



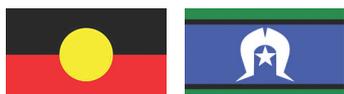
# Robinvale and Manangatang Data Profile

2026

# Robinvale and Manangatang Data Profile

This document has been prepared to provide a data profile on the health and wellbeing of the Robinvale and Manangatang area. It contains publicly available data that has been collated and summarised to inform local government, health services, advocacy and community groups. Refer to the [Swan Hill Data Profile](#) for further information at Local Government Area level.

All effort has been made to report data accurately and represent data available at time of publishing. These estimates may differ from those seen elsewhere due to differences in calculation methodologies and/or source data used.



We acknowledge the First Peoples of Australia who are the Traditional Custodians of the land and water where we live, work and play. We celebrate that this is the oldest living and continuous culture in the world. We are proud to be sharing the land that we work on and recognise that sovereignty was never ceded.



We welcome all cultures, nationalities and religions. Being inclusive and providing equitable healthcare is our commitment.



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Produced by Bendigo Health, Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit.  
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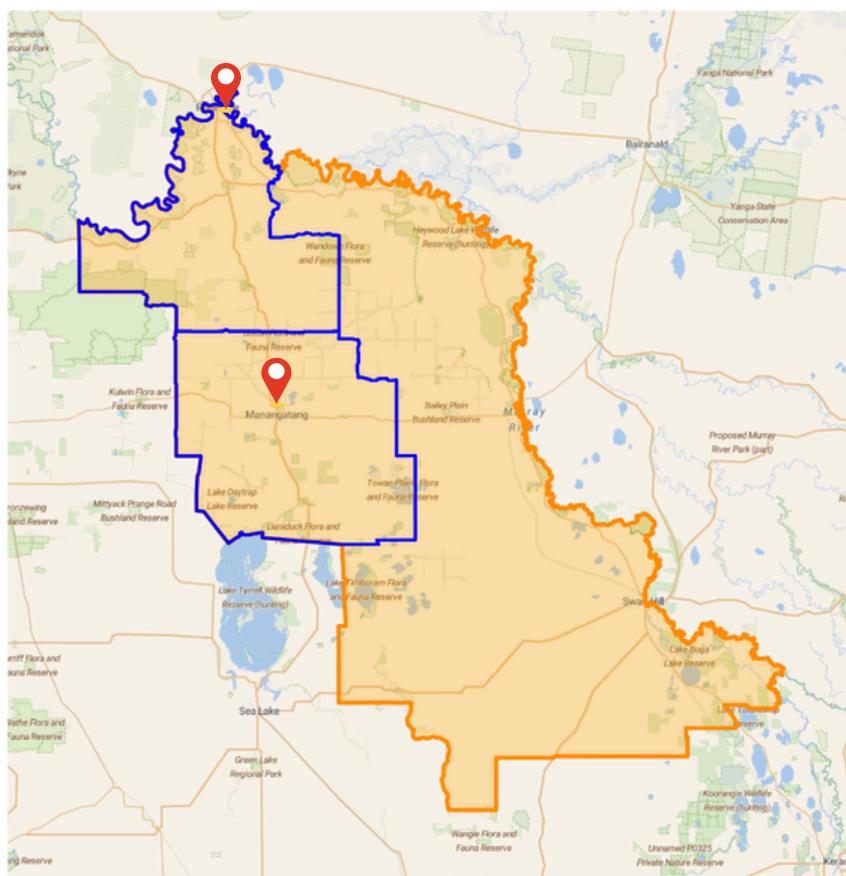
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# Data Sources

Defining the geographical boundaries for assessing the health and social needs of the Robinvale and Manangatang area has been challenging due to limited data availability and small population sizes. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) postcode-level data is the only consistent source, so this profile uses postcodes 3549 (Robinvale) and 3546 (Manangatang). Together, these two postcodes cover 36.2% of the geographic area of the Swan Hill local government area (LGA). To protect residents' privacy, data from these postcodes have, in most instances, been combined. Because Swan Hill LGA data includes the populations of Robinvale and Manangatang (20.3% of the total Swan Hill population), differences may appear more pronounced when area-specific data is not separated in comparisons.

Commissioned research and extensive community engagement has identified persistent undercounting of these communities in the census, with actual resident numbers estimated to be more than double official figures. Significant barriers to participation include language limitations, low literacy, digital exclusion, privacy concerns and fear of authority. These findings highlight the complexity of engaging a culturally diverse and often transient population, including seasonal workers and those in overcrowded or non-traditional housing. The Swan Hill Rural City Council and local partners have been working with the ABS, to improve the accuracy of the 2026 Census count across Robinvale, Euston and surrounding areas.

Postcodes 3549 and 3546 within Swan Hill LGA



-  Robinvale and Manangatang postcodes
-  Robinvale and Manangatang towns

# Summary



## Population

The Robinvale and Manangatang area have a combined population of about 4,363 people, with most residents living in Robinvale. Robinvale has a younger profile (median age 36) while Manangatang is older (median age 52), and overall the area has fewer residents aged over 70 years compared with the Swan Hill LGA. Population counts are likely underestimated due to seasonal and migrant workers and census undercounting, with local estimates suggesting actual numbers may be significantly higher.



## Priority groups

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples represent about 7% of the population, higher than the Swan Hill LGA average, and include Traditional Owner groups such as Latji Latji, Dadi Dadi and Barapa Barapa. The area is highly multicultural, with over 40 nationalities, 42.7% of households speaking a language other than English, and significant migrant and Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme worker populations; Malaysia and Vietnam are the most common countries of birth after Australia. Other priority groups include people with disability and unpaid carers.



## Health determinants

The Robinvale and Manangatang area's health determinants are shaped by socioeconomic disadvantage, lower education levels, reduced incomes, housing stress and limited transport access. Cultural and linguistic diversity adds complexity to service delivery, while higher rates of single-parent households and unpaid caring roles increase vulnerability. Occupational data show entrenched gender stereotypes, with men concentrated in manual labour and women in caring and clerical roles, reinforcing inequity.



## Health conditions

Most residents report no long-term health conditions and rates of multiple chronic conditions are slightly lower than regional and state averages. The most commonly reported conditions are arthritis, diabetes and asthma, reflecting chronic disease patterns seen in rural communities. Reported mental health conditions are lower than state averages, though this may reflect under-reporting or service barriers to diagnosis and care.

