverpool** (both with 10.9), and **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** (10.5), were in middle to outer locations: the other SSD was **Inner Sydney** (11.4 per cent). The number of single parent families in these areas ranged from 10,013 in **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** to 6,409 in **Inner Sydney**. The lowest proportions of single parent families were in **Northern Beaches** (7 per cent, 3,960 families) and **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai** (5.9 per cent, 3,754 families). There were 13,091 single parent families (10.7 per cent of all families) in **Newcastle**, while in **Wollongong** there were 6,651 (9.9 per cent).

The highest proportions of single parent families in **Melbourne** were located either centrally or in fringe locations to the west and south-east of the city. **Inner Melbourne** had 11.0 per cent of families in this category, while to the south-east **Frankston**, **Dandenong** and **Mornington Peninsula** had proportions of 11.8, 10.5 and 10.1 per cent respectively. To the west, 10.8 per cent of all families in **Hume** were single parent families, with 10.5 per cent in adjacent **Melton-Wyndham**. The lowest proportion was in close proximity to the Yarra Valley, in **Eastern Middle Melbourne** (7.1 per cent) with 7,758 families, the third largest number in **Melbourne**. The largest numbers of single parent families were in **Western Melbourne** (9,618 single parent families) and **Southern Melbourne** (7,779). There were 4,207 single parent families (10.7 per cent of all families) in **Geelong**.

In **Brisbane**, the highest proportions of single parent families were in outer SSDs. Those to the south were in **Logan** (14.0 per cent of all families and the highest proportion for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) and in adjacent **Gold Coast Part A** (12.7 per cent) and **Ipswich** (12.3 per cent). Those to the north were in **Redcliffe** (12.7 per cent) and in the adjacent SSD

of **Caboolture** (11.2 per cent). **Beaudesert** had just 6.5 per cent of its families in this category. **Brisbane City** had 19,636 single parent families, just over three times the number in **Logan** (5,971). There were 10,197 single parent families in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** (11.1 per cent of all families), and 3,543 in **Townsville-Thuringowa** (11.8 per cent).

The highest proportion of single parent families in **Adelaide** was in **Northern** (where 11.7 per cent of all families were single parent families) and the lowest was in **Eastern** (8.3 per cent) SSD. The largest numbers of single parent families were located in the **Northern** and **Southern** SSDs, with 10,680 and 8,631 single parent families, respectively.

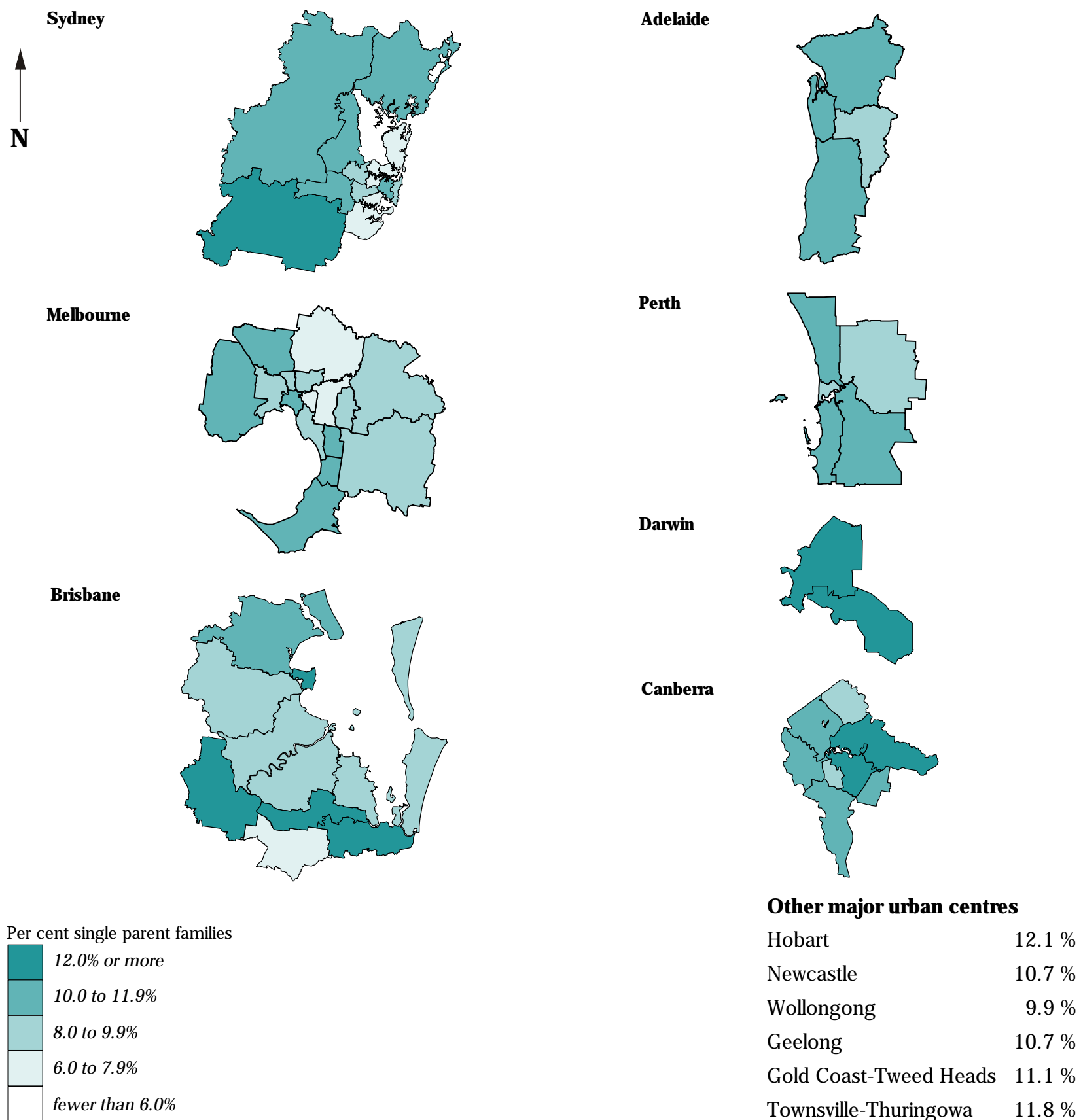
In **Perth**, single parent families were most heavily concentrated in the southern industrial areas and the newer urban areas to the south-east and north of the city centre. The highest proportion was in **South East Metropolitan** (10.9 per cent of all families), while **South West Metropolitan** and **North Metropolitan** both had 10.1 per cent. In the higher socioeconomic area of **Central Metropolitan**, single parent families comprised a lower 8.5 per cent of all families. There were 10,214 single parent families in **North Metropolitan** and 8,316 in **South East Metropolitan**.

Hobart had 6,026 single parent families, representing 12.1 per cent of all families.

In **Darwin**, 19.1 per cent of all families in **Palmerston-East Arm** were single parent families, compared with 12.9 per cent in **Darwin City**. However, there were 2,039 single parent families in **Darwin City** and 638 in **Palmerston-East Arm**.

The highest proportions of single parent families in **Canberra** were in **North Canberra** (13.4 per cent and the second highest proportion for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) and **South Canberra** (13.1 per cent). The largest numbers were in **Tuggeranong** (2,786 single parent families, 11.9 per cent) and **Belconnen** (2,461, 11.5 per cent).

Map 3.5: Single parent families, major urban centres, 1996
as a percentage of all families in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS
1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Single parent families, 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, 10.6 per cent of all families in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales were single parent families (defined here as single parent families with dependent children under 15 years of age), compared with 9.3 per cent in **Sydney**. This figure is just above the average of 10.0 per cent across the non-metropolitan areas of Australia (the *Rest of State/Territory* category in **Table 3.12**) and the second highest after the Northern Territory. For most States and the Northern Territory, variations between the *Capital cities* and *Rest of State/Territory* totals were minimal, with the largest differences being in South Australia and Tasmania. There has been a steady increase in the proportions of single parent families in all States and Territories since 1986.

Table 3.12: Single parent families, State/Territory

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	9.3	9.1	10.5	10.4	10.1	12.1	13.8	11.5 ²	9.7
Other major urban centres ³	10.4	10.7	11.2	..	..	..	..	..	10.7
Rest of State/Territory	10.6	9.5	10.1	8.4	9.5	9.6	14.6	— ⁴	10.0
Whole of State/Territory	9.8	9.2	10.4	9.9	10.0	10.6	14.2	11.6	9.9
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	8.0	6.7	7.7	6.5	8.3	7.6	12.1	— ⁴	7.6

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

In the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales (with 44,428 single parent families), the highest proportions were scattered throughout the State, with 12 per cent or more of all families comprised of single parent families in **Upper Darling** (13.5 per cent), **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (13.4 per cent), **Albury** (12.4 per cent) and **Clarence** (12.0 per cent). A broad sweep of Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) in the north of the State had between ten per cent and 12 per cent of families in this category. The largest numbers of single parent families were located in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (5,615 single parent families) and **Clarence** (4,328).

The highest proportions of single parent families in the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria (with 27,305 single parent families) were located in the larger regional centres, with 12 per cent or more in each of **Bendigo** (12.7 per cent) **Ballarat** (12.4 per cent) and **La Trobe Valley** (12.0 per cent). Each of these SSDs had more than 2,200 of these families.

Apart from the **North West** and **Far North SD Balance** SSDs, regional centres were the most significant locations for the 35,735 single parent families in the non-metropolitan areas of Queensland. In each of **Cairns** (12.7 per cent), **Sunshine Coast** (12.3 per cent), **Rockhampton** (12.3 per cent), **Toowoomba** (11.9 per cent), **Mackay** (11.3 per cent) and **Bundaberg** (11.2 per cent) single parent families comprised more than 11 per cent of all families. Generally, these centres also comprised relatively large numbers of single parent families. There were 5,119 families in **Sunshine Coast**, 4,229 in **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** and 3,532 in **Moreton SD Balance**.

In each of **Whyalla**, **Onkaparinga** and **Flinders Ranges** in South Australia (with a total of 8,735 single parent families), single parent families comprised ten per cent or more of all families.

The largest numbers of single parent families were in **Lower South East** (979 families), **Murray Mallee** (817) and **Onkaparinga** (823).

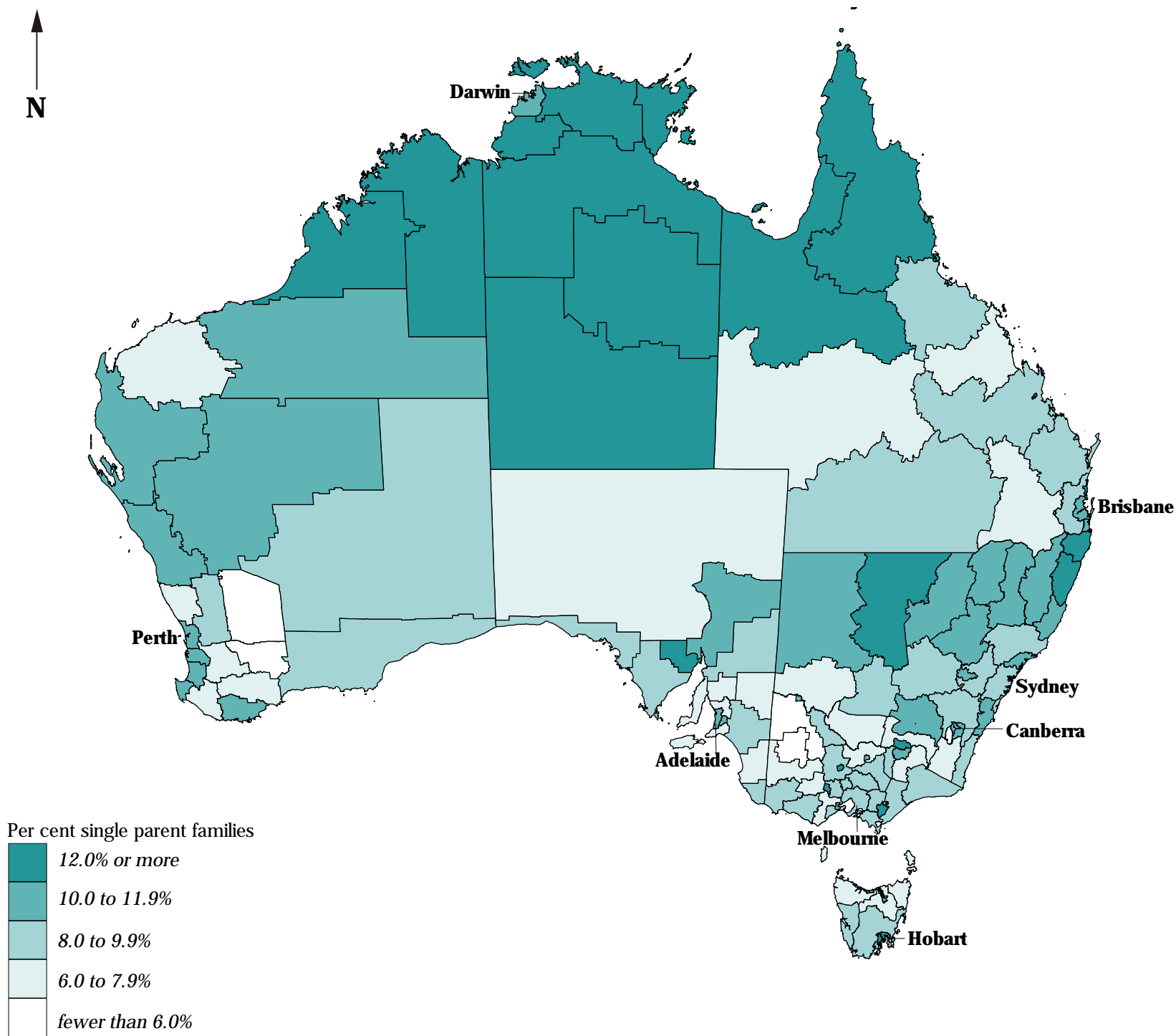
There is a strong association between the location of the Aboriginal population and of single parent families in Western Australia. This may explain the very high proportions of 19 per cent in **Fitzroy** and 17.9 per cent in **Ord**, as well as the relatively high proportions in the central pastoral regions of the State. However, the largest numbers of single parent families were located in several coastal locations. There were 1,780 single parent families in **Preston** and another 1,504 in **Dale**, both located in the State's south-west, with a further 1,122 single parent families in **Greenough River**, some 400 kilometres north of **Perth**. In total, there were 11,068 single parent families in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia.

In Tasmania, the highest proportions of single parent families outside **Hobart** were located in **Launceston** (11.0 per cent) and **Burnie-Devonport** (10.9 per cent). These SSDs also comprised the largest numbers of these families, with 2,811 single parent families in **Launceston** and 2,302 in **Burnie-Devonport**.

With the exception of **Darwin Rural Areas**, single parent families comprised more than 12 per cent of families in all SSDs, in the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory. The three highest proportions recorded for any SSD in non-metropolitan Australia were in the Northern Territory SSDs of **Bathurst-Melville** (20.4 per cent), **East Arnhem** (19.2 per cent) and **Daly** (19.1 per cent). However, the largest numbers of single parent families were resident in **Central NT**, with 1,098 families, and **Lower Top End NT**, with 519 single parent families.

Map 3.6: Single parent families, Australia, 1996

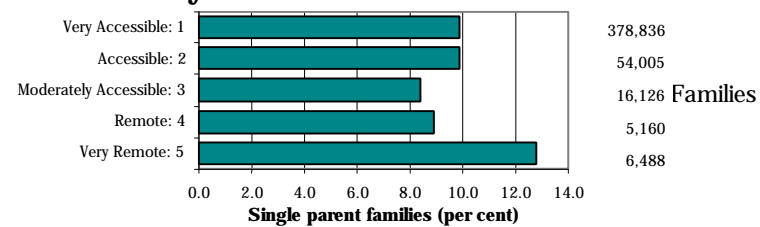
as a percentage of all families in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The highest proportion of single parent families are in the most remote areas (12.8 per cent in Very Remote), with 9.9 per cent in both the Very Accessible and Accessible categories. The Remote and Moderately Accessible categories had lower proportions, of 8.9 and 8.4 per cent, respectively. Although the number of families drops off rapidly with increasing remoteness, the numbers in the Very Remote category were slightly higher than in the Remote category.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC

National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Low income families, 1996

Capital city comparison

Low income families, defined as families with annual family incomes of less than \$21,000 (less than \$400 per week), comprised 16.6 per cent of all families in **Sydney** for which income details were obtained at the 1996 Census (**Table 3.13**). The use of low income as a measure of poverty is compromised to an extent by the fact that income is influenced by differences in family size, age structure and housing tenure and costs. While the variable will normally capture most welfare dependent families, it will also include sizeable numbers of families for which low income is linked to their retirement status.

Adelaide had the highest (21.8) percentage of low income families, while **Darwin** (11.1 per cent) and **Canberra** (11.7 per cent) had much lower proportions, reflecting the younger age structures of these cities and the lower proportions of retired families in their populations. Overall, there has been an increase in the proportion of low income families in all capital cities in the ten years from 1986 to 1996. Refer to the footnote to **Table 3.6** on page 20 regarding the interpretation of these comparisons over time.

Table 3.13: Low income families, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	16.6	17.2	18.0	21.8	17.7	20.2	11.1	11.7	17.5
1986	15.7	14.3	16.9	19.2	17.4	17.3	10.6	8.8	15.8

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital Cities

The highest proportion of low income families in **Sydney** (160,289 low income families) was in **Gosford-Wyong**, with 25.0 per cent of families reporting incomes of less than \$21,000 per annum. Both **Canterbury-Bankstown** and **Fairfield-Liverpool** Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs), to the south-west of the city centre, had 21.8 per cent of families with low incomes. There were more than 10,000 low income families in every SSD with more than 18 per cent of families at this income level. The largest numbers of low income families were in **Gosford-Wyong** (17,990 families), **Fairfield-Liverpool** (17,269 families) and **Canterbury-Bankstown** (16,862), which together comprised 32.5 per cent of all low income families living in **Sydney**. In **Newcastle**, there were 29,532 low income families (24.1 per cent of all families) and in **Wollongong** there were 15,111 low income families (22.5 per cent of all families).

In **Melbourne**, the highest proportions of low income families were located in the inner suburbs to the north-east, north and west of the city centre, and in the outlying Dandenong and Mornington Peninsula areas. The highest proportions were in **Moreland** and **Dandenong**, where 23.9 per cent and 23.3 per cent of families received low incomes. The largest numbers of **Melbourne's** 142,178 low income families were in **Western** (21,646 families), **Eastern Middle** (15,759) and **Southern Melbourne** (14,614). In **Geelong**, there were 8,843 families with a low income in 1996 (22.6 per cent of all families).

Low income families in **Brisbane** were most heavily concentrated in **Redcliffe** (27.4 per cent and the highest proportion for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) and **Caboolture** (25.3 per cent), located to the north of **Brisbane**. **Gold Coast Part A** was the only other SSD with more than 20 per cent of families with low incomes. Of the total of 69,790 low income families, the largest number was in **Brisbane City** (33,962; 16.8 per cent), more than four times the number in **Logan** (8,016; 18.9 per cent). A further 6,636 low income families were resident in **Caboolture**. There were 22,336 low income families

in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, 24.2 per cent of all families, and 5,033 in **Townsville-Thuringowa**, 16.7 per cent of all families.

In **Adelaide** the highest proportions of low income families were in the **Western** (26.4 per cent of families and the second highest proportion for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD), **Northern** (23.4 per cent) and **Southern** (20.2 per cent) SSDs. The largest numbers of low income families were also in the outer suburbs, with 21,405 in **Northern** and 17,076 in **Southern**. These two SSDs comprised 62.3 per cent of the 61,730 low income families living in **Adelaide**.

Areas with more than **Perth's** average of low income families were confined to the southern suburbs, with the highest proportions in **South West Metropolitan** (19.2 per cent of all low income families) and **South East Metropolitan** (18.7 per cent). The largest numbers of low income families (out of a total of 58,397 families), however, were in the northern suburbs, with 17,590 families in **North Metropolitan** SSD, 14,261 in **South East Metropolitan** and 13,354 in **South West Metropolitan**.

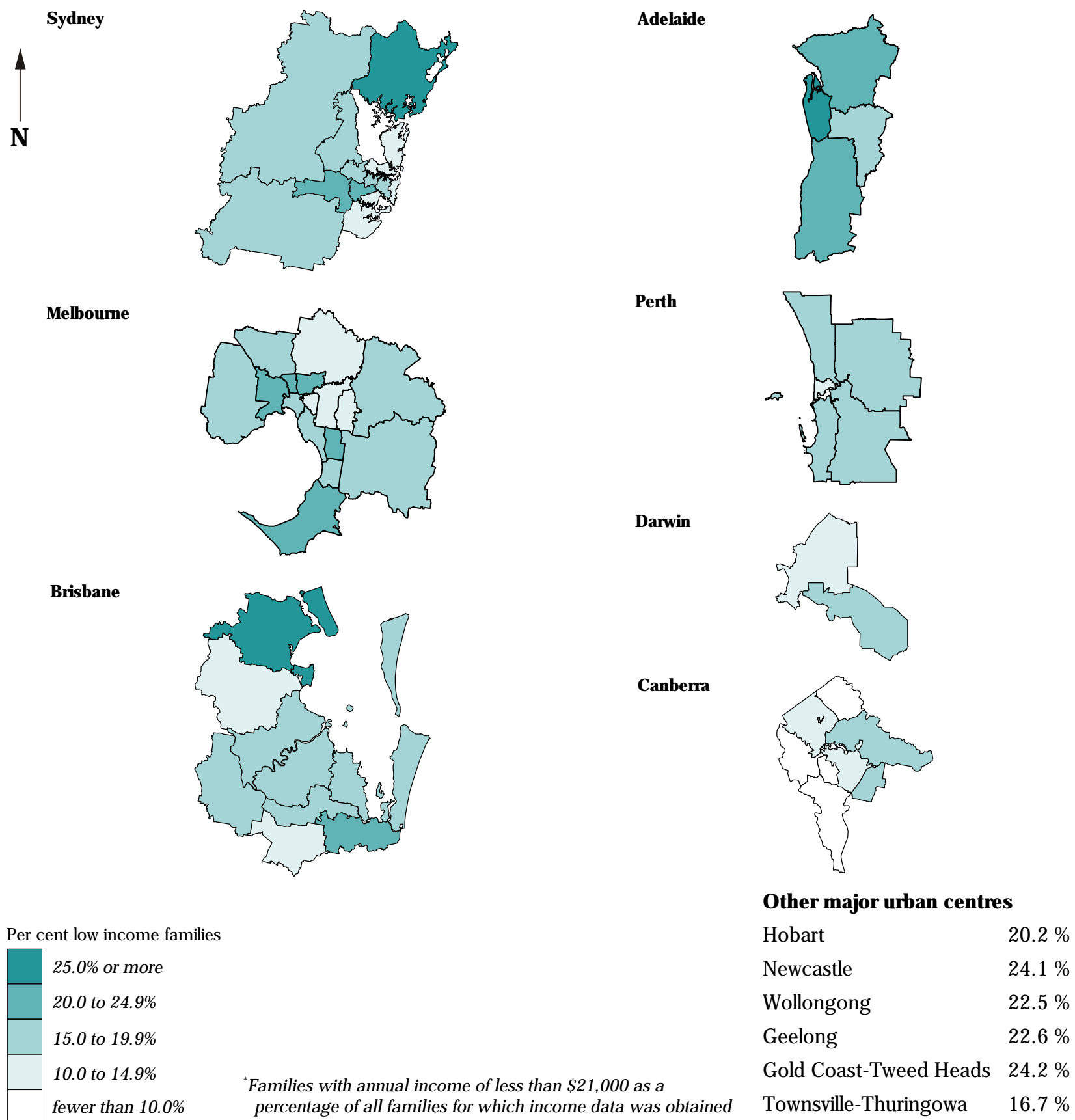
In **Hobart**, there were 10,095 low income families, representing 20.2 per cent of all families.

Although 15.6 per cent of all families in **Palmerston-East Arm** were single parent families, compared with 10.2 per cent in **Darwin City**, the 1,610 low income families in **Darwin City** were more than three times the number in **Palmerston-East Arm** (522).

There were 8,536 low income families in **Canberra**, 18.1 per cent of all families in **North Canberra**, 15.3 per cent in **Queanbeyan** and 14.7 per cent in **South Canberra**. **Belconnen** (2,427 low income families) and **Tuggeranong** (2,246) had the largest numbers of these families.

Map 3.7: Low income families, major urban centres, 1996

as a percentage of all families* in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Low income families, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The proportion of low income families (families with annual family incomes of less than \$21,000) living outside of the capital cities and other major urban centres in New South Wales is, at 26.5 per cent, the highest in Australia (**Table 3.14**). The highest proportions of low income families in all States and the Northern Territory were in the areas outside the capital cities and other major urban centres. Over the ten years from 1986 to 1996, the proportion of low income families has remained relatively stable as a proportion of all families in New South Wales for each of the categories in the table (the largest variation being the small increase in **Sydney**). This is in contrast to the increase for Australia as a whole, from 18.7 per cent to 20.0 per cent of all families. Refer to the footnote to **Table 3.6** on page 20 regarding the interpretation of these comparisons over time.

Table 3.14: Low income families, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	16.6	17.2	18.0	21.8	17.7	20.2	11.1	11.2 ²	17.5
Other major urban centres ³	23.6	22.6	22.4	..	..	..	..	..	23.0
Rest of State/Territory	26.5	24.2	23.6	26.2	20.6	25.7	21.6	.. ⁴	24.6
Whole of State/Territory	20.0	19.1	20.8	22.9	18.5	23.5	16.6	11.2	20.0
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	26.7	21.9	25.0	25.9	22.1	22.3	20.5	.. ⁴	24.8

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

Of the five Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) in New South Wales with 30 per cent or more of families with low incomes, four were located on the coast. Each of **Tweed Heads** (32.7 per cent), **Hastings** (32.4 per cent), **Clarence** (31.9 per cent), **Lower South Coast** (31.4 per cent) and **Far West** (30.9 per cent) had proportions of more than 30 per cent. There were 12,148 low income families in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance**, 11,493 in **Clarence** and 11,262 in **Hastings**.

The distribution of low income families in Victoria was associated with the distribution of agriculture, horticulture and mining activity, rather than with the distribution of retired people living in regional centres. Only **North Loddon** (31.1 per cent) and **East Gippsland** (30.8 per cent) had more than 30 per cent of families in this category, although **South Gippsland**, **West Central Highlands**, **South Goulburn**, **Mildura** and **East Mallee** still had relatively high proportions. The largest numbers of low income families were in **La Trobe Valley** (4,831), **Ballarat** (4,579) and **Bendigo** (4,346).

In 1996, **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** had both the largest number (14,802) and proportion (32.4 per cent) of low income families outside **Brisbane**. The SSDs of **Bundaberg** (28.7 per cent), **Sunshine Coast** (28.6) and **Moreton SD Balance** (25.7) had more than 25 per cent of their families with incomes of less than \$21,000 per annum. The largest numbers of low income families were located in **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (14,802 low income families), **Sunshine Coast** (11,934) and **Moreton SD Balance** (10,075) in 1996.

