

Sketch of Earlwood

In mid 2006, Earlwood had an estimated population of 2,466 residents, with 2,360 counted in the Census. The overnight population, excluding residents away but including 39 visitors, was 2,316, which was 8% more than in 2001.

With an area of 1 square kilometres, Earlwood had a population density of 3,055 residents per sq.km.

Some 18% of residents were under 15, and 16% were 65 or older, so there were 1.9 working-age adults for each young or old person.

Housing

In Earlwood, 2,317 residents lived in 767 private dwellings, averaging 3.0 residents per dwelling, while other residents lived in institutional dwellings such as nursing homes or boarding houses.

About 71% of private dwellings were houses, 27% were attached houses (eg semis or townhouses), 2% were flats or units; there were few other dwellings. Occupancy ranged from 3.1 residents per house to 2.5 residents per attached house and 2.1 residents per flat or unit.

Of these dwellings, 49% were fully-owned and 29% were being purchased, with 17% being rented.

About one-seventh of the occupied dwellings had just one resident (15%) and three-tenths had two (31%). Another one-fifth had three residents (21%) and 19% had four; another 15% had five or more residents.

Of the 226 dwellings being purchased, the average monthly mortgage was \$2,259 a month; 11% paid under \$750 a month, 12% paid under \$750 to \$1,400 a month, 17% paid up to \$2,000 a month, and 48% paid more.

The average rent paid by the 131 renting households in Earlwood was \$299 a week, with 9% paying under \$140 a week, 16% paying up to \$275 a week, 72% paying \$275 to \$550 a week, and 0% paying more.

Households and families

Of the residents in Earlwood on Census night, 50% lived as a partner in a couple (46% married; 4% de facto) and 19% were children under 15 living at home. Another 16% were older children still at home.

The other adults were either living alone (5%), as lone parents (4%), in group households (1%), or as a relative (3%) or lodger (1%) with another family.

Some 671 families were counted living in Earlwood in 2006 – 31% were couples without children; 31% were young families with all children under 15, with an average of 2.2 children; 22% were nuclear families with older children, averaging 1.5 children; and 14% were single parent families, with 1.3 children on average.

Outside couples, men and women tend to different living arrangements. There were 1.6 men per woman living as an independent child and 1.2 men per woman living as a visitor (from Australia) but 4.0 women per man living as a lodger and 3.9 women per man living as a lone parent.

Of residents aged 15+, 58% were legally married, 28% had never married, and 14% were once married (5% were divorced, 3% were separated and 6% were widowed).

Education and skills

Out of the residents aged 15+, 49% had completed Year 12 of school, 23% had completed Year 10 or 11, and 16% had completed Year 8 or 9.

Altogether, 997 residents of Earlwood had some form of post-school qualification, with 10% having a post-graduate qualification, 24% a degree, 14% a diploma, and 29% a certificate; the others did not say.

Currently, 38 residents were attending TAFE, 96 were at university, and 181 were enrolled in other post-school education.

About 64% of the number of 3–4 year-olds in Earlwood were in pre-school in 2006, the fourth highest rate among the suburbs. The number of primary students was equivalent to 94% of the number of 5–11 year-olds here; this was the third highest level. High school student numbers were 82% of the number of 12–17 year-olds, the third highest level in the GreenWay.

The local economy

The average weekly income of Earlwood residents (aged 15+) was \$630 a week, which was the eleventh highest of the 11 suburbs. The average female income, \$530 a week, was 73% of the male average of \$731.

Overall, 29% of adult residents received under \$250 a week in 2006, and 25% got \$250 to \$600 a week. Another 18% were middle-income, getting between \$600 and \$1,000 a week, while 13% were high-income (\$1,000 to \$1,600 a week) and 7% got over \$1,600 a week.

Based on these incomes, family households averaged \$1,335 a week. Other households (eg single persons, lone parents and groups) averaged less, \$858 a week, mainly because they are mainly smaller than families.

Most incomes come from employment, and in 2006, 58% of adults (15+) were in the labour force, the tenth highest of the suburbs. Of these, 41% were employed full-time, 8% part-time and 3% were employed but not at work; 2% were unemployed (the eighth highest unemployment among the suburbs).

The main industries in which residents worked were retail trade with 11% of the workforce, construction with 9%, health care & social assistance with 9%, education & training with 8% and professional & technical services with 7%.

The main occupations of employed residents were professionals (22% of workers), clerical & administrative workers (18%), managers (14%), technicians & trades workers (14%) and sales workers (9%).

About 87% of the employed residents travelled to work while 3% worked at home; 8% did not go to work, on an average weekday in August 2006.

The main ways they travelled to work were by car as driver (69% of the workforce), train (16%), by car as passenger (8%), by bus (7%) and by truck (2%).

Community cultures

Overall, 16% of residents said their ancestry was Australian, when asked to name one or two ancestries. Other commonly named ancestries were Chinese (7%), English (12%), Greek (20%), Irish (6%), Italian (9%), Lebanese (7%), Scottish (3%), Vietnamese (3%).

Similarly, 53% of residents said they were born in Australia. Commonly named overseas birthplaces were China (3%), Greece (7%), Italy (3%), Lebanon (3%), Viet Nam (2%).

Most (42%) residents spoke English at home, while 53% said they spoke another language. The most common of these were Arabic (by 6.7%), Cantonese (by 3.2%), Chinese languages (by 5.5%), Greek (by 17.5%), Italian (by 5.3%), Portuguese (by 5.7%), Vietnamese (by 3.4%).

Community capital

In 2006, 75 residents of Earlwood, or 3%, had a long-term, severe disability that meant they needed assistance with daily living tasks. This was the ninth highest rate among the suburbs. Among those aged 85 or more, the proportion with disability reached 40%.

Another 214 residents, or 11%, gave time caring for these people, a ratio of 2.9 carers per cared-for person.

Of the residents, 210 volunteered with a community organisation, 11% of the adult population (15+). This was the eleventh highest level of the suburbs in the GreenWay. Amongst women aged 45-54, the volunteering rate was 16%.

On average, the residents of Earlwood did about 10 hours housework a week, with 46% doing under 5 hours a week while 10% did over 30 hours a week. Women aged 45-54 averaged 17 hours housework a week; men averaged 6 hours a week.

Of residents aged 15 or more, 27% provided unpaid child care for either their own child (17%), another's child (8%), or both (1%).

In Earlwood, 86% of residents had lived in the same house for over a year and 72% for at least five years. Overall, 76% of residents had lived in this locality for over five years, ranking it first out of the 11 suburbs on this indicator of community stability.

Most residents (73%) were Christians, while 9% had no religion, and 5% did not state their religion. The other 13% mainly did not state their religion; 0.6% were Jewish; 2.9% were Moslems; 4.0% were Buddhists.