# Robinvale and Manangatang

Robinvale and Manangatang are small rural towns in the Rural City of Swan Hill LGA in north-western Victoria. This municipality spans about 6,116 km<sup>2</sup> and supports a population dispersed across Swan Hill, Robinvale, Manangatang and other small townships, forming a productive agricultural and community region on the edge of the Murray River and the broader Mallee landscape. <sup>[1]</sup>

Robinvale sits on the south bank of the Murray River near the New South Wales border, and forms a twin-town relationship with Euston across the river. It was established in the 1920s and named in honour of Lieutenant George Robin Cuttle. Traditionally, this area is the land of Indigenous peoples including the Latji Latji and Dadi Dadi, and culturally significant sites such as Bumbang Island reflect deep pre-colonial connections. Robinvale is known for its irrigation-fed horticulture, producing grapes, olives, almonds, vegetables and stone fruit and its river-based recreation, such as fishing and birdwatching. <sup>[2]</sup>

Council data show the town's population swells well beyond official census figures due to many temporary and permanent migrants filling labour-intensive roles in horticulture, making up more than half of Robinvale's residents at times, with over 40 nationalities. This diversity is reflected in local festivals, food and community life, enriching the cultural landscape. <sup>[1]</sup>

Manangatang, proclaimed in 1915 after land subdivision for farming, grew as a rail-linked service centre for surrounding wheat and sheep properties. The name derives from an Aboriginal term referring to a water source or claypan. The district became an important wheat-growing area, recognised by the construction of grain silos and rail infrastructure to transport produce. The Swan Hill Rural City Council describes the town as lying at the heart of sheep and wheat country and renowned for dryland cropping and precision agriculture. <sup>[1]</sup>

Both towns reflect the broader characteristics of the Swan Hill LGA, strong agricultural land use, vibrant small communities, enduring Aboriginal heritage and evolving cultural diversity.



1. <https://www.vic.gov.au/know-your-council-swian-hill-rural-city-council>
2. <https://www.visitswanhill.com.au/explore/robinvale/>
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manangatang>

# 1. Robinvale and Manangatang Population

## 1 Population profile

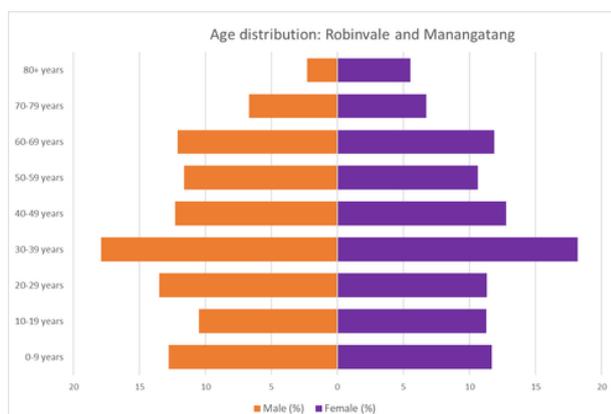
The age distribution of a population is important to understand the current and future demand on services, economic impact, community infrastructure and public health planning. The total population of the Robinvale postcode is 4,017 and the Manangatang postcode is 346. The total population of the Robinvale and Manangatang postcodes combined (n=4,363) is 20.3% of the Swan Hill LGA (n=21,403). Robinvale has a lower median age (36 years) and Manangatang has a higher median age (52 years) compared to the Swan Hill LGA (39 years) and Victoria (38 years). In the Robinvale and Manangatang area, 10.6% of the population are aged over 70 years, lower compared to the Swan Hill LGA (13.9%).

Location	Mean Age
Victoria	38 years
Swan Hill (LGA)	39 years
Robinvale (3549 postcode)	36 years
Manangatang (3546 postcode)	52 years

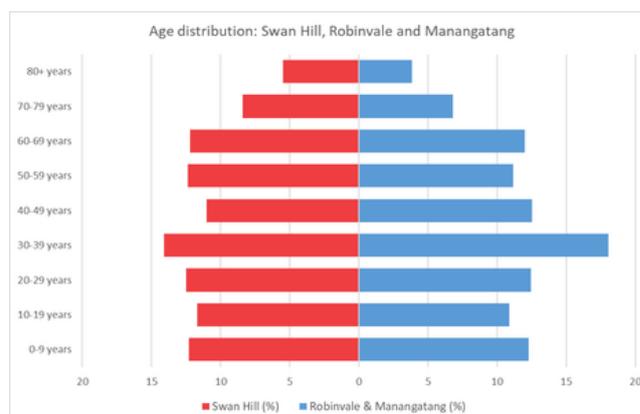
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021



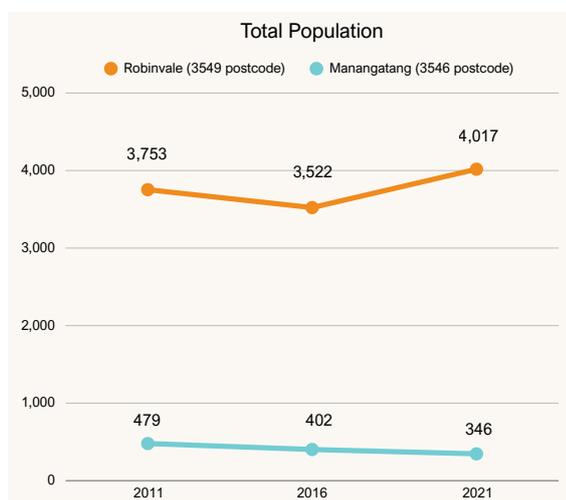
4,363 people reside in the Robinvale and Manangatang postcodes



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

The total population of the Robinvale postcode has increased slightly by 7% from 2011 (3,753 population) to 2021 (4,017 population). However, this may be under represented due to many temporary and permanent migrants filling labour-intensive roles in horticulture, who may not have participated in the ABS census.

The total population of the Manangatang postcode has decreased by 28% from 2011 (479 population) to 2021 (346 population).

Populations for 2001 and 2006 were not included due to postcode boundary changes.

Age groups	Robinvale and Manangatang (n)		Robinvale and Manangatang (%)		Swan Hill (%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-9 years	294	242	12.8	11.7	12.5	12.0
10-19 years	241	233	10.5	11.3	12.0	11.3
20-29 years	308	234	13.5	11.3	12.8	12.3
30-39 years	410	376	17.9	18.2	14.1	14.1
40-49 years	282	264	12.3	12.8	10.7	11.2
50-59 years	266	220	11.6	10.6	12.6	12.2
60-69 years	277	246	12.1	11.9	12.6	11.8
70-79 years	158	139	6.9	6.7	8.3	8.5
80+ years	53	114	2.3	5.5	4.4	6.6
Total	2,289	2,068	100	100	100	100

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), 2021

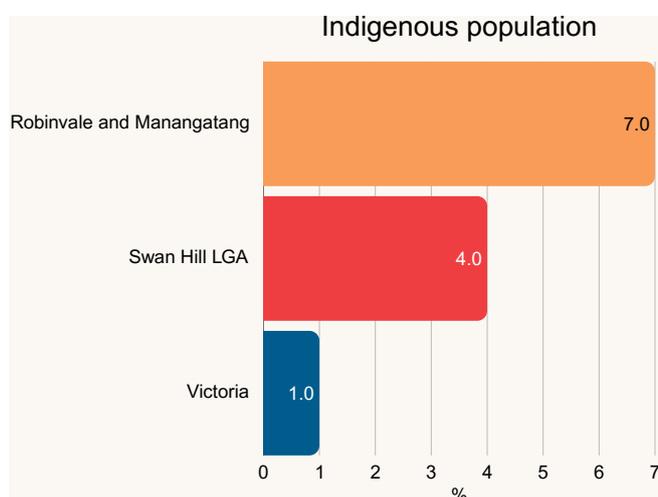
## 2. Priority Groups

### 2.1 Indigenous status

Native title determinations recognise the Latji Latji and Dadi Dadi peoples as Traditional Owners of the Robinvale area and surrounding Murray River country. The Manangatang area lies within a broader cultural landscape shared by several Nations, most prominently the Wamba Wamba, Latji Latji, Tati Tati, Wadi Wadi and Barapa Barapa peoples. The Latji Latji Native Title Claim Group holds recognised native title rights over areas including Robinvale, while the Barapa Barapa Nation Aboriginal Corporation represents Barapa Barapa people in native title and cultural matters across parts of north-western Victoria.



