Using Population Statistics – Bayside City Council

How We Use Population Statistics

Bayside City Council provides demographic information for use by Council staff, community members, business operators, students and visitors.

Strategy 2.1.2 of the 2013-2017 Council Plan states that Council will ensure our "services and facilities are accessible and inclusive and respond to current and emerging needs across life stages". Community profile statistics and population forecasts are used extensively by Council staff to prepare broad strategic documents such as the Housing Strategy, Open Space Strategy, Economic Development Strategy, Municipal Early Years Plan and the Youth Strategy. Data on the current population and future growth has been used in Council publications such as the *Annual Report* and the four-yearly *Council Plan*.

In addition to broad strategic planning, Council uses this data for small area or neighbourhood planning (eg an Activity Centre in a suburb, around a key community facility) and for detailed service planning (eg kindergarten provision, Home & Community Care clients).

Members of the community also use the data for business planning, strategic planning and grant applications for community groups and for personal study purposes.

About These Resources

Bayside City Council has contracted demographic specialists *id consulting pty ltd* to collate and present population statistics for the City and its suburbs. This information is presented on three different websites which are hosted externally by *id* but accessed via Council's website. Users can view the information on-screen, download reports covering all topics or run their own queries on specific target groups. The websites were designed for use by any community member or Council staff member.

The three websites are:
- the Community Profile using data from the current Census of Population and Housing;
- the Community Atlas which displays Census data using coloured maps; and
- the Population Forecast showing the future population up to the year 2031.

What is the population of Bayside?

For the official population of Bayside you should use the Estimated Resident Population figure. The Estimated Resident Population (ERP) is the official Australian Bureau of Statistics estimate of the Australian population. The ERP is based on results of the most recent Census and is compiled as at 30 June of the Census year. It is updated between Censuses on an annual basis for local government areas and takes into account births, deaths and both internal and overseas migration.

The City of Bayside's official population is published as part of the Bayside Community Profile website, under the menu titled Post-Census updates > *Population estimates*.

How We Use Census Data

Whilst the Estimated Resident Population provides an official population figure and some data by age group, Census data should be used to examine population characteristics such as birthplace, households, income or occupations.

The Census of Population and Housing provides two different counts for many of the Census data items for Bayside:
* the Bayside 'enumerated' population which is a count of people who were staying in Bayside on Census night (includes visitors to Bayside but excludes Bayside residents who were staying elsewhere on that night such as business or holiday travellers); or
* the Bayside 'usual resident' population which is those residents who usually live in Bayside – they may have been home on Census night or absent from their Bayside residence on Census night.

Both population counts are useful measures, and neither is "wrong". However it is important to select one of the available counts and then use this consistently, when you are comparing Census information about different topics.

At Bayside City Council we generally use the enumerated population as we often look at historical changes over time and much of our work focuses on dwellings and households (which is only available on an enumerated basis).

How We Use Different Population Forecasts

Population forecasts are produced by a range of organisations including the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD), the Australian Bureau of Statistics and many private consultancy firms. Bayside Council uses both its own population forecast prepared by *id consulting pty ltd,* and the population projections prepared by DPCD titled 'Victoria in Future'.

The Bayside Council forecast is used for detailed forward planning as it has a number of advantages compared with the DPCD product:
* forecasts are produced for smaller geographic areas (all nine suburbs in Bayside)
* forecasts available for persons by single year of age, and each year from 2006 to 2031
* more detailed building activity data and statutory planning data were incorporated into the assumptions
* Council policies on managing housing growth were incorporated into the assumptions.

Another benefit of the Bayside Council population forecast is the detailed assumptions are published for review, the forecast is tracked annually and can be reviewed again if local circumstances change.

However, government population projections may be used when Bayside City Council is required to prepare strategic documents which require consistent population data for both Bayside and the metropolitan Melbourne area. Similarly government projections are useful when one needs to benchmark or compare population growth across many local government areas using the one dataset (eg how does Bayside compare to Port Phillip, Glen Eira?).

For more information about Bayside facts, figures and statistics, contact our Research Officer on (03) 9599 4444. Produced using material sourced from http://blog.id.com.au/ (prepared by id consulting pty ltd)