Of the four SSDs in South Australia with high proportions of low income families, **Yorke** (with 36.3 per cent and the highest proportion in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia), **Fleurieu** (32.3 per cent) and **Murray Mallee** (30.8 per cent) include

significant retirement centres within their boundaries. These areas also have the largest numbers of low income families – 2,679 families in **Murray Mallee**, 2,538 in **Fleurieu** and 2,438 in **Yorke Piri**. **Piri** had the third highest proportion of low income families in the State (30.9 per cent), but its 2,220 families ranked seventh numerically. Other SSDs with large numbers were **Lower South East** (2,415 low income families), **Riverland** (2,375) and **Barossa** (2,305).

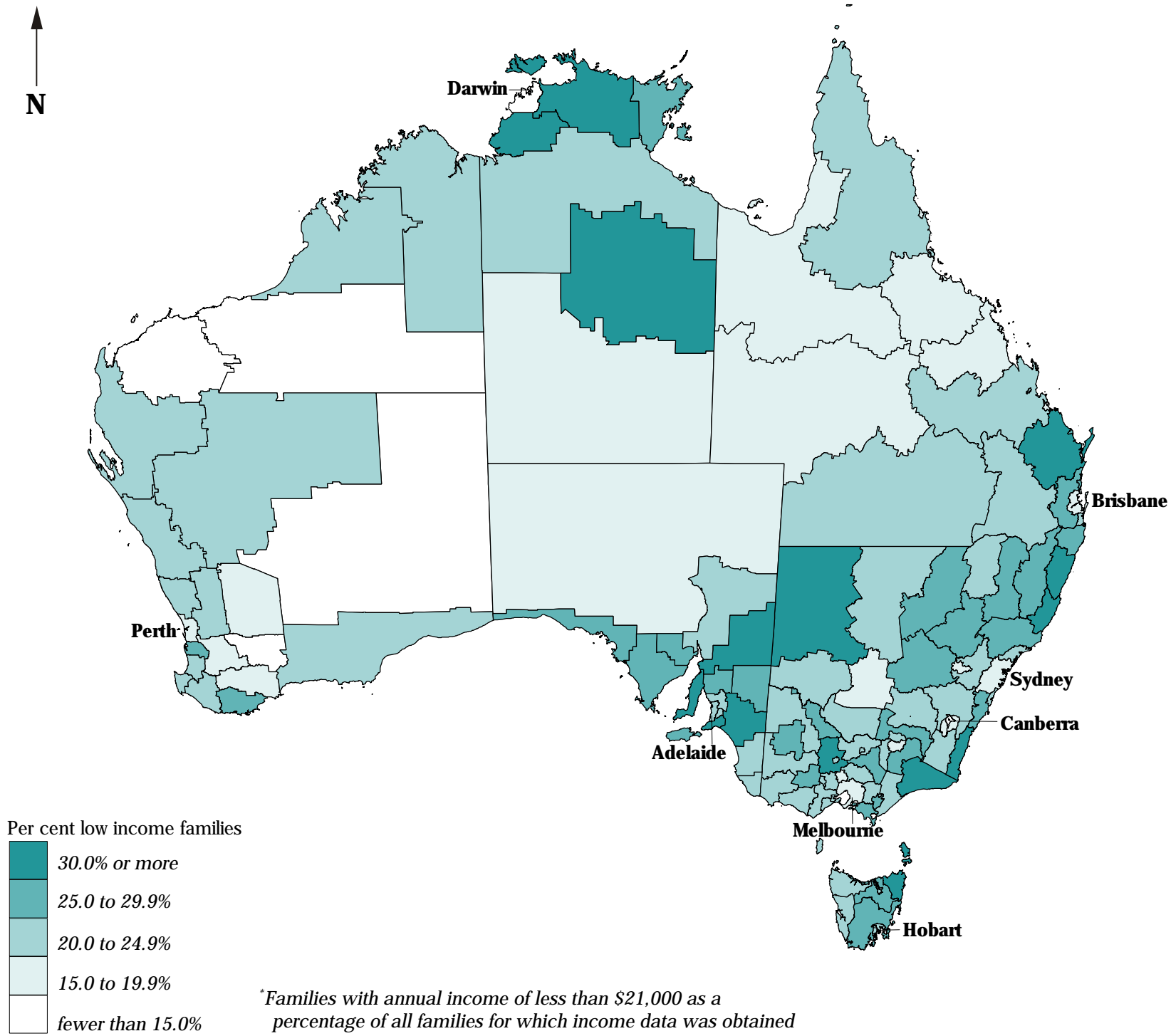
In Western Australia, SSDs with both high proportions and large numbers of low income families were located in the south and south-east of the State. **Dale** had both the highest proportion of low income families (28.1 per cent) and the largest number (4,159), while **King** (26.8 per cent), with 2,612 families, had the third largest number in the State, after **Preston**, with 3,575 low income families (20.0 per cent). To the north, 24.4 per cent of families in **Moore** had low incomes, with 23.6 per cent in **Fitzroy** and 23.5 per cent in **Ord** in the State's far north.

The highest proportion of low income families in Tasmania was in **North Eastern** (30.3 per cent), with 1,158 low income families. There were 6,026 low income families in **Launceston** (23.6 per cent), 5,758 in **Burnie-Davenport** (27.2 per cent) and 2,633 in **Southern** (28.3 per cent).

In the Northern Territory, the highest proportions of low income families were in **Bathurst-Melville** (with 35.5 per cent, the second highest proportion of any non-metropolitan SSD), **Alligator** (34.5 per cent), **Daly** (32.2 per cent) and **Barkly** (30.9 per cent): each of these SSDs had fewer than 500 low income families. The largest numbers of low income families were in **Central NT** (with 1,373 low income families), **Lower Top End** (797) and **East Arnhem** (715).

Map 3.8: Low income families, Australia, 1996

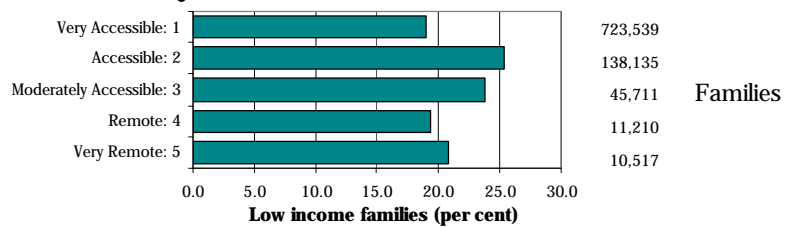
as a percentage of all families* in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



Each of the Accessible (25.3 per cent), Moderately Accessible (23.8 per cent) and Very Remote (20.8 per cent) categories had more than 20 per cent of families receiving low incomes. The lowest proportions were in the Very Accessible (19.0 per cent) and Remote (19.4 per cent) categories.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Unskilled & semi-skilled workers, 1996

Capital city comparison

Occupation remains the most important determinant of wealth, social standing and well-being for most people in Australian society. People employed in the Census defined occupations of labourers and related workers, and intermediate production and transport workers, are described generally in this analysis as unskilled and semi-skilled workers. These categories of occupation encompass most lower paid and less skilled, blue collar work and their prevalence therefore forms a useful general measure of low socioeconomic status. The percentages of workers employed in these occupations are calculated as a proportion of the total employed labour force.

The majority of capital cities had near-average proportions for this variable, with the highest in **Adelaide** and the lowest in **Canberra**. A consistent decline in both number and proportion has resulted in a net loss of 110,506 of these occupations in the decade since 1986. **Sydney** (down 16.9 per cent), **Melbourne** (17.6 per cent) and **Adelaide** (15.5 per cent) experienced the largest relative falls.

Table 3.15: Unskilled and semi-skilled workers, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	14.9	16.4	16.5	17.3	15.7	14.5	13.2	9.3	15.6
1986	20.7	22.1	21.6	21.6	20.3	19.4	15.1	12.3	20.9

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

As these categories do not appropriately reflect the occupational status of country residents, this variable has not been mapped for areas outside of the major urban centres.

Capital cities

The highest concentration of unskilled and semi-skilled workers in **Sydney** was in **Fairfield-Liverpool** with 26.5 per cent of the employed labour force in these occupations (the second highest proportion of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD). High proportions were also recorded in adjacent **Canterbury-Bankstown** (21.3 per cent), and in **Outer South Western Sydney** (19.8 per cent) and **Central Western Sydney** (19.5 per cent). There were 30,005 unskilled and semi-skilled workers living in **Fairfield-Liverpool**, 28,055 in **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** and 24,832 in **St George-Sutherland**. The lowest proportions were in **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai** (6.6 per cent) and **Lower North Sydney** (7.2 per cent). In **Newcastle**, there were 34,957 unskilled and semi-skilled workers (19.9 per cent of the employed labour force), while in **Wollongong** there were 19,153 (19.8 per cent).

In **Melbourne**, 32.8 per cent (the highest proportion of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) of the employed labour force in **Dandenong** were in unskilled and semi-skilled occupations, substantially more than the 24.4 per cent in **Hume** and 23.4 per cent in **Western Melbourne**. Each of **South Eastern Outer Melbourne**, **Northern Outer Melbourne** and **Melton-Wyndham** had 20 per cent or more of their labour force employed in these occupations. There were 36,617 unskilled and semi-skilled workers living in **Western Melbourne**, 21,826 in **Eastern Middle Melbourne** and 18,977 in **Southern Melbourne**. In **Geelong**, 20.5 per cent of the employed labour force, or 12,024 workers, held unskilled and semi-skilled jobs.

Unskilled and semi-skilled workers tended to live in areas located on the southern and northern margins of **Brisbane**. Both **Gold Coast Part A**, to the south, and **Caboolture**, to the north, had 23.2 per cent of their labour force employed in these occupations. **Logan** and **Ipswich** both with 22.6 per cent, also had the largest numbers of unskilled and semi-skilled workers,

with 15,434 and 10,835, respectively. **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** had 22,167 unskilled and semi-skilled workers (15.7 per cent) and in **Townsville-Thuringowa**, there were 9,129 unskilled and semi-skilled workers, 17.2 per cent of the employed labour force.

The highest concentration of unskilled and semi-skilled workers in **Adelaide** was in **Northern SSD**, where 22.8 per cent of the employed labour force held jobs of this type. In contrast, the proportions in **Western** and **Southern** were 19.5 and 16.1 per cent, respectively. The largest numbers of these workers lived in **Northern** (29,987) and **Southern** (20,926), where the bulk of **Adelaide's** manufacturing activity is located.

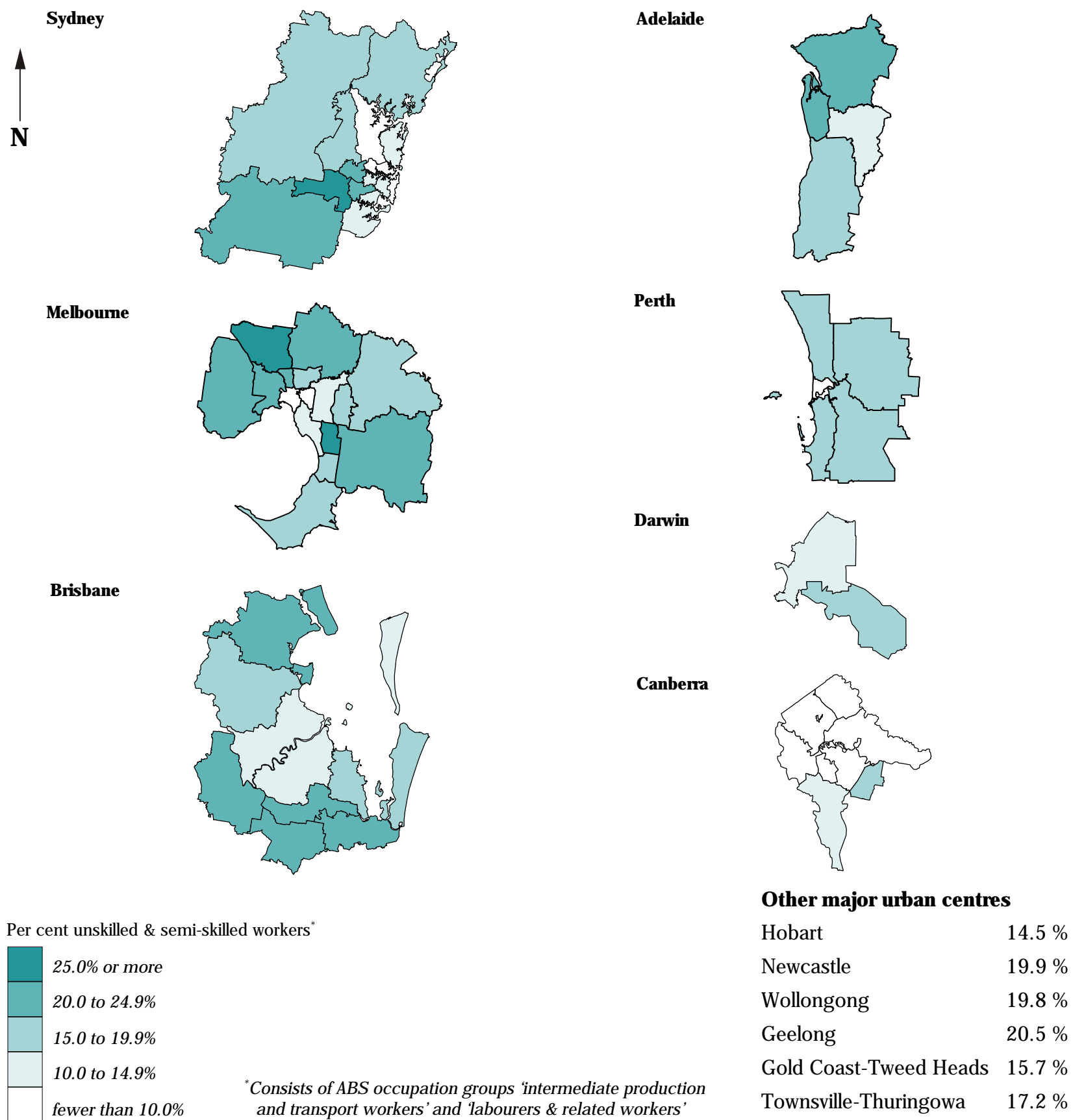
In **Perth**, the SSDs of **South East Metropolitan** (18.3 per cent) and adjacent **East Metropolitan** (18 per cent) had particularly high proportions of unskilled and semi-skilled workers. However, the largest numbers of unskilled and semi-skilled workers were recorded in **North Metropolitan** (25,394) and in **South East Metropolitan** (23,458).

In 1996, there were 11,391 unskilled and semi-skilled workers in **Hobart**, 14.5 per cent of the employed labour force.

In **Darwin**, 17.3 per cent of the employed labour force in **Palmerston-East Arm** were in unskilled and semi-skilled occupations, compared with 12.7 per cent in **Darwin City**. However, the 4,479 unskilled and semi-skilled workers in **Darwin City** were more than four times the number in **Palmerston-East Arm** (948).

In the Australian Capital Territory, 9.8 per cent of the employed labour force in **Tuggeranong** (4,191 people) and 8.8 per cent in **Belconnen** (3,668 people) were unskilled and semi-skilled workers. In adjacent **Queanbeyan**, 18.4 per cent were employed in unskilled or semi-skilled occupations.

Map 3.9: Unskilled and semi-skilled workers*, major urban centres, 1996
as a percentage of the total employed labour force in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Unemployed people, 1996

Capital city comparison

At the 1996 Census, 771,972 Australians reported being unemployed and looking for work, of whom 463,429 resided in Australia's capital cities. More than a quarter of the *All capitals* unemployed lived in **Sydney** (134,857 people), 7.4 per cent of **Sydney's** labour force. The unemployment rate in the other capital cities ranged from 7.5 per cent in **Canberra** (13,062 people, and a considerably higher rate than in 1986 when it was 4.8 per cent) to 10.6 per cent in **Adelaide** (51,662 people) (**Table 3.16**). The *All capitals* unemployment figure varied greatly over the ten years to 1996, rising considerably from 8.2 per cent in 1986, to 11.2 per cent in 1991, before declining to the 1996 rate of 8.5 per cent.

It is important to note that these figures can understate the true extent of unemployment because they do not report hidden unemployment and under-employment. Hidden unemployment results from people not recording themselves at the Census as unemployed, as they felt they did not fit the 'looking for work' requirement, often having been discouraged from doing so by the difficulty of obtaining employment. Hidden unemployment is less prevalent at the Census where people 'self-report' than in the official unemployment figures published by the ABS, which are based on data where the 'looking for work' and strict 'availability to work' definitions are applied more rigorously by personal interviewers in the monthly ABS Population Survey. Under-employment refers to those who have jobs but are working fewer hours than they would prefer. Women predominate in both of these categories, as do those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

These figures are based on self-report information in the Census. As it is unclear how Indigenous people would record their involvement in CDEP schemes it may be more appropriate to use the information provided for unemployment beneficiaries on page 96.

Table 3.16: Unemployed people, capital cities

	<i>Per cent</i>									
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals	
1996	7.4	9.1	8.8	10.6	8.3	9.7	7.7	7.5	8.5	
1986	8.6	6.6	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.7	4.8	8.2	

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

As **Map 3.10** shows, 13.8 per cent of the labour force in **Fairfield-Liverpool** was unemployed in 1996, almost double the overall rate for **Sydney**, and the second highest proportion of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD. The rates in **Canterbury-Bankstown** and **Gosford-Wyong** were 10.5 and 10.3 per cent respectively. In **Sydney**, there were 18,126 unemployed people living in **Fairfield-Liverpool**, 13,226 in **Canterbury-Bankstown**, and 12,660 in **Inner Sydney**. **Newcastle** had 22,971 unemployed people (11.6 per cent of the labour force), while the 12,705 unemployed people in **Wollongong** also comprised 11.6 per cent of the labour force.

The highest levels of unemployment in **Melbourne** were principally in the older, industrialised suburbs to the west and north of the city centre, and also in the Dandenong industrial area. The highest rates were in **Dandenong** (with 14.5 per cent and the highest rate of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD), **Moreland** (13.3 per cent), **Western Melbourne** (12.6 per cent) and **Hume** (11.2 per cent). The largest numbers of unemployed people lived in **Western Melbourne** (22,463 people), with considerably more than in **Eastern Middle Melbourne** (13,966) and **Inner Melbourne** (13,550). In **Geelong**, 12.0 per cent of the labour force, or 7,980 people, were unemployed in 1996.

The distribution of Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) with high unemployment levels in **Brisbane** showed 13.0 per cent unemployment in **Gold Coast Part A**, to the south of **Brisbane**, and 12.7 and 12.3 per cent respectively in **Redcliffe** and **Caboolture**, to the north. High levels also occurred in **Logan** and **Ipswich**. **Brisbane City** had the largest number of unemployed people (32,212), with 8,515 unemployed people in

Logan and 4,969 in **Ipswich**. However, there was a substantial number of unemployed people in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** (21,300 people, 12.8 per cent of the labour force). In **Townsville-Thuringowa**, 9.4 per cent of the labour force (5,632 people) was unemployed.

The unemployment rate in **Adelaide** in 1996 was 10.6 per cent compared with 9.5 per cent in 1986. In 1996, the highest rates were in the **Western** (12.5 per cent) and **Northern** (12.2 per cent) SSDs. The largest number of unemployed people was also in **Northern**, with 18,204 unemployed people, with a further 13,710 in **Southern**.

In 1996, unemployment levels were relatively uniform throughout **Perth**, with a rate of 8.7 per cent in **South West Metropolitan**, and 8.5 per cent in both **South East Metropolitan** and **North Metropolitan**. There were 16,060 unemployed people living in **North Metropolitan** and 11,974 in **South East Metropolitan**.

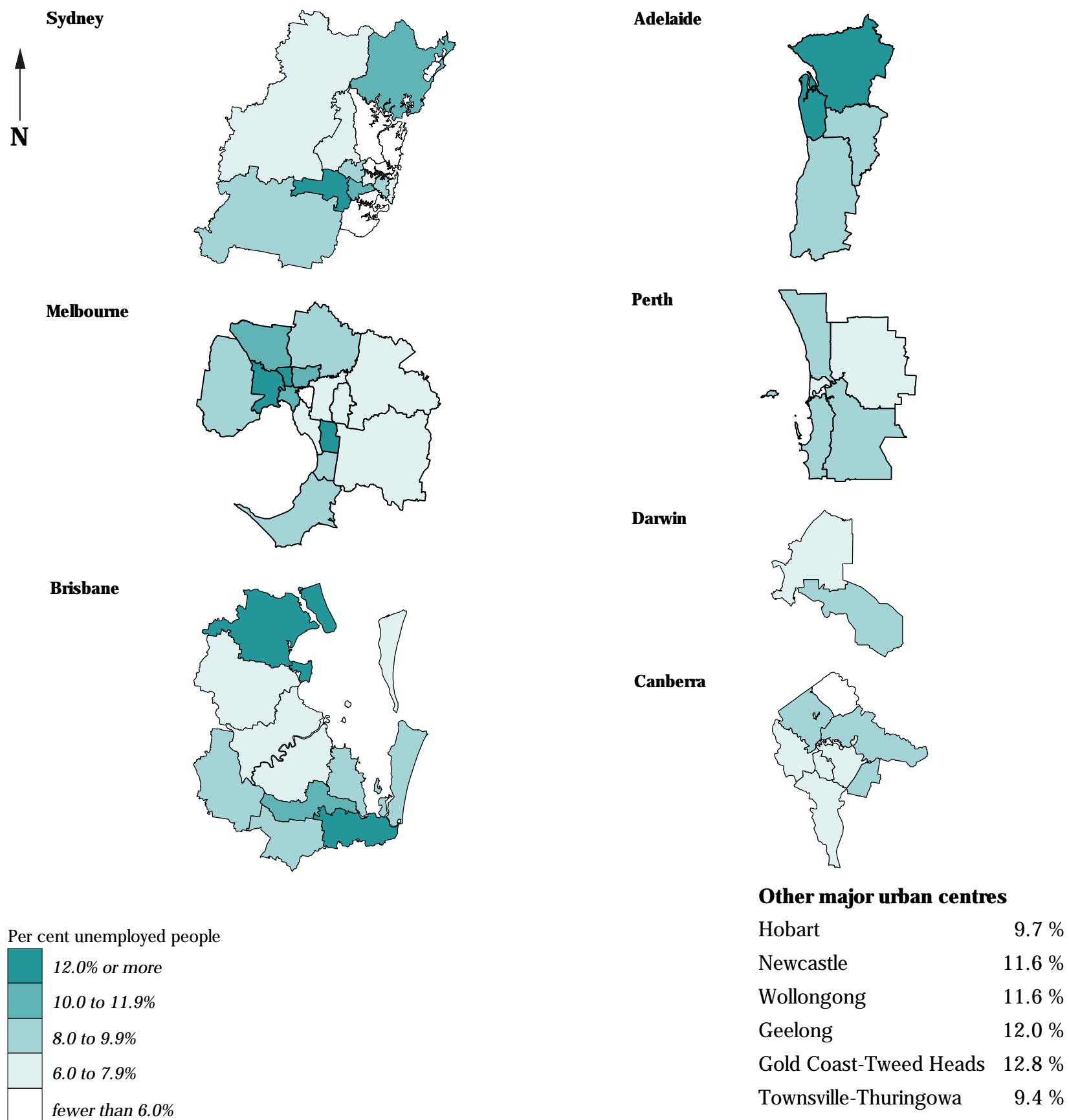
In **Hobart**, there were 8,478 unemployed people in 1996, 9.7 per cent of the labour force.

There were 2,902 unemployed people in **Darwin City** (an unemployment rate of 7.6 per cent), compared with 513 in **Palmerston-East Arm** (a higher 8.6 per cent).

The highest rate of unemployment in **Canberra** was in **North Canberra**, where 9.8 per cent of the labour force was unemployed. The next highest unemployment rates were in **Queanbeyan** (8.6 per cent) and **Belconnen** (8.1 per cent). There were 3,663 people unemployed in **Belconnen**, the largest number of unemployed people in **Canberra**, with a further 2,926 unemployed people in **Tuggeranong**.

Map 3.10: Unemployed people, major urban centres, 1996

as a percentage of the total labour force in each Statistical Subdivision



Per cent unemployed people

- 12.0% or more
- 10.0 to 11.9%
- 8.0 to 9.9%
- 6.0 to 7.9%
- fewer than 6.0%

Other major urban centres

Hobart	9.7 %
Newcastle	11.6 %
Wollongong	11.6 %
Geelong	12.0 %
Gold Coast-Tweed Heads	12.8 %
Townsville-Thuringowa	9.4 %

Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996
 Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
 National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Census

Unemployed people, 1996

State/Territory comparison

In 1996, unemployment rates in the *Other major urban centres* category in **Table 3.17** were considerably higher than those recorded for the capital cities and, in New South Wales, higher than the average for the *Rest of State /Territory* areas. Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania also had higher levels of unemployment in the *Rest of State /Territory* areas than in the capital cities, in contrast to the situation in South Australia and Western Australia.

Although the unemployment rate in the *Rest of State /Territory* areas was lower in 1996 (10.1 per cent) than in 1986 (10.8 per cent), the relativities between the States and Territories varied, with the largest declines occurring in the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales, and the largest increase in Victoria.

These figures are based on self-report information in the Census. As it is unclear how Indigenous people would record their involvement in CDEP schemes it may be more appropriate to use the information provided for unemployment beneficiaries on page 98.

Table 3.17: Unemployed people, State/Territory

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	7.4	9.1	8.8	10.6	8.3	9.7	7.7	7.5 ²	8.5
Other major urban centres ³	11.6	12.0	11.9	..	..	..	..	..	11.7
Rest of State/Territory	11.2	10.1	10.0	9.8	7.5	11.9	7.0	— ⁴	10.1
Whole of State/Territory	8.8	9.4	9.6	10.4	8.1	11.0	7.4	7.3	9.2
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	12.6	8.0	12.2	9.6	9.2	10.6	12.0	— ⁴	10.8

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

The three highest unemployment rates in any SSD in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia in 1996 were on the north coast of New South Wales, with unemployment rates of 17.1 per cent in **Clarence**, 16.1 per cent in adjacent **Hastings** and 15.9 per cent in **Tweed Heads**. The largest numbers of unemployed people were located in the Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) of **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (9,946 people), **Clarence** (9,144) and **Hastings** (7,862).

In 1996, the **La Trobe Valley** SSD had the highest unemployment rate in Victoria, with a rate of 15.6 per cent. Other high proportions were in **North Loddon** (13.3 per cent), **East Gippsland** (13.2 per cent) and **Bendigo** (13.0 per cent). There were 4,801 unemployed people living in **La Trobe Valley**, 4,071 in **Bendigo** and 3,968 in **Ballarat**.