Latji Latji, Dadi Dadi, Wamba Wamba, Tati Tati, Wadi Wadi and Barapa Barapa people are the traditional owners of the land where Robinvale and Manangatang are settled.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

In the Robinvale and Manangatang area, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is 7% (n= 305), higher compared to the Swan Hill LGA (4%).

There are opportunities to learn from their spiritual and cultural connection to Country. However, we also know Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples disproportionately experience systemic disadvantage compared to the whole of population.

### 2.2 Multicultural communities

Robinvale is home to a richly multicultural community shaped by long-standing migrant settlement and the presence of Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme (PALM) workers, however, the transient nature of this workforce can make it challenging to accurately capture and understand the full diversity of the local population.

The PALM scheme allows eligible Australian businesses to hire workers from nine Pacific islands and Timor-Leste when there are not enough local workers available. Through the PALM scheme, eligible businesses can recruit workers for short-term jobs for up to nine months or long-term roles for between one and 4 years in unskilled, low-skilled and semi-skilled positions.

The number and language spoken of the PALM scheme workers are only available for the Loddon Mallee region.

PALM scheme workers: Loddon Mallee Region		
Language	Country of origin	Number
Tongan	Tonga	535
Tok Pisin	Papua New Guinea	305
Bislama	Vanuata	265
Solomon Islands Pidgin	Soloman Island	250
Fijan & Fiji Hindu	Fiji	230
Kiribati	Kiribati	70

Source: Pacific Labour Operations Division, Australian Government, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations 2025

According to the 2021 census, the highest countries of birth of Robinvale and Manangatang residents outside of Australia is Malaysia and Vietnam.



Malaysia is the top country of birth, outside of Australia

Country of birth, top responses	Robinvale & Manangatang (n)	Robinvale & Manangatang (%)	Swan Hill (%)	Victoria (%)
Australia	2,328	53.4	74.3	65
Malaysia	471	10.8	3.7	1
Vietnam	195	4.5	1.6	1.4
Tonga	166	3.8	<1	<1
Thailand	94	2.2	0.6	0.3
Cambodia	60	1.4	0.3	0.3

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), 2021



In the Robinvale and Manangatang area, 42.7% (n=552) of households speak a non-English language, with ABS census data recording 23 different languages spoken. The proportion of Robinvale and Manangatang households that speak non-English language, is considerably higher compared to the Swan Hill LGA (17.4%) and Victoria (30.2%). This demonstrates the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of the Robinvale and Manangatang area.

It is important to note for health promotion that 16.1% of residents in the Robinvale and Manangatang area speak a language other than English and do not speak English well or at all. Of those who do not speak English well or not at all, the top native languages are (number):

- Mandarin (170)
- Vietnamese (156)
- Thai (52)
- Khmer (36)

Language used at home other than English, top responses	Robinvale & Manangatang (n)	Robinvale & Manangatang (%)	Swan Hill (%)	Victoria (%)
Mandarin	254	5.8	1.9	3.4
Tongan	249	5.7	1.3	<1
Vietnamese	237	5.4	1.9	1.8
Malay	209	4.8	2.0	<1
Italian	118	2.7	1.5	1.4
English only used at home	2,186	50.1	74.9	67.2
Households where a non-English language is used	552	42.7	17.4	30.2
Uses other languages and speaks English not well/not at all	703	16.1	5.5	4.4

Source: [Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021](#)

## 2.3 LGBTIQ+

Unfortunately, there is a lack of local data on LGBTIQ+ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse people) including population size and health and wellbeing data. There is data at a state and national level that can be used as an indicator. The Victorian Population Health Survey 2017 estimates 5.7% of Victorian adults identify as LGBTIQ+ , however some rural areas have attracted significant higher proportion of LGBTIQ+ people to their communities.

State and national data indicate poorer mental and physical health for LGBTIQ+ community members with significantly higher rates of drug use, alcohol, smoking, chronic disease, homelessness, and disability along with higher rates of anxiety and depression, psychological stress and low satisfaction with life.

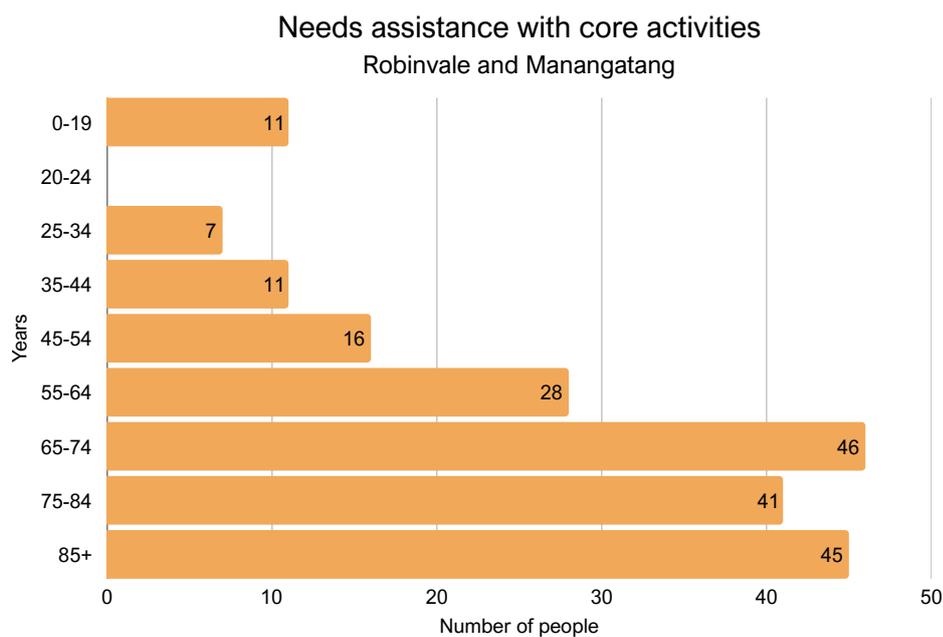
Sources and for more information: [Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022-32 | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](#); [The health and wellbeing of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer population in Victoria - Findings from the Victorian Population Health Survey 2017 | Victorian Agency for Health Information \(vahi.vic.gov.au\)](#).

## 2.4 People with disability

People with a profound or severe core activity limitation are those needing assistance in their day-to-day lives in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of:

- a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more)
- a disability (lasting six months or more)
- old age.

In the Robinvale and Manangatang area there are 98 males and 119 females that require assistance with core activity.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

# 3. Determinants of health

## 3.1 Areas of disadvantage

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is a general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area.

