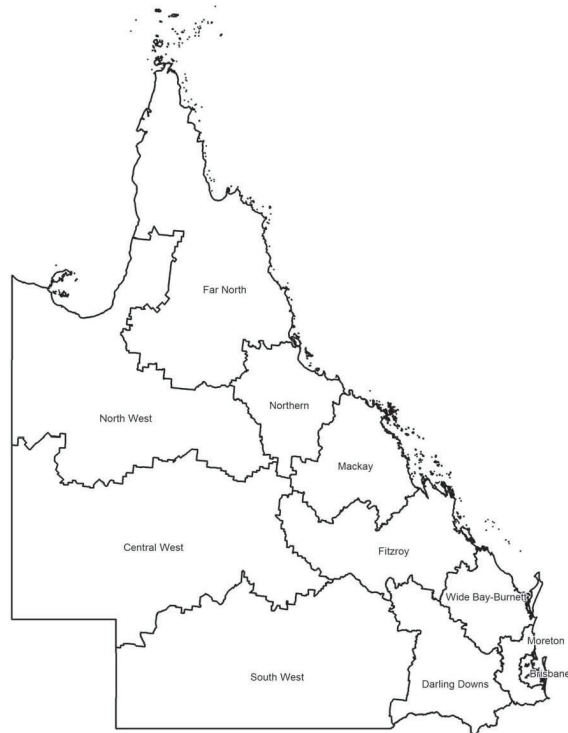




CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

A Centre for Advocacy Research & Education in Social Policy and Ethics

A Scan of Disadvantage in Queensland



**A report by
the Centre for Social Justice
for UnitingCare Queensland October 2006**

About the Centre for Social Justice

The Centre for Social Justice was established by UnitingCare Queensland in 2001 to promote a just and compassionate community through social justice advocacy, research and education. These tools are used as means to highlight social justice concerns and to promote more appropriate approaches to the delivery of human services both within UnitingCare Queensland and wider societal contexts. The Centre has undertaken a number of significant research and advocacy projects in the areas of child protection, homelessness, prison release policy, and home and family services for children with significant disabilities. More information about the Centre is available on its web page at <http://www.ucareqld.com.au/socialjustice/>

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Acknowledgements

The authors thank Anne Cross, Director of UnitingCare Queensland, for her interest in the spatial dimensions of disadvantage and for commissioning this research. Greg Mackay and Tilly Igras of the Centre for Social Justice provided direction, timely advice, and editorial and production support which were important in shaping and finalising the project. Finally, we are grateful to Lynn Collins and Glen Heyen of the Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury, for the provision of data and technical assistance.

The information in this report can be used to further knowledge and services for people experiencing poverty or homelessness. Any photocopying of parts of the document should include where the information has come from and the date of publication.

Published October 2006 by UnitingCare Qld Centre for Social Justice,
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Executive Summary

This report has been written to identify the dimensions of spatial disadvantage in Queensland and to inform future service delivery and research work to be undertaken by UnitingCare Queensland. The report analyses disadvantage in Queensland using three different methods:

1. Analysis of the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA);
2. Analysis of some general indicators of disadvantage; and
3. Analysis of some specific indicators of disadvantage relevant to older people.

The first three sections of the report use the SEIFA indexes, which have been constructed from 2001 Census data. Our particular focus is on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD). Analysis is conducted at the Statistical Local Area level (450 smaller spatial units within Queensland) and the Statistical Division level (11 larger regions within Queensland).

At the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level, the analysis reveals specific pockets of disadvantage across the state. Indigenous communities are experiencing particularly acute disadvantage, registering SEIFA scores significantly lower than those recorded in other parts of Queensland. In addition, there are some very disadvantaged areas within the south west of Brisbane and Logan City, and suburbs experiencing particular disadvantage within other cities and towns across Queensland.

At a Statistical Division (SD) level, the analysis identifies the Wide Bay-Burnett and North West regions as the most disadvantaged in Queensland, based on consideration of a wide range of factors contributing to socio-economic disadvantage.

In Section 4, we consider the spatial distribution of an array of attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment and other variables that reflect general disadvantage. The data presented reveal the strong correlation between areas in Queensland registering low IRSD scores (defined as relatively disadvantaged compared to other areas) and areas experiencing disadvantage in the general domains of education, employment, housing and income.

Section 5 of the report is concerned with disadvantage as experienced by older people (aged 65 years and above) in Queensland. The rationale for this focus is to provide UnitingCare Queensland with precise information about the needs of one of its main service groups. The research literature on disadvantage does not pay adequate attention to the specific causes and dimensions of disadvantage among older people. For example, the disadvantage indicators used in the second section of the report are more relevant to a cohort below retirement age. For this reason, the following indicators of disadvantage form the basis of our analysis in Section 5:

- Life expectancy of Indigenous older people;
- The proportion of older people in rental accommodation;
- The proportion of older people living alone;
- The proportion of older people without a vehicle;
- Older people and English proficiency; and
- The proportion of older people in generally disadvantaged communities.

The data show that the region in Queensland with the highest proportion of residents aged 65 years and over is Wide Bay-Burnett. As this is Queensland's most disadvantaged region across all age groups it is likely that a number of older residents are experiencing disadvantage. In terms of Indigenous older people, their life expectancy at birth is up to 20 years lower than the life expectancy for non-Indigenous Australians, with those living in remote communities having a lower life expectancy than those living in urban areas.

The report concludes with a discussion of how to build on this research in order to support effective policy, planning and service delivery for UnitingCare Queensland, which gives due regard to the spatial dimensions of disadvantage. It is imperative that these processes pay increased attention to the role of place in creating and perpetuating disadvantage.

Introduction to the Report

This report has been written to identify the dimensions of spatial disadvantage in Queensland and to inform future service delivery and research work to be undertaken by UnitingCare Queensland. The report analyses disadvantage in Queensland using three different methods:

1. Analysis of the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA);
2. Analysis of some general indicators of disadvantage; and
3. Analysis of some specific indicators of disadvantage relevant to older people.

The report is largely statistical in nature, and draws heavily on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing 2001. The Census is conducted every five years in order to accurately measure the number of people in Australia on Census Night, their key characteristics, and the dwellings in which they live. It is the principal source of data for small geographic areas in Australia. The current report will be updated in early 2008, when the 2006 Census data is released.

The main body of the report focuses on the most disadvantaged Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in Queensland. While the report contains limited analysis of the distribution of disadvantage across different locations, we would encourage readers to examine how their local area fares against other parts of the state. Local knowledge is an important prism through which to consider the likely causes of spatial disadvantage and the match or mismatch between community need and the quantum and type of services provided.

The final section of the report provides a database of research approaches and resources to support a commitment by UnitingCare Queensland to integrate place-based analysis into policy development and planning. This commitment stems from our belief that Australian society must be guided by a commitment to justice, full participation by its citizens in its shared life and a particular concern for those who are most disadvantaged and marginalised (Uniting Care Australia, 2000: 5). Fulfilling this commitment requires that we recognise the increasing association between the experience of being disadvantaged or marginalised and where one lives. Smith (1994) argues that geography is deeply implicated in the creation of human difference and it must therefore be given serious attention in any discussion of social justice. Place is important in people's lives and injustice occurs when disadvantage is concentrated in particular communities and there are pronounced spatial variations in opportunities which are important to people's well-being and life chances. If we determine that injustice has a territorial basis it is important that we respond to the "value-spread that opened up for some, and shut off for others, the sweet life" (Wretford Watson, 1983: 391).

1. Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

1.1 What are SEIFA indexes?

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are measures which summarise a range of socio-economic variables associated with disadvantage in a geographic area. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has compiled four different SEIFA indexes from data collected in the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Each index has been derived using Principal Components Analysis and summarises a different aspect of socio-economic conditions in an area. All of the indexes have been constructed so that relatively disadvantaged areas have low index values. The four SEIFA 2001 indexes are:

- The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage;
- The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage/Disadvantage;
- The Index of Economic Resources; and
- The Index of Education and Occupation.

The focus of the research presented in this report is the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD). Before moving to a detailed discussion of the IRSD it is important to note that the indexes are ordinal, as opposed to interval, measures. As a result, while the indexes can be used to rank areas in terms of disadvantage, any other arithmetic relationships between index values may not be meaningful. For example, we cannot say that an area which has an index score of 600 is twice as disadvantaged as another area which has a score of 1200. Nor can we say that the socio-economic difference between two areas with index values of 800 and 900, is necessarily the same as the difference between two areas with index values of 1,000 and 1,100 (ABS, 2006). It is also important to recognise that the indexes do not capture all aspects of socio-economic disadvantage. First, the indexes contain only limited information on wealth. While income and expenditure are included, aspects such as inherited wealth, savings, indebtedness, and property values are not. Second, an area's infrastructure - such as schools, community services, shops and transport - is not represented. Finally, the indexes do not capture difference in cost of living across different areas (ABS, 2001a).

1.2 The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage. High scores on the IRSD occur when the area has few families of low income and few people with little training and in unskilled occupations. Low scores on the index occur when the area has many low-income families and people with little training who are unemployed or in unskilled occupations. It is important to understand that a high score reflects lack of disadvantage rather than advantage or high advantage. To find areas that are relatively more advantaged the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage/Disadvantage should be used (ABS, 2001a: 3).

The following list (ABS 2001a: Appendix 1) contains the variables underlying the IRSD. The variables are ranked by the value of their weight to indicate the contribution of each variable to the index.

- % persons aged 15 years and over with no qualifications (0.31)
- % families with offspring having parental income less than \$15,600 (0.29)
- % females (in labour force) unemployed (0.27)
- % males (in labour force) unemployed (0.27)
- % employed males classified as 'Labourer & Related Workers' (0.27)
- % employed females classified as 'Labourer & Related Workers' (0.27)
- % one parent families with dependent offspring only (0.25)
- % persons aged 15 years and over who left school at or under 15 years of age (0.25)
- % employed males classified as 'Intermediate Production & Transport Workers' (0.24)
- % families with income less than \$15,600 (0.23)
- % households renting (government authority) (0.22)
- % persons aged 15 years and over separated or divorced (0.19)
- % dwellings with no motor cars at dwelling (0.19)
- % employed females classified as 'Intermediate Production & Transport Workers' (0.19)
- % persons aged 15 years and over who did not go to school (0.18)
- % Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders (0.18)
- % lacking fluency in English (0.15)
- % employed females classified as 'Elementary Clerical, Sales & Service Workers' (0.13)
- % occupied private dwellings with two or more families (0.13)
- % employed males classified as 'Tradespersons' (0.11)

1.3 Comparing state and national averages

In 2001 the average IRSD score for SLAs in Queensland was 996 with 10 per cent of SLAs falling below a score of 921. This compares to an average IRSD score for all SLAs in Australia of 999. Nationally, 10 per cent of SLAs fell below an IRSD score of 926. Thus the average SLA in Queensland is relatively more disadvantaged than the average Australian SLA while the decile of Queensland SLAs experiencing the highest degree of disadvantage in the state is relatively more disadvantaged than the comparable national decile.

1.4 Constructing quintiles

In this report we have ranked SLAs (from lowest to highest) according to their score on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage. The SLAs have then been grouped in quintile bands which divide the distribution of index values into five equal parts. Quintile 1 represents the 20 per cent of SLAs experiencing the highest degree of relative disadvantage, while Quintile 5 represents the 20 per cent experiencing the lowest degree of relative disadvantage.

2. A State Overview

2.1 Defining Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)

The Statistical Local Area (SLA) is the base spatial unit used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to collect and disseminate statistics other than those collected in the Population Censuses. In census years, an SLA consists of one or more whole Census Collection Districts (CDs). SLAs are based on the boundaries of incorporated local government where these exist. Where there is no incorporated body, SLAs are defined to cover the unincorporated areas. There are 452 SLAs in Queensland and the focus of this section of the report is on those SLAs experiencing the greatest relative disadvantage.

2.2 The most Disadvantaged SLAs in Queensland

Table 1 ranks the thirty Statistical Local Areas experiencing the greatest relative disadvantage in Queensland. The key findings are as follows:

- The Indigenous communities of Aurukun (in the State's Far North), Mornington Island (in the North West) and Palm Island (in the northern waters) are the three most disadvantaged communities in Queensland. The SLAs of Torres (which includes the Torres Strait Islands) and Burke in the North West of Queensland rank as the sixth and seventh most disadvantaged SLAs based on IRSD scores.
- Over half of the 30 SLAs experiencing the greatest relative disadvantage are contained within the Statistical District of Brisbane (a broad geographical area comprising Brisbane City, the Gold Coast, Logan City, Ipswich, Redcliffe City and the Pine Rivers and Redlands Shires). The areas experiencing the most disadvantage are concentrated in Inala and its surrounding suburbs including Wacol, Acacia Ridge, Richlands and Archerfield; SLAs within Logan City including Woodridge, Kingston, Waterford West, Marsden and Loganlea; and the SLA of Eagleby on the Gold Coast.
- Of the 197,000 people resident in the 30 most disadvantaged SLAs on Census night 2001, 41 per cent lived in the five SLAs with the greatest population counts. These five areas are concentrated in Logan City and the Caboolture Shire and comprise: Woodridge (Logan City), Marsden (Logan City), Deception Bay (Caboolture Shire), Caboolture Central (Caboolture Shire) and Kingston (Logan City).

Table 1: 30 Most Disadvantaged Statistical Local Areas in Queensland

SLA	Population	IRSD Score
Aurukun (S)	999	472.08
Mornington (S)	845	595.44
Hinchinbrook (S) - Palm Island	2,098	709.28
Inala	12,420	718.16
Wacol	3,017	746.88
Torres (S)	8,372	772.80
Burke (S)	2,143	776.64
Woodridge	17,967	797.36
Eagleby	8,381	811.68
Kingston	12,459	817.60
Garbutt	2,278	832.24
Mount Morgan (S)	2,776	843.44
Darra-Sumner	3,698	851.12
Acacia Ridge	6,639	865.92
Waterford West	5,356	866.80
Cook (S) (excl. Weipa)	5,819	867.44
Cairns (C) - Pt B	6,775	871.52
Richlands	862	875.04
Vincent	2,642	875.60
Marsden	17,573	876.24
Beenleigh	7,698	879.20
Caboolture (S) – Central	16,519	881.20
Loganlea	7,182	881.52
Carpentaria (S)	3,589	882.24
Archerfield	586	886.16
Tiaro (S)	4,467	886.24
Murgon (S)	4,572	886.40
Deception Bay	16,741	893.76
Herberton (S)	5,110	894.64
Zillmere	7,509	900.40

Source: ABS 2001b

2.3 Regional concentration of disadvantage

Table 2 examines the concentration of SLAs experiencing varying degrees of relative disadvantage within broader geographical constructs known as Statistical Divisions (SDs). In Section 3 we explain how these areas have been determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and provide a map of Queensland showing the boundaries of the eleven SDs it contains.

To construct Table 2, the 452 SLAs in Queensland were ranked from the most to the least disadvantaged according to their IRSD score. The SLAs were then grouped in quintile bands where Quintile 1 represented the 20 per cent of SLAs experiencing the highest degree of relative disadvantage and Quintile 5 represented the 20 per cent experiencing the lowest degree of relative disadvantage. Finally, we used the Australian Standard Geographical Classification System (ABS, 2001c) to map each SLA into its correct Statistical Division.

Table 2 reports what proportion of SLAs in each Statistical Division were in each quintile of disadvantage. The results show that the distribution of disadvantage was most concentrated in the Wide Bay-Burnett SD in which 62 per cent of the area's SLAs were in the most disadvantaged quintile (Quintile 1) and 87 per cent of SLAs were in quintiles 1 and 2. Similarly, the North West (50 per cent) and Far North (43 per cent) had a significant proportion of their SLAs in Quintile 1. By contrast, two-thirds of the SLAs in the Brisbane Statistical District were in the two quintiles experiencing the least relative disadvantage (Quintiles 4 and 5). Tables 1 and 2 illustrate the diversity of socio-economic conditions within geographic areas and underscore the importance of being clear on the nature and location of disadvantage when designing policy or service interventions.

Table 2: Proportion of SLAs within Queensland's Statistical Divisions by Quintile of Disadvantage

Statistical Divisions	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
Brisbane	1,619,413	14%	9%	11%	21%	45%
Moreton	728,940	18%	17%	25%	26%	14%
Wide Bay–Burnett	232,982	62%	25%	13%	-	-
Darling Downs	200,947	10%	27%	40%	10%	13%
South West	26,596	20%	30%	40%	10%	-
Fitzroy	180,910	23%	23%	38%	15%	-
Central West	13,545	18%	18%	55%	9%	-
Mackay	139,227	22%	22%	44%	11%	-
Northern	186,242	19%	28%	28%	8%	17%
Far North	227,289	43%	14%	14%	19%	10%
North West	36,521	50%	25%	25%	-	-

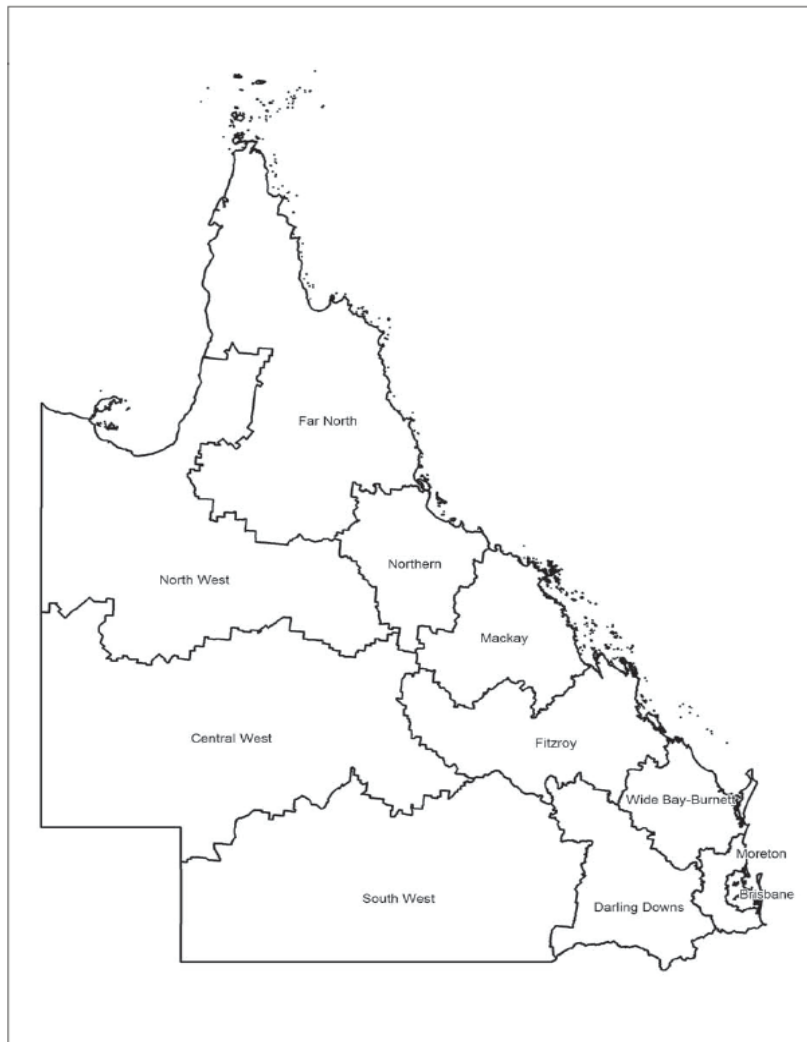
Source: ABS 2001b

3. Analysis of Queensland's Statistical Divisions

The Statistical Division (SD) is a general purpose spatial unit defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. A capital city SD is defined to contain the anticipated development of the city for a period of at least 20 years. SDs outside a capital city are defined as a relatively homogenous region characterised by identifiable social and economic links between the inhabitants and between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities (ABS, 2001c). The SD is the largest and most stable spatial unit within each State and Territory. As shown in Map 1, there are 11 SDs in Queensland (excluding the 'Off Shore Areas and Migratory' SD).

