



CRICKET  
ACT

## Appendix 3: ACT Population and Demographic Analysis

## Overview of Current Population

The ACT is home to over 486,000 residents and has experienced steady population growth over the past decade, averaging around 1.5% annually. This growth has been primarily driven by net overseas migration supported by strong natural population increase.

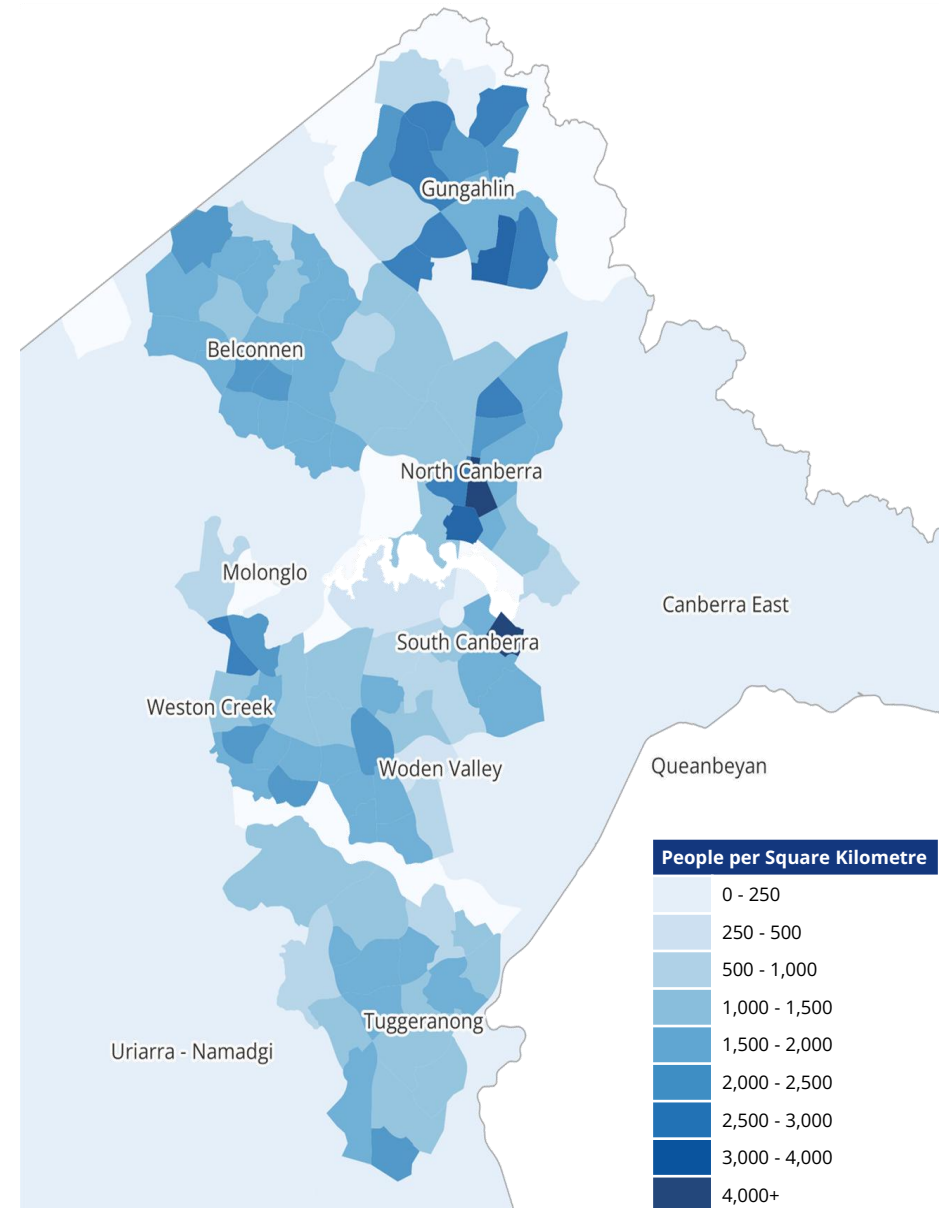
The majority of Canberra's recent population growth has occurred in the city's northern and western districts, particularly Gungahlin and the Molonglo Valley, which have rapidly evolved into major residential areas. These areas are amongst the fastest growing in the country and are projected to keep growing into the future.

Parallel to this, established districts such as the Woden, Belconnen, and the Inner North are experiencing increased population densification, driven by urban infill and medium- and high-density apartment developments.

## Impacts on Cricket Infrastructure

A balanced, place-based approach will be required to ensure all ACT residents have equitable access to cricket infrastructure and participation opportunities. Greenfield expansion and urban densification areas will require distinct approaches and priorities for the provision and accessibility of open space and community sport facilities.

Growth areas such as Molonglo Valley, will need prioritise the delivery of new playing fields and infrastructure to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding populations. In contrast, densifying areas like the Inner North, Woden, and Belconnen may have limited opportunities for new land acquisition and therefore require a stronger focus on maximising access, increasing capacity, and optimising the use of existing facilities, infrastructure and spaces.