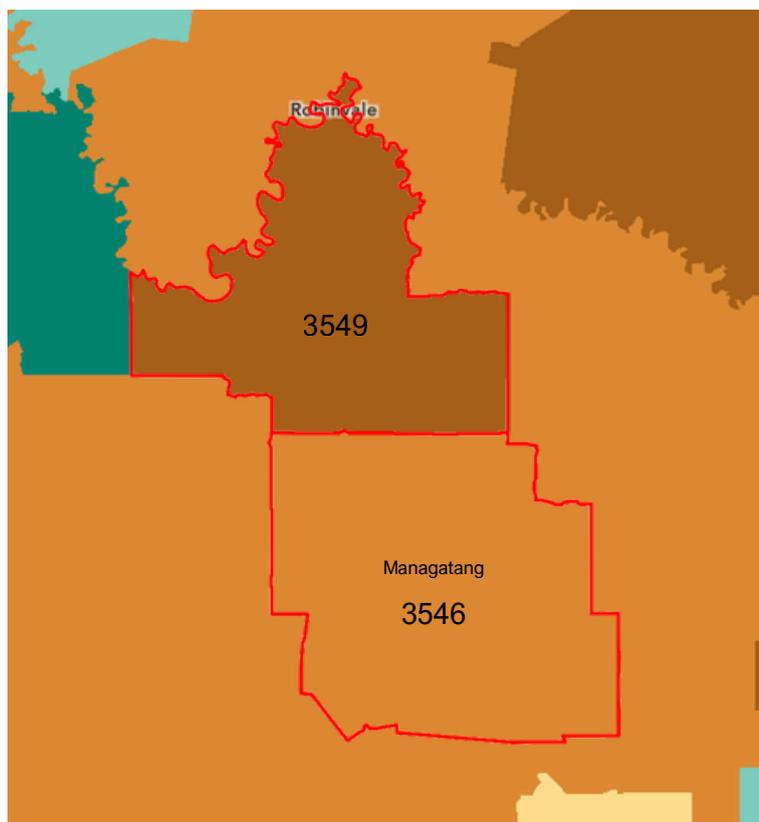
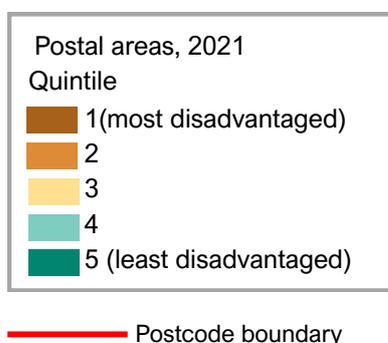
A low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage. For example, an area could have a low score if there are: many households with low income, or many people without qualifications, and many people in low skilled occupations. A high score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage. For example, an area may have a high score if there are: few households with low incomes, few people without qualifications, few people in low skilled occupations.

In 2021, Robinvale showed greater relative disadvantage (IRSD score=830) compared with the Swan Hill LGA (IRSD score=941). Manangatang showed less relative disadvantage (IRSD score=965) compared with the Swan Hill LGA (IRSD score=941). Within the the Robinvale and Manangatang area, there are two Australian quintile areas of disadvantage: quintile 1 (most disadvantage) and quintile 2.

LGA, 2021	IRSD Score ^
Victoria	1,018
Swan Hill	941
Robinvale 3549	830
Manangatang 3546	965

Source: Socio-Economic Index for Areas, ABS, 2021

^ The lower the score the greater disadvantage

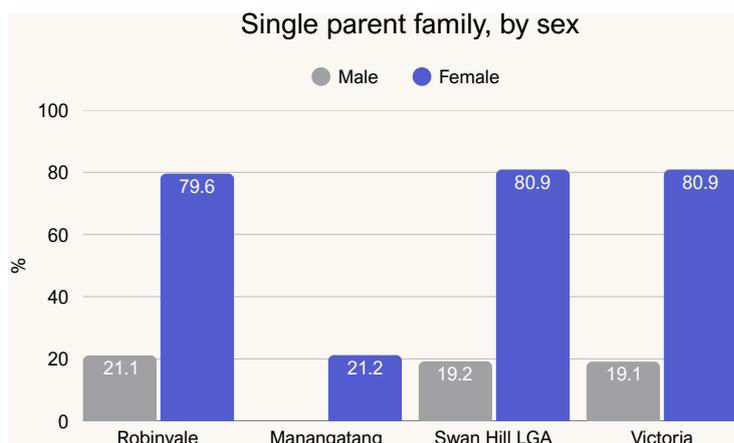


### 3.2 Single parents

Single-parent families can thrive, but they may face higher risks of economic hardship, time constraints, and limited social support, which can affect both parent and child wellbeing.

Single parents, who are most often women, are at increased risk of burnout, housing insecurity, and mental health issues due to the combined pressures of caregiving and earning.

In 2021, there were more woman with single parent families across the Robinvale and Manangatang area, the Swan Hill LGA and Victoria.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

### 3.3 Level of highest educational attainment

Education is an important determinant of health and is strongly associated with life expectancy, morbidity, health behaviours. The Robinvale and Manangatang area have lower levels of educational attainment compared to Loddon Shire and Victoria. This may reflect physical and financial access to higher education.

 In the Robinvale and Manangatang area, 8.7% completed a bachelor degree and above (Swan Hill 11.2%, Victoria. 29.2%%).

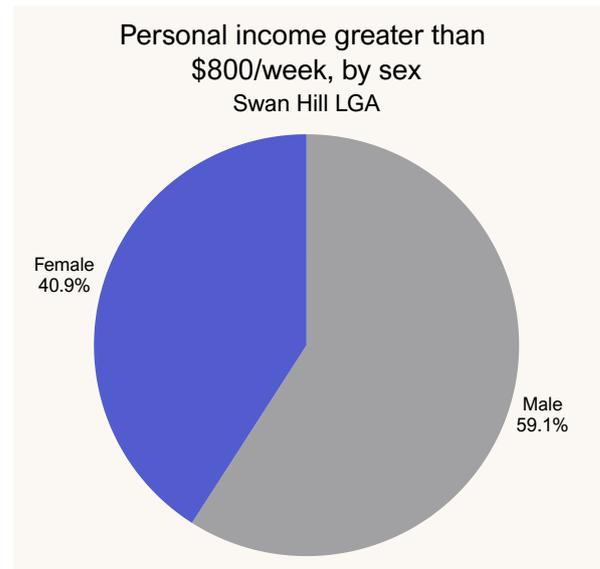
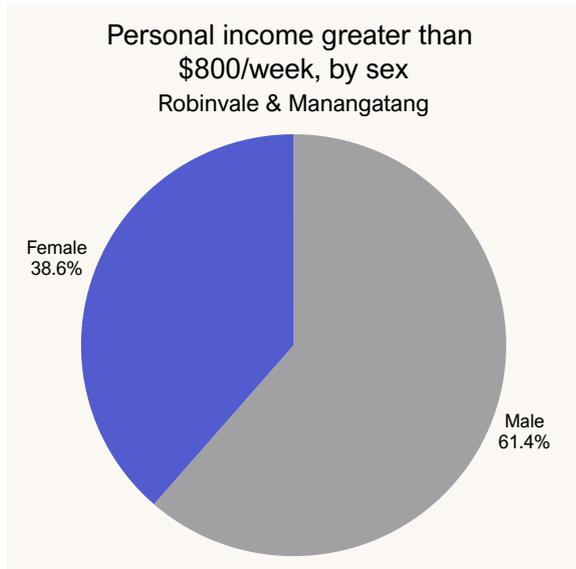
Level of highest education attainment	Robinvale & Mangangatang (%)	Swan Hill LGA (%)	Victoria (%)
Bachelor degree level and above	8.7	11.2	29.2
Advanced Diploma and diploma level	4.9	7.3	9.8
Certificate level IV	1.9	3.7	14.3
Certificate III	8.3	14.0	<1
Year 12	19.8	15.6	14.9
Year 11	7.1	8.2	5.7
Year 10	10.8	11.1	7.3
Year 9 or below	15.3	12.6	7.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021, people aged 15 years and over

