

Altona North - Brooklyn

Neighbourhood Profile





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The data profile was updated in 2015 and includes 2011 census data. Other sections in the profile have not been updated.

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Altona North and Brooklyn Neighbourhood Profile

Executive Summary

The Altona North and Brooklyn neighbourhood is bounded by the Princes Highway to the north and Kororoit Creek to the west and south. Major roads along the eastern boundary include Blenheim Road, Hansen and New Street, then west along the Westgate Freeway and into Cemetery Road.

The area incorporates a mix of land uses, predominantly residential and industrial. Major residential development dates from the 1950s, with much of the housing constructed during the 1960s and 1970s. The area played an important role in housing post-World War II migrants and a migrant hostel in Millers Road continued to operate up until the early 1970s.

People who participated in community consultation sessions described Altona North and Brooklyn as a good place to live and an area that is still affordable and reasonably well serviced. Long term residents spoke about noticeable improvements in the standard of housing and shopping options since they first arrived. Others people commented that “it’s an old area that needs “a few touch ups”

Population numbers

- At the 2011 Census, the Altona North and Brooklyn neighbourhood area had a population of 13,153 people (approximately 16% of the municipality’s residents), an increase of 624 residents since 2006.
- Based on population forecasts for 2015, the neighbourhood’s current population is approximately 14,338.
- Population forecasts indicate the current population will increase to just under 17,000 by 2025. Rezoning of industrial land to residential use is expected to be a major contributor to this growth.

Age structure

- The number of younger residents in the family forming ages of 25-34 years with pre-school aged children is increasing, although there is still evidence of an ageing population.
- Forecasts data indicates that this trend of regeneration and ageing is expected to continue for the next decade.

Overseas born residents

- Forty per cent (5,262) of people living in the neighbourhood were born overseas, which is substantially higher than the municipal figure of 31 per cent.
- Just over 50 per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn residents speak languages other than English at home, significantly higher than the 30 per cent of Hobsons Bay residents.

Residents needing assistance

- At the 2011 Census, 1106 residents were estimated to require assistance with core activities involving self care, communication and mobility.
- Four hundred and thirty eight people aged between 26 and 65 years receive a disability payment, and 227 receive carer payments.

Education

- There are four primary schools in the area, together with two secondary colleges.
- Approximately 18 per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn residents are enrolled in education, compared to around 22 per cent for Hobsons Bay.
- Forty per cent of residents have completed year 12 compared to the municipal rate of 50 per cent. Fifteen per cent of residents left school before or on completing Year 8.
- In relation to their future plans, young people in Years 8 and 9 who participated in the consultations spoke about wanting to leaving school soon and getting a job or wanting to finish Year 12. No students had any plans for further study.

Labour Force

- The largest employment sectors for the area's workers are manufacturing and retail (12.9% and 10.9% respectively). Both figures have dropped since 2006.
- Forty seven per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn residents (over 15 years) are in the labour force, 14 per cent lower than for Hobsons Bay. Of these, almost seven per cent are unemployed, compared to the Hobsons Bay rate of almost six per cent.
- Altona North and Brooklyn has a much higher rate of people not in the labour force compared to Hobsons Bay (42.2per cent and 33.2 per cent respectively). A contributing factor is due to the high proportion of people of retirement age who live in Altona North and Brooklyn; however with regeneration there has been a fall in the neighbourhood's non-participation rate.

Income

- 2011 Census data indicates that close to 6,625 Altona North and Brooklyn residents (70%) have a gross weekly income below \$1000 (the average weekly income in Victoria) which is higher than the municipal figure (65%).
- In addition, just over 4,132 (44%) of residents have incomes below \$400 per week which is also well above the municipal figure (37%).

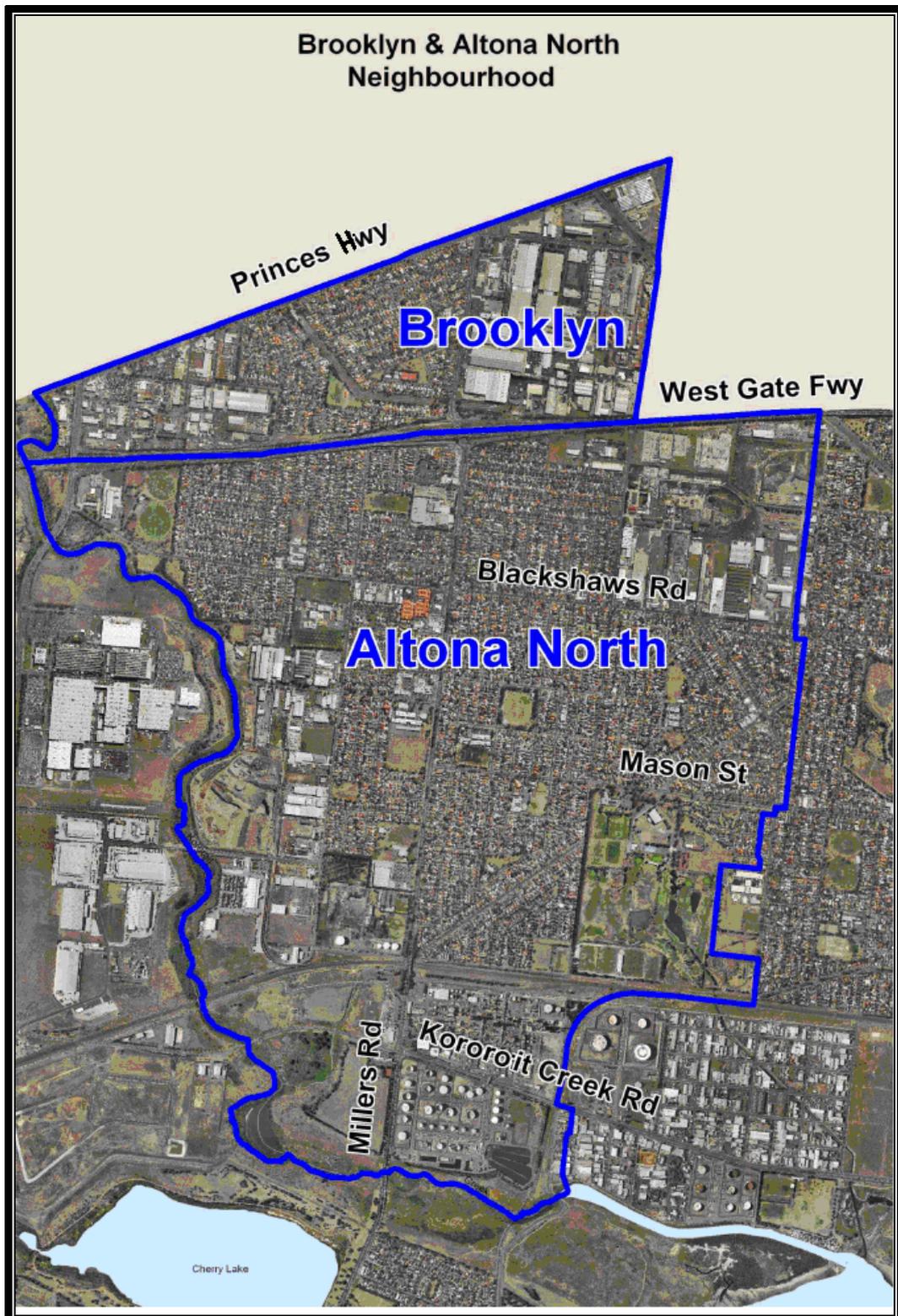
Housing

- Around three quarters of the area's total dwelling stock is detached housing. Just over 40 per cent of households in Altona North and Brooklyn are home owners, 6 per cent above the Hobsons Bay rate.
- Since the 2006 Census, ownership rates have declined by around five per cent while the proportion of people who are purchasing their homes increased by 3 per cent.
- Participants in the consultations spoke about the relative affordability of housing in the area. However, there were concerns that the situation is changing and that "in the last 12 months, house prices have increased dramatically".

Transport & traffic

- Approximately 80 per cent of households in Altona North and Brooklyn are car owners, which is below the municipal rate of 84 per cent.
- People in the consultation were generally happy with the bus service but noted the lack of weeknight and weekend services as something they would like improved.
- People of all ages who participated in the consultations indicated they walk regularly around the area. However, they commonly expressed concern about the large amount of traffic and the fumes from trucks, especially around main roads and major intersections.

Altona North and Brooklyn Past, Current and Future Development



A. Introduction

The major boundaries of the Altona North and Brooklyn neighbourhood are the Princes highway to the north and Kororoit Creek to the west and south. The eastern edge is formed by a series of connecting roads including Churchill Street, Blenheim Road and Hansen and New Streets and Cemetery Road.

The area incorporates a mix of land uses, predominantly residential and industrial. Major residential development dates from the 1950s, with much of the housing constructed during the 1960s and 1970s.

There are five primary schools in the area, together with two secondary colleges. Public transport consists of bus services, with the closest railway stations located at Newport and Altona.

B. History & Development

The Yalukit-willam Clan

The Aboriginal people who lived in what is now known as the City of Hobsons Bay are the Yalukit-willam, a name meaning 'river camp' or 'river dwellers'. The Yalukit-willam are associated with the coastal land at the head of Port Phillip that extends from the Werribee River, across Williamstown, Port Melbourne, St Kilda and Prahran.

In this area there were several clans, comprising one or two extended families. They were sometimes distinguished by names of their leading men; two Yalukit-willam leaders were Benbow and Derremart. (Derremart was identified in the historical records of the 1830s. His name has been used to name several streets in the western suburbs and also the Parish of Derrimut.)

The Yalukit-willam were semi nomadic hunter gatherers who camped close to permanent fresh water streams. Apart from the wildlife they caught, the women collected Murnong, a small plant with a tuber similar to a yam, which grew along the Kororoit Creek and covered the western plain. There was also an abundance of ducks and swans along the coastal and swamp areas and, in Stony and Kororoit Creeks, there were eels, yabbies and fish.

With European settlement, the grasslands which were traditionally used for hunting were fenced off for grazing and pastoral use; wildlife declined and Aboriginal camps were broken up.¹

European settlers

William Cherry migrated from Belfast in 1841. Soon after arriving he began farming in the Keilor area. By 1861, he owned 2,500 acres extending from Brooklyn down to Altona. Part of this landholding later passed to William's son James. It is believed that

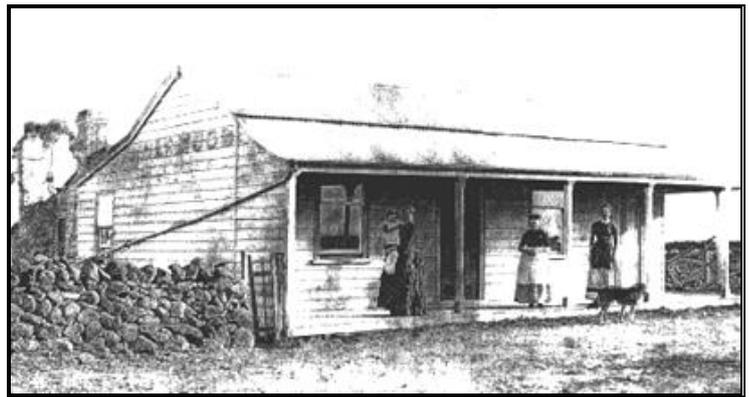


James's home, Brooklyn Lodge, gave name to the suburb.