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Brisbane | 7. Central West |
| 2. Moreton | 8. Mackay |
| 3. Wide Bay-Burnett | 9. Northern |
| 4. Darling Downs | 10. Far North |
| 5. South West | 11. North West |
| 6. Fitzroy | |

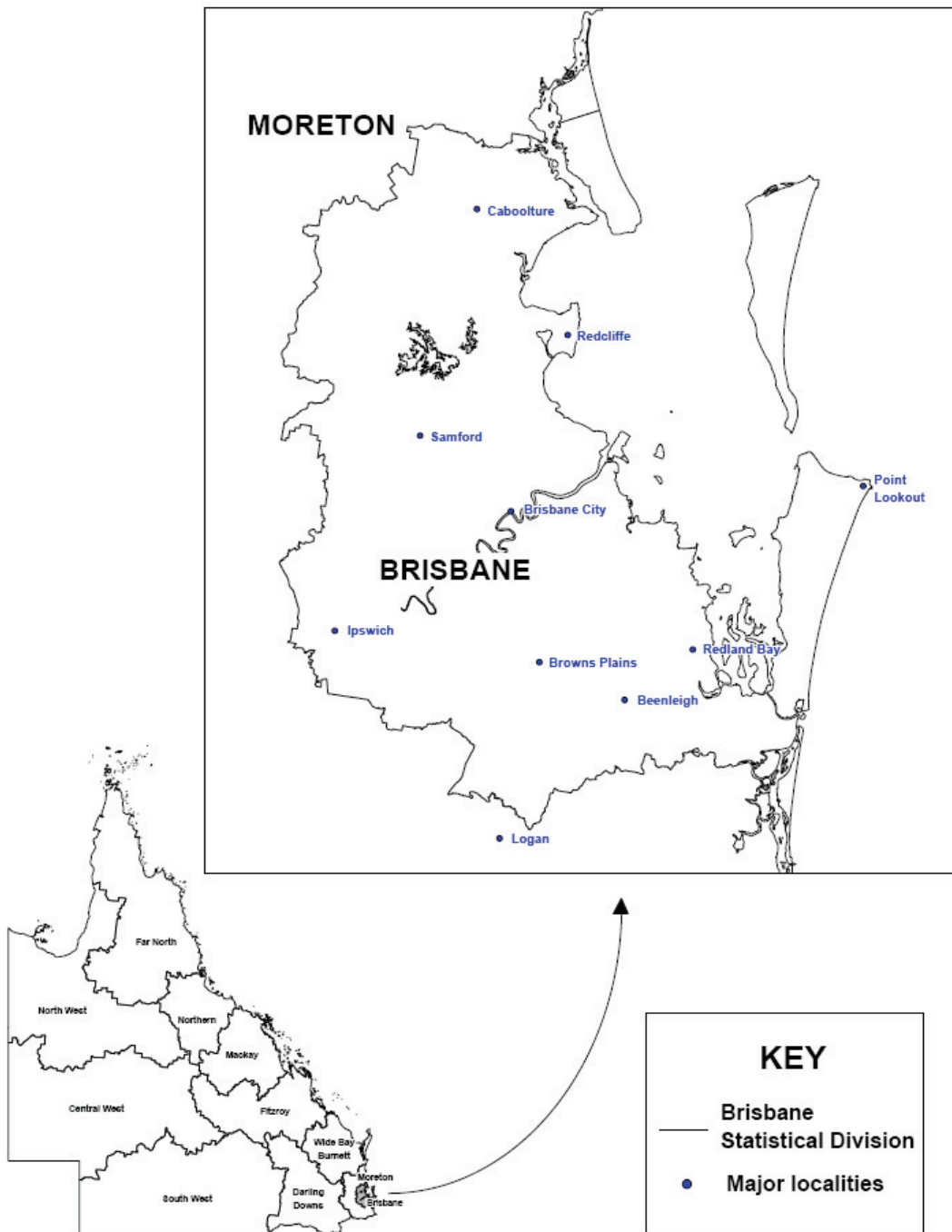
Map 1: Queensland's Statistical Divisions (SDs)



3.1 Brisbane Statistical Division

Map 2 is a more detailed picture of the Brisbane Statistical Division; its major localities (including Brisbane City, Caboolture, Redcliffe, Ipswich and Logan) and its contiguity with the SD of Moreton. Brisbane is the most heavily populated of Queensland's 11 SDs and has the highest share of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) experiencing the least relative disadvantage.

Map 2: Brisbane Statistical Division



In Table 3 we group the SLAs within the Brisbane Statistical Division (SD) by disadvantage quintile. This table was constructed by ranking all Queensland SLAs, from the most to the least disadvantaged according to their score on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage. The Brisbane SD contains 224 of Queensland's 452 SLAs. Table 4 shows that while 45 percent of SLAs within the Brisbane SD were in the least disadvantaged quintile (Quintile 5), the Division contains pockets of relatively high disadvantage with 32 SLAs (14 per cent) in Quintile 1. These SLAs are concentrated in:

- The south west suburbs of Brisbane – Inala, Wacol, Darra-Sumner, Acacia Ridge, Archerfield, Richlands, Rocklea and Willawong;
- Logan City – Woodridge, Kingston and Marsden;
- Beenleigh – Eagleby and Waterford West; and
- Caboolture – Caboolture Central, Deception Bay and Morayfield.

Table 3: Brisbane Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score	Cont.	
		SLA	IRSD Score
Inala	718.20	Rocklea	910.20
Wacol	746.85	Willawong	918.79
Woodridge	797.35	Redland (S) Bal	920.52
Eagleby	811.70	Margate-Woody Point	922.44
Kingston	817.63	Pinkenba-Eagle Farm	924.41
Darra-Sumner	851.13	Greenbank-Boronia	929.07
Acacia Ridge	865.93	Murarrie	929.54
Waterford West	866.77	Ipswich (C) - East	931.52
Richlands	875.06	Morayfield	935.01
Marsden	876.26	Woolloongabba	941.92
Beenleigh	879.23	Chermside	942.74
Caboolture (S) - Central	881.19	Clontarf	943.70
Loganlea	881.51	Logan (C) Bal	946.22
Archerfield	886.14	Bethania-Waterford	946.82
Deception Bay	893.78	Deagon	948.62
Zillmere	900.38		
Durack	901.99		

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Ipswich (C) - Central	951.31
Slacks Creek	952.20
Hemmant-Lytton	953.69
Nudgee Beach	954.55
Thorneside	956.63
Redcliffe-Scarborough	957.12
Bribie Island	959.27
Lawnton	959.81
Edens Landing-Holmview	962.58
Rothwell-Kippa-Ring	962.74
Browns Plains	965.10
Stafford	965.99
Coopers Plains	967.66
Tanah Merah	968.60
Caboolture (S) - East	972.56
Wynnum West	972.97
Mt Warren Park	974.90
Banyo	975.64
Keperra	975.69

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score	SLA	IRSD Score
Dutton Park	977.73	Carina Heights	998.15
Brighton	980.31	Nundah	999.23
Strathpine-Brendale	981.04	Pallara-Heathwood-Larapinta	999.62
Dakabin-Kallangur-M. Downs	981.50	Capalaba	1001.37
Underwood	981.87	South Brisbane	1002.49
Northgate	982.31	Alexandra Hills	1002.70
West End (Brisbane)	989.20	Lota	1003.62
Bray Park	991.93	Nudgee	1003.85
Sandgate	993.05	Boondall	1004.37
Lutwyche	995.02	Salisbury	1004.49
Bald Hills	995.58	Taigum-Fitzgibbon	1004.57
Wynnum	995.67	Fortitude Valley - Remainder	1005.68

Quintile 4

SLA	IRSD Score	SLA	IRSD Score
Stafford Heights	1007.93	Manly West	1019.76
Sunnybank	1008.79	Greenslopes	1020.37
Runcorn	1009.24	Bracken Ridge	1021.83
Burpengary-Narangba	1009.99	Morningside	1022.50
Annerley	1010.01	Doolandella-	1025.08
Cannon Hill	1010.30	Mount Gravatt	1025.36
Beaudesert (S) - Pt A	1010.32	Eight Mile	1025.93
Manly	1010.71	Cleveland	1026.41
Sunnybank Hills	1011.37	Algester	1026.84
Tingalpa	1011.41	Rochedale	1027.58
Enoggera	1011.50	Victoria Point	1027.66
Virginia	1012.96	East Brisbane	1028.93
Upper Mount Gravatt	1012.97	Capalaba	1029.00
Redland Bay	1013.45	Kedron	1029.30
Mount Gravatt East	1013.85	Moorooka	1029.58
Petrie	1014.87	Nathan	1029.82
Gold Coast (C) Bal in BSD	1014.97	Carina	1029.91
Loganholme	1015.40	Birkdale	1030.09
Robertson	1016.00	Mitchelton	1030.50
Highgate Hill	1016.27	Bowen Hills	1030.61
Holland Park	1016.38	Moreton Island	1031.35
Oxley	1018.54	Caboolture (S)	1033.13
Geebung	1018.73	Ellen Grove	1033.95
MacGregor	1019.07	Wavell Heights	1036.45
Manly West	1019.76		

Quintile 5

SLA	IRSD Score		
Springwood	1038.00	Ascot	1077.80
Thornlands	1038.37	Parkinson-Drewvale	1077.86
Daisy Hill-Priestdale	1039.59	Tarragindi	1080.86
Windsor	1040.87	Gumdale	1081.30
Stretton-Karawatha	1041.45	Albany Creek	1081.45
Griffin-Mango Hill	1043.71	Norman Park	1083.22
Everton Park	1045.26	Hamilton	1084.81
Rochedale	1046.20	Chandler	1085.16
Kangaroo Point	1047.26	Toowong	1085.90
Calamvale	1047.32	Seventeen Mile Rocks	1086.09
Ransome	1047.60	Sherwood	1087.03
Kuraby	1048.21	Balmoral	1088.02
Fortitude Valley - Inner	1048.36	Jindalee	1088.20
Wooloowin	1050.97	Middle Park	1088.45
Carbrook-Cornubia	1051.23	Belmont-Mackenzie	1090.03
Wellington Point	1051.86	Red Hill	1091.28
Windaroo-Bannockburn	1051.90	Hawthorne	1092.04
Shailer Park	1052.90	Central Pine West	1092.27
Aspley	1053.29	Indooroopilly	1093.82
Herston	1054.17	McDowall	1094.41
Yeerongpilly	1054.17	Wilston	1094.82
Hendra	1054.91	Carindale	1095.26
Chermside West	1055.15	Burbank	1095.43
New Farm	1055.30	Mount Ommaney	1095.78
St Lucia	1056.02	Pine Rivers (S) Bal	1096.38
Wakerley	1057.05	Paddington	1097.68
Jamboree Heights	1057.12	Taringa	1099.25
City - Remainder	1057.53	City - Inner	1100.80
Ormiston	1058.44	Grange	1101.45
Fairfield	1058.93	Moggill	1103.21
Albion	1059.26	Upper Kedron	1103.31
Wishart	1059.32	Graceville	1103.65
Newmarket	1060.30	Ashgrove	1104.38
Corinda	1061.07	Karana Downs-Lake Manchester	1106.05
Ipswich (C) - North	1061.34	The Gap (incl. Enoggera Res.)	1106.83
Carseldine	1065.71	Upper Brookfield	1108.85
Sheldon-Mt Cotton	1065.89	Bridgeman Downs	1114.70
Riverhills	1065.90	Kenmore	1116.54
Coorparoo	1066.88	Bellbowrie	1119.56
Spring Hill	1067.22	Chelmer	1121.22
Hills District	1068.78	Bardon	1121.48
Clayfield	1069.06	Westlake	1123.11
Holland Park West	1069.37	Kenmore Hills	1126.61
Milton	1071.02	Anstead	1129.96
Bulimba	1073.06	Newstead	1132.87
Ferny Grove	1073.32	Chapel Hill	1140.63
Yeronga	1075.23	Pinjarra Hills	1145.95
Alderley	1076.30	Fig Tree Pocket	1148.26
Camp Hill	1076.58	Brookfield (incl. Mt C'tha)	1148.49
Kelvin Grove	1077.05	Pullenvale	1151.90

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 4: Proportion of SLAS within the Brisbane SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

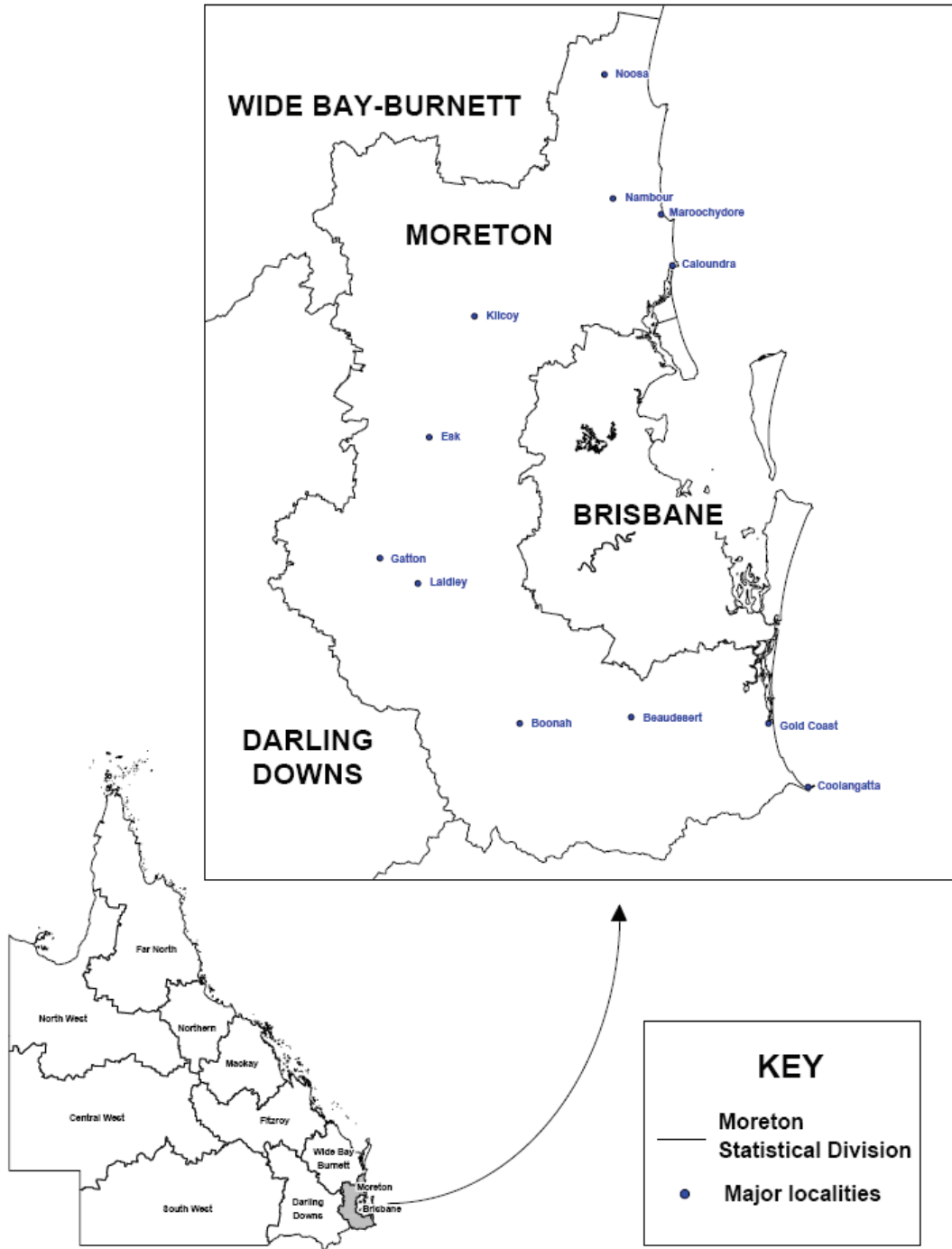
		Quintiles				
Statistical Divisions	Population	1	2	3	4	5
Brisbane	1,619,413	14%	9%	11%	21%	45%

Source: ABS 2001b

3.2 Moreton Statistical Division

The Moreton Statistical Division wraps around the Brisbane SD in Queensland's South East. Map 3 traces the Division's boundaries and highlights its major localities including Noosa, Maroochydore, Kilcoy, Gatton, Beaudesert and the Gold Coast.

Map 3: Moreton Statistical Division



Tables 5 and 6 show the groupings and distribution of SLAs within the Moreton SD. Approximately two-thirds of Moreton's 65 SLAs are located in Quintiles 3, 4 and 5 which are experiencing moderate or lower degrees of relative disadvantage. After the Brisbane and Darling Downs SDs, Moreton has the lowest proportion (14 per cent) of SLAs in the most disadvantaged quintile (Quintile 1). These SLAs are located in:

- Some areas of the Gold Coast – Stephens, Labrador, Bilinga, Coolangatta, Ernest-Molendinar and Biggera Waters;
- Nambour;
- Laidley;
- Maroochydore;
- Esk;
- Kilcoy; and
- Coombabah.

Table 5: Moreton Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Stephens	905.22
Labrador	920.71
Bilinga	930.20
Maroochy (S) - Nambour	934.06
Laidley (S)	934.92
Coolangatta	940.68
Ernest-Molendinar	941.03
Biggera Waters	945.52
Maroochy (S) - Maroochydore	947.16
Esk (S)	948.79
Kilcoy (S)	949.91
Coombabah	951.07

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Caloundra (C) - Caloundra S.	953.53
Caboolture (S) - Pt B	956.71
Palm Beach	957.05
Southport	960.73
Gatton (S)	964.69
Noosa (S) - Tewantin	966.55
Ipswich (C) - West	967.19
Nerang	967.24
Oxenford	967.28
Caloundra (C) - Rail Corridor	969.58
Maroochy (S) - Coastal North	972.11

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Noosa (S) Bal	976.83
Caloundra (C) - Caloundra N.	979.46
Maroochy (S) Bal in S C'st SSD	979.56
Ipswich (C) - South-West	982.11
Tugun	982.38
Caloundra (C) - Kawana	984.35
Miami	984.89
Currumbin Waters	986.02
Coomera -Cedar Creek	989.51
Carrara-Merrimac	989.87
Boonah (S)	994.13
Beaudesert (S) - Pt B	995.73
Caloundra (C) - Hinterland	1000.05
Maroochy (S) Bal	1003.46
Maroochy (S) - Mooloolaba	1005.51
Burleigh Waters	1006.39

Quintile 4

SLA	IRSD Score
Currumbin	1009.06
Arundel	1009.30
Paradise Point	1009.32
Surfers Paradise	1010.46
Broadbeach	1011.08
Burleigh Heads	1011.61
Elanora	1012.38
Mudgeeraba	1015.38
Mermaid Wtrs-Clear Is. Wtrs	1015.61
Ashmore	1018.39
Guanaba-Currumbin Valley	1023.82
Noosa (S) - Sunshine-Peregian	1024.18
Mermaid Beach	1030.33
Worongary-Tallai	1031.45
Runaway Bay	1032.26
Helensvale	1032.50
Maroochy (S) - Buderim	1037.42

Quintile 5

SLA	IRSD Score
Parkwood	1038.18
Noosa (S) - Noosa-Noosaville	1038.26
Robina	1041.49
Hollywell	1044.68
Broadbeach Waters	1046.18
Bundall	1051.62
Benowa	1053.98
Hope Island	1068.18
Main Beach-Broadwater	1093.96

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 6: Proportion of SLAS within the Moreton SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

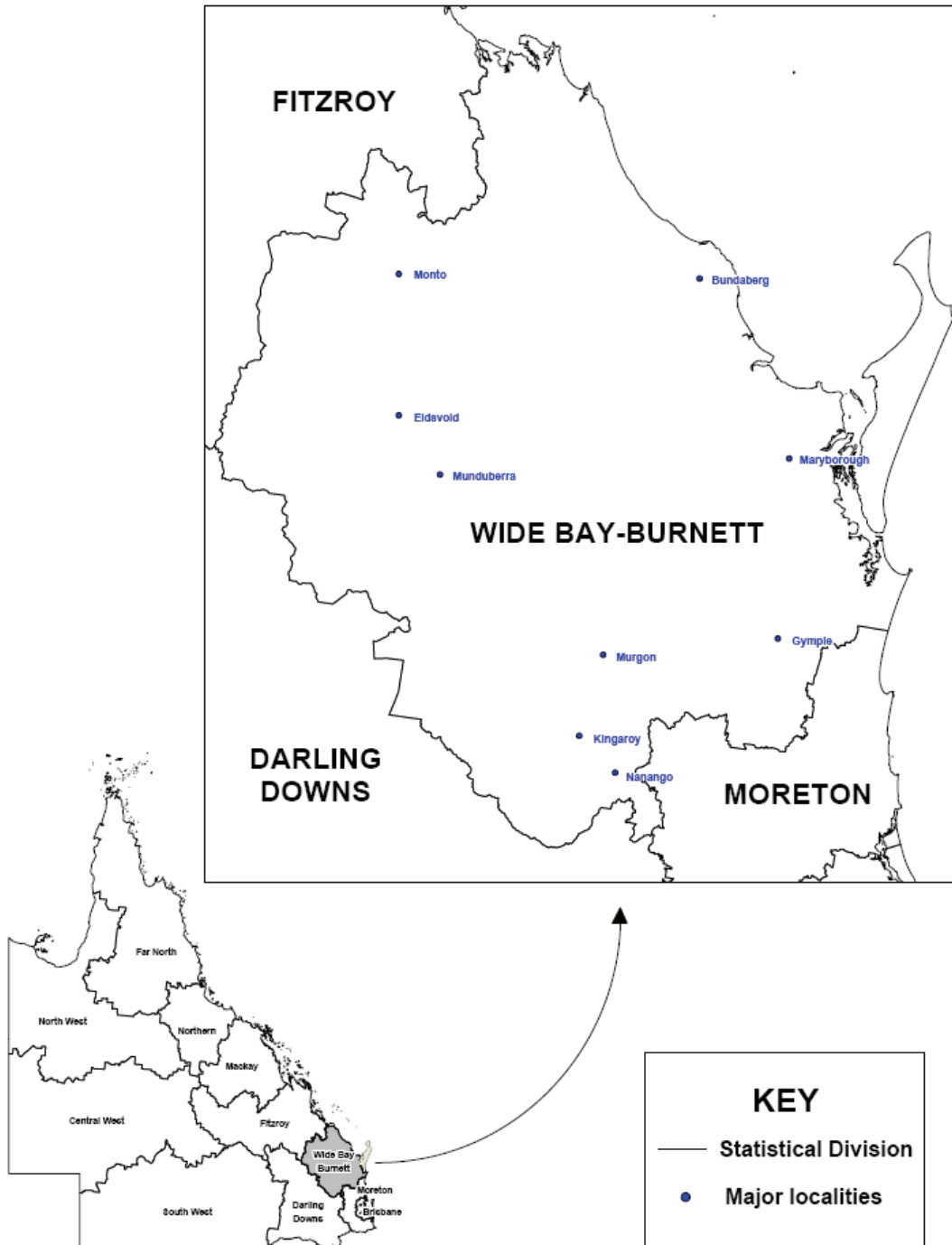
Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
Moreton	728,940	18%	17%	25%	26%	14%

Source: ABS 2001b

3.3 Wide Bay–Burnett Statistical Division

Map 4 provides a detailed picture of the Wide Bay-Burnett SD, which is bounded by Gladstone to the North and the Sunshine Coast to the South. After Brisbane and Moreton, it is the third most populated SD in Queensland. The major localities in the Division are the towns of Gympie, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

Map 4: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division



As discussed in Section 2, Wide Bay-Burnett is the most disadvantaged SD in Queensland in distributional terms. In 2001, fifteen of the Division's 24 SLAs ranked in the quintile experiencing the greatest degree of relative disadvantage (Quintile 1) while no SLAs were situated in the least disadvantaged quintiles (Quintiles 4 and 5).

Within such a highly disadvantaged Division, the areas experiencing the most acute disadvantage include:

- Tiaro, south of Maryborough;
- The largely Indigenous community of Murgon;
- Areas in the west of the Wide Bay-Burnett SD - Eidsvold, Gayndah and Mundubbera;
- Nanango, near Kingaroy; and
- Gympie and parts of Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Maryborough.

Table 7: Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Tiara (S)	886.23
Murgon (S)	886.41
Kolan (S)	907.03
Hervey Bay (C) - Pt B	911.38
Eidsvold (S)	911.71
Miriam Vale (S)	911.98
Gayndah (S)	927.13
Nanango (S)	927.92
Mundubbera (S)	928.72
Coolooloa (S) - Gympie	931.77
Bundaberg (C)	934.70
Kilkivan (S)	946.29
Biggenden (S)	948.14
Maryborough (C)	950.11
Isis (S)	950.60

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Hervey Bay (C) - Pt A	955.23
Coolooloa (S) (excl.)	957.42
Wondai (S)	958.18
Perry (S)	960.80
Burnett (S) - Pt B	963.29
Monto (S)	973.84

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Burnett (S) - Pt A	989.19
Woocoo (S)	992.44
Kingaroy (S)	993.07

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 8: Proportion of SLAS within the Wide Bay-Burnett SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

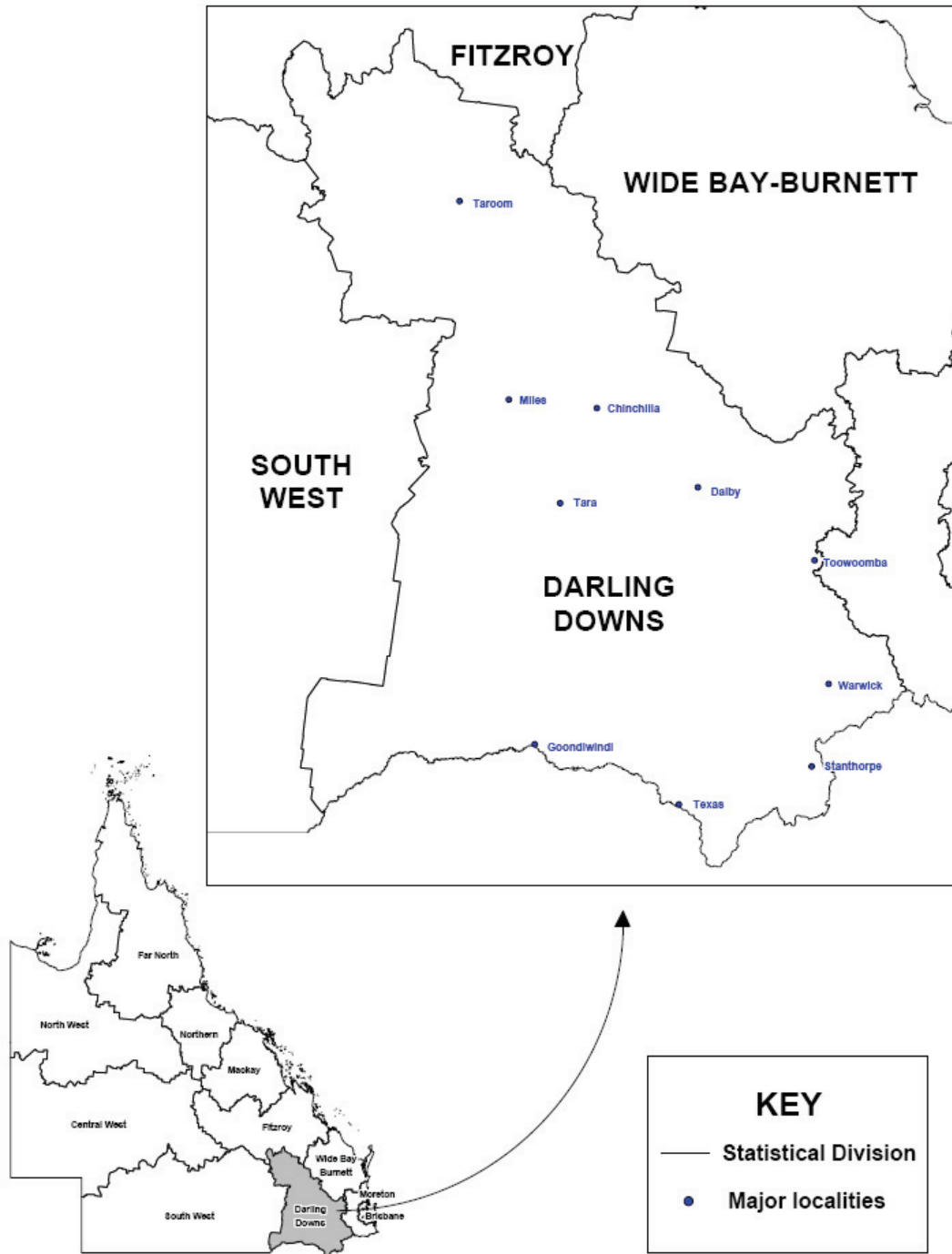
Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
Wide Bay-Burnett	232,982	62%	25%	13%	-	-

Source: ABS 2001b

3.4 Darling Downs Statistical Division

The Darling Downs Statistical Division is an inland area to the west of the Brisbane SD. Map 5 traces the Division's boundaries and highlights its major localities which include Taroom in the North; Miles, Chinchilla and Dalby in the Centre; and Toowoomba and Warwick on the eastern border.

Map 5: Darling Downs Statistical Division



Tables 9 and 10 show the groupings and distribution of SLAs within the Darling Downs SD. The distribution exhibits clustering in the quintiles experiencing moderate levels of relative disadvantage. Forty percent of the Division's 31 SLAs are classified in Quintile 3, while over three-quarters are in the second, third and fourth quintiles. The three SLAs in the quintile experiencing the highest degree of relative disadvantage have IRSD scores which are close to the cut off between Quintiles 1 and 2. These three areas are:

- Tara, west of Dalby;
- A cluster of suburbs in the north west of Toowoomba; and
- Inglewood, west of Toowoomba.

Table 9: Darling Downs Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Tara (S)	918.43
Toowoomba (C) - North-West	936.68
Inglewood (S)	950.27

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Warwick (S) - Central	952.95
Jondaryan (S) - Pt B	953.17
Toowoomba (C) - West	954.03
Stanthorpe (S)	961.43
Rosalie (S) - Pt B	969.26
Toowoomba (C) - Central	970.91
Murilla (S)	975.69
Millmerran (S)	976.17

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Chinchilla (S)	980.14
Warwick (S) - West	983.45
Warwick (S) - North	986.89
Dalby (T)	989.52
Clifton (S)	990.20
Rosalie (S) - Pt A	991.04
Crow's Nest (S) - Pt B	994.15
Goondiwindi (T)	994.68
Wambo (S)	995.60
Taroom (S)	995.73
Pittsworth (S)	996.73

Quintile 4

SLA	IRSD Score
Waggamba (S)	1014.59
Cambooya (S) - Pt A	1025.28
Cambooya (S) - Pt B	1032.12

Quintile 5

SLA	IRSD Score
Jondaryan (S) - Pt A	1040.81
Toowoomba (C) - South-East	1046.40
Toowoomba (C) - North-East	1059.09
Crow's Nest (S) - Pt A	1081.47

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 10: Proportion of SLAS within the Darling Downs SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

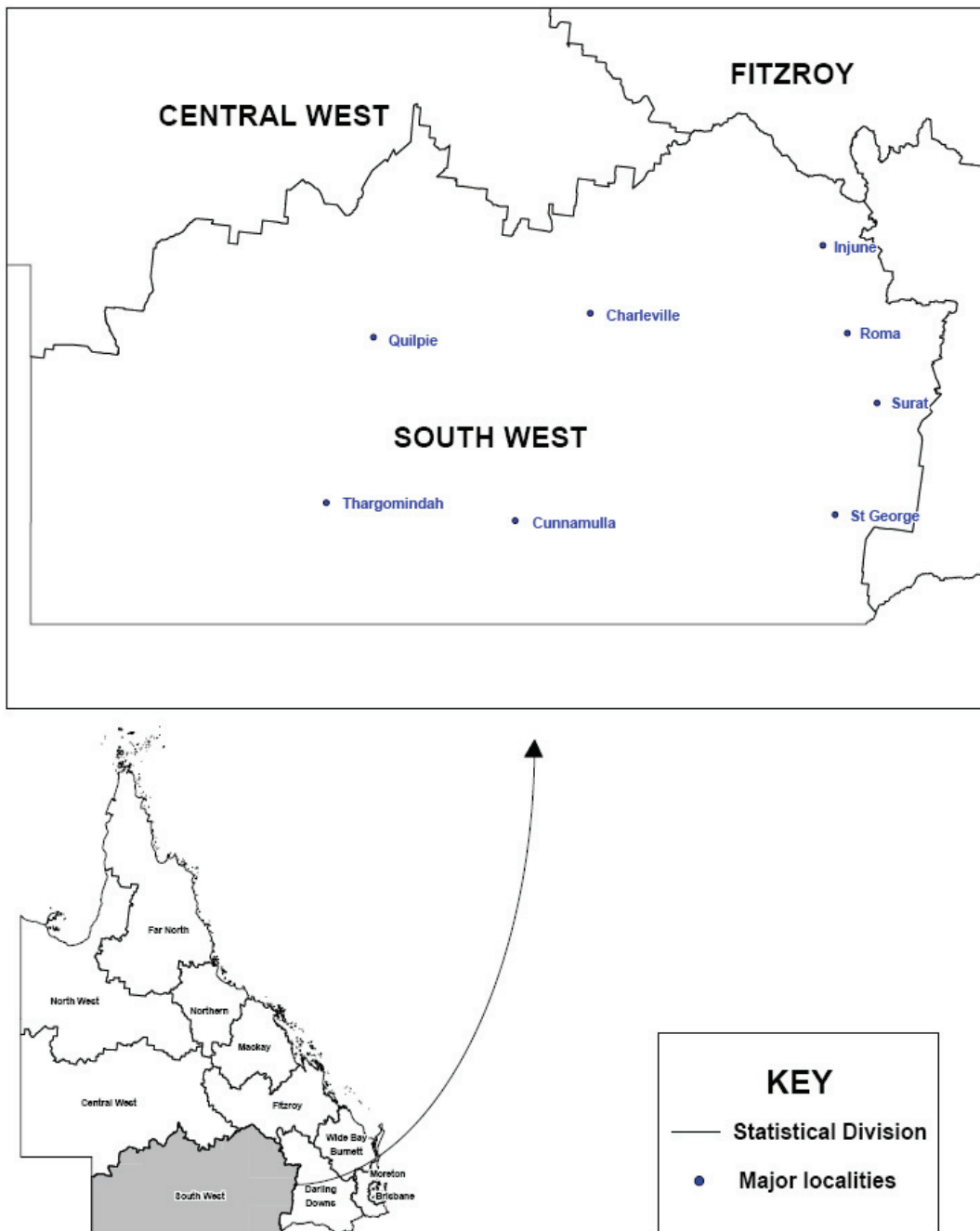
Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
Darling Downs	200,947	10%	27%	40%	10%	13%

Source: ABS 2001b

3.5 South West Statistical Division

As illustrated in Map 6, the South West Statistical Division is bounded by the New South Wales border to the south and the South Australian border to the west. On its northern and eastern boundaries it is contiguous to the SDs of the Central West, Fitzroy and the Darling Downs. Major localities within the South West SD include Roma, St George, Cunnamulla and Charleville.

Map 6: South West Statistical Division



Tables 11 and 12 show that half of the South West's 10 SLAs are ranked in the two most disadvantaged quintiles (Quintiles 1 and 2). At the other end of the disadvantage spectrum, just 1 SLA (Bungil) is ranked in Quintile 4 and there are no SLAs in the quintile experiencing the lowest relative disadvantage. The two areas classified in Quintile 1 are:

- The Paroo Shire, centred on the townships of Cunnamulla, Yowah, Eulo and Wyandra; and
- The Quilpie Shire, on the western bank of the Bulloo River.

Table 11: South West Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Paroo (S)	915.22
Quilpie (S)	946.29

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Murweh (S)	969.64
Bendemere (S)	972.58
Booringa (S)	973.17

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Balonne (S)	978.09
Roma (T)	986.93
Warroo (S)	993.18
Bulloo (S)	995.03

Quintile 4

SLA	IRSD Score
Bungil (S)	1036.44

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 12: Proportion of SLAs within the South West SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

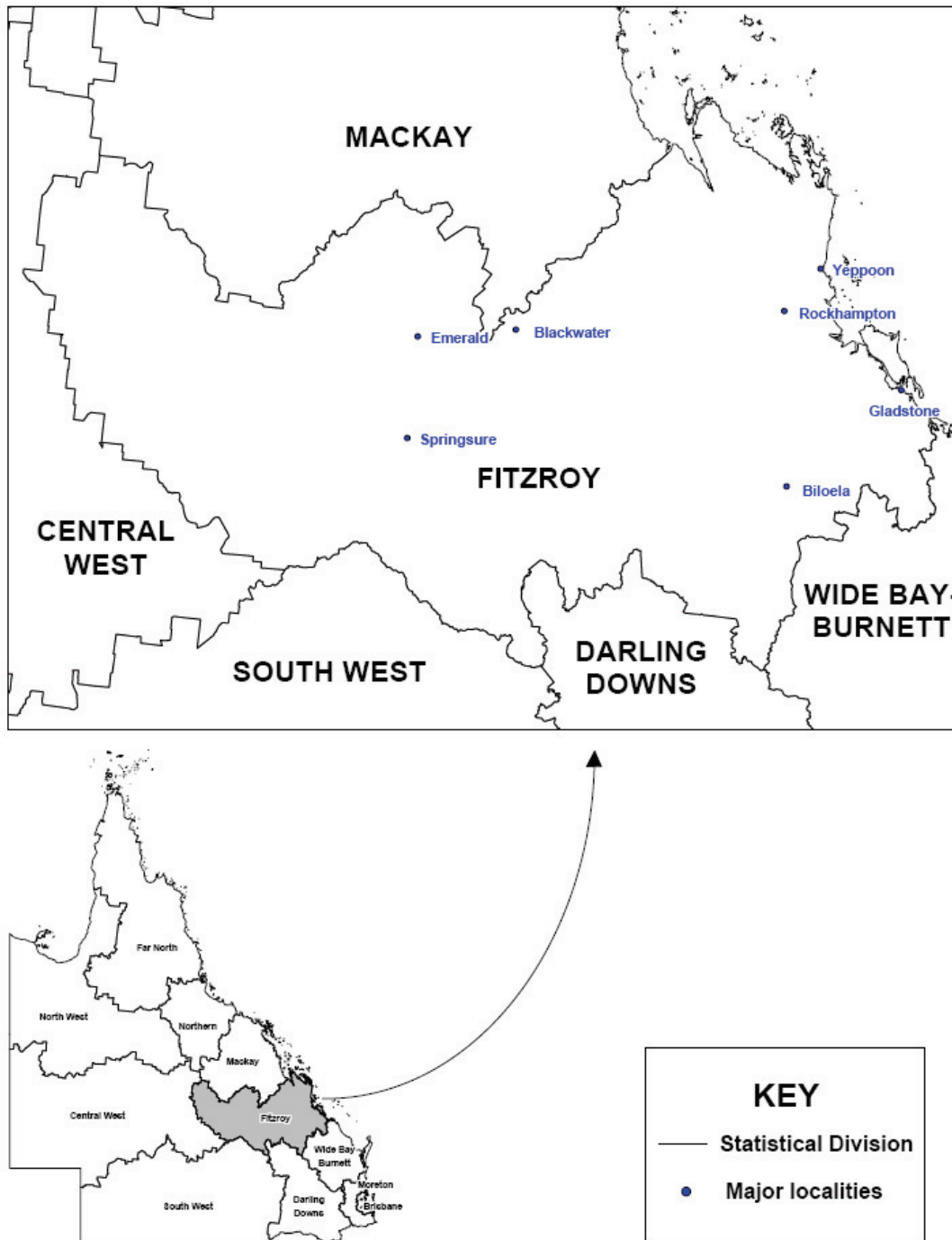
Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
South West	26,596	20%	30%	40%	10%	-

Source: ABS 2001b

3.6 Fitzroy Statistical Division

The Fitzroy Statistical Division begins on Queensland's mid-coast and works its way inland. As shown in Map 7, Rockhampton is the major city in the region and other major localities include the industrial and mining areas of Gladstone and Emerald.

Map 7: Fitzroy Statistical Division



As shown in Tables 13 and 14, the distribution of Fitzroy's 13 SLAs across the quintiles of disadvantage is similar to that of the South West SD. Eleven of the SLAs are ranked in the first, second and third quintiles, indicating high to moderate levels of relative disadvantage. There are just two SLAs in Quintile 4 and none in Quintile 5. The areas within the Fitzroy SD experiencing the highest levels of relative disadvantage are:

- Mt Morgan, south west of Rockhampton, which is the twelfth most disadvantaged SLA in Queensland;
- Duaringa, west of Rockhampton; and
- Part of Calliope, to the south west of Gladstone.

Table 13: Fitzroy Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Mount Morgan (S)	843.45
Duaringa (S)	920.18
Calliope (S) - Pt B	932.43

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Jericho (S)	961.07
Gladstone (C)	963.65
Rockhampton (C)	967.86

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Fitzroy (S) - Pt B	982.82
Banana (S)	984.91
Emerald (S)	991.39
Livingstone (S)	991.54
Calliope (S) - Pt A	993.25

Quintile 4

SLA	IRSD Score
Bauhinia (S)	1007.31
Peak Downs (S)	1015.02

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 14: Proportion of SLAS within the Fitzroy SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

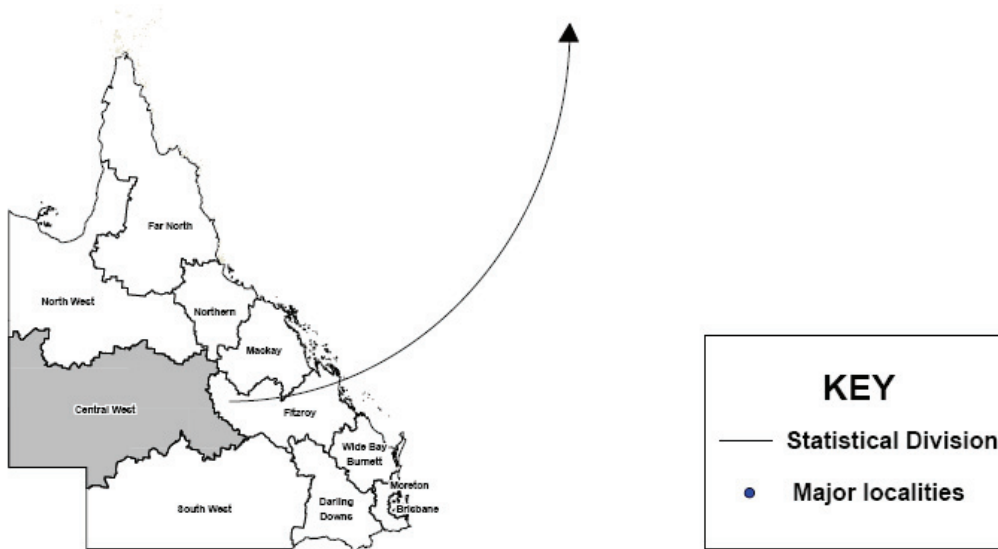
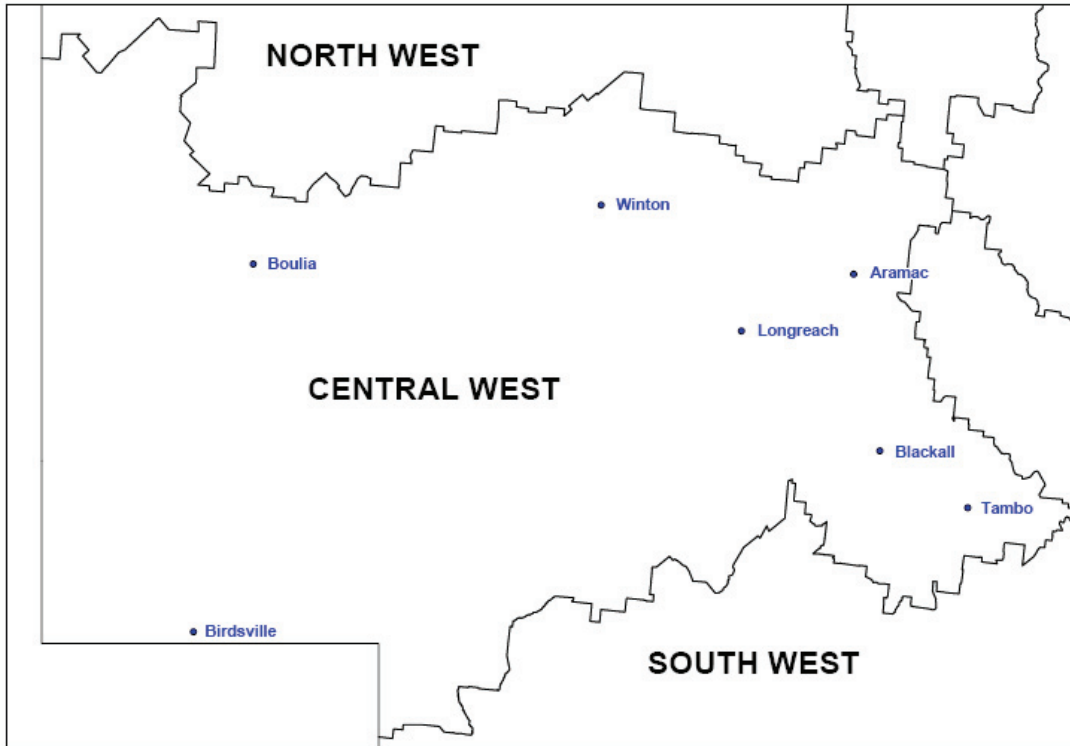
Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
Fitzroy	180,910	23%	23%	38%	15%	-

Source: ABS 2001b

3.7 Central West Statistical Division

The Central West Statistical Division is bounded by the Northern Territory border on the west. The largest towns in the Division are Longreach and Winton. With just 13,545 residents on Census night 2001, it is easily the least populated of Queensland's SDs.

Map 8: Central West Statistical Division



Like the SDs of the South West and Fitzroy, the majority of the Central West's 11 SLAs are clustered in the quintiles experiencing moderate to high degrees of relative disadvantage. Tables 15 and 16 show that six of the SLAs are in the middle quintile and only the Longreach Shire experiences relatively low degrees of disadvantage (in Quintile 4). The two most disadvantaged SLAs in the Central West SD (both situated in Quintile 1) are the Boulia and Diamantina Shires in the far west.

Table 15: Central West Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Boulia (S)	910.10
Diamantina (S)	921.26

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Winton (S)	962.76
Tambo (S)	972.52

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Aramac (S)	978.84
Isisford (S)	981.88
Blackall (S)	982.19
Barcoo (S)	997.17
Barcaldine (S)	997.23
Ilfracombe (S)	999.85

Quintile 4

SLA	IRSD Score
Longreach (S)	1015.16

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 16: Proportion of SLAs within the Central West SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

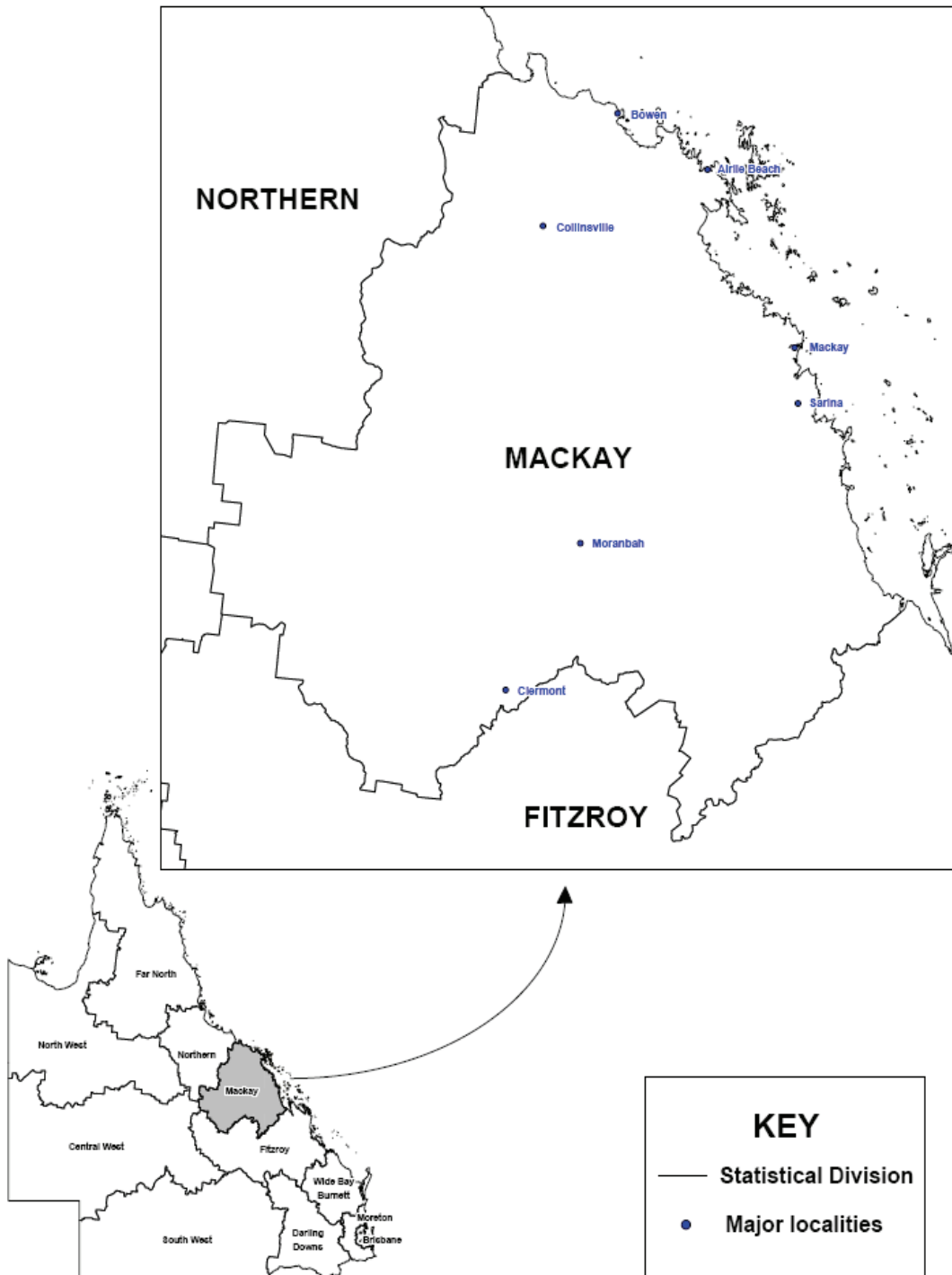
Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
Central West	13,545	18%	18%	55%	9%	-

Source: ABS 2001b

3.8 Mackay Statistical Division

As illustrated in Map 9, the Mackay Statistical Division is situated above the Statistical Division of Fitzroy on Queensland's central coast. It is centred on the coastal city of Mackay. The coastal towns of Bowen and Airlie Beach, and inland towns of Collinsville, Moranbah and Clermont lie within its precinct.

Map 9: Mackay Statistical Division



In Tables 17 and 18 we can see that eight of the nine SLAs in the Mackay SD have IRSD scores that place them in quintiles experiencing high to moderate degrees of relative disadvantage. These are Quintiles 1, 2 and 3. Only the Whitsunday area experiences relatively low degrees of socio-economic disadvantage and the Division has no SLAs in the least disadvantaged quintile. The two shires experiencing relatively high degrees of disadvantage are Bowen and Sarina, which are located on Mackay's north and mid coast, respectively.

Table 17: Mackay Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Bowen (S)	920.59
Sarina (S)	936.55

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Nebo (S)	958.29
Mirani (S)	967.99

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Mackay (C) - Pt A	977.90
Mackay (C) - Pt B	985.33
Belyando (S)	993.93
Broadsound (S)	997.28

Quintile 4

SLA	IRSD Score
Whitsunday (S)	1010.93

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 18: Proportion of SLAs within the Mackay SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

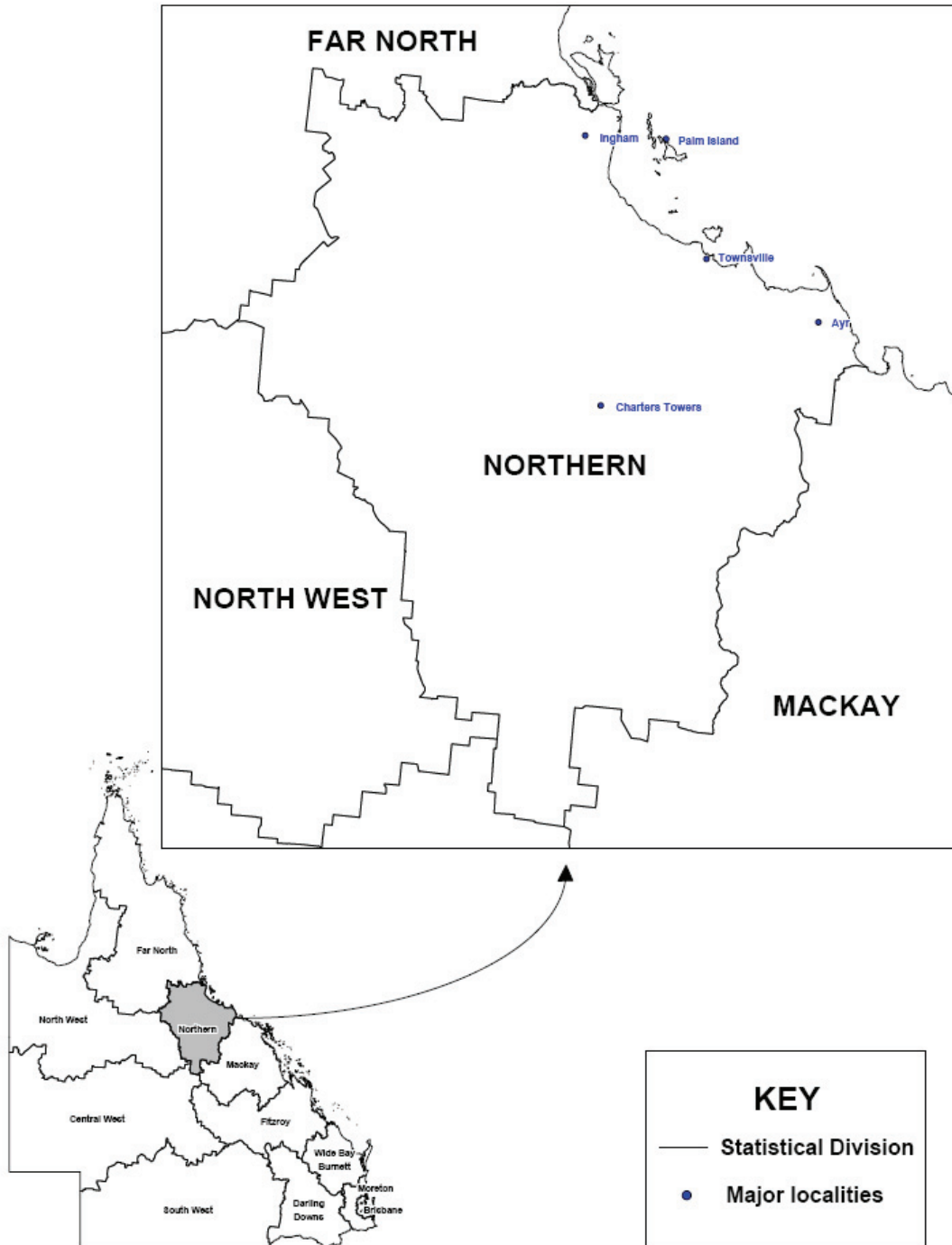
Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
Mackay	139,227	22%	22%	44%	11%	-

Source: ABS 2001b

3.9 Northern Statistical Division

The Northern Statistical Division is framed around the major centre of Townsville, and is bordered by the Far North, North West and Mackay SDs. As shown in Map 10, the Division includes the towns of Charters Towers, Ayr and Ingham, as well as Palm Island.

Map 10: Northern Statistical Division



The Northern Statistical Division had 186,000 residents on Census night 2001 and is a relatively disadvantaged area. Tables 19 and 20 show that three-quarters of the Division's 36 SLAs are in the three quintiles experiencing the greatest relative disadvantage, with just three SLAs in Quintile 4 and six in the least disadvantaged Quintile 5.

A number of the SLAs in Quintile 1 are experiencing acute disadvantage relative to other areas of the State with Palm Island (3rd), Garbutt (11th) and Vincent (19th) all ranked in the twenty most disadvantaged SLAs in Queensland. The other Northern SLAs in the most disadvantaged quintile are suburbs of Townsville – Stuart-Roseneath, Heatley, Pimlico and Gulliver.

Table 19: Northern Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Hinchinbrook (S) – Palm Island	709.26
Garbutt	832.25
Vincent	875.58
Stuart-Roseneath	924.16
Heatley	942.27
Pimlico	944.89
Gulliver	949.52

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Kelso	957.40
Railway Estate	958.84
Charters Towers (C)	960.27
Thuringowa (C) - Pt A Bal	964.79
Currajong	969.05
Ooononba-Idalia-Cluden	970.49
Dalrymple (S)	971.12
Rosslea	973.39
West End (Townsville)	973.45
South Townsville	974.89

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Hinchinbrook (S) excl. Palm I.	976.61
Burdekin (S)	977.33
Aitkenvale	980.33
Hermit Park	980.47
Wulguru	981.94
Thuringowa (C) - Pt B	984.80
Mt Louisa-Mt St John-Bohle	985.15
Townsville (C) – Pt B	999.62
Magnetic Island	1002.61
Cranbrook	1003.59

Quintile 4

SLA	IRSD Score
Hyde Park-Mysterton	1006.75
Kirwan	1014.28
Mundingburra	1029.20

Quintile 5

SLA	IRSD Score
North Ward-Castle Hill	1054.37
Rowes Bay-Belgian	1055.77
Douglas	1059.03
Murray	1095.13
Pallarenda-Shelley Beach	1098.72
City	1102.83

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 20: Proportion of SLAS within the Northern SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

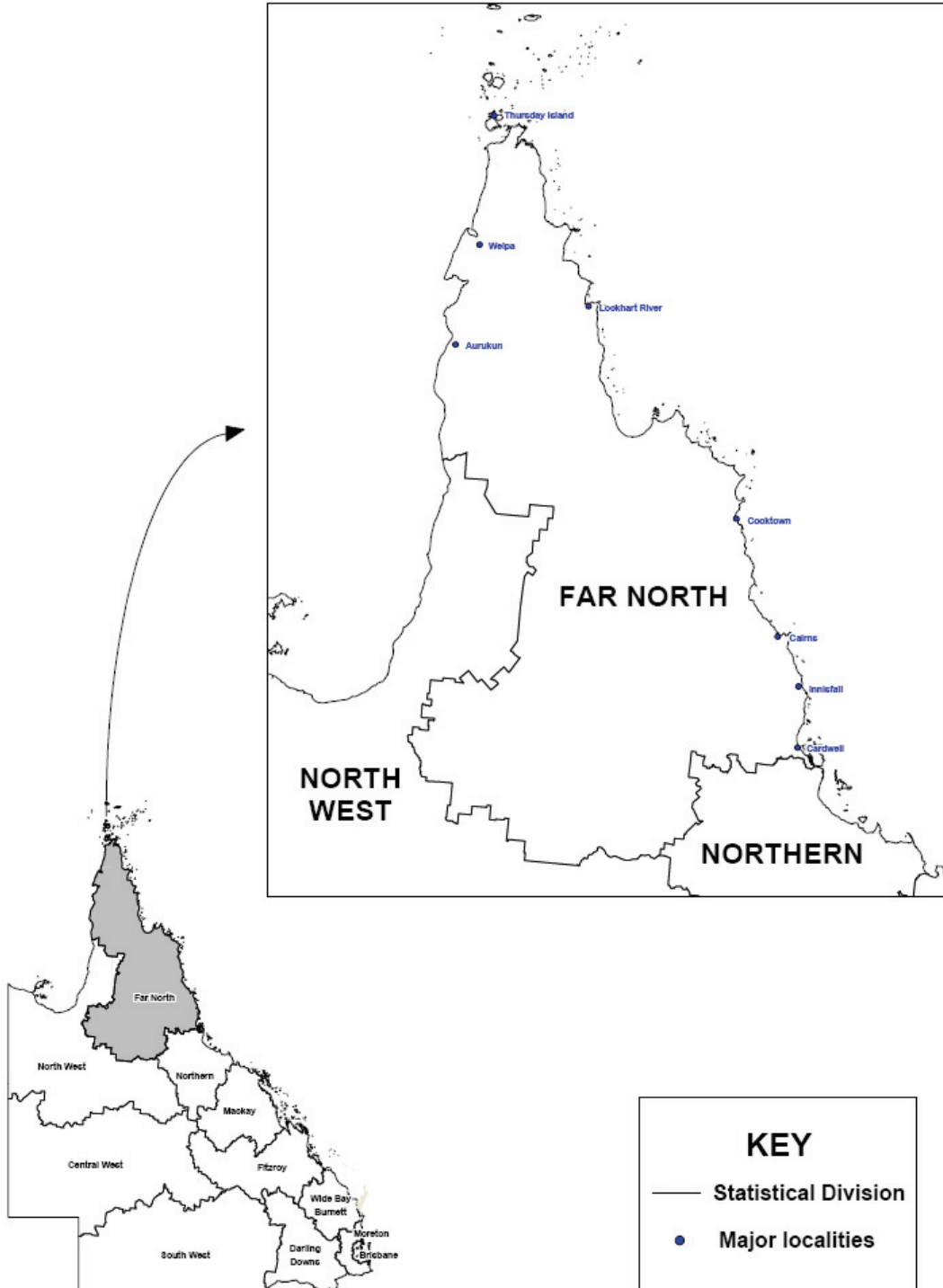
Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
Northern	186,242	19%	28%	28%	8%	17%

Source: ABS 2001b

3.10 Far North Statistical Division

Map 11 provides a detailed picture of the Far North Statistical Division which comprises the Torres Strait, most of the Cape York Peninsula, and the major coastal city of Cairns. Other major localities in the Division include Cardwell, Innisfail, Cooktown and Weipa. The Far North, with 227,000 residents has a similar population to Wide Bay-Burnett but a much greater geographic area. The Division is home to a large number of Indigenous communities.

Map 11: Far North Statistical Division



After the Wide Bay-Burnett (62 per cent) and the North West (50 per cent) SDs, the Far North (43 per cent) has the greatest proportion of its SLAs ranked in the most disadvantaged quintile. A further 28 per cent of the 21 SLAs are ranked in Quintiles 2 and 3. Only some parts of Cairns are classified in the least disadvantaged quintile (Quintile 5). The groupings and distribution of SLAs within the Far North SD are set out in Tables 21 and 22 below.

Within those SLAs classified in Quintile 1, the following areas are ranked within the 30 most disadvantaged SLAs in Queensland:

- The Indigenous community of Aurukun on the west coast of the Cape York Peninsula is the State’s most disadvantaged SLA;
- Torres (including the Torres Strait) ranks sixth on the spectrum of socio-economic disadvantage;
- The large northern SLA of Cook (excluding Weipa) ranks sixteenth;
- Cairns (Part B) follows in seventeenth place; and
- Herberton to the south of Cairns is the twenty-ninth most disadvantaged SLA in Queensland.

Table 21 also shows the coexistence of SLAs across the full spectrum of relative disadvantage within the City of Cairns. Cairns is comprised of 8 SLAs, two of which (Cairns – Pt B and the densely populated Cairns – Central Suburbs) are in Quintile 1, and two of which (Cairns – Mt Whitfield and Cairns – Northern Suburbs) are in the least disadvantaged quintile (Quintile 5). This highlights the importance of recognising the significant differences between small areas, within a city of medium size, when delivering services and identifying service needs. As we will discuss in Section 6, identifying the reasons for the concentration of disadvantage in particular areas is an important task for organisations concerned with providing effective assistance to those experiencing relatively high levels of disadvantage.

Table 21: Far North Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Aurukun (S)	472.04
Torres (S)	772.81
Cook (S) (excl. Weipa)	867.44
Cairns (C) - Pt B	871.52
Herberton (S)	894.65
Cairns (C) - Central	909.16
Croydon (S)	912.05
Johnstone (S)	943.65
Mareeba (S)	950.47

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Cardwell (S)	961.17
Eacham (S)	974.71
Cairns (C) - Trinity	975.93

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Etheridge (S)	979.16
Atherton (S)	983.92
Cairns (C) - City	994.77

Quintile 4

SLA	IRSD Score
Cook (S) - Weipa only	1022.74
Cairns (C) - Barron	1028.31
Cairns (C) - Western	1028.88
Douglas (S)	1036.05

Quintile 5

SLA	IRSD Score
Cairns (C) - Mt Whitfield	1041.92
Cairns (C) - Northern	1043.30

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 22: Proportion of SLAS within the Far North SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

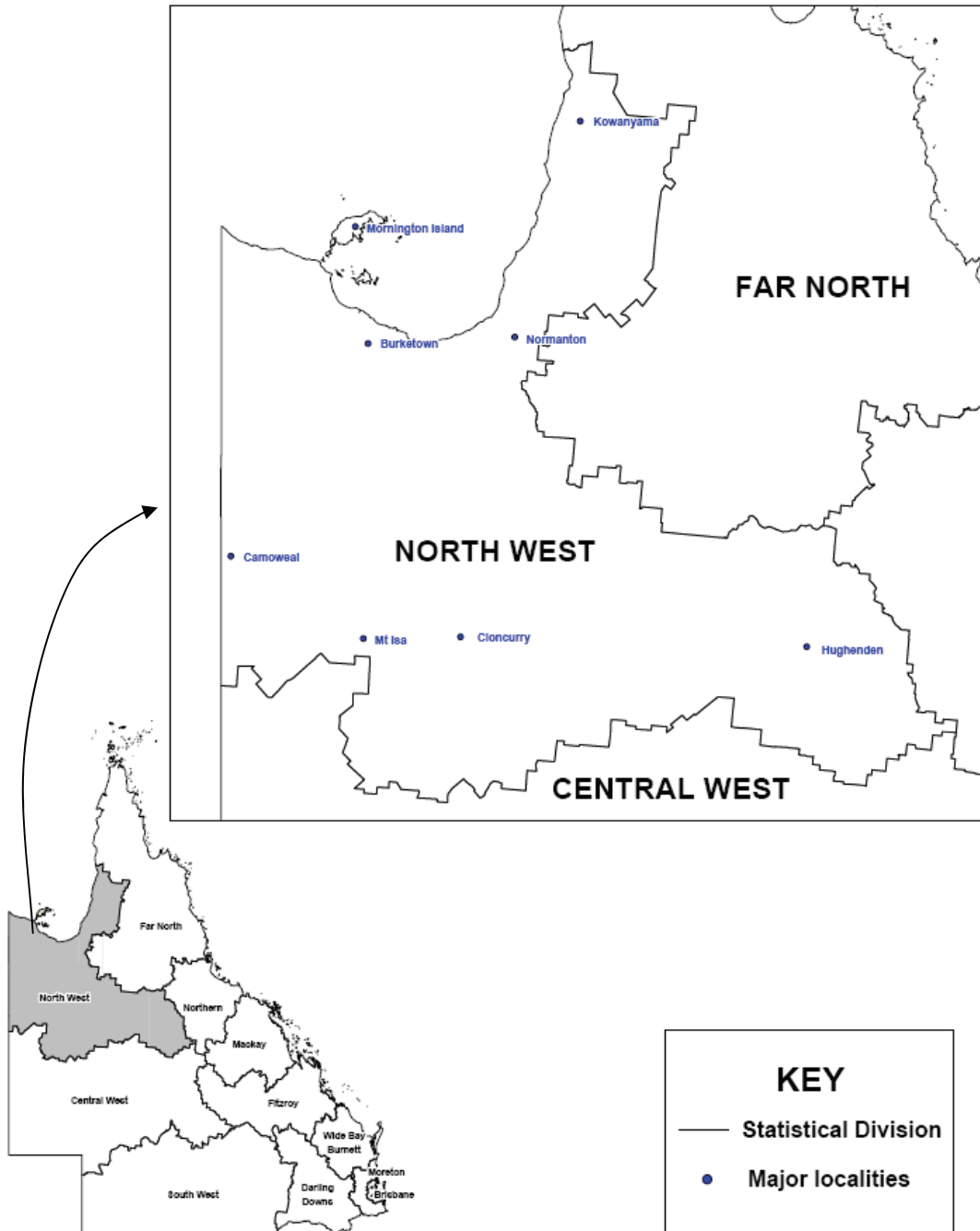
Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
Far North	227,289	43%	14%	14%	19%	10%

Source: ABS 2001b

3.11 North West Statistical Division

Map 12 shows that the North West Statistical Division is contiguous to the Far North, Northern and Central West SDs. The Northern Territory border and the Gulf of Carpentaria form its western boundaries. Major localities in the Division include the mining towns of Mt Isa and Cloncurry; the farming district of Hughenden in the south east corner; and Burketown and Mornington Island in the Gulf country.

Map 12: North West Statistical Division



The North West is one of the least populated SDs in Queensland (with just 36,500 residents on Census night 2001) and one of the most disadvantaged. Four of its eight SLAs are in Quintile 1 and the remaining four are situated in Quintiles 2 and 3. Within Quintile 1, Mornington Island - with its significant Indigenous population – is the second most disadvantaged SLA in the State. The SLA of Burke, which includes the community of Doomadgee, ranks seventh and Carpentaria, which includes the communities of Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama in the Gulf, and the towns of Karumba and Normanton, ranks twenty fourth. The town of Cloncurry situated to the east of Mt Isa is also classified in the quintile of SLAs experiencing the greatest relative disadvantage.

Table 23: North West Statistical Division SLAs by Disadvantage Quintile

Quintile 1

SLA	IRSD Score
Mornington (S)	595.40
Burke (S)	776.67
Carpentaria (S)	882.21
Cloncurry (S)	943.66

Quintile 2

SLA	IRSD Score
Mount Isa (C)	965.37
Flinders (S)	967.00

Quintile 3

SLA	IRSD Score
Richmond (S)	980.74
McKinlay (S)	996.76

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 24: Proportion of SLAs within the North West SD by Quintile of Disadvantage

Statistical Division	Population	Quintiles				
		1	2	3	4	5
North West	36,521	50%	25%	25%	-	-

Source: ABS 2001b

4. Indicators of Disadvantage: General Population

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), which includes the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD), provide a sound basis on which to measure different aspects of social and economic conditions by geographic areas. In this section, we present data on a range of variables included in the SEIFA indexes and additional variables associated with the experience of disadvantage amongst the general population. The objective in documenting this supplementary information is two fold. First, we hope that this preliminary analysis will encourage a better understanding of the factors which promote spatial clustering of disadvantage. Second, we hope that it will encourage further research work to identify the causes of geographic variations in well-being, as a means of developing place-specific approaches to policy development and planning.

In Section 4, we examine a range of indicators relating to:

- Country of Birth
- Education
- Employment
- Income
- Housing

The focus on these indicators has been guided by a rich research literature establishing their fundamental relationship to socio-economic status and experiences of social inclusion/exclusion (see Vinson, 2004 and Saunders, 2005). Decisions on the specific indicators selected were also determined by their availability at either Statistical Local Area (SLA) or Statistical Division (SD) level - to ensure consistency in the geographical regions used across the report – as well as pragmatic considerations as to the availability, confidentiality and cost of data. Where data is available for the 2001 Census year this is reported along with the most recent figures available.

4.1 Country of birth

Research by the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) based on the ABS 2000-01 Survey of Income and Housing, found that people in families headed by migrants from non-English speaking countries have higher rates of poverty than those headed by people born in Australia or in other English speaking countries. The survey showed that, in 2001, an estimated 16.5 per cent of people born in non-English speaking countries were living in financial hardship (Lloyd, Harding and Payne, 2004).

It is important to note that there is no necessary relationship between being born in a non-English speaking country and disadvantage. A range of additional factors including family income, reasons for migration and length of stay in Australia are also important. For example, a European family who chose to settle in Australia thirty years ago is much less likely to be experiencing disadvantage than Sudanese refugees who have recently arrived in Australia. We have not included statistical data on the socio-economic circumstances of refugees in this report. Such data is unreliable and difficult to both access and interpret in the context of our focus on spatial concentrations of disadvantage.

Table 25, shows wide variations across Queensland's Statistical Divisions in the percentage of persons born in a non-English speaking country. While the Far North, Moreton and Brisbane SDs have between 15 and 21 per cent of persons born in a non-English speaking country, this proportion falls to below 9 per cent in the Fitzroy, Darling Downs, Central West and South West SDs.

Table 25: Proportion of population born in a non-English speaking country by Queensland Statistical Division

Statistical Division	Total persons	% born in a NES
Far North	244,786	20.70
Moreton	744,569	15.60
Brisbane	1,627,535	15.30
North West	39,000	13.10
Mackay	143,576	12.20
Northern	191,321	11.30
Wide Bay-Burnett	236,247	9.80
Fitzroy	182,168	8.80
Darling Downs	203,397	8.20
Central West	13,649	8.10
South West	26,951	6.60

Source: ABS 2001b

At a finer spatial level, Table 26 lists the 30 Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) with the highest share of persons born in a non-English speaking country. Over 40 per cent of the populations of the inner city areas of Cairns, Brisbane and the Gold Coast were born in non-English speaking countries. The large cohorts registered in suburbs with close proximity to universities (including inner city Brisbane, Fortitude Valley and St Lucia) will reflect, in part, the international student population.

Table 26: The 30 SLAs with the highest proportion of people born in a non-English speaking country

Statistical Local Area (SLA)	Total persons	% born in a NES country
Cairns (C) – City	16,316	56.8
City-Inner	3,647	56.2
Surfers Paradise	30,416	51.0
Fortitude Valley-Inner	1,499	49.9
City-Remainder	3,700	47.9
Stretton - Karawatha	3,118	46.7
Robertson	4,514	46.3
Darra-Sumner	3,702	42.2
Spring Hill	6,011	42.1
Richlands	872	41.5
South Brisbane	4,517	37.4
MacGregor	5,182	36.2
Fortitude Valley-Remainder	2,274	35.6
Broadbeach	6,480	35.1
Douglas (S)	17,889	34.6
Sunnybank Hills	15,632	33.2
St Lucia	10,776	32.5
Magnetic Island	3,285	32.1
Eight Mile Plains	11,156	32.0
West End (Brisbane)	5,978	31.9
Calamvale	9,176	31.0
Runcorn	12,345	30.9
Durack	5,643	30.6
Mount Ommaney	2,222	30.6
Dutton Park	1,321	30.2
Kangaroo Point	5,933	30.1
Main Beach-Broadwater	5,370	30.1
Woolloongabba	4,466	30.0
Sunnybank	7,784	29.8
Inala	12,417	29.3

Source: ABS 2001b

4.2 Education

The relationship between the socio-economic circumstances of children and educational attainment is well-established, and early school leaving remains a key predictor of disadvantage and unemployment. For this reason, education remains fundamentally important to the life chances of individuals and plays a key role in social and economic mobility from generation to generation. Despite improving economic conditions, prospects of work and further education for early school leavers have changed very little in recent years (Dusseldorp Skills Forum, 2005). In the following tables we draw on two indicators to examine geographic patterns of early school leaving in Queensland. The data contained in Tables 27 – 29 is for June 2004.

Table 27: 30 Queensland SLAs with the highest percentage of persons aged 17-24 who did not complete Year 12 and are not in further training, June 2004

Statistical Local Area	Statistical Division	Number of persons aged 17-24 years	% of all persons aged 17-24 years
Mornington (S)	North West	126	77.8
Aurukun (S)	Far North	117	77.0
Palm Island (S)	Northern	245	72.3
Burke (S)	North West	194	72.1
Croydon (S)	Far North	20	66.7
Bouliia (S)	Central West	55	60.4
Aramac (S)	Central West	30	60.0
Isisford (S)	Central West	19	59.4
Bulloo (S)	South West	32	59.3
Carpentaria (S)	North West	263	59.0
Murgon (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	264	56.9
Diamantina (S)	Central West	26	56.5
Etheridge (S)	Far North	58	55.8
Bendemere (S)	South West	28	51.9
Barcoo (S)	Central West	31	51.7
Wondai (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	128	50.4
Paroo (S)	South West	97	50.3
Jericho (S)	Fitzroy	53	49.1
Warroo (S)	South West	32	48.5
Quilpie (S)	South West	49	48.0
Inglewood (S)	Darling Downs	79	47.9
Cook (S)	Far North	329	47.8
Millmerran (S)	Darling Downs	126	47.0
Cairns (C) - Pt B	Far North	293	46.4
Willawong	Brisbane	17	45.9
Richmond (S)	North West	60	45.1
Warwick (S) - East	Darling Downs	119	44.4
Mundubbera (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	77	44.3
Winton (S)	Central West	64	43.5
Kilkivan (S)	Wide Bay-Burnett	95	43.4

Source: COMSIS - Department of Communities Statistical Information System June 2004

Table 27 ranks the thirty SLAs in Queensland with the highest proportion of young people aged 17-24 years who did not complete Year 12 and are not participating in further education and training. The second column identifies to which of the larger Statistical Divisions each SLA belongs to assist us in identifying regional concentrations of youth disadvantage.

In the Indigenous communities of Mornington Island, Aurukun, Palm Island and the Shire of Burke over 70% of young people aged 17-24 years did not complete Year 12 and are not engaged in further training. With the exception of Cairns (Part B) all other SLAs listed in Table 27 are in non-Metropolitan areas of Queensland, raising questions about access to, and effectiveness of, education and training for young people in regional and remote communities. At least 50 per cent of the SLAs in the Central West, South West and North West Statistical Divisions are listed in Table 27.

These findings are reflected in Table 28 which shows the percentage of persons in each Statistical Division who have a highest level of schooling of Year 9 or less. In Section 2 we established that Wide Bay-Burnett was the SD experiencing the highest concentrations of relative socio-economic disadvantage. It is also the SD with the highest proportion of early school leavers (25.2 per cent), closely followed by the South West (23.2 per cent) and Central West (22.6 per cent). These rates compare poorly with the SD of Brisbane in which 14 per cent of persons did not complete any schooling above Year 9 level.

Table 28: Early School Leaving by Queensland Statistical Division, June 2004

Statistical Division	Highest level of schooling completed		
	Year 8 or below (% of total persons)	Year 9 or equivalent (% of total persons)	Year 9 or less (% of total persons)
Wide Bay-Burnett	15.8	9.3	25.2
South West	15.2	8.1	23.2
Central West	15.0	7.6	22.6
Darling Downs	13.7	6.8	20.5
Fitzroy	12.9	7.3	20.2
North West	12.3	7.7	20.0
Mackay	11.8	7.6	19.5
Northern	10.8	6.3	17.1
Far North	10.5	6.5	17.0
Moreton	8.70	7.2	16.0
Brisbane	8.60	5.4	14.0

Source: COMSIS - Department of Communities Statistical Information System June 2004

In Table 29 we move to a finer spatial level and rank the 30 SLAs in Queensland with the highest proportion of early school leavers (school completion of Year 9 or less). The results show that within the Statistical Divisions in which a significant proportion of the population did not complete any schooling beyond Year 9, it is the Indigenous communities (such as Aurukun, and the Palm and Mornington Islands) and outlying rural communities which fare the worst. Within Wide Bay-Burnett, the SLAs of Murgon, Eidsvold, Nanango and Tiaro have the highest rates of early school leaving.

Table 29: 30 Queensland SLAs with the highest % of persons having completed schooling of Year 9 or less, 2001

Statistical Local Area	% Early School Leavers - Year 9 or less
Aurukun	47.0
Hinchinbrook (S) - Palm Is	40.7
Mornington	34.6
Biggenden	34.1
Monto	33.1
Croydon	32.5
Mount Morgan	32.5
Carpentaria	31.5
Bendemere	31.2
Wondai	29.8
Murgon	29.7
Rosalie (S) - Pt B	29.6
Boonah	29.1
Inglewood	29.0
Boulia	28.3
Diamantina	28.1
Kolan	28.0
Paroo	28.0
Kilkivan	27.9
Perry	27.8
Mundubbera	27.7
Eidsvold	27.2
Nanango	27.2
Tiaro	27.0
Blackall	26.7
Chinchilla	26.7
Etheridge	26.7
Kilcoy	26.7
Deagon	26.6
Crow's Nest (S) - Pt B	26.6

Source: ABS 2001b

4.3 Unemployment

In contemporary Australia, the experience of unemployment is an increasingly strong predictor of disadvantage. In his submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into Poverty and Financial Hardship, Professor Peter Saunders of the University of New South Wales noted that the poverty rate for jobless families is almost seven times higher than the poverty rate among families with one employed person. It is not so much access to employment that greatly reduces the risk of poverty, but access to full-time employment (Saunders, 2003a: iii). The disadvantages experienced by an unemployed person are significant and include not only income loss, but the deleterious effects on self confidence, competence, social integration and harmony, and the appreciation and use of individual freedom and responsibility (Sen, 1997: 169).

In Table 30 we rank the Queensland Statistical Divisions by their unemployment rate in the September Quarter, 2005. While the unemployment rates range from 6.5 per cent in the Wide Bay-Burnett SD to just 2 per cent in the Central West CD, it is the data in Table 31 which reveals the within area differences that these highly aggregated figures mask.

Mount Morgan (22.3 per cent) in the SD of Fitzroy has the highest unemployment rate of any SLA in Queensland although no other SLA within the Fitzroy SD is included in Table 31. While Wide Bay-Burnett is the SD with the highest unemployment rate, just three of its twenty four SLAs are among the 30 SLAs having the highest unemployment rates in Queensland. This suggests that the unemployment rate - while high – is quite consistent across this Division. By contrast, the unemployment rate for the SD of Brisbane is 4.8 per cent yet 23 of the 30 SLAs recording the highest unemployment rates in Brisbane (and 14 of the 18 SLAs recording unemployment rates of 10 per cent or more) are within the Brisbane SD. This serves to remind us that one of the values of spatial analysis is to help identify pockets of severe disadvantage within larger areas.

Table 30: Unemployment Rate by Queensland Statistical Division, September Quarter 2005

Statistical Division	Unemployment Rate (%)
Wide Bay-Burnett	6.5
North West	5.8
Far North	5.6
Fitzroy	5.1
Mackay	5.1
Northern	5.1
Brisbane	4.8
Moreton	4.5
Darling Downs	3.5
South West	2.3
Central West	2.0

Source: QRSIS- Queensland Regional Statistical Information System 2005

Table 31: 30 Queensland SLAs with the highest unemployment rates, September Quarter 2005

Statistical Local Area	Unemployment Rate (%)
Mount Morgan	22.3
Wacol	17.5
Kingston	15.2
Woodridge	15.2
Inala	14.4
City-Inner	14.1
Hinchinbrook (S) - Palm Is	14.1
Redland (S) Balance	13.6
Cairns (C) - City	13.2
South Brisbane	12.6
Willawong	12.6
Richlands	11.7
Durack	11.4
Acacia Ridge	11.3
Woolloongabba	11.2
Coolangatta	10.8
Dutton Park	10.7
Carpentaria	10.0
Herston	9.7
Loganlea	9.7
Perry	9.7
Bribie Island	9.6
Kolan	9.5
Caboolture (S) - Central	9.3
Hervey Bay (C) - Pt B	9.3
Deception Bay	9.1
Rocklea	8.9
Marsden	8.9
Pallara-Heathwood-Larapinta	8.7
Eagleby	8.6

Source: QRSIS- Queensland Regional Statistical Information System 2005

Before turning to other indicators of general disadvantage, it is important to note that the unemployment rate is only the 'tip of the iceberg' in terms of labour underutilisation. It does not include the underemployed (individuals who want or need more hours of work) or the hidden unemployed (individuals who are willing and able to work but have withdrawn from the labour force due to a lack of suitable employment opportunities). Both states may be associated with the experience of disadvantage.

4.4 Income

For most people, family or household income is the most important determinant of their economic situation. People living in families or households with low income are more likely to have insufficient economic resources to support a minimum material standard of living and face a greater risk of financial stress. This risk becomes more pronounced in regions where the relative cost of living is high and access to affordable housing and services (such as bulk-billing GPs) is limited.

In Table 32, we examine the proportion of families in each of Queensland's Statistical Divisions with gross family income of less than \$500 per week. Gross weekly income (which includes pensions, benefits and child support payments) is the income received before tax, superannuation, or other deductions are made. Gross family income is the sum of the individual incomes of each family member present in the household on Census Night, 2001. Family income is not applicable to non-family households such as group households or lone person households; or to people in non-private dwellings

There is no widely accepted definition of what constitutes a low level of income. In August 2001, \$500 per week was approximately 60 per cent of Australian average weekly earnings. It is important to stress that we are not interpreting the data in Table 32 in terms of poverty rates for different geographic areas. The calculation of these rates would require small area data on equivalised disposable income of families. Equivalence factors are used to standardise income estimates for family size and composition, while taking into account the economies of scale that arise from the sharing of dwellings. For example, larger households normally require a greater level of income to maintain the same material standard of living as smaller households, and the needs of adults are normally greater than the needs of children.

The data in Table 32 show that over one-third of families in the Wide-Bay Burnett SD have gross weekly family income of less than \$500. Another four SDs (Moreton, Darling Downs, the Far North and Fitzroy) have over 20 per cent of families in this income bracket. In Table 33 we rank the 30 Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) in Queensland with the highest proportion of families having gross family income of less than \$500 per week.

Table 33 reveals acute pockets of disadvantage within the broader Divisions, with 68.4 per cent of families having less than \$500 per week in Moreton Island (Brisbane SD) down to 33.9 per cent of families in the SLAs of Maroochy Shire – Maroochydore (Moreton SD) and Margate-Woody Point (Brisbane SD). The Wide-Bay Burnett SD has eleven SLAs in the list of thirty, including six in which over 40 per cent of families have gross weekly family income of less than \$500. The Indigenous communities of Mornington (in the North West) and Aurukun (in the Far North) have 52.2 per cent and 46.4 per cent of their families in this income category, respectively.

Table 32: Proportion of families with gross weekly family income < \$500 by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	% of families
Wide Bay-Burnett	34.9
Moreton	26.1
Darling Downs	24.0
Far North	22.8
Fitzroy	21.6
Mackay	20.5
South West	19.6
Northern	19.0
Brisbane	18.9
Central West	17.1
North West	16.0

Source: QRSIS- Queensland Regional Statistical Information System, 2001

Table 33: 30 Queensland SLAs with the highest % of families having weekly family income < \$500, 2001

Statistical Local Area	% of families
Moreton Island	68.4
Mornington	52.2
Aurukun	46.4
Mount Morgan	45.8
Tiaro	45.6
Kolan	44.8
Hervey Bay (C) - Pt B	44.4
Redland (S) Balance	42.8
Nanango	42.6
Biggenden	42.4
Inala	40.7
Bribie Island	40.4
Miriam Vale	40.1
Tara	39.3
Hervey Bay (C) - Pt A	39.2
Isis	38.9
Eagleby	38.7
Caloundra (C) - Caloundra S.	37.9
Herberton	37.9
Kilkivan	37.2
Coolangatta	36.9
Wacol	36.3
Cooloola (S) (excl. Gympie)	36.2
Labrador	35.8
Coombah	35.5
Wondai	35.1
Woodridge	34.7
Warwick (S) - North	34.5
Maroochy (S) - Maroochydhore	33.9
Margate - Woody Point	33.9

Source: QRSIS- Queensland Regional Statistical Information System, 2001

4.5 Centrelink Payments

The relationship between income and disadvantage is a product of both the level of income and the source from which income is derived. In this section we look at the spatial distribution of individuals whose principal source of income is one of the following Centrelink payments:

- Newstart Allowance;
- Disability Support Pension; or
- Parenting Payment Single.

The income support system in Australia was designed as a social safety net in which government provided assistance to individuals and families with no income, or inadequate income, of their own. Research on poverty rates by principal source of income (Lloyd, Harding and Payne, 2004) showed that the highest poverty rate, at more than double the average rate, was amongst people whose main source of income was government cash benefits. This group comprised well over half of people who experience financial disadvantage, indicating that social security benefits often fall short of the poverty line.

As discussed in Section 4.3, the experience of unemployment is an increasingly strong predictor of disadvantage. In Table 34 we rank the thirty Statistical Local Areas with the highest proportion of their labour force receiving Newstart Allowance (NSA) for 36 months or more. It is worth remembering that once a person has been receiving NSA for 12 months or more they are classified by Centrelink as a 'long-term customer'. NSA is available to unemployed persons over 21 years of age who are willing and able to work and satisfy activity testing requirements.

In 2004, the Indigenous communities of Palm Island and the Burke Shire, along with Douglas in the Far North, and Mount Morgan (near Rockhampton) had more than 7 per cent of their local labour force in receipt of NSA for longer than 36 months. SLAs with more than 150 people in this situation were Maryborough (Wide Bay-Burnett SD), Woodridge and Kingston (both in the Brisbane SD), and Douglas and Torres (both in the Far North SD).

Table 34: 30 Queensland SLAs with the highest proportion of their labour force on Newstart Allowance (NSA) for 36 months or more, 2004

Statistical Local Area	Statistical Division	Number in labour force on NSA 36+ months	% in labour force on NSA 36+ months
Palm Island (S)	Northern	43	8.8
Douglas (S)	Far North	169	8.2
Mount Morgan (S)	Fitzroy	81	7.8
Burke (S)	North West	62	7.5
Moreton Island	Brisbane	7	6.5
Aurukun (S)	Far North	27	5.6
Mornington (S)	North West	25	5.6
Coolangatta	Moreton	110	5.3
Tara (S)	Darling Downs	91	5.2
Bilinga	Moreton	35	5.1
Carpentaria (S)	North West	94	4.9
Hervey Bay (C) - Pt B	Wide Bay-	62	4.8
Miriam Vale (S)	Wide Bay-	93	4.7
Cook (S)	Far North	147	4.5
Redland (S) Bal	Brisbane	107	4.5
Woodridge	Brisbane	373	4.5
Kolan (S)	Wide Bay-	85	4.5
Croydon (S)	Far North	7	4.4
Herberton (S)	Far North	97	4.4
Kingston	Brisbane	254	4.4
Perry (S)	Wide Bay-	8	4.4
Pinkenba-Eagle Farm	Brisbane	7	4.2
City – Inner	Brisbane	29	4.0
Etheridge (S)	Far North	26	3.8
Paroo (S)	South West	42	3.6
Torres (S)	Far North	150	3.4
Dutton Park	Brisbane	26	3.4
Wacol	Brisbane	38	3.4
Maryborough (C)	Wide Bay-	386	3.4
Tiaro (S)	Wide Bay-	68	3.4

Source: COMSIS - Department of Communities Statistical Information System 2004

Disability Support Pension

After the unemployed, people who are not in the labour force - including those not able to work due to disability or family and caring responsibilities - are the group most likely to be in poverty (Lloyd, Harding and Payne, 2004: 14). In 2003, 130,000 people in Queensland received the Disability Support Pension (DSP). Table 35 shows that in the Statistical Divisions of the Central West and Wide Bay-Burnett, over 10 per cent of people aged 18 to 64 received DSP.

The tightening of eligibility criteria for new DSP applicants from 1 July 2006 will significantly reduce the disposable income of people with disability, assessed as having a partial capacity to work, over a wide range of private income (Cowling, 2005: 8). The impacts will be particularly pronounced in areas where part-time work opportunities are in short supply or are poorly remunerated.

Table 35: DSP recipients as a percentage of persons 18-64 years by Queensland Statistical Division, 2003

Statistical Division	DSP recipients	DSP recipients as a % of persons 18-64
Central West	931	12.0
Wide Bay-Burnett	14,455	10.1
Darling Downs	7,970	6.2
Moreton	26,101	5.4
Far North	7,678	5.2
Brisbane	56,037	5.0
Mackay	4,416	4.9
Fitzroy	5,498	4.8
North West	962	4.4
South West	705	4.2
Northern	5,284	4.2

Source: Centrelink unpublished data, 2003

Parenting Payment Single

Sole Parents in receipt of Parenting Payment Single (PPS) will also be affected by the Welfare-to-Work changes introduced on 1 July 2006. A sole parent, who claims income support after this date, with a youngest child aged 6 years or more, will now be placed on Newstart Allowance, rather than PPS. Analysis by Harding (2005) shows that the disposable incomes of sole parents could be up to \$100 per week lower under the new system. This is of concern given research evidence that sole parent households are the group most subject to social exclusion, where exclusion is defined as experiencing two or more problems in the areas of social interaction, domestic deprivation and extreme consumption hardship (Saunders, 2003b).

Table 36 shows that in 2003 there were nearly 100,000 recipients of PPS in Queensland, 64 per cent of who lived in the SDs of Brisbane (42 per cent) and Moreton (22 per cent). In the SDs of Wide Bay-Burnett and the Far North, over 5 per cent of all persons aged 18-64 years received PPS.

Table 36: Proportion of PPS recipients as a percentage of persons 18-64 years by Queensland Statistical Division, 2003

Statistical Division	PPS recipients	PPS recipients as a % of persons 18-64 years
Wide Bay-Burnett	7,612	5.3
Far North	7,576	5.2
Moreton	21,511	4.5
North West	962	4.4
Fitzroy	4,943	4.3
Northern	4,995	4.0
Darling Downs	4,919	3.8
Brisbane	41,103	3.7
Mackay	3,319	3.7
South West	559	3.3
Central West	220	2.8

Source: Centrelink unpublished data, 2003

4.6 Housing

Having a suitable place to live is fundamental to people's identity and well-being but for many people on low incomes, home ownership is out of reach and rent absorbs an increasing share of their income. Housing impacts on a person's ability to find work, and to engage in education and training. Areas which may be job rich may also be the areas where housing is least affordable. In Section 4.6 we examine two indicators of housing disadvantage and their spatial distribution:

- The proportion of people living in rental accommodation; and
- Overcrowding

More detailed information on a range of dimensions of housing disadvantage – including homelessness, housing affordability, and waiting lists for public and community housing are contained in QCOS (2006: Section 5.2). However this data is presented at a highly aggregated level.

Living in rental accommodation is not an indicator of disadvantage per se. For example, a student who lives in a rented dwelling while studying at university or TAFE is likely to have a greater probability of home ownership courtesy of the wage premiums attached to tertiary qualifications. However, when we consider rental accommodation rates in conjunction with other indicators of locational disadvantage, we will be better placed to determine whether this is indicative of poor living standards in a particular area, the price and supply of housing, or dynamics linked to age, qualifications and projected future income.

Table 37 shows that the Far North (35.7 per cent) and the North West (35.1 per cent) SDs had the highest proportion of people living in rental accommodation in 2001. Table 38 shows that these proportions are much higher in many of the smaller SLAs which comprise each Division. For example, the Indigenous communities of Weipa, Palm Island, Aurukun and Torres had between 66 and 86 per cent of people living in rental accommodation. Other SLAs recording high rental rates are in central Brisbane and their ranking will be explained, in part, by relatively large student populations.

Table 37: Proportion of people living in rental accommodation by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	People living in rented accommodation (%)
Far North	35.7
North West	35.1
Northern	32.5
Moreton	30.9
Mackay	30.4
Brisbane	30.0
Fitzroy	29.8
Darling Downs	26.2
South West	26.1
Wide Bay-Burnett	24.7
Central West	24.5

Source: COMSIS - Department of Communities Statistical Information System 2001

Table 38: 30 Queensland SLAs with highest proportion of people in rental accommodation, 2001

Statistical Local Area	People living in rental accommodation (%)
Cook (S) – Weipa only	85.5
Hinchinbrook (S) - Palm Is	84.6
Aurukun	77.9
Torres	65.5
Fortitude Valley-Inner	64.3
Fortitude Valley-Remainder	63.9
Spring Hill	60.9
Vincent	60.9
Bowen Hills	58.4
City-Remainder	58.3
Garbutt	57.9
Kangaroo Point	56.3
New Farm	56.0
Nebo	55.3
Cairns (C) - City	54.7
Mornington	54.4
Lutwyche	54.3
West End (Brisbane)	54.2
Newstead	53.7
Highgate Hill	53.4
Chermside	53.3
Milton	53.2
Wacol	53.2
Rosslea	53.2
Inala	52.9
Cairns (C) - Central Suburbs	52.8
City-Inner	52.2
North Ward-Castle Hill	52.1
Kelvin Grove	52.0
Pimlico	51.9

Source: COMSIS - Department of Communities Statistical Information System 2001

Housing – Overcrowding

Living in overcrowded accommodation is considered a disadvantage when viewed through the lenses of health, well-being and safety. Although there is no universally accepted definition of what constitutes adequate accommodation, the data presented in Table 39 follows the Canadian National Occupancy Standard which specifies who should reasonably be expected to share bedrooms, dependent on age and sex. Based on this definition, 6.4 per cent of households in the North West SD and 4.8 percent of households in the Far North SD were considered to be living in dwellings requiring at least one additional bedroom in 2001. This compared with 2.9 per cent of households across the State. Table 40 shows that at the finer SLA level the need for additional

bedrooms increased dramatically for Indigenous communities in remote locations with between 25 and 56 per cent of households in Palm Island, Mornington, Aurukun and Burke requiring one or more additional bedrooms. Other areas with significant overcrowding include Fortitude Valley and parts of the inner city of Brisbane. This may reflect proximity to universities and overcrowding in shared student accommodation.

Table 39: Overcrowding by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	Households needing 1 or more extra bedrooms	Total households	One or more extra bedrooms needed as % of total households
North West	915	14,334	6.4
Far North	4,581	95,593	4.8
Northern	2,768	74,809	3.7
Central West	196	5,964	3.3
Mackay	1,868	58,848	3.2
Fitzroy	2,312	74,625	3.1
South West	358	12,056	3.0
Wide Bay-Burnett	3,029	103,670	2.9
Queensland	43,869	1,487,112	2.9
Brisbane	17,954	644,421	2.8
Moreton	7,864	319,037	2.5
Darling Downs	2,024	83,755	2.4

Source: COMSIS - Department of Communities Statistical Information System 2001

Table 40: 30 Queensland SLAs with highest proportion of overcrowded households, 2001

Statistical Local Area	Total households	One or more extra bedrooms needed as % of total households
Palm Island (S)	343	56.3
Mornington (S)	229	34.5
Aurukun (S)	242	27.7
Burke (S)	485	25.2
Torres (S)	2,744	18.3
Carpentaria (S)	1,727	11.5
Cook (S)	2,756	10.8
Cairns (C) - Pt B	2,479	10.6
Fortitude Valley	713	9.8
City - Remainder	1,283	9.4
Boulia (S)	233	9.4
Richlands	291	9.3
Croydon (S)	130	9.2
Wacol	988	8.2
Inala	4,836	8.0
Garbutt	1,061	7.8
Cloncurry (S)	1,338	7.0
Cairns (C) - Central Suburbs	10,161	6.6
Capalaba	122	6.6
Logan (C) Bal	722	6.5
Kingston	4,519	6.4
Durack	2,189	6.3
Murgon (S)	1,747	6.3
Fortitude Valley	1,035	6.2
Woodridge	7,446	6.2
Spring Hill	1,926	6.0
Herberton (S)	2,423	5.9
Darra-Sumner	1,432	5.7
Miriam Vale (S)	2,419	5.7
Murarie	878	5.6

Source: COMSIS - Department of Communities Statistical Information System 2001

5. Older People and Disadvantage

Many general indicators of disadvantage, such as unemployment or early school leaving, may assist to explain why an older person (defined as an individual aged 65 years or over) is experiencing disadvantage in their later years. However, constructing disadvantage profiles based on these indicators may be more relevant to designing policy interventions to assist young people or people of working age. It is important to consider which predictors of disadvantage are most relevant to older people, in order to design policy frameworks and services capable of ameliorating their experiences of disadvantage.

In this section we examine the geography of ageing in Queensland, and present data on the following indicators associated with disadvantage among persons aged 65 years and over:

- The location of older Indigenous people and their life expectancy;
- The proportion of older people living in rented accommodation or public housing;
- The proportion of older people living alone;
- The proportion of older people without a motor vehicle; and
- Proficiency in English among older people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

The data presented was collected in the 2001 Census and is organised by Statistical Division (SD) and Statistical Local Area (SLA) to ensure consistency with earlier sections of this report. Spatial analysis remains important and research by the Social Exclusion Unit (2005) in the UK finds that older people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods are more prone to multiple exclusion and diminished quality of life. For this reason we include the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) Scores in some of the tables in this section. More Australian research is required on the strength and nature of the dynamics between spatial disadvantage and the well-being of older people.

5.1 Older People: Queensland in profile

Table 41 shows the number and proportion of people aged 65 years and over in each of Queensland's SDs as well as the IRSD scores for each Division. The data show that the share of older people is above 10 per cent in Wide-Bay Burnett (15.7 per cent), Moreton (14.4 per cent) and Darling Downs (13.1 per cent). For the purpose of comparison, older people comprise 11.7 per cent of Queensland's population. It is important to note that 45 per cent of people aged 65 years and over in Queensland were resident in the SDs of Brisbane and Moreton on Census night, 2001.

Interestingly, the SD of the North West has the lowest IRSD score (is the Division experiencing the greatest relative disadvantage) and the lowest proportion of older people in its population while the SD of Wide Bay-Burnett, which has the second lowest IRSD score has the highest proportion of older people in its population. This reinforces the need to determine whether variables relating to older people are given sufficient weight in the IRSD and other SEIFA indexes.

Table 41: Number and proportion of older persons in Queensland Statistical Divisions

Statistical Division	No. persons aged 65+	% persons aged 65+	IRSD Score
Wide Bay-Burnett	35,701	15.7	947.20
Moreton	100,004	14.4	991.36
Darling Downs	26,503	13.1	987.84
Brisbane	174,986	10.9	1007.60
Central West	1,316	10.8	987.44
South West	2,719	10.5	976.48
Fitzroy	17,924	10.3	972.64
Northern	17,945	9.8	985.12
Far North	20,340	9.6	967.12
Mackay	12,624	9.5	975.60
North West	2,031	5.9	937.04

Source: ABS 2001b

Tables 42 and 43 present the 30 SLAs in Queensland with (a) the highest proportion, and (b) the highest number, of persons aged 65 years and over in their local populations. The tables also indicate each SLA's quintile of disadvantage. As discussed in Section 1.4 this has been determined by ranking all SLAs according to their IRSD score and defining quintile bands which divide the distribution of index values into five equal parts. Quintile 1 represents the 20 per cent of SLAs experiencing the highest degree of relative disadvantage. SLAs ranked in this quintile have been highlighted in Tables 42 and 43 below.

The key point to note in both tables is the dominance of coastal locations, particularly around south-east Queensland alongside some skewing to SLAs experiencing relatively high degrees of disadvantage. The latter trend is more pronounced in terms of SLAs with the highest numbers of older people.

Table 42: 30 Queensland SLAs with the highest proportion of older persons, 2001

Statistical Local Area	Persons aged 65+	% persons aged 65+	Quintile of disadvantage
Nudgee Beach	134	41.0	2
Bribie Island	4,290	29.6	2
Caloundra (C) - Caloundra S.	4,103	27.0	2
Chermside	1,568	26.0	1
Paradise Point	999	25.3	4
Coolangatta	1,080	24.7	1
Burleigh Heads	1,728	23.5	4
Coombabah	2,059	23.1	1
Upper Mount Gravatt	1,660	22.5	4
Runaway Bay	1,834	22.5	4
Bilinga	306	22.0	1
Rowes Bay-Belgian Gardens	497	21.8	5
Margate-Woody Point	2,234	21.6	1
Palm Beach	2,689	21.3	2
Redcliffe-Scarborough	3,742	21.2	2
Broadbeach Waters	1,526	20.8	5
Geebung	840	20.6	4
Corinda	865	20.3	5
Hollywell	522	20.3	5
Rochedale	227	20.0	5
Caloundra (C) - Kawana	3,431	20.0	3
Noosa (S) - Tewantin	2,103	20.0	2
Deagon	632	19.9	1
Mermaid Wtrs-Clear Is. Wtrs	2,661	19.9	4
Hervey Bay (C) - Pt A	7,590	19.9	2
Burleigh Waters	2,420	19.7	3
Mundingburra	760	19.6	4
Stafford	1,064	19.5	2
Wynnum	2,130	19.5	3
Maroochy (S) - Nambour	2,250	19.4	1

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 43: 30 Queensland SLAs with the highest number of older persons

Statistical Local Area	No. persons aged 65+	% persons aged 65+	Quintile of disadvantage
Ipswich (C) - Central	8,392	12.8	2
Rockhampton (C)	7,638	13.5	2
Hervey Bay (C) - Pt A	4,103	19.9	2
Bundaberg (C)	1,568	16.9	1
Mackay (C) - Pt A	999	10.5	3
Maroochy (S) - Buderim	1,080	16.5	4
Bribie Island	1,728	29.6	2
Maryborough (C)	2,059	17.3	1
Southport	1,660	18.2	2
Caloundra (C) - Caloundra S.	1,834	27.0	2
Redcliffe-Scarborough	306	21.2	2
Caloundra (C) - Kawana	497	20.0	3
Toowoomba (C) - West	2,234	14.5	2
Livingstone (S)	2,689	12.3	3
Toowoomba (C) - South-East	3,742	13.7	5
Caloundra (C) - Caloundra N.	1,526	17.2	3
Beaudesert (S) - Pt B	840	11.8	3
Maroochy (S) - Maroochydore	865	18.9	1
Surfers Paradise	522	16.2	4
Palm Beach	227	21.3	2
Mermaid Wtrs-Clear Is. Wtrs	3,431	19.9	4
Cooloola (S) - Gympie only	2,103	17.0	1
Johnstone (S)	632	13.7	1
Burdekin (S)	2,661	13.7	3
Burleigh Waters	7,590	19.7	3
Labrador	2,420	16.9	1
Nerang	760	11.4	2
Cairns (C) - Central Suburbs	1,064	11.5	1
Cleveland	2,130	18.4	4
Toowoomba (C) - Central	2,250	16.2	2

Source: ABS 2001b

Tables 44, 45 and 46 group the cohort of older people into three age bands: 65-74 years; 75-84 years; and 85 years and over. Predictably, as mortality rates increase with age, older age groups comprise a lower share of Queensland's population. At a state level, persons aged 65-74 years comprised 6.4 per cent of the total population in 2001 compared to 4.1 per cent for persons aged 75-84 years and 1.3 per cent for persons aged over 85 years.

At a Statistical Division level, the SDs of Wide Bay-Burnett, Moreton and Darling Downs had the greatest proportion of older people in their local populations across all three age bands. The very small proportion (3.8 per cent) of persons aged 65-74 years in the North West SD reflects the relatively large Indigenous population in this Division and the dramatically lower life expectancy of this group. We will explore this issue in more detail in the following section.

Table 44: Proportion of older people aged 65-74 years by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	Persons 65-74 years	Total persons	% 65-74 years
Wide Bay-Burnett	20,391	228,045	8.9
Moreton	55,081	694,022	7.9
Darling Downs	14,221	202,475	7.0
Central West	761	12,163	6.3
South West	1,620	25,951	6.2
Fitzroy	10,364	174,771	5.9
Brisbane	92,172	1,609,114	5.7
Mackay	7,385	132,533	5.6
Northern	10,106	183,290	5.5
Far North	11,778	212,647	5.5
North West	1,301	34,601	3.8

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 45: Proportion of older people aged 75-84 years by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	Persons 75-84 years	Total persons	% 75-84 years
Moreton	35,145	694,022	5.1
Wide Bay-Burnett	11,586	228,045	5.1
Darling Downs	9,098	202,475	4.5
Brisbane	62,747	1,609,114	3.9
Central West	449	12,163	3.7
Fitzroy	5,739	174,771	3.3
Northern	6,064	183,290	3.3
South West	842	25,951	3.2
Far North	6,552	212,647	3.1
Mackay	3,995	132,533	3.0
North West	576	34,601	1.7

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 46: Proportion of older people aged 85 years and over by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	Persons 85+ years	Total persons	% 85+ years
Wide Bay-Burnett	3,724	228,045	1.6
Darling Downs	3,184	202,475	1.6
Moreton	9,778	694,022	1.4
Brisbane	20,067	1,609,114	1.2
South West	257	25,951	1.0
Fitzroy	1,821	174,771	1.0
Northern	1,775	183,290	1.0
Central West	106	12,163	0.9
Mackay	1,244	132,533	0.9
Far North	2,010	212,647	0.9
North West	154	34,601	0.4

Source: ABS 2001b

5.2 Older Indigenous People

In 2001, there were just 2,995 older Indigenous people living in Queensland, representing 0.7 per cent of all people in the state aged 65 years and over. Table 47 shows that older Indigenous persons comprise a very small proportion of the total population in each Statistical Division; the proportions range from 0.03 per cent in the SD of Moreton to 2.75 per cent in the SD of the Far North. This compares to a share of 0.09 per cent at a state level. As a result, discussions of the disadvantage experienced by older people in Queensland tend to pay little attention to the experiences and needs of older Indigenous people, and effective policy and support measures.

A principal determinant of the profile traced out in Table 47 is the much lower life expectancy of Indigenous people. As shown in Table 48, in the period spanning 1996-2001, the life expectancy at birth for Indigenous Queenslanders was estimated to be 58.9 years for males and 62.6 years for females, compared with 76.6 years for all males and 82.0 years for all females for the period 1998-2000; a difference of approximately 19 years for males and 20 years for females. This data is based on the Australian life tables 1998-2000 and the Experimental Indigenous Abridged Life Tables, 1996-2001 (AIHW, 2005a: Chapter 9).

In Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, 75 per cent of Indigenous males and 65 percent of Indigenous females died before the age of 65 years. The comparable rates for the non-Indigenous population were 26 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. In the 35-44 and 45-54 years age groups in which the difference in death rates between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations are greatest, ischaemic heart disease, diseases of the liver, diabetes and intentional self-harm are major causes of death. Indigenous males and females aged 35-54 years died from diabetes at 21 and 37 times the rates, and from influenza and pneumonia at 20 and 17 times the rates, of non-Indigenous males and females of the same age for these conditions (AIHW, 2005; 149-52)

Table 47: Profile of older Indigenous people by Statistical Division

Statistical Division	Indigenous persons 65+	Total Indigenous persons	Total non-Indigenous persons	Indigenous persons 65+ as a % of total persons
Brisbane	577	26,967	1,531,204	0.04
Moreton	185	8,353	682,526	0.03
Wide Bay – Burnett	187	4,548	127,682	0.14
Darling Downs	116	5,524	190,121	0.06
South West	76	2,597	23,462	0.29
Fitzroy	178	7,836	166,347	0.10
Central West	30	709	12,239	0.23
Mackay	109	4,698	128,729	0.08
Northern	257	11,597	170,502	0.14
Far North	996	8,492	27,729	2.75
North West	284	20,090	86,971	0.27

Source: ABS, 2001e and authors' calculations.

Table 48: Comparing life expectancy at birth of Indigenous people and the general population

	Indigenous persons in Queensland (years)	Indigenous persons in Australia (years)	All persons in Australia (years)
Period	1996-2001	1996-2001	1998-2000
Males	58.9	59.4	77.4
Females	62.6	64.8	82.6

Source: AIHW, 2005a: Chapter 9

5.3 Older People and Housing

For older people who are not home owners, rental costs associated with private accommodation or public (state) housing diminish the financial resources available to meet other needs including adequate nutrition, health and care services, and transport. Living arrangements in the years post-retirement can be an important determinant of disadvantage and/or social exclusion. On Census night 2001, only 2.2 per cent of Queensland residents aged 65 years and over were renting accommodation on the private market, while another 1.6 per cent were accommodated in public housing. These shares are much lower than those applying to the general population.

In Tables 49 and 50 we examine the number of older people aged 65-74 years, 75-84 years and over 85 years living in private rental and public housing by Statistical Division. While Brisbane and Moreton – with their larger populations – have the lion's share of older people in these housing categories, a significant number of people aged 65 years and over are renting private and public accommodation in less populated regions like the Northern and Far North SDs

Table 49: Number of older people in privately-rented accommodation by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	Age group (years)		
	65-74	75-84	85+
Brisbane	2,406	1,468	382
Moreton	1,454	937	187
Wide Bay-Burnett	536	336	75
Darling Downs	426	280	87
South West	32	17	3
Fitzroy	244	162	45
Central West	15	7	3
Mackay	189	117	31
Northern	303	168	51
Far North	393	219	57
North West	31	10	7

Source: ABS 2001b

Table 50: Number of older people in public housing by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	Age group (years)		
	65-74	75-84	85+
Brisbane	2328	1514	371
Moreton	607	353	72
Wide Bay-Burnett	221	129	38
Darling Downs	142	97	34
South West	19	11	0
Fitzroy	179	102	20
Central West	5	4	0
Mackay	117	61	14
Northern	209	152	27
Far North	234	140	28
North West	37	15	3

Source: ABS 2001b

Finally, Table 51 documents the number of older people by, Statistical Division, resident in non-private dwellings. These are defined as establishments which provide communal or transitory type accommodation including hotels, motels, boarding houses, hospitals, nursing homes, cared accommodation for the retired or aged, hostels for homeless, night shelters, refuges, prisons, and convents. Across all SDs, 66 people aged 65 years and over were living in prisons on Census night 2001, with another 130 in hostels for the homeless, and 586 in boarding houses. These people are clearly experiencing high levels of relative disadvantage. By contrast, residential aged care facilities and public and private hospitals catered for the accommodation, medical and support needs for many thousands of older people in Queensland.

Table 51: Number of older people living in non-private dwellings by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

	Boarding house or private hotel	Public hospital (not psychiatric)	Private hospital (not psychiatric)	Psych-iatric hospital or institution	Hostel for the disabled	Nursing home	Care facilities for the retired or aged	Homeless hostel, shelter or refuge	Other welfare institution	Prison, corrective and detention institutions	Convent or monastery
Brisbane	293	1,172	970	100	300	5,993	5,174	22	38	38	200
Moreton	129	363	513	8	46	2,537	2,805	12	-	13	3
Wide Bay-Burnett	5	186	112	3	3	787	1,070	8	3	-	-
Darling Downs	21	194	172	60	32	523	1,276	19	-	3	8
South West	-	54	-	-	-	29	112	-	-	-	3
Fitzroy	35	104	94	3	-	560	475	56	-	6	50
Central West	-	14	-	-	-	35	22	-	-	-	-
Mackay	15	74	35	-	-	321	378	-	7	-	3
Northern	45	132	63	10	-	538	752	7	6	5	12
Far North	28	217	141	-	55	422	425	3	-	-	7
North West	15	36	-	-	8	62	24	-	3	-	-

Source: ABS 2001b

5.4 Older People Living Alone

Living alone is seen as a source of disadvantage as people grow older. Saunders (2004) has been found that older single people are twice as likely to experience poverty than older couples, while living alone also makes older people more vulnerable to social isolation (Department of Communities: 2004).

A major consideration in assessing demand on services by the older population is the number and demographic characteristics of older people living alone, who may be without immediate support. Recent social trends such as low fertility, smaller families, higher incidence of childlessness, and increased divorce rates have meant that the number and proportion of older persons living alone has increased and is likely to continue to increase in the future. These people will therefore have a smaller or non-existent family network to turn to for support and may be dependent on other forms of support (ABS, 2001d: 38)

Table 52 shows that, as we would expect, the likelihood of people living alone increases with age. While, approximately 19.5 per cent of people aged 65-74 years in Queensland lived alone, this proportion increased to over 30 per cent for people aged over 85 years. At a spatial level, the Statistical Divisions with the highest proportions of people aged 65 years and over living alone tended to be in the southern areas of the state and included the SDs of Darling Downs, the South West and Brisbane. In the South West, Central West and Darling Downs over 34 per cent of people aged over 85 years lived alone.

Table 52: Number and proportion of older people living alone in Queensland by Statistical Division and age band, 2001

Statistical Division	Age (years)	Number living alone	Total number of older people	% living
Darling Downs	65-74	3,234	14,081	23.0
South West	65-74	424	1,872	22.6
Brisbane	65-74	20,466	94,252	21.7
Central West	65-74	233	1,102	21.1
Northern	65-74	2,250	11,587	19.4
Fitzroy	65-74	2,303	12,041	19.1
Wide Bay-Burnett	65-74	4,110	22,326	18.4
Mackay	65-74	1,626	9,203	17.7
Far North	65-74	2,764	15,995	17.3
Moreton	65-74	11,077	66,069	16.8
North West	65-74	327	2,020	16.2
South West	75-84	313	891	35.1
Darling Downs	75-84	3,049	9,013	33.8
Fitzroy	75-84	1,986	6,228	32.0
Brisbane	75-84	20,431	64,097	31.9
Wide Bay-Burnett	75-84	3,661	12,213	30.0
Mackay	75-84	1,331	4,574	29.1
Northern	75-84	1,929	6,662	29.0
Far North	75-84	2,107	8,018	26.3
Moreton	75-84	10,657	41,575	25.6
North West	75-84	161	670	24.0
Central West	75-84	162	505	23.8
South West	85+	88	254	34.6
Central West	85+	37	107	34.6
Darling Downs	85+	1,084	3,179	34.1
Fitzroy	85+	582	1,850	31.5
Brisbane	85+	6,402	20,390	31.4
Wide Bay-Burnett	85+	1,156	3,762	30.7
Mackay	85+	399	1,314	30.4
Moreton	85+	3,034	10,519	28.8
Northern	85+	520	1,863	28.0
Far North	85+	611	2,188	28.0
North West	85+	30	158	19.0

Source: ABS 2001b

5.5 Older People and Transport

For older people, accessible and affordable public, private and community based transport can assist in maintaining mobility and independence, and reducing isolation by providing a link between them and the wider supportive environment (ABS, 2001d: Chapter 5). Not having access to a motor vehicle is a key indicator of disadvantage, as it requires older people to rely on public transport, taxis or informal networks to access essential services. For many older people, these options may not be available or affordable.

