



# Altona Meadows

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## Neighbourhood Profile



**Hobsons Bay**  
CITY COUNCIL

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# Altona Meadows Neighbourhood Data Profile

## Population Characteristics

### Population: number and age structure

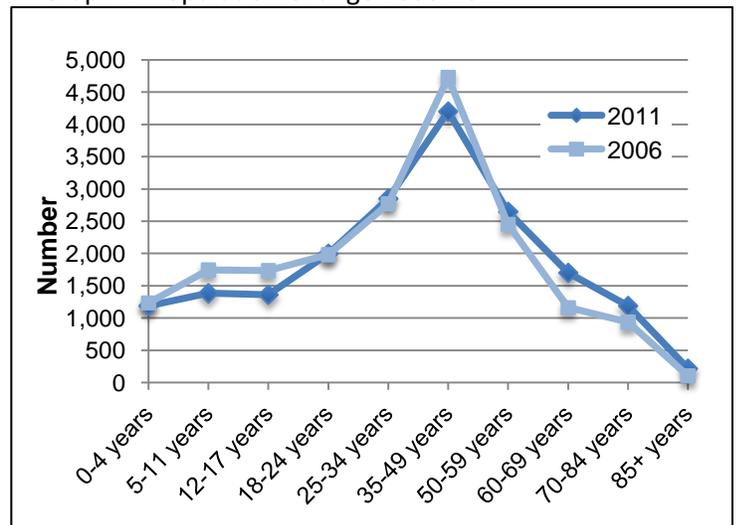
Altona Meadows has a population of just over 18,729 people (22 per cent of all the municipality's residents), making it the most populated neighbourhood in Hobsons Bay. (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011 Census).

Looking at how the Altona Meadows population and age structure changed between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, the table and graph below show a slight decline in the total population. There were however significant changes within the population age groups. Young and school aged children, particularly those aged 5-17 years, declined. Adults in the 35-49 years age bracket have also declined. These changes highlight a loss in families. In their place, Graph 1 indicates that the population is starting to age and the number of older residents, especially those aged 60 years and over, is growing.

Table 1: Population numbers

Age	2011	2006	Change 2006-2011
0-4 years	1,190	1,234	-44
5-11 years	1,383	1,744	-361
12-17 years	1,359	1,735	-376
18-24 years	1,995	1,982	+13
25-34 years	2,850	2,770	+80
35-49 years	4,199	4,729	-530
50-59 years	2,648	2,452	+196
60-69 years	1,702	1,161	+541
70-84 years	1,186	936	+250
85+ years	217	104	+113
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,729</b>	<b>18,847</b>	<b>-118</b>

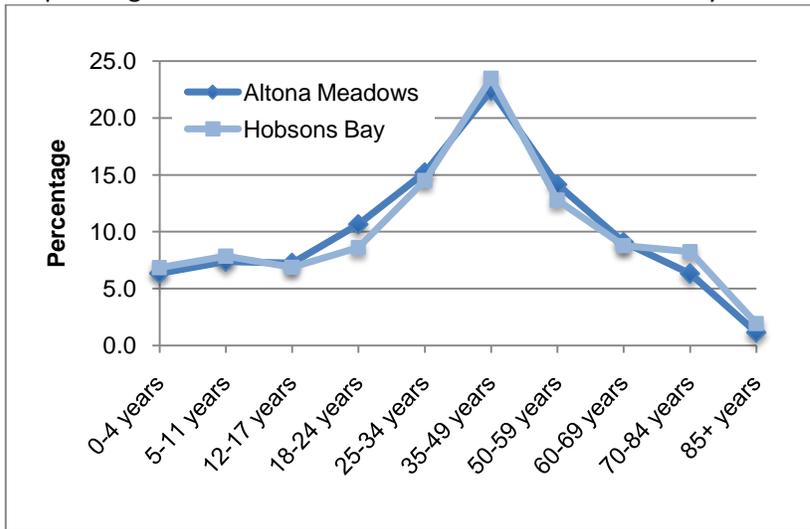
Graph 1: Population Change 2006-2011



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Comparing the Altona Meadows age structure with that of Hobsons Bay as a whole indicates there are reasonable similarities (Graph 2). The main difference is that Altona Meadows has a slightly larger proportion of 18-24 year olds, suggesting that a higher incidence of mature families with older children still live in the neighbourhood. Altona Meadows also has a lower proportion of residents aged 60 years and over when compared to the rest of Hobsons Bay, indicating the ageing of the Altona Meadows population is not quite as advanced as in other parts of the municipality.

Graph 2: Age structure of Altona Meadows and Hobsons Bay



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

### Family and households types

Altona Meadows has a total of 6,946 households, of which 3,331 (48 per cent) have children. Of these households, 2,427 (34.9 per cent) are couple families with children and 904 (13 per cent) are single parent families. Looking at the ages of children in these family types, couple families more commonly have children aged under 15 years whereas single parent families are more likely to have older children still living at home (Table 2).

Since 2006, the number of families with children in Altona Meadows has decreased by 5 per cent. This decrease is apparent across most family groups except among single parent families with older children, where there was an increase of around 100 families.

Compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole, Altona Meadows has a higher proportion of households with children, however the gap has decreased since the 2006 Census.

(Population forecasts are at the end of this section.)

Table 2: Households with children

	2011			2006			Change 2006- 2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	
<b>Couples with children</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>-205</b>
Couples with young children*	1,149	16.5	17.4	1,267	18.8	17.1	-118
Couples with older children**	957	13.8	10.4	956	14.2	10.5	1
Couples with mixed-age children	321	4.6	3.9	409	6.1	4.6	-88
<b>Single parents with children</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>-35</b>
Single parents with young children*	280	4.0	3.5	421	6.3	4.5	-141
Single parents with older children**	522	7.5	6.4	427	6.3	6.0	95
Single parents with mixed-age children	102	1.2	1.2	91	1.4	1.2	11
<b>Total households with children</b>	<b>3,331</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>3,571</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>-240</b>

\*children aged under 15

\*\* children aged 15 and over

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

The number of households without children in Altona Meadows is marginally lower than those with children. Households without children are fairly evenly split between couple (1533, 22.1 per cent) and lone person (1,493, 21.5 per cent) households.

The number of households without children has increased by 3 per cent (364) since 2006. Compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole, Altona Meadows has a lower percentage of childless households however the difference between the two areas narrowed between 2006 and 2011.

Table 3: Households without children

	2011			2006			Change 2006 – 2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	
<b>Couples without children</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>150</b>
Young couples	512	7.4	8.6	510	7.6	7.9	2
Middle-aged couples	545	7.8	7.1	502	7.5	7.1	43
Older couples	476	6.9	7.8	371	5.5	7.7	105
<b>Lone person households</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>166</b>
Young lone persons	547	7.9	7.1	581	8.6	8.0	-34
Middle-aged lone persons	560	8.1	8.3	476	7.1	7.6	84
Older lone persons	386	5.6	8.9	270	4.0	8.8	116
Group households	218	3.1	3.8	170	2.5	3.2	48
<b>Total households without children</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>2,880</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>364</b>

- young: 15-44 years

- middle aged: 45-64 years

- older: 65+ years

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

## Diversity of Residents

Within the Altona Meadows population there are 6,524 (34.8 per cent) of residents who were born overseas, an increase of 2 per cent (332 people) since the 2006 Census.

The vast majority of overseas born residents have a non-English speaking background (83 per cent) and their numbers have increased since 2006 (+341). Residents with a non-English speaking background also make up a larger share (28.9 per cent) of the total neighbourhood population when compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole (23.1 per cent).

Table 4: Overseas born residents

Birthplace	2011			Change
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	2006 to 2011
<i>Non-English speaking backgrounds</i>	5,416	28.9	23.1	+341
<i>Main English speaking countries</i>	1,108	5.9	7.7	-9
<b>Total Overseas born</b>	<b>6,524</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>+332</b>
Australia	11,213	59.9	63.5	-347
Not Stated	997	5.3	5.6	-101
Total Population	18,734	100.0	100.0	-116

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

The main birth countries of those from overseas are shown in the table below. While the United Kingdom topped the list in both the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, a number of shifts are emerging. The most noticeable is the increasing number of Indian born residents. In 2006, there were 201 residents born in India and it was ranked tenth on the list of overseas birthplaces. In 2011, India was ranked second with 659 Indian born residents, just behind the United Kingdom.

Apart from some increase in residents born in China and New Zealand, numbers from the most common countries of birth decreased between 2006 and 2011.

Compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole, Altona Meadows has higher proportions of residents who were born in India, Malta, Vietnam, the Philippines, China, Yugoslavia and Serbia/Montenegro.

Table 5: Main countries of birth

	2011			2006			Change
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	2006 to 2011
United Kingdom	663	3.5	4.5	705	3.7	4.8	-42
India	659	3.5	2.8	210	1.1	0.9	+449
Malta	526	2.8	1.6	535	2.8	1.8	-9
Vietnam	419	2.2	1.6	456	2.4	1.8	-37
Philippines	417	2.2	1.2	430	2.3	1.3	-13
New Zealand	326	1.7	1.9	301	1.6	2.0	+25
China	290	1.5	1.0	196	1.0	0.7	+94
Italy	282	1.5	2.0	338	1.8	2.3	-56
Greece	278	1.5	1.4	292	1.5	1.6	-14
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	277	1.5	0.9	336	1.8	1.0	-59
Serbia / Montenegro (fmr Yugoslavia)	232	1.2	0.9	259	1.4	1.1	-27

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Looking at when the overseas born residents of Altona Meadows arrived in Australia, it is clear that a sizeable proportion have recently arrived. The table below highlights that close to 19 per cent of these residents arrived between 2006 and 2011, more than in any previous period. Based on data in the previous table, it is likely that a large proportion came from India.

There are generally only minor differences between arrival data for the neighbourhood and Hobsons Bay, the most noticeable being that there is a lower proportion residents who arrived before 1960 living in Altona Meadows.

Table 6: Year of arrival in Australia

	2011		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
2006 to 9 Aug 2011	1,203	18.5	20.8
2001 to 2005	581	8.9	9.1
1991 to 2000 (10 year period)	904	13.9	10.9
1981 to 1990 (10 year period)	988	15.2	13.2
1971 to 1980 (10 year period)	768	11.8	10.6
1961 to 1970 (10 year period)	1,147	17.7	17.0
Arrived in 1960 or earlier	629	9.7	13.9
Not stated	277	4.3	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,497</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>



## People with disabilities

The number of people in Australia who have a disability is based on the findings of the *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers*, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in partnership with the Disability Policy and Research working group. Based on the survey findings, disability estimates are produced for each local government area (LGA).

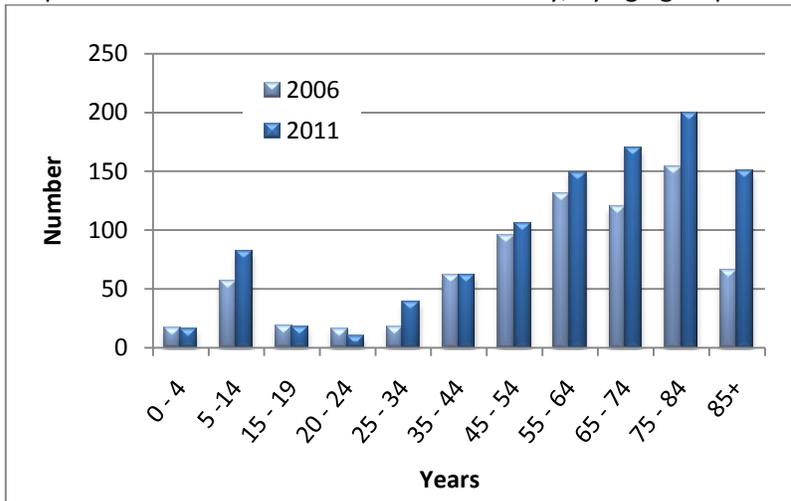
Based on the 2009 survey, the proportion of the Hobsons Bay population with a disability (and living in a private dwelling) is estimated to be 17.1%. Applying this same figure to Altona Meadows suggests approximately 3,200 residents may have a disability.

In addition to the 2009 survey data, the past two Censuses have included a question asking whether help or supervision was required with one or more of the core activities involving self-care, communication and mobility. It is important to note that these results do not reflect the true extent of disability in the community, as people with disabilities do not always require assistance. The 2011 Census findings show approximately 1,000 residents of Altona Meadows (5.3 per cent) said they need help with a core activity, similar to the rate for Hobsons Bay (5.2 per cent). Since the 2006 Census, the level of people in the neighbourhood requiring assistance increased by 1.2 percent (212 people), again this was similar to a 1.1 per cent increase across Hobsons Bay.

As might be expected, the table below shows that the proportion of people needing assistance tends to be higher among older residents. A similar trend is evident across the municipality. Among residents of Altona Meadows who need assistance, 67 per cent (670) are aged 55 years and older.

It is also interesting to note the changes since the 2006 Census in relation to the number of people who need assistance. Coinciding with the ageing of the Altona Meadows population outlined earlier in this section, 200 additional people indicated they require assistance; the most marked increase was among those in their mid 60s and older.

Graph 3: Assistance needed with a core activity, by age group



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

### Participation in education

Approximately 21 per cent of all people living in Altona Meadows are enrolled in education which is similar to the participation rate for Hobsons Bay.

Slightly less than 13 per cent of the neighbourhood population attends either primary or secondary school and again this is line for enrolments across the municipality. Looking to changes since 2006, the number of school enrolments in Altona Meadows has dropped, reflecting the declining number of school age children.

Post secondary enrolments of the neighbourhood's residents in TAFE, university and other educational institutions have all risen since the 2006 Census. Just under 6 per cent of the population (1,057 people) was enrolled in 2006 and this increased by 7 per cent (270 extra people) in 2011. When compared to Hobsons Bay, Altona Meadows has a marginally higher rate of TAFE enrolments and a lower rate of university enrolments.

Table 7: Type of educational institution attending

	2011			2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	Number	%	Hobsons Bay
Pre-school	253	1.4	1.6	303	1.6	1.6
Primary school	1,242	6.6	7.0	1,563	8.3	7.8
Secondary school	1,167	6.2	5.9	1,432	7.6	6.2
TAFE	394	2.1	1.9	370	2.0	1.7
University	701	3.7	4.2	540	2.9	3.2
Other	232	1.2	1.1	147	0.8	0.9
Not attending	13,468	71.9	71.1	13,173	69.9	70.2
Not stated	1,280	6.8	7.1	1,319	7.0	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,737</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,847</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Close to 46 per cent of Altona Meadows residents have completed Year 12 or an equivalent which is approximately 4 per cent lower than the rate for Hobsons Bay. As a result, the neighbourhood has higher rates of people having left school on completion of Years 9, 10 and 11 when compared to Hobsons Bay but a lower rate of leaving school at or before Year 8.

Looking back to 2006, school completion rates in Altona Meadows have been improving, with almost 5 per cent more people having completed 12 years of schooling. This trend is also reflected in the completion rates across the municipality.

Table 8: Level of schooling completed (persons aged 15 years and over)

	2011			2006			Change 2006-2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	
Year 8 or below	1,237	8.0	8.3	1,361	9.1	10.2	-124
Year 9 or equivalent	1,100	7.1	6.2	1,074	7.2	7.1	26
Year 10 or equivalent	2,461	15.8	13.5	2,613	17.5	15.1	-152
Year 11 or equivalent	2,057	13.2	11.7	2,265	15.1	13.1	-208
Year 12 or equivalent	7,119	45.8	50.1	6,077	40.6	42.6	1,042
Did not go to school	253	1.6	1.5	288	1.9	1.8	-35
Not stated	1,311	8.4	8.6	1,295	8.6	10.2	16

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

## Internet connected

Access to the internet, particularly broadband, is an important tool that is now used in all aspects of life and that importance will only increase over time. Lack of access to the internet is considered to be a factor in compounding disadvantage, particularly in relation to education, services, and social connections.