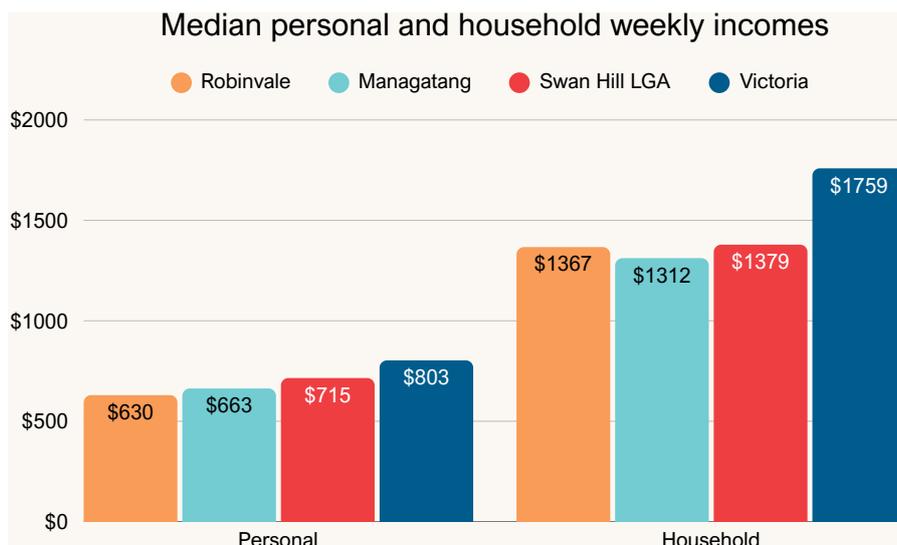
### 3.4 Household income

In the Robinvale and Manangatang area, the median personal and household incomes are lower than those for the Swan Hill LGA and the Victorian medians.

Of the people in the Robinvale and Manangatang area reporting a personal income over \$800 per week<sup>[1]</sup>, 61.4% were men. This represents a larger gender income difference than the Swan Hill LGA, where 59.1% of people reporting a personal income over \$800 per week were male.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021, The median weekly income excludes people aged 15 years and over who did not state their income.



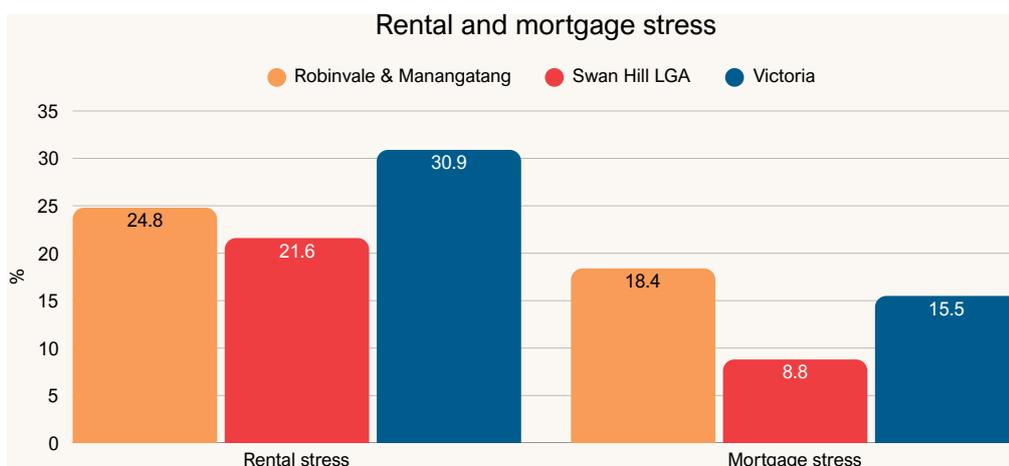
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021, people aged 15 years and over

[1] \$800/week is based on the median total personal income for Victoria

### 3.5 Housing

The average household size in the Robinvale postcode is 2.9 people, higher than both the Swan Hill LGA (2.5 people) and Victoria (2.5 people). In the Robinvale postcode, 122 private dwellings (9.6%) are unoccupied. In the Manangatang postcode, the average household size is 2.3 people, lower than the Swan Hill LGA (2.5 people) and Victoria (2.5 people). The Manangatang postcode has 34 unoccupied private dwellings, representing 19.8% of all dwellings, higher compared to the Swan Hill LGA (11.5%).<sup>[1]</sup>

Rental and mortgage stress are defined as housing costs exceeding 30% of household income. Across the Robinvale and Manangatang area, the Swan Hill LGA and Victoria, rental stress is more common than mortgage stress. The Robinvale and Manangatang area have higher rental and mortgage stress than the Swan Hill LGA.

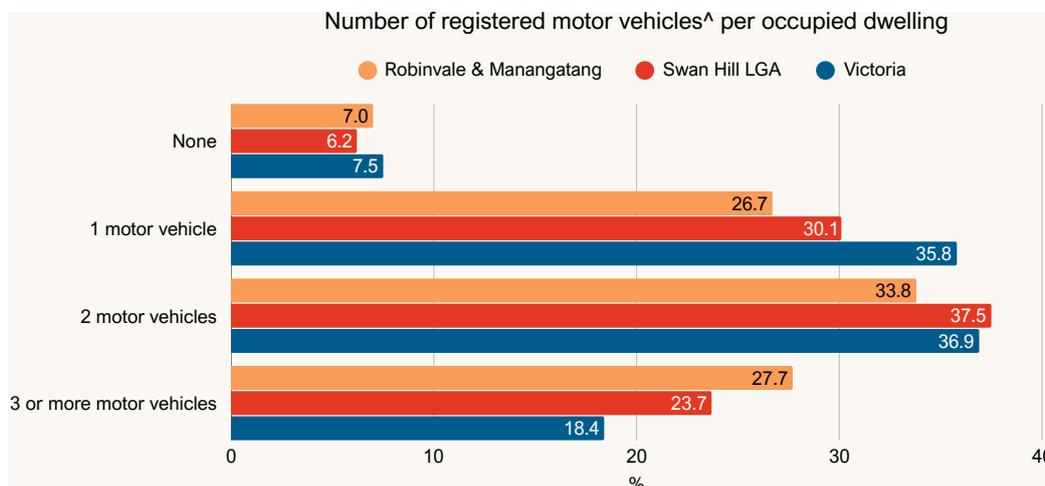


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

### 3.6 Motor vehicles

Rural areas have less access to public transport and must travel longer distances to reach essential services compared to their metropolitan counterparts. In regions like Inglewood and Bridgewagter, access to a motor vehicle is essential for obtaining fresh, healthy food, accessing healthcare and maintaining social connections.

