



City of
DAREBIN

the place
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DAREBIN - AN OVERVIEW OF DISADVANTAGE ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY

August 2014

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1. Introduction

Darebin's total population at the 2011 census was 136,474, an increase of 8,411 people since the previous census in 2006. The population is expected to grow at an annual average growth rate of 1.55 % over the next decade.

Located within metropolitan Melbourne, Darebin has a mix of older established suburbs and newer growth areas alongside a diverse population with residents from all walks of life, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people and the Kulin Nations as the traditional landowners and the historical and contemporary custodians of the land on which the City of Darebin and surrounding municipalities are located.

Today 1,165 people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (A&TSI) backgrounds live in Darebin, making Darebin one of the largest metropolitan A&TSI municipal populations.

In 2001, the City of Darebin conducted a *Poverty Inquiry*. Since this *Inquiry* Council has implemented a number of actions addressing the *Inquiry's* key findings. While overall disadvantage in Darebin has decreased, many communities in Darebin still face significant and often intergenerational disadvantage.

This report draws together census statistics on the population groups identified as most vulnerable to disadvantage and the key characteristics /indicators understood to contribute to disadvantage. In particular, this report intends to provide a deeper understanding of local areas of disadvantage within the municipality.

This report aims to support Council's work towards addressing disadvantage and inequity across the municipality.

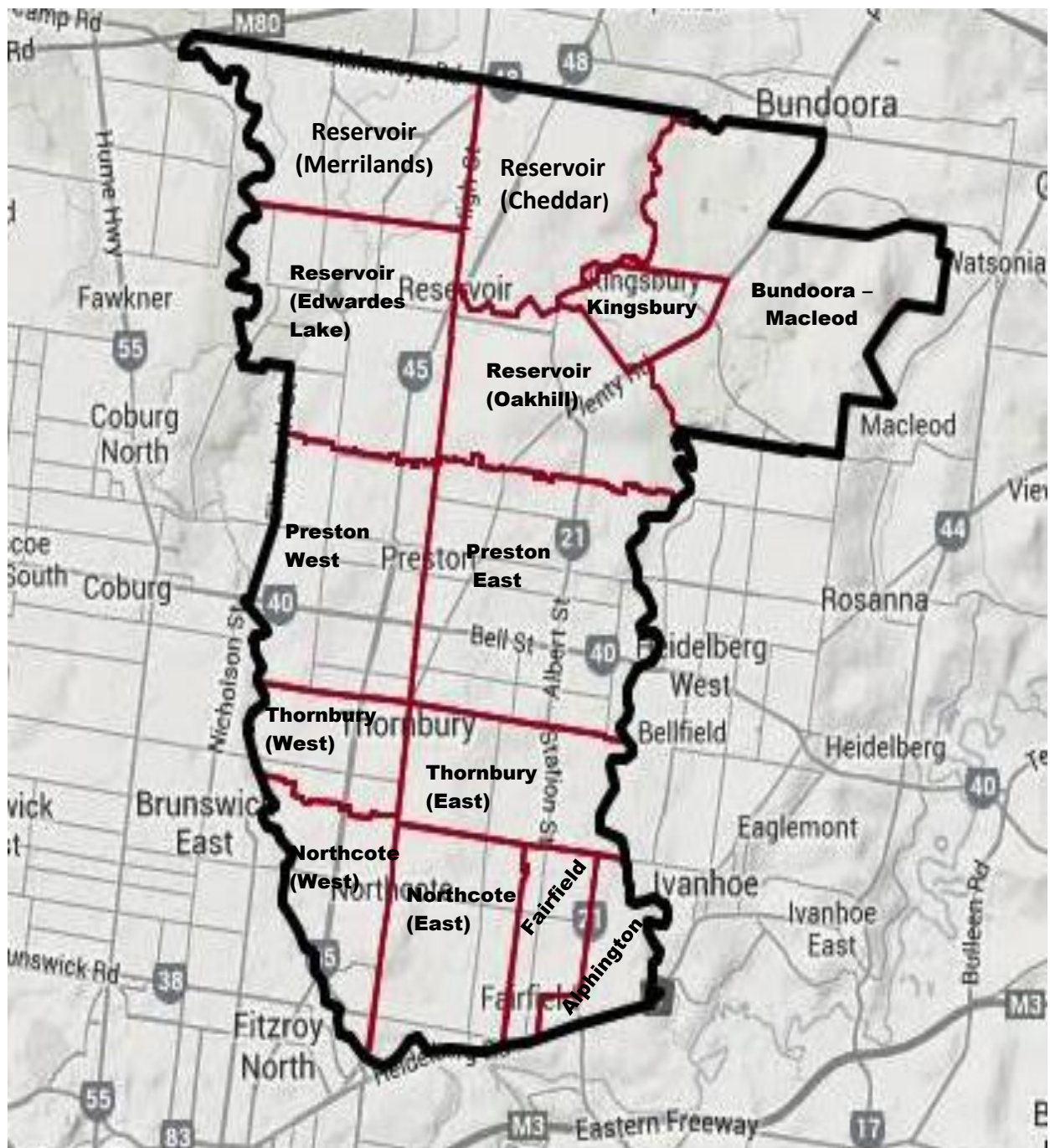
For details and definitions of the data used in this report see 'data notes' on page 21.

**Darebin's ERP (Estimated Resident Population) at June 2013 is
146,797**

2. Darebin suburbs and population distribution

This report presents the Darebin population at a municipal level and by suburbs. The suburbs used are defined geographic areas used by the City of Darebin for planning purposes. The 13 suburbs are indicated on the map below.

Figure 1: Darebin municipality and suburban planning areas



Darebin's population is distributed throughout the municipality with the highest densities (persons per hectare) in the Northcote, Thornbury and Fairfield areas. Preston (East) and Preston (West) however, have the highest proportions of the municipal population.

Table 1: Darebin population by suburbs, Usual resident count (excluding overseas visitors) 2011 census

Suburb	2011 population	% of municipal population
Alphington	2,924	2.1%
Bundoora-Macleod	7,039	5.1%
Fairfield	5,205	3.8%
Kingsbury	3,316	2.4%
Northcote (East)	14,042	10.2%
Northcote (West)	8,760	6.4%
Preston (East)	16,329	11.9%
Preston (West)	14,481	10.6%
Reservoir (Cheddar)	12,329	9.0%
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	12,855	9.4%
Reservoir (Merrilands)	9,803	7.1%
Reservoir (Oakhill)	11,738	8.6%
Thornbury (East)	10,182	7.4%
Thornbury (West)	7,416	5.4%
Total City of Darebin	136,474*	100%

*To note: Small variations occur in total population numbers when the population numbers are compiled from the sum of smaller areas. Sum of suburbs = 136,419

3. Disadvantage

‘Traditionally, disadvantage was commonly understood as poverty, where poverty meant inadequate resources or low income. Today, disadvantage is commonly understood as a multi-dimensional concept, it’s meaning perhaps best captured conjointly by three overlapping terms: poverty, deprivation and social exclusion’.¹

Not all population groups experience disadvantage equally and considerable inequalities exist within some groups who are consistently overrepresented in data related to disadvantage. Groups that experience higher levels of disadvantage across a number of characteristics/indicators include but are not limited to:

- Older people
- People living in public housing
- Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders
- Single parent families
- Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)
- The unemployed and people living on low and/or insufficient incomes to meet basic rights and needs
- People with a disability

¹ *Promoting Inclusion and Combating Deprivation: recent changes in social disadvantage in Australia* December 2012, P Saunders and M Wong, Social Policy Research Centre UNSW

“Disadvantage is about impoverished lives (including lack of opportunities) not only low income.”