Almost three quarters of Altona Meadows households are connected to the internet, 2 per cent more than Hobsons Bay. The vast majority of these connections are via broadband. Since 2006, the connection rate for Altona Meadows has jumped by approximately 15 per cent, similar to the municipal increase.

Nineteen per cent of households (1,321) in Altona Meadows have no connection which is slightly lower than the Hobsons Bay figure (21.3 per cent).

Table 9: Internet connection

	2011			2006			Change 2006-2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	
<b>Total internet connection</b>	<b>5,138</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>3,996</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>1,142</b>
Broadband connection	4,713	67.8	65.0	2,793	41.5	37.9	1,920
Dial-up connection	194	2.8	2.8	1,164	17.3	17.2	-970
Other connection	231	3.3	3.9	39.0	0.6	0.6	192
<b>No internet connection</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>-1,024</b>
Not stated	493	7.1	6.9	391	5.8	7.3	102
<b>Total households</b>	<b>6,952</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,732</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>220</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

## Labour Force Characteristics

### Labour force participation

Labour force participation refers to the population who are aged 15 years and over who are either employed or unemployed and looking for work. Sixty two per cent of Altona Meadows residents (9,661) are in the labour force.

Of those in the labour force in Altona Meadows, just over 93 per cent are employed, marginally lower than the rate for Hobsons Bay (94.4 per cent). The main change in employment between 2006 and 2011 was the increase in part-time work.

Approximately 7 per cent of the labour force is unemployed. The unemployment rate rose slightly across the Census period 2006-2011 and the data indicates that the majority of people are looking for full-time work. This compares to Hobsons Bay, where unemployment dropped slightly over the same period.

A further 5,093 residents in Altona Meadows (32.7 per cent) are not in the labour force which means they are not actively looking for a job. They may be retired, parenting or caring etc.

Table 10: Labour force status (people aged 15 years and over)

	2011			2006			Change 2006-2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Employed	8,992	93.1	94.4	8,893	93.6	94.1	+99
<i>Employed full-time</i>	5,855	60.6	61.3	5,858	61.6	62.8	-3
<i>Employed part-time</i>	2,848	29.5	31.0	2,743	28.9	28.6	+105
Hours worked not stated	289	3.0	2.1	292	3.1	2.8	-3
Unemployed	669	6.9	5.6	611	6.4	5.9	+58
<i>Looking for full-time work</i>	452	4.7	3.6	417	4.4	3.9	+35
<i>Looking for part-time work</i>	217	2.2	2.0	194	2.0	1.9	+23
<b>Total Labour Force</b>	<b>9,661</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,504</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+157</b>
Total Labour force	9,661	62.0	60.9	9,504	63.5	59.1	+157
Not in the labour force	5,093	32.7	33.2	4,787	32.0	34.7	+306
Status not stated	816	5.2	5.9	674	4.5	6.2	+142
<b>Total persons aged 15+</b>	<b>15,570</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14,965</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+605</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

## Employment by industry

The key industries where Altona Meadows residents are employed include:

- Manufacturing (14.5 per cent)
- Retail trade (10.5 per cent)
- Transport, postal and warehousing (9.4 per cent).

While manufacturing and retail are the largest employing industries of Altona Meadows residents, job numbers in both fell between 2006 and 2011. The main sectors where employment is rising are construction, health care and social assistance, and education and training.

Table 11: Industry sector

	2011			Change 2006- 2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	11	0.1	0.2	-9
Mining	8	0.1	0.2	-10
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>-225</b>
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	44	0.5	0.9	-23
Construction	738	8.2	7.7	+142
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>-79</b>
Wholesale trade	442	4.9	4.6	-42
Accommodation and Food Services	487	5.4	5.8	+10
<b>Transport, Postal and Warehousing</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>+29</b>
Information Media and Telecommunications	166	1.8	2.4	0
Financial and Insurance Services	398	4.4	4.9	+46
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	101	1.1	1.5	-33
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	465	5.2	8.2	-8
Administrative and Support Services	399	4.4	3.6	+27
Public Administration and Safety	495	5.5	6.4	+13
Education and Training	549	6.1	7.8	+117
Health Care and Social Assistance	813	9.0	9.4	+122
Arts and Recreation Services	174	1.9	2.1	+29
Other Services	325	3.6	3.4	+20
Inadequately described or not stated	310	3.4	2.7	+21
<b>Total employed persons aged 15+</b>	<b>9,026</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+147</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

There are clear differences between the types of occupations of Altona Meadows's residents and the municipality as a whole. For example, Altona Meadows has much lower rates of people working as managers and professionals but higher rates of people employed as technicians and trade workers, machinery operators and drivers, and labourers.

The main changes since the 2006 Census are an increase in Altona Meadows residents who are working in professional, management, and community and personal service positions. The number of residents working in sales and clerical and administration has fallen.

Table 12: Occupation

	2011			Change 2006-2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Managers	741	8.2	12.4	+56
Professionals	1,335	14.8	22.8	+177
Technicians and Trades Workers	1,424	15.8	13.5	-1
Community and Personal Service Workers	831	9.2	8.5	+74
Clerical and Administrative Workers	1,538	17.1	15.8	-44
Sales Workers	844	9.4	8.4	-112
Machinery Operators And Drivers	1,006	11.2	7.4	-24
Labourers	1,077	11.9	8.8	-13
Inadequately described	223	2.5	2.4	+22
<b>Total employed persons aged 15+</b>	<b>9,019</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+135</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

### Unpaid work and volunteering

Questions about unpaid work and voluntary work were first included on the 2006 Census.

The first section of the question about unpaid work related to caring for an aged person or a person with a long term illness or disability. Altona Meadows has 1,668 residents (10.7 per cent) providing this type of unpaid assistance which was marginally lower than the Hobsons Bay figure (11.5 per cent).

Table 13: Assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age

	2011			Change 2006-2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Provided unpaid assistance	1,668	10.7	11.5	211
No unpaid assistance provided	12,602	81.2	79.7	320
Not stated	1,258	8.1	8.9	31
<b>Total persons aged 15+</b>	<b>15,528</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>562</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

This question also focussed on unpaid childcare among the neighbourhood's residents aged 15 years and over and found that just over 25 per cent provided childcare. Of this group, close to three quarters were caring for their own children.

The number of people caring for children decreased between 2006 and 2011. Among the possible contributing factors outlined previously include a fall in the overall number of children in Altona Meadows and an increase in people working part-time.

Table 14: Unpaid child care

Altona Meadows	2011			Change 2006 -2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay	
Provided unpaid child care (all)	3,932	25.3	26.7	-305
Cared for own child/ren	2,866	18.4	19.7	-301
Cared for other child/ren	1,005	6.5	6.2	52
Cared for own child/ren and other child/ren	61	0.4	0.8	-56
No unpaid child care provided	10,464	67.3	65.4	775
Not stated	1,142	7.3	7.9	97
Total persons aged 15+	15,538	100	100	567

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

In relation to the Census question about volunteering among those aged 15 years and older, it should be noted that the question specifically referred to volunteering for an organisation or group and potentially missed out those who volunteer in less formal ways. As a result, the figures may present an undercount.

The table below shows that 10.5 per cent of residents (1,634 people) volunteer with groups and organisations, which is almost 4 per cent below the municipal rate. Since the 2006 Census, the neighbourhood's rate of volunteering has remained stable, as have those for the municipality.

Table 15: Volunteer status

	2011			2006			Change 2006-2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Volunteer	1,634	10.5	14.3	1,584	10.6	14.1	50
Not a volunteer	12,600	81.1	77.2	12,222	81.6	76.4	378
Volunteer work not stated	1,308	8.4	8.5	1,172	7.8	9.5	136
Total persons aged 15+	15,542	100	100	14,978	100	100	564

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

## Financial Wellbeing

### Individual incomes

According to monthly data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics at August 2011 (the point at which the 2011 Census was collected), the average gross weekly income in Victoria was \$976.10. (ABS, Cat 6302.0, Table 12b.).

Census data in the table below shows that 11,024 residents (71.1 per cent) of Altona Meadows have a gross weekly income below \$999. This is higher than the municipal figure (64.7 per cent). Looking at those on very low incomes, there are 6,166 residents (39.8 per cent) whose incomes are below \$400 per week which again is higher than the municipal figure (36.7 per cent). (The poverty line for a single working person in September 2011 was \$459.83. (Source:

[http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/downloads/publications/Poverty%20Lines/Poverty\\_lines\\_Australia\\_Sep2011.pdf](http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/downloads/publications/Poverty%20Lines/Poverty_lines_Australia_Sep2011.pdf))

At the upper end of the income scale, there are 1,230 residents (7.3 per cent) who have weekly incomes of \$1,500 or more. This figure is well below the Hobsons Bay figure of 13.5 per cent.

Table 16: Gross weekly income individual income (persons aged 15 years and over)

	2011		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay
Negative Income/ Nil income	1,484	9.6	8.6
\$1-\$199	1,283	8.3	7.4
\$200-\$299	1,840	11.9	10.9
\$300-\$399	1,559	10.0	9.8
\$400-\$599	1,585	10.2	10.2
\$600-\$799	1,753	11.3	9.6
\$800-\$999	1,520	9.8	8.2
\$1000-\$1249	1,363	8.8	8.0
\$1250-\$1499	828	5.3	5.9
\$1500-\$1999	763	4.9	6.8
\$2000 or more	367	2.4	6.7
Not stated	1,180	7.6	8.0
<b>Total persons aged 15+</b>	<b>15,525</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

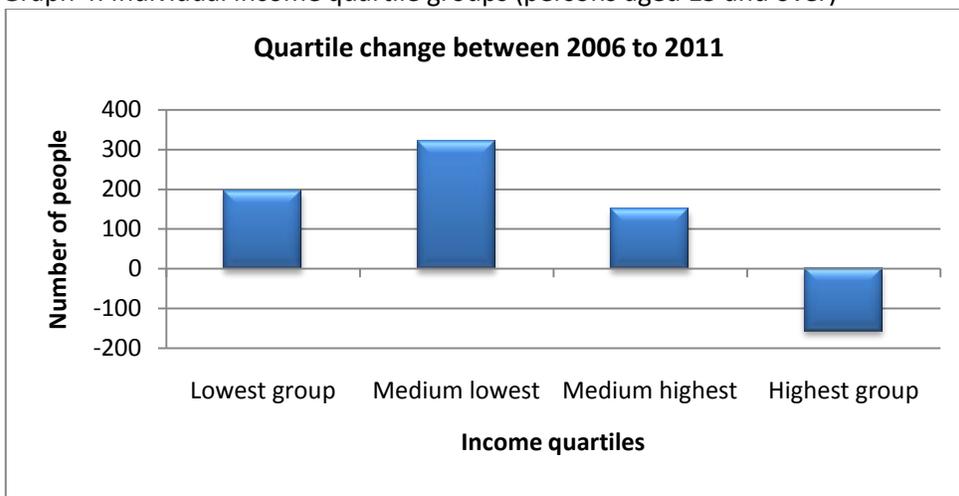
Due to the influences of economic change such as wage fluctuations and inflation, it is difficult to compare incomes over time. By using income quartiles (ordering population incomes from lowest to highest and splitting into four equal groups), we are able to compare incomes across different time

frames. (These quartiles are calculated by using Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD) individual income data.)

Analysing income changes that have occurred over time shows Altona Meadows residents have relatively less income in 2011 than they did in 2006. For example, 3,720 residents (26.9 per cent) were in the bottom income quartile in 2006 and this increased to 3,916 (27.3 per cent) in 2011. Similarly, the percentage of residents in the medium lowest quartile increased 1.4 per cent (321 residents) over the same period.

While there was an increase in the number of people in the medium highest quartile, there was a 2 per cent fall in the highest quartile group. This went against the Hobsons Bay trend which saw small decreases in the bottom two quartile groups and corresponding increases in the top two.

Graph 4: Individual income quartile groups (persons aged 15 and over)



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

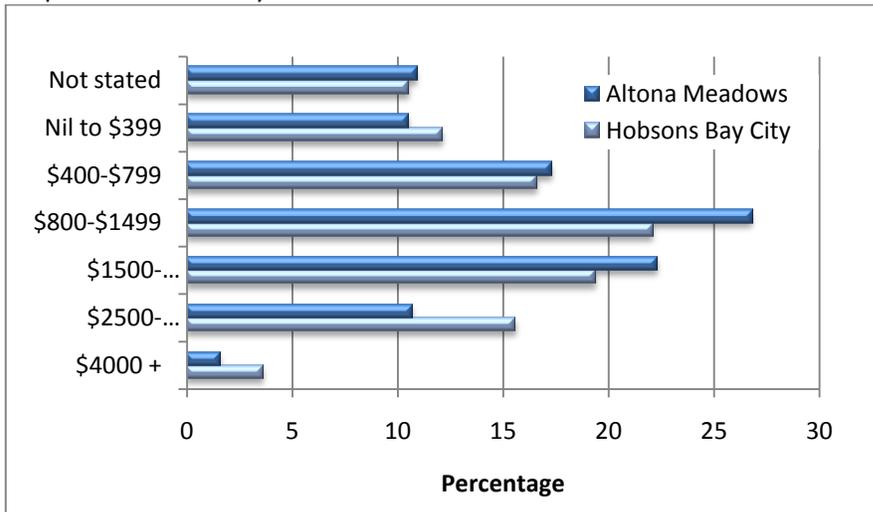
### Household incomes

In Altona Meadows, slightly more than 12 per cent of households earn \$2,500 or more per week while 10.5 per cent have weekly incomes that are below \$400. Just over a quarter earn between \$800 and \$1,499 per week.

The gross weekly incomes of Altona Meadows households vary considerably compared with those across Hobsons Bay as a whole. In general, Altona Meadows tends to have a higher proportion of households with incomes that are below \$800 through to high incomes of up to \$2,499. After which, Altona Meadows has proportionately fewer households with incomes in excess of \$2,500 than does Hobsons Bay.

(NB: It should be noted that there was a high non response rate of 11 per cent to this Census question so the data should be treated with some caution.)

Graph 5: Gross weekly household income

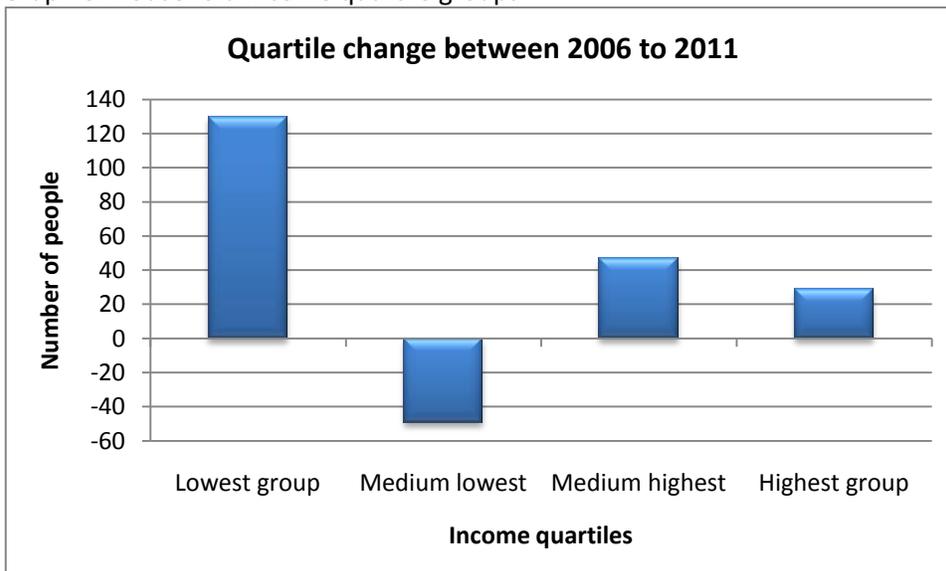


Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

As with individual incomes, household incomes are also not comparable over time. As a result, the income quartile method used earlier is again used here to compare changes in the income distribution of the community over time.

The data in the table below indicates some minor shifts in the incomes of Altona Meadows households between 2006 and 2011, the main change being a rise in the number of households on low incomes. For example, there are 130 more households in the lowest income quartile. The number of households in the second lowest quartile dropped and there was an increase in the number of households in the two highest income quartiles. So while the financial circumstances of some households are improving, there are others whose incomes are declining.

Graph 6: Household income quartile groups

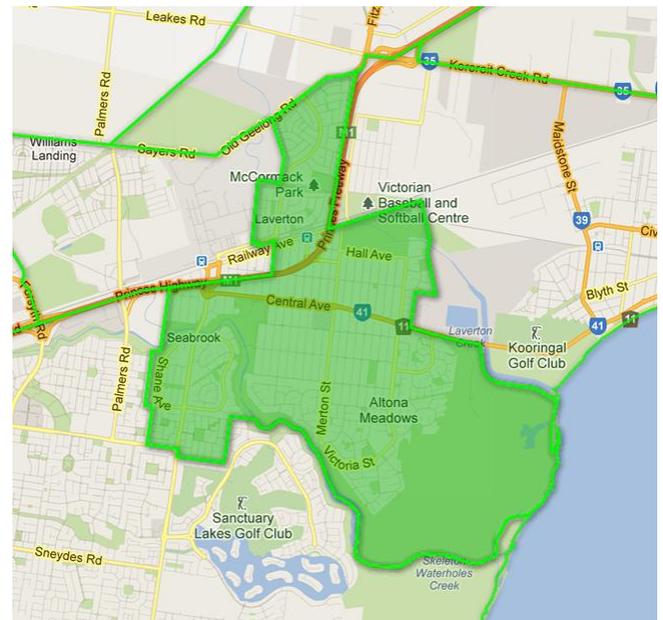


## Centrelink Payments and allowances

The smallest area that Centrelink provides data for is by postcode. The 3028 postcode, as shown on the map, includes Altona Meadows, along with Seabrook and Laverton. However, Altona Meadows residents make up two thirds of the postcode population so the data is still useful to consider.

Aged pensions make up the largest portion of Centrelink payments received by residents in this postcode. At December 2012, Centrelink payments for residents of Postcode 2028 were as follows:

- Aged pension - 2,497
- Disability support – 1813
- Newstart – 1,018
- Youth allowance (other) 176
- Single parenting payment – 430
- Youth Allowance (student) – 304.



In addition, 2,529 residents were in receipt of a health care card and 821 held a low income card. (Centrelink (requested data) December quarter 2012)

## SEIFA index of disadvantage

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) disadvantage index is produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is drawn from Census data. The disadvantage index takes into consideration factors such as low income, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations, low educational attainment and other variables that reflect disadvantage. These are weighted to provide a single score. The Australian average score is set at 1,000. Scores below 1,000 represent greater disadvantage among the population and conversely those above indicate less disadvantage.

The SEIFA disadvantage score for Altona Meadows is 981, below the Australian benchmark figure of 1,000 and also the Hobsons Bay figure of 1002. It is ranked fourth most disadvantaged when compared to other neighbourhoods in the municipality.

Table 17: SEIFA index of disadvantage ranking (2011)

	<b>Disadvantage score</b>
Laverton	891
Altona North	910
Brooklyn	947
<b>Altona Meadows</b>	<b>981</b>
Hobsons Bay City	1,002
Altona - Seaholme	1,019
Spotswood - South Kingsville	1,024
Seabrook	1,031
Altona Meadows	1,044
Williamstown North - The Rifle Range	1,058
Williamstown	1,062
Newport East	1,087

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

### **Gaming losses**

Residents of Hobsons Bay, have access to or are affected by the provision of electronic gaming machines (EGMs). The municipality has ten gambling venues, with a total of 579 EGMs. Hobsons Bay is ranked thirteenth in relation to the highest number of gaming machines per adult and twelfth in terms of losses per adult (Victorian Local Governance Association).

The financial impact of gambling on EGMs by Hobsons Bay residents is highlighted in the in 2011/12 which shows that \$52.6 million or \$763 per adult was lost in the municipality. Both amounts were up on the previous year's losses of \$51.4 million or \$747 per adult.

While there are no EGMs in Altona Meadows, \$3,581,521.36 was lost at the nearby venue in Laverton in 2011/12. In addition, there are three venues nearby in Point Cook and one in Laverton North. (City of Greater Dandenong <http://www.socialstatistics.com.au/>, Gambling statistics)

## Housing

### Dwelling types

There are 7,386 private dwellings in Altona Meadows and the vast majority consists of separate houses (89.8 per cent), the remainder being medium density housing (10.2 per cent).

When compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole, the neighbourhood has a far greater supply of separate housing (14.6 per cent more) and less medium density stock (12.5 per cent).

Table 18: Private dwelling types

	2011		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Separate house	6,631	89.8	75.2
Medium density *	755	10.2	22.7
High density	0	0	1.4
Caravans, cabin, houseboat	0	0	0.4
Other	0	0	0.3
Not stated	0	0	0
<b>Total Private Dwellings</b>	<b>7,386</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

\* 'Medium density' includes all semi-detached, row, terrace, townhouses and villa units, plus flats and apartments in blocks of 1 or 2 storeys, and flats attached to houses.

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

### Public housing stock

A total of 186 dwellings in Altona Meadows (2.5 per cent of the total housing stock) are owned by the State Government and the majority of these are two or three bedrooms. This compares to Hobsons Bay as a whole where public housing makes up 3.2 per cent of the housing stock.

Approximately 63 per cent of the public housing stock is made up of separate housing and a further 28 per cent is medium density housing.

Table 19: Public housing stock in Altona Meadows

1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR	Total
9	67	93	14	3	186

Source: Dept of Housing, 2010, requested data

### Residential aged care

Altona Meadows has three residential aged care facilities which provide a total of 210 beds. Approximately two thirds of the beds are for residents with high care needs. In addition, there are two beds available for respite care.

Table 20: Residential aged care

Facility Name	Total Beds	High care	Low care	Respite High	Respite Low
Benetas - St Georges	90	60	30	0	1
Altona Meadows Private Nursing Home	90	45	45	1	
Allanvale Private Nursing Home	30	30	0	0	0

Source: Data obtained from the facilities by the Hobsons Bay City Council

### Building permits

There were 25 permits issued for the construction of dwellings in Altona Meadows in 2012/2013. 15 permits were for detached housing and the remainder were permits for two to four units and town house developments, for a total of 22 dwellings.

In 2012/2013, one commercial permit was finalised for the construction of a supermarket at Central Square.

### Housing tenure

Approximately one third of households in Altona Meadows own their own home, one third are paying a mortgage and a further one quarter are renting. The main change in tenure since the 2006 Census has been an increase in home ownership and a subsequent fall in those with a mortgage. There has also been an increase in households who are renting privately owned housing.

The main differences in tenure patterns in Altona Meadows, compared to those for Hobsons Bay, are the neighbourhood's higher proportion of households who have a mortgage and lower proportion of renters.

Table 21: Housing tenure of households (occupied dwellings)

	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Change 2006-2011
Fully owned	2,410	34.6	35.0	+101
Mortgage	2,372	34.1	31.4	-119
Renting	1,704	24.5	27.0	+156
Renting - Social housing	194	2.8	3.0	+14
Renting - Private	1,492	21.4	23.5	+157
Renting - Not stated	18	0.3	0.5	-15
Other tenure type	18	0.3	0.4	+4
Not stated	457	6.6	6.2	+87
<b>Total households</b>	<b>6,961</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+229</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

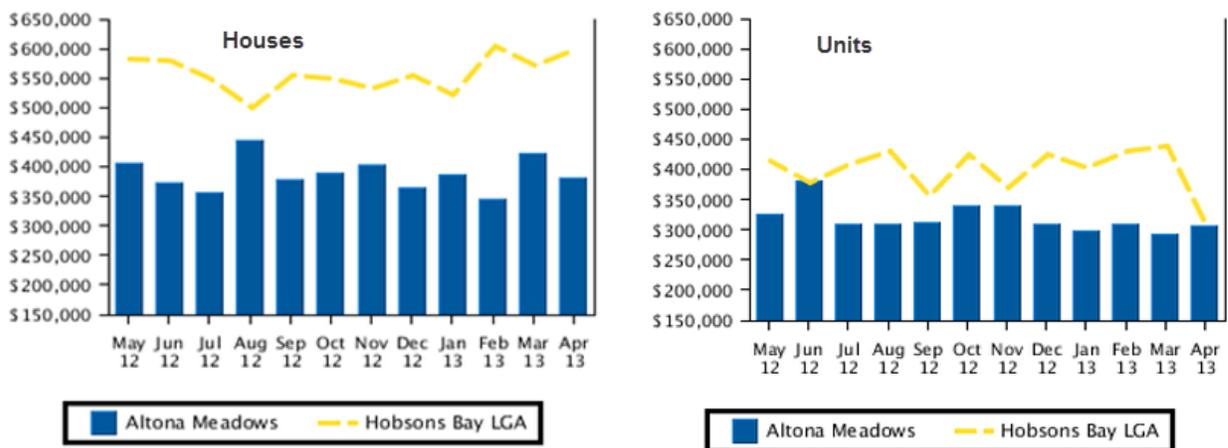
## Housing sales

The graphs below provide median monthly sale prices for houses and units in Altona Meadows, over a 12 month period. (The median price is the midpoint in the range of each month's sales.)

House sales data shows the median prices were generally at or below \$400,000 and on the whole the cost of housing was well below the municipal price range.

Median unit prices for the 12 months to April 2013 indicate prices are sitting around \$320,000 and while they are below prices for Hobsons Bay the difference is not as pronounced as it is for houses.

Graph 7: House and unit sale prices

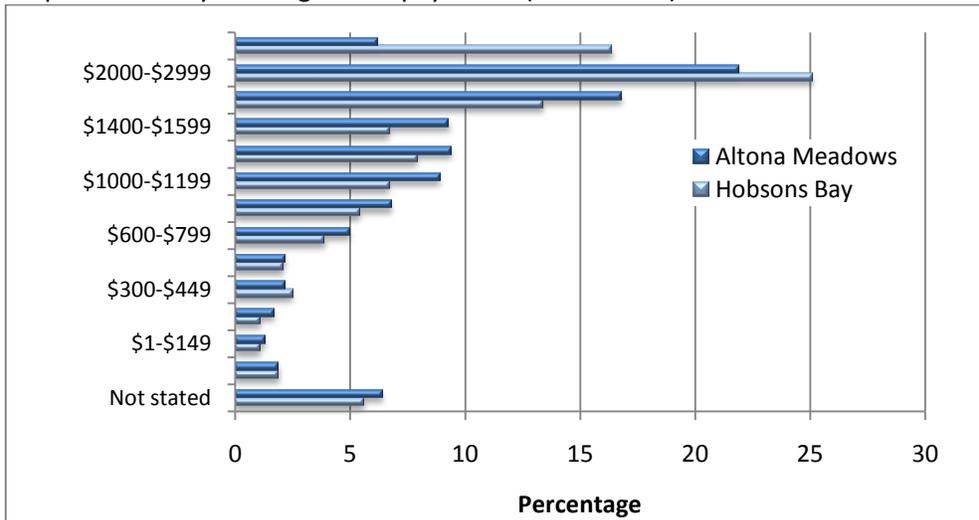


<http://www.rpdata.com/> (as at 5 June 2013)

## Housing mortgages

The monthly mortgage payments of Altona Meadows households tend to be lower than those for Hobsons Bay as a whole. For example, 21 per cent have monthly payments below \$1,000 compared to the municipal figure of 18 per cent. A further 44 per cent of households pay between \$1000 and \$2000; the Hobsons Bay figure is 35 per cent. Once mortgage payments exceed \$2000 a month, the proportion of Altona Meadows households affected drops to 28 per cent, compared to 42 per cent for Hobsons Bay.

Graph 8: Monthly housing loan repayments (households)

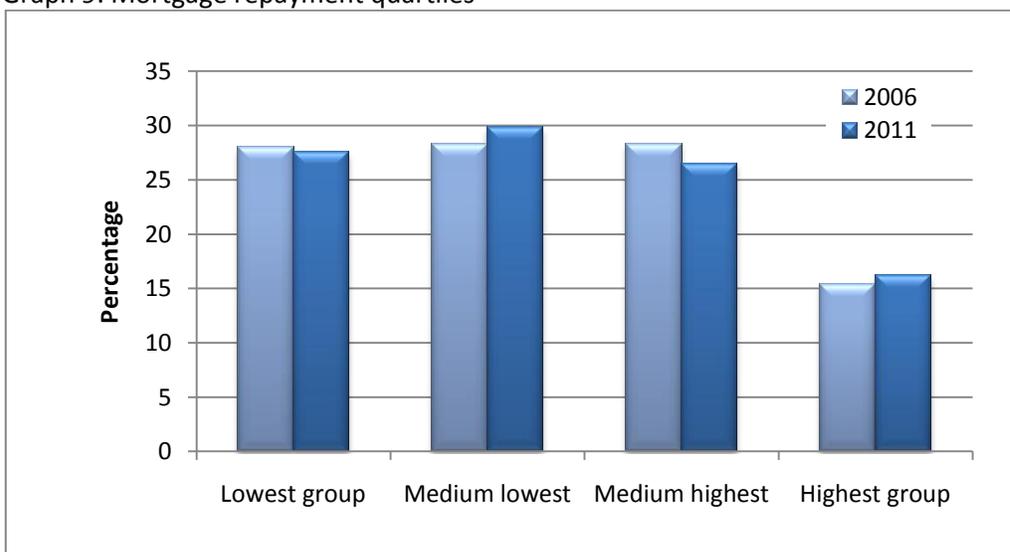


Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Comparing changes to housing loan repayments over time is difficult due to the impact of economic change such as inflation and interest rates. However, using quartiles enables the data to be standardised and allows comparisons to be made across time frames.

The graph below shows that between 2006 and 2011 there were some very small shifts in the level of mortgage repayments of Altona Meadows households, with a slightly lower proportion of households in the lowest quartile group and a rise in those was a decrease in the percentage of households in the medium lowest quartile and a corresponding increase in the highest quartile. In contrast, the Hobsons Bay quartiles remained relatively steady over the same period.

Graph 9: Mortgage repayment quartiles



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

### Availability of rental housing

There is no central data source where information on monthly housing rentals for suburbs can be obtained so the following information has been taken from an online property site and should be treated as indicative only.

Of the properties advertised on one rental site in the second week of June 2013, there were 16 houses and 11 units for rent. House rents ranged from \$280 and \$360 per week, depending on the number of bedrooms, while unit rents were between \$235 and \$340 per week. (Source: [www.myhome.com.au/](http://www.myhome.com.au/) accessed on 13 June 2013)

### Rental payments

The data on household rental payments in the table below is from the 2011 Census. On the whole, rents paid by Altona Meadows households tended to be lower than municipal wide payments. For example at the higher end of rentals, 9 per cent of local households paid more than \$350 per week compared to 24 per cent of Hobsons Bay households. Looking at mid range rents, 60 per cent of Altona Meadows households paid between \$250 and \$349 which was well above the municipal figure of 41 per cent. At the low end of rentals, the proportion of local households paying less than \$250 per week was similar to the Hobsons Bay figure (Altona Meadows 27 per cent and Hobsons Bay 28 per cent).

This data, which is from 2011, indicates that housing rentals have remained reasonably stable over the last couple of years, when compared to current rents for properties (as per 2013 data in the previous subheading).

Table 22: Weekly rental payments

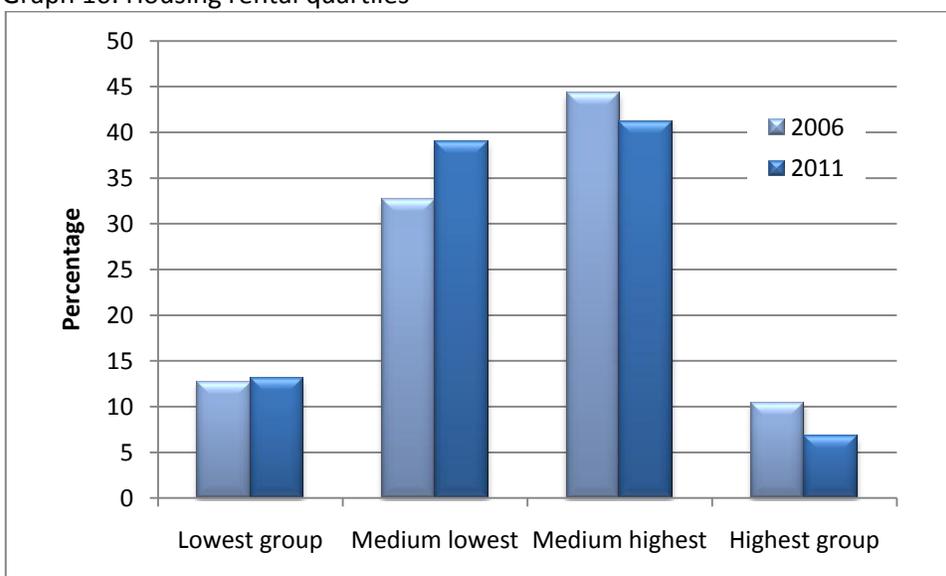
	Altona Meadows		Hobsons Bay
	Number (households)	%	%
Nil	36	2.1	2.8
\$1 - \$99	52	1.6	1.4
\$100-\$149	64	3.7	4.3
\$150-199	83	4.9	7.1
\$200-\$249	250	14.7	12.8
\$250-\$299	618	36.2	22.1
\$300-\$349	403	23.6	18.5
\$350-\$399	91	5.4	9.0
\$400-\$449	12	0.7	5.5
\$450-\$549	9	0.5	5.6
\$550-\$649	3	0.2	1.7
\$650 +	34	2.1	2.2
Not stated	53	3.1	3.8
Total	1,708	100	100

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

As with mortgage payments, comparing rental payments over time requires a method to standardise the economic influences of inflation. By using quartiles, comparison to be made to gauge the impact of rental cost. (Quartiles are calculated from the Melbourne Statistical Division rental payment data.)

The graph below shows that relative to the cost of renting in 2006, rents had become a little more affordable in Altona Meadows by 2011. The proportion of households in either the medium highest or highest quartile of rental payments had both dropped. While there was little change in the lowest quartile group, the proportion of households in the medium lowest quartile increased by close to 9 percent. In comparison, the Hobsons Bay quartile distribution remained fairly stable.

Graph 10: Housing rental quartiles



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

### Housing stress

Hobsons Bay City Council commissioned *id.consulting* to assess the extent of housing stress across the municipality and its neighbourhoods. Housing stress refers to the percentage of a household's income that is required to cover rental or mortgage payments and a common definition is where this requires 30 per cent or more of a household's gross income. The extent of housing stress also depends on the level of a household's income, housing payments put households under varying degrees of financial stress. Therefore low income households paying more than 30 per cent are likely to under greater financial pressure and are described as experiencing housing stress while medium income households paying a similar share of their income are experiencing marginal housing stress.

Of the almost 7,000 households in Altona Meadows, approximately 37 per cent are low income households and 18 per cent are middle income households. The *id.consulting* analysis found that 11



per cent of low income households are in housing stress and almost 4 per cent of medium income households are in marginal stress.

Breaking this data down reveals that those who are renting, but particularly low income households, are experiencing much higher levels of housing stress than any other group. One in four low income households (25 per cent) are in housing stress; this compares to 6 per cent of medium income households who are renting and are experiencing marginal housing stress.

Analysis of households with mortgages shows that 13 per cent of low income households are in housing stress and 7 per cent of medium income households are in marginal stress.

## Transport

### Car ownership

Based on responses to the 2011 Census, just under 88 per cent of households in Altona Meadows are car owners which is approximately three per cent above the municipal rate. Thirty six per cent of these households own one car and 34 per cent have two cars. Both figures are on par with the municipal trend.

The largest differences between Altona Meadows and Hobsons Bay are in proportion of households without a car and those who own three or more. The data shows that 5.5 per cent of Altona Meadows households have no car compared to the Hobsons Bay figure of 9 per cent. Instead, they are more likely to own three or more cars (Altona Meadows 16.8 per cent and Hobsons Bay 12.8 per cent). The lack of good access to public transport in this neighbourhood is a key factor in multiple car ownership.

Table 23: Car ownership (households)

Altona Meadows	2011			2006			Change 2006-2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
No motor vehicles	381	5.5	9.0	402	6.0	9.8	-21
1 motor vehicle	2,534	36.4	37.5	2,381	35.4	36.6	153
2 motor vehicles	2,398	34.5	34.2	2,473	36.7	34.1	-75
3 or more motor vehicles	1,170	16.8	12.8	1,078	16.0	11.9	92
Not stated	474	6.8	6.5	397	5.9	7.6	77
Total households	6,957	100	100	6,731	100	100	226

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

### Journey to work

The table below provides an overview of how people get to work and shows that the car is the dominant form of transport both in Altona Meadows and across the municipality. Seventy two per cent of working residents either drive to work or are car passengers, which is 6 per cent above the Hobsons Bay figure.

Two per cent less of the neighbourhood's workers catch the train to work compared to the total Hobsons Bay population, although there has been an upward trend in train travel since the 2006 Census. Residents of Altona Meadows are also slightly less likely to cycle or walk to work.

Table 24: Journey to work

Altona Meadows Main method of travel	2011			2006			Change 2006 -2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay City	Number	%	Hobsons Bay City	
Train	1,075	12.0	14.1	751	8.5	11.2	+324
Bus	72	0.8	1.4	87	1.0	1.1	-15
Tram or Ferry	0	0.0	0.1	3	0.0	0.1	-3
Taxi	0	0.0	0.2	13	0.1	0.2	-13
Car - as driver	5,958	66.4	61.2	5,992	67.9	63.1	-34
Car - as passenger	507	5.7	4.6	510	5.8	5.0	-3
Truck	66	0.7	0.6	63	0.7	0.8	+3
Motorbike	13	0.1	0.5	41	0.5	0.6	-28
Bicycle	28	0.3	1.3	27	0.3	1.1	+1
Walked only	53	0.6	1.7	77	0.9	1.7	-24
Other	63	0.7	0.8	45	0.5	0.7	+18
Worked at home	174	1.9	3.0	139	1.6	2.7	+35
Did not go to work	762	8.5	8.9	847	9.6	9.8	-85
Not stated	196	2.2	1.7	227	2.6	2.0	-31
<b>Total employed persons aged 15+</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,822</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+145</b>

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

## Population Forecasts

### Population numbers

Population forecasts for Hobsons Bay and its neighbourhoods are benchmarked on the results of the 2011 Census and adjusted to incorporate information such as new residential development, together with population trends related to births, deaths and internal and external migration etc that has occurred since the Census was taken. The forecasts are developed for the Council, by *id.consulting*.

As noted earlier, the population of Altona Meadows decreased very slightly by 118 people (-0.6 per cent) between 2006 and 2011. The table below provides forecast data for the coming decade and indicates a continuation of this trend.

At this stage, there are approximately 200 undeveloped vacant blocks in the neighbourhood and as a result, residential development is limited. In addition, relative to the rest of the municipality, the housing stock in Altona Meadows is reasonably new and therefore opportunities for redevelopment are unlikely for some time.

Table 25: Population forecasts

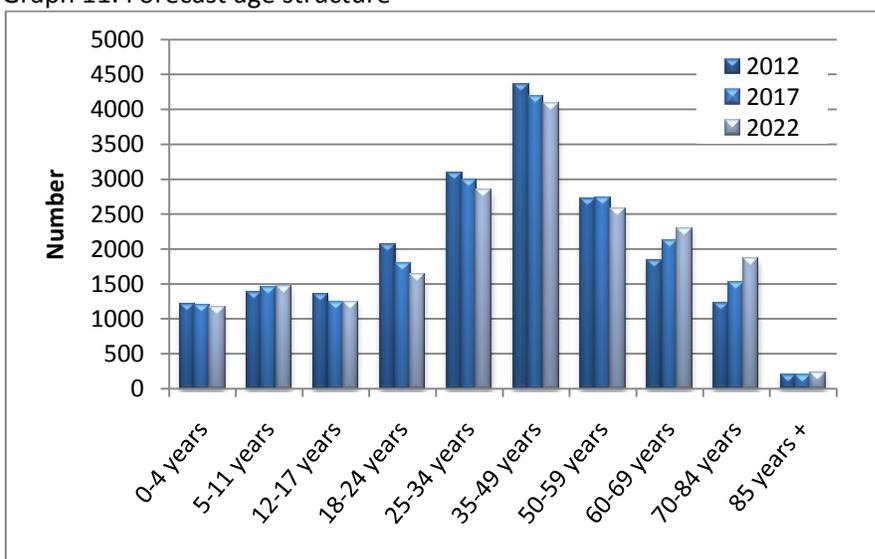
	2012	2017	2022	Change 2012-2022
Total Persons	19,464	19,436	19,431	-109
Percentage change		↙ -0.1%	0.0%	↙ -0.2%

Source: <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

### Age structure

The Altona Meadows forecasts for the next decade indicate an ageing of the population. It is anticipated that most age groups up to 50 years will decrease over that time while the number of older residents, particularly those aged in their 60s and over, will increase.

Graph 11: Forecast age structure

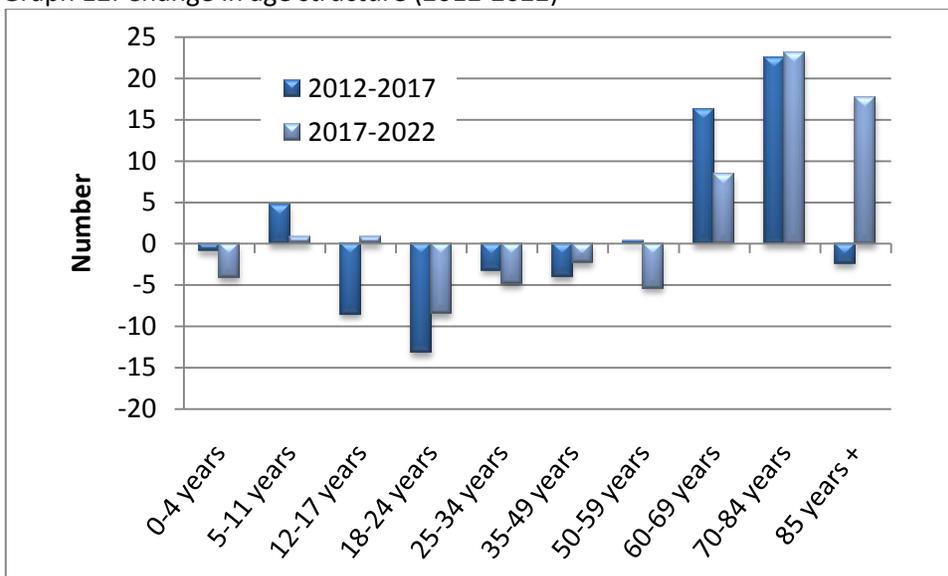


Source: <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

The graph below shows where the gains and losses in each age group are likely over the next decade and the clear pattern of ageing that is emerging. As shown in the previous graph, no growth is forecast in the under 50 year old age groups and it is clear that this neighbourhood has started to move into an ageing phase, although it should be noted that the actual numbers are still relatively quite small.

This neighbourhood, which is an area where residential development predominantly occurred throughout the 1980s-90s, initially attracted young families. These families have reached maturity and children are leaving home. As this trend continues, the number of older residents will continue to increase.

Graph 12: Change in age structure (2012-2022)



Source: <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

### Housing and households forecasts

As mentioned, the population of Altona Meadows has peaked in size and has started to age. As a consequence, household sizes which are slightly higher than the Hobsons Bay averages will start to fall slightly as more households have fewer children.

Given the lack of available land, new residential development will be limited as will the growth in the number of households.

Table 26: Households and dwellings

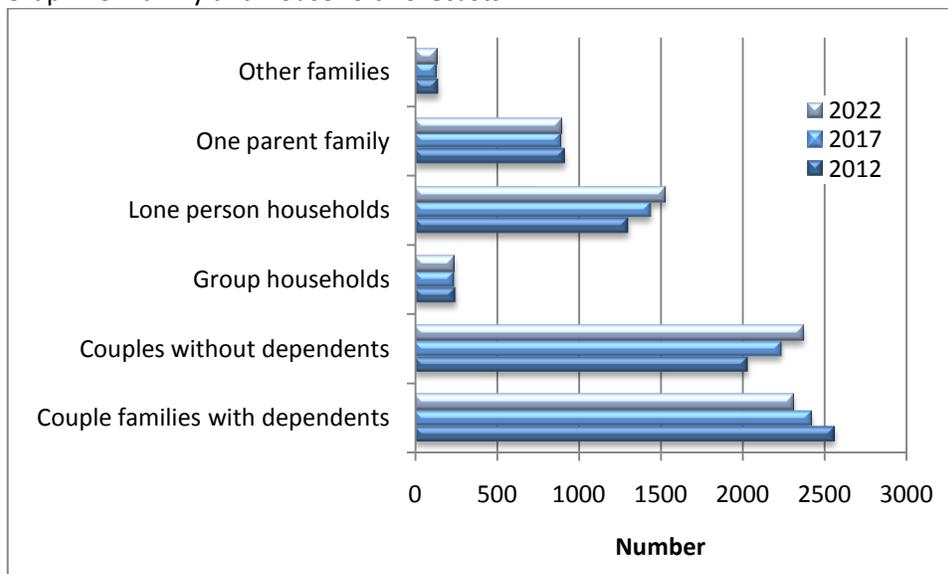
Altona Meadows	2012	2017	2022
Average household size	2.7	2.6	2.6
Dwellings	7503	7692	7793
Households	7218	7392	7481

Source: <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

The graph below indicates how family and household types are forecast to change over the coming decade. The number of couple families with dependants is expected to decrease in number, at least through to 2022, although single parent families are forecast to remain stable.

Alongside this trend, both couple families without dependants and lone person households are expected to increase.

Graph 13: Family and household forecasts



Source: <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

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