In the Robinvale and Manangatang area there were 91 homes (7%) without a registered motor vehicle.



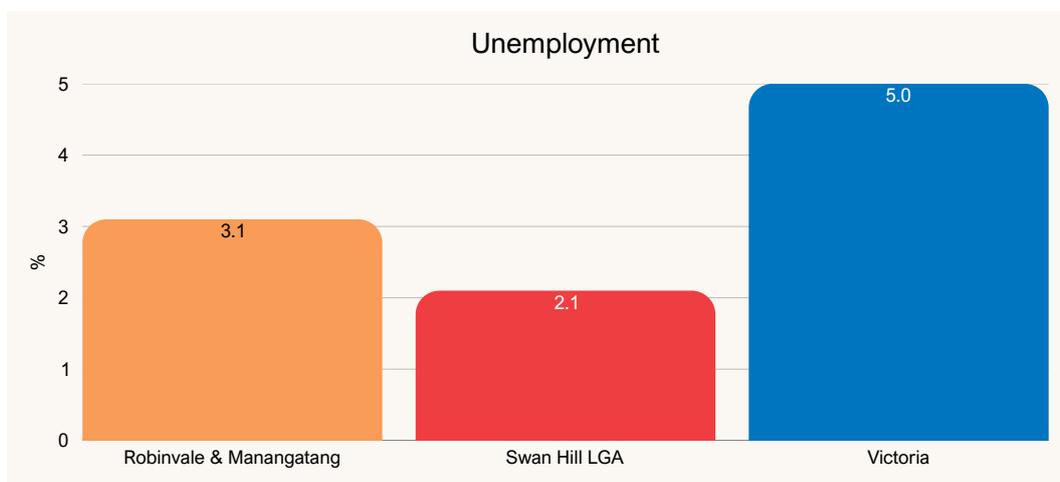
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

<sup>^</sup>Motor vehicles excludes motorbikes, motor scooters and heavy motor vehicles.

[1] Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

### 3.7 Unemployment

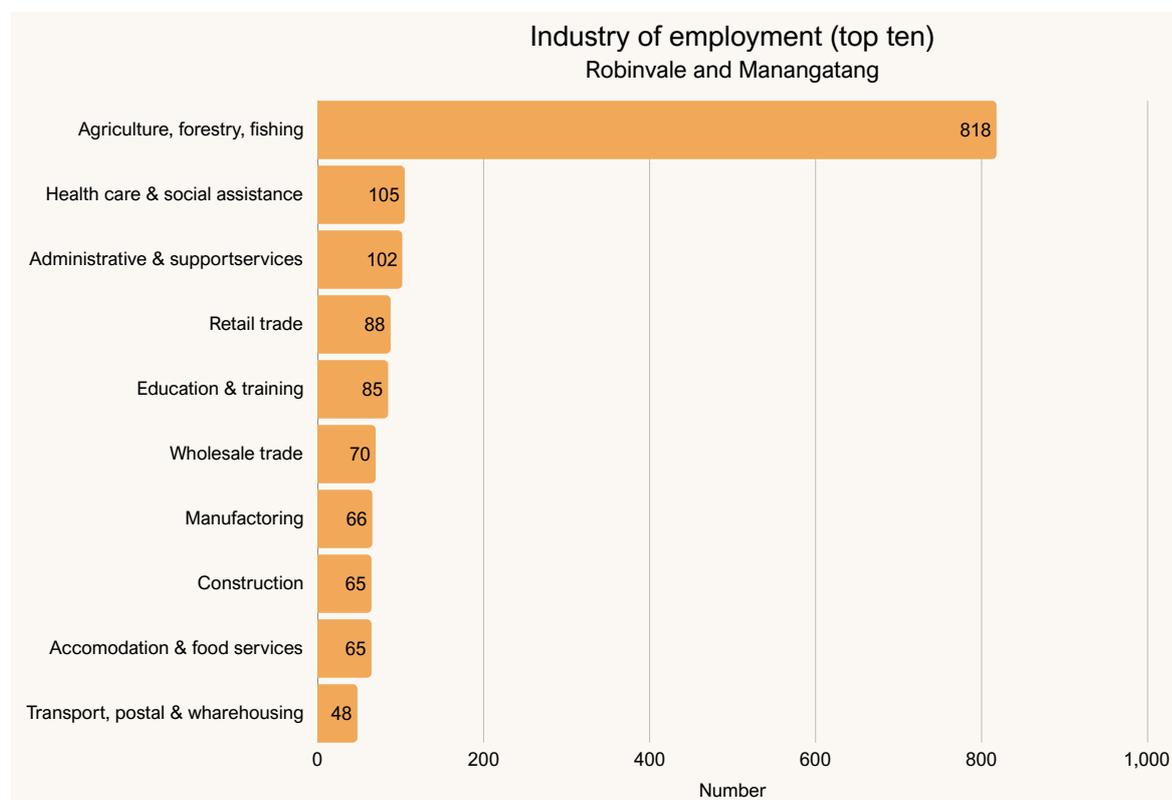
In the Robinvale and Manangatang area, 3.1% of the population are unemployed and looking for full-time or part-time work. This is slightly higher compared with the Swan Hill LGA (2.1%) and lower compared with Victoria (5%)



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021, unemployed and looking for part-time or full-time work, aged over 15 years

