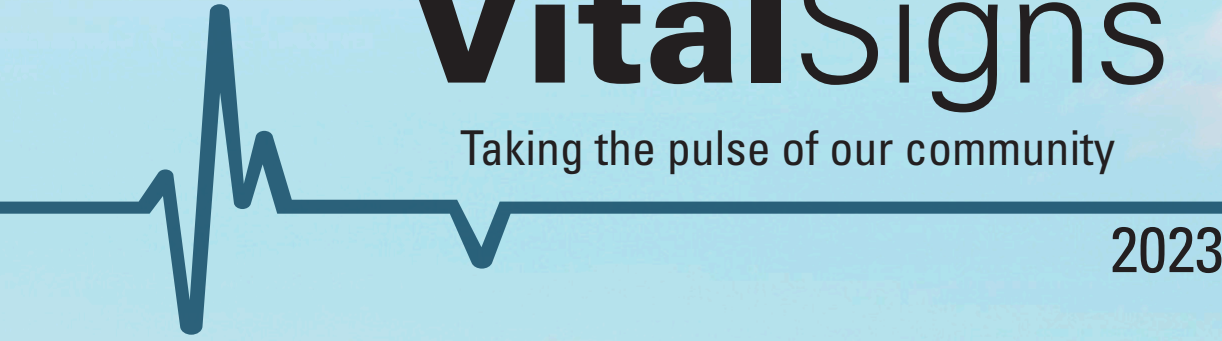


ALBANY'S

VitalSigns[®]

Taking the pulse of our community

2023



COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA

RioTinto



WELCOME TO

ALBANY'S

VitalSigns

REPORT 2023

Vital Signs is a community-driven data program that uses local knowledge to measure the vitality of a community and support action towards improving the collective quality of life. Albany's Vital Signs 2023 explores four key themes:



Vital Signs is a global research methodology designed to help identify a community's successes and challenges. Vital Signs reports help communities make connections between macro level issues and how these economic trends play out at the local level, impact quality of life and community vitality. The report can be used to start conversations with supporters and beneficiaries of their work, to identify local priorities and opportunities, and to help make data-driven decisions on where to focus attention and resources.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge that this community exists on Menang Noongar country. We respect the Noongar peoples' ongoing connection and ownership of this country, and the efforts of Elders past, present and emerging to preserve culture, to care for country, and to support their people.

OUR AIM + GOALS

Albany's Vital Signs 2023 report aims to identify trends and opportunities to raise awareness of the strengths and challenges in the community. The goal is to generate action and spark conversation within our local community, and to identify areas of need to create the greatest impact.

IN 2021 ALBANY HAD A POPULATION OF 38,763



IF ALBANY WAS A VILLAGE OF 100 PEOPLE

THIS WOULD BE A SNAPSHOT OF THE NUMBER OF
PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY ¹



EDUCATION + EMPLOYMENT

Thriving and resilient communities offer flexible and affordable opportunities for learning throughout life, providing pathways to meaningful employment.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

A 'childcare desert' is defined as a populated area with 'more than 3 children per 1 childcare place.'¹

Albany has a severe lack of childcare, as for every 4 children, there is only 1 place available.



THE FOLLOWING % OF STUDENTS ATTENDED 15 HOURS OF KINDY PER WEEK²



25% of children in Albany are assessed as **vulnerable*** in one or more areas in their early childhood development in their first year of school.³

20% in WA, 22% in Australia.

*Australian Early Development Census 2021

HIGH SCHOOL

11% of youth aged 15 to 24 are disengaged and not earning or learning.³



HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES⁴

*Students aged 15+



FURTHER EDUCATION

50.1%
HAVE A QUALIFICATION⁴

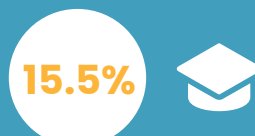
41%
HAVE NO QUALIFICATION⁴

8.9%
NOT STATED⁴



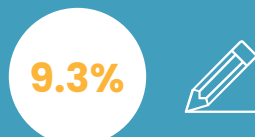
The highest qualification achieved for persons aged 15+ in 2021 are as follows⁴

BACHELOR DEGREE OR HIGHER



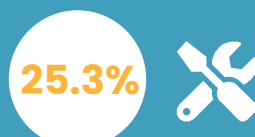
14% Regional WA

DIPLOMA OR ADVANCED DIPLOMA



8% Regional WA

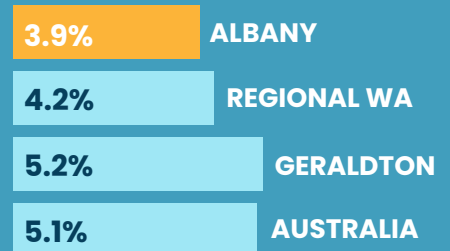
VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION



25% Regional WA

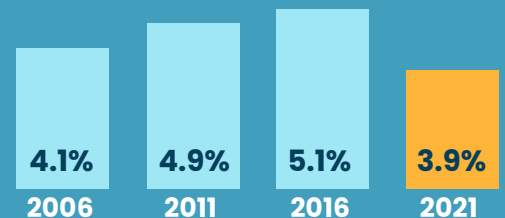
EMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES*⁴



*2021 census data

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES OVER TIME⁴



PARTICIPATION RATE

Albany's 'participation rate'* is **57.3%** which is lower than Regional WA, WA, and Australia.⁴

*of the working age population

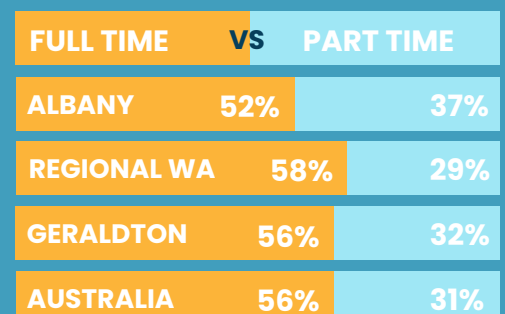
TOP 6 AREAS OF INDUSTRY

16.5% of people work in health care and social assistance⁴



- 11.3% retail
- 9.3% education + training
- 9.1% construction
- 7.7% accommodation + food
- 6.7% agriculture, forestry + fishing

EMPLOYMENT STATUS⁴



Unemployed or 'looking for work' not included.

HOUSING + FINANCIAL STRESS

Housing provides the stability that people need to address unemployment, wellbeing, and physical health. Ending homelessness is not only beneficial to the people who have moved into housing, but also to the community and healthcare system.

HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESSNESS is a condition where individuals or families lack a stable and safe place to live, often leading to them residing in temporary shelters, on the streets, or in other inadequate and insecure housing situations. People living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out ('rough sleepers') is just one category of the term 'homelessness'.¹



Albany's Homelessness Connection Day in May 2023 identified

82*

people in Albany are homeless in 2023²

of which, **43%** identify as **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**.²

*This number is realistically 130 people if other family members and dependants are included. The highest proportion were aged between 20 and 29.

Geraldton: 45 people in August 2023³

HOMELESS AGE RANGE

The highest proportion of people who are homeless in Albany are those aged between 20 and 29.⁴

10 - 19

20 - 29

30 - 39

40 - 49

50 - 59

60 - 69

70 - 79

DISADVANTAGE

SEIFA = Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas

are based on an Australian score of 1000. A lower score indicates greater relative disadvantage.

SEIFA INDEX BY SUBURB⁵

LOCKYER + GLEDHOW 883

MILPARA + ORANA 917

SPENCER PARK 943

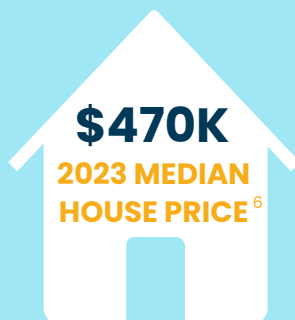
YAKAMIA 959

MIDDLETON BEACH + MT CLARENCE 1024

LOWER KING 1029

AUSTRALIA SEIFA INDEX: 1001
WA SEIFA INDEX: 1011
ALBANY SEIFA INDEX: 987

MEDIAN HOUSE PRICE



6% increase since 2022

20% increase since 2018

30% increase since 2013

HOUSING STRESS

'housing stress' = when rent or mortgage is more than 30% of a person's income.



36%

of rental households are experiencing 'housing stress'.⁷

15%

of mortgaged households are experiencing 'housing stress'.⁷

PUBLIC HOUSING WAITLIST

In 2023, there is a waitlist for

453 dwellings

needed for public housing for singles, couples, seniors and families in Albany.⁸

THE VACANCY RATE OF RENTALS* IN 2023 IS 0.7%. THE RATE HAS BEEN 1% OR LOWER SINCE 2020.⁹

0.7%

This equates to approximately 20 available listings (August 2023). The ideal for cities is between 2-3%.

Regional WA rate: 1%
WA rate: 1%

*Public housing rentals

MEDIAN WEEKLY RENTAL PRICE



17.5% increase from 2022 to 2023⁹

This equates to an increase of \$70/week or \$3,650/year.

The 2023 median rental price in Albany is \$445/week,

compared with \$350/week from 2014 to 2020.

BELONGING

Developing and maintaining a sense of belonging, now and into the future, is critical in sustaining the culture and lifestyle of the City of Albany. Community identity and connection is important for a vibrant and healthy community, regardless of sexual orientation, religion, race or age.

DIVERSITY + DISCRIMINATION

11%

OF AUSTRALIANS MAY HAVE A DIVERSE SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SEX OR GENDER IDENTITY.¹

People with a diverse sexual orientation, sex or gender identity are twice as likely to experience discrimination.



13%

OF AUSTRALIANS EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.²

LGBTI* YOUNG PEOPLE REPORTED³

6 IN 10

EXPERIENCE VERBAL HOMOPHOBIC ABUSE

2 IN 10

EXPERIENCE PHYSICAL HOMOPHOBIC ABUSE

*WA LGBTI HEALTH STRATEGY 2019 - 2024

AREAS OF DISCRIMINATION

74% of youth who were surveyed in Albany think there is discrimination in the following areas⁴

RACE

SEXUALITY

GENDER

DISABILITY

AGE

RELIGION

CULTURE

OTHER

BIRTHPLACE

75% AUSTRALIA

20% OVERSEAS

5% NOT STATED⁵



3.2% of people in Albany identify as Australian Aboriginal.⁵

*INCREASE FROM 0.4% IN 2016, THE LARGEST CHANGE IN THE REPORTED ANCESTRIES.

LANGUAGE

87.8%

English only⁵

6.2%

Non-English⁵

6.0%*

Not stated⁵

*INCREASE FROM 5.9% IN 2016

The largest change in the languages used by the population in the City of Albany between 2016 and 2021 was Karen (Burma Myanmar).

VOLUNTEERING

21% of people in Albany volunteer or spend time doing unpaid work.⁵



VOLUNTEER RATES IN 2021⁵

21% ALBANY

19% REGIONAL WA

16% WA

14% AUSTRALIA

The number of volunteers in Albany decreased by 430 people between 2016 and 2021.⁵



CLUBS + ASSOCIATIONS

320

There are 320 registered, active and incorporated associations and clubs in the City of Albany in 2023.⁶



HEALTH + RESILIENCE

The percentage of chronic health conditions of Albany's population is higher than regional WA, placing a strain on health care services. Regional centres are isolated from essential health services, resulting in long travel times. Access to mental health services is an area of growing concern, especially for vulnerable populations such as low-income individuals.

HEALTH

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES



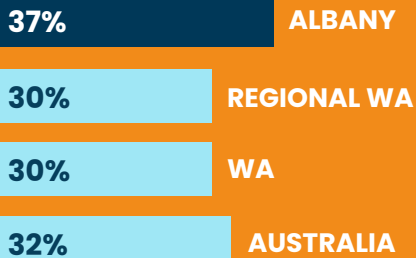
Between 2015 and 2019 the most frequently reported infectious diseases (**814 per 100,000***) were **vaccine-preventable diseases**.¹

This is higher than the WA state average, and more than double the previous Census rate for Albany.

*2011-2015 in Albany: 397 per 100,000.

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

% OF PEOPLE WITH 1 OR MORE CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS²



TYPES OF LONG TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS*²



ARTHRITIS	11.1%
MENTAL HEALTH	10.6%**
ASTHMA	8.7%
OTHER	8.5%
DIABETES	5.4%
HEART DISEASE	4.8%
CANCER	3.7%
LUNG CONDITION	2.2%
STROKE	1.2%
DEMENTIA	1.1%
KIDNEY DISEASE	0.8%

*As advised by a doctor or nurse.

**Anxiety and depression may not always be categorized as long-term mental health conditions, but can still impact a person's daily life and well-being and they often require ongoing management, treatment and support.

TOBACCO USE

Estimated % of people aged 16+ who are smokers*³

12% of males

6% of females



*Does not include e-cigarettes or vaping.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

27% of people aged 18+ in the Great Southern region consume **more than 2 standard alcoholic drinks per day** on average (2017-18).⁴

This is **significantly above the 18.2% WA average**.



HOSPITALISATIONS

Accidental falls due to injury is the number one cause of hospitalisations in Albany.⁵

The cost of hospitalisations in Albany due to injuries caused by falls was \$15,617,815 in 2015-2019.⁵



PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING

9% of males

8% of females



AGED 16+ EXPERIENCED HIGH OR VERY HIGH LEVELS OF CURRENT PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS AFTER COMPLETING THE KESSLER 10 SCALES*⁶

*The Kessler 10 scales is a measure of current psychological distress over a 4 week period and is not necessarily reflective of the presence or absence of mental health conditions.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

The number of young people aged 12 to 25 seeking support for mental health concerns at headspace Albany **increased** from **374** in 2018, to **680** in 2022.⁷

This represents over 10% of the eligible youth population accessing mental health support at headspace Albany. This does not include young people seeking support elsewhere.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

THE GREAT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF THE WA POLICE RECORDED THE FOLLOWING RATES OF FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS (PER 100,000)⁸



This is the combined total number of reported common assaults, serious assaults and threatening behaviour.

CASE STUDIES

EDUCATION + EMPLOYMENT

A severe lack of housing has led to a skills shortage in Albany, significantly affecting the childcare sector. The lack of skills in childcare has resulted in a major shortage in the Great Southern region, comparatively much worse than the state average. With a population of working age people who are wanting to work more hours but finding it impossible to do so with childcare shortages, the Albany Chamber of Commerce & Industry decided to mount a campaign to make a change.

Partnering with Workforce Australia, the Chamber sent out a survey to the business community to gauge exactly how much of an impact this childcare shortage is having. The results of the survey were stark, with the majority of businesses indicating that their employees could work additional hours if they could access more childcare services. Partnerships between Workforce Australia and the Albany Chamber of Commerce & Industry highlight the importance of local collaboration to advocate for change.



HOUSING + FINANCIAL STRESS

Led by Albany Youth Support Association (AYSA) and Advance Housing, the Great Southern Youth Foyer (GSYF) is a community-driven initiative to tackle youth homelessness.

The proposed space will provide accommodation and programs for 50 Youth and a 10 bed Youth Crisis Refuge, supporting those who are experiencing, or at risk of homelessness. In 2021, 11% of Albany's 15–24-year-olds were disengaged from education and employment (above State average). This, combined with rental vacancy rate of 0.7%, has resulted in a heightened risk of homelessness in Albany's Youth. The GSYF will provide young people with the stability, connections and support needed for them to build a future outside of homelessness and welfare systems. The GSYF requires a capital investment of \$25–\$30 million and an ongoing annual investment of \$1.9–\$2.0 million to operate the facility. Efforts are currently underway for innovative, joint funding approaches which leverage investment across government, the community, and the private sector.

Artist's impression: H+H Architects



BELONGING

Stuart Roberts, a Menang community leader from the Wagyl Kaip region, is the CEO of the Kadadjiny Aboriginal Corporation, and a driving force behind nurturing the next generation of leaders in the Great Southern.

With a deep commitment to his heritage and community, Stuart has established the Aboriginal Emerging Leadership Group, empowering emerging leaders into close collaboration with respected elders, fostering robust and enduring leadership networks that enrich our community. Stuart's work has led to the development of the Great Southern Aboriginal Leaders Conference.

"This event is run by Aboriginal people and for Aboriginal people. It's about empowering local people to work together improve their quality of life in the Great Southern." Stuart's impact extends to mentoring disengaged youth, guiding them through education and training programs that pave the way to meaningful employment.



HEALTH + RESILIENCE

headspace is a national organisation that provides mental health and wellbeing support for young people aged 12 to 25, and their families.

headspace Albany offers a range of services and programs aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people. The headspace Albany Manager, Andrew Wenzel, and his team have developed an enhanced range of mental health supports for young people that includes services that are not offered in other headspace Centres, recognising the importance of providing local support for young people, and responding to the ever-changing needs of the local community.

headspace Albany not only works with young people to support their mental health, they also offer support on their journey to meaningful employment. They offer resources to employers such as access to clinical tool kits and specialised training to help reduce mental health barriers for young people, to find and gain employment.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations around the world that measures the vitality of our communities and identifies trends in a range of areas critical to quality of life. With special thanks to the Toronto Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept. The Vital Signs logo and program is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada. Community Foundations Australia manages the licensing of Vital Signs within Australia. Community Foundations Australia (CFAustralia) is the peak body for community foundations in Australia. CFAustralia manages licensing of the Vital Signs program in Australia by agreement with Community Foundations of Canada.

For enquiries contact: info@cfaustralia.org.au

THANKYOU

The Albany Community Foundation would like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have participated, assisted and contributed to this report.

Katie Arbuckle	Albany Community Foundation + Project Coordinator
Libby Corson	Albany Community Foundation
James Leiper	Albany Community Foundation
Sarah Moir	Albany Community Foundation + Sarah Moir Design
Tae Wood	Albany Community Foundation
Jeremy Stewart	Albany Community Foundation
Christine Grogan	Albany Community Foundation
Ian Neil	Pivot Support Services
Ian Clarke	Albany Youth Support Association
John Lysaught	Advance Housing
Kristen Pryz Brown	Albany Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Dr. Andrew Wenzel	headspace Albany
Kim Daniel	Department of Communities
Dr. Wiebke Ebeling	University of Western Australia
Rumeena Nizam	University of Western Australia
Joanna Fictoor	AnglicareWA
Stuart Roberts	Impact Services
Nikolai Emery	Department of Education
Tammy Flett	City of Albany
Paul Nielsen	City of Albany
Annie Arnold	Albany Pride

Albany Public Library
Great Southern Development Commission
Mule Creative (cover photo)
Peel Development Commission
Rebecca Stephens MLA, Member for Albany

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR HELPING FUND THIS REPORT:

Albany Community Foundation
City of Albany
Great Southern Development Commission
Minderoo Foundation
Rio Tinto

SOURCES

This report covers data from the City of Albany Local Government Area, unless otherwise stated.

VILLAGE OF 100

1. ABS Census, 2021

EDUCATION + EMPLOYMENT

1. Victoria University, Childcare Deserts & Oases: <https://www.vu.edu.au/mitchell-institute/early-learning/childcare-deserts-oases-interactive-maps>
2. Australian Education Development Census 2021 (AEDC)
3. Australian Education Development Census: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data-explorer/High School, 2021>
4. ABS Census, 2021

HOUSING + FINANCIAL STRESS

1. <https://www.shelterwa.org.au/our-work/advocacy/homelessness/#:~:text=Homelessness%20is%20experiencing%20when%20people,or%20other%20short%2Dterm%20accommodations>
2. <https://advancehousing.com.au/updates/albany-community-services-come-together-on-homelessness/>
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4. <https://advancehousing.com.au/updates/albany-community-services-come-together-on-homelessness/>
5. ABS Census, 2021
6. Real Estate Institute WA Residential report, Albany, August 2023
7. ABS Census, 2021
8. Department of Communities, May 2023
9. WA Residential report, Albany, August 2023

BELONGING

1. ABS, General Social Survey, 2020
2. Western Australian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex Health Strategy 2019-2024 Diverse communities, Diverse care
3. Western Australian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex Health Strategy 2019-2024 Diverse communities, Diverse care
4. City of Albany Youth Friendly Albany Review
5. ABS Census, 2021
6. Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, October 2023

HEALTH + RESILIENCE

1. Health and Wellbeing Profile City of Albany Epidemiology Directorate, Department of Health, 2022
2. ABS Census, 2021
3. Health and Wellbeing Profile City of Albany Epidemiology Directorate, Department of Health, 2022
4. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
5. Injury Matters, Prevention to Recovery Report, Albany LGA
6. Health and Wellbeing Profile City of Albany Epidemiology Directorate, Department of Health, 2022
7. Wenzel, A. Support requests for mental health concerns at headspace Albany (email to K.Arbuckle) October 2023
8. Western Australia Police Force: <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/crime/crimestatistics#/>

A NOTE ABOUT TERMINOLOGY

The acronym LGBTI is used to refer to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. We recognise that every LGBTI person has terms and language they prefer when describing their own sex characteristics, gender and sexuality. The use of this acronym is not intended to be limiting or exclusive of certain groups and we recognise that not all people will identify with this acronym or use these specific terms.

DISCLAIMER

While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this report is true and correct at the time of publication, the availability of new or revised data and changing circumstances may affect the accuracy of that information. The Albany Community Foundation accepts no liability for any loss suffered through the use of any information contained in this report. The report has been compiled using information from a range of sources including third parties, publicly available documents and accessible websites which ACF cannot guarantee as suitable, complete or accurate for any specific purpose. This publication is copyright. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission.



The United Nations has adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

Albany's Vital Signs Report seeks to contribute to the following 8 Sustainable Development Goals:



www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment



The Albany Community Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation who collaborate to assist local people in our community who have fallen on hard times and are in genuine need. The ACF endeavours to support the local community in a wide range of activities from providing support to local individuals, families and community projects, as well as filling gaps in funding and services.

To view or download this report, scan the below QR code or visit the Albany Community Foundation website.



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