The highest unemployment rates in Queensland were confined to a region on the east coast comprising **Sunshine Coast** (15.0 per cent), **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (14.9), **Bundaberg** (14.8) and **Moreton SD Balance** (11.3). The largest numbers of unemployed people lived in **Sunshine Coast**, with 10,363, and **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance**, with 10,356. There were 7,009 unemployed people in **Moreton SD Balance** and another 4,901 in **Cairns**.

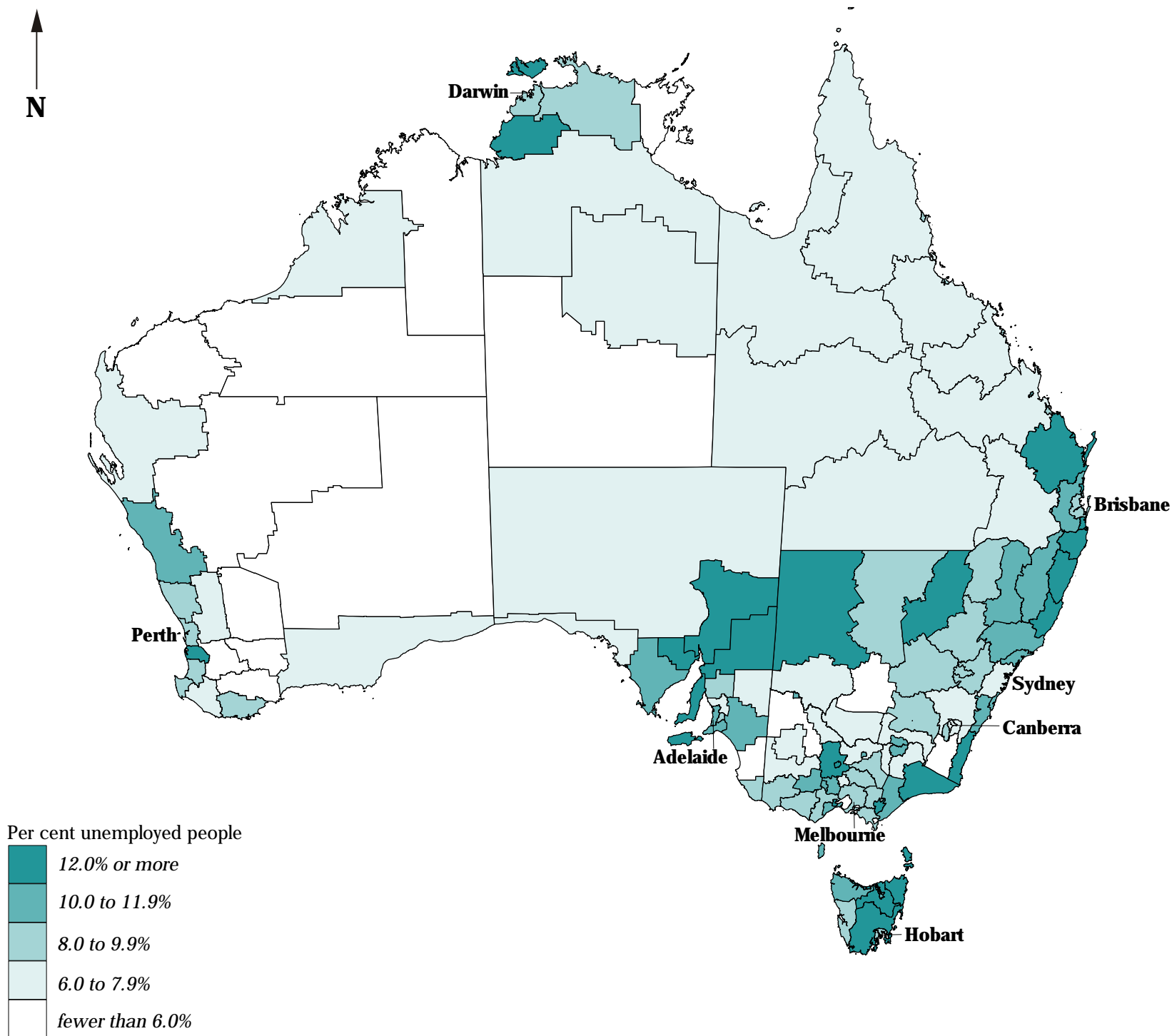
The highest proportions of unemployed people in South Australia were in SSDs centred on the cities, Whyalla and Port Pirie. In **Pirie**, the unemployment rate in 1996 was 15.5 per cent (1,690 unemployed people), and in **Whyalla** it was 13.9 per cent (1,497 unemployed people). There were an additional 1,629 unemployed people living in **Lower South East** SSD.

The SSD of **Dale**, immediately to the south of **Perth**, had 13.0 per cent of its labour force unemployed in 1996. The next highest rate in Western Australia was in **Greenough River**, located more than 400 kilometres north of **Perth**, a rate of 10.2 per cent. **Dale** and adjacent **Preston** had the largest numbers of unemployed people, with 2,663 and 2,515 respectively, while there were 2,061 unemployed people living in **Greenough River**.

The highest unemployment rates in Tasmania were in **Burnie-Devonport** and **Southern** SSDs, with rates of 13.2 and 12.6 per cent respectively. The largest numbers of unemployed people were located in SSDs in the north of the State, with 4,791 in **Launceston** and 4,235 in **Burnie-Devonport**. No other SSD approached 50 per cent of these numbers of unemployed people.

In the Northern Territory, the highest unemployment rate was in the island SSD of **Bathurst-Melville**. It had a rate of 15.0 per cent, compared with the next highest rate of 14.4 per cent in **Daly**. The largest numbers of unemployed people were in **Central NT** (1,024 people), **Darwin Rural Areas** (709) and **Lower Top End** (596).

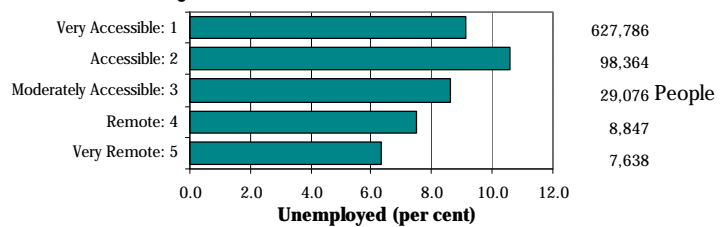
Map 3.11: Unemployed people, Australia, 1996
as a percentage of the total labour force in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The distribution of unemployment by ARIA category is similar to that for low income families, with the exception of the Very Remote areas, which in this case have the lowest proportion (6.3 per cent). Areas in the Accessible (10.6 per cent), Very Accessible (9.1 per cent) and Moderately Accessible (8.6 per cent) categories had the highest proportions, dropping away to lower proportions in the Remote (7.5 per cent) and Very Remote (6.3 per cent) categories.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Female labour force participation, 1996

Capital city comparison

The marked increase in women's participation in paid work has been one of the most significant trends in Australian society in recent years. Women are both remaining in the work force longer (partly by delaying childbirth), and re-entering the workforce after childbirth, because of changes in social perceptions of the role of women and increased economic pressures on families. Female labour force participation is calculated here as the number of females in the labour force (employed plus unemployed and looking for work) as a proportion of all females in the population aged 20 to 54 years. The denominator is limited to the 20 to 54 year age group, as the participation rate for women under the age of 20 years is affected by differences in educational participation rates and for women aged 55 years and over by retirement rates, which are particularly high from age 55 years.

As **Table 3.18** shows, most cities had participation rates close to the average. The highest rates were in **Canberra** (almost seven percentage points higher than the average) and **Darwin**. The participation of women in the labour force in all capital cities increased between 1986 and 1996, with the largest increase occurring in **Brisbane**.

Table 3.18: Female labour force participation, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	69.3	69.8	69.4	69.1	68.3	68.9	70.7	76.3	69.5
1986	64.5	64.8	61.0	64.3	62.2	62.6	68.5	72.4	64.1

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

The highest rates of female labour force participation in **Sydney** were in areas on the north shore and in the eastern suburbs. In **Northern Beaches** the rate was 77.9 per cent, and in **Lower Northern Sydney** it was 76.4 per cent. Participation rates of 74.4, 73.9 and 73.8 respectively were recorded in **Eastern Suburbs**, **St George-Sutherland** and **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai**. The largest numbers of females in the workforce were in **St George-Sutherland** (74,620), **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** (63,657) and **Lower Northern Sydney** (59,364). In **Newcastle**, there were 71,425 females in the workforce, a participation rate of 65.2 per cent, while in **Wollongong** there were 38,564 females, a participation rate of 63.6 per cent.

In 1996, the highest female labour force participation rates in **Melbourne** were recorded in **Boroondara** Statistical Subdivision (SSD) (75.2 per cent), **Southern Melbourne** (74.0 per cent) and **Inner Melbourne** (73.2 per cent). The largest numbers of females in the workforce were in **Eastern Middle Melbourne** (74,916 females), **Southern Melbourne** (69,383) and **Western Melbourne** (68,146). In **Geelong**, there were 24,280 females in the labour force, a participation rate of 66.8 per cent.

The highest female labour force participation rates in **Brisbane** were in **Brisbane City** (72.3 per cent) and **Pine Rivers** (71.2 per cent). There were 156,979 female labour force participants living in the expansive **Brisbane City** SSD, substantially more than in **Logan** (28,094) and **Pine Rivers** (20,313). In **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, there were 63,065 females in the labour force (a participation rate of 67.8 per cent) and in **Townsville-Thuringowa** there were 21,958 (68.3 per cent).

In **Adelaide**, there were female labour force participation rates of 74.6 per cent in the **Eastern** and 70.8 per cent in the **Southern** SSDs. The largest numbers of females in the labour force were in **Southern** (55,133 female workers) and **Northern** (with 54,661 females, a participation rate of 64.3 per cent and the lowest of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD).

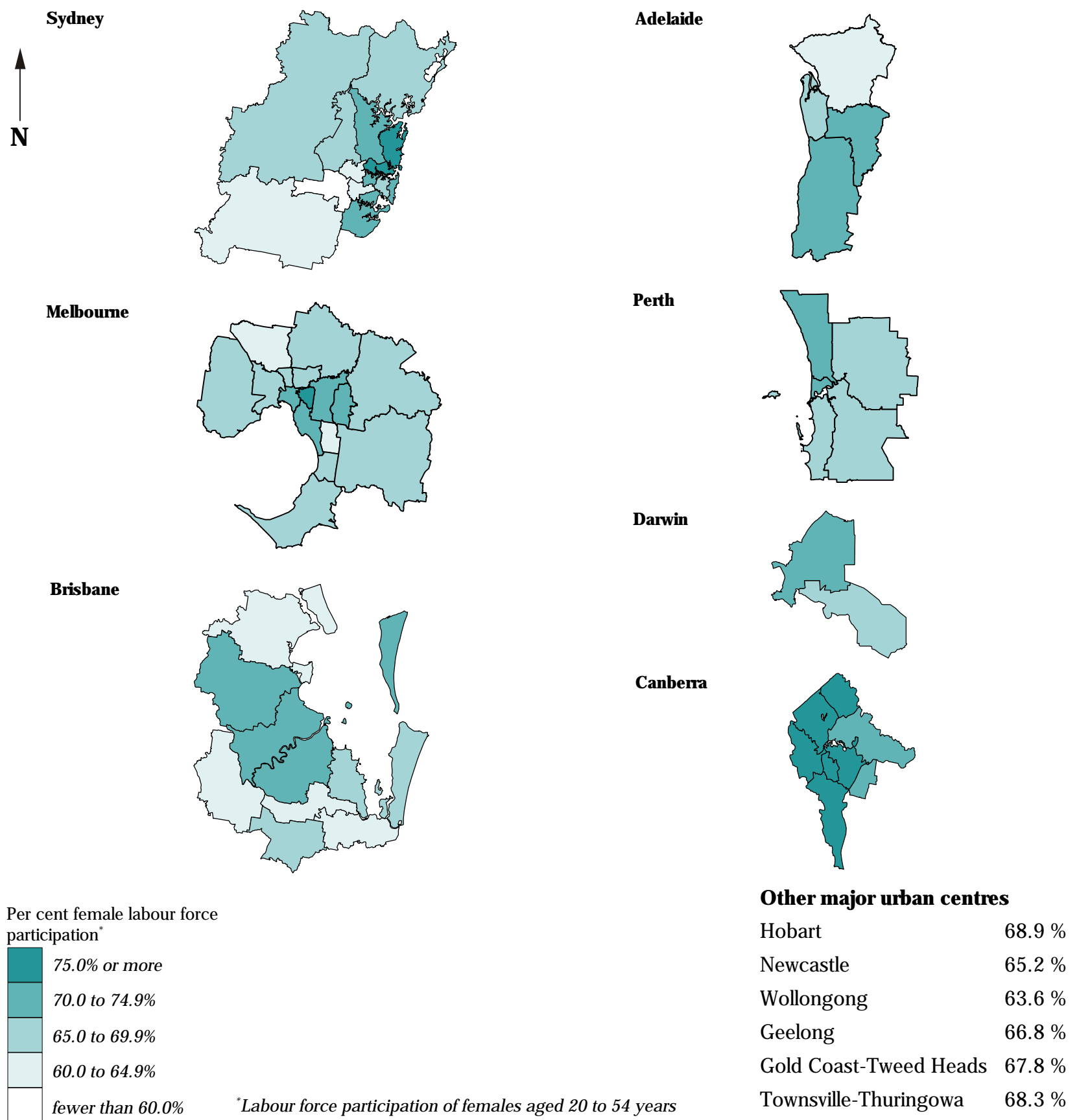
The **Central Metropolitan** and **North Metropolitan** SSDs of **Perth** had similar participation rates, of 70.8 and 70.3 respectively. **North Metropolitan** also had the largest number of females in the labour force, with 71,402 females, while there were 51,481 in **South East Metropolitan**.

In **Hobart**, there were 33,326 females in the labour force, a labour force participation rate of 68.9 per cent.

In **Darwin City** SSD, the female labour force participation rate was 71.5, compared with 66.4 in **Palmerston-East Arm**. **Darwin City** also had more females in the labour force, with 14,871, and only 2,442 in **Palmerston-East Arm**.

Every SSD in **Canberra** had a participation rate of greater than 70 per cent. The two highest rates for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD were in **Gungahlin-Hall** (80.8 per cent) and **Western Creek-Stromlo** (79.8 per cent) SSDs, while the lowest rate in **Canberra**, of 71 per cent, was in **North Canberra**. The largest numbers of females in the labour force were in **Tuggeranong**, with 19,057 females, and **Belconnen**, with 17,998.

Map 3.12: Female labour force participation* , major urban centres, 1996
as a percentage of all females aged 20 to 54 years in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Female labour force participation, 1996

State/Territory comparison

Female labour force participation is calculated here as the number of females in the labour force (employed plus unemployed and looking for work) as a proportion of all females in the population aged from 20 to 54 years.

The female labour force participation rate for Australia was 68.0 per cent in 1996, with most States and Territories having near average participation rates, ranging from 64.1 per cent in the Northern Territory, to 76.6 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory (**Table 3.19**). Within all of the States and Territories, female labour force participation rates were lower in the non-metropolitan areas than in the capital cities. This differential was particularly evident in the Northern Territory. The participation of women in the labour force increased substantially between 1986 and 1996, with the Australian participation rate increasing from 61.8 per cent in 1986 to 68.0 per cent in 1996. This increase was evident in every State and Territory.

Table 3.19: Female labour force participation, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	69.3	69.8	69.4	69.1	68.3	68.9	70.7	76.3 ²	69.5
Other major urban centres ³	64.7	66.8	67.9	..	..	..	..	..	66.1
Rest of State/Territory	65.4	66.5	63.8	66.2	64.6	62.2	58.3	- ⁴	64.8
Whole of State/Territory	67.8	69.0	67.0	68.4	67.3	65.1	64.1	76.6	68.0
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	58.0	60.1	55.3	60.7	56.8	55.4	56.6	- ⁴	57.7

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

In New South Wales, high female labour force participation rates were recorded in Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) along the southern part of the State, bordering Victoria. The highest rates were in **Snowy** (77.2 per cent) and the highest rate for any SSD in non-metropolitan Australia), **Queanbeyan** (74.3 per cent), **Bathurst-Orange** and **Albury** (both with 70.3 per cent). The largest numbers, however, were located on the north coast, with 24,451 female labour force participants in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance**, 19,049 in **Clarence** and 17,467 in **Hastings**.

In contrast with New South Wales, high proportions of female labour force participants were recorded throughout much of Victoria, with the exceptions of Gippsland and the Central Highland, Loddon, Ballarat, and Bendigo areas. The highest participation rates were in **East Ovens-Murray** (74.9 per cent) and the second highest participation rate for any non-metropolitan SSD), **West Ovens-Murray** (72.1 per cent) and **West Mallee** (70.3 per cent). The largest numbers of females in the workforce were in **Ballarat**, with 12,358; **Bendigo**, with 11,578; and in **La Trobe Valley**, with 10,932.

The highest female labour force participation rates in Queensland were located in the south-west of the State, with rates of 69.6 and 69.1 in **Central West** and **South West** respectively. Other SSDs with high rates were **Sunshine Coast** (67.0 per cent), **Cairns** (66.8 per cent) and **Rockhampton** (66.5 per cent). There were 25,811 females in the workforce in **Sunshine Coast**, 23,387 in **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** and 22,873 in **Cairns**.

The highest female labour force participation rates in South Australia were in **Kangaroo Island** (72.9 per cent) and **Upper**

South East (70.8 per cent). In the SSDs of **West Coast**, **Onkaparinga** and **Riverland**, rates ranged from 69.0 per cent to 69.8 per cent. There were 6,917 females in the workforce in the SSDs of **Lower South East**, 6,879 in **Barossa** and 5,544 in **Riverland**.

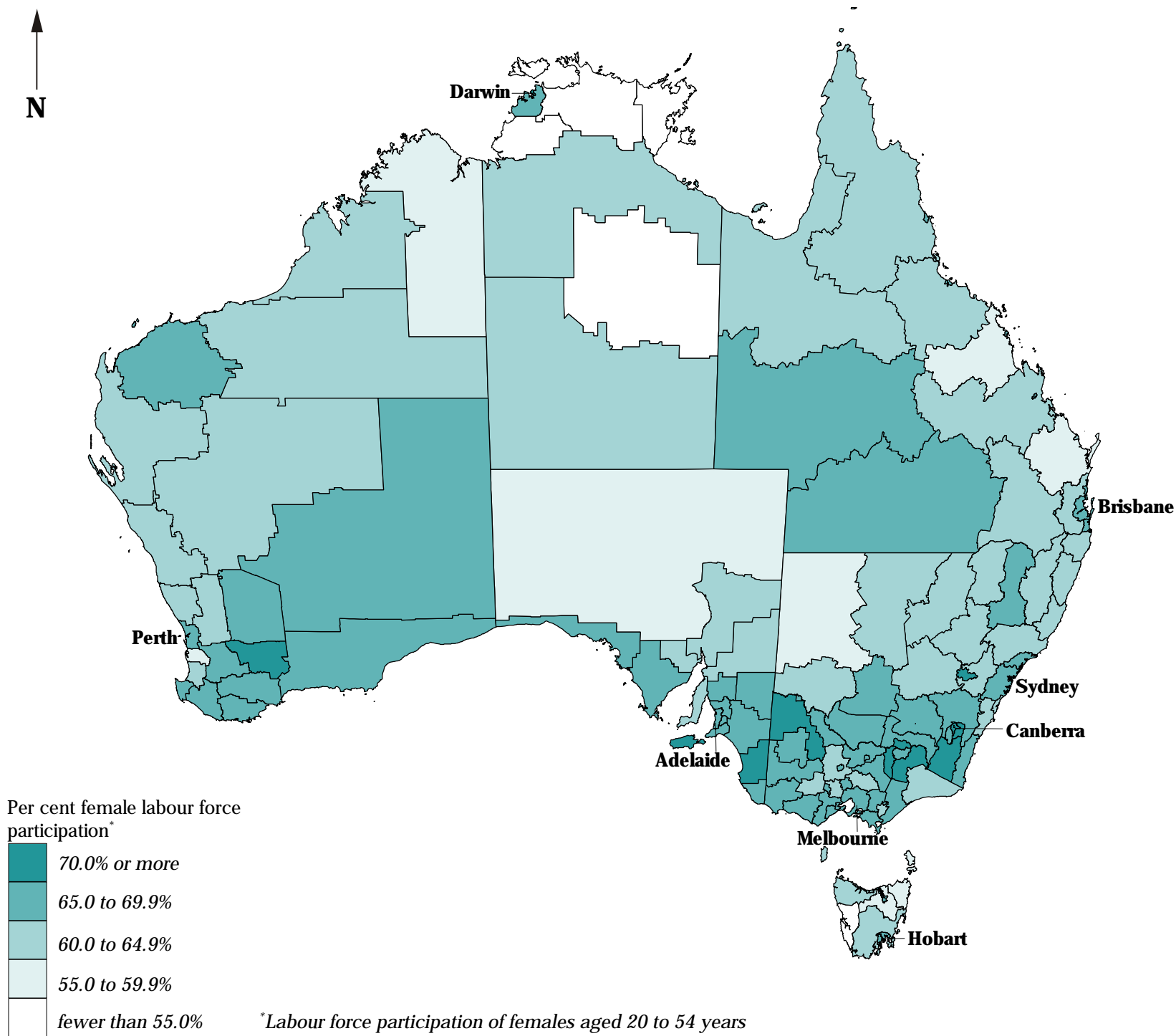
In Western Australia, the highest female labour force participation rates were recorded in SSDs located along the western margins of the wheat belt, in **Lakes** (with a rate of 73.8 per cent), **Campion** (69.7) and **Pallinup** (69.3). Other SSDs with high participation rates, located in the State's south, were **Vasse** (68.4 per cent), **Hotham** (67.9 per cent) and **Blackwood** (67.2 per cent). The largest numbers of females in the workforce were located in other SSDs; there were 10,409 in **Preston**, 7,110 in **Lefroy** and 6,952 in **Dale**.

The highest female labour force participation rates in Tasmania, and the largest numbers of females in the workforce, were in SSDs located in the north of the state. **Launceston** had a participation rate of 65.3 per cent, with 15,720 females in the workforce; **Burnie-Devonport** had a participation rate of 61.3 per cent, with 11,299 females; and **North Western Rural** had a participation rate of 63.1 per cent, 3,688 females.

In the Northern Territory, the highest participation rate was recorded in **Darwin Rural Areas** (66.3 per cent), with lower rates in **Lower Top End NT** (62.0 per cent) and **Central NT** (60.6 per cent). The largest numbers of females in the workforce were also recorded in these three SSDs, with 6,931 females in **Central NT**, 2,837 females in **Lower Top End NT** and 2,790 females in **Darwin Rural Areas**.

Map 3.13: Female labour force participation*, Australia, 1996

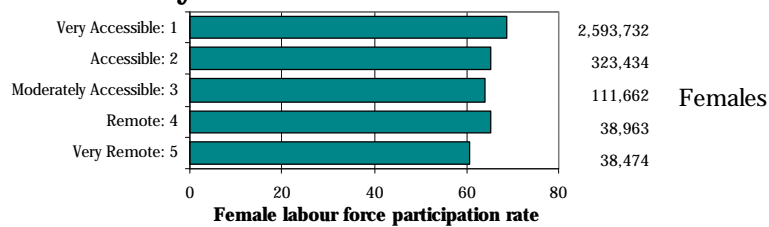
as a percentage of all females aged 20 to 54 years in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



There are relatively high levels of female labour force participation across all of the ARIA categories, with the highest in the Very Accessible areas (68.7 per cent). Participation rates decline with increasing remoteness to the lowest level in the Very Remote category (60.8 per cent), although with a higher rate in the Remote category (65.3 per cent). The number of females in the two most remote categories is similar.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, 1996

Capital city comparison

The age at which people cease their formal education does not determine absolutely how they will fare in life, but it does have a strong influence, not only on the ability to gain secure and rewarding employment but also on general life style. Differences in educational participation are examined in this analysis by comparing variations in the extent to which the population left school at age 15 or less, or did not go to school (jointly referred to as early school leavers). This variable has been age-sex standardised to remove differences in participation rates occurring between areas solely because of differences in the age and sex of the population in the areas being studied. A description of this process is on page 19. Among the capital cities, the highest standardised ratio (SR) of early school leavers was recorded in **Perth**, with 12 per cent more early school leavers than expected (an SR of 112**), and the lowest was recorded in **Canberra**, where the ratio of 68** indicated that there were 32 per cent fewer early school leavers than were expected from the Australian rates.

There was relatively little difference in the early school leaver ratios for 1986 and 1996 (**Table 3.20**), with some cities (**Sydney**, **Melbourne** and **Brisbane**) showing a small improvement (relative to the Australian rates) and others (eg. **Hobart** and **Darwin**) showing a relative decline as their rates moved closer to the Australian rates. The ratio for **Hobart** moved from below (in 1986) to above (1996) the *All capitals* ratio.

Table 3.20: People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, capital cities
Age-sex standardised participation ratios

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	89**	82**	110**	98**	112**	98**	92**	68**	92**
1986	92**	85**	112**	98**	112**	92**	88**	69**	94**

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Statistical significance: * significance at 5 per cent level; ** significance at 1 per cent level

Capital cities

The highest ratios for early school leavers in **Sydney** were recorded in the outer urban Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) of **Outer South Western Sydney** (an SR of 119**) and **Gosford-Wyong** (116**). As might be expected, the lowest ratios were recorded in the higher socioeconomic status SSDs of **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai** (an SR of 56**), **Lower Northern Sydney** (60**) and **Eastern Suburbs** (63**) SSDs. In **Newcastle**, there were 147,068 people who left school at age 15 or earlier, 22 per cent more than expected from the Australian rates (an SR of 122**); and in **Wollongong** there were 11 per cent more than expected, a total of 71,331 early school leavers (an SR of 111**).

As **Map 3.14** shows, early school leavers in **Melbourne** are more likely to be located in the western and south-eastern suburbs. The highest ratio, an SR of 124**, was recorded for both **Melton-Wyndham** and **Hume** (the highest ratio recorded for the capital cities and other major urban centres), while in **South Eastern Outer Melbourne** the ratio was 118**. In the inner, higher socioeconomic, areas ratios were much lower, with around half the number of early school leavers expected from the Australian rates in **Boroondara** (an SR of 52**) and two thirds in **Inner Melbourne** (66**). There were 37,596 early school leavers in **Geelong**, nine per cent more than expected from the Australian rates (an SR of 109**).

The pattern of distribution in **Brisbane** shows the most highly elevated ratios for early school leavers to be in the outer SSDs of **Ipswich** and adjacent **Beaudesert**, with SRs of 119** and 116** respectively, while to the north in **Caboolture**, the ratio was 118**. Only **Brisbane City** had a ratio lower than expected from the Australian rates, with 19 per cent fewer early school leavers than expected (an SR of 81**). There were 116,631 early school

leavers in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, eight per cent fewer than expected from the Australian rates (an SR of 92**), and 33,943 in **Townsville-Thuringowa**, three per cent fewer than expected (97**).