### 3.8 Occupation

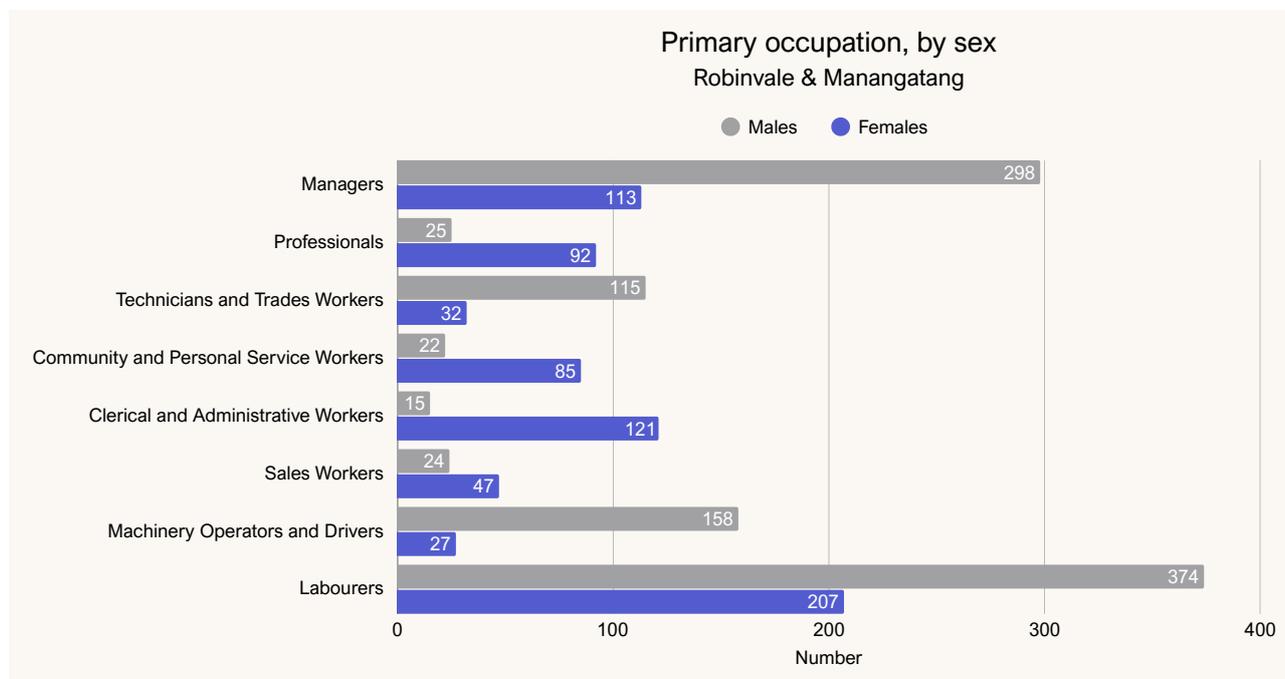
The top industry of employment in the Robinvale and Manangatang area is predominately agriculture, forestry and fishing, followed by healthcare and social assistance and administrative services.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021, employed and aged 15yrs and over

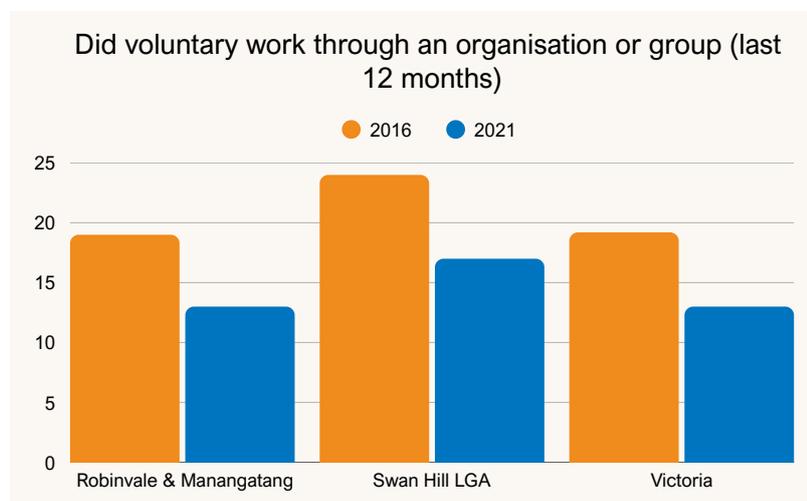
Data examining the primary occupations of employed individuals aged 15 years and over in the Robinvale and Manangatang area reveals a clear pattern of traditional gender roles.

These entrenched roles suggest a division of labor along gender lines, where men and women are concentrated in occupations typically associated with their gender. Such rigid gender norms contribute significantly to the perpetuation of gender inequity, limiting opportunities for individuals and reinforcing power imbalances.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021, employed persons aged 15 yrs and over

Voluntary work can help to support mental health and wellbeing by strengthening social connection and a sense of being valued. In the Robinvale and Manangatang area (2021), 13.3% of residents reported involvement in voluntary work in the past 12 months, compared with the Swan Hill LGA (16.9%). There has been a decrease in volunteering since the last census (2016) locally, regionally and across Victoria.

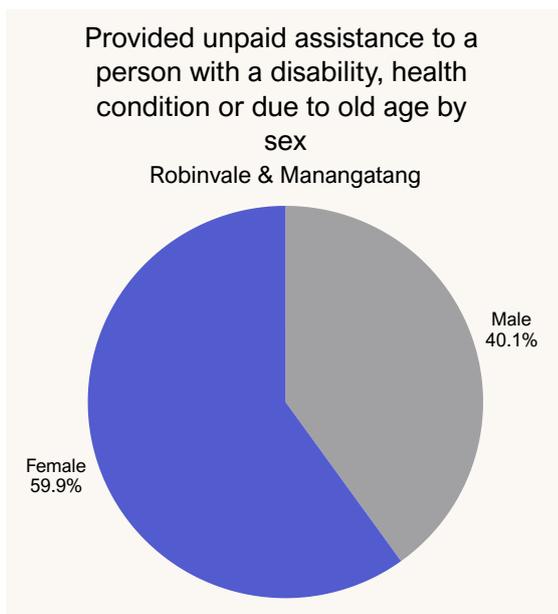


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

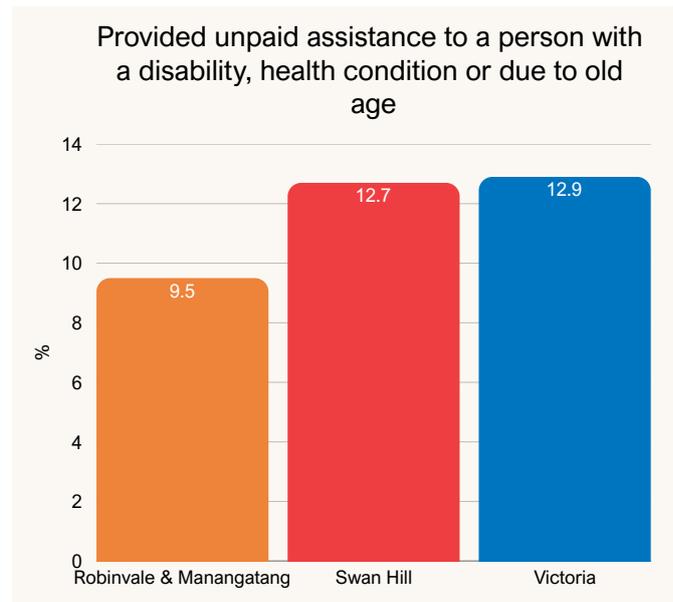
### 3.9 Carers

Carers of people with disability, chronic disease, or older individuals play a vital role in maintaining the health, independence, and quality of life of those they support. Their unpaid work reduces pressure on health and aged care systems, while providing emotional and physical care. However, the demands of caregiving can place carers at significant risk of physical and mental health issues, social isolation and financial strain.