Australian Government Productivity Commission 2013

Disadvantage can include multiple factors across time and settings resulting in far-reaching and cumulative consequences.

4. SEIFA (Socio-economic Indexes for Areas)

The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is commonly used to portray *relative* levels of disadvantage.

The SEIFA measures the *relative* levels of socio-economic disadvantaged based on a range of aspects such as income, low educational attainment, unemployment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations.

The lower the score the more *relative* disadvantaged that area is (compared with other areas).

In 2011 Darebin scored 990.3 on the SEIFA index of disadvantage. This rates Darebin as the sixth most disadvantaged metropolitan municipality and the 39th most disadvantaged municipality in Victoria.

A large disparity however remains between suburbs in Darebin with Reservoir (Oakhill, Merrilands, Cheddar) and Preston (East) rating as the most disadvantaged suburbs.

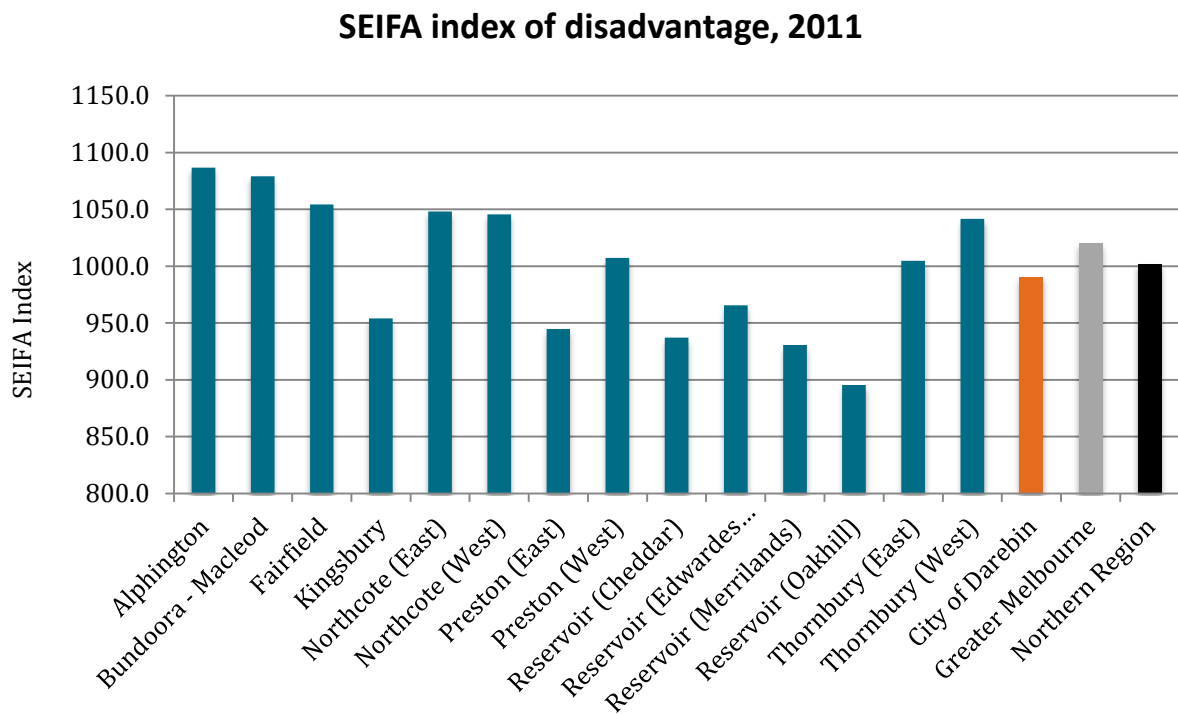
On a suburb level across Victoria, these suburbs are ranked amongst the most disadvantaged suburbs of Victoria.

Figure two below provides a comparison of the SEIFA across the Darebin suburbs, highlighting the areas of *relative* greater disadvantage within Darebin. The lower the score, the greater the level of disadvantage.

Table 2: SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage by suburb 2011

Suburb	IRSED index score
Alphington	1,086.6
Bundoora - Macleod	1,079.2
Fairfield	1,054.2
Kingsbury	954.1
Northcote (East)	1,048.1
Northcote (West)	1,045.6
Preston (East)	944.6
Preston (West)	1,007.3
Reservoir (Cheddar)	937.1
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	965.5
Reservoir (Merrilands)	930.6
Reservoir (Oakhill)	895.5
Thornbury (East)	1,004.6
Thornbury (West)	1,041.7
City of Darebin	990.3
Greater Melbourne	1,020.3
Northern Region	1,001.7

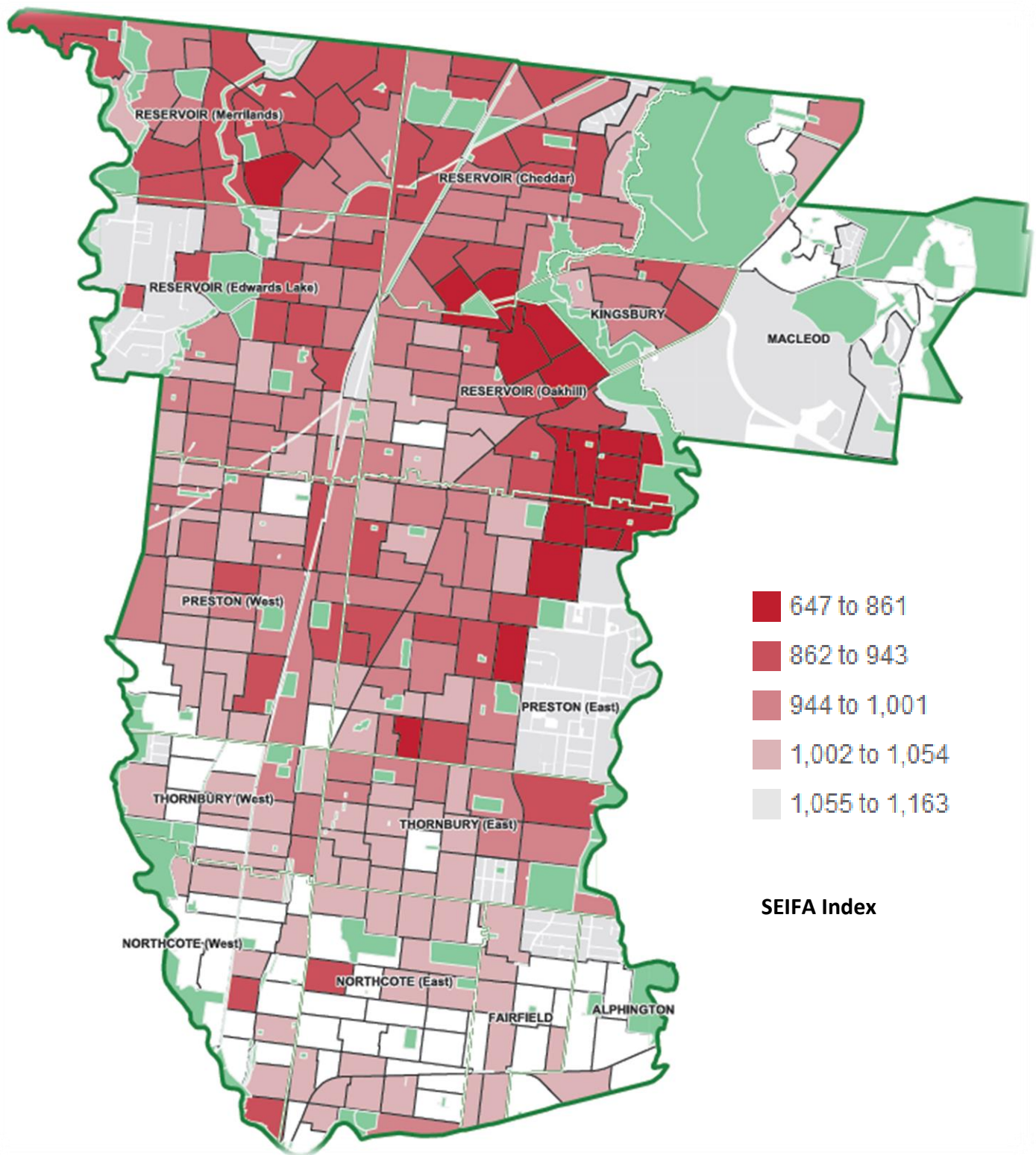
Figure 2: SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage, Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011



The following map of Darebin provides the SEIFA scores for each of the census collection districts within the suburbs. This provides further insight into *relative* disadvantage within the suburbs as well as across the municipality.

As indicated by the SEIFA scores on the map, the highest levels of disadvantage are concentrated in the northern part of the municipality, with a few pockets throughout the rest of the municipality. The *darker* the area the *higher* the level of disadvantage.

Figure 3: Map of the SEIFA Index of Relative Disadvantage by census collection districts, 2011



5. Key characteristics/indicators contributing to disadvantage

Disadvantage (or advantage) are multi-dimensional and income factors alone do not capture the complexity of the interrelationship between factors that contribute to advantage or disadvantage. The following key characteristics/indicators understood to contribute to disadvantage in a community have been drawn from the census to portray disadvantage in Darebin and across the Darebin suburbs.

Census statistics are presented for the municipality and where possible for the 13 suburbs of Darebin. Comparisons between Greater Melbourne (Metropolitan Melbourne) and the Northern Region are provided where possible.

5.1 A snapshot of the municipality

The following table provides a quick comparison of Darebin municipality compared with Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region on key socio-economic statistics from the census understood to contribute to disadvantage. Darebin rates higher than Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region on each of these characteristics.

Table 3: Key characteristics contributing to socio-economic disadvantage, Darebin LGA, Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region, 2011

Characteristics	Darebin	% Darebin	% Greater Melb.	% Nth Region
Unemployed (<i>UR</i>) (% of labour force unemployed)	4,188	6.2%	5.5%	5.6%
Low-income households – less than \$600 per week (<i>E</i>)(% of all households)	12,320	23.6%	16.9%	19.1%
Households in housing stress (<i>E</i>) (% of all households)	6,153	11.4%	10.7%	11.0%
Social houses (<i>E</i>) (% of all dwellings)	2,568	4.7%	2.9%	3.9%
Older (65+ years) lone person households (<i>E</i>) (% of all households)	5,086	9.4%	8.0%	7.3%
People who need for assistance with daily living (<i>UR</i>) (% of total population)	8,050	5.9%	4.5%	5.1%
Population not fluent in English (<i>UR</i>) (% of total population)	10,697	7.8%	5.0%	6.3%
Population who speak a LOTE at home (<i>UR</i>) (% of total population)	52,877	38.7%	29.1%	33.9%

Source: ABS Census of population and housing

UR – usual resident count

E – Enumerated count

5.2 Change in Darebin since the 2006 census

Alongside population growth Darebin has seen some changes in the population makeup between the 2006 and 2011 census. The medium age has risen by one year, and medium incomes, mortgage repayments and rent have risen.

Relatively speaking Darebin as a municipality has become less disadvantaged, moving from the fifth most disadvantaged metropolitan municipality in 2006 to the sixth most disadvantaged metropolitan municipality in 2011. This however does not necessarily report a decrease in disadvantage, but a change in where Darebin sits compared with other municipalities.

Observing some changes in the makeup of the Darebin population between the census years indicates that Darebin has experienced some gentrification as a municipality; however, this has not necessarily occurred across all of the Darebin suburbs.

Between 2006 and 2011 census Darebin has seen increases in some of the key socio-economic characteristics understood to contribute to disadvantage, while others have decreased.

- Unemployment rate: The number of people 15+ years who were unemployed increased by 271 between 2006 and 2011. Proportionally however, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.3%.
- Low-income households: 'Equivalent Household Income' is the measure used to compare household income over time. In 2011 Darebin had 12,665 or 27.4% of households in the lowest income quartile group. This was an increase of 16 more households than in 2006. As a proportion of all households however, low-income households decreased by 1.9%. This proportional change in low-income households in Darebin was slightly more prominent than in the Northern Region (decrease by 0.7%) and Greater Melbourne (decrease of 0.1%). The greatest change in Darebin households during this period was an increase of houses in the highest income quartile group (+ 2,267).
- Social housing: Between 2006 and 2011, Darebin had an increase in households renting social housing both in numbers (+ 106) and as a proportion of total households (+ 1.3%)
- Older (65+ years) lone person households: Between 2006 and 2011 the number of older lone person households decreased both in numbers (-140) and proportion of households (-2.3%).
- Need for assistance: The number of people who need assistance with daily living increased by 907 persons or by 0.3% in the population between 2006 and 2011.
- Population not fluent in English: Between 2006 and 2011 the number of people who were not fluent in English decreased by 226 people or by 0.7% of the Darebin population.

- Speak a LOTE at home: Between 2006 and 2011, Darebin had an increase in the number of people who spoke a LOTE at home – an additional 2,980 people, however the proportion of LOTE speakers in the population decreased by 0.3%.

5.3 Health and Wellbeing

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health broadly as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing; and not solely the absence of disease.

There is strong evidence regarding the link between the social determinants to health and wellbeing outcomes. A population's health and wellbeing is influenced by socio-demographic characteristics and levels of disadvantage.

In addition to socio-economic characteristics from the census, available data relating to the social determinants of health is presented below to provide a further understanding of vulnerability to disadvantage in Darebin.

In terms of wellbeing 'risk factors' contribute to a person's vulnerability for ill health or lack of wellbeing. The Victorian Population Health Survey reports on risk factors in the community. The 2011 survey reports that Darebin has:

- significantly higher rates of people who are current smokers than for the Victorian population (21.9% of the population compared to 15.7% for Victoria)
- lower rates of obesity for both males and females (Darebin males 14.8% compared to 17.4% in Victoria) (Darebin females 12.0% compared to 17.2% in Victoria)
- less proportion of the population who meet guidelines for fruit and vegetable consumption (4.5% in Darebin compared with 5.2% in Victoria)
- a smaller percentage of the population who are sedentary (4.7%) compared with Victoria (5.5%)
- similar proportions of the population who are overweight (Darebin males 41.3% compared to 40.6% in Victoria) Darebin females 24.1% compared to 24.6% in Victoria)
- same proportion of the population who are at risk of alcohol-related harm as Victoria (18.6%)

The VicHealth Indicators Survey undertaken in 2011 considers a range of wellbeing indicators for Victoria and Victorian municipalities. This survey reports that Darebin has an average wellbeing score of 76.1% out of 100 which was consistent with the Victorian average. Generally on the range of indicators Darebin rates relatively consistently with Victoria.

5.3 Demand for emergency relief

The number of people seeking emergency assistance can also be a further indicator of disadvantage in the community. Statistics available from a selection of services providing emergency relief in Darebin² report an increase in demand. For example:

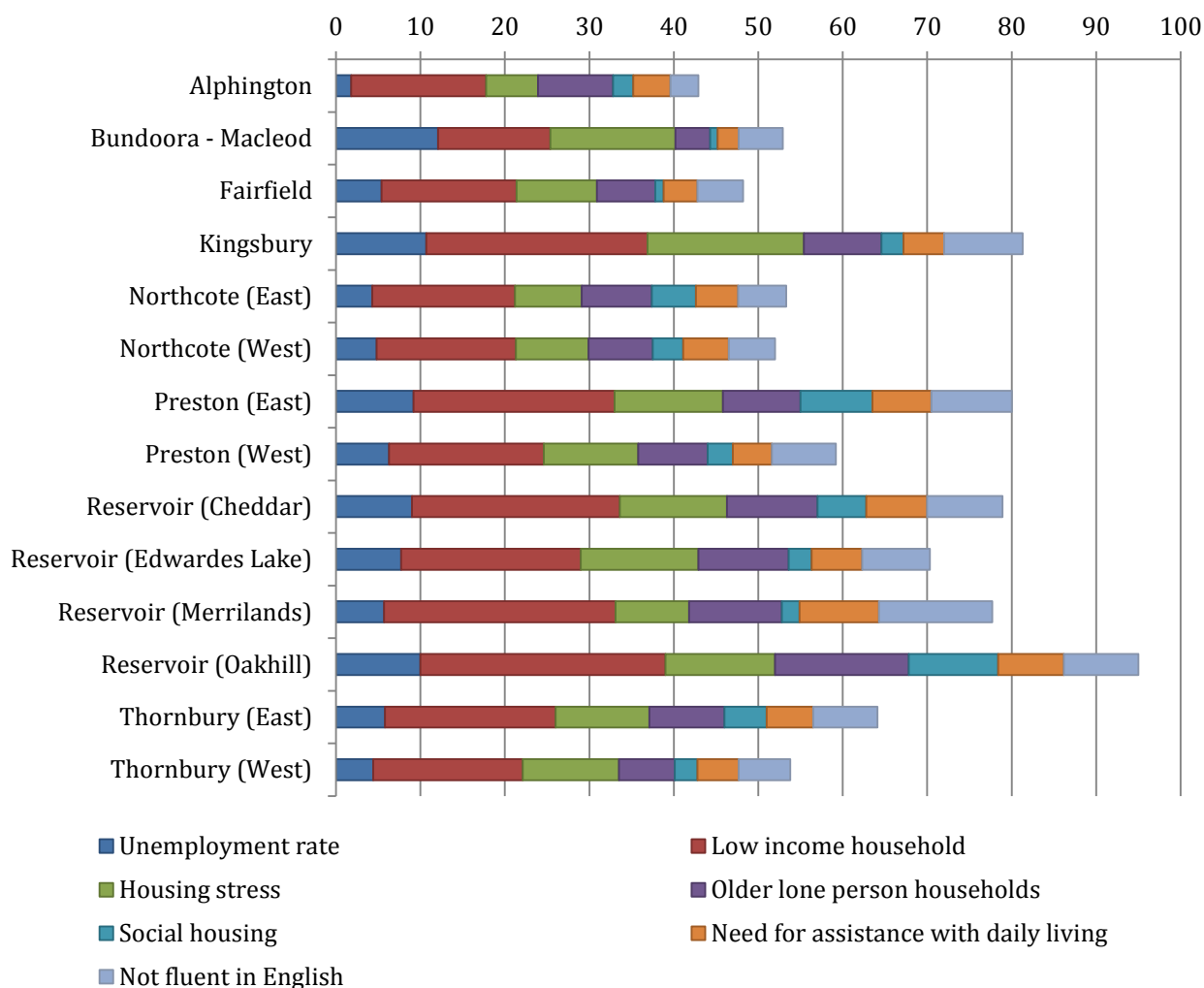
- an estimated 1,750 unmet need for emergency relief in 2012-2013 financial year (Darebin Information Volunteer and Resource Service)
- 3,074 clients seeking community support services relief in 2012 – 2013 (first 3 quarters of the year only). By the end of the financial year this figure will likely surpass previous year's figures. (Salvation Army, Preston)
- Emergency relief assistance was provided 167 times to 135 clients in the six months from January 2012 to June 2012. Of these clients 64 or 47% were new clients. (Darebin Community Health)
- Requests for assistance for food and essential cards to St Vincent de Paul has increased each year since 2008. In the 2011- 2012 financial year assistance was provided to 281 adults and 261 children.

5.4 A snapshot across the suburbs

The suburbs snapshot in figure four intends to identify demographic characteristics/indicators indicating vulnerability to disadvantage across all of Darebin's suburbs. Presented together these characteristics provide an overview of how a suburb is fairing and indicates concentrations of accumulated characteristics by suburb.

Figure 4 presents a visual presentation of the accumulated percentages of selected characteristics per suburb. Details of each of these characteristics by suburbs are presented in the next part of this report. These services also service people residing outside the municipality and people residing within the municipality may be seeking emergency relief from agencies outside Darebin. Statistics are subject to individual agencies data collection processes and capacity.

Figure 4: Proportion of selected demographic characteristics per suburb 2011



5.5 Unemployment

Employment statistics are an important indicator of socio-economic status. Lack of access to employment has implications for income, housing, health and wellbeing and participation in community life.

At the 2011 census:

- 4,242 residents were unemployed. (to note figure derived from additions of suburbs)
- Preston (East) recorded the largest number of residents unemployed, however Bundoora-Macleod had the largest proportion
- Darebin's unemployment rate (% of the labour force) was 6.3%, a marginal decrease from the 2006 census (6.5%)
- Darebin's unemployment rate was higher than both Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region

- 1,498 youth (15-24 years) were unemployed
- Youth unemployment in Darebin was 15.2%, marginally higher than Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region
- Bundoora-Macleod had the largest number and proportion of youth unemployed.

Figure 5: Unemployment rates, Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

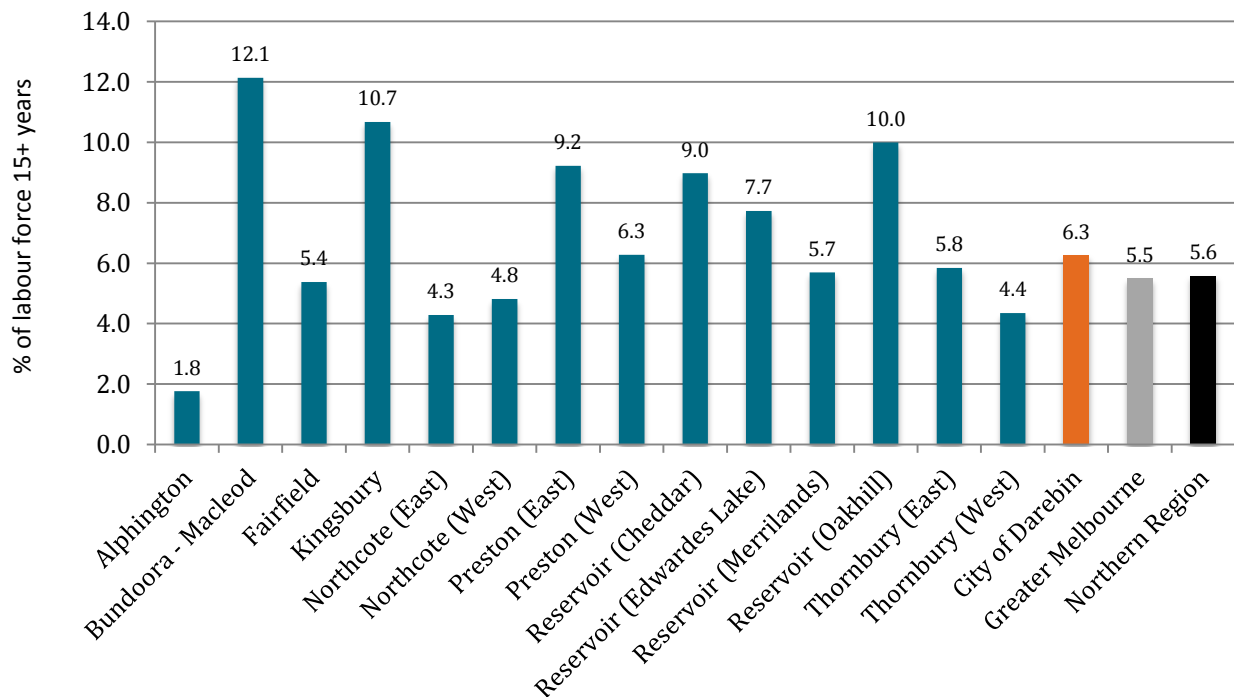


Table 4: Unemployment numbers and rates, Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

