Gender Country Profile

Australia

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General

Total female population over 15 (CIA, 2015): 9,253,793

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2012) (CIA, 2015): 7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2012) (CIA, 2015): 4.43


Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.2%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.1%


Education


Male school participation rate from kindergarten to age 14 (2014) (Government of Australia, 2014b): 100.2%
Female school participation rate from kindergarten to age 14 (2014) (Government of Australia, 2014b): 99.9%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 131.64%
Male apparent progression rate in school, grades 10–12 (2014) (Government of Australia, 2014b): 74.1%
Female apparent progression rate in school, grades 10–12 (2014) (Government of Australia, 2014b): 80%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 100.56%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2011): 57.3%

Students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 20.3%

Primary and secondary teachers who are male (2014b): 77,618
Primary and secondary teachers who are female (2014b): 186,447.1

**Economic Activity**

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 71%
Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 58%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution: NA
Women who have an account in a formal financial institution: NA

**Decision-Making**

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 26%

**Human Rights**

Girls married before 15: NA
Females married between 15 and 19: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 2.7%
Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 39.5%
Gender Gaps

Health
Australians generally enjoy access to sufficient health services and have one of the longest life expectancies in the Commonwealth, yet the average life expectancy of Aboriginal women in Australia is approximately 20 years lower than that of non-Aboriginal Australian women (Virtual Medical Center, 2014).

Education
In 2014, the retention rate for Grades 11 and 12 was 65.7% for Indigenous males and 67.3% for Indigenous females; these figures compare with 79.8% for non-Indigenous males and 85% for non-Indigenous females (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014b).

Australian women are out-performing their male counterparts in higher education, with approximately 58% of university graduates being female. However, only 67% of working-age females are employed, compared to 78% of working-age males (Workplace Gender Equality Agency, 2013).

Economic
Women are extremely underrepresented in senior management positions. In 2012 (the most recent available data), among the 200 largest public companies in Australia, only 12.3% of directors were women (an increase from 8.4% in 2010); among the 500 largest public companies, women held only 9.2% of the directorships (Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency, 2012).

There is a gender disparity in wages in Australia, reaching 35% in some industries (World Economic Forum, 2013, p. 120).

Decision-Making
According to the Human Rights Law Centre in 2011, only 33.4% of representatives on government boards were female.

Human Rights
According to UN Women, violence “is one of the leading causes of death for Australian women” (UN Women, National Committee Australia, n.d.). Approximately one in three Australian women have experienced physical violence, and approximately one in five have experienced sexual violence (UN Women, 2012).

Australia’s Aboriginal women face even greater challenges in this regard. The Human Rights Law Centre (2011) notes that they are up to 35 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of spousal or partner violence than non-Aboriginal women, and they are more vulnerable to suffering poverty, disadvantage, marginalisation, and systemic barriers.
References