In research on transport and ageing in the United Kingdom, Gilhooly *et al.* (2002) found that car ownership and access to transport were independent predictors of higher perceived quality of life. The fact that car owners reported higher quality of life than non-car owners could not simply be explained by the fact that they were wealthier. The researchers also found that older people in the UK were most reluctant to ask family members for lifts, even to hospital or GP appointments. The unwillingness to ask friends for lifts was also marked, unless some kind of reciprocal relationship was involved.

Table 53 shows the proportion of people aged 65 years and older without a motor vehicle for each of Queensland's Statistical Divisions. Across Queensland, 9.1 per cent of people aged 65-74 years do not have a vehicle, rising to 18.5 per cent for those aged 75-84 years and 23.9 per cent for those aged 85 years and over.

In each of the three age brackets, the SD of Brisbane has the highest or second highest proportion of older people without a motor vehicle. This may be explained by better access to public transport for older people living in urban centres. There are 29,316 individuals aged 65 years and over in the Brisbane SD without a vehicle, against 62,228 individuals in the state as a whole.

The high proportion of older people without a motor vehicle in the regional and rural areas of the Central West, North West and Fitzroy SDs is cause for concern given poorer public transport options and the longer distances that may need to be covered to access essential services.

Table 53: Number and Proportion of Older People without a Vehicle by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	Age (years)	Number without a vehicle	Number of older people	% without a vehicle
Brisbane	65-74	9,830	94,252	10.4
North West	65-74	209	2,020	10.3
Far North	65-74	1,567	15,995	9.8
South West	65-74	172	1,872	9.2
Fitzroy	65-74	1,046	12,041	8.7
Central West	65-74	94	1,102	8.5
Moreton	65-74	5,534	66,069	8.4
Darling Downs	65-74	1,167	14,081	8.3
Northern	65-74	945	11,587	8.2
Mackay	65-74	718	9,203	7.8
Wide Bay-Burnett	65-74	1,495	22,326	6.7
Brisbane	75-84	13,997	64,097	21.8
Central West	75-84	101	505	20.0
Fitzroy	75-84	1,202	6,228	19.2
North West	75-84	122	670	18.2
Darling Downs	75-84	1,603	9,013	17.8
Mackay	75-84	764	4,574	16.7
Northern	75-84	1,114	6,662	16.7
Far North	75-84	1,277	8,018	15.9
Wide Bay-Burnett	75-84	1,905	12,213	15.6
South West	75-84	137	891	15.4
Moreton	75-84	6,305	41,575	15.2
Central West	85+	31	107	29.0
Brisbane	85+	5,489	20,390	26.9
Darling Downs	85+	776	3,179	24.4
Fitzroy	85+	443	1,850	23.9
Mackay	85+	288	1,314	21.9
Wide Bay-Burnett	85+	815	3,762	21.7
Northern	85+	399	1,863	21.4
South West	85+	53	254	20.9
Far North	85+	458	2,188	20.9
Moreton	85+	2,140	10,519	20.3
North West	85+	32	158	20.2

Source: ABS 2001b

5.6 Older People from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds

The cohort in the older population (aged 65 years and over) that were born in non-English-speaking countries is projected to increase more quickly, and age more rapidly, than the older Australian-born population (AIHW: 2005b). This more rapid ageing reflects both the waves of post-war immigration and the concentrated age profile of migrants. Large numbers of individuals who came to Australia from non-English-speaking countries are now moving into the older age groups.

Older people from culturally diverse backgrounds may have special needs for types of aged care services, particularly as they reach very old age. Factors affecting the number and type of services required include not only the size of the population, but also its characteristics such as living arrangements, health and disability status and proficiency in spoken English. Table 54 shows that while 24,028 older persons born in non-English-speaking countries - who were living in Queensland on Census night 2001 – stated that they could speak English ‘very well’ or ‘well’, almost 9,000 could not speak English well or could not speak English at all. It is important to note that a further 24,549 did not state their level of English proficiency.

This data signifies an important policy challenge in preventing social isolation of older people from diverse cultural backgrounds, and ensuring that care and support services have the capacity to provide material in a range of languages and assistance with understanding and translation. The greatest numbers of people who have poor English proficiency, or who do not speak English, live in the SDs of Brisbane, Moreton and the Far North.

Table 54: English proficiency of older people from diverse cultural backgrounds by Queensland Statistical Division, 2001

Statistical Division	Number of persons aged 65 + who speak English:			Proficiency not stated
	Very Well or Well	Not Well	Not at all	
Brisbane	11,691	3,994	1,702	9,197
Moreton	5,725	935	247	6,191
Wide Bay-Burnett	1,121	146	21	2,014
Darling Downs	681	170	26	1,720
South West	40	0	0	202
Fitzroy	398	62	26	1,102
Central West	24	0	0	83
Mackay	511	72	25	942
Northern	1,383	434	70	1,131
Far North	2,261	724	142	1,592
North West	147	48	6	236

Source: ABS 2001b

6. Moving forward – research and applications

In this final section of the report we recognise that while the identification of areas in Queensland which are experiencing relatively high concentrations of socio-economic disadvantage is an important first step, further research and detailed reflection is required if we are to give due regard to spatial disadvantage in policy development, planning and service delivery. Two areas of analysis demand particular attention:

- Understanding the causes and persistence of disadvantage in particular areas; and
- Determining whether the quantum and type of support services provided to a disadvantaged area are well-matched to community needs.

The aim of this section is to provide information on research approaches and resources which can support the commitment by UnitingCare Queensland to better integrate place-based analysis into policy development and planning. As we discussed in the introduction to the report, measures to ameliorate spatial variations in the opportunities and services which are important to people's well-being and life chances are important if UnitingCare Queensland is to fulfil its commitments to social justice, full participation of citizens in our shared life, and reaching out to those who are most disadvantaged and marginalised.

6.1 Understanding the causes and persistence of spatial disadvantage

To determine policy and service approaches that support community well-being, it is important to measure the persistence of disadvantage or poverty by geographic areas. Heady (2005) stresses the role of untangling the dynamic chains of 'cause and effect' or 'damaging sequences and vicious circles' in order to identify points of intervention which can be used to improve social and economic outcomes. For example, low life satisfaction or low mental health can contribute to marital breakdown and becoming a lone parent. A lone parent may then have a less adequate social network than previously, which may in turn lead to lower functionings in some or all domains of life (Heady, 2005: 59).

At the same time it is important to recognise that disadvantaged communities may develop greater resilience and community spirit which can offset, at least in part, risk factors for adverse outcomes. Improving policy and service responses to spatial disadvantage also requires that we understand the dynamic chains which foster greater resilience.

In order to identify areas in Queensland experiencing persistent disadvantage between 2001 and 2006, the current report will be updated in early 2008, when the 2006 Census data is released. However, as discussed in Section 1, while the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing remains the principal source of small area data in Australia, it focuses on the characteristics of people (such as labour market status and education) and the dwellings in which they live. This data is critical to understanding the persistence of disadvantage. However it does not allow us to understand the role of an area's infrastructure - such as schools, community services and transport - in changing an area's ranking (according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage) over time. This research goal may be achieved by combining quantitative analysis of Census data with qualitative case studies of areas experiencing persistent or rising disadvantage. Qualitative research is an important way for research groups within

UnitingCare Queensland and its agencies to understand the degree and nature of unmet need through consultations with people using services and staff.

In the following section, we discuss a second approach to tracking the persistence of disadvantage at a spatial level, which has been made possible through the development of longitudinal data sets in Australia.

6.2 Working with longitudinal data

In Section 6.2 we provide a brief overview of two important, and relatively new, longitudinal data sets which will provide a rich research resource for UnitingCare Queensland. Research based on this data can help to inform the development of effective service options and models for groups including families and children, people living with illness or disability, and older people. Other researchers have already conducted projects examining neighbourhood effects on children's developmental outcomes (for example, Edwards, 2005).

The Household Income and Labour Dynamics Australia (HILDA) Survey

The HILDA Survey is Australia's first large household-based longitudinal survey. It began in 2001 with a nation-wide representative sample comprising 7,682 households and 19,914 individuals. The sample members are followed over time and interviews are conducted annually with all adult members of each household. Funding for the Survey has been guaranteed for eight waves, and Wave 5 data will be released in January 2007.

HILDA collects information about economic and subjective well-being, labour market dynamics and family dynamics. This provides rich data on families, including couple and sole-parent families, old and young families, the advantaged and disadvantaged, and those in rural and urban settings. Research questions already explored using the early HILDA waves include the circumstances under which parents use multiple forms of care for their children; the processes through which financial hardship may threaten relationship and family stability; and the mechanisms which explain intergenerational transmission effects and the factors important to protecting children from these impacts (Weston and Wooden, 2002). The self-completion questionnaire used in the HILDA Survey provides information on general health and well-being; lifestyle and living situations (including neighbourhood characteristics, housing adequacy, frequency of social interaction and social support); personal and household finances (including financial well-being and stressful financial events); and attitudes about work, gender roles and parenting (Watson and Wooden, 2002).

At the level of spatial analysis, HILDA lends itself to further investigation of neighbourhood effects in Queensland. Household unit records can be aggregated to larger regional levels including the Statistical Local Area and Statistical Division levels used in this report. Importantly, other spatial identifiers including the 2001 SEIFA Indexes and ABS Remoteness classifications appear on the HILDA files.

The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)

The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) study is being conducted by a consortium of nine research organisations, with the Australian Institute of Family Studies

acting as the lead organisation. In order to understand the impact of changes to the family and broader environments in which children grow up, the LSAC will address a range of research questions about children's development and well-being, including the roles of families, communities and government in facilitating positive outcomes for children.

Data are being collected over seven years from two cohorts every two years using a large, and nationally representative, sample of Australian children in two age groups. The first cohort of 5000 children aged less than 12 months in 2003-04 will be followed until they reach 6 to 7 years of age, and the second cohort comprising 5000 children aged 4 years in 2003/04 will be followed until they reach 10 or 11 years of age. Study informants include the child (when of an appropriate age) and their parents, carers and teachers (AIFS, 2002).

The study is grounded in an ecological model of development, in which the family, school, community and broader society, as well as the child's own attributes, are seen to contribute to the child's development in complex interacting ways over time. The LSAC seeks to identify the factors that determine pathways through life to good and poor outcomes, and factors that influence changes in these pathways, especially at crucial transition points such as entry into child care or school settings (AIFS, 2002). By identifying early indicators that children are embarking on disadvantageous pathways, and the factors that divert children away from these pathways, interventions can be designed to help change children's course through life.

The child outcomes being measured include behavioural and emotional adjustment, language and cognitive development, readiness to learn, overall health, motor/physical development, and social competence. Data is also being collected on key factors influencing developmental outcomes. These factors relate to the child (for example, health, temperament, literacy experiences), the parents (for example, socioeconomic status, parenting style, health), and the broader family, child care, school and community environments (AIFS, 2002).

Currently, our capacity to develop appropriate interventions is limited by our lack of knowledge about children's developmental trajectories, and our inadequate understanding of the complex pathways involved. Data collected for the study may enable the evaluation of large-scale policy changes that take place during the life of the study; for example, changes to universally available services such as child care funding support. It will also support the evaluation of types of programs or services; for example playgroups or pre-school services. Finally, the analysis of LSAC data may suggest new directions for support services during critical life changes such as divorce and re-partnering (AIFS, 2002).

6.3 Families and Children

In Section 6.3 we briefly describe three contemporary projects which can be used to develop effective programs to support children and families. In all cases, the research enables consideration of how outcomes and needs vary in different geographic areas.

First, data from the LSAC (discussed in the previous section) has been used to construct the LSAC Outcome Index. This is a composite measure to indicate how children are

developing across multiple domains, and focuses on both strengths and weaknesses in developmental outcomes. Research using the Index has already established that parents participating in the LSAC who saw themselves as not very good at being a parent had children with markedly lower social-emotional scores than parents who felt competent in their roles (AIFS, 2005). These results support the further development of services to assist parents who are lacking in confidence and rate their ability as a parent poorly.

Second, the *Australian Early Development Index: Building Better Communities for Children Project* (AEDI Project) is being conducted by the Centre for Community Child Health in partnership with the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. The AEDI aims to measure the health and development of populations of children to help communities assess how well they are doing in supporting young children and their families. Previously there has been no way to monitor early child development at a community level or to begin to think about how local circumstances might need to be changed to improve children's life chances (Centre for Community Child Health *et al.*, 2005). By using the AEDI to map children's development it is possible to begin to identify and understand the influence of socio-economic and community factors on children's development. The AEDI can also be used to monitor changes over time, and to help in the evaluation of community-based interventions or service reform. In addition, the AEDI data and maps can help communities to identify:

- Where the children who are “developmentally vulnerable” live;
- Variations in child development within different parts of the community;
- Where there have been successful early childhood programs; and
- Where change might still be needed.

Communities can self-nominate to be involved in the study. In Queensland, the Gold Coast and Kingston/Waterford West communities are both participating in the research (Centre for Community Child Health *et al.*, 2005).

Finally, the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (2006) has developed a composite index of Child Social Exclusion risk (the CSE Index) at a small area level and used this to analyse the substantial differences in child social exclusion, and in specific characteristics related to social exclusion, across local areas. NATSEM found that a relatively high proportion of children in Tasmania (36.3 per cent) and Queensland (25.1 per cent) fall into the bottom (highest risk) CSE decile. By comparison, the ACT (0 per cent) and Victoria (2.1 per cent) have very low percentages of their child population in this group. Disturbingly, while only 20 per cent of all Australian children aged 0 to 15 years live in Queensland, almost 49 per cent of the children in the bottom CSE decile come from this State (Harding, McNamara *et al.*, 2006). Analysis of differences in the extent and nature of CSE in different parts of Queensland may help identify what type of services and supports need to be developed and where they need to be located.

6.4 Planning for Aged and Community Care

The issue of unequal distribution of care needs and funding of services across geographical areas has been a long-term policy concern. In this section we report on the development of a spatial microsimulation model – known as CareMod – by the National

Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) which aims to address the following planning issues:

- Who needs aged care – now and in the future?
- What types of care services do these older Australians need?
- Who can pay for these services?
- Who can provide these services?
- Where do these individuals live?
- Where should services be provided?

NATSEM has developed CareMod in partnership with the Office for an Ageing Australia and NSW Department of Disability, Ageing and Home Care. The principal aim of the model is to produce small area estimates, within NSW, of levels of disability and the need for aged care, broken down by the socioeconomic characteristics of individuals and their families.

The logic underlying CareMod is that the type of aged care services used and required by older people will depend on their need for care, personal and family circumstances and the supply of care. The aim has been to map functional status measured by level of disability to the need for different ‘modalities’ of care. While these modalities of care may, in turn, map to current aged care services and programs, the research aimed to avoid defining the type of care required in terms of the services currently available. Instead the type of care needed has been defined using a sliding scale ranging from no or minimal assistance required through to high dependency. This approach aims to separate the need for care from the existing organisational structure of age care support and supply of services. It therefore provides the opportunity of mapping the need for care to new forms of service delivery and support that may be developed in the future (Brown *et al.*, 2005). While CareMod has not been applied to service planning and provision in Queensland, it may prove to be an important strategic planning tool for aged care providers such as BlueCare.

6.5 Research Centres concerned with spatial analysis

The following research groups have particular expertise in analysing the concentration and causes of disadvantage, mapping services, and forecasting future service needs at a small area level. Inclusion on this list is based on analysis of published output which is relevant to the research needs identified in this report. Centres have been listed alphabetically and their major research interests (as defined on their websites or public documents) identified¹.

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)

AHURI is a national research organisation, specialising in housing and urban research and policy. It comprises seven participating Research Centres, throughout Australia and receives funding from Government Grants, contributions from the Research Centres and Commercial Research. Key research areas include spatial variations in housing

¹ In the interests of full disclosure, we note that one of the authors of this report, Sally Cowling, has previously been employed by two of the Centres which we have included on this list. These were the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne (1997-98), and the Centre of Full Employment and Equity, University of Newcastle (2002-06).

affordability, Indigenous housing and homelessness. Further information is available at:
<http://www.ahuri.edu.au>

Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

AIFS is an Australian government statutory authority located within the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. It houses, and will provide support services to users of, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) database. The Institute's research plan for the period 2006-08 is structured around the framework *Families Through Life* and will focus on family relationships; children, youth and patterns of care; and families and communities. Research in these areas will take account of the diversity of Australian families, the contexts within which they live and operate, and periods of change or transition for families. Further information is available at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au>

Centre for Research into Sustainable Urban and Regional Futures (CR-SURF)

CR-SURF is based at the University of Queensland. Its core activities include the development and application of new approaches for measuring urban and regional performance on social, economic, environmental and health dimensions of sustainability and quality of life; and the examination of issues related to locational disadvantage and healthy ageing. It has engaged in research with the Australian National Training Authority on communities of opportunity and vulnerability across Australia. Further information is available at:

<http://www.uq.edu.au/cr-surf/index.html>

Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE)

CofFEE is an official research centre at the University of Newcastle with membership drawn from the disciplines of Economics, Politics, Geography, Leisure and Tourism. The Centre seeks to promote research aimed at restoring full employment and achieving an economy that delivers equitable outcomes for all. CofFEE has particular expertise in the application of spatial analytic techniques to regional development and local labour markets; examining job creation and job destruction dynamics; and understanding dynamic processes (relating to employment and housing) in local areas where strong economic and employment growth co-exist with persistent unemployment and disadvantage. The latter research focus is important to understanding the distribution of costs and benefits in areas benefiting from the resources boom. Further information is available at:

<http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee>

National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM)

NATSEM is a research centre associated with the University of Canberra that undertakes research and analysis specialising in the use of microdata and microsimulation modelling. This is currently being applied to the examination of poverty rates, income and wealth levels for small geographic regions in Australia; forecasting the current and future need for aged and community care, health, and social services at a detailed regional (SLA) level; using microsimulation models to determine the spatial impacts of proposed policy changes; and the development and spatial application of the Child Social Exclusion Index. Further information is available at:

<http://www.natsem.canberra.edu.au/>

National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems (GISCA)

GISCA is based at the University of Adelaide and aims to develop and demonstrate a wide range of social and economic applications of spatial information systems. It has a particular concern with the effective incorporation of data - using advanced geographic information technology - into research which examines changing patterns and locations of need as well as into the social and service planning process. Projects include the mapping of aged care services and analysis of their accessibility; health service provision in non-metropolitan Australia; identifying the spatial pattern of social service provision in rural communities; indigenous population analysis; and the development of social health atlases at local government level. Further information is available at:

<http://www.gisca.adelaide.edu.au/>

Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (MIAESR)

MIAESR is based at the University of Melbourne and administers the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) longitudinal database. Current MIAESR projects utilising HILDA data include an assessment of the dynamics and persistence of income poverty in Australia and the development of a framework for assessing poverty, disadvantage and low capabilities. Further information is available at:

<http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/>

Urban Research Program (URP)

The URP is part of Griffith University in Queensland and has identified urban governance, transportation, urban livability, housing, infrastructure, ecology, urban economy and health as research areas of strategic importance. Most URP research concerns South East Queensland (Brisbane plus the Sunshine and Gold Coasts). Recently completed projects include Housing Barriers and Opportunities for Unemployed People in Logan; Indicators of Need for Affordable Housing in Brisbane; and Seniors, Transport Disadvantage and Social Isolation on the Gold Coast. Further information is available at: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/centre/urp/>

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