Unemployment	Number unemp.	% of labour force	Youth 15-24 years	% of 15-24 yrs labour force
Alphington	28	1.8	0	0.0
Bundoora - Macleod	443	12.1	294	26.7
Fairfield	160	5.4	36	9.5
Kingsbury	157	10.7	77	23.8
Northcote (East)	332	4.3	91	10.2
Northcote (West)	244	4.8	80	14.3
Preston (East)	699	9.2	182	16.4
Preston (West)	463	6.3	165	16.6
Reservoir (Cheddar)	511	9.0	144	17.1
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	474	7.7	144	16.9
Reservoir (Merrilands)	219	5.7	46	7.8
Reservoir (Oakhill)	507	10.0	155	18.5

Thornbury (East)	311	5.8	92	15.4
Thornbury (West)	184	4.4	61	12.6
City of Darebin	4,242	6.3	1,498	15.2
Greater Melbourne	111,830	5.5	39,925	12.3
Northern Region	24,150	5.6	8,708	12.6

5.6 Income

Household income is one of the most important indicators of socio-economic status. Low-income households are defined as earning less than \$600 per week before tax.

At the 2011 census:

- 11,438 households in Darebin were living on less than \$600 per week (before tax)(to note figure derived from addition of suburbs)
- Darebin had a higher proportion of low-income families (21.1 %) than Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region
- Preston (East) had the highest number of low-income families, followed by Reservoir (Oakhill)
- Reservoir (Oakhill) has the highest proportion of households who are low-income households
- The proportion of low-income households (21.1%) was significantly higher than Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region
- 43,910 residents (15 years plus) or 38.4% had an individual income of less than \$400 per week
- Darebin had higher percentage of residents on a low weekly individual income (less than \$400 per week) that Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region.

Figure 6: Low-income households, Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

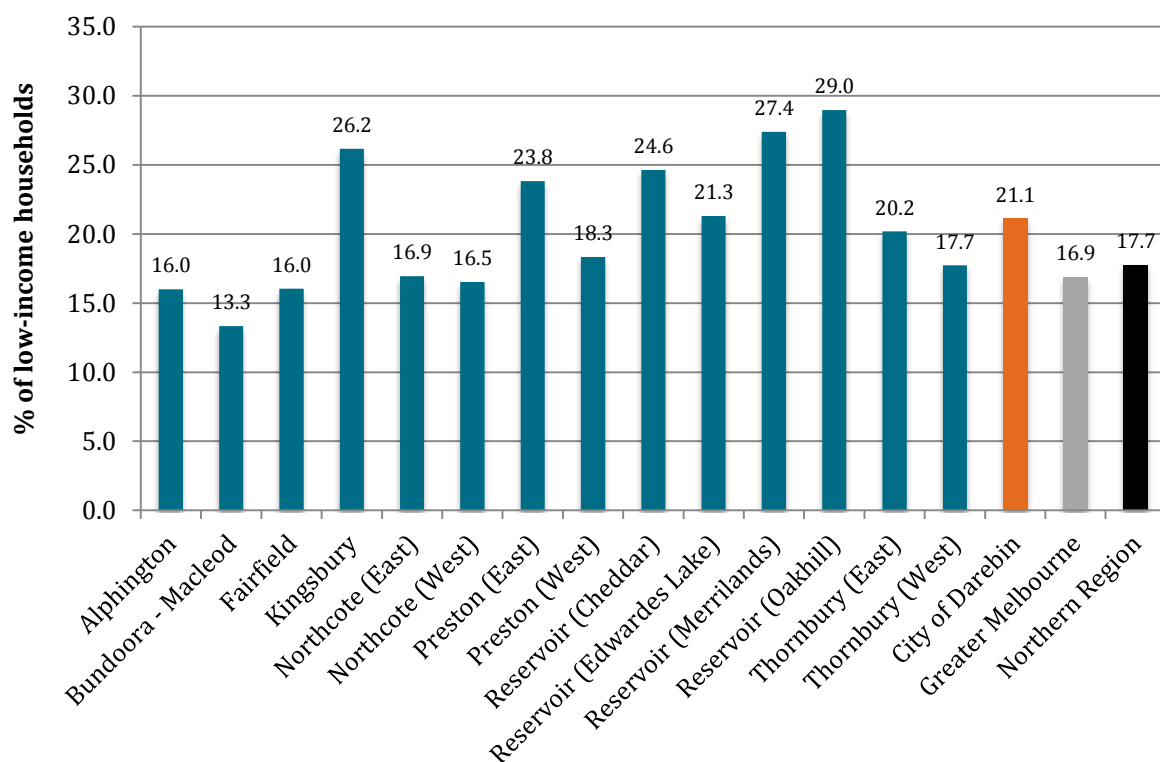


Table 5: Low-income households, Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

Low-income households	Number	Total households	%
Alphington	180	1,125	16.0
Bundoora - Macleod	260	1,949	13.3
Fairfield	364	2,269	16.0
Kingsbury	328	1,254	26.2
Northcote (East)	968	5,714	16.9
Northcote (West)	602	3,640	16.5
Preston (East)	1,483	6,230	23.8
Preston (West)	1,059	5,774	18.3
Reservoir (Cheddar)	1,249	5,072	24.6
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	1,116	5,242	21.3
Reservoir (Merrilands)	960	3,503	27.4
Reservoir (Oakhill)	1,382	4,770	29.0
Thornbury (East)	893	4,424	20.2
Thornbury (West)	560	3,163	17.7
City of Darebin	11,438	54,203	21.1
Greater Melbourne	252,197	1,494,633	16.9
Northern Region	56,219	317,031	17.7

5.7 Housing

At the 2011 census there were 54,202 households in Darebin. Of these households, 58% were being purchased or were fully owned, 28.6% were renting privately and 4.7 % were in social housing.

Access to affordable housing has become increasingly recognised as a significant factor contributing to disadvantage. Households in the lowest 40% of incomes that are spending more than 30% of their disposable income on housing costs are considered to be in 'housing stress'. The link between housing stress and disadvantage is well established.

'Lack of access to affordable housing has wide reaching consequences for individuals and communities. These consequences include impacts on character, make-up and mix of a community as well as personal and family health and wellbeing'.³

At the 2011 census:

- 17.3% of renting households were paying more than \$400 per week in rent
- A total of 6,153 households in Darebin were in housing stress
- Preston (East) followed by Reservoir (Edwards Lake) were suburbs with the most number of households in housing stress
- Kingsbury suburb has the highest proportion of households in housing stress
- The proportion of Darebin households in housing stress (11.4%) is similar to Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region.

Table 6: Households in housing stress, Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

Housing stress	Number	Total households	%
Alphington	69	1,125	6.1
Bundoora - Macleod	289	1,949	14.8
Fairfield	215	2,269	9.5
Kingsbury	232	1,254	18.5
Northcote (East)	454	5,714	7.9
Northcote (West)	315	3,640	8.6
Preston (East)	795	6,230	12.8
Preston (West)	649	5,774	11.2
Reservoir (Cheddar)	646	5,072	12.7
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	730	5,242	13.9
Reservoir (Merrilands)	306	3,503	8.7
Reservoir (Oakhill)	619	4,770	13.0

³ Darebin Housing Strategy

Thornbury (East)	493	4,424	11.1
Thornbury (West)	359	3,163	11.4
City of Darebin	6,153	54,203	11.4
Greater Melbourne	160,510	1,494,633	10.7
Northern Region	34,922	317,031	11.0

- People considered to be most vulnerable to housing stress include:
 - People in private rental
 - Low-income households
 - Lone person households

Affordable housing data for Darebin reports:

- The percentage of rental housing in Darebin that is affordable is 3.5% giving Darebin a rank of 64 out of 79 Victorian municipalities for affordable rental housing. (Source: Affordable lettings by LGA, Housing and Community Building, Department of Human Services June quarter 2012)

Social housing data for Darebin reports:

- Of all of the municipalities in Victoria, Darebin has one of the highest percentages of dwellings that are social housing. Social housing includes both public housing provided directly by the Office of Housing and housing provided by the not-for-profit community-housing sector. Darebin is ranked 10 of all Victorian municipalities for proportion of dwellings that are social housing. (Source: Social housing stock data, Department of Human Services and ABS census in 2011)

Figure 7: Distribution of households in 'housing stress' across Darebin suburbs. The darker the red, the greater the housing stress.

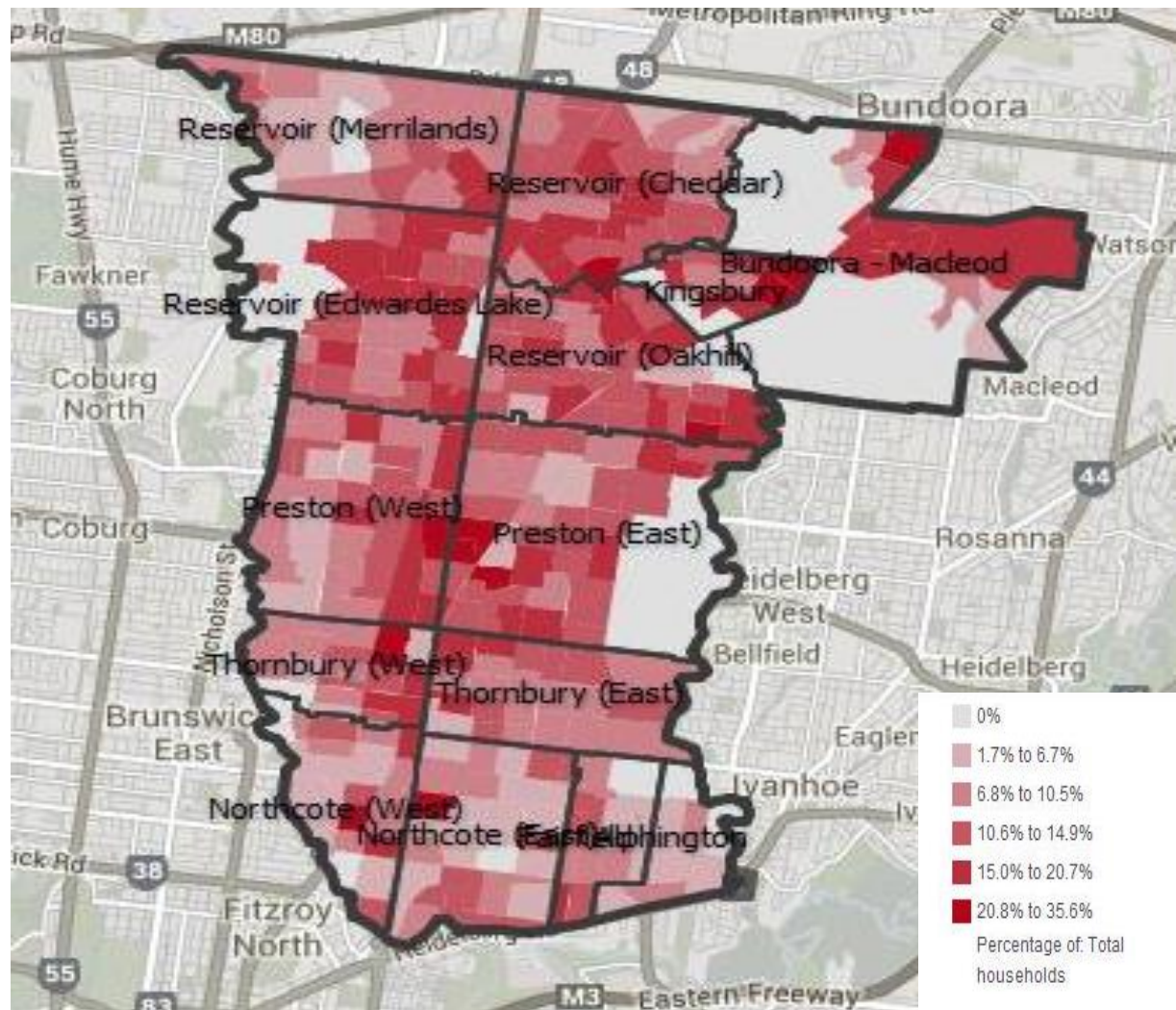


Table 7: Households renting social housing, Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

Households renting social housing	Social housing	Total households	%
Alphington	27	1,125	2.4
Bundoora - Macleod	18	1,949	0.9
Fairfield	23	2,269	1.0
Kingsbury	33	1,254	2.6
Northcote (East)	298	5,714	5.2
Northcote (West)	131	3,640	3.6
Preston (East)	530	6,230	8.5
Preston (West)	175	5,774	3.0
Reservoir (Cheddar)	292	5,072	5.8
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	140	5,242	2.7
Reservoir (Merrilands)	72	3,503	2.1
Reservoir (Oakhill)	504	4,770	10.6
Thornbury (East)	220	4,424	5.0
Thornbury (West)	84	3,163	2.7
City of Darebin	2,568	54,203	4.7
Greater Melbourne	42,957	1,494,633	2.9
Northern Region	12,469	317,031	3.9

Table 8: Older lone-person households (aged 65+ years), Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

Older lone-person households	Number	Total households	%
Alphington	100	1,125	8.9
Bundoora - Macleod	79	1,949	4.1
Fairfield	156	2,269	6.9
Kingsbury	116	1,254	9.2
Northcote (East)	474	5,714	8.3
Northcote (West)	276	3,640	7.6
Preston (East)	573	6,230	9.2
Preston (West)	475	5,774	8.2
Reservoir (Cheddar)	541	5,072	10.7
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	559	5,242	10.7
Reservoir (Merrilands)	384	3,503	11.0
Reservoir (Oakhill)	753	4,770	15.8
Thornbury (East)	395	4,424	8.9
Thornbury (West)	210	3,163	6.6
City of Darebin	5,086	54,203	9.4
Greater Melbourne	119,505	1,494,633	8.0
Northern Region	23,237	317,031	7.3

5.8 Disability

'People with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, have poor quality or insecure housing, low levels of workforce participation and education, and be socially excluded or marginalised'.⁴

The census records people with a need for assistance with daily activities – people who need help or assistance with one of more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a long-term illness (lasting six months or more) a disability (lasting six months or more) or old age.

At the 2011 census:

- 7,979 people in Darebin recorded needing assistance with daily activities (to note figure derived from additions of suburbs)
- A higher proportion of people in Darebin had need for assistance (5.9%) compared to Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region
- Preston (East) had the largest number of people who needed assistance with daily activities
- Reservoir (Merrilands) had the highest proportion in the population who needed assistance with daily activities.

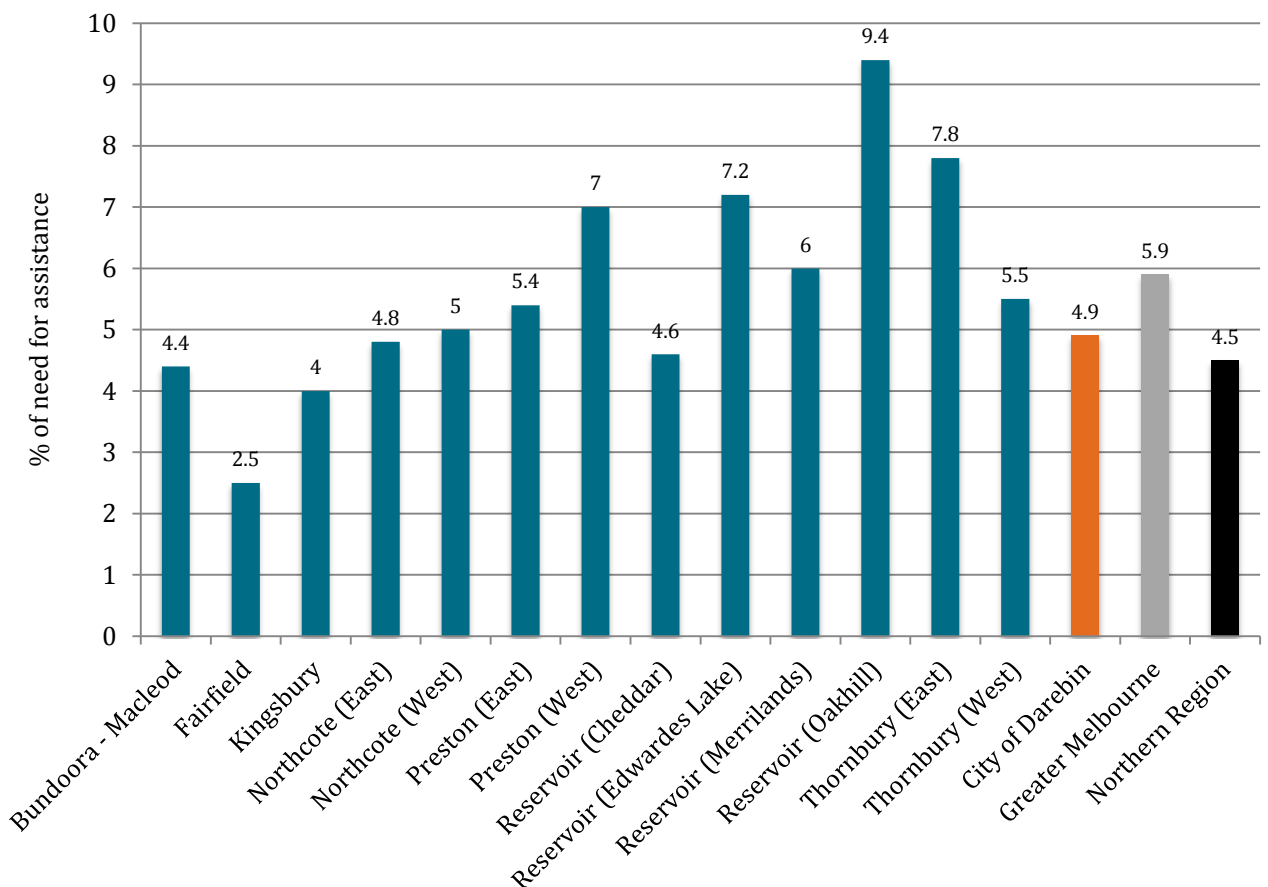
Table 9: Need for assistance with daily living Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

Need for assistance with daily activities	Number	Total population	%
Alphington	125	2,870	4.4
Bundoora - Macleod	184	7,253	2.5
Fairfield	204	5,146	4.0
Kingsbury	158	3,291	4.8
Northcote (East)	693	13,891	5.0
Northcote (West)	461	8,542	5.4
Preston (East)	1,165	16,542	7.0
Preston (West)	647	14,208	4.6
Reservoir (Cheddar)	884	12,200	7.2
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	765	12,757	6.0
Reservoir (Merrilands)	908	9,704	9.4
Reservoir (Oakhill)	906	11,632	7.8
Thornbury (East)	555	10,111	5.5
Thornbury (West)	359	7,342	4.9
City of Darebin	7,978	135,559	5.9
Greater Melbourne	178,507	3,976,031	4.5
Northern Region	43,963	853,711	5.1

⁴ WHO and World Bank Group 2011, cited in *Disability and Health Inequalities in Australia, Research Summary*, VicHealth August 2012

- Centrelink data reports the level of Disability Support Pension recipients in Darebin to be higher than the rest of Victoria. The June quarter in 2012 reported that Disability Support Pension recipients per 1,000 eligible population in Darebin were 61.8 compared with 55.7 for Victoria. (Eligible population includes people over 16 years and over who are not yet eligible for the Aged Pension and who qualify for the Disability Support Pension)
- Darebin has a higher percentage of people with a severe and profound disability living in the community than Victoria. The percentage of people in the LGA who have a profound or severe disability, and live in the community rather than in long-term residential care in Darebin was 5.0% compared to 3.8% for Victoria. (Source: Social Atlas of Victorian Local Government Areas 2012, Public Health Information Development Unit of the Department of Health and Ageing 2012)

Figure 8: Need for assistance with daily living tasks, Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)



5.9 Cultural diversity

Evident throughout the municipality, Darebin has a richly diverse community inclusive of people from a range of backgrounds, cultures, religions, and language groups.

People from culturally and linguistically diverse background have been identified as a group that can be more prone to vulnerability, disadvantage and social exclusion.

At the 2011 census:

- 39,387 or 29.1% of the total population were born in non-English speaking countries
- Preston (East) had the highest number of people born in non-English speaking countries
- Kingsbury suburb has the highest proportion of the population born in non-English speaking countries (46.8%)
- 52,877 or 38.7% of the Darebin population speak a Language other than English (LOTE) at home. This is a higher proportion than for Greater Melbourne (29.1%) and the Northern Region (33.9%)
- 10,697 people in Darebin speak English 'not well' or 'not at all'
- Preston (East) had the highest number of people who were not fluent in English
- Reservoir (Merrilands) had the highest proportion in the population who were not fluent in English
- Darebin has higher proportions of people who are not fluent in English compared to Greater Melbourne and the Northern Region.