The Robinvale and Manangatang area had 337 people aged 15 years and over (9.5%) providing an unpaid carer role to someone with a disability, health condition or elderly. Of the unpaid carers in the Robinvale and Manangatang area, 59.9% were female.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021



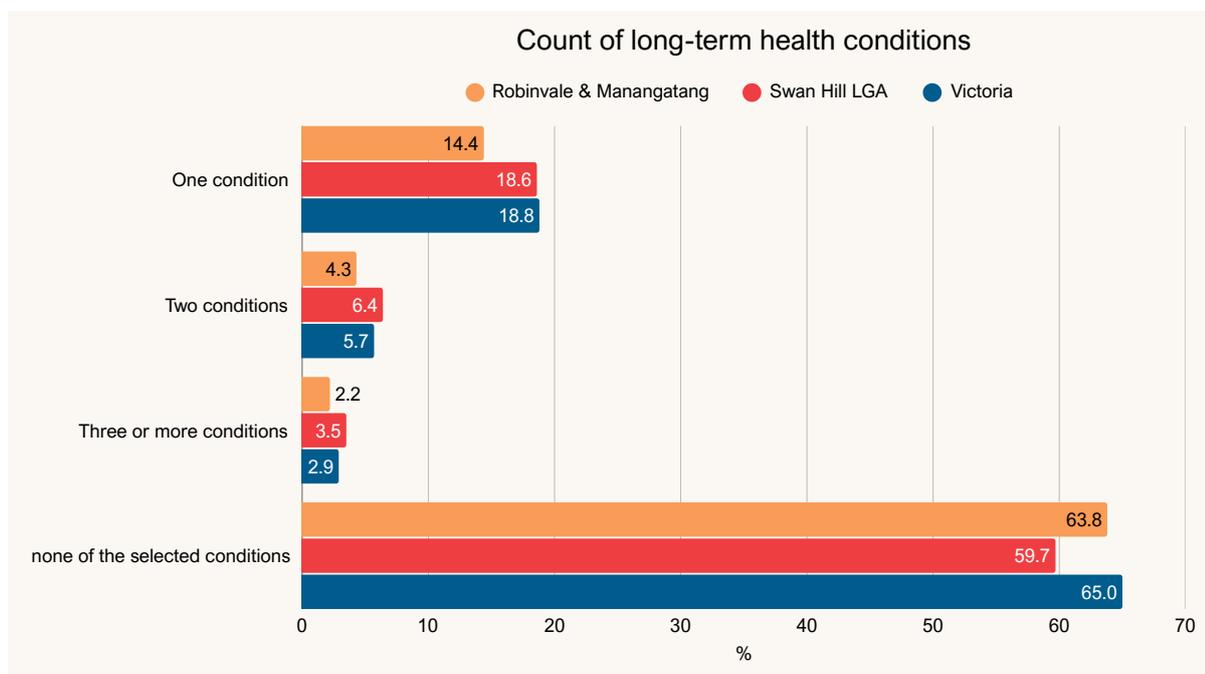
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021

# 5 Health conditions

## 5.1 Long term health conditions

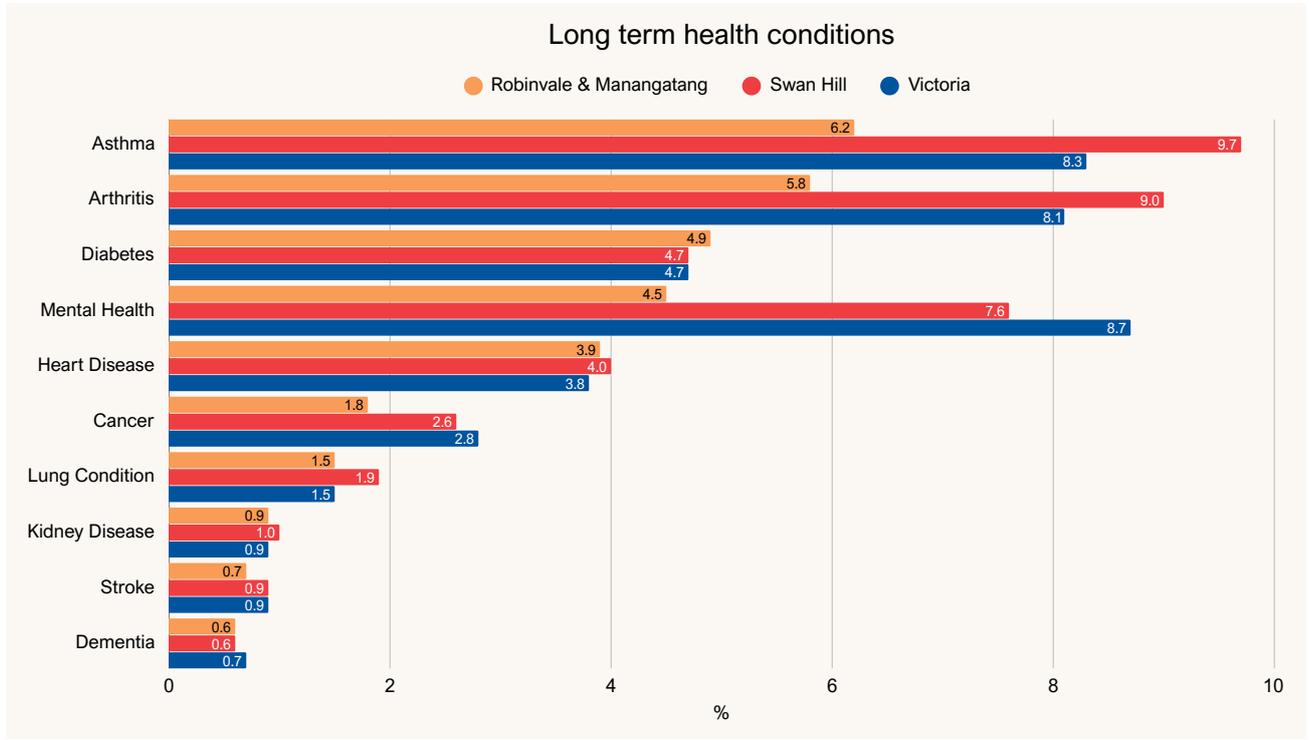
In the census, people were asked to indicate long-term conditions (six months or more) diagnosed by a doctor or nurse. Selected long-term health conditions include arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia (including Alzheimer's), diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina), kidney disease, lung condition (including COPD or emphysema), mental health condition (including depression or anxiety) and stroke. Other long-term health conditions are not included in this count.

In the Robinvale and Manangatang area, 2.2% reported having three or more long-term conditions, lower compared with the Swan Hill LGA (3.5%) and Victoria (2.9%). High levels of multiple long-term health conditions place significant strain on individuals, communities and health systems, reducing quality of life, increasing service demand and widening health inequities.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021, all people

In the census data, people were asked “have you (or dependants) been told by a doctor or nurse that they have any of these long-term health conditions?” The top three long-term health conditions reported in the Robinvale and Manangatang area are asthma, arthritis and diabetes. Reports of mental health conditions in the Robinvale and Manangatang area (4.5%) are considerably lower compared with the Swan Hill LGA (7.6%) and Victoria (8.7%) though this may reflect under-reporting due to stigma and service barriers to diagnosis and care.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2021, all people

## 6. References and abbreviations

**LMPHU** <https://www.bendigohealth.org.au/LMPHU/>

**ABS Quick Stats** <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/POA3523>

Abbreviation table	
ALC	Active Living Census
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
LGA	Local government area
LGBTIQA+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse people
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PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT