

The findings of *Women in NSW 2013* point in a number of directions. We invite you to study the Report and make up your own mind.

Women in NSW 2013

Leadership

The NSW economy and key institutions are more likely to perform optimally if leadership is meritorious and diverse, and if organisations make full use of the talents of all, regardless of sex. Currently there is much room for improvement.

Women make up 20 percent of members of the NSW lower house of Parliament, 26 percent of councillors and the Senior Executive Service in the NSW public sector and 34 percent of judges and magistrates.

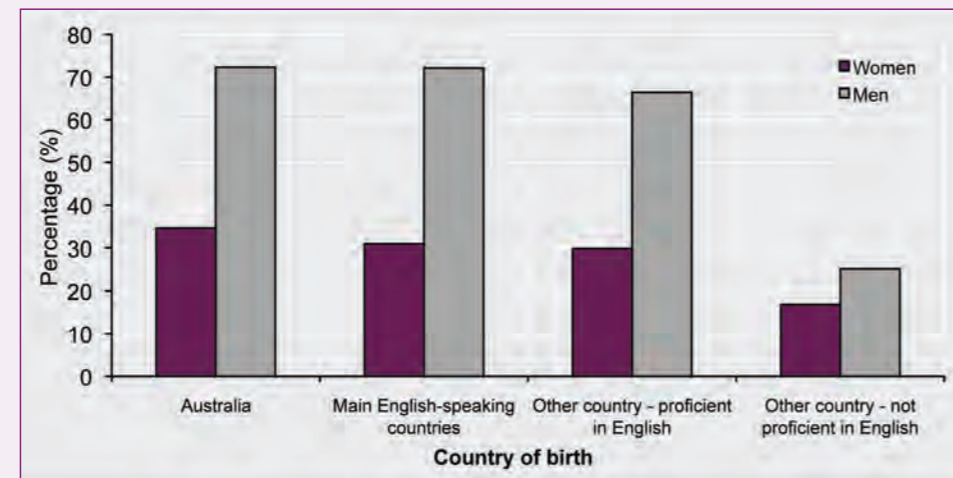
In the corporate sector, they are just 12 percent of directors in the top 500 NSW-registered ASX companies and 18 percent of the top 200 firms.

Safety

Although overall, more men are victims of homicide or physical assault, women are less safe within their homes, families and communities.

- Women make up 69 percent of domestic and family violence victims; men continue to make up 70 percent of perpetrators of recorded DFV offences.
- While 79 percent of female DFV victims are assaulted by another

Safety walking alone after dark, by sex and country of birth, NSW, 2010



Note: Data refers to women and men who feel safe or very safe walking alone in their local area after dark. 'Main English-speaking countries' are United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, United States of America, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. Proficiency in English relates to spoken English only. Population: People in NSW aged 18 years and over. Source: ABS (2011) *General Social Survey*, Cat no. 4159.0 (unpublished data).

male only, 12 percent of females are assaulted by another female only.

The great majority of sexual assault victims are women: 84 percent in the 12 months to September 2012. For both female and male sexual assault victims, the highest proportion of alleged offenders are people they knew.

There are stark disparities between population groups and across NSW's regions. Aboriginal women are far more likely to be victims of DFV assault. They

also make up a higher percentage of offenders and prisoners.

Women born overseas who are not proficient English speakers report feelings of insecurity more frequently: 61 percent feel unsafe at home alone after dark, compared to 79 percent of all women and 91 percent of all men.

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Overview of the annual report on women's progress towards equality in NSW

Women in NSW 2013 informs the debate about how we can improve opportunities for women and girls in government, business and the community.

Pru Goward MP
Minister for Women
Minister for Family and Community Services



About the Report

Women in NSW 2013 is the second report in an annual series.

The Women in NSW reports are a widely accessible compendium on NSW women's social outcomes across 90 indicators covering health, education, work, leadership, and safety.

They demonstrate the NSW Government's commitment to track progress on women's outcomes and gender equity in NSW, based on rigorous analysis of evidence.

Drawing on administrative records and survey data from the ABS and elsewhere, they are designed to be used by government, the community, students and educators, and the people of NSW.

This factsheet highlights some key findings; the full report can be downloaded at the Women NSW website, www.women.nsw.gov.au.

A profile of NSW women

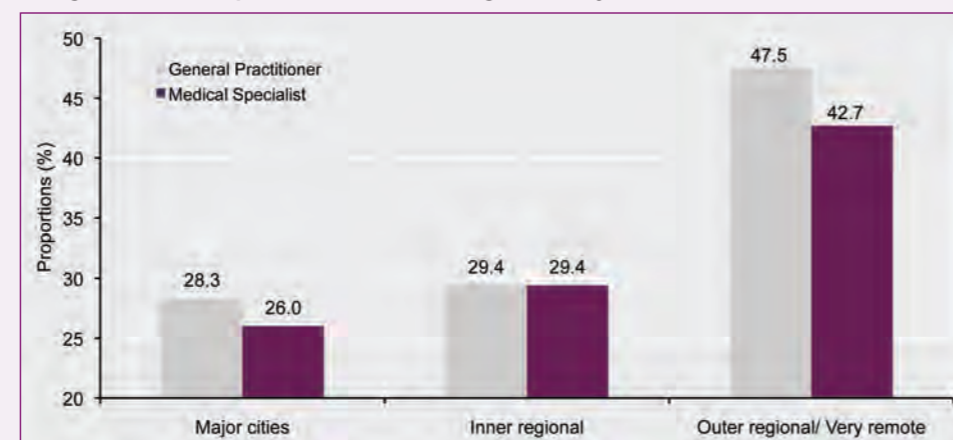
The 2011 Census found there were 3.5 million women in NSW, representing nearly 51 percent of the state's population.