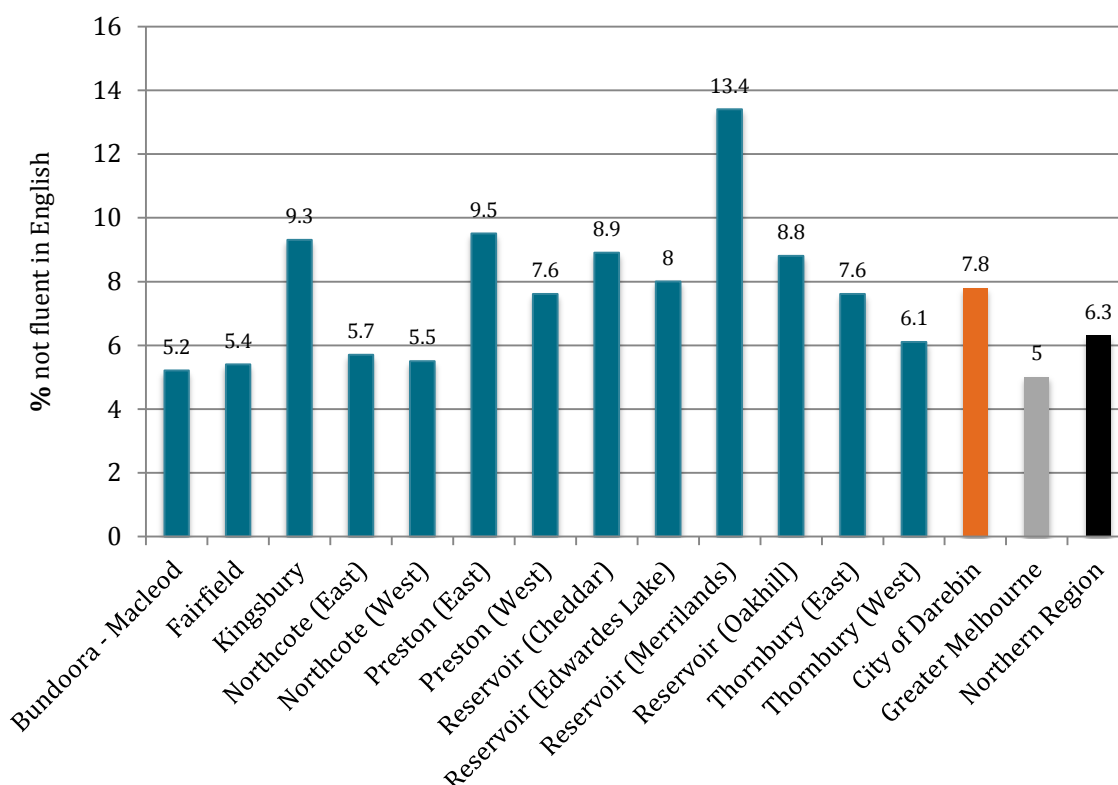
Table 10: Population born in a non-English speaking country, Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

Born in a non-English speaking country	Number	Total population	%
Alphington	443	2,870	15.4
Bundoora - Macleod	2,465	7,253	34.0
Fairfield	1,042	5,146	20.2
Kingsbury	1,539	3,291	46.8
Northcote (East)	2,557	13,891	18.4
Northcote (West)	1,522	8,542	17.8
Preston (East)	4,992	16,542	30.2
Preston (West)	4,233	14,208	29.8
Reservoir (Cheddar)	4,214	12,200	34.5
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	4,117	12,757	32.3
Reservoir (Merrilands)	4,088	9,704	42.1
Reservoir (Oakhill)	3,726	11,632	32.0
Thornbury (East)	2,652	10,111	26.2
Thornbury (West)	1,792	7,342	24.4
City of Darebin	39,387	135,559	29.1
Greater Melbourne	967,119	3,976,031	24.3
Northern Region	213,077	853,711	25.0

Table 11: Population who 'speak English 'not well' or 'not at all', Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)

People not fluent in English	Number	Total population	%
Alphington	97	2,924	3.3
Bundoora - Macleod	364	7,039	5.2
Fairfield	282	5,205	5.4
Kingsbury	308	3,316	9.3
Northcote (East)	795	14,042	5.7
Northcote (West)	481	8,760	5.5
Preston (East)	1,544	16,329	9.5
Preston (West)	1,106	14,481	7.6
Reservoir (Cheddar)	1,092	12,329	8.9
Reservoir (Edwardes Lake)	1,031	12,855	8.0
Reservoir (Merrilands)	1,314	9,803	13.4
Reservoir (Oakhill)	1,027	11,738	8.8
Thornbury (East)	771	10,182	7.6
Thornbury (West)	453	7,416	6.1
City of Darebin	10,697	136,474	7.8
Greater Melbourne	201,151	3,999,950	5.0
Northern Region	54,018	858,897	6.3

Figure 9: Population who speak English 'not well' or 'not at all', Darebin LGA and suburbs, Greater Melbourne and Northern Region, 2011 (Enumerated count)



6. Summary

Understanding the multi-dimensional factors contributing to disadvantage underpins Council's approach to addressing disadvantage.

Drawing together multiple socio-economic statistics to portray vulnerability to disadvantage at the suburb level provides a deeper understanding to support Council's work in addressing inequity and disadvantage across the municipality.

Darebin in 2011 was rated as the sixth most disadvantaged metropolitan municipality on the SEIFA index of disadvantage. Although this rating is less than the previous SEIFA rating in 2006 (Darebin was the fifth most disadvantaged), this does not necessarily report a decrease in disadvantage, but a change in where Darebin sits compared with other municipalities.

Data relating to health and wellbeing can provide a further understanding of vulnerability to disadvantage in Darebin. With the exception of higher smoking rates, data on the risk factors associated with ill health or lack of wellbeing indicate that Darebin is not dissimilar to the rest of Victoria. This data however is only available at the municipal level and therefore cannot be used to determine risk factors at a suburb level.

Socio-economic statistics drawn from the 2011 census indicates Darebin has comparatively high proportions of characteristics identified as contributing to disadvantage – low-income households, unemployment, housing stress, need for assistance with daily activities, low English proficiency and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Within the municipality however there are disparities between suburbs as demonstrated on the SEIFA at census collection levels. Suburbs with the highest levels of disadvantage are primarily located in the northern part of the municipality.

Socio-economic statistics presented in this report at the suburb level highlight concentrations of disadvantage in some of Darebin's suburbs. For example, the areas with the highest unemployment rate also have high proportions of low-income households, housing stress, low English proficiency, social housing and people with disabilities. Of all of the suburbs in Darebin, Reservoir (Oakhill) had the highest concentration of these above factors.

Developing a picture of disadvantage across the municipality is complex however this report provides some insight into the key characteristics or contributors to disadvantage across Darebin's suburbs. A number of council documents, strategies and plans such as the health and wellbeing plan can be added to this picture to provide a broader and deeper view of disadvantage in Darebin.

7. Data Notes

Statistics used in this report are primarily sourced from the 2011 census in the City of Darebin id community and atlas profiles.

Estimated Residential Population (ERP)

The ERP is the official municipal population. The ERP is undertaken in June each year to provide a more accurate population figure between census periods.

ABS 2011 census

- The ABS census of Population and Housing is the primary source of the statistics in this report. The census can be generated using **usual resident count** - a count of where people usually live on census night, or an **Enumerated count** – a count where people were on census night (includes visitors). This can result in small variations in population totals.

Enumerated count is used throughout the report when presenting statistics by suburb level.

- The geography used throughout this report to present suburb level census data is consistent with the City of Darebin’s suburbs defined for demographic and planning purposes
- Greater Melbourne is the geography applied in the 2011 census to describe metropolitan Melbourne
- Northern Region refers to the LGA’s of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra
- Percentage of population born in a non-English Speaking Country. This excludes those born in New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, and the United States of America

To Note: There are some variations in the census municipal totals in this report. This occurs when deriving the municipal total by adding the total of the 13 Darebin suburbs. The variation that occurs is considered insignificant.

Social Determinants of Health

The social determinants of health include:

- Aboriginal status
- Gender
- Disability
- Housing
- Income
- Education
- Race
- Employment
- Social exclusion
- Food insecurity
- Social safety net
- Health services
- Unemployment and job security

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