

Australia hits 21 million

Australia's population reached 21 million at 9:31pm, Friday 29th June 2007. Here are some insights

Doubling again

It was in 1961 that Australia's population hit 10.5 million; so it has taken 46 years to double the population. Based on current migration and natural increase patterns it will not be until May 2077 that our population doubles again – 70 years time.

21 million of 6.6 billion

With the current world population at just over 6.6 billion, Australia's population represents a mere 0.3% of the globe.

Largest city v fastest growing city

1 in 5 Australians are Sydneysiders (20.7% of our national population) with Melbourne not far behind (18.1%) while Brisbanites comprise 9% of our population. Although Perth is our fastest growing city, it is only our 4th largest and contains 7.3% of our population. While Melbourne continues to grow at a faster rate than Sydney, it has not held the top spot since 1901.

Is our 21,000,000th little Jack?

Based on probability, our 21 millionth Australian will be a baby boy (there are 105 males born for every 100 females) named Jack (the current most popular boys name) to a 31 year old mother and a 33 year old father (median age of all parents has been rising) who are married (90% of couples with children are married).

Jack will grow up with 1 sibling and he can expect to live past his 78th birthday (second only to a child born in Hong Kong or Iceland where the life expectancy is 79). Jack will be raised in a 4-bedroom house (90% of couple families with young children live in a house, average number of bedrooms is 4.1) and he has a 35% chance of being sent to a non-government school.

Or is it 36 year old Michelle?

If someone was randomly chosen from all 21 million Australians the highest chance is that it would be a 36 year old female (there are more females aged 36 than any male or female cohort of any other age – 164,236 of them!). Based on the most popular girl's name of 1971 our 36 year old is named Michelle. Michelle is married with two children and earns between \$250 and \$399 per week (median gross weekly earnings for a female adult).



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