NSW is highly urbanised:

- 64 percent of women live in Sydney, the largest city in Australia
- 12 percent live in the Hunter Valley and Illawarra
- 24 percent live in regional areas and remote areas.

The 2011 Census showed a significant increase (25 percent) in the number of Aboriginal women living in NSW since

Longer than acceptable doctor waiting times by location, NSW women, 2012



Population: Women 15 years and over who used medical services for urgent medical care for their own health, or were referred to health services in the last 12 months.
Data source: ABS (2013) Patient Experiences in Australia, 2011-12. Cat no. 4839.0, unpublished data for NSW.

the previous 2006 Census. Aboriginal women now make up 2.5 percent of the female population.

Over a quarter of NSW women were born overseas with nearly two-thirds of those who arrived between 2002 and 2011 coming from Asian countries. Thirty-eight percent of women in Sydney in 2011 spoke a language other than English at home compared with 9 percent of women in the rest of NSW.

The median age of NSW women was 38.3 years – nearly two years older than the median age of men.

While generally women are having children at a later age and teenage birth rates are declining, the situation varies across regions. In remote areas of NSW, teenage birth rates are 4 to 5 times higher than in central metropolitan areas.

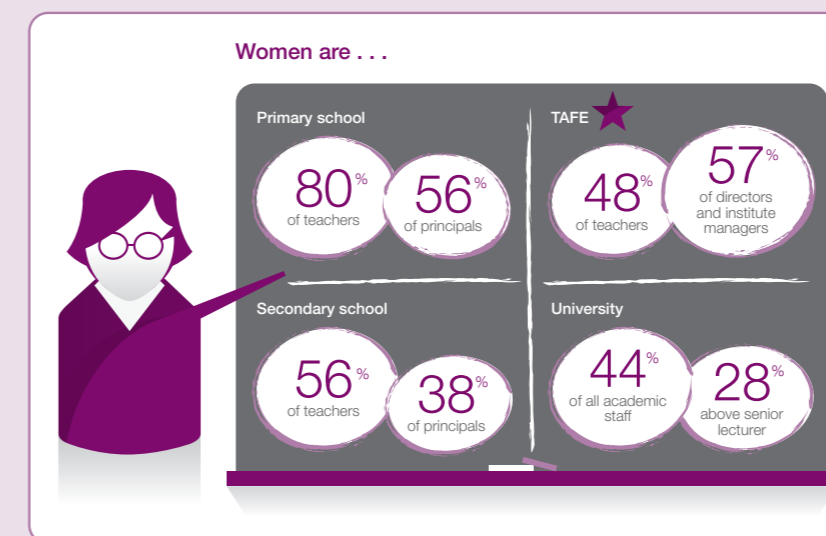
Health and wellbeing

This year's Report looks at aspects of health and wellbeing of particular relevance to women, or where service use is different for women and men. This year's health Focus Topic (in-depth section) is antenatal and maternal health.

Notable gender comparisons include:

- women are more likely to suffer from arthritis, long and short sightedness and osteoporosis
- older women are nearly one and a half times more likely than older men to be hospitalised overnight due to injuries resulting from a fall
- young women are more likely than men to require hospitalisation as a result of the fast-growing disease, Chlamydia
- the worrying upward trend in young women's self-inflicted injury rate has not levelled off. In 2011-12, 410 young women/100,000

Women in education, NSW



Source: NSW Department of Education and Communities, *Workforce profile*, as at June 2012; Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, *Selected Higher Education Statistics (Staff)* as at 2011.

were hospitalised annually for intentional self-harm, compared to 148/100,000 young men.

Women's low rates of physical activity compared to wellbeing guidelines remains an issue; recent improvement in this indicator has mainly been among women from higher socio-economic groups.

However, NSW women engage in other healthy behaviours more often than men. Fewer women than men smoke (13 percent compared to 17 percent of men in 2011), around half as many women as men engage in risky drinking, and fewer women than men are overweight and obese (45 percent of women compared to 60 percent of men in 2011).

Education

Tracking progress in educational participation and achievement is an important goal of the *Women in NSW* reports.

Overall, NSW girls and women are participating strongly in education and achieving well at all levels:

- 59 percent of adult NSW women in 2012 had a post-school qualification, compared to 54 percent nationally
- in undergraduate course enrolments in 2011, women led men with a 13 percentage point gap
- more women than men participate in vocational education and training courses.

However, in a major turnaround, boys had a higher year 12 completion rate than girls in 2011 for the first time in the past decade. Since 2010 the percentage of low socio-economic status boys (but not girls) staying on at school has risen sharply. Changed school leaving requirements partly explain this.

Girls' narrow subject choices pose a risk to the Australian economy, as well as to women's workforce equality. 31 per cent of girls matriculated from NSW high schools with science, technology, engineering and maths subjects in 2012, compared to 45 percent of boys - a wider gap than last year.

Work

Indicators in this section of the Report were supplemented this year by new data on parents' access to and use of flexible work arrangements, childcare and Parental Leave Pay.

These indicators highlight the extent of NSW's women's reliance on part-time work. In 2013 women make up 70 percent of NSW's part-time workers. Two-fifths of employed mothers with children aged 12 years or younger use part-time work to help care for children (2011 figures). The comparable rate among fathers was 5 percent.

Gender pay gaps remain among full-time workers. In 2012 women earned:

- \$2.80 or nearly 8 percent less than men hourly
- \$241 or 16 percent less than men weekly
- \$10,000 or 15 percent less than men annually (2011 data).