In **Adelaide**, the highest ratio for early school leavers was in **Northern** SSD (an SR of 116** and 97,506 early school leavers), an area characterised by high proportions of single parent families, unemployed people and public rental housing. The lowest ratio was in the high socioeconomic status SSD of **Eastern** (an SR of 70**).

The lowest ratio in **Perth** was in **Central Metropolitan**, where there were 44 per cent fewer early school leavers than expected (an SR of 56**). In **Perth's** four other SSDs the ratios ranged from 95 in **North Metropolitan** (with 107,990, the largest number of early school leavers) to 104 in **East Metropolitan**.

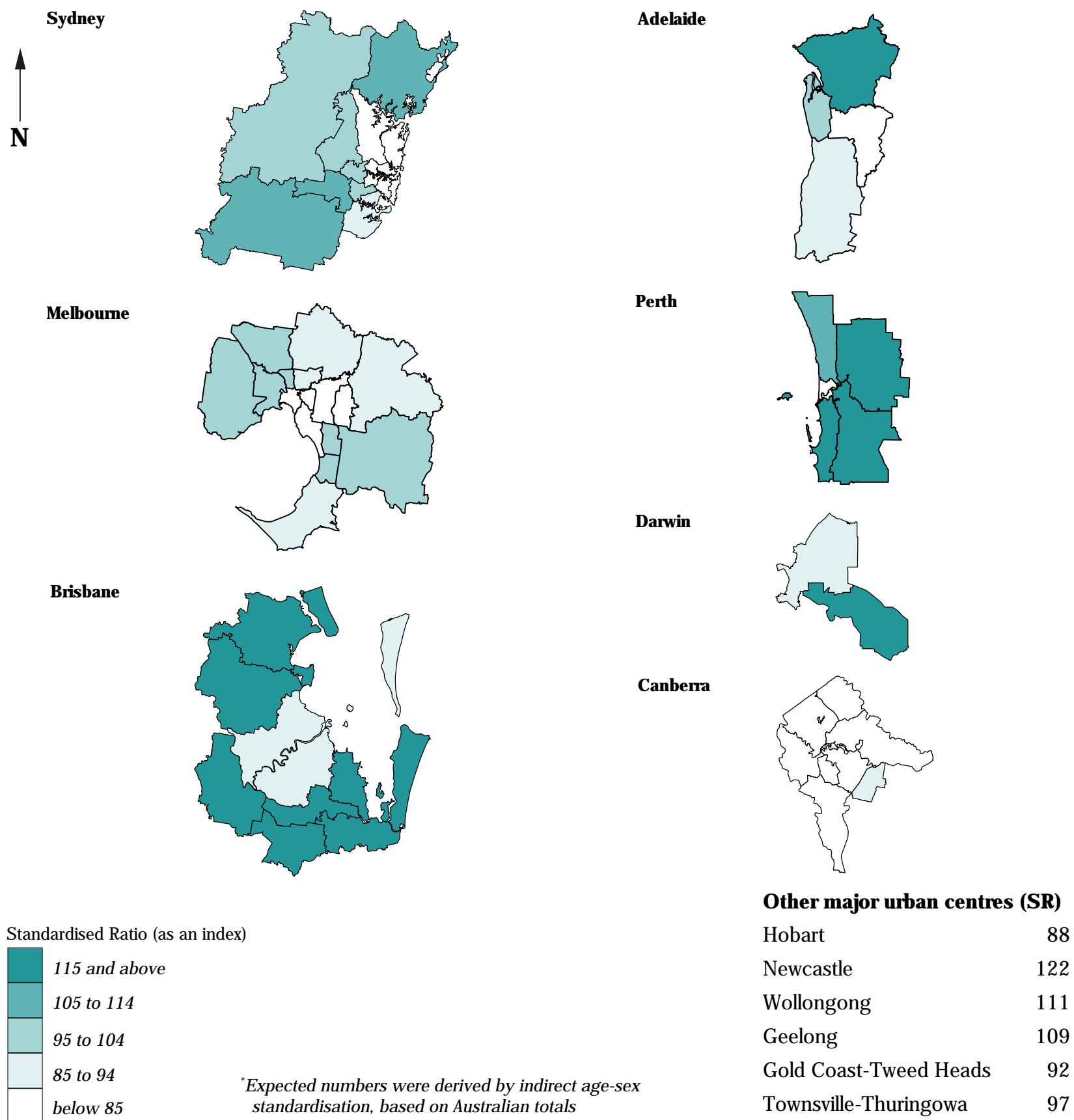
There were 12 per cent fewer early school leavers than expected from the Australian rates in **Hobart**, an SR of 88**.

In **Darwin**, there were six per cent more early school leavers than expected in **Palmerston-East Arm** (an SR of 106**), and 18 per cent fewer than expected in **Darwin City** (82**).

Tuggeranong had the highest standardised ratio for early school leavers in **Canberra**, an SR of 119**. **Gungahlin-Hall** (107**) and **Belconnen** (103**) both had more early school leavers than were expected from the Australian rates, while **South Canberra** (82**) and **Woden Valley** (85**) had fewer than expected. The largest numbers of early school leavers lived in **Belconnen** (12,615 people) and **Tuggeranong** (12,253).

Map 3.14: People who left school at age 15 or less, or did not go to school, major urban centres, 1996

Standardised Ratio: number of people in each Statistical Subdivision compared with the number expected*



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, 1996

State/Territory comparison

A description of the process of age-sex standardisation, used in producing the standardised ratios (SRs) mapped, is provided on the previous text page and in more detail, on page 19. The overall number of early school leavers (people had left school aged 15 years or less, or did not go to school), was 13 per cent higher than expected in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia, compared with eight per cent lower in the capital cities. This relationship was evident in all of the Australian States, with the biggest difference between capital city and non-metropolitan ratios occurring in the Northern Territory. Western Australia (with an SR of 133**) and Queensland (127**) had the highest *Rest of State/Territory* ratios.

There were notably larger differentials (from the Australian rates) in the ratios recorded for the non-metropolitan areas of the Northern Territory, Tasmania and Western Australia in 1996, when compared with the ratios for 1986 (Table 3.21). The higher ratios suggest a decline in educational participation, relative to the Australian experience, over this ten year period.

Table 3.21: People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, State/Territory
Age-sex standardised participation ratios

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	89**	82**	110**	98**	112**	98**	92**	68 ² **	92**
Other major urban centres	114**	95**	106**	..	..	..	..	..	109**
Rest of State/Territory	106**	97**	127**	114**	133**	120**	121**	- ⁴	113**
Whole of State/Territory	96**	86**	116**	102**	118**	111**	108**	64**	100**
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	104**	98**	125**	112**	123**	111**	104**	- ⁴	110**

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Statistical significance: * significance at 5per cent level; ** significance at 1 per cent level

Rest of Australia

There were more early school leavers than expected in the majority (88 per cent) of Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales, compared with only half (50 per cent) the SSDs in **Sydney**. The highest ratios were in **Far West** (with an SR of 128**, the second highest ratio of any SSD in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia), 120** in **Hunter SD Balance** and 116** in both **Hastings** and **Murray-Darling**. The largest numbers of early school leavers were located on the north coast, with 46,652 in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance**, 43,909 in **Hastings** and 43,854 in **Clarence**.

Similarly, in Victoria, a majority (85.2 per cent) of SSDs had more early school leavers than expected, higher than the two thirds (68.8 per cent) of SSDs in **Melbourne**. The highest ratios were in **Mildura** (124**) and **Shepparton** (120**), with ratios of 118** in **West Barwon** and **East Mallee**. There were 19,903 early school leavers living in **North Goulburn**, 18,943 in **Bendigo** and 17,944 in **La Trobe Valley**.

The highest standardised ratios for early school leavers in Queensland were in **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (where there were 21 per cent more early school leavers than expected, an SR of 121**), and in **Bundaberg** (123**). Both **Darling Downs** and **Northern SD Balance** had SRs of 117**. The largest numbers of early school leavers were living in **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance**, with 68,585; **Sunshine Coast**, with 54,099; and **Moreton SD Balance**, with 49,336.

In South Australia, **Murray Mallee** (with an SR of 123**) and **West Coast** (122**) had at least 20 per cent more early school leavers than expected from the Australian rates, and SRs of 118** in both **Riverland** and **Pirie**. There were 12,447 early school leavers in **Lower South East**, 12,104 in **Barossa** and 11,448 in **Riverland**.

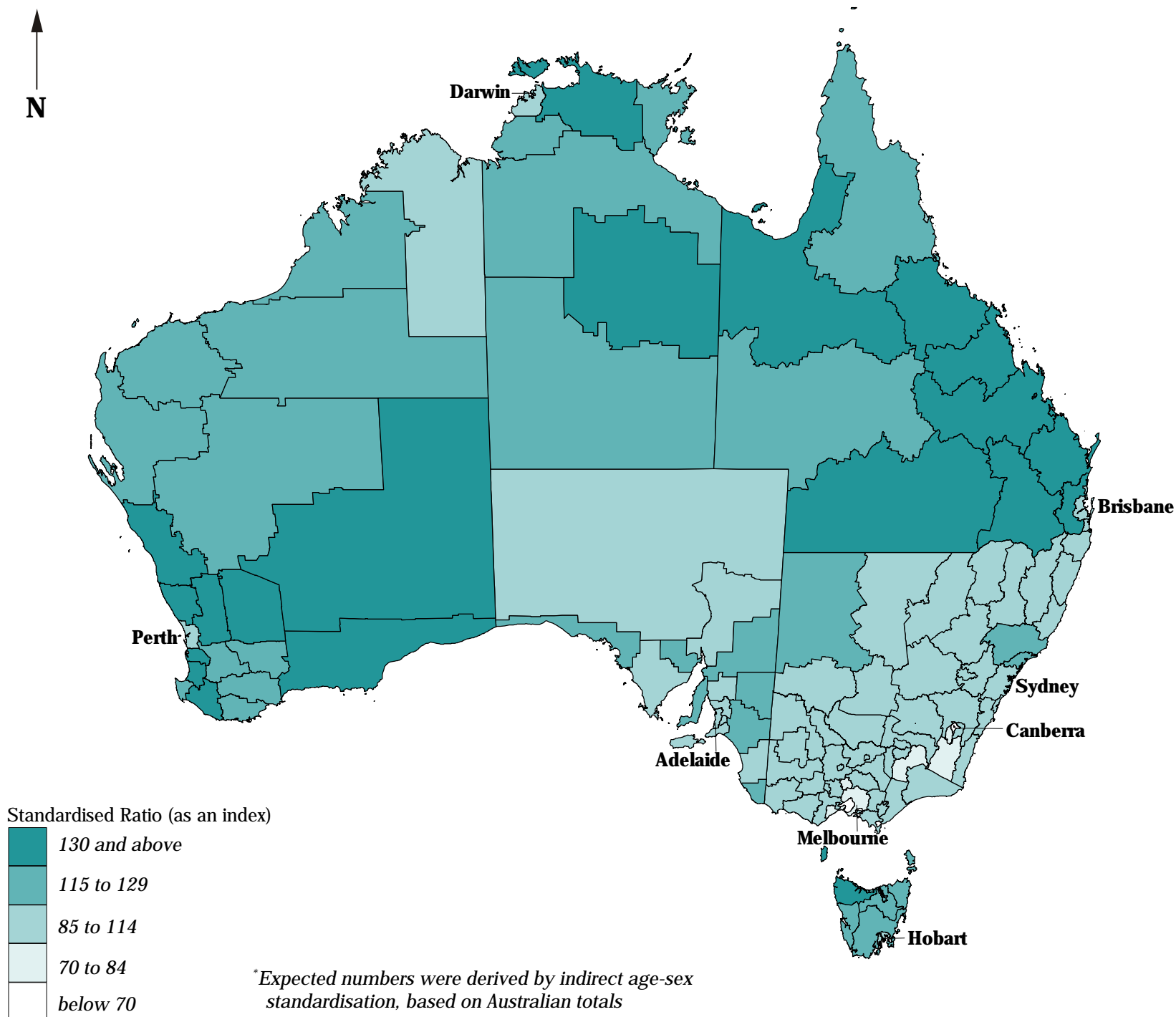
The highest ratios in the non-metropolitan areas of Western Australia were in **Dale** (with an SR of 124**) and **Preston** (122**), situated to the south of **Perth**. **Lefroy** had a similarly elevated ratio, of 117**. There were 23,630 early school leavers living in **Preston**, 20,610 in **Dale** and 14,766 in **Greenough River**, located some 400 kilometres north of **Perth**.

The highest ratios in Tasmania were in **North Western Rural** (an SR of 116**) and in **North Eastern** (115**). The urbanised areas of **Launceston** (103**) and **Burnie-Devonport** (112**) had 29,463 and 25,531 early school leavers respectively, with a further 10,607 in **Southern**.

Every SSD in the Northern Territory had more early school leavers than expected, reflecting the high overall ratio for the Territory. The highest ratios were in **Barkly** (an SR of 130** and the highest in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia), **Alligator** (126**) and **Bathurst-Melville** (122**). The largest numbers were recorded elsewhere, with 10,078 early school leavers in **Central NT** (an SR of 108**), 5,066 in **Lower Top End NT** (115**) and 4,321 in **Darwin Rural Areas** (105**).

Map 3.15: People who left school at age 15 years or less, or did not go to school, Australia, 1996

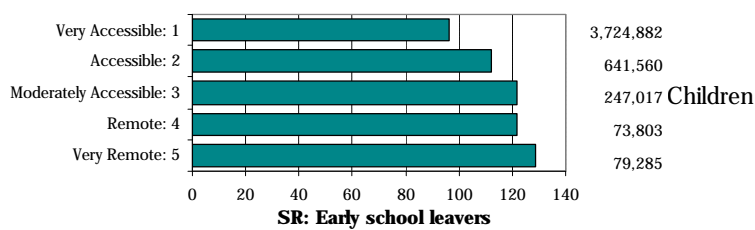
Standardised Ratio: number of people in each Statistical Subdivision compared with the number expected*



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



People living in the areas classified within ARIA as Very Accessible had the highest rates of educational participation (the lowest rates of people who left school at age 15 or earlier, or did not go to school, an SR of 96). As accessibility reduces and remoteness increases, people are increasingly likely to have left school early, with the SR rising markedly to 112 in the Accessible areas and to 122 in the Moderately Accessible and Remote areas, before increasing again in the Very Remote category (to an SR of 128).

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 1996

Capital city comparison

The percentages of people identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the 1996 Census were low: the *All capitals* average was 1.0 per cent (Table 3.22). Exceptions were **Hobart** and **Darwin**, where Indigenous people comprised 2.5 per cent and 8.6 per cent of the population, respectively. The lowest percentage was recorded in **Melbourne** (0.3 per cent), with **Sydney** and **Adelaide** the next lowest, both with 0.9 per cent. However, some 36.6 per cent of Australia's Indigenous people (108,557 people) lived in the capital cities at the 1996 Census, with the largest numbers in **Sydney** (34,432 Indigenous people).

The proportion of Indigenous people living in Australia's capital cities increased in the ten years from 1986, rising from 0.6 per cent in 1986, to 0.7 per cent in 1991 and to 1.0 per cent in the 1996 Census. The number of Indigenous Australians rose by 47,945 in the same period. This substantial increase largely reflects changes over time in the preparedness of people to identify themselves as Indigenous on the Census form. The increase was greatest in New South Wales, and particularly marked in the non-metropolitan areas of the State, with a population of 56,474 in 1996 compared with 35,907 in 1986. Additional information about these increases is provided on page 17.

Table 3.22: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	0.9	0.3	1.5	0.9	1.4	2.5	8.6	1.1	1.0
1986	0.6	0.2	1.0	0.6	1.0	1.2	7.6	0.6	0.6

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

The highest proportions of Indigenous people were in **Outer South Western Sydney** (1.9 per cent), **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** (1.6 per cent) and **Inner Sydney** (1.5 per cent). The largest numbers of Indigenous people were also in **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** (5,540 people) and in **Outer Western Sydney** (4,235). In **Newcastle**, Indigenous Australians comprised 1.6 per cent of the population (7,346 people), and 1.3 per cent (3,226) in **Wollongong**.

The highest proportions of Indigenous people in **Melbourne** were in **Northern Middle Melbourne** (0.6 per cent), **Melton-Wyndham**, **Hume**, and **Yarra Ranges** (each with 0.5 per cent). There were 1,486 Indigenous Australians living in **Northern Middle Melbourne**, 1,273 in **Western Melbourne** and 804 in **Inner Melbourne**. In **Geelong**, there were 805 Indigenous people, 0.6 per cent of the population.

The proportion of Indigenous people in **Brisbane's** population rose from 1.0 per cent in 1986 to 1.5 per cent in 1996. By Australian standards, quite high proportions of 2.9 and 2 per cent were recorded in **Ipswich** and **Logan** respectively, located in the south-west of **Brisbane**. Indigenous people comprised 1.7 per cent of the population in **Gold Coast Part A**. The largest numbers of Indigenous people were in **Brisbane City** (with 9,906 Indigenous people), **Ipswich** (3,287) and **Logan** (3,181). There were 5,775 Indigenous people in **Townsville-Thuringowa** (a high 4.7 per cent) and 3,468 in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** (0.9 per cent of the population).

In 1986, Indigenous people accounted for 0.6 per cent of **Adelaide's** population: this had increased to 0.9 per cent by 1996. In 1996 there were 4,165 Indigenous people living in **Northern** and 2,499 in **Western**, representing 1.3 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively, of the population in these SSDs.

In the ten years to 1996, the population of Indigenous people grew from 1.0 per cent to 1.4 per cent of **Perth's** population. The highest proportions were located in **South East** and **East Metropolitan**, where Indigenous Australians comprised 1.9 per cent and 1.8 per cent of the population, respectively. The largest numbers of Indigenous people were in **South East Metropolitan** (5,496 people) and in **North Metropolitan** (4,098).

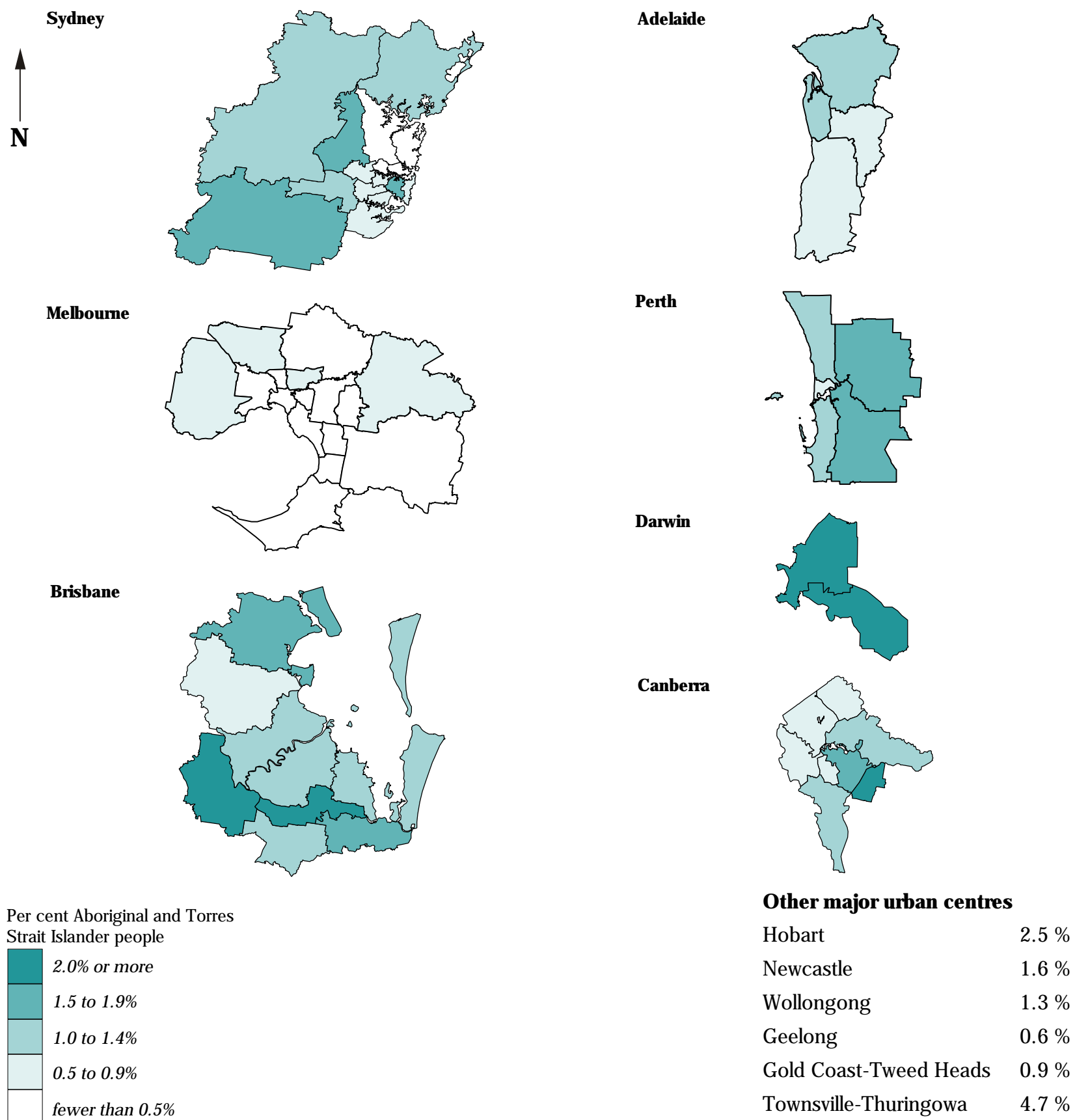
In **Hobart**, there were 4,705 Indigenous people in 1996, 2.5 per cent of the population.

Indigenous Australians comprised 8.6 per cent of **Darwin's** population in 1996, with the highest proportion in **Palmerston-East Arm**, with 1,647 Indigenous people, 12.6 per cent of the population. **Darwin City** had the largest number of Indigenous people (5,723), 7.9 per cent of the population. These two SSDs recorded the highest proportions of Indigenous Australians for all capital cities and other major urban centres.

The highest proportions of Indigenous people in **Canberra** were located in **South Canberra** (1.5 per cent of the population) and **Tuggeranong** (1.1 per cent). The largest numbers of Indigenous people were in **Tuggeranong** (938 people) and **Belconnen** (640). In nearby **Queanbeyan**, there were 701 Indigenous people, 2.6 per cent of the total population of this SSD.

Map 3.16: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, major urban centres, 1996

as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 1996

State/Territory comparison

At the 1996 Census, some two thirds of those who identified themselves at the Census as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait (Indigenous) Islander people lived in inland and remote areas of Australia, away from major urban centres and other highly populated areas. There were wide variations between States and Territories, from a high of 23.7 per cent in the Northern Territory to a low of 0.5 per cent in Victoria; similar variations occurred in the non-metropolitan areas (**Table 3.23**). While Indigenous people accounted for just 3.5 per cent of the population in the non-metropolitan areas of New South Wales, compared with 35.6 per cent in the non-metropolitan areas of Northern Territory, the population was much larger (56,648 Indigenous people, compared to 38,893 people, respectively).

The number of Indigenous people recorded in New South Wales as a whole increased from 59,011 in 1986 to 101,652 in 1996. These changes represent an increase of 72.0 per cent, presumably because of changes over time in the preparedness of people to identify themselves on the Census form. Additional information about these increases is on page 17.

Table 3.23: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, State/Territory

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	0.9	0.3	1.5	0.9	1.4	2.5	8.6	1.1 ²	1.0
Other major urban centres ³	1.5	0.5	1.9	..	..	..	..	..	1.5
Rest of State/Territory	3.5	0.9	4.6	2.9	7.0	3.4	35.6	— ⁴	4.2
Whole of State/Territory	1.7	0.5	2.8	1.4	2.9	3.0	23.7	1.0	2.0
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	2.6	0.6	3.7	2.3	6.7	1.8	35.7	— ⁴	3.3

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

As **Map 3.17** shows, the highest proportions of Indigenous people in New South Wales were located in the north-west of the State. **Upper Darling** had the highest proportion, with 21.9 per cent of its population comprised of Indigenous people, with 16.3 per cent in **Macquarie-Barwon** and 12.2 per cent in **North Central Plain**. The largest numbers of Indigenous people were in **Central Macquarie**, with 5,841 people (6.9 per cent); **Clarence**, with 3,978 (2.9 per cent); and **Hastings**, with 3,953 (3.1 per cent).

The Indigenous population in the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria is relatively small by Australian standards. The highest proportions of Indigenous people were located in **Shepparton** (2.9 per cent of its population), **East Mallee** and **East Gippsland** (both with 2.7 per cent). These Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) also had the largest numbers of Indigenous people, with 1,136 Indigenous people living in **Shepparton**, 1,035 in **East Gippsland** and 882 in **East Mallee**. A further 780 Indigenous people lived in **Mildura**.

In Queensland, the highest proportions of Indigenous people in the population were in the north and north-west of the State. Indigenous people comprised 20.7 per cent of the population in the **North West** SSD, and 16.6 per cent in **Far North SD Balance**. The largest numbers also were situated in these SSDs, with populations of 18,677 in **Far North SD Balance** and 7,968 in **North West**. A further 7,072 Indigenous people lived in **Cairns**.

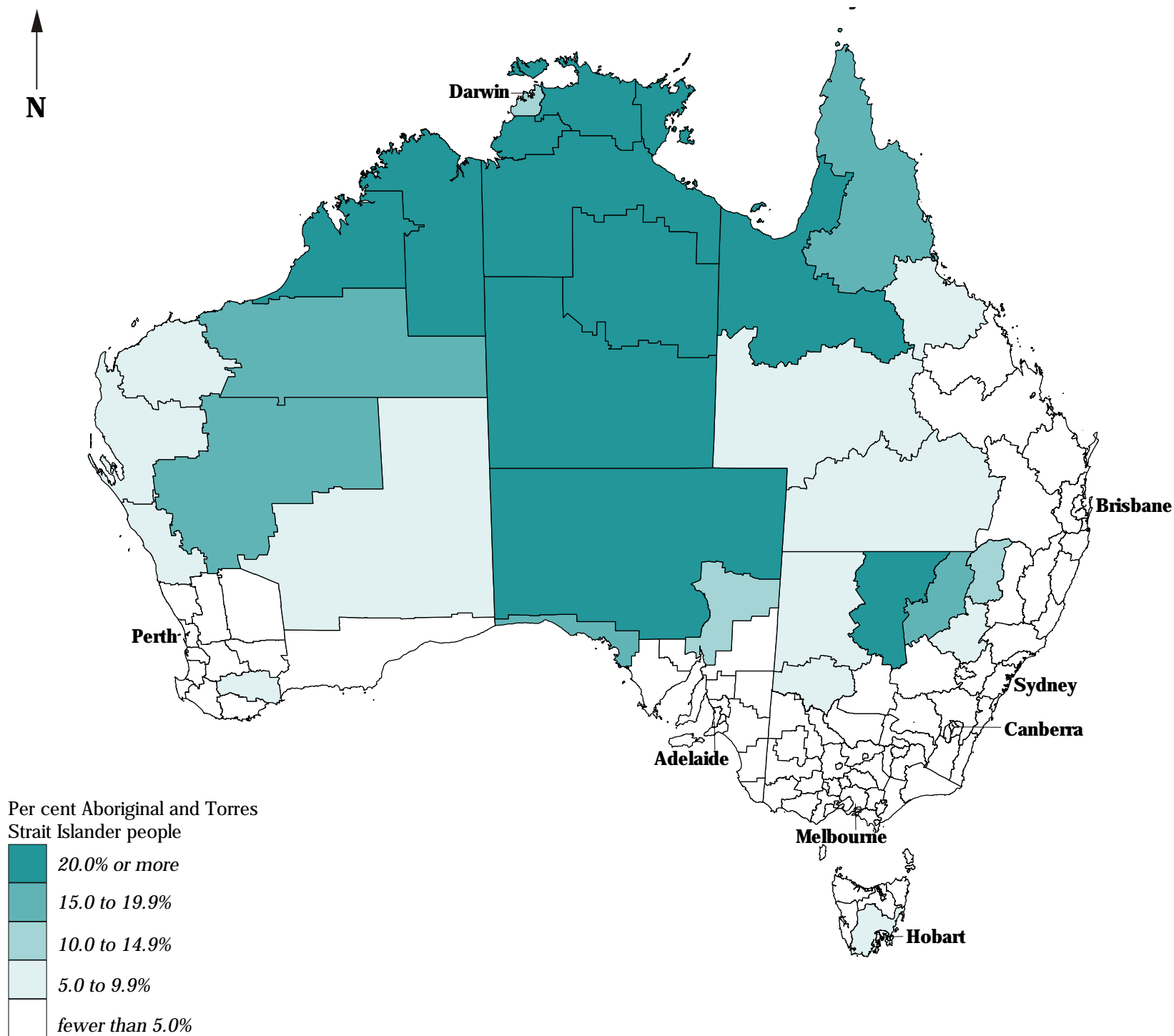
The two most significant concentrations of the Indigenous population in South Australia were in **Far North**, where Indigenous people comprised 22.6 per cent of the total population, and in **West Coast**, where they comprised 17.2 per cent of the population. The largest numbers of Indigenous Australians were recorded in **Far North** (2,735 people) and in **Flinders Ranges** (2,330 people, 10.8 per cent of the population).

High proportions of the populations of **Fitzroy** (35.2 per cent) and **Ord** (33.9 per cent) in Western Australia were comprised of Indigenous people. In **Carnegie**, the proportion was 16.1 per cent. There were 7,381 Indigenous people living in **Fitzroy**, 4,089 in **Ord** and 4,082 in **Lefroy** (9.6 per cent of the population).

In Tasmania, the largest numbers of Indigenous Australians lived in **Burnie-Devonport** (3,138 Indigenous people, 4.1 per cent of the population), and in **Launceston** (1,961, two per cent). However, the highest proportions of the total population were in **Southern** (5.8 per cent; 1,925 Indigenous people) and **Lyell** (4.7 per cent; 297).

The six highest proportions of Indigenous people at the SSD level in Australia were located in the Northern Territory. In **Bathurst-Melville**, Indigenous people comprised 88.6 per cent of the population, with significantly high proportions also in **Daly** (66.4 per cent), **East Arnhem** (57.5 per cent) and **Alligator** (53.3 per cent). The largest single Indigenous population was 11,963 people living in **Central NT**, with the second largest being 7,001 Indigenous people living in **East Arnhem**.

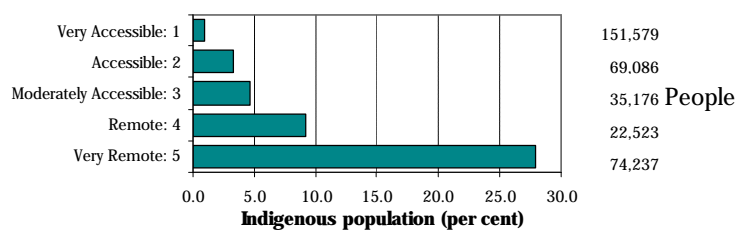
Map 3.17: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Australia, 1996
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



Indigenous people have the most striking distribution under the ARIA categorisation of any of the variables in this chapter. The graph shows a clear gradient in the proportion of the population represented in each ARIA category, from 1.0 per cent in the Very Accessible to 27.9 per cent in the Very Remote category. The numbers associated with the graph highlight the distribution of Indigenous people throughout Australia, including in the most remote areas, with the second largest population of Indigenous people.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, 1996

Capital city comparison

Migrants in this category arrived in Australia from predominantly non-English speaking countries in or before 1991. As a substantial proportion of these will have been resident in Australia for many years, their distribution is often widespread within urban areas, especially the capital cities. Of the Australian capital cities, **Melbourne** has the highest proportion of its population in this category (17.8 per cent, **Table 3.24**), while **Hobart** has the lowest (4.3 per cent). There were 666,190 people in this category in **Sydney** in 1996, well above **Melbourne's** population of 568,565 people. This represents a major change from the situation in 1986, when **Melbourne** had 456,686, just 15,177 fewer than in **Sydney**. In 1986 the average across all capitals was 12.7 per cent of the population, increasing to 14.8 in 1996. The largest increase occurred in **Sydney**.

Table 3.24: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, capital cities

	Per cent								
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	17.8	18.1	7.5	11.1	11.7	4.3	10.7	11.4	14.8
1986	14.0	16.1	6.0	10.5	10.5	4.2	10.2	10.8	12.7

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

Five contiguous Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) in **Sydney** each had more than 20 per cent of their population comprised of long term migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries. The highest proportions were in **Fairfield-Liverpool** (with 34.2 per cent, the highest for all capital cities and other major urban centres) and **Canterbury-Bankstown** (29.8 per cent). In **Inner Sydney**, **Central Western Sydney** and **Inner Western Sydney**, the proportions ranged from 20.2 per cent to 27.0 per cent. The largest numbers of this demographic group were located in **Fairfield-Liverpool**, with 103,188, and in **Canterbury-Bankstown**, with 86,549. In **Central Western Sydney** and **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills**, there were populations of 65,167 and 62,137, respectively. In **Wollongong**, there were 30,191 long term migrants, 12.2 per cent of the population, while in **Newcastle**, there were 18,906 people in this population group, 4.2 per cent of the population.

High concentrations of long term migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries form a crescent shaped area around **Melbourne**, extending from the **Western Melbourne** to the **Dandenong** SSDs. The highest proportion (34.1 per cent, and the second highest of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) was in **Dandenong**, with 28.4 per cent in **Western Melbourne** and 26.7 per cent in **Moreland**. In **Eastern Middle Melbourne**, **Hume** and **Northern Outer Melbourne** proportions ranged from 20.2 per cent to 21.2 per cent of the total population. There were 110,073 people in this population group living in **Western Melbourne**, 78,957 in **Eastern Middle Melbourne** and 56,967 in **Southern Melbourne**. There were 14,564 long term migrants in **Geelong**, ten per cent of population.

The highest proportions of long term migrants in **Brisbane** were located in a contiguous region comprised of **Brisbane City** (9.0 per cent of the population), **Logan** (8.3 per cent) and **Gold Coast Part A** (6.0 per cent). There were 72,290 people in this population group living in **Brisbane City**, more than five times

the number in **Logan** (13,095 people). A further 6,435 lived in **Ipswich**, in the outer south-west. There were 24,494 long term migrants living in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** (7.2 per cent of the population), and 5,079 in **Townsville-Thuringowa** (4.1 per cent of the population).

In **Adelaide**, people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident for five years or more comprised 16.5 per cent of the population in the **Western** SSD, and 13.1 per cent in **Eastern**. The largest numbers were in **Western**, with 33,238 people, and in **Northern**, with 32,552.

Longer term migrants made up 11.7 per cent of **Perth's** 1996 population, compared with 10.5 per cent in 1986. Their distribution throughout **Perth** is fairly uniform. In both **North Metropolitan** and **East Metropolitan**, they comprised 12.3 per cent of the population, while in the remaining three SSDs the proportions were between 11.1 per cent and 11.2 per cent. The largest numbers were in **North Metropolitan**, with 46,267, and **South East Metropolitan**, with 32,478.

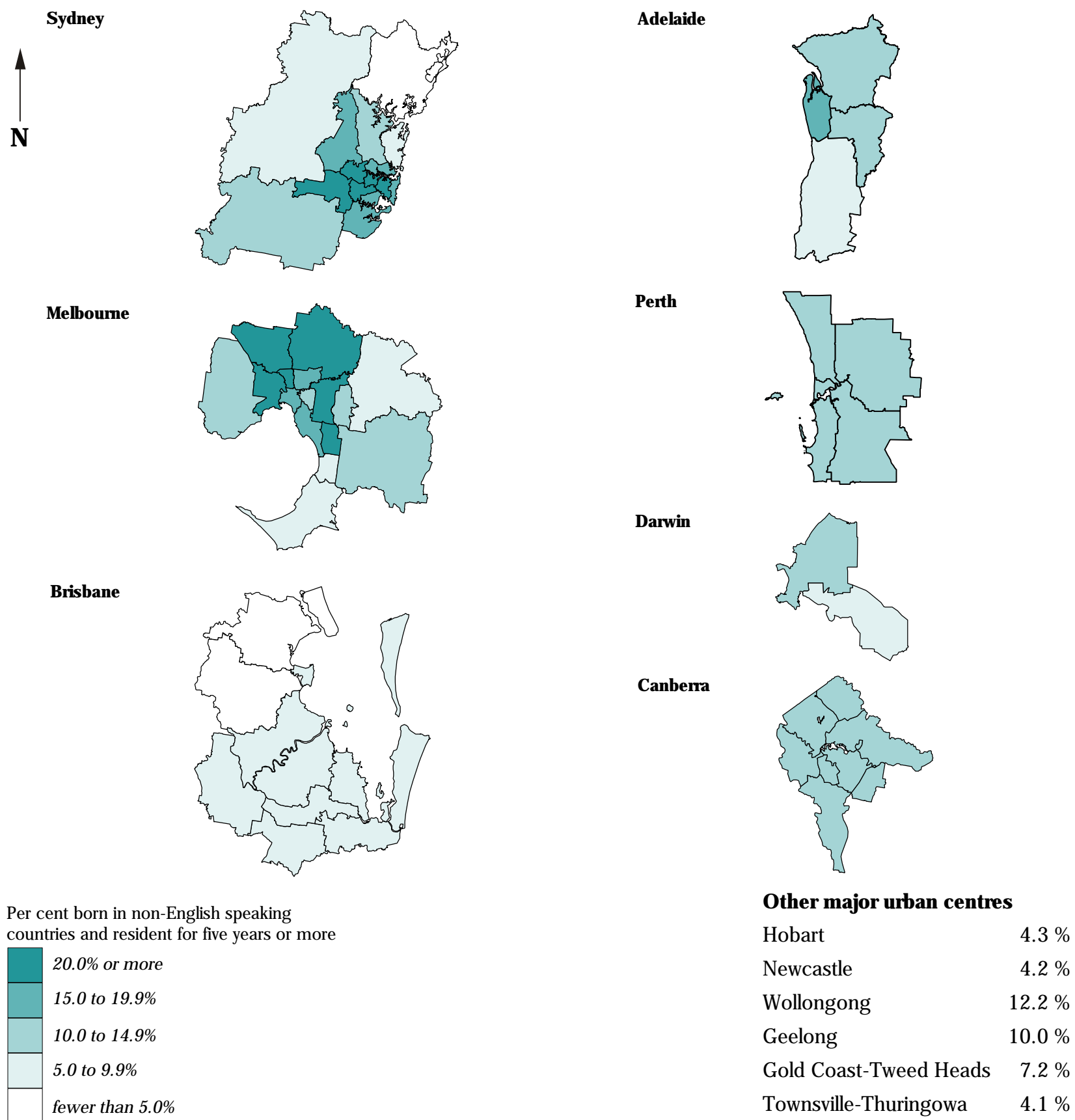
There were 8,147 migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries that had been in Australia for five years or more and who lived in **Hobart** in 1996, comprising 4.3 per cent of the population.

In **Darwin**, the proportion of long term migrants living in **Darwin City** was 11.4 per cent, compared with 6.8 per cent in **Palmerston-East Arm**. Of the 9,153 long term migrants in **Darwin**, 8,254 lived in **Darwin City**.

The highest proportions of migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more and living in **Canberra** were in **Gungahlin-Hall** (14.2 per cent of the population) and **Woden Valley** (13.0 per cent). The largest numbers were in **Belconnen** (9,778 long term migrants; and 11.9 per cent of the population) and **Tuggeranong** (8,923; 10.3 per cent).

Map 3.18: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, major urban centres, 1996

as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The proportion of migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, who arrived in Australia in or before 1991 and resided in the non-metropolitan areas at the 1996 Census, was highest in Victoria and Western Australia. However, as is shown in **Table 3.25**, the proportion of migrants in this category located in the non-metropolitan areas of the States is low relative to capital city rates. An important social process is suggested when **Tables 3.25** and **3.27** (of more recently arrived migrants) are compared. As migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries become more proficient in English, and adapted to the host country's economic and social systems, they are more prepared to leave the capital cities to access opportunities available in the more rural areas.

Between 1986 and 1996, there was an increase in the proportions of people born in non-English speaking countries and resident for five years or more in all States and Territories except the Northern Territory, where there was a small decline. The Australian average increased from 9.5 per cent in 1986 to 10.9 per cent in 1996. The proportion across the *Rest of State/Territory* areas was 3.5 per cent at both Censuses.

Table 3.25: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, State/Territory

	Per cent								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	17.8	18.1	7.5	11.1	11.7	4.3	10.7	11.4 ²	14.8
Other major urban centres ²	7.0	10.0	6.1	..	..	..	..	..	7.0
Rest of State/Territory	3.1	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.9	2.6	3.2	— ⁴	3.5
Whole of State/Territory	12.7	14.3	5.7	9.2	9.5	3.3	6.5	11.3	10.9
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	2.8	4.1	3.6	4.1	4.6	2.4	3.8	— ⁴	3.5

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

The highest proportion of long term migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia, was in the New South Wales SSD of **Queanbeyan**, where they comprised 10.6 per cent of the population. High proportions also lived in **Lower Murrumbidgee** (7.3 per cent) and **Snowy** (6.0 per cent). The largest numbers were in coastal **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (4,772 people) and **Illawarra SD Balance** (4,738).

Longer term migrants in the non-metropolitan areas of Victoria were mainly concentrated in localities along the River Murray and in the La Trobe Valley. The highest proportions were in **La Trobe Valley** (7.5 per cent), **East Ovens-Murray** (6.6 per cent), **Mildura** (6.2 per cent), **Shepparton** (5.8 per cent) and **Wodonga** (5.1 per cent). There were 5,375 migrants in **La Trobe Valley**, more than twice the number in **Mildura** (2,500 people) and **Ballarat** (2,493).

The highest proportions of longer term migrants in Queensland who were born in predominantly non-English speaking countries lived in the State's north and far-north. They comprised 6.4 per cent of the population in **Cairns**, 5.9 per cent in **Far North SD Balance** and 4.8 per cent in **Northern SD Balance**. There were 7,791 people in this population group living in **Cairns**, 7,171 in **Sunshine Coast** and 6,641 in **Far North SD Balance**.

In South Australia, people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries comprised 8.6 per cent of the population in

Far North (the second highest of any non-metropolitan SSD), 6.7 in **Whyalla** and 6.2 per cent in **Riverland**. The largest numbers in this population group were in **Riverland**, (2,107), **Lower South East** (1,762) and **Whyalla** (1,616).

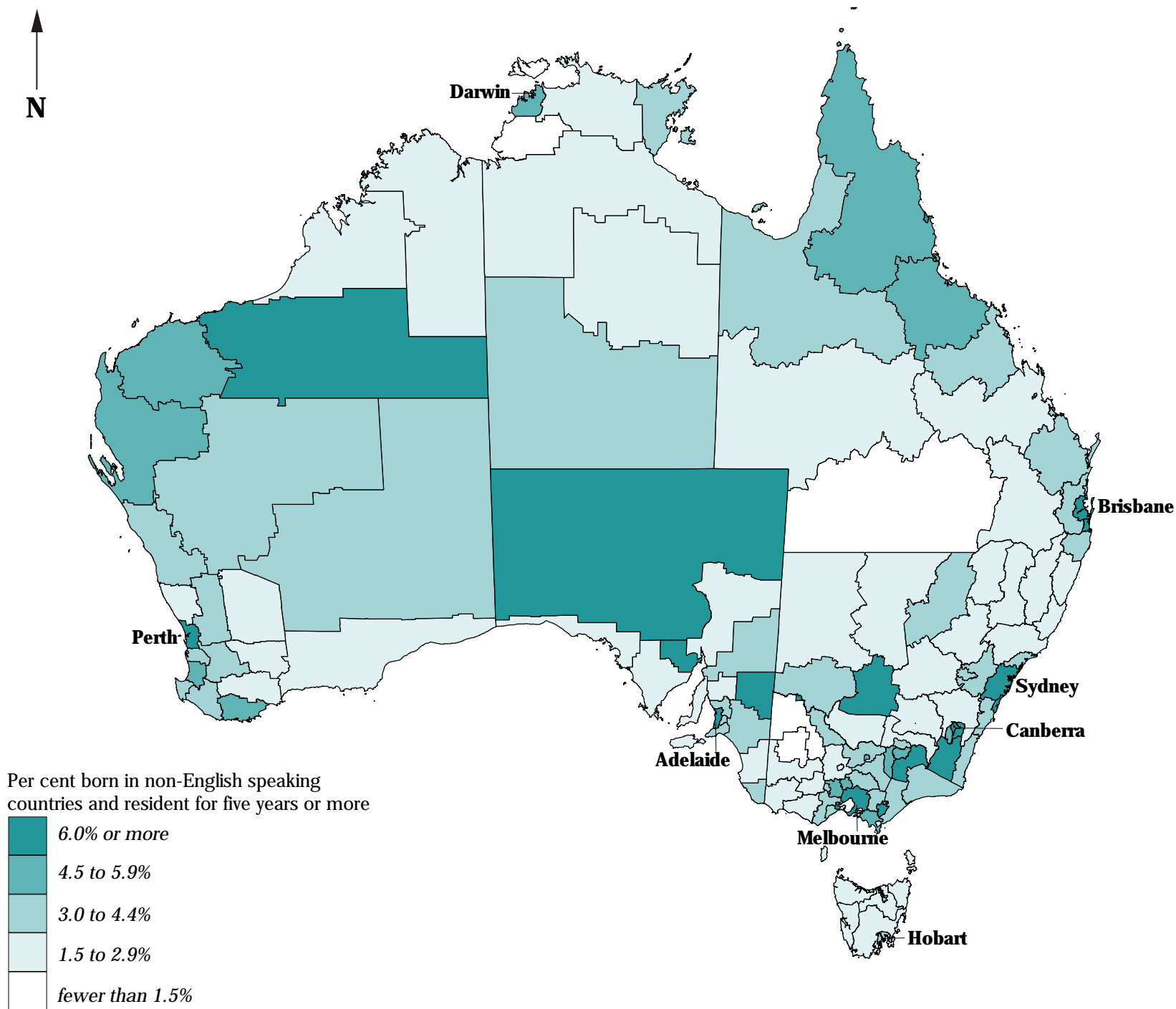
In Western Australia, the SSDs of **De Grey** (6.2 per cent) and **Gascoyne** (5.2 per cent) had the highest proportions of their population born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more. In **Lefroy**, **Carnegie**, **Blackwood**, **King**, **Preston** and **Fortescue** this group comprised between 4.0 and 5.0 per cent of the population. The largest numbers were in **Preston** (3,074 people), **Dale** (1,928) and **Lefroy** (1,713).

In **Launceston** in Tasmania, 3.3 per cent of the population was comprised of long term migrants, with 2.4 per cent in **Lyell** and 2.2 per cent in both **Southern** and **Central North**. The largest numbers were in **Launceston** (3,187 people) and **Burnie-Devonport** (1,574).

In the Northern Territory, **Darwin Rural Areas** had the highest proportion of long term migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries (5.3 per cent), and proportions of 3.4 and 3.0 per cent in **East Arnhem** and **Central NT**, respectively. The largest numbers of people in this population group were in **Central NT**, with 1,243, **Darwin Rural Areas** with 858 and **Lower Top End NT**, with 551.

Map 3.19: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more, Australia, 1996

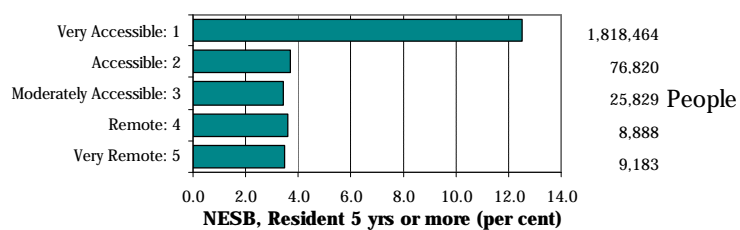
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



This graph of the proportional distribution of the population born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for five years or more is almost the reverse of that for the Indigenous population. The highest proportion is in the Very Accessible category (12.5 per cent) and the lowest in the Very Remote category (3.5 per cent), with the proportions in the last four ARIA categories all being similar. It is unlike most other variables discussed so far, in that the highest proportion is in the category with the largest numbers.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, 1996

Capital city comparison

For migrants arriving from non-English speaking countries, the initial years of settlement are the most difficult. The settlement process is often further exacerbated by limited English proficiency. For these migrants, obtaining employment may be difficult, type of employment may be restricted, and income levels may be low. In this context, the largest capital cities hold wider prospects for employment and they also have the most culturally diverse populations. **Sydney** is the major initial destination for migrants from predominantly non-English speaking countries, with 138,009 people (3.7 per cent of its population) having arrived in Australia in the previous five years (**Table 3.26**). **Melbourne** was the second largest destination, attracting 88,673 people in this population group, 2.8 per cent of its population at the 1996 Census.

The proportion of recent immigrants in Australia's capital cities increased slightly from 2.5 per cent in 1986 to 2.7 per cent in 1996. This was largely due to the growth in numbers in **Brisbane**, **Sydney** and **Melbourne**. Although the proportion remained the same, there was an increase in absolute terms in **Perth** over the same period of time. **Darwin**, **Canberra** and **Adelaide** experienced a decline in both proportions and numbers in this population group.

Table 3.26: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, capital cities

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	3.7	2.8	1.7	1.4	2.3	0.7	1.7	1.9	2.7
1986	3.1	2.6	1.4	1.6	2.3	0.7	3.1	2.2	2.5

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

Sydney has had the largest increase in the proportion of its population who are recent migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries. Six contiguous Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) each had more than five per cent of their population comprised of this population group, with the highest proportions in **Fairfield-Liverpool** (6.7 per cent and the second highest proportion of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) and **Central Western Sydney** (6.3 per cent). In **Canterbury-Bankstown**, **Eastern Suburbs**, **Inner Sydney** and **Inner Western Sydney**, proportions ranged from 5.1 per cent to 5.5 per cent. The largest numbers of recently arrived migrants from predominantly non-English speaking countries were located in **Fairfield-Liverpool** (20,107 people), **Central Western Sydney** (17,082), **Inner Sydney** (14,873) and **Canterbury-Bankstown** (14,687). In **Wollongong**, there were 3,710 people in this population group (1.5 per cent of the population) and, in **Newcastle**, 2,369 people (0.5 per cent of the population).

The highest proportions of recently arrived migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and living in **Melbourne** were in the SSDs of **Dandenong** (with 7.8 per cent and the highest proportion of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD), **Inner Melbourne** (5.8 per cent), **Moreland** (3.8 per cent) and **Western Melbourne** (3.7 per cent). There were 14,153 recent migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries in **Western Melbourne**, 13,259 in **Inner Melbourne** and 12,877 in **Eastern Middle Melbourne**. The 1,393 recently arrived migrants in **Geelong** comprised 1.0 per cent of the population.

The highest proportions of these recent migrants in **Brisbane** were in the SSDs of **Brisbane City** (2.5 per cent of the population) and **Logan** (1.5 per cent). There were 20,331 people

in this population group in **Brisbane City** and 2,369 in **Logan**. In **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** there were 5,178 recently arrived migrants, 1.4 per cent of the population. In comparison, there were only 997 recent migrants in **Townsville-Thuringowa**, where they comprised 0.8 per cent of the population.

In **Adelaide**, migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years comprised 2.2 per cent of the population in the **Western** SSD (4,498 people) and 2.0 per cent in **Eastern** (4,235 people).

The highest proportions of recent migrants in **Perth** were in **Central Metropolitan** (3.8 per cent of the population), **South East Metropolitan** (2.6 per cent) and **North Metropolitan** (2.3 per cent). The largest numbers were in **North Metropolitan**, with 8,800, and **South East Metropolitan**, with 7,584.

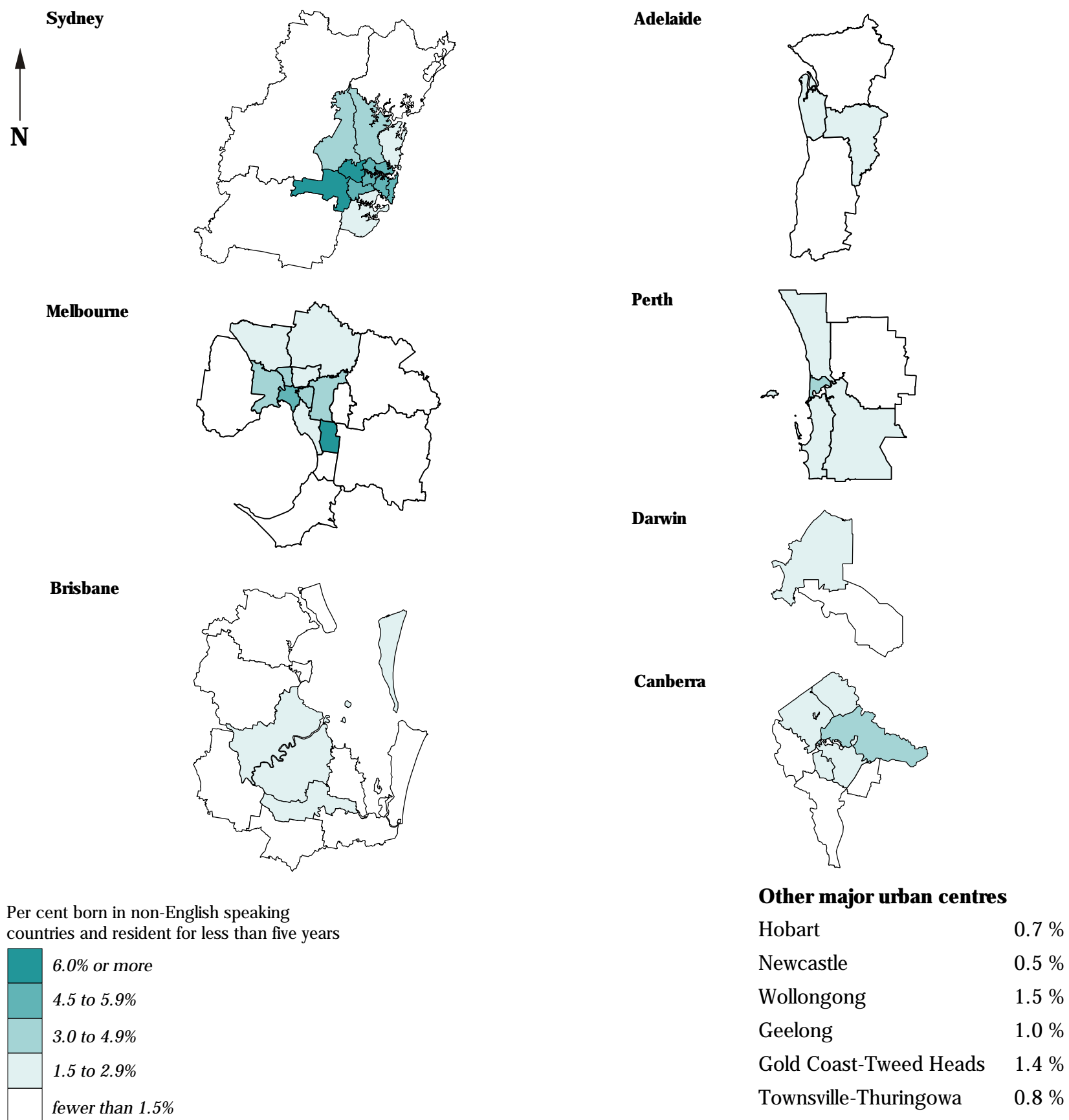
There were 1,336 migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries who had been in Australia for less than five years living in **Hobart** in 1996, 0.7 per cent of the population.

In **Darwin**, 1.8 per cent of the population of **Darwin City** were migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, who had been resident in Australia for less than five years, compared with 1.1 per cent in **Palmerston-East Arm**. Of the 1,442 recently arrived migrants in **Darwin**, the majority (1,304) lived in **Darwin City**.

The highest proportions of migrants born in non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years living in **Canberra** were in **North Canberra** (3.5 per cent) and **Woden Valley** (2.9 per cent). The largest numbers of people in this group were in **Belconnen** (with 1,684 recently arrived migrants) and **North Canberra** (1,391).

Map 3.20: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, major urban centres, 1996

as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, 1996

State/Territory comparison

Recently arrived migrants from predominantly non-English speaking countries have a strong preference for capital city residence, as is clear from **Table 3.27** (see comments on previous text page). The proportion of the population in the non-metropolitan areas of all of the States and the Northern Territory has declined between the periods shown.

The slight increase in the proportion of people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, from 1.7 to 1.9 per cent of the population of Australia between 1986 and 1996, was due mainly to increases in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. South Australia and the Northern Territory experienced a decline in both numbers and proportions over this ten year period.

Table 3.27: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, State/Territory

	Per cent								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	3.7	2.8	1.7	1.4	2.3	0.7	1.7	1.9 ²	2.7
Other major urban centres ³	0.9	1.0	1.2	..	..	..	..	..	1.0
Rest of State/Territory	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	.. ⁴	0.4
Whole of State/Territory	2.5	2.1	1.2	1.0	1.8	0.5	1.0	2.0	1.9
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.4	1.0	.. ⁴	0.5

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

In New South Wales, the highest proportions of recently arrived migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries were in **Lower Murrumbidgee**, where they comprised 1.1 per cent of the population, and **Northern Tablelands**, where they comprised 1.0 per cent. The largest numbers lived in **Northern Tablelands** (661 people), **Central Murrumbidgee** (542) and **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (523).

Recently arrived migrants in this category living in Victoria were most prominent in the populations of **La Trobe Valley** and **Shepparton**, where they comprised 0.7 per cent of the population in both Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs). In all other SSDs in Victoria they comprised less than 0.4 per cent. There were 534 people with these demographic characteristics in **La Trobe Valley**, 313 in **Ballarat** and 261 in **Shepparton**.

The highest proportions of recently arrived migrants from predominantly non-English speaking countries in Queensland were in a number of the State's larger towns. **Cairns** (1.4 per cent of the population) and **Toowoomba** (1.2 per cent) had the highest and second highest proportions of any non-metropolitan SSD in Australia. In **Rockhampton**, this group comprised 0.8 per cent of the population. There were 1,694 recently arrived migrants from predominantly non-English speaking countries living in **Cairns**, 996 in **Toowoomba** and 539 in **Far North SD Balance**.

In South Australia, the highest proportions of people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries that had been in Australia for less than five years at the 1996 Census were in **Far North** (0.8 per cent of the population), **Whyalla** and **Riverland**

(both with 0.4 per cent). The largest numbers of this migrant population were in **Riverland** (135 people), **Far North** (97 people) and **Whyalla** (93 people).

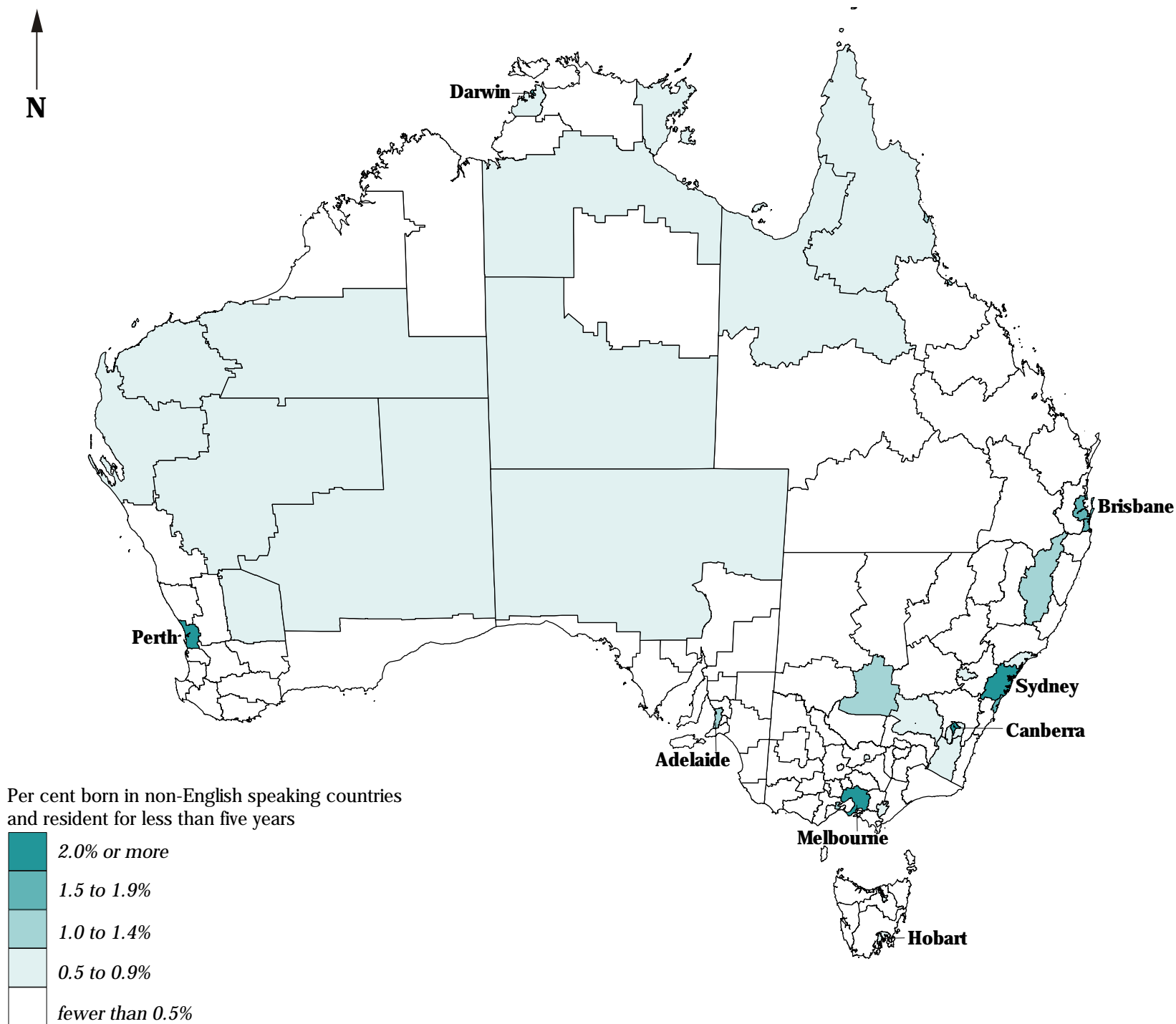
In Western Australia, migrants who had arrived in Australia since 1991 from predominantly non-English speaking countries comprised 0.9 per cent of the population in **De Grey**, and 0.7 per cent in each of **Lefroy**, **Gascoyne** and **Fortescue**. In **Lefroy** there were 281 recently arrived migrants, with 256 in **Preston** and 199 in **De Grey**.

In **Launceston** in Tasmania, 0.7 per cent of the population comprised migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, while in **Burnie-Devonport** and **Lyell** the proportion was 0.2 per cent. The largest numbers were in **Launceston**, with 656, and **Burnie-Devonport**, which had 180 people with these demographic characteristics.

In the Northern Territory, **Central NT** had the highest proportion of recently arrived migrants born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, with 0.6 per cent. In each of **East Arnhem**, **Darwin Rural Areas** and **Lower Top End NT** the proportion was 0.5 per cent. The largest numbers of people in this population group lived in **Central NT**, with 229, and **Lower Top End NT**, with 104.

Map 3.21: People born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years, Australia, 1996

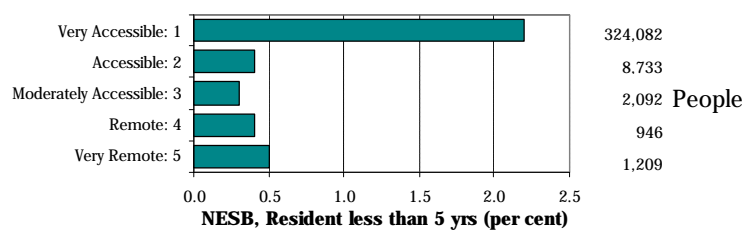
as a percentage of the total population in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The distribution of the population born in predominantly non-English speaking countries and resident in Australia for less than five years has a similar profile to that for longer term resident migrants. However, the percentages are less than one fifth those in the earlier graph, as are the absolute numbers for the Very Accessible category. As for longer term resident migrants, the highest proportion is also in the category with the largest numbers.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Poor proficiency in English, 1996

Capital city comparison

For migrants from non-English speaking countries, the rate at which they adapt to live in the host country is directly related to the rate at which they achieve proficiency in English. Their level of proficiency in English has profound implications for the ease with which they are able to access labour markets, develop social networks, become aware of and utilise services, and participate in many aspects of Australian society. From a health service provision viewpoint, the location of migrants with limited English proficiency may indicate areas within the city where different approaches might be taken to ensure that these residents are aware of the health services available. In the provision of health services for women and older people, these distributions are perhaps even more relevant, as many migrants from European countries who arrived in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s have not developed English language skills (especially females), or have returned to using the language of their birthplace as they have aged (both females and males).

Poor proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born overseas in predominantly non-English speaking countries was determined when people within this category reported speaking English 'not well' or 'not at all' (Table 3.28). The percentages shown are calculated on the total population aged five years and over, not just those born overseas. **Melbourne** and **Sydney** have the highest proportions of migrants with poor proficiency in English at 5.0 and 4.9 per cent respectively. These high levels are due largely to the fact that **Melbourne** and **Sydney** have been the principal destinations for migrants from South-East Asia during the last two decades, following the major influx of people from European countries in the 1950s and 1960s. However, since the 1986 Census, there has been a trend across most Australian cities towards increasing numbers of people who are not fluent in English. While proportions may have fluctuated, numbers increased in most cities. **Darwin** was the only capital city to record a fall in both proportions and numbers.

Table 3.28: Poor proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	4.9	5.0	1.4	2.5	2.1	0.6	2.0	1.7	3.7
1986	4.0	4.8	1.2	2.7	2.1	0.6	2.6	1.9	3.4

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

The proportion of **Sydney's** population aged five years and over reporting poor proficiency in English was highest in **Fairfield-Liverpool** (with 13.7 per cent, the highest of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) and **Canterbury-Bankstown** (10.6 per cent). Other Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) with high proportions were **Inner Western Sydney** (8.4 per cent), **Central Western Sydney** (7.7 per cent) and **Inner Sydney** (7.2 per cent). The largest numbers of people in this category were also located in **Fairfield-Liverpool** (37,783 people) and in **Canterbury-Bankstown** (28,354). In **Wollongong**, 6,609 migrants (2.9 per cent) reported poor proficiency in English, and 2,545 (0.6 per cent of the population aged five years and over) in **Newcastle**.

The highest proportions of the population reporting poor proficiency in English in **Melbourne** were in **Dandenong** (with 13.1 per cent, the second highest for all capital cities and other major urban centres), **Moreland** (10.0 per cent) and **Western Melbourne** (9.4 per cent). There were 33,966 migrants with these demographic characteristics living in **Western Melbourne**, 16,122 in **Eastern Middle Melbourne** and 15,422 in **Dandenong**. The 2,814 people in **Geelong** reporting poor proficiency in English comprised 2.1 per cent of the population aged five years and over.

The highest proportions in **Brisbane** were in **Brisbane City** (2.0 per cent of the population aged five years and over) and in **Logan** (1.4 per cent). There were 15,440 people in this group in **Brisbane City**, and 2,000 in **Logan**. In **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, 3,231 reported poor proficiency in English (0.9 per cent

of the population aged five years and over), with 420 in **Townsville-Thuringowa** (0.4 per cent).

People reporting poor proficiency in English comprised 5.4 per cent of the population aged five years and over in the **Western** and 2.8 per cent in the **Eastern** SSDs in **Adelaide**. The largest numbers were in **Western** (10,258 people) and in **Northern** (6,232).

The highest proportions of **Perth's** population reporting poor proficiency in English were in **Central Metropolitan** (2.7 per cent of the population aged five years and over), **North Metropolitan** (2.4 per cent), and **South West Metropolitan** and **East Metropolitan** (both with 1.9 per cent). The largest numbers were in **North-** (8,562 people) and **South East-Metropolitan** (4,681).

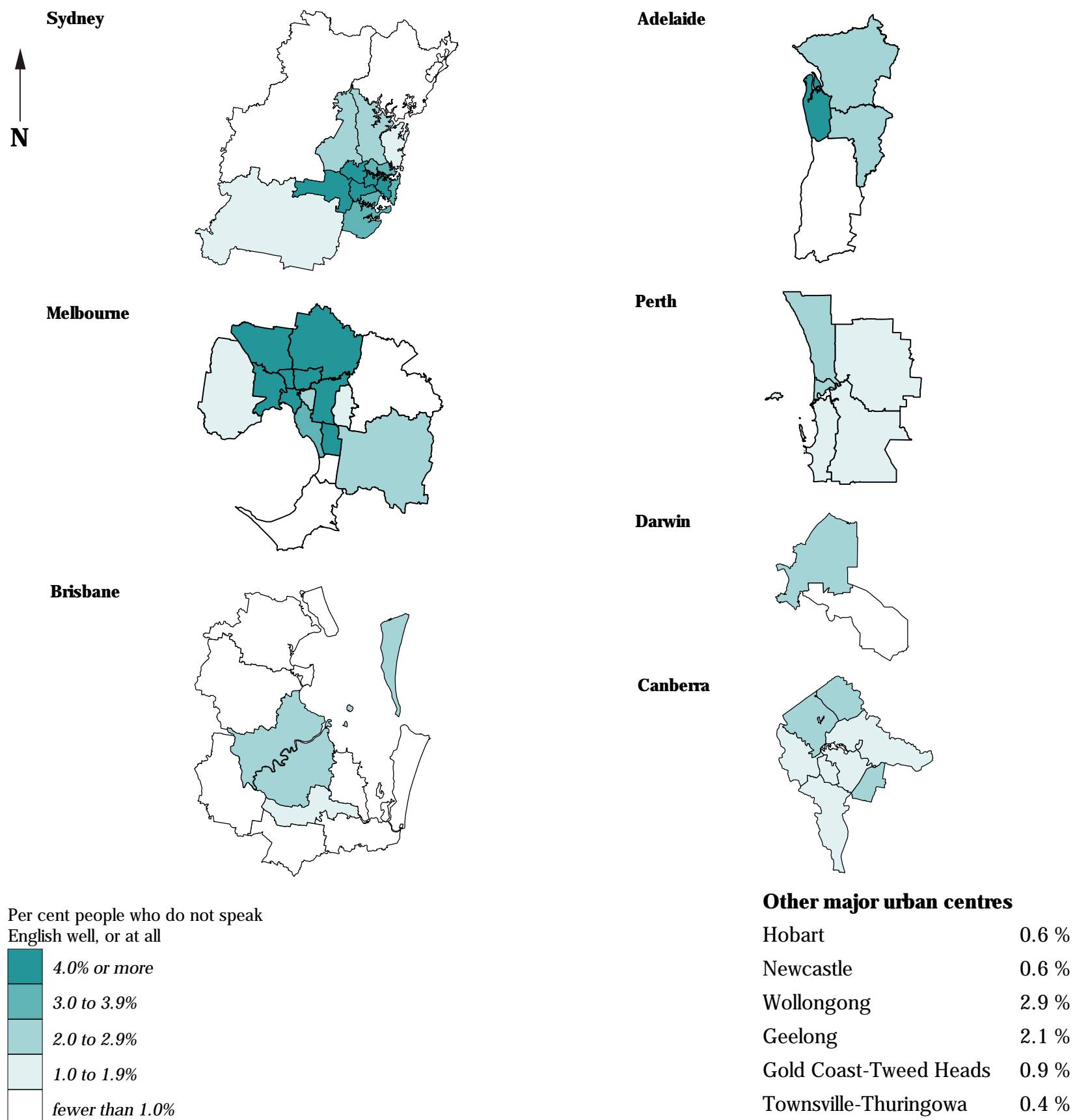
There were 979 overseas-born people living in **Hobart** in 1996 who reported poor proficiency in English, 0.6 per cent of the population aged five years and over.

In **Darwin City**, 2.2 per cent of the population reported poor proficiency in English, compared with just 1.0 per cent in **Palmerston-East Arm**. Of the 1,607 people with poor proficiency in English, most (1,497) lived in **Darwin City**.

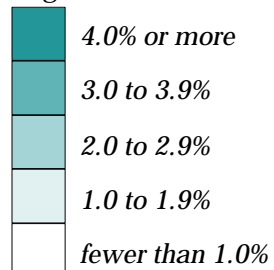
In **Canberra**, the highest proportion of the population aged five years and over who reported poor proficiency in English was in **Gungahlin-Hall** (2.2 per cent) and the largest numbers were in **Belconnen** (1,590 people) and **Tuggeranong** (945).

Map 3.22: Proficiency in English of people aged 5 years and over and born in a non-English speaking country, major urban centres, 1996

as a percentage of the population aged five years and over in each Statistical Subdivision



Per cent people who do not speak English well, or at all



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Poor proficiency in English, 1996

State/Territory comparison

Poor proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born overseas in predominantly non-English speaking countries was determined when people within this category reported speaking English 'not well' or 'not at all'. Migration research has consistently demonstrated a propensity for migrants to locate in the major cities of the States and Territories, especially the capital cities. **Table 3.29** shows that this tendency is evident, possibly more so, for migrants reporting a poor proficiency in English. Outside of **Sydney** (and, to a lesser extent, **Newcastle** and **Wollongong**), the incidence of migrants with poor English speaking skills is very low, a characteristic shared by each of the States. For these migrants to move away from the capital city and seek employment and residence elsewhere requires an ability to interact with the wider community. Poor proficiency in English restricts this capacity. Consequently, until English proficiency improves, they generally remain restricted to areas where they have the security of their language community, including longer term resident migrants with better English skills who can represent them in their interactions with the labour market, schools, health services and government authorities.

There has been an increase (at the whole of Australia level) in both the proportions and numbers of people reporting poor proficiency in English in the ten years from 1986 (when 2.4 per cent of Australia's population aged over five years did not speak English fluently) to 1996 (2.6 per cent). This increase took place in the capital cities as there was a slight decline in the *Rest of State/Territory* areas.

Table 3.29: Poor proficiency in English of people aged five years and over and born in predominantly non-English speaking countries, State/Territory

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	4.9	5.0	1.4	2.5	2.1	0.6	2.0	1.7 ²	3.7
Other major urban centres ³	1.4	2.1	0.8	..	..	..	..	..	1.2
Rest of State/Territory	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	.. ⁴	0.4
Whole of State/Territory	3.3	3.7	0.9	2.0	1.6	0.3	1.0	1.7	2.6
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.4	.. ⁴	0.5

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

In New South Wales, the highest proportion of migrants with poor proficiency in English lived in **Lower Murrumbidgee**, where they comprised 2.4 per cent of the population aged five years and over, the highest of the non-metropolitan SSDs in Australia. The only other Statistical Subdivision (SSD) in which this group comprised two per cent or more of the population aged 5 years and over was **Queanbeyan** (2.0 per cent). These two SSDs also had the largest populations of this group, with 936 in **Lower Murrumbidgee** and 660 in **Queanbeyan**.

Migrants with poor proficiency in English who lived in Victoria were most concentrated in **Shepparton** and **Mildura**, where they comprised 1.6 per cent of the population in both SSDs. All other SSDs in Victoria had less than 1.0 per cent of their populations in this category. **Shepparton** and **Mildura** also had the largest numbers of people in this group, with populations of 593 and 588 people respectively.

The highest proportions of migrants with poor proficiency in English in Queensland lived in the State's far north, 0.9 per cent of the population aged five years and over in **Far North SD Balance**, **Northern SD Balance** and **Cairns**. There were 957 people with these demographic characteristics living in **Cairns** and 946 in **Far North SD Balance**.

In South Australia, the highest proportions of migrants with poor proficiency in English lived in **Far North** SSD (1.6 per cent of the population aged 5 years and over) and in **Riverland** (1.5 per cent). The largest numbers of these migrants were in **Riverland**, (479 people), **Far North** (182) and **Whyalla** (150).

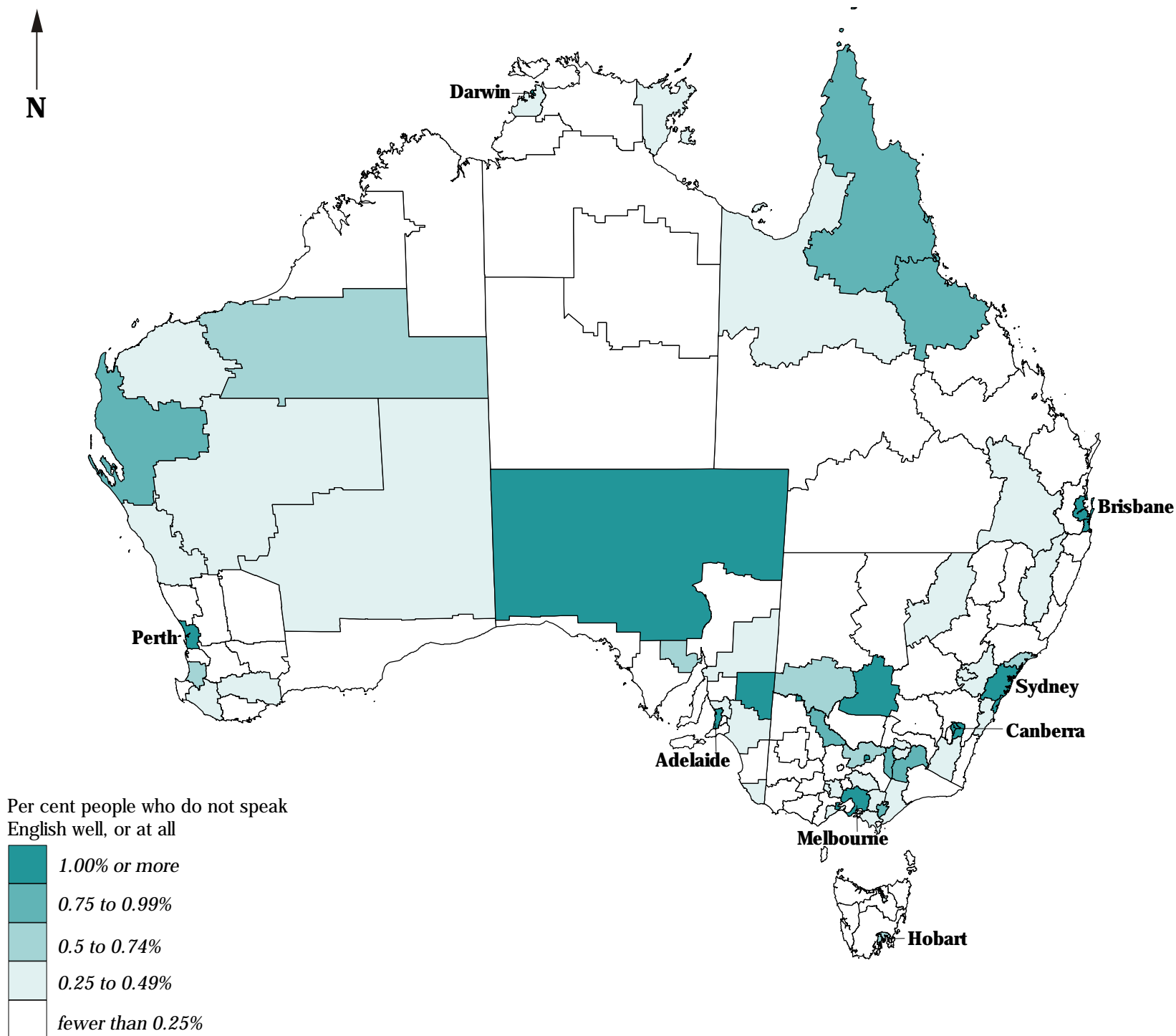
In Western Australia, the largest proportions of migrants with poor proficiency in English were in **Gascoyne**, (0.9 per cent), **De Grey** (0.7 per cent) and **Preston** and **Greenough River** (both with 0.5 per cent). In **Preston**, there were 328 people with these demographic characteristics; in **Greenough River**, 190; and in **De Grey**, 137.

In Tasmania, 0.3 per cent of the population aged five years and over in **Launceston** were comprised of migrants with poor proficiency in English. Elsewhere, proportions were 0.1 per cent or less. The largest numbers were in **Launceston**, with 257, and **Burnie-Devonport**, with 85.

The highest proportions of migrants with poor proficiency in English in the Northern Territory were in the SSDs of **Darwin Rural Areas** and **East Arnhem**, both with 0.3 per cent of the population aged five years and over. Although overall numbers were small, with the largest numbers of migrants in this population group in **Central NT** (88 people) and **Darwin Rural Areas** (50).

Map 3.23: Proficiency in English of people aged 5 years and over and born in a non-English speaking country, Australia, 1996

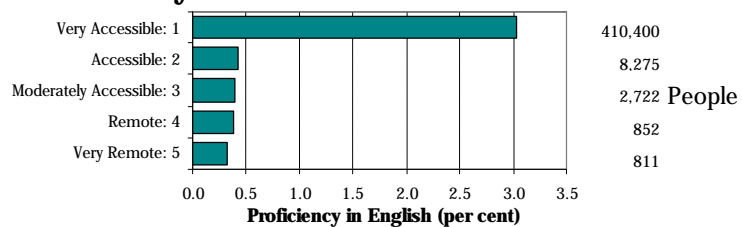
as a percentage of the population aged five years and over in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



Not surprisingly, the proficiency in English of the population has a distribution that is similar to that for people born in predominantly non-English speaking countries. The highest proportion is in the Very Accessible category (3.0 per cent of the population) and the lowest in the Very Remote category (0.13 per cent). Again, the highest proportion of people reporting poor proficiency in English is in the category with the largest numbers.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dwellings rented from the State housing authority, 1996

Capital city comparison

The Census collects data on dwellings rented from a State or Territory housing authority: in this analysis, rented dwellings are expressed as a proportion of all occupied private dwellings. (Note: Private dwellings exclude special dwellings such as hotels and boarding houses.) The distribution of housing authority dwellings is an indicator of the distribution of single parents, unemployed, aged, disabled and Indigenous people, as these groups are given waiting list priority for public housing which has become increasingly scarce since the 1970s.

The highest proportion of these dwellings was in **Darwin**, where 15.8 per cent of all dwellings were rented from the State housing authority. The proportions of public rental housing in **Adelaide** and **Canberra** were similar, at nearly twice the average across the Australian capital cities. In contrast, **Sydney**, **Melbourne**, **Brisbane** and **Perth** all recorded relatively low proportions of between two and six per cent. The largest relative increase in the number of State housing authority dwellings in the ten years from 1986 to 1996 was recorded in **Brisbane**, and the largest decreases were recorded in **Darwin** and **Canberra**.

Table 3.30: Dwellings rented from the State housing authority, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	5.5	2.9	4.8	9.7	4.6	8.3	15.8	9.7	5.3
1986	5.2	2.9	3.9	10.5	5.3	10.0	21.9	11.5	5.3

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

The highest proportion of State housing authority rental dwellings in **Sydney** was in **Outer South Western Sydney**, with 11.2 per cent. Other Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) with high proportions were **Inner Sydney** (9.6 per cent) and **Fairfield-Liverpool** (9.5 per cent). The largest numbers of these rental dwellings were in **Inner Sydney** (10,665 dwellings), **Blacktown-Baulkham Hills** (9,835) and **Fairfield-Liverpool** (8,779). **Newcastle** had 10,560 housing authority rented dwellings, 6.3 per cent of its dwelling stock, while in **Wollongong**, there were 8,175, 9.1 per cent of all dwellings.

Unlike the other capital cities, the highest proportion of dwellings rented from the State housing authority in **Melbourne** was in the inner city, in **Inner Melbourne**, where 8.0 per cent of all dwellings were rented from the State housing authority. The next highest proportions were further out in **Northern Middle Melbourne** (4.5 per cent), **Western Melbourne** (4.4 per cent) and in **Hume** (4.0 per cent). There were 8,090 public rental dwellings in **Inner Melbourne**, 5,987 in **Western Melbourne** and 3,919 in **Northern Middle Melbourne**. In **Geelong**, there were 2,752 dwellings rented from the State housing authority, 5.0 per cent of all dwellings.

In **Brisbane**, the highest proportions of dwellings rented from the State housing authority were in areas located near the fringes of the city. To the south, **Logan** had 7.0 per cent, while in adjacent **Ipswich** and **Gold Coast Part A**, the proportions were 6.7 per cent and 6.3 per cent respectively. To the north of **Brisbane** in **Redcliffe**, 6.6 per cent of all dwellings were housing authority rental dwellings. **Brisbane City** SSD had 13,489 housing authority rental dwellings, substantially more than the 3,682 in **Logan** and 2,617 in **Ipswich**. In **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, the proportion was 2.3 per cent, with 3,264 rental dwellings, while in **Townsville-Thuringowa**, 2,770 rental dwellings (6.6 per cent of all dwellings) were owned by the State housing authority.

The highest proportions of housing authority rental dwellings in **Adelaide** were located in **Northern** SSD, where 13.8 per cent (the second highest of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD) of all dwellings were rented from the State housing authority, and in **Western**, where the proportion was 12.9 per cent. The largest numbers of housing authority dwellings were also located in **Northern** (16,525 dwellings) and **Western** (10,941 dwellings).

The **South East Metropolitan** and **South West Metropolitan** SSDs in **Perth** had similar proportions of dwellings rented from the State housing authority, with 5.7 and 5.2 per cent respectively, and a lower 4.3 per cent in **North Metropolitan**. However, **North Metropolitan** had the largest number of housing authority dwellings, with 6,125 dwellings, compared with 4,924 in **South West Metropolitan**.

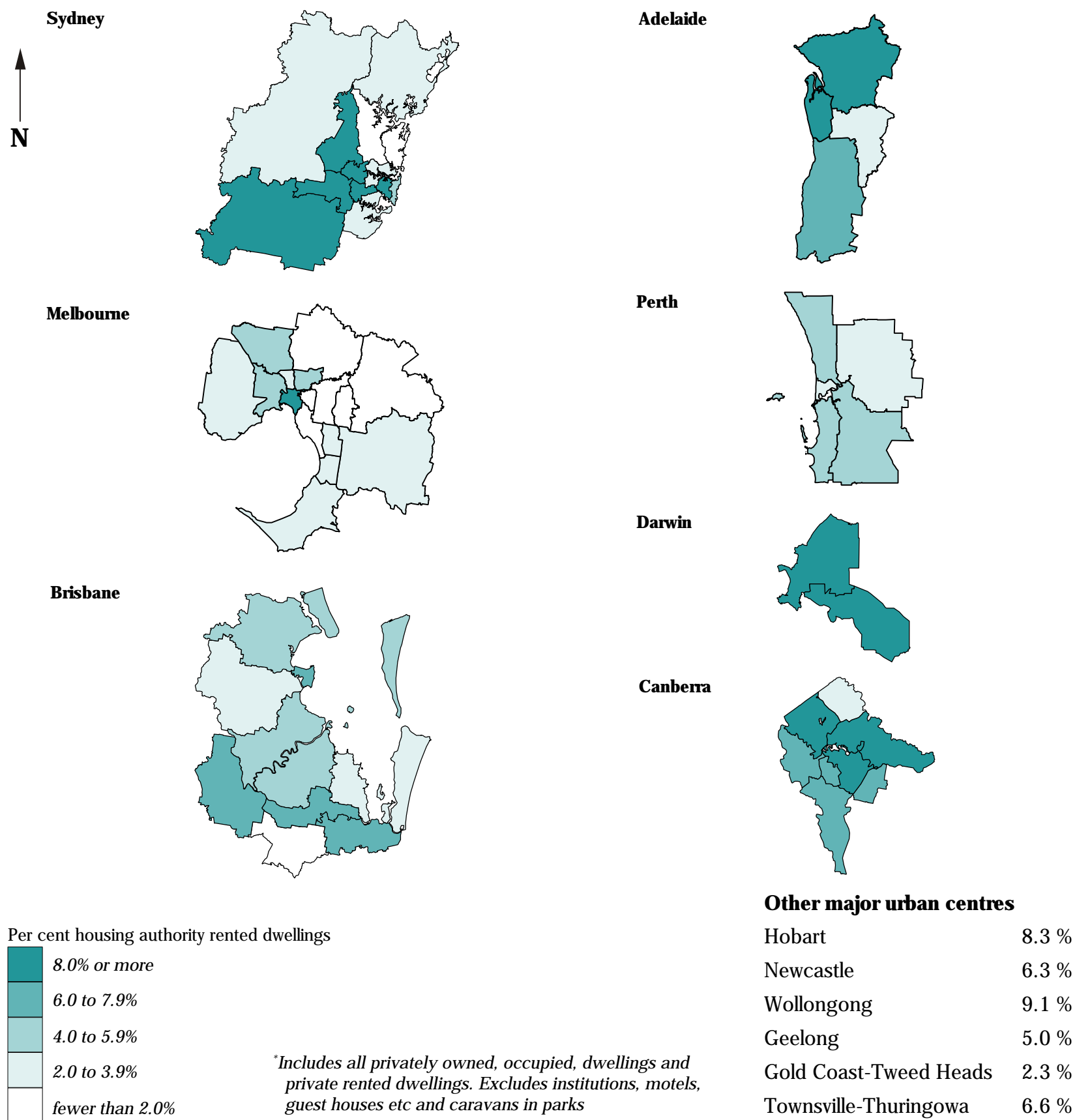
In **Hobart**, in 1996, there were 6,033 dwellings rented from the State housing authority, 8.3 per cent of the total housing stock.

The proportion of housing authority rental dwellings in **Darwin** varied considerably between the two SSDs. In **Palmerston-East Arm**, they represented 29.4 per cent of all dwellings (the highest of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD), while in **Darwin City** they represented 13.4 per cent. The largest number, though, was in **Darwin City**, with 3,118 housing authority rented dwellings, with 1,243 in **Palmerston-East Arm**.

There were substantial proportions of dwellings rented from the housing authority in **North-** (19.0 per cent) and **South Canberra** (16.0 per cent) SSDs. The next highest concentration was in **Belconnen**, where housing authority rented dwellings represented 9.7 per cent of all dwellings. The SSDs of **Belconnen** (2,766 dwellings), **North Canberra** (2,745) and in **Tuggeranong** (2,092) had the largest numbers of these dwellings.

Map 3.24: Dwellings rented from the State housing authority, major urban centres, 1996

as a percentage of all occupied private dwellings* in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dwellings rented from the State housing authority, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The Census collects data on dwellings rented from a State or Territory housing authority: in this analysis, these rented dwellings are expressed as a proportion of all occupied private dwellings. (Note: Private dwellings exclude special dwellings such as hotels and boarding houses.) In 1996 the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of housing authority rented dwellings outside the capital cities, just above the level in South Australia. The lowest levels were recorded in the non-metropolitan areas of Queensland and Victoria. With the exception of Queensland, these rental dwellings declined as a proportion of all occupied private dwellings in all non-metropolitan areas between 1986 and 1996.

Table 3.31: Dwellings rented from the State housing authority, State/Territory

	<i>Per cent</i>								
	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	5.5	2.9	4.8	9.7	4.6	8.3	15.8	9.7 ²	5.3
Other major urban centres ³	7.3	5.0	3.3	..	..	..	..	..	5.5
Rest of State/Territory	4.3	3.9	2.9	9.0	5.7	6.2	10.5	— ⁴	4.6
Whole of State/Territory	5.4	3.2	3.8	9.5	4.9	7.1	13.0	10.1	5.1
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	4.9	4.5	1.7	12.4	7.5	6.9	13.4	— ⁴	5.1

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

In New South Wales, 7.4 per cent of the dwellings in **Bathurst-Orange** and 7.0 per cent in **Upper Darling** were rented from the State housing authority. In **North Central Plain**, **Central Murrumbidgee** and **Albury**, the proportions ranged from 6.1 per cent to 6.5 per cent. The largest numbers of State housing authority rental dwellings were located in **Central Murrumbidgee** (2,274 dwellings), **Clarence** (2,023) and **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance** (1,939 dwellings).

The highest proportions of housing authority rental housing in Victoria were located in **Shepparton** and **Wodonga**, both of which had 6.6 per cent of their dwellings in this tenure type, and in **La Trobe Valley**, with 6.3 per cent. However, the largest numbers of housing authority rental dwellings were in **La Trobe Valley** (1,680 dwellings), **Ballarat** (1,524 dwellings) and in **Bendigo** (1,233 dwellings).

The only Statistical Subdivision (SSD) in Queensland where housing authority rental dwellings exceeded five per cent of the housing stock was **North West**, with 6.4 per cent, while both **Rockhampton** and **Cairns** had 5.0 per cent of dwellings in this category. The largest numbers of these rental dwellings were located in **Cairns**, with 1,998, and closer to **Brisbane** in **Sunshine Coast** and **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance**, with 1,684 and 1,279 respectively.

In South Australia, the high proportions of housing authority rental dwellings in a number of SSDs reflected post World War Two policies to develop South Australia's regional economic base, especially in the State's "Iron Triangle". Consequently, in 1996, 35.5 per cent of the dwellings in **Whyalla** SSD were rented from the South Australian Housing Trust, the highest proportion (and largest number) of any non-metropolitan SSD in Australia. There were also high proportions in **Flinders Ranges** (17.9 per

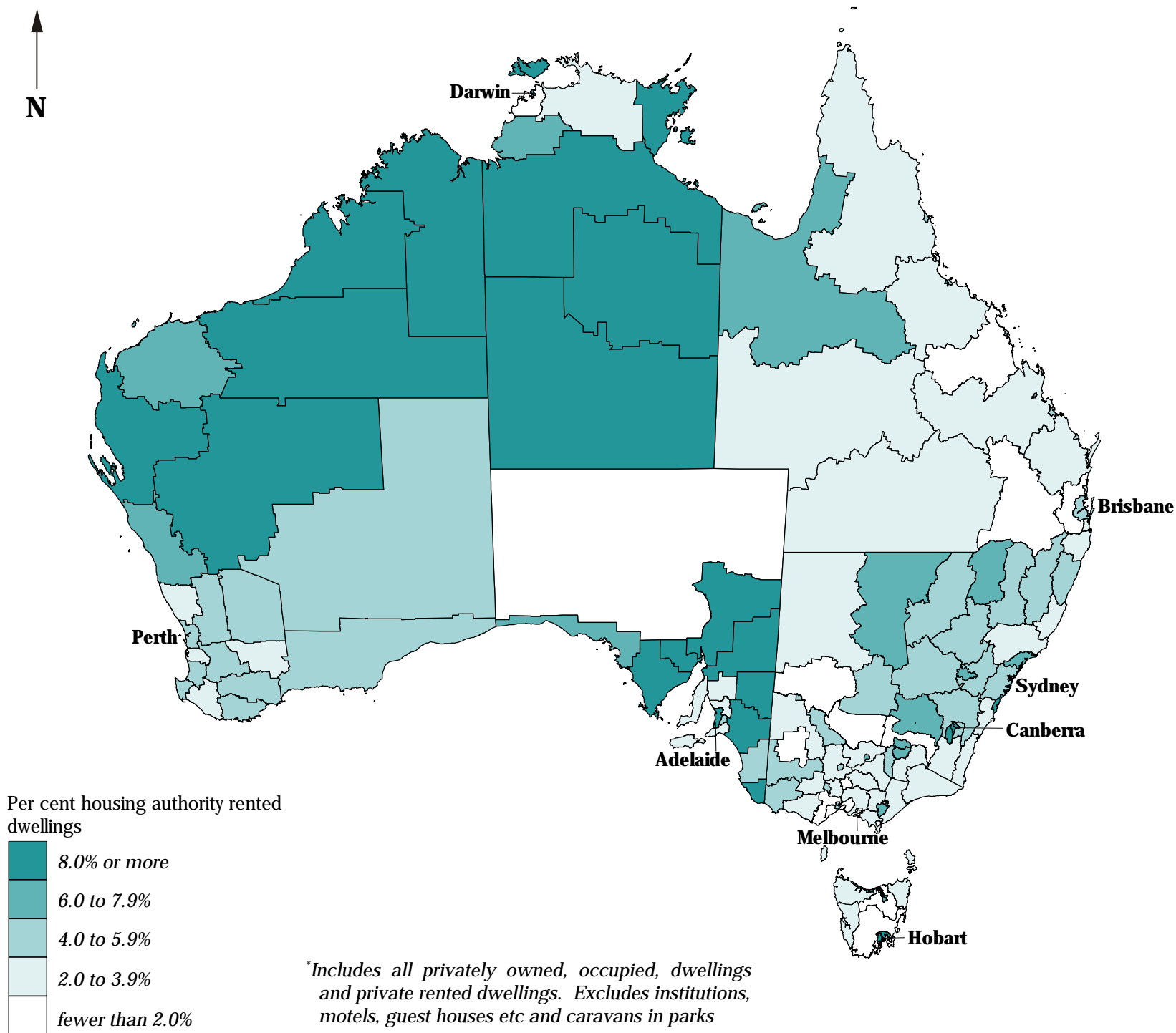
cent), which includes Port Augusta; and **Pirie** (11.7 per cent). The largest numbers were in **Whyalla**, where there were 3,370 housing authority rental dwellings, and in **Lower South East**, where there were 1,709.

The highest proportions of housing authority rental dwellings in Western Australia were in three contiguous SSDs in the State's north, where housing has been provided in response to the needs of the Aboriginal population and economic development. They were **Fitzroy** (with 13.2 per cent), **Ord** (10.5 per cent) and **De Grey** (10.2 per cent). The largest numbers, however, were recorded in SSDs closer to **Perth**, with 1,298 housing authority rental dwellings in **Preston** and 1,060 in **Greenough River**.

Burnie-Devonport had the highest proportion of housing authority rental housing in Tasmania, with 9.7 per cent, compared with 7.7 per cent in **Launceston**. These SSDs had almost identical numbers of housing authority rental dwellings in 1996 – 2,834 in **Burnie-Devonport** and 2,832 in **Launceston**.

In the Northern Territory, the island SSD of **Bathurst-Melville** had 32.1 per cent of its dwellings rented from the Territory administration (135 dwellings), in contrast to **Central NT**, where the proportion was 14.8 per cent. The largest numbers of housing authority rental dwellings were located in **Central NT**, with 1,733 dwellings; **Lower Top End NT**, with 642; and **East Arnhem** with 231.

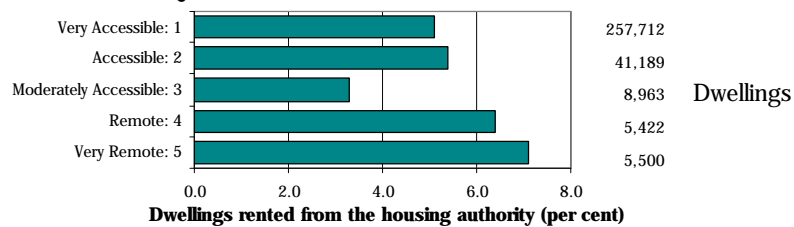
Map 3.25: Dwellings rented from the State housing authority, Australia, 1996
as a percentage of all occupied private dwellings* in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The majority (80.8 per cent) of dwellings rented from the State housing authority are in the Very Accessible category. However, the highest proportions are in the Very Remote and Remote categories, where they represent 7.1 and 6.4 per cent, respectively, of all occupied private dwellings. The lowest proportion (3.3 per cent) is in the moderately Accessible ARIA category.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dwellings with no motor vehicle, 1996

Capital city comparison

People living in households without cars face many disadvantages in gaining access to jobs, services and recreation, especially if they are in low-density outer suburbia. In 1996, 15.4 per cent of all occupied private dwellings in **Sydney** had no motor vehicle parked or garaged overnight (**Table 3.32**), the highest percentage for the capital cities. The lowest percentage was in **Canberra**, with 8.8 per cent.

Comparisons with 1986 data show that, on average, there has been a decline in the proportion of dwellings without motor vehicles in the capital cities in the ten years to 1996. However, although the *All capitals* figure fell from 13.8 per cent in 1986 to 12.5 per cent in 1996, and a decrease was recorded for all capital cities except **Darwin** and **Canberra** (increases of 1.0 and 1.1 percentage points respectively), the absolute number of dwellings with no motor vehicle increased.

Table 3.32: Dwellings with no motor vehicle, capital cities
Per cent

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	15.4	11.2	11.6	12.5	9.5	12.2	10.2	8.8	12.5
1986	16.8	12.7	12.9	13.2	10.6	13.4	9.2	7.7	13.8

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

The highest proportions of dwellings with no motor vehicle in **Sydney** were confined to the inner suburbs. The proportion in **Inner Sydney** was 32.1 per cent (the highest of any capital city or other major urban centre Statistical Subdivision (SSD)), substantially higher than the 23.2 per cent in **Eastern Suburbs**. Other areas with relatively high proportions were **Inner Western Sydney** (19.2 per cent) and **Central Western Sydney** (17.4 per cent). The largest numbers of dwellings with no motor vehicle were also in **Inner Sydney** and **Eastern Suburbs**, with 35,595 and 22,240 dwellings respectively, while there were 17,769 dwellings with no motor vehicle in **St George-Sutherland**. In **Newcastle**, there were 22,846 dwellings without a motor vehicle, 13.6 per cent of all dwellings, while in **Wollongong** the respective values were 12,642 dwellings and 14.1 per cent.

The highest concentration of dwellings without a motor vehicle in **Melbourne** was in **Inner Melbourne** SSD, 24.2 per cent of all dwellings, the second highest of the capital city or other major urban centre SSDs. This was markedly higher than the next ranked SSDs of **Moreland** (17.1 per cent) and **Northern Middle Melbourne** (14.3 per cent). There were 24,370 dwellings with no motor vehicle located in **Inner Melbourne**, 18,607 in **Western Melbourne** and 16,746 in **Southern Melbourne**. In **Geelong**, there were rather lower numbers and proportions, with 6,393 dwellings, 11.7 per cent of all dwellings.

The highest proportion of dwellings with no motor vehicle in **Brisbane** was in **Redcliffe** (with 16.6 per cent), while in **Brisbane City**, 13.9 per cent of all dwellings had no motor vehicle. **Brisbane City** had the largest number of dwellings without a motor vehicle – 42,109 dwellings – mainly as a result of its large size. Elsewhere, there were 4,154 dwellings of this type in **Ipswich** and 4,100 in **Logan**. Higher numbers than these were located in **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads** (15,622 dwellings, 11.0 per cent of all dwellings), reflecting the large older and retired populations in this SSD. In **Townsville-Thuringowa**, there were 4,278 dwellings, 10.1 per cent of all dwellings, did not have a motor vehicle.

In **Adelaide**, the inner SSDs of **Western** (with 16.6 per cent) and **Eastern** (13.4 per cent) had the highest proportions of dwellings with no motor vehicle. The largest numbers of these dwellings were also located in **Western**, with 14,126 dwellings, and in **Northern**, with 13,159 dwellings.

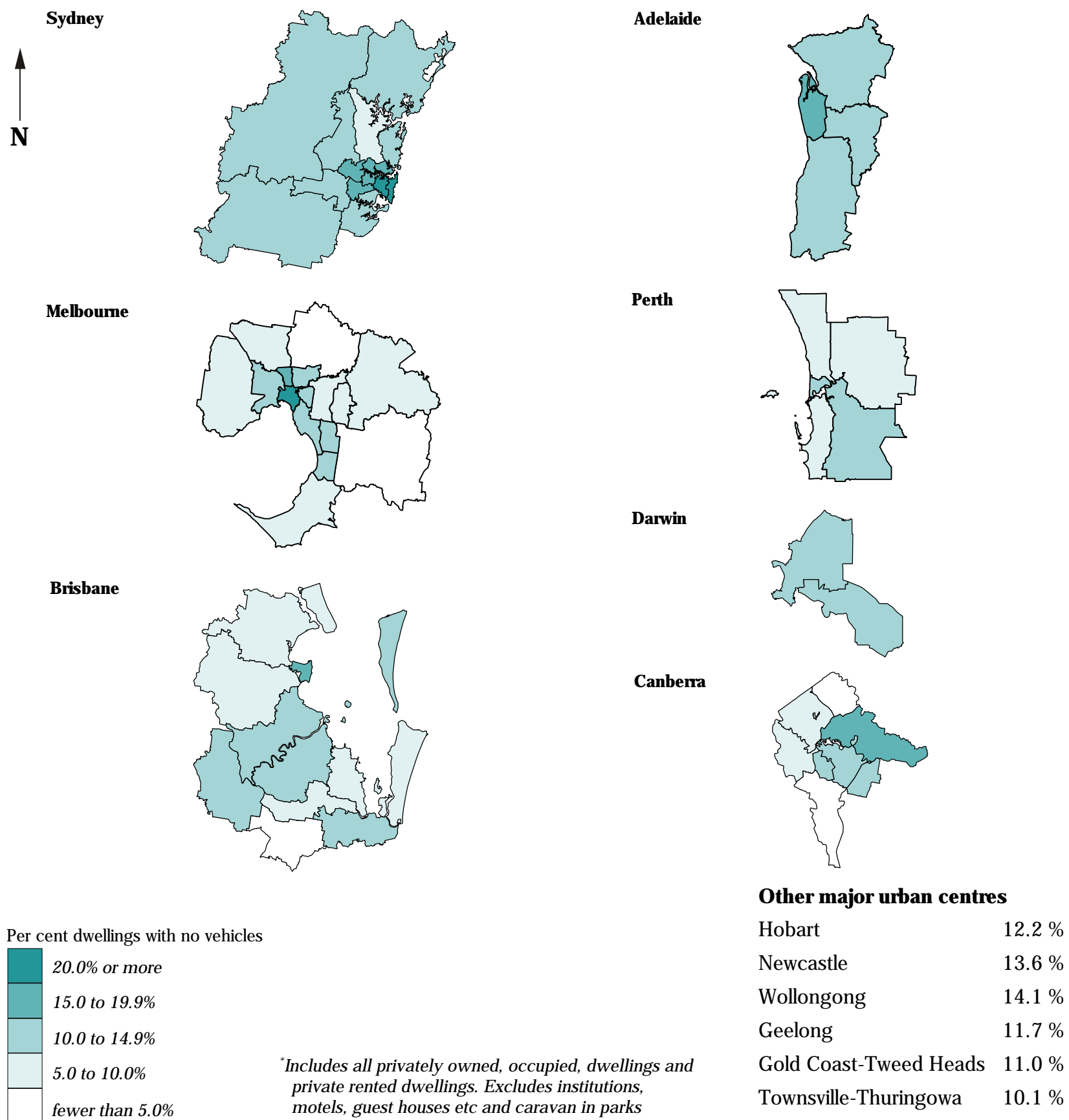
The proportions of dwellings with no motor vehicle in **Perth** were highest in **Central Metropolitan** (with 14.8 per cent) and in **South East Metropolitan** (with 10.2 per cent). There were 12,488 of these dwellings in **North Metropolitan** and 11,162 in **South East Metropolitan** SSDs.

In **Hobart** in 1996, there were 8,901 dwellings without a motor vehicle, 12.2 per cent of all dwellings.

In **Darwin**, 10.4 per cent of dwellings had no motor vehicle in **Palmerston-East Arm**, with 10.2 per cent in **Darwin City**. **Darwin City** had 2,379 dwellings without a motor vehicle, more than five times the number in **Palmerston-East Arm** (441 dwellings).

In **Canberra**, the overall level of dwellings without a motor vehicle was 8.8 per cent. The highest proportions of these dwellings were confined to three SSDs located close to the city centre. In **North Canberra**, they comprised 18.2 per cent of all dwellings, considerably higher than the 13.4 per cent in **South Canberra** and 11.2 per cent in **Queanbeyan**. The largest numbers of dwellings with no motor vehicle were in **North Canberra** (2,623) and in **Belconnen** (1,966).

Map 3.26: Dwellings with no motor vehicle, major urban centres, 1996
as a percentage of all occupied dwellings* in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

Dwellings with no motor vehicle, 1996

State/Territory comparison

The phenomenon of higher car ownership in non-metropolitan relative to urban areas was apparent within all the States and Territories other than the Northern Territory. Rates varied considerably across the nation, from 7.8 per cent of occupied private dwellings with no motor vehicle in Western Australia to 18.3 per cent in the Northern Territory, with most States and Territories recording between 8 and 10 per cent (**Table 3.33**). The Northern Territory had the highest percentages for both the *Rest of State* and *Whole of State/Territory* categories, ahead of New South Wales.

The average across all *Rest of State/Territory* areas was 9.6 per cent at both the 1986 and 1996 Censuses.

Table 3.33: Dwellings with no motor vehicle, State/Territory
Per cent

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	15.4	11.2	11.6	12.5	9.5	12.2	10.2	8.8 ²	12.5
Other major urban centres ³	13.8	11.7	10.8	..	..	..	..	..	12.4
Rest of State/Territory	10.7	8.3	9.8	8.2	7.8	9.5	18.3	— ⁴	9.6
Whole of State/Territory	14.0	10.5	10.7	11.4	9.0	10.7	14.4	8.5	11.6
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	10.6	8.6	9.7	8.1	8.1	10.2	19.8	— ⁴	9.6

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of State

Generally, high proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle were located in Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) in the more remote areas of New South Wales. These were **Upper Darling** (16.8 per cent), **Far West** (16.1 per cent) and **Macquarie-Barwon** (14.7 per cent). The largest numbers, however, were located in areas with large retired and/or unemployed populations, particularly on the north coast. There were 6,624 dwellings without a motor vehicle in **Richmond-Tweed SD Balance**, 5,630 in **Clarence** and 5,330 in **Hastings**.

In Victoria, the SSDs with the highest proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle also had the largest numbers of these dwellings. The highest proportion was recorded in **La Trobe Valley**, with 11.1 per cent, marginally higher than **Ballarat** (11.0 per cent) and **Bendigo** (10.9 per cent). There were 3,103 dwellings without a motor vehicle in **Ballarat**, 2,941 in **La Trobe Valley** and 2,907 in **Bendigo**.

In Queensland, the highest proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle were located in the State's far north, and were associated with large Aboriginal populations in remote areas, while the largest numbers tended to be associated with older populations located close to **Brisbane**. The proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle were highest in **North West** and **Far North SD Balance**, which had proportions of 13.8 and 13.4 per cent respectively. The largest numbers were in **Sunshine Coast**, where there were 6,948 of these dwellings, and **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance**, which had 5,733.

The SSDs with the highest proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle in South Australia were all in the north of the State in **Whyalla**, with 16.2 per cent; **Flinders Ranges**, with 12.2 per cent; **Pirie**, with 11.2 per cent; and **Far North**, with 10.3 per cent.

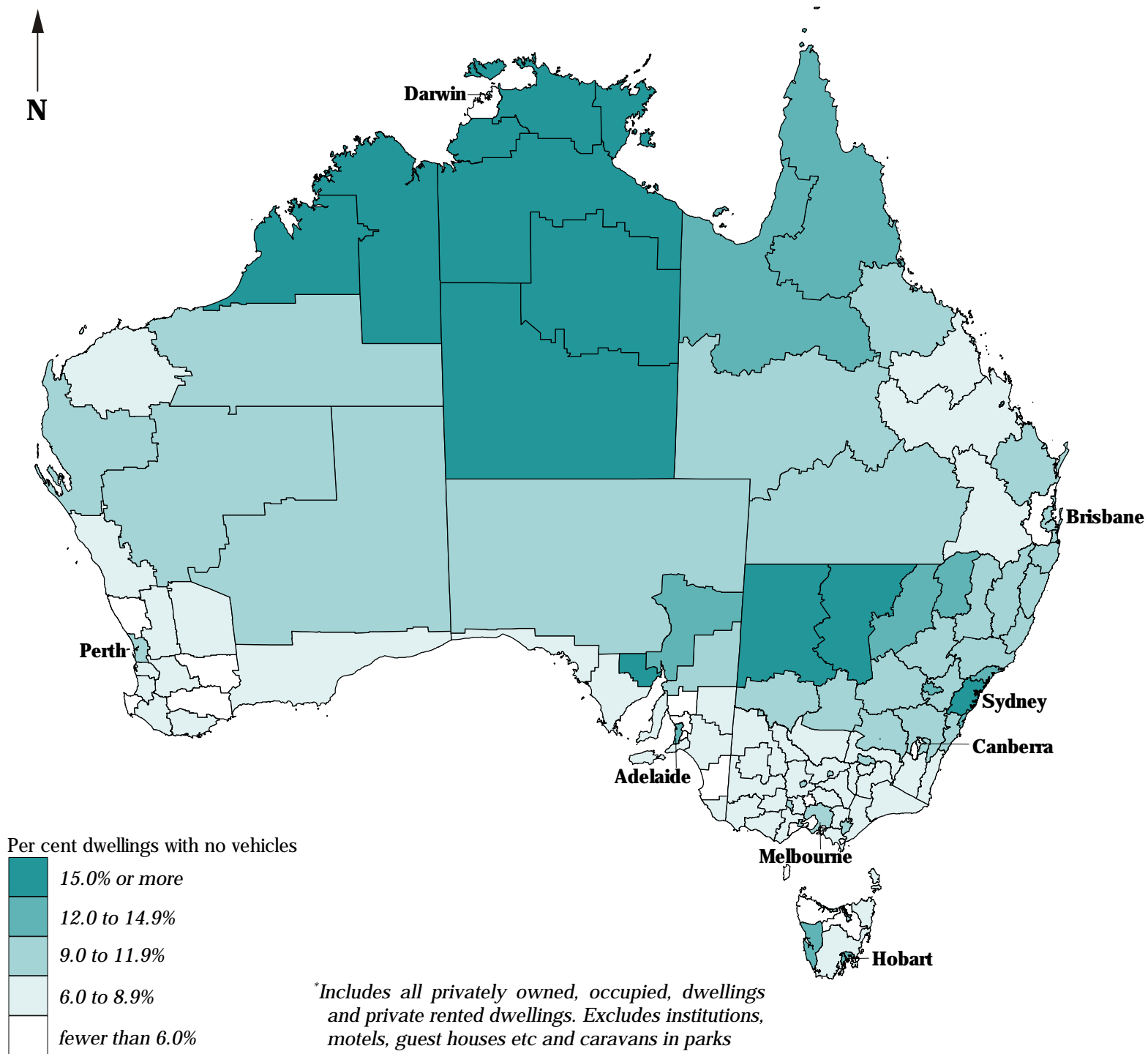
The largest numbers were recorded in **Whyalla**, with 1,542 dwellings with no motor vehicle; **Lower South East**, with 1,248 dwellings; and **Pirie**, with 1,140 dwellings.

The adjacent **Ord** and **Fitzroy** SSDs had the highest proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle in Western Australia. They had 18.3 and 17.0 per cent of their dwellings in this category respectively, compared with 11 per cent in **Carnegie**. All other SSDs had proportions of less than ten per cent. The largest numbers of these dwellings were in areas closer to **Perth**, with 1,602 dwellings without a motor vehicle in **Preston** and 1,452 in **Dale**, both located immediately south of **Perth**, while 300 kilometres to the north in **Greenough Rivers**, there were another 1,276 dwellings with no motor vehicle.

The highest proportions of dwellings without a motor vehicle in Tasmania were located in **Lyell**, with 12.2 per cent, and **Launceston**, which had 11.6 per cent. **Burnie-Devonport** (10.9 per cent) was the only other SSD with more than 10.0 per cent of dwellings in this category. The largest numbers were in **Launceston** (4,286 dwellings) and **Burnie-Devonport** (3,197 dwellings).

Three SSDs in the Northern Territory had more than 30 per cent of their dwellings without a motor vehicle, the highest proportions of any non-metropolitan SSD in Australia. Of these, the highest was in **Bathurst-Melville** (73.6 per cent), with 35.6 per cent in **Daly** and 30.3 per cent in **Alligator**. The largest numbers of these dwellings were in **Central NT**, which had 2,062, and **Lower Top End NT**, where 869 were located.

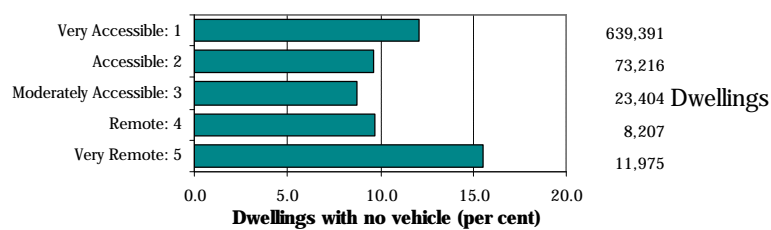
Map 3.27: Dwellings with no motor vehicle, Australia, 1996
as a percentage of all occupied private dwellings* in each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The distribution of dwellings without a motor vehicle is unusual among the 1996 Census variables, with the highest proportions in the Very Remote areas (15.5 per cent); a middle level proportion in the Very Accessible areas (12.1 per cent); and lower proportions in the Remote to Accessible areas (the lowest in the Moderately Accessible category, at 8.7 per cent). The distribution of the Indigenous population is likely to have influenced the high proportion in the Very Remote areas.

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 1996

Capital city comparison

A description of the SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD), and comments as to its use in comparisons between Censuses, is provided on page 17. Briefly, the IRSD score measures the relative socioeconomic disadvantage of the population of an area in comparison with the average for Australia as a whole. High index scores indicate least disadvantage and low index scores indicate greater disadvantage. At the 1996 Census, **Canberra** had the highest IRSD score, of 1084, showing its population to have the least relative disadvantage, or highest socioeconomic status, and **Adelaide** the lowest, with 992, showing its population to have the most relative disadvantage, or lowest socioeconomic status (Table 3.34). Between 1986 and 1996, the IRSD scores in **Sydney**, **Perth** and **Darwin** all increased relative to the Australian score of 1000: scores for the other capital cities declined or remained relatively stable.

Table 3.34: SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, capital cities
Index values (Australia equals 1000)

	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra ¹	All capitals
1996	1027	1025	1010	992	1020	1001	1027	1084	1021
1986	1013	1041	1011	1008	1017	1007	998	1089	1021

¹Includes Queanbeyan (C)

Source: ABS special data services

Capital cities

In **Sydney**, in 1996, adjacent Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) in the northern suburbs recorded the highest IRSD scores. These were **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai** (with an index score of 1146), **Lower Northern Sydney** (1115) and **Northern Beaches** (1100), all SSDs with relatively high socioeconomic status. The IRSD in **Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai** was the highest of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD in Australia. The lowest scores were recorded in SSDs to the west of the city centre in **Fairfield-Liverpool** (an index score of 925 and the second lowest IRSD score of any capital city or other major urban centre SSD), **Canterbury-Bankstown** (961) and also **Central Western Sydney** (984). Relatively low IRSD scores were recorded in **Newcastle** (970) and **Wollongong** (979).

The highest IRSD scores in **Melbourne** were in SSDs occupying an area extending eastward from **Inner Melbourne** (an index score of 1031) to **Yarra Ranges** (1047), and embracing **Boroondara** (1134), **Eastern Middle Melbourne** (1073), **Southern Melbourne** (1069), **Eastern Outer Melbourne** (1058) and **Northern Outer Melbourne** (1033). The lowest IRSD score for any capital city or other major urban centre SSD was recorded for the population of **Dandenong** (a score of 921), while index scores in **Moreland** and **Western Melbourne** were 958 and 962 respectively, demonstrating their relative socioeconomic disadvantage. In **Geelong**, the IRSD score was 980.

SSDs with the highest socioeconomic status in **Brisbane** were **Pine Rivers** (with an index score of 1045) and **Brisbane City** (1034). Low levels of disadvantage were also recorded in **Beaudesert** (1016) and **Redland** (1017). Areas with the highest levels of socioeconomic disadvantage as measured by the IRSD were **Redcliffe** (an index score of 934) and **Gold Coast Part A** (947). In **Gold Coast-Tweed Heads**, the IRSD was 981, while in **Townsville-Thuringowa** it was 997.

The **Eastern** and **Southern** SSDs in **Adelaide** comprised the areas of highest socioeconomic status, with IRSD scores of 1069 and 1017 respectively. In contrast, scores for the **Western** and **Northern** statistical subdivisions were 943 and 948.

In 1996, four of **Perth's** five SSDs had IRSD scores of more than 1000, while the IRSD for **South East Metropolitan** was 999. The areas of highest socioeconomic status were **Central Metropolitan** (1092) and **North Metropolitan** (1024).

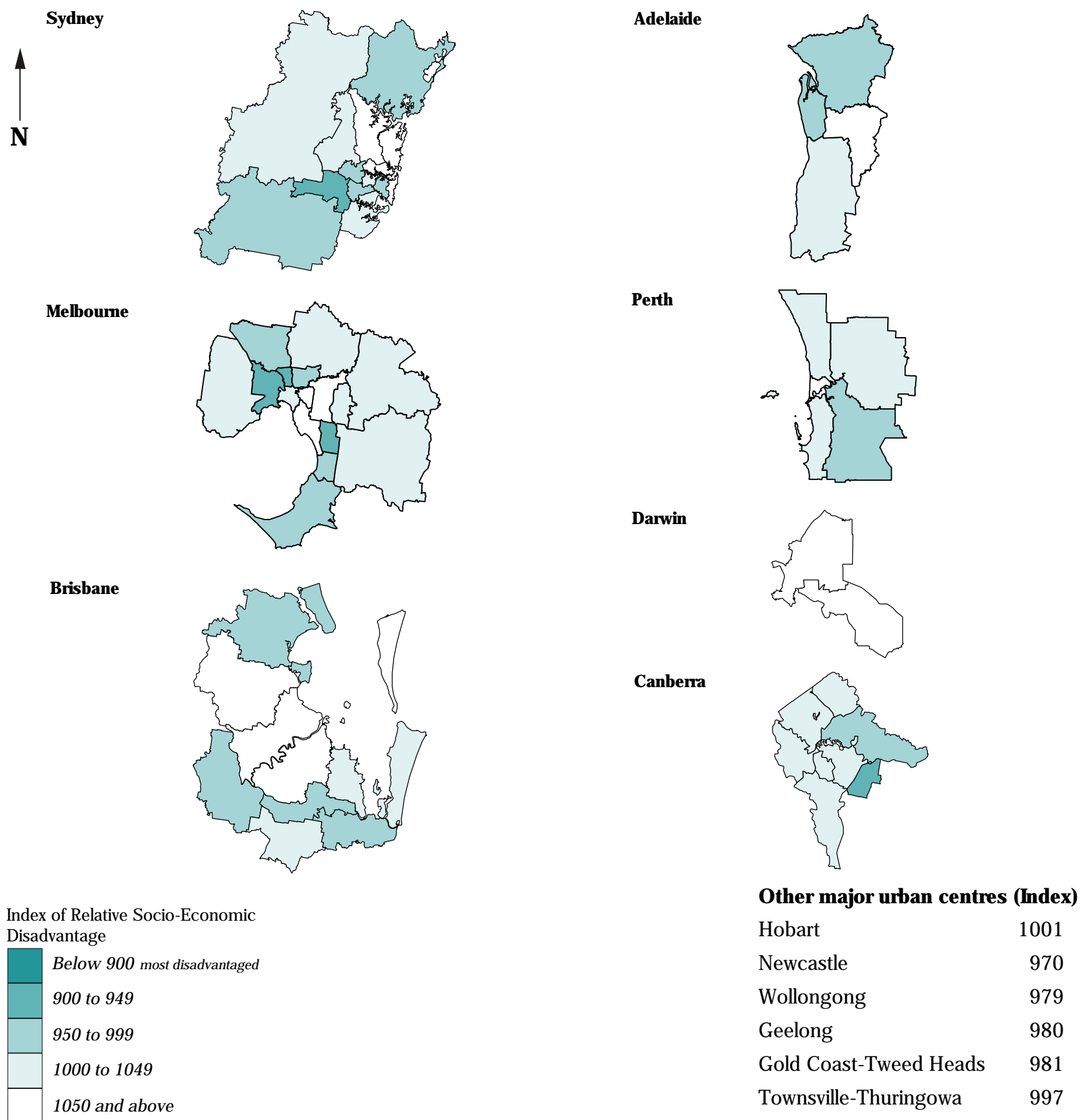
The IRSD for **Hobart** in 1996 was 1001.

In **Darwin**, the index for **Darwin City** (1037) was considerably higher than that for **Palmerston-East Arm** (970), indicating that the population of **Palmerston-East Arm** was more socioeconomically disadvantaged than that in **Darwin City**.

Within **Canberra**, each SSD had an IRSD of greater than 1000. The highest score was in **Gungahlin-Hall** (an index score of 1122 and the second highest score of these SSDs), with high scores also in **Woden Valley** (1117) and **Weston Creek-Stromlo** (1112). The lowest scores in **Canberra**, but still relatively high, were in **North Canberra** (1054) and **Belconnen** (1087).

Map 3.28: ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, major urban centres, 1996

IRSD index number for each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2
National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 1996

State/Territory comparison

A description of the SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD), and comments as to its use in comparisons between Censuses, is provided on page 17. The *Whole of State/Territory* index scores ranged from a low of 962 in the Northern Territory to a high of 1091 in the Australian Capital Territory. Between 1986 and 1996 index scores for the non-metropolitan areas of Australia declined for each State and the Northern Territory (Table 3.35), although the score in Western Australia was almost stable.

Table 3.35: SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, State/Territory
Index values (Australia equals 1000)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total ¹
1996									
Capital city	1027	1025	1010	992	1020	1001	1027	1084	1021
Other major urban centres	973	980	985	..	..	..	..	..	978
Rest of State/Territory	973	995	965	963	970	955	909	- ⁴	972
Whole of State/Territory	1007	1016	989	984	1006	974	962	1091	1000
1986									
Rest of State/Territory	981	1026	972	986	971	988	917	- ⁴	999

¹Total for *Whole of State/Territory* includes 'Other Territories' (Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands)

²Includes Queanbeyan (C)

³Includes Newcastle and Wollongong (NSW); Geelong (Vic); and Gold Coast-Tweed Heads and Townsville-Thuringowa (Qld)

⁴Data included with ACT total

Source: ABS special data services

Rest of Australia

In New South Wales, the lowest IRSD scores, representing the highest levels of socioeconomic disadvantage, were in the north-west, where the contiguous SSDs of **Upper Darling**, **Far West** and **Macquarie-Barwon** had scores of 925, 919 and 905 respectively. The highest IRSD scores were in the Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) of **Snowy** (an IRSD of 1053, the second highest of any non-metropolitan SSD) and **Queanbeyan** (1035), located in the State's south. Relatively high index scores were recorded in the regional centres of **Albury** (1003) and **Bathurst-Orange** (1000), and the pastoral and irrigated regions of **Central Murray** (997).

SSDs with high IRSD scores were scattered throughout Victoria. The highest score was in **South Loddon** (an IRSD of 1062 the highest of any non-metropolitan SSD), and there were scores of more than 1010 in **East Barwon** (1038), **West Mallee** (1016), **West Gippsland** (1012) and **East Ovens-Murray** (1011). Areas with high levels of socioeconomic disadvantage were similarly distributed throughout the State, with the lowest scores located in **North Loddon** (965), **La Trobe Valley** (967) and **Mildura** (968).

Generally, in Queensland, the larger regional population centres recorded relatively low levels of socioeconomic disadvantage, only **Cairns** had an IRSD of greater than 1000 (1012). **Wide Bay-Burnett SD Balance** (925) and **Bundaberg** (932) SSDs recorded the lowest index scores, while large Aboriginal populations in **North West** (940), **Far North SD Balance** (943) and **Northern SD Balance** (953) may have contributed to the low IRSD scores in these regions.

In South Australia, the highest index scores were those in **Onkaparinga** (with an IRSD of 1020) and **Barossa** (1011), both SSDs adjacent to the Adelaide Statistical Division, and in **Upper South East** (1001). The lowest scores, reflecting high levels of socioeconomic disadvantage, centred on the Iron Triangle SSDs

of **Whyalla** (912), **Pirie** (920) and **Flinders Ranges** (935), as well as in wheat/sheep areas such as in the SSDs of **Murray Mallee** (931), **Yorke** (937) and **West Coast** (940).

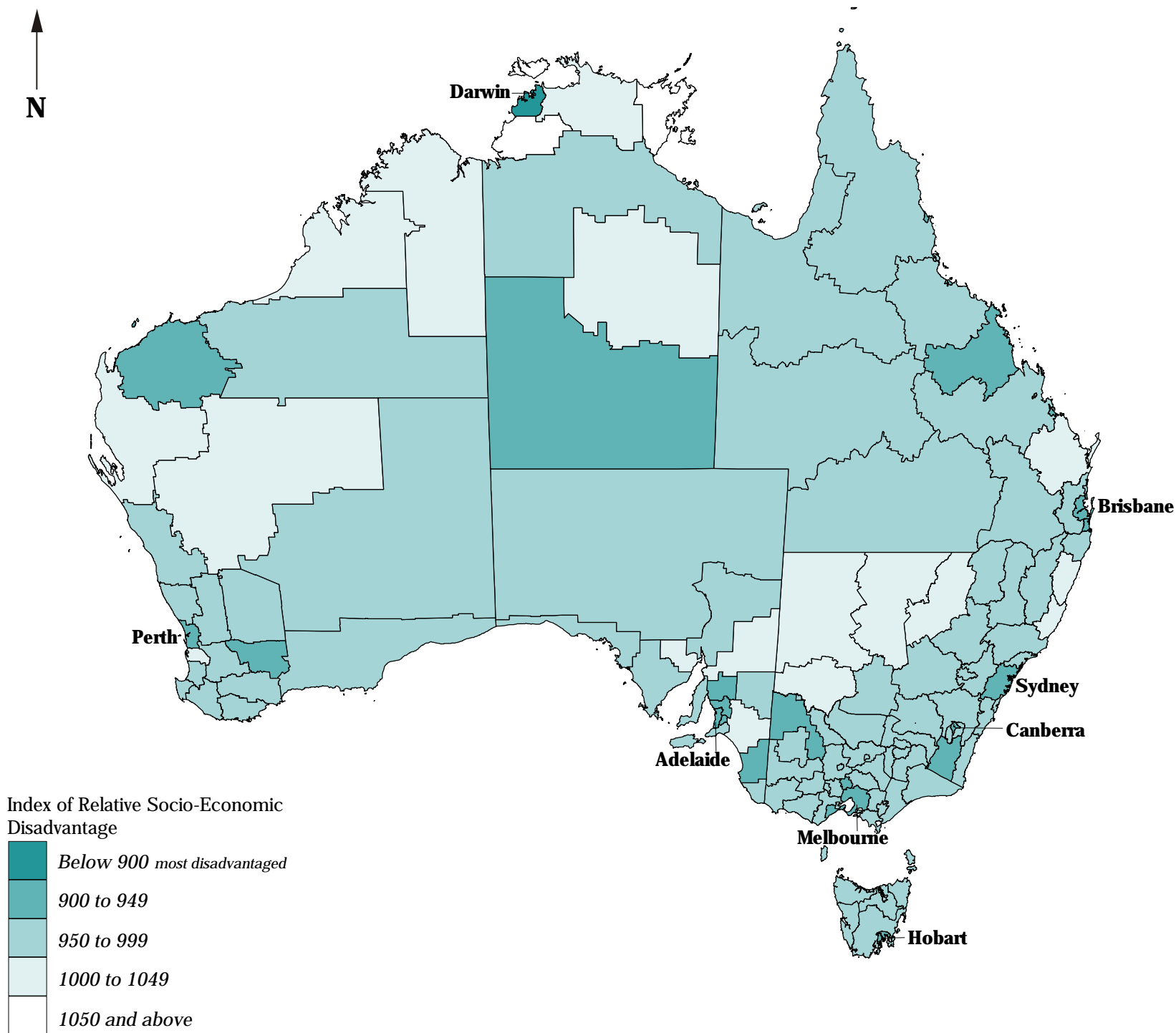
Only two SSDs in Western Australia had IRSD scores of more than 1000; they were **Lakes** (with an IRSD of 1022), in the wheat belt, and **Fortescue** (1019), based on the iron ore port of Roebourne. Generally, the least disadvantaged areas were located in the south-west of the State, while SSDs in the pastoral areas generally had higher levels of disadvantage. The highest levels of socioeconomic disadvantage were recorded for residents of **Fitzroy** (an IRSD of 908) and the adjacent **Ord** (922) SSDs.

In Tasmania, every SSD outside **Hobart** had an index score of less than 1000. There was little variation in index scores recorded for the SSDs with the highest scores, representing the least relative socioeconomic disadvantage – in **Launceston** (972) and **North Western Rural** (with an IRSD of 968) – and those with the lowest scores, representing the most socioeconomic disadvantage – in **North Eastern** (931) and **Burnie-Devonport** (938).

Levels of socioeconomic disadvantage in the Northern Territory were lowest in **Darwin Rural Areas** (with an index score of 1014) adjacent to **Darwin**, and in **Central NT** (947), centred on Alice Springs. Away from the urbanised areas, however, levels of socioeconomic disadvantage increased, with the lowest index scores in the non-metropolitan areas of Australia recorded for **Bathurst-Melville** (an IRSD of 672), **East Arnhem** (817) and **Daly** (822).

Map 3.29: ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, Australia, 1996

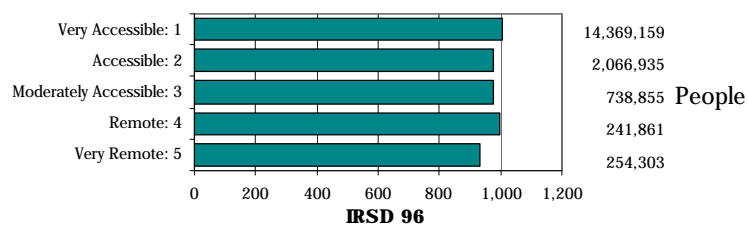
IRSD index number for each Statistical Subdivision



Source: Calculated on data from ABS 1996 Census

Details of map boundaries are in Appendix 1.2

Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia



The graph of the ABS Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage shows a generally step-like variation across the ARIA categories, with the highest index scores (indicating the most advantaged areas) in the Very Accessible category (1009); middle level scores in the Accessible and Moderately Accessible categories (979); and the lowest scores in the Very Remote (931) category. The index score in the Remote category was marginally higher (994).

Source: Calculated on ARIA classification, DHAC National Social Health Atlas Project, 1999

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