

# Altona North - Brooklyn

## Neighbourhood Profile





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The data profile was updated in 2015 and includes 2011 census data. Other sections in the profile have not been updated.



## Altona North and Brooklyn Neighbourhood Profile

### Executive Summary

The Altona North and Brooklyn neighbourhood is bounded by the Princes Highway to the north and Kororoit Creek to the west and south. Major roads along the eastern boundary include Blenheim Road, Hansen and New Street, then west along the Westgate Freeway and into Cemetery Road.

The area incorporates a mix of land uses, predominantly residential and industrial. Major residential development dates from the 1950s, with much of the housing constructed during the 1960s and 1970s. The area played an important role in housing post-World War II migrants and a migrant hostel in Millers Road continued to operate up until the early 1970s.

People who participated in community consultation sessions described Altona North and Brooklyn as a good place to live and an area that is still affordable and reasonably well serviced. Long term residents spoke about noticeable improvements in the standard of housing and shopping options since they first arrived. Others people commented that “it’s an old area that needs “a few touch ups”

#### Population numbers

- At the 2011 Census, the Altona North and Brooklyn neighbourhood area had a population of 13,153 people (approximately 16% of the municipality’s residents), an increase of 624 residents since 2006.
- Based on population forecasts for 2015, the neighbourhood’s current population is approximately 14,338.
- Population forecasts indicate the current population will increase to just under 17,000 by 2025. Rezoning of industrial land to residential use is expected to be a major contributor to this growth.

#### Age structure

- The number of younger residents in the family forming ages of 25-34 years with pre-school aged children is increasing, although there is still evidence of an ageing population.
- Forecasts data indicates that this trend of regeneration and ageing is expected to continue for the next decade.

#### Overseas born residents

- Forty per cent (5,262) of people living in the neighbourhood were born overseas, which is substantially higher than the municipal figure of 31 per cent.
- Just over 50 per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn residents speak languages other than English at home, significantly higher than the 30 per cent of Hobsons Bay residents.

#### Residents needing assistance

- At the 2011 Census, 1106 residents were estimated to require assistance with core activities involving self care, communication and mobility.
- Four hundred and thirty eight people aged between 26 and 65 years receive a disability payment, and 227 receive carer payments.

## Education

- There are four primary schools in the area, together with two secondary colleges.
- Approximately 18 per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn residents are enrolled in education, compared to around 22 per cent for Hobsons Bay.
- Forty per cent of residents have completed year 12 compared to the municipal rate of 50 per cent. Fifteen per cent of residents left school before or on completing Year 8.
- In relation to their future plans, young people in Years 8 and 9 who participated in the consultations spoke about wanting to leaving school soon and getting a job or wanting to finish Year 12. No students had any plans for further study.

## Labour Force

- The largest employment sectors for the area's workers are manufacturing and retail (12.9% and 10.9% respectively). Both figures have dropped since 2006.
- Forty seven per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn residents (over 15 years) are in the labour force, 14 per cent lower than for Hobsons Bay. Of these, almost seven per cent are unemployed, compared to the Hobsons Bay rate of almost six per cent.
- Altona North and Brooklyn has a much higher rate of people not in the labour force compared to Hobsons Bay (42.2per cent and 33.2 per cent respectively). A contributing factor is due to the high proportion of people of retirement age who live in Altona North and Brooklyn; however with regeneration there has been a fall in the neighbourhood's non-participation rate.

## Income

- 2011 Census data indicates that close to 6,625 Altona North and Brooklyn residents (70%) have a gross weekly income below \$1000 (the average weekly income in Victoria) which is higher than the municipal figure (65%).
- In addition, just over 4,132 (44%) of residents have incomes below \$400 per week which is also well above the municipal figure (37%).

## Housing

- Around three quarters of the area's total dwelling stock is detached housing. Just over 40 per cent of households in Altona North and Brooklyn are home owners, 6 per cent above the Hobsons Bay rate.
- Since the 2006 Census, ownership rates have declined by around five per cent while the proportion of people who are purchasing their homes increased by 3 per cent.
- Participants in the consultations spoke about the relative affordability of housing in the area. However, there were concerns that the situation is changing and that "in the last 12 months, house prices have increased dramatically".

## Transport & traffic

- Approximately 80 per cent of households in Altona North and Brooklyn are car owners, which is below the municipal rate of 84 per cent.
- People in the consultation were generally happy with the bus service but noted the lack of weeknight and weekend services as something they would like improved.
- People of all ages who participated in the consultations indicated they walk regularly around the area. However, they commonly expressed concern about the large amount of traffic and the fumes from trucks, especially around main roads and major intersections.