# ACT Demographic Profile

The ACT's population is characterised by its youth, cultural diversity, and relative affluence in comparison to other parts of the country.

## Age Profile

Canberra is one of the youngest cities in Australia with a median age of 35, below the national median age of 38. This results from a high proportion of young working-age adults and young families. Children aged 14 and younger account for approximately 18% of the population, while those aged 65 and over represent less than 14% of the population, although this older cohort is steadily increasing.

## Cultural Diversity

Canberra is also one of Australia's most culturally and linguistically diverse cities, with 33% of residents born overseas and more than a quarter of households speaking a language other than English.

The most significant growth has occurred among South Asian communities, particularly the Indian and Nepalese communities. The Nepalese community, in particular has grown more than seven-times larger since 2011, making it one of the fastest-growing cultural groups in the ACT.

However, this diversity is not uniformly distributed across Canberra. Higher concentrations of non-English speaking households in growth areas such as Gungahlin and the Molonglo Valley. These communities also tend to have a younger age profile and higher rates of recent migration, shaping both their demand and preferred engagement in cricket participation opportunities.

## Education, Employment and Income

The ACT population has the highest proportion of tertiary-educated residents in Australia, along with workforce participation rates and median household incomes well above the national average. The high household incomes and levels of education are reflected in the ACT's overall high SEIFA (Socio-Economic Index for Areas) score.

Higher SEIFA scores are also connected to higher levels of car ownership by ACT residents, which contributes to a relatively strong ability to access to services and facilities across Canberra's dispersed urban footprint.

ACT		Australia
34.8	Median Age	38.3
33%	Born Overseas	34%
\$2,373	Median Income Household	\$1,746
43%	Education Bachelor Degree or Higher	26%
70%	Workforce Participation	61%
95%	Car Ownership	92%

# Future Trends – Population & Demographics

## Projected Population Change

Over the next 10 years, the ACT’s population is projected to grow by 17% to almost 568,000 by 2035. The majority of this growth is projected to be concentrated in the districts of Gungahlin, Molonglo Valley, and Belconnen.

Molonglo Valley, in particular, is expected to see the most rapid expansion as new suburbs are completed and infrastructure catches up with residential development. Like existing areas, these new suburbs will attract a high proportion of young families and recent migrants, particularly from South Asia, continuing existing demographic trends and further increasing cultural diversity and the proportion of junior-aged residents in these communities.

After a decade of rapid growth, the population in Gungahlin will start to stabilise with moderate growth projected, however it will continue to remain one of the ACT’s most populous and demographically diverse regions.

Established areas such as Belconnen and Inner North Canberra will see moderate population growth as more urban infill and apartment development is completed, increasing overall population density. Whereas Weston Creek and Tuggeranong are projected to have the smallest population growth of just 9% and 7% respectively.

## ACT Population



Projected Population Change (2025-2035)		
District	Total	% Change
Molonglo	20,730	115%
Belconnen	17,576	16%
South Canberra	5,246	16%
Woden Valley	6,443	16%
Gungahlin	13,949	15%
North Canberra	8,974	13%
Weston Creek	2,306	9%
Tuggeranong	6,088	7%
Canberra East	-20	-1%

Source: ACT Government Population Projections

## Implications for Cricket in the ACT

The ACT's youthful, multicultural and growing population presents clear opportunities for participation and priorities for infrastructure planning and investment. However, relative affluence of the ACT and the resulting elevated community expectations have the potential to drive up the cost to participate and will need to be managed.

The projected changes to the population and demographics of the ACT community have identified the following key priorities and areas of focus:

- Timely investment in new facilities and infrastructure, in growth corridors like Molonglo Valley, will be essential to meet demand and support participation growth. Proactive planning and advocacy to ensure infrastructure provision keeps pace with population expansion will be essential to avoid repeating past shortfalls seen in areas like Gungahlin.
- The high proportion of children in the outer suburban districts such as Gungahlin and the Molonglo Valley will increase demand for accessible, fit-for-purpose cricket facilities that support entry-level and junior participation opportunities.
- At the same time, the continued growth of South Asian communities, many of whom have strong cricketing traditions, highlights the need for facilities to be flexible and culturally responsive to support both formal club competitions and more social or informal styles of play.
- In inner-city areas where urban infill and apartment living will increase population density, investment priorities will need to focus on lighting and playing surface upgrades to increase existing capacity and utilisation. An innovative approach will also be required to activate non-traditional open spaces to enable social and casual cricket formats.

- While generally high levels of social advantage across the community may drive elevated expectations for high-quality infrastructure and flexible participation options, this cannot come at the expense of equitable access to facilities and participation options. If expectation for the provision of higher-quality facilities and infrastructure results in an increase to facility hire costs, club membership or the creation of a 'pay-to-play' culture, residents in areas of low advantage or high disadvantage may be priced out of cricket participation.

As the ACT continues to grow and diversify, it is essential that the provision of cricket facilities and infrastructure keeps pace for cricket participation to grow. The implementation of this Strategy along with strong advocacy for continued support and investment will be critical to ensuring the game's continued growth and success