In the late 1880s, a portion of Cherry's land in Brooklyn was leased for quarrying which was Hobsons Bay's first heavy industry. Some quarries were still operating in the City until the 1950s, including the site of Altona Gate shopping centre. An area, north of Barnes Road Bridge, was also a former quarry and is now used for landfill.²

Edward Blackshaw and Thomas Miller, whose names are still evident in the streets named after them, were farming in the area. Edward Blackshaw bought land in 1853 and his sons continued farming here till 1890. They had two hundred acres just south east of the Brooklyn Bridge on the Melbourne-Geelong Road which was later rebuilt. This bluestone bridge, which was constructed in 1889 and later altered in 1912, is located just south of the Princes Highway (Geelong Road), at the western tip of Brooklyn.

Thomas Miller bought farm land at the junction of what is now Millers Road and Geelong Road in about 1867. This photo, taken in the 1890s, shows several members of the Miller family on the verandah of the former Half Moon hotel which later became a post office.³ It is thought to be at the site where the Half Moon Caravan Park is now located.



Post World War II development

As residential and industrial areas developed, farms in Altona, Brooklyn and Laverton continued to supply the needs of the nearby population. There were still poultry farms at Brooklyn in the 1950s, even as suburban houses sprang up in the area⁵

After World War II, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons and assisted migrants came to Australia from Britain and Europe. Government hostels were set up in a number of places in Victoria. Brooklyn was the site for one such hostel, which closed in the early 1970s.

“The hostel straddled Francis Street and Millers Road, Brooklyn and was located near meat-processing works. It was said to have covered such a large area that it eventually stretched from the Half-Moon Caravan Park (cnr Millers Road and Francis Street) down to the Brooklyn Pumping Station. The hostel began in 14 wool stores, which were divided into flats, about 1300 in all.⁴

Photo: *A family moves into a flat at Brooklyn Commonwealth Hostel, Melbourne, Victoria* photographer, Don Edwards. Date : 1957⁵





Meat processing was an important employer in the municipality providing jobs for European migrants who brought the traditional methods of curing and preserving meat. The Thomas Borthwick and Sons abattoir was located in Francis Street, Brooklyn for many years. Gilbertson's also built their abattoir and meat processing plant at Altona North in 1951. Soon after the company added the Don's smallgoods section on a disused quarry site in Kyle Road, which is still operating.

The demands of World War II resulted in a chronic shortage of housing and building materials, all over Melbourne. Many houses were built by their owners, often while they camped in bungalows on the site. The Altona Cooperative Housing Society was launched in 1948 and the first of its houses were built at Brooklyn. It was not until the post-WWII that residential housing began to fill up Altona, Altona North, Laverton, Brooklyn, Spotswood and Kingsville South. ⁶

C: The Current Environment

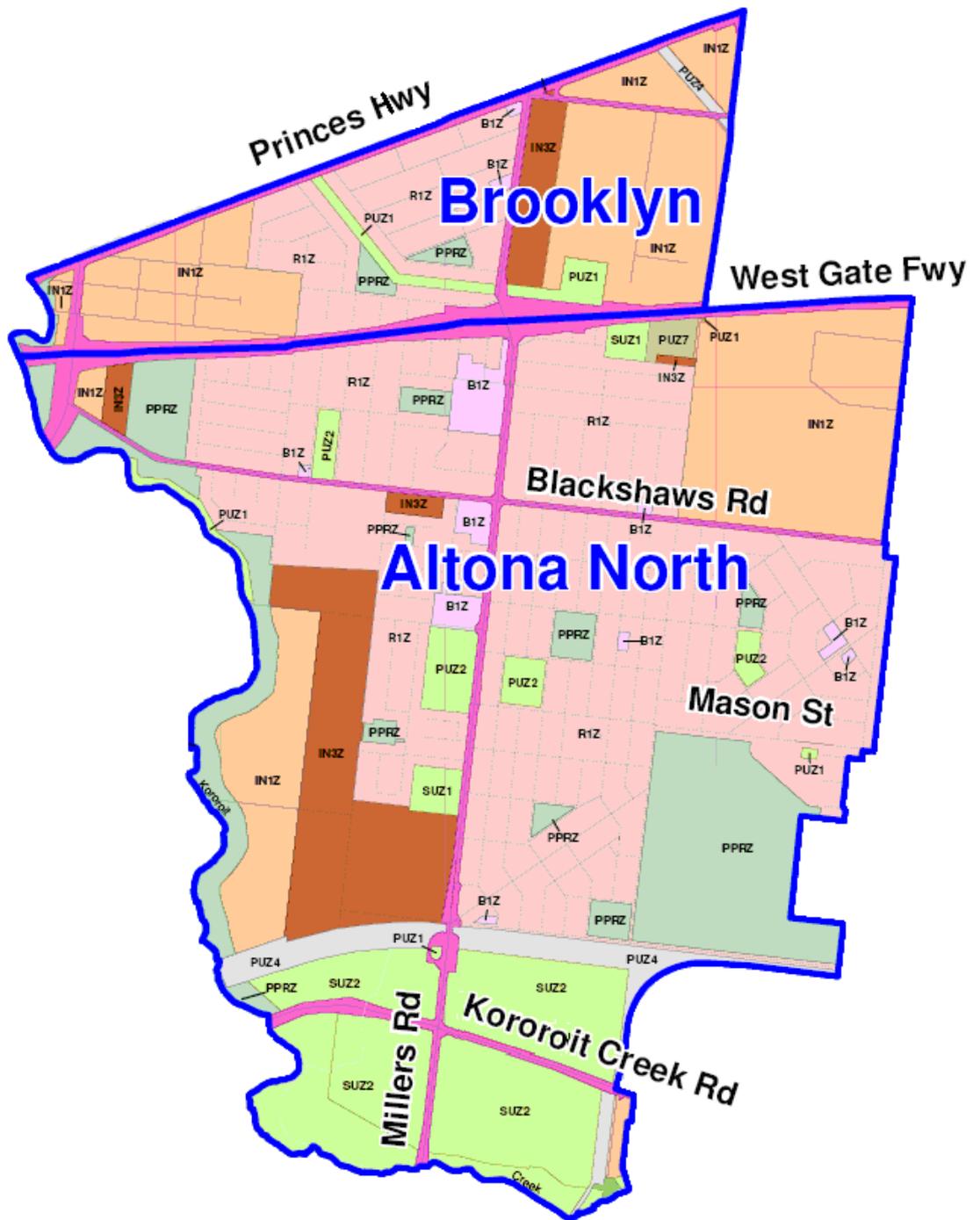
Land uses

The Brooklyn and Altona North area incorporates a mix of land uses, predominantly residential and industrial. As the zoning map below shows, these industrial sites are generally concentrated along the western boundary formed by Kororoit Creek and in the north east corner.

The area also has a number of business zones. The largest of these is located along the Millers Road spine and includes the Altona Gate shopping centre. In addition, there are a cluster of special use zones along Kororoit Creek Road, on the southern boundary. Uses on these sites are confined to the petrochemical industry.

There are also a number of public open spaces (PPRZ on the map), the largest being Paisley Park. It is located in the south east corner and provides a range of formal recreational opportunities, including a new leisure centre and pool.

Land use zones



Public Land

PPRZ Public Park Recreation Zone
 PUZ1 Public Use Zone Service & Utility
 PUZ2 Public Use Zone Education
 PUZ4 Public Use Zone Transport

Residential

R1Z Residential 1 Zone

Business

B1Z Business 1 Zone

Industrial

IN1Z Industrial 1 Zone

IN3Z Industrial 3 Zone

Special Purpose

SUZ Special Use zone

Natural features

Kororoit Creek is the main natural feature in the area and runs along the western and southern boundaries. The creek is recognised as one of Melbourne's important waterways, and has a key role to play in the life of the city and the environment of the western region.

Prior to European settlement, River red gums and plains grasslands covered the area surrounding the creek. However since then, much of the creek valley has been degraded -modified with excess soil from adjoining land use and the negative impacts from weeds and pest animals.

In the vicinity of Dohertys Road, the creek valley is still relatively natural and has rock escarpments on both sides. The creek corridor provides habitat for fauna species including reptiles, frogs and a range of birds. The Urban Forest Reserve (just south of the Westgate Freeway) has a thick cover of mainly indigenous trees which were planted during the 1980's. In more recent times, the Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek and the Council have been replanting the creek corridor with local native plants, downstream of the Westgate Freeway.⁷

Residential development

At a glance, much of the area's housing stock reflects the building styles common to 1960s and 70s. Housing types tend to be detached and single storey. Construction materials are a mix of weatherboard and brick veneer. There is evidence of some new development. The large size of residential blocks common to the area is attracting an increase in medium density development, with older houses being demolished and replaced with two storey unit developments.

The area's housing stock also incorporates just over 230 properties owned by the Department of Human Service. These are mainly located in Altona North and provide housing for people on low incomes.

In addition, the Half Moon Caravan Park which is located on the corner of Francis Street and Millers Road has onsite vans which are rented on a short term and semi-permanent basis.

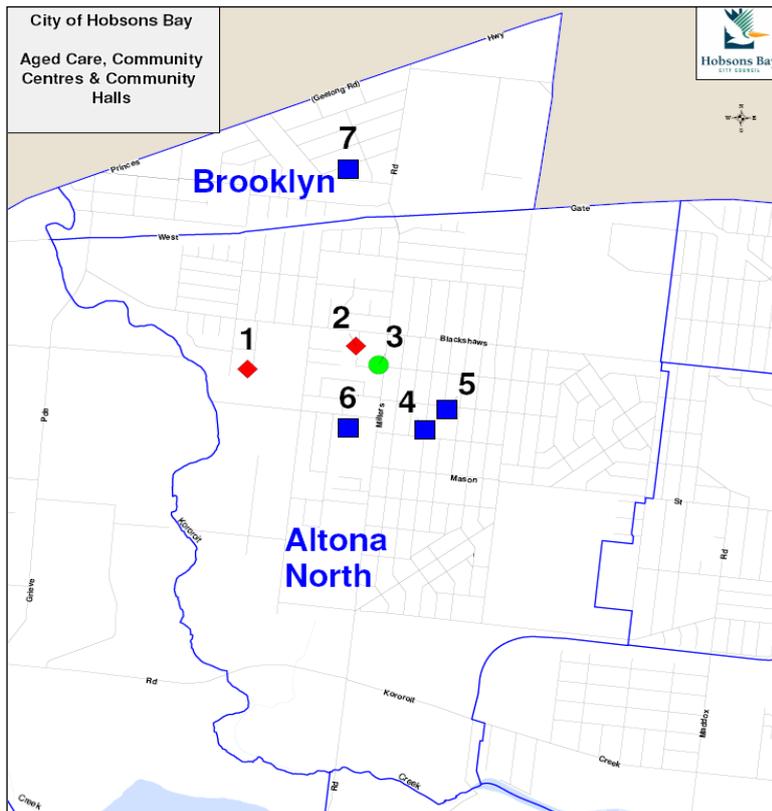
There are also two aged care facilities, both of which are located in Altona North. Between them, they provide 152 beds. (Refer to map below)

Library, community centres and halls

The Altona North Library is located on the corner of Millers and McArthurs Roads. It also includes community meeting spaces.

The Walker Close Community Centre is located on the corner of Millers Road and Walker Close in Altona North. The Centre is owned by Hobsons Bay City Council and is operated by a Board of Management. It offers a broad range of programs and activities. It also has rooms for hire and is used by community groups for the delivery of services.

There are two Council owned halls in the area. Brooklyn Community Hall is located in Cypress Ave and Altona North Community Hall on the corner of Cresser St and Fifth Ave. Both halls are available for hire by the community.



Id	Service	Name	Address	Suburb
1	Aged Care	Hobsons Bay Nursing Centre	28-30 Rymill Ct	Altona North
2	Aged Care	Marina Residential Aged Care	385-389 Blackshaws Rd	Altona North
3	Community Centre	Walker Close Community Centre	180 Millers Rd	Altona North
4	Community Hall	Altona North Community hall	cnr Cresser Sts & Fifth Ave	Altona North
5	Community Hall	Altona North Youth hall	67 Marion St	Altona North
6	Community Hall	Bayside Secondary College	Millers Rd	Altona North
7	Community Hall	Brooklyn community hall	Cypress Ave	Brooklyn

Facilities by Service	
	Aged Care (2)
	Community Centre (1)
	Community Hall (4)

Children's services

Since this profile was first published there have been a number of changes to childcare centres. The map below has not been updated however the text has been edited to include name changes and centre closures.

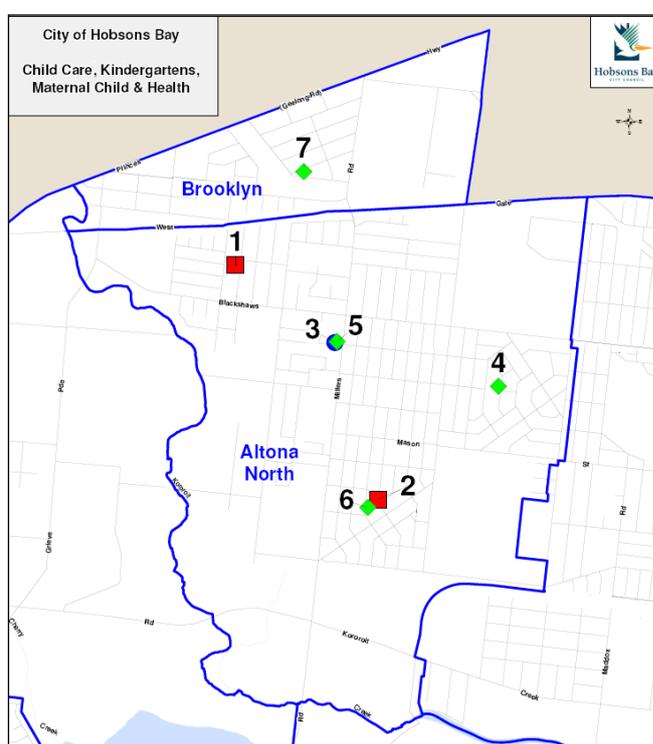
There are a number of services in the area for infants and children. Among these services is Maternal Child and Health which is delivered at the Walker Close Community Centre, in Millers Road.

Altona North and Brooklyn also has four childcare centres. One Tree Altona North Children's Service in Fifth Avenue is a Council owned, privately operated facility. The three other centres include Bright Steps in Misten Street, Early Learners in Millers Road and Head Start and Head Start and Early Learning Centre, corner of Grieve Parade and Dohertys Road.

In addition, there are two kindergartens in the area. The Altona North Early Childhood Centre in Ronald Avenue is a Council owned facility. The building is leased by Yooralla and is one of only three in Melbourne to offer a kindergarten program for 3 and 4 year olds, including those with special needs. A range of programs and support for children with disabilities and their carers are also available.

Altona Gate Kindergarten is located at the Walker Close Community Centre. The building is also owned by Council and managed by a community based Committee of Management.

NB Eastona Kindergarten in Altona North and Frances Sullivan Kindergarten in Brooklyn are no longer operating.

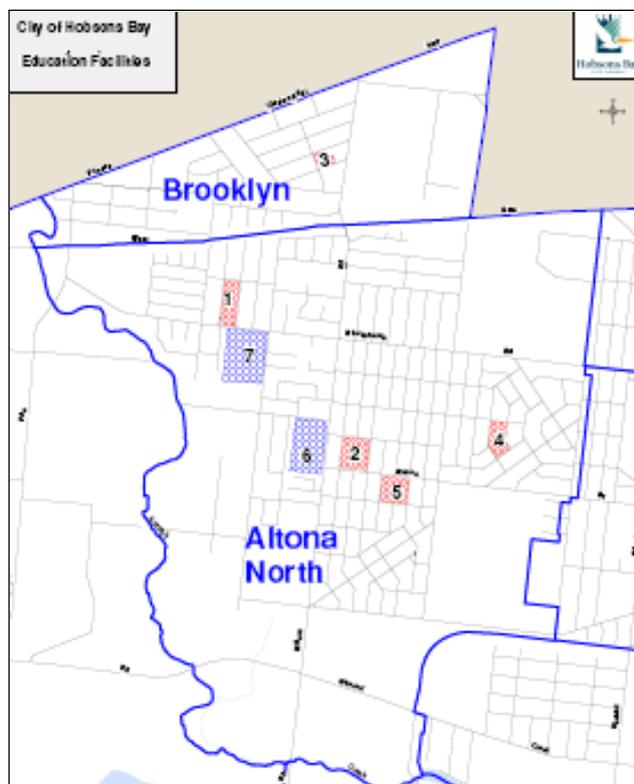


No	Service	Name	Address	Suburb
1	Child Care	ABC Altona North	37 Misten Ave	Altona North
2	Child Care	Altona North Child Care Centre	10 Fifth Ave	Altona North
3	Maternal Child & Health	Altona North Maternal & Child Health Centre	180-184 Millers Rd	Altona North
4	Kindergarten	Eastona Kindergarten	13 Collins Avenue	Altona North
5	Kindergarten	Altona Gate Kindergarten	80 Walker Close	Altona
6	Kindergarten	Altona North Early Childhood Centre	30 Ronald Avenue	Altona North
7	Kindergarten	Frances Sullivan Kindergarten	35 Nolan Avenue	Brooklyn

Facilities map	
■	Child Care (2)
◆	Kindergarten (4)
●	Maternal Child & Health (1)

Schools

There are four primary schools operating in Altona North and Brooklyn. Three of these are government schools –Altona Gate and Altona North. There are also two primary schools operated by the Catholic Church - St. Leo the Great and Annunciation. The Eastona Primary School is no longer operating.



The area has two secondary schools. Bayside Secondary College is a state government school for Year 7 to 9 students. Students then transfer across to Bayside senior campus in Newport West, to complete Years 10 and 12. (Refer to a later section on what’s ahead for the area for information on the redevelopment of the secondary college.

The second secondary school is St Pauls Catholic College, a single sex school for boys.

Id	School Type	Name	Address	Suburb
1	Primary	Altona Gate Primary School	430-436 Blackshaws Rd (cnr Misten Av)	Altona North
2	Primary	Altona North Primary School	37-51 Gresser St	Altona North
3	Primary	Annunciation Catholic School	4-14 Nolan Av	Brooklyn
4	Primary	Eastona Primary School	1-19 Collins Av	Altona North
5	Primary	St Leo the Great Primary School	Mason St (cnr Fourth Av)	Altona North
6	Secondary	Bayside Secondary College (Altona North Campus)	McArthur Rd (cnr Millers Road)	Altona North
7	Secondary	St Paul's Catholic College	Chambers Rd (cnr Blackshaws Rd)	Altona North

Education Facilities	
	Primary (5)
	Secondary (2)

Recreational facilities and open space

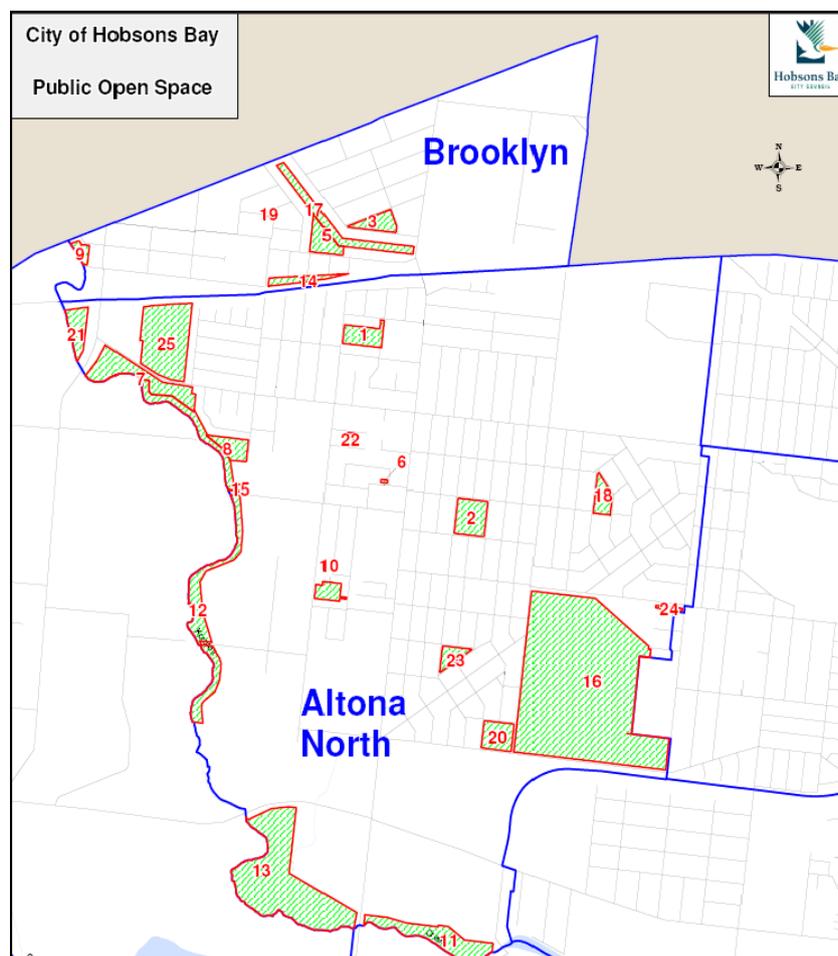
The Federation Trail shared path extends between Millers Road, Brooklyn and the Werribee River, Werribee. The trail was opened in 2006 and forms part of the Metropolitan Transit Network. The trail is off road and there are traffic lights at any busy road crossings.

There are two reserves in Brooklyn. Duane Reserve has a soccer field, pavilion and playground. Nearby, Brooklyn Reserve has several tennis courts (state funding will see two courts resurfaced to hard-courts in 2008) and a clubroom, a ½ basketball court and a children’s playground.



Several large reserves are located in Altona North. Crofts Reserve at the western end of Blackshaws Rd has several ovals, cricket nets and clubrooms. To the east on Mason Street, Paisley Park offers a large range of sports facilities including: lacrosse and soccer fields; a golf club and driving range; bowling greens; and a badminton facility. In addition, it is home to the newly opened Bayfit Leisure Centre which includes an indoor pool and gymnasium.

Also in Altona North is Langshaws Reserve. The reserve is located in Cresser St and has a sports oval and small pavilion.



Id	Site_name
1	A.W. Bond Reserve
2	A.W. Langshaws Reserve
3	Brooklyn Reserve
5	D.N. Duane Reserve
6	Duke Street Reserve
7	G.J. Hosken Reserve
8	Harris Reserve
9	Historical Bridge Reserve
10	J.J. Giniifer Reserve
11	Kororoit Creek Floodway
12	Kororoit Creek Reserve
13	Kororoit Creek Reserve
14	Lynch Road Reserve
15	McArthurs Road Reserve
16	Paisley Park
17	Pipeline Res
18	R.J. Cooper Reserve
19	Rowan Avenue Reserve
20	S.J. Clement Reserve
21	Urban Forest
22	V.L. Hearn Reserve
23	W.J. Irwin Reserve
24	W.L. Floyd Reserve
25	W.L.J. Crofts Reserve

Retail centres

As mentioned earlier, the main commercial centre in Altona North and Brooklyn is located along Millers Road. Altona Gate is a free-standing shopping centre, situated just south of the Westgate Freeway. It is one of the three largest shopping centres in Hobsons Bay and offers a comprehensive range of retail outlets. The shopping centre was built in 1977 and among its main anchor stores are Kmart, Coles and Safeway, together with an additional 83 specialty stores.

The area also has several other retail centres. Borrack Square shopping centre is just off Millers Roads in McArthurs Road and the Circle shopping centre which is bounded by Stapley Crescent and the Circle. Both shopping centres have a variety of commercial and retail premises, including supermarkets, banks and post offices, fresh foods stores, pharmacies and newsagencies.

Several smaller shopping strips are located in Misten Street and Second Avenue.

Doctors

The area is serviced by four medical clinics. Three are located in Altona North and one surgery is in Brooklyn. Bulkbilling is not generally available, with the exception of Centrelink pension and healthcare card holders.

Blackshaws Road Medical Centre 350 Blackshaws Road Altona North	Millers Road Clinic 245 Millers Road Altona North
The Circle Surgery Unit 2/174 Millers Road Altona North	Dr Appan's Surgery 44 Millers Road Brooklyn

Dentists

The area has two dental surgeries; both are located in Millers Road North Altona.

Dr J Robertson Dental Surgery 173 Millers Rd Altona North	Dr P Zafiropoulos 109 Millers Rd Altona North
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Pharmacies

Altona North and Brooklyn residents have access to five pharmacies.

Altona Gate Pharmacy Shop G7 Altona Gate Shopping Centre, Altona North	Altona North Pharmacy 310A Blackshaws Rd Altona North
Chemist Warehouse 174 -178 Millers Rd Altona North	Circle Pharmacy 53 The Circle Altona North
Valda Slavinskis Pharmacy 25 Borrack Square Altona North	

Public Transport

The public transport system in Altona North and Brooklyn is limited to buses. The closest railway connections are at Newport and Altona.

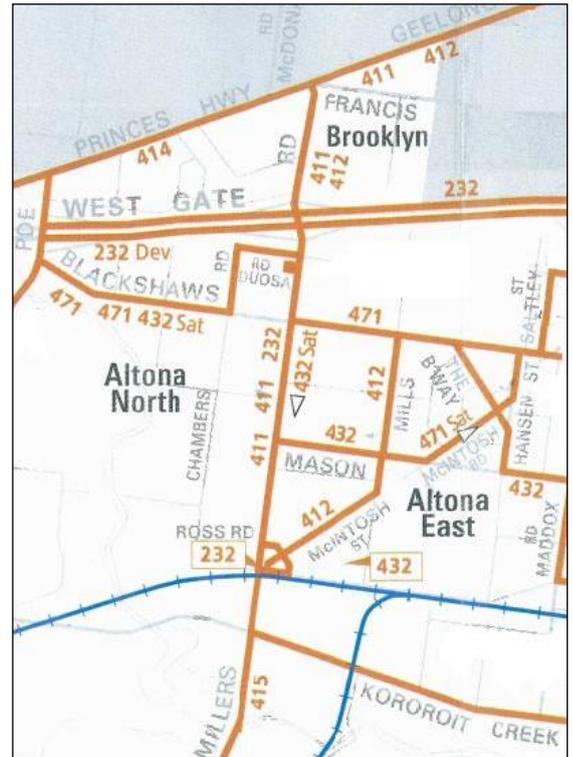
The 411 and 412 bus routes link the area to Footscray, Altona Meadows and Laverton.

Buses on the 432 route provide a connection to the Newport railway station.

The 471 route provides a service to Sunshine and Williamstown.

Route 232 passes through the area and on to the Queen Victoria Market in the city.

In most instances, there are no buses through the area on weekdays after 8pm, the exception being the 232 and 471 routes which stop at around 9pm. The weekend timetables generally run no later than 6pm. The exception is the 471 route where recent changes to the timetable have extended the service from 8am to 9pm on Saturdays and 9am to 9pm on Sundays



What's ahead for Altona North and Brooklyn



Residential development

The major change for the neighbourhood is the proposed new residential development on land bounded by Blackshaws and Kyle Roads and New Street. A section of this land includes the former Don Smallgoods. The site could potentially add around 3,000 new dwellings and increase the population by more than 7,000 new residents.



References

¹ Clark I (2001) The First People of the City of Hobsons Bay, Hobsons Bay City Council

² Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, 2006

³ The Advertiser (1965) *Our Brooklyn Stories*, 19 March 1965

⁴ Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, 2003

www.hobsons.vic.gov.au/Files/Volume_1b_Thematic_Environmental_History.pdf

National Archives of Australia

⁵ National Archives of Australia

www.pictureaustralia.org/apps/pictureaustralia?term1=Brooklyn+Commonwealth+Hostel&Submit=search&action=PASearch&attribute1=any+field&mode=search

⁶ Hobsons Bay Heritage Study (2003) op cit

⁷ Kororoit Creek Masterplan (2006) Hobsons Bay City Council

⁸ Dept of Infrastructure, State Government Victoria

www.doi.vic.gov.au/DOI/Internet/transport.nsf/AllDocs/FE39EB2FDC32E7AECA2571F80018F4FC?OpenDocument#network

Altona North and Brooklyn Data Profile

A. Population Characteristics

Population: number and age structure

At the 2011 Census, the Altona North and Brooklyn neighbourhood area had a population of 13,153 people (approximately 16% of the municipality's residents). Based on population forecasts for 2015, the neighbourhood's current population is approximately 14,338.

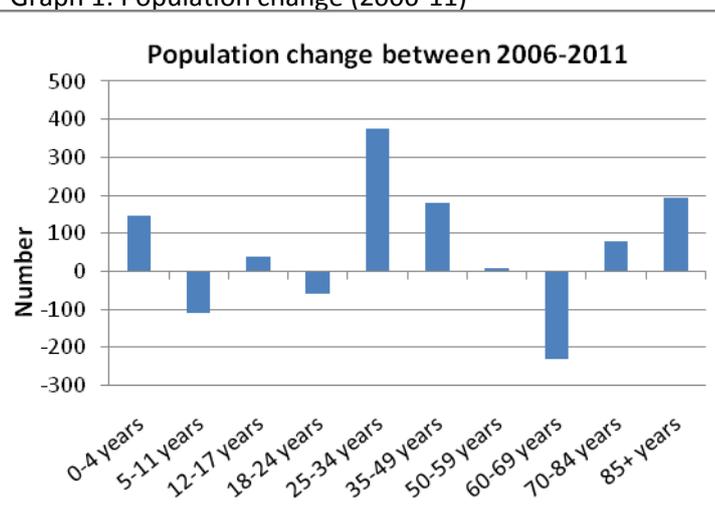
Between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, the neighbourhood's population grew by 624 residents (a 4.7% increase). The table and graph below show the changes that occurred over that time.

While the area has a sizeable older population relative to Hobsons Bay as a whole, the early signs of population regeneration are evident. This is most noticeable among the increased number of younger residents in the family forming ages of 25-34 years, and a corresponding increase in pre-school aged children. There has also been an increase in the 35-49 age bracket. While there is still evidence of an ageing population, notably among those aged 85 years and over, the number of those around retiring age (60-69 years) has declined.

Table 1: Age structure

Altona North - Brooklyn	2006	2011	Change 2006-11
0-4 years	713	860	147
5-11 years	1,100	989	-111
12-17 years	801	840	39
18-24 years	1,085	1,027	-58
25-34 years	1,748	2,122	374
35-49 years	2,325	2,505	180
50-59 years	1,280	1,290	10
60-69 years	1,419	1,188	-231
70-84 years	1,813	1,893	80
85+ years	246	439	193
Total popⁿ	12,529	13,153	624

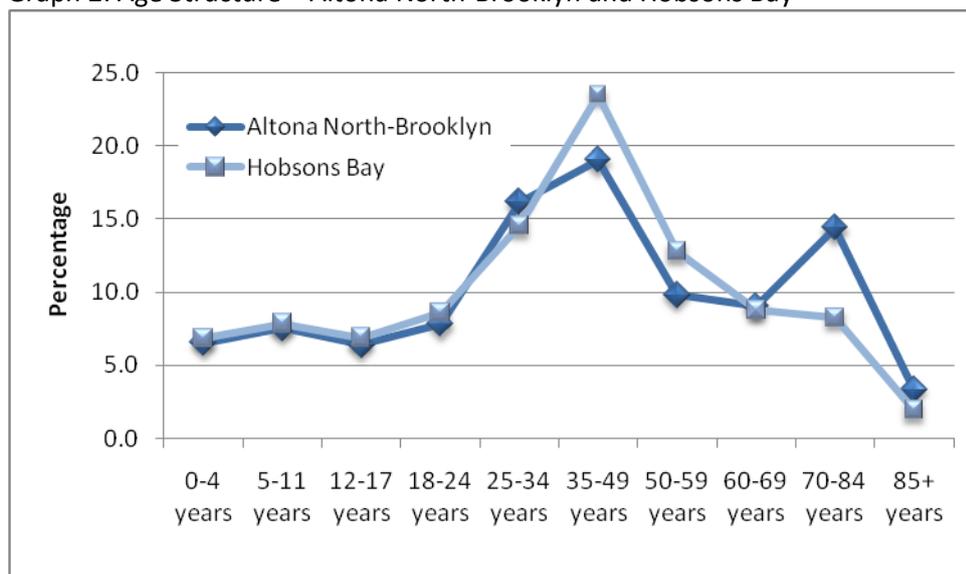
Graph 1: Population change (2006-11)



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

When comparing the age structure of the neighbourhood's residents against that of Hobsons Bay, the graph below highlights a similar age profile among the younger age groups up to age 24 year. Thereafter, the neighbourhood has proportionately fewer working aged residents (25-60 years) and more older residents, particularly in the 70-85 age group.

Graph 2: Age Structure – Altona North-Brooklyn and Hobsons Bay



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Family and household types

There are approximately 5,000 households in Altona North-Brooklyn. Forty per cent have children and fifty three per cent do not. (This data does not include households who couldn't be classified and visitor only households).

Almost 2,000 families have children. Among couple households, those children tend to be younger (under 15 years) while single parent families are more likely to have older children. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of couples with children decreased slightly (-33) while single parent families increased by a similar amount (+37).

Compared to Hobsons Bay, the neighbourhood has a lower percentage of couples with children (5% less), but particularly those with young children.

Altona North and Brooklyn has a slightly higher proportion of single parent families and all categories within that family type are marginally above the municipal level.

Table 2: Households with children

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2011			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Couples with children	1,336	26.7	31.7	1,369	28.7	32.2	-33
<i>Couples with young children*</i>	691	13.8	17.4	629	13.2	17.1	62
<i>Couples with mixed-age children</i>	193	3.9	3.9	191	4.0	4.6	2
<i>Couples with older children**</i>	452	9.0	10.4	548	11.5	10.5	-96
Single parents with children	641	12.8	11.1	604	12.7	11.7	37
<i>Single parents with young children*</i>	191	3.8	3.5	189	4.0	4.5	2
<i>Single parents with mixed-age children</i>	63	1.3	1.2	75	1.6	1.2	-12
<i>Single parents with older children**</i>	386	7.7	6.4	340	7.1	6.0	46
Total households with children	1,977	39.5	42.7	1,972	41.4	43.9	5
Total households	5,005	100.0	100.0	4,763	100.0	100.0	242

*children aged under 15 ** children aged 15 and over

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Of the 53 per cent of households without children in Altona North-Brooklyn, people living alone are the largest group, marginally ahead of couples without children. Lone person households also grew most in the five years to 2011.

Compared to the municipality as a whole, the neighbourhood has a similar proportion of couple households without children and within this category it has a lower proportion of young couples, although their numbers have increased since 2006. Group households also increased a little between 2006 and 2011.

Altona North-Brooklyn has a slightly higher proportion of households without children, particularly older couple and also lone person households.

Table 3: Households without children

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2011			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Couples without children	1,166	23.3	23.5	1,164	24.4	22.8	2
<i>Young couples without children</i>	362	7.2	8.6	270	5.7	7.9	92
<i>Middle-aged couples without children</i>	189	3.8	7.1	237	5.0	7.1	-48
<i>Older couples without children</i>	614	12.3	7.8	657	13.8	7.7	-43
Lone person households	1,270	25.4	24.3	1,156	24.3	24.4	114
<i>Young lone persons</i>	347	6.9	7.1	327	6.9	8.0	20
<i>Middle-aged lone persons</i>	324	6.5	8.3	300	6.3	7.6	24
<i>Older lone persons</i>	598	11.9	8.9	530	11.1	8.8	68
Group households	209	4.2	3.8	143	3.0	3.2	66
Total households without children	2,644	52.8	51.6	2,463	51.7	50.4	181
Total households	5,005	100.0	100.0	4,763	100.0	100.0	242

- young: 15-44 years; middle aged: 45-64 years; older: 65+ years

NB Data does not include other not classifiable households visitor only households

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Cultural diversity of residents

Forty per cent (5,262) of people living in the neighbourhood were born overseas, which is substantially higher than the municipal figure of 31 per cent. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of overseas born increased by 179 residents. All of this growth came from residents from non-English speaking countries which was off-set by a small decrease in the number who were born in English speaking countries (-8 residents).

The neighbourhood has a much higher proportion of residents from non-English speaking countries compared to Hobsons Bay (Altona North-Brooklyn 35%; Hobsons Bay 23 per cent).

Table 4: Overseas born residents

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Total Overseas born	5,262	40.0	30.8	5,083	40.5	29.0	179
<i>Non-English speaking backgrounds</i>	4,659	35.4	23.1	4,473	35.6	21.4	186
<i>Main English speaking countries</i>	602	4.6	7.7	610	4.9	7.6	-8
Australia	6,777	51.5	63.5	6,279	50.0	63.7	498
Not Stated	1,113	8.5	5.6	1,186	9.5	7.2	-73
Total Population	13,152	100.0	100.0	12,548	100.0	100.0	604

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

The profile of overseas born residents is reasonably different when comparing Altona North and Brooklyn. While Italy is among the top 3 countries in both areas, Lebanon and Greece are ranked second and third in Altona North. In Brooklyn, Vietnam is the most common birthplace and New Zealand is ranked third.

Relative to other nationalities, the largest change in both Altona North and Brooklyn between 2006 and 2011 was an increase in Indian born residents. Their number increased from 41 to 257 residents.

Table 5: Main countries of birthplace

Birthplace 2011					
Altona North	Number	%	Brooklyn	Number	%
Italy	638	5.5	Vietnam	80	4.9
Lebanon	467	4.1	Italy	74	4.5
Greece	459	4.0	New Zealand	47	2.9
Vietnam	414	3.6	China	43	2.6
Malta	268	2.3	Philippines	38	2.3
United Kingdom	264	2.3	United Kingdom	37	2.3
India	222	1.9	India	35	2.1
New Zealand	206	1.8	Serbia / Montenegro (fmr Yugoslavia)	24	1.5
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	169	1.5	Greece	22	1.3
Serbia / Montenegro (fmr Yugoslavia)	165	1.4	Poland	20	1.2

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

While the neighbourhood has a higher proportion of overseas born residents compared to the whole of Hobsons Bay, a large proportion of them arrived in Australia before 1970.

Since the 1980s, the proportion of new arrivals has dropped below the municipal rate and in the five years to 2011 that gap widened. Just over 15 per cent of the neighbourhoods residents arrived in Australia during that period compared to the Hobsons Bay figure of almost 21 per cent.

That said, the figure of 15 per cent of newly arrived residents living in Altona North and Brooklyn is the highest it has been since the late 1960s.

Table 6: Year of arrival in Australia

Altona North-Brooklyn	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
2006 to 9 Aug 2011	796	15.1	20.8
2001 to 2005	350	6.6	9.1
1991 to 2000 (10 year period)	465	8.8	10.9
1981 to 1990 (10 year period)	669	12.7	13.2
1971 to 1980 (10 year period)	544	10.3	10.6
1961 to 1970 (10 year period)	1,117	21.2	17.0
Arrived in 1960 or earlier	986	18.7	13.9
Not stated	340	6.5	4.4
Total	5,267	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Just over 50 per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn residents speak languages other than English at home, significantly higher than the 30 per cent of Hobsons Bay residents.

However, the table below shows that between 2006 and 2011 the number who spoke English only increased more (+459) than those speaking other languages (+128).

Table 7: Language summary

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Speaks English only	5,569	42.4	65.7	5,110	40.7	66.6	+459
Non-English total	6,607	50.2	29.4	6,479	51.7	28.1	+128
Not stated	973	7.4	4.8	950	7.6	5.4	+23
Total Population	13,149	100.0	100.0	12,540	100.0	100.0	+609

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Other than English, Arabic is by far the most common language spoken at home in Altona North. And is substantially higher than those who speak Italian and Greek which are the next two most commonly spoken languages.

In Brooklyn, the number of residents who speak Italian and Vietnamese is double that of those who speak any other language.

Table 8: Language spoken at home (other than English)

Altona North	Number	%	Brooklyn	Number	%
Arabic	1,551	13.5	Italian	108	6.6
Italian	876	7.6	Vietnamese	104	6.3
Greek	736	6.4	Cantonese	58	3.5
Vietnamese	494	4.3	Greek	46	2.8
Maltese	283	2.5	Arabic	37	2.3
Cantonese	229	2.0	Polish	37	2.3
Macedonian	227	2.0	Mandarin	36	2.2
Croatian	174	1.5	Filipino/Tagalog	28	1.7
Serbian	130	1.1	Maltese	28	1.7
Polish	101	0.9			

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

People with disabilities

The number of people who have a disability is based on the findings of the national *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers*, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in partnership with the Disability Policy and Research working group. Based on the survey findings, disability estimates are produced for each local government area (LGA).

Based on the result of the 2009 ABS survey, it is estimated that 17.1 per cent of the Hobsons Bay population (who live in a private dwelling) has a disability. Applying this figure to the neighbourhood suggests approximately 2,250 residents may have a disability.

In addition to the 2009 survey, the past two Censuses have included a question as to whether help or supervision was required with one or more of the core activities involving self-care, communication and mobility. It is important to note that these results do not reflect the true extent of disability in the community, as people with disabilities do not always require assistance or disclose their disability.

At the 2011 Census, 1106 residents of Altona North and Brooklyn (8.4 per cent) indicated they need help with a core activity, well above the rate for Hobsons Bay (5.2 per cent). The table below shows that in general, the need for assistance increases with age. However, the neighbourhood also has a large number of residents (192) aged between 18 and 24 who require support.

Table 9: Need for assistance with a core activity

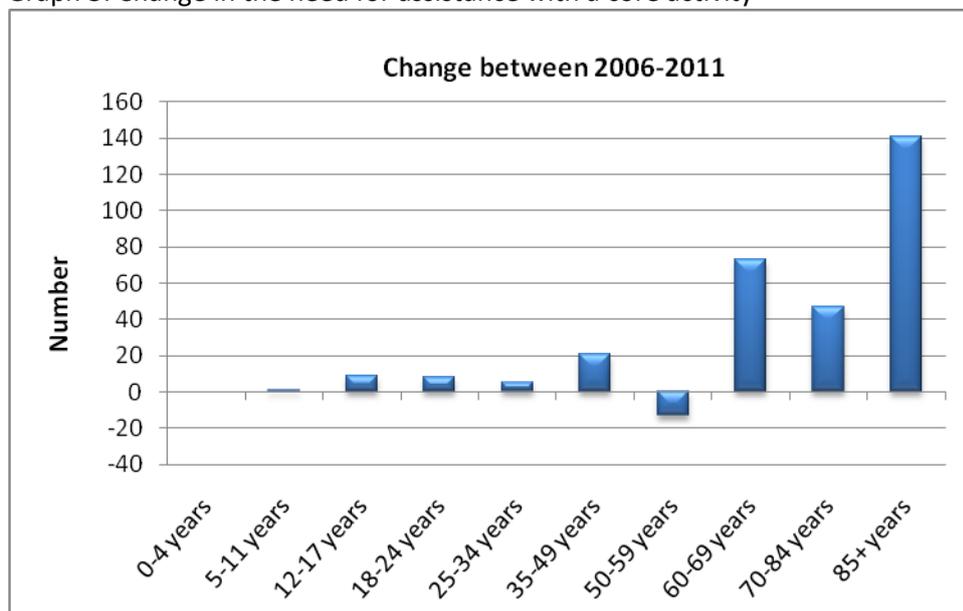
Altona North-Brooklyn	Number
0-4 years	9
5-11 years	10
12-17 years	30
18-24 years	192
25-34 years	53
35-49 years	75
50-59 years	108
60-69 years	197
70-84 years	189
85+ years	243
Total persons needing assistance	1,106

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Between 2006 and 2011, the number of people indicating they needed assistance increased by 634 which represents a 36 per cent increase, far higher than the five per cent increase in the total population over the same period.

The graph below highlights that almost all of that growth was among those aged over 60, but particularly among those aged 85 years and over.

Graph 3: Change in the need for assistance with a core activity



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Participation in education

Approximately 18 per cent of the Altona North and Brooklyn population is enrolled in some form of education which is slightly lower than the participation rate for Hobsons Bay (22 per cent), but is probably due to the neighbourhood's older age profile.

Enrolments in pre school and secondary school remained relatively stable between 2006 and 2011; although primary school enrolments dropped by just over one per cent and were the only enrolments to decrease in actual numbers over that period (down by 113 children).

In terms of post secondary education, university enrolments increased only slightly in the five years to 2011 as did TAFE enrolments. However, the largest increase in actual numbers was among residents not enrolled in education.

Participation rates in all forms of education are lower in Altona North and Brooklyn compared to Hobson Bay. A contributing factor to this difference is the neighbourhood's higher non response rate to this question. Therefore, this data should be treated with caution.

Table 10: Participation in education

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Pre-school	170	1.3	1.6	149	1.2	1.6	21
Primary school	791	6.0	7.0	904	7.2	7.8	-113
Secondary school	676	5.1	5.9	665	5.3	6.2	11
TAFE	208	1.6	1.9	176	1.4	1.7	32
University	359	2.7	4.2	264	2.1	3.2	95
Other	132	1.0	1.1	97	0.8	0.9	35
Not attending	9,387	71.4	71.1	9,010	71.9	70.2	377
Not stated	1,420	10.8	7.1	1,267	10.1	8.3	153
Total	13,144	100.0	100.0	12,532	100.0	100.0	612

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Compared to the Hobsons Bay population, a lower proportion of Altona North and Brooklyn residents have completed year 12 but the rate has increased over recent years. Between 2006 and 2011, the percentage of residents completing secondary school rose by just over seven per cent (966 residents), similar to the Hobsons Bay increase.

The rate of early school leaving among the neighbourhood's residents decreased across all levels through to year 11. This trend was also reflected across the municipality.

NB: Almost 14 per cent of residents provided no response to this question in 2011 so the data should be treated with caution and this rate has remained high since the 2006 Census.

Table 11: Highest level of schooling (persons aged 15 years and over)

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Year 8 or below	1,648	15.1	8.3	1,917	18.6	10.2	-269
Year 9 or equivalent	702	6.4	6.2	843	8.2	7.1	-141
Year 10 or equivalent	1,348	12.4	13.5	1,331	12.9	15.1	17
Year 11 or equivalent	1,000	9.2	11.7	1,026	10.0	13.1	-26
Year 12 or equivalent	4,321	39.7	50.1	3,355	32.6	42.6	966
Did not go to school	385	3.5	1.5	457	4.4	1.8	-72
Not stated	1,488	13.7	8.6	1,374	13.3	10.2	114
Total persons aged 15+	10,892	100.0	100.0	10,303	100.0	100.0	589

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Along with a rise in the school completion rate, the percentage of Altona North and Brooklyn residents with a qualification has also risen, although the figure is still well below the Hobsons Bay rate (Altona North- Brooklyn 30.5%; Hobsons Bay 44.4%). Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of residents with qualifications increased by six per cent, slightly less than the municipal increase of seven per cent.

The major share of that increase was among residents with a bachelor or higher degree, up from 7.9 per cent to 11.9 per cent. There was also a small increase in the proportion with diploma and vocational qualifications, although these rates are well below the municipal figures.

NB: The non-response rate to this question was high, so caution should be applied to the data.

Table 12: Qualifications

Altona North-Brooklyn	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Change 2006-11
Bachelor or Higher degree	1,295	11.9	21.1	817	7.9	16.1	1,274
Advanced Diploma or Diploma	573	5.3	8.1	429	4.2	6.6	565
Vocational	1,447	13.3	15.2	1,293	12.5	15.0	1,432
No qualification	5,813	53.5	44.8	6,157	59.8	49.3	5,768
Not stated	1,740	16.0	10.8	1,619	15.7	13.0	1,729
Total persons aged 15+	10,869	100.0	100.0	10,315	100.1	100.0	10,769

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Internet access

Access to the internet, particularly broadband, is important in all aspects of life and that importance will only increase over time. Lack of access to the internet is considered to be a factor in compounding disadvantage, particularly in relation to education, employment, and social connections.

Fifty nine per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn households have an internet connection, still substantially lower than the 72 per cent of Hobsons Bay households. Since 2006, the connection rate increased by 18 per cent and while still below the municipal rate, the gap closed slightly. The vast majority of the increase was in broadband connections.

While internet access has increased, just over thirty per cent of households in Altona North and Brooklyn still have no internet connection which is significantly above the Hobsons Bay figure (21.3%). This may be partly attributable to the older age profile of the neighbourhood.

NB: Altona North had a relatively high non response rate to this Census question which may have impacted on this data.

Table 13: Internet connection

Altona North-Brooklyn	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Change 2006-11
Total internet connection	2,946	58.7	71.8	1,929	40.5	55.7	1,017
<i>Broadband connection</i>	<i>2,632</i>	<i>52.5</i>	<i>65.0</i>	<i>1,250</i>	<i>26.3</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>1,382</i>
<i>Dial-up connection</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>653</i>	<i>13.7</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>-538</i>
<i>Other connection *</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>172</i>
No internet connection	1,599	31.9	21.3	2,380	50.0	36.9	-781
Not stated	473	9.4	6.9	451	9.5	7.3	22
Total households	5,018	100.0	100.0	4,761	100.0	100.0	257

* 'Other' includes Internet access through mobile phones, set-top boxes, games machines

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

B. Labour Force Characteristics

Labour force participation

Labour force participation refers to the population (aged 15 years and over) who are employed and also those who are unemployed and are actively looking for work. Not in the labour force refers to those who are not looking for work such as retirees, carers, non-working parents or those with a disability who are unable to work.

Altona North and Brooklyn has a total labour force of 46.8 per cent, approximately fourteen per cent below the Hobsons Bay rate and again likely to be affected by the higher proportion of older residents who live here. Non participation in the neighbourhood fell by five per cent between 2006 and 2011, although the rate in 2011 was still almost 10 per cent above that for Hobsons Bay.

It should be noted that there are distinct differences between the labour force data for Altona North and Brooklyn with participation significantly higher in Brooklyn (Altona North 45.3%; Brooklyn 56.7%). The older age demographic in Altona North is the likely explanation for this difference.

NB: The increase in 'not stated' answers between 2006 and 2011 indicates this data should be used with caution.

Table 14: Labour force participation

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Total labour force (Participation rate)	5,096	46.8	60.9	4,606	44.7	60.9	490
Not in the labour force	4,597	42.2	33.2	4,904	47.6	33.2	-307
Labour force status not stated	1,199	11.0	5.9	798	7.7	5.9	401
Total persons aged 15+	10,892	100.0	100.0	10,307	100.0	100.0	585

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Just over 5,000 Altona North and Brooklyn residents are in the labour force; 93 per cent are employed which is slightly below the municipal rate of 94.4 per cent. There was a small increase in proportion of people who were employed between 2006 and 2011 while the Hobsons Bay figure was stable.

Sixty one per cent of the neighbourhood's workers have a full time job and this figure decreased only slightly between 2006 and 2011, as was the case for Hobsons Bay as a whole. At the same time, there was a two per cent increase in part-time work, also reflecting the Hobsons Bay trend. Of the 534 residents who found employment between 2006 and 2011, slightly more of this was in part-time work.

As a result of the increase in employment rate, the unemployment rate (7%) for the neighbourhood decreased by almost two per cent in the five years to 2011. While this was greater than the fall in the municipal rate, unemployment is still 1.4 per cent higher in Altona North and Brooklyn. Of those looking for work, the majority want a full-time job.

Table 15: Employment status

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Employed	4,740	93.0	94.4	4,206	91.3	94.1	534
<i>Employed full-time</i>	3,107	61.0	61.3	2,838	61.6	62.8	269
<i>Employed part-time</i>	1,485	29.1	31.0	1,188	25.8	28.6	297
<i>Hours worked not stated</i>	150	2.9	2.1	179	3.9	2.8	-29
Unemployed (Unemployment rate)	355	7.0	5.6	401	8.7	5.9	-46
<i>Looking for full-time work</i>	273	5.4	3.6	282	6.1	3.9	-9
<i>Looking for part-time work</i>	82	1.6	2.0	119	2.6	1.9	-37
Total Labour Force	5,095	100.0	100.0	4,607	100.0	100.0	488

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Employment by industry

The key industries that employ Altona North and Brooklyn residents (both in and outside the municipality) are:

- Manufacturing (12.9%)
- Retail Trade (10.9%)
- Transport, Postal and Warehousing (8.7%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (8.1%)

While manufacturing is the largest employer of residents of the neighbourhood, the percentage employed in is declining, with a similar decline in Hobsons Bay (Altona North and Brooklyn, -4%; Hobsons Bay -3 per cent).

The main industries where employment increased between 2006 and 2011 include Construction; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Health Care and Social Assistance; and Education and Training.

Table 16: Industry sector of employment

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	0	0.0	0.2	6	0.1	0.2	-6
Mining	4	0.1	0.2	0	0.0	0.2	4
Manufacturing	624	12.9	11.3	712	16.9	14.0	-88
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	55	1.1	0.9	28	0.7	0.7	27
Construction	407	8.4	7.7	315	7.5	6.7	92
Retail Trade	526	10.9	9.1	533	12.6	9.9	-7
Wholesale trade	261	5.4	4.6	245	5.8	5.1	16
Accommodation and Food Services	300	6.2	5.8	227	5.4	5.4	73
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	421	8.7	7.5	391	9.3	7.8	30
Information Media and Telecommunications	87	1.8	2.4	43	1.0	2.6	44
Financial and Insurance Services	222	4.6	4.9	183	4.3	4.6	39

Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	56	1.2	1.5	51	1.2	1.5	5
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	277	5.7	8.2	191	4.5	7.4	86
Administrative and Support Services	191	4.0	3.6	170	4.0	3.9	21
Public Administration and Safety	234	4.8	6.4	211	5.0	6.4	23
Education and Training	283	5.9	7.8	200	4.7	7.0	83
Health Care and Social Assistance	392	8.1	9.4	306	7.3	8.7	86
Arts and Recreation Services	104	2.2	2.1	88	2.1	1.9	16
Other Services	195	4.0	3.4	167	4.0	3.3	28
Inadequately described or not stated	186	3.9	2.7	154	3.6	2.9	32
Total employed persons aged 15+	4,826	100.0	100.0	4,220	100.0	100.0	606

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

The largest number of the neighbourhood's workers are in professional occupations, followed by technical and trades and clerical, administrative roles. Among the main changes since 2006 was an increase in the number of people working as managers, professionals and also in community and personal services.

Compared to Hobsons Bay, the neighbourhood has a higher rate of people working as labourers and machinery operators and drivers.

Table 17: Occupation

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Managers	477	9.9	12.4	325	7.7	11.8	152
Professionals	874	18.1	22.8	578	13.7	20.2	296
Technicians and Trades Workers	722	14.9	13.5	672	15.9	14.1	50
Community and Personal Service Workers	409	8.5	8.5	281	6.7	7.9	128
Clerical and Administrative Workers	681	14.1	15.8	692	16.4	16.8	-11
Sales Workers	448	9.3	8.4	411	9.8	9.1	37
Machinery Operators And Drivers	490	10.1	7.4	536	12.7	8.4	-46
Labourers	586	12.1	8.8	605	14.4	9.5	-19
Inadequately described	144	3.0	2.4	116	2.8	2.1	28
Total employed persons aged 15+	4,830	100.0	100.0	4,215	100.0	100.0	615

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Unpaid work and volunteering

Just over nine per cent (1,020) of the neighbourhood's residents aged 15 years and over are volunteers, a slight rise on the 2006 Census figure. Compared to Hobsons Bay, the rate of volunteering is approximately five per cent lower.

There was an increase in the number of non-volunteers between 2006 and 2011, although as a proportion of the population the rate of non-volunteering decreased.

There was also an increase in those who did not answer this question. As a result of the high non-response rate, the data should be treated with caution.

Table 18: Volunteering (aged 15 years and over)

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Volunteer	1,020	9.4	14.3	870	8.4	14.1	150
Not a volunteer	8,447	77.6	77.2	8,163	79.2	76.4	284
Volunteer work not stated	1,423	13.1	8.5	1,273	12.4	9.5	150
Total persons aged 15+	10,890	100.0	100.0	10,307	100.0	100.0	583

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Approximately 22 per cent of the neighbourhood's residents, aged 15 years and over, provide unpaid childcare (26% of unpaid carers are female compared to 18% of males). Of those providing care, almost 70 per cent look after their own children, 28 per cent care for other children and a small group do both. Just under two thirds of residents don't provide care and that figure fell a little between 2006 and 2011.

Compared to Hobsons Bay, the neighbourhood has 4 per cent less residents providing unpaid childcare.

Table 19: Unpaid child care (aged 15 years and over)

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Provided unpaid child care (all)	2,428	22.3	26.7	2,305	22.4	27.1	123
<i>Cared for own child/ren</i>	1,697	15.6	19.7	1,468	14.2	19.5	229
<i>Cared for other child/ren</i>	668	6.1	6.2	766	7.4	6.6	-98
<i>Cared for own child/ren and other child/ren</i>	63	0.6	0.8	71	0.7	0.9	-8
No unpaid child care provided	7,136	65.5	65.4	6,880	66.7	64.2	256
Not stated	1,329	12.2	7.9	1,124	10.9	8.7	205
Total persons aged 15+	10,894	100.0	100.0	10,309	100.0	100.0	585

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Just over 11 per cent the neighbourhood's residents provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability or long term illness or to older adults. This represents a small increase since 2006 and is probably due to the increased number of older residents who have a disability and require assistance that was mentioned earlier in this report. **NB:** As a result of the high proportion of residents who did not respond to this question, the data should be treated with some caution.

Table 20: Assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Provided unpaid assistance	1,238	11.4	11.5	1,038	10.1	10.2	200
No unpaid assistance provided	8,185	75.2	79.7	7,994	77.6	79.9	191
Not stated	1,458	13.4	8.9	1,274	12.4	9.9	184
Total persons aged 15+	10,882	100.0	100.0	10,306	100.0	100.0	576

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

C. Financial Wellbeing

Individual incomes

According to monthly data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics at August 2011 (the point at which the 2011 Census was collected), the average gross weekly income in Victoria was \$976.10. (ABS, Cat 6302.0, Table 12b). Census data in the table below shows that close to 6,625 Altona North and Brooklyn residents (70%) have a gross weekly income below \$1000 which is higher than the municipal figure (65%).

Looking at residents living on very low incomes shows there are just over 4,132 (44%) with incomes below \$400 per week which is also well below the municipal figure (37%) (N.B. The poverty line for a single working person in September 2011 was \$459.83).

(Source: http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/downloads/publications/Poverty%20Lines/Poverty_lines_Australia_Sep2011.pdf)

At the upper end of the income scale, there are approximately 627 residents (7%) who have weekly incomes of \$1,500 or more. This figure is well below the Hobsons Bay figure of 13 per cent.

Table 21: Individual weekly income (gross)

Altona North-Brooklyn	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Negative Income/ Nil income	930	8.6	8.6
\$1-\$199	876	8.1	7.4
\$200-\$299	1,636	15.0	10.9
\$300-\$399	1,257	11.6	9.8
\$400-\$599	1,122	10.3	10.2
\$600-\$799	1,032	9.5	9.6
\$800-\$999	741	6.8	8.2
\$1000-\$1249	699	6.4	8.0
\$1250-\$1499	444	4.1	5.9
\$1500-\$1999	444	4.1	6.8
\$2000 or more	295	2.7	6.7
Not stated	1,398	12.9	8.0
Total persons aged 15+	10,875	100.0	100.0

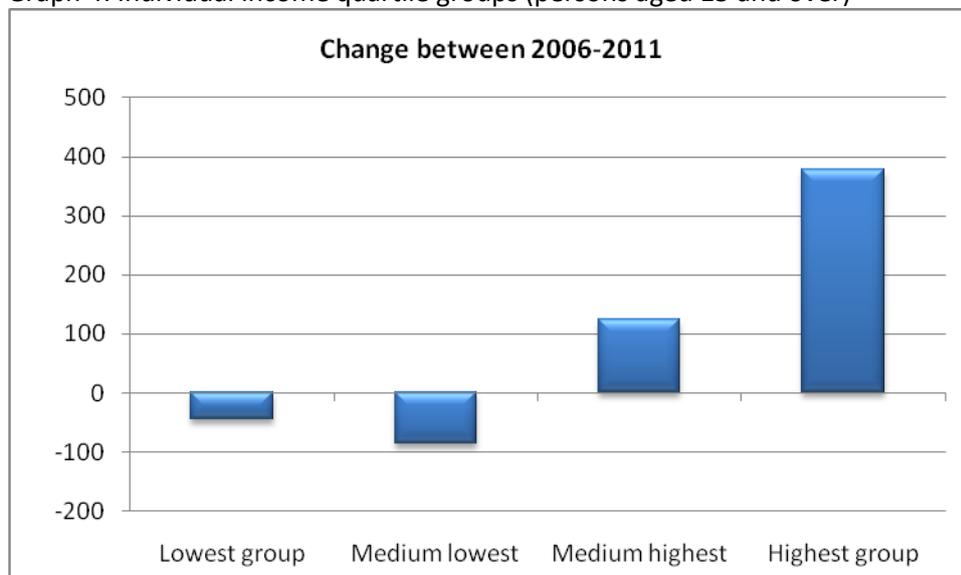
Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Due to the influences of economic change such as wage fluctuations and inflation, it is difficult to compare incomes over time. By using income quartiles (population incomes ranges are ranked from lowest to highest and divided into four equal groups), we are able to compare incomes across different timeframes. These quartiles are calculated by using Melbourne Statistical Division (metro Melbourne) individual income data.

Using this method to analyse changes in incomes in Altona North and Brooklyn, the graph below shows incomes are rising. There were small decreases in the number of people in the two lowest quartiles between 2006 and 2011 while residents with incomes in the highest quartiles increased, most noticeably those in the highest quartile.

That said, Altona North and Brooklyn has a far lower proportion of residents in the top income quartile when compared to Hobsons Bay (almost 10% less).

Graph 4: Individual income quartile groups (persons aged 15 and over)



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Household incomes

At the 2011 Census, the median (midpoint) weekly household income in Australia was \$1,234. The Hobsons Bay median was \$1,286. Data on the household income for Altona North shows the median was \$910 and in Brooklyn it was \$1,029 (ABS 2011 Census QuickStats – Altona North and Brooklyn suburbs).

Comparing the distribution pattern of gross weekly incomes of households in the neighbourhood with those of Hobsons Bay shows that, overall, the Altona North and Brooklyn has a higher proportion with lower incomes. As seen in the table below, the proportion of residents in most incomes ranges below \$1,250 is higher, after which this trend reverses to lower rates on higher incomes.

(NB: It should be noted that there was a high non response rate of 11.3 per cent to this Census question so the data should be treated with some caution.)

Table 22: Household weekly income (gross)

Altona North-Brooklyn	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	difference compared to Hobsons Bay
Negative Income/Nil Income	72	1.5	1.3	0.2
\$1-\$199	140	2.9	1.7	1.2
\$200-\$299	163	3.4	2.8	0.6
\$300-\$399	439	9.2	6.3	3.0
\$400-\$599	579	12.2	8.5	3.7
\$600-\$799	423	8.9	8.1	0.8
\$800-\$999	376	7.9	7.3	0.6

\$1000-\$1249	420	8.8	7.7	1.1
\$1250-\$1499	317	6.7	7.1	-0.4
\$1500-\$1999	456	9.6	11.1	-1.5
\$2000-\$2499	314	6.6	8.3	-1.7
\$2500-\$2999	239	5.0	8.0	-3.0
\$3000-\$3499	155	3.3	5.2	-1.9
\$3500-\$3999	54	1.1	2.4	-1.2
\$4000-\$4999	44	0.9	1.9	-1.0
\$5000 or more	23	0.5	1.7	-1.2
Not stated	537	11.3	10.5	0.8
Total households	4,752	100.0	100.0	0.0

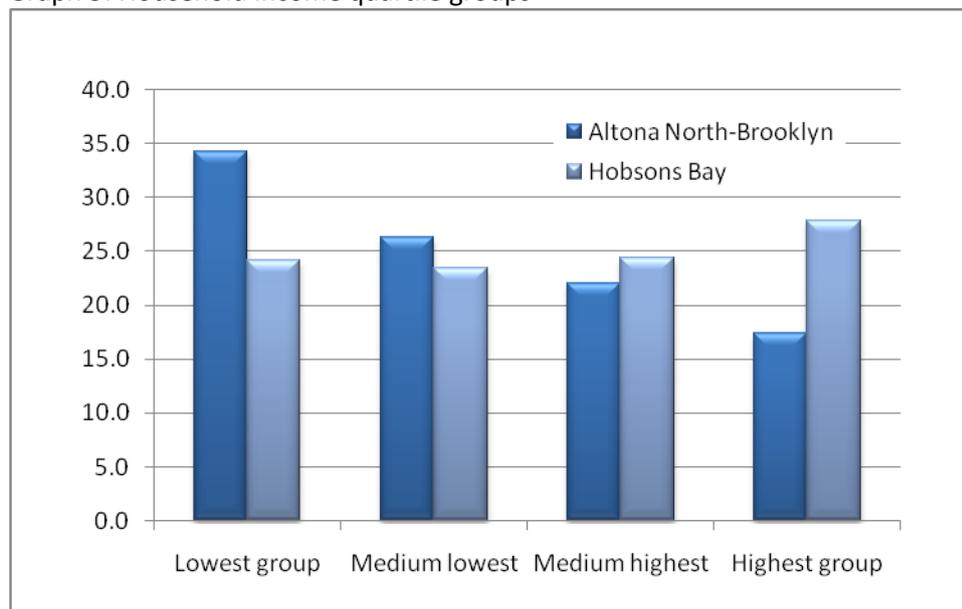
Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

As with individual incomes, household incomes are also not comparable over a period of time. As a result, the income quartile method used for individual incomes is applied here to compare changes in distribution of household incomes over time and against the municipal figures.

The graph below highlights that the largest share of Altona North and Brooklyn households are in the lowest income quartile; just over one third of households have incomes in the bottom 25 per cent.

The most noticeable difference when comparing the Altona North and Brooklyn with Hobsons Bay households is in the lowest and highest quartile groups. Proportionately the neighbourhood has a far higher level of households who are on low incomes and a lower level of those on high incomes.

Graph 5: Household income quartile groups

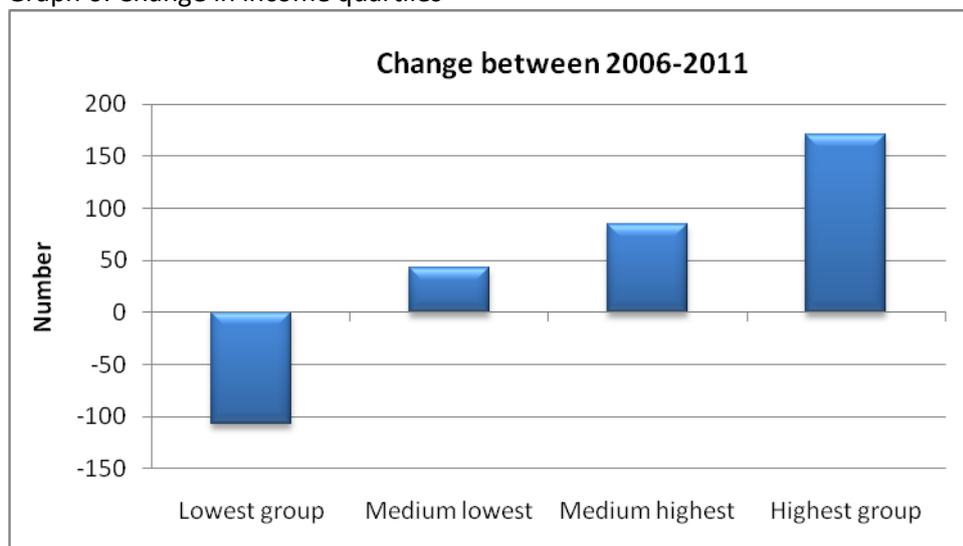


Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

While the data above indicated Altona North and Brooklyn households generally have lower incomes when compared to Hobsons Bay, within the neighbourhood there has been a slight increase in households with higher incomes. Between 2006 and 2011, there was a decrease in the number of

residents in the bottom income quartile and the largest increase was in households in the top quartile. So, overall there has been a small improvement in the financial wellbeing.

Graph 6: Change in income quartiles



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Centrelink payments and allowances

Centrelink data is available by postcode. The following data is for postcode 3025 which covers Altona North. Brooklyn data can not be included as it falls within postcode 3012 and includes a number of suburbs in the municipality of Maribyrnong.

Altona North residents receiving aged pensions make up the largest portion of Centrelink recipients. A break down of the types of Centrelink payments and allowances at the June 2015 Quarter were as follows:

- Aged pension: 2,024
- Disability support payment: 438
- Newstart allowance: 483
- Single parenting payment: 112
- Youth Allowance (student/apprentice): 175
- Youth allowance (other): 59
- Carer allowance: 20, Carer payment: 227

In addition, 1,119 residents were in receipt of a health care card and 355 held a low income card.

(Centrelink June quarter 2015 <http://data.gov.au/dataset/dss-payment-demographic-data>)

SEIFA index of disadvantage

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) disadvantage index is produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is drawn from a range of Census data. The disadvantage index takes into consideration factors such as low income, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations, low educational attainment. These are weighted to provide a single score.

The Australian average score is set at 1,002. Scores below that figure represent increased disadvantage and conversely those above indicate less disadvantage.

With SEIFA disadvantage scores of 910 and 947, Altona North and Brooklyn are well below the Australian benchmark figure of 1,002 and also the Hobsons Bay figure of 1001.7. They are ranked 2nd and 3rd in terms of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the municipality.

Table 23: SEIFA index of disadvantage ranking (2011)

	Disadvantage Score
Laverton	891
Altona North	910
Brooklyn	947
Altona Meadows	981
Hobsons Bay City	1,002
Altona - Seaholme	1,019
Spotswood - South Kingsville	1,024
Seabrook	1,031
Williamstown North - The Rifle Range	1,058
Williamstown	1,062
Newport East	1,087

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Usual residence data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Gambling losses

Within the municipality, residents have access to ten venues, with a total of 577 Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs/pokies) currently operating; this is almost at the cap of 579 which is the maximum number of machines that can operate in the city. Ranked against other local government areas in Victoria, Hobsons Bay is 16th in terms of the number of gaming machines per adult and 19th in terms of losses per adult.

The financial impact of gambling on EGMs by Hobsons Bay residents in 2014-15 was substantial. A total of \$46million or \$651 per adult was lost in the municipality, although it should be noted that losses have trended down over the last couple of years.

Of the 10 venues, there is one in the Altona North – Brooklyn neighbourhood which is the Millers Inn hotel. Millers Inn has 70 EGMs and in 2014-15 a total of \$12,276,880 was lost on poker machines. This was the largest of any of the venues in Hobsons Bay and more than \$6 million higher than losses at Seagulls Nest in Newport which was second on the list. (Source: Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation)

In the 2014 Annual Community Survey that was commissioned by Council, residents were asked “Do you believe the number of pokies in the local area is too few, about right or too many?” One hundred and fifty seven residents of Altona North and Brooklyn participated. Thirty one per cent indicated there were too many poker machines in Hobsons Bay and 26 per cent thought the number was about right; three per cent felt there were too few and 40 per cent didn’t have a view on the issue.

The survey also asked “What impact do you believe poker machines have on the Hobsons Bay community?” The findings show that 58 per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn residents felt they were either very harmful or harmful. Twenty per cent didn’t have a strong view, 19 per cent had no comment and 0.6 per cent thought they had a positive impact.

D. Housing

Dwelling types

There are 5,417 private dwellings in Altona North and Brooklyn and just over three quarters are separate houses; the remainder is made up of medium density housing (10%).

When compared to Hobsons Bay, the neighbourhood has a higher proportion of separate housing (+4%) and slightly less medium density stock (-2.7%). However since 2006, the main change has been an increase in medium density dwellings and a decrease in the proportion of separate houses.

Table 24: Private dwelling types

	2011			2006			Change 2006-11
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Separate house	4,232	78.1	75.2	4,226	82.7	75.8	6
Medium density*	1,083	20.0	22.7	836	16.4	22.4	247
High density**	58	1.1	1.4	0	0.0	1.1	58
Caravans, cabin, houseboat	33	0.6	0.4	25	0.5	0.3	8
Other	11	0.2	0.3	23	0.5	0.5	-12
Not stated	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0
Total Private Dwellings	5,417	100.0	100.0	5,110	100.0	100.0	307

* 'Medium density' includes all semi-detached, row, terrace, townhouses and villa units, plus flats and apartments in blocks of 1 or 2 storeys, and flats attached to houses.

** 'High density' includes flats and apartments in 3 storey and larger blocks

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Public housing stock

There 229 dwellings in neighbourhood (representing 3.8% of its total housing stock) that are owned by the State Government and the majority of these provide one and three bedroom accommodation. This compares to Hobsons Bay as a whole where public housing makes up 2.8 per cent of housing.

Table 25: Public housing

	Moveable Units	1 BR / Bedsit	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom	5 Bedroom	Total
Altona North	2	97	29	88	3		219
Brooklyn	1	1	5	3	0	0	10

Source: Dept of Housing (2014) requested data

The vast majority of the public housing stock in the neighbourhood is medium density housing (87 per cent), with the remainder consisting of separate houses.

Residential aged care

There are three residential aged care facilities in Altona North which included Opal, Florence and Marina Aged Care centres.

Housing tenure

Just over forty per cent per cent of households Altona North and Brooklyn own their own home, 23 per cent have a mortgage and a further 27 per cent are renting. Among the changes in tenure since the 2006 Census have been a decrease in the proportion of households who own their home outright and an increase in those with a mortgage. The proportion that is renting privately also increased.

Interestingly, the main differences in tenure patterns, compared to those of Hobsons Bay, are a far higher proportion of home owners and a lower proportion with a mortgage.

Table 26: Housing tenure

Altona North-Brooklyn	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	2006-2011
Fully owned	2,069	41.3	35.0	2,213	46.5	36.1	-144
Mortgage	1,130	22.6	31.4	926	19.4	31.4	204
Renting	1,346	26.9	27.0	1,169	24.6	24.9	177
<i>Renting - Social housing</i>	213	4.3	3.0	197	4.1	3.2	16
<i>Renting - Private</i>	1,098	21.9	23.5	942	19.8	21.2	156
<i>Renting - Not stated</i>	35	0.7	0.5	30	0.6	0.6	5
Other tenure type	20	0.4	0.4	32	0.7	0.4	-12
Not stated	441	8.8	6.2	422	8.9	7.1	19
Total households	5,007	100.0	100.0	4,761	100.0	100.0	246

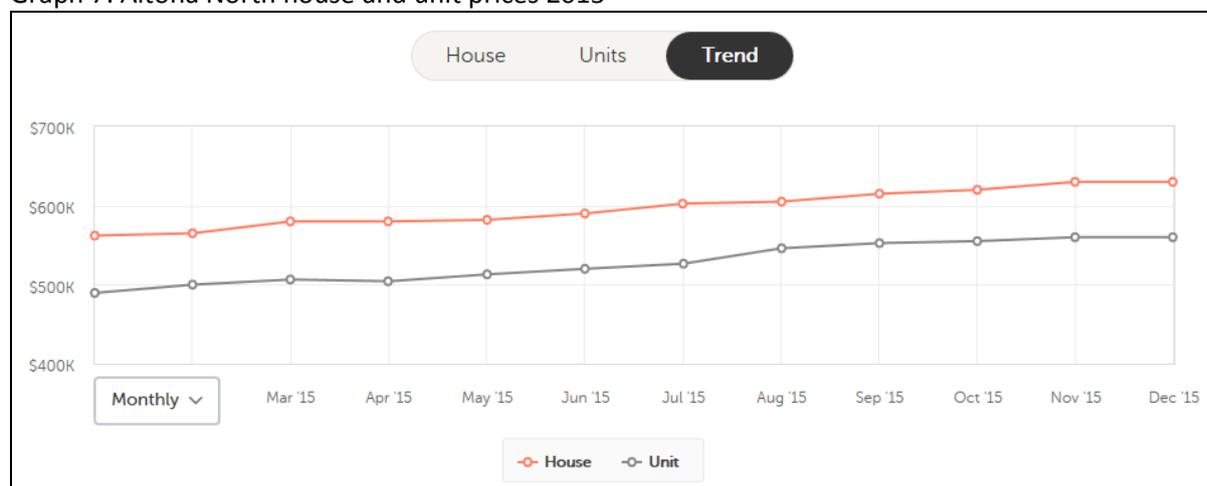
Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

House Sales

The data in the graph below tracks the median property prices in Altona North and Brooklyn in 2015. (The median price is the midpoint of each month's sales.) Data for Brooklyn includes an area within the City of Brimbank, however this is industrial land so does not impact on property price data.

In 2015, median house prices in Altona North rose from \$560,000 in January to \$630,000 in December. Unit prices went from \$490,000 to \$560,000.

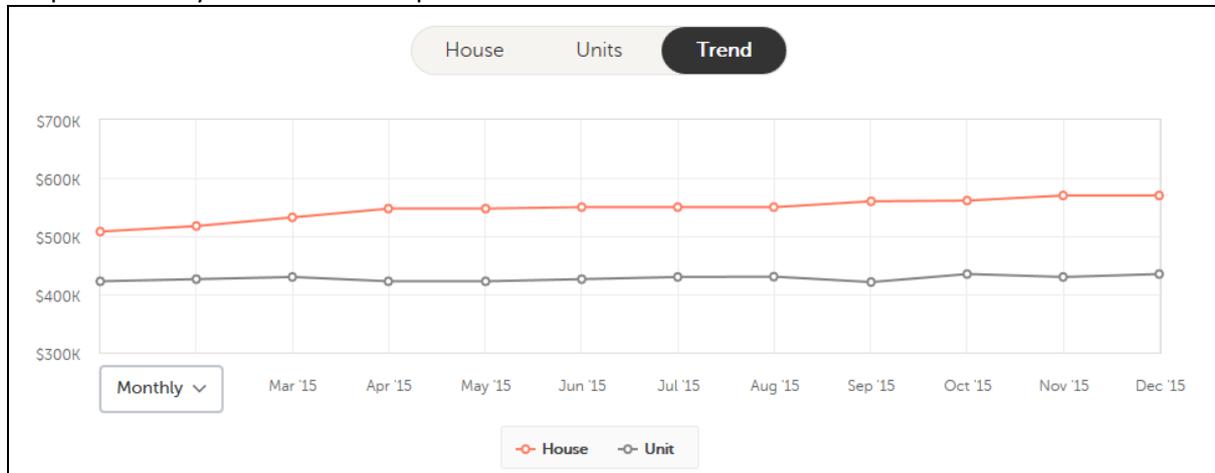
Graph 7: Altona North house and unit prices 2015



Source: <https://www.realestate.com.au/neighbourhoods/altona%20north-3025-vic> (Web page viewed on 12 January 2015)

The median house price in Brooklyn in 2015 was lower than for Altona North. It increased from \$508,000 in January to \$570,000 in December. Unit prices were also less and were relatively stable throughout 2015; in January the median was \$423,000 and rose slightly to \$435,000 in December.

Graph 8: Brooklyn house and unit prices 2015



Source: <https://www.realestate.com.au/neighbourhoods/brooklyn-3012-vic>
 (Web page viewed on 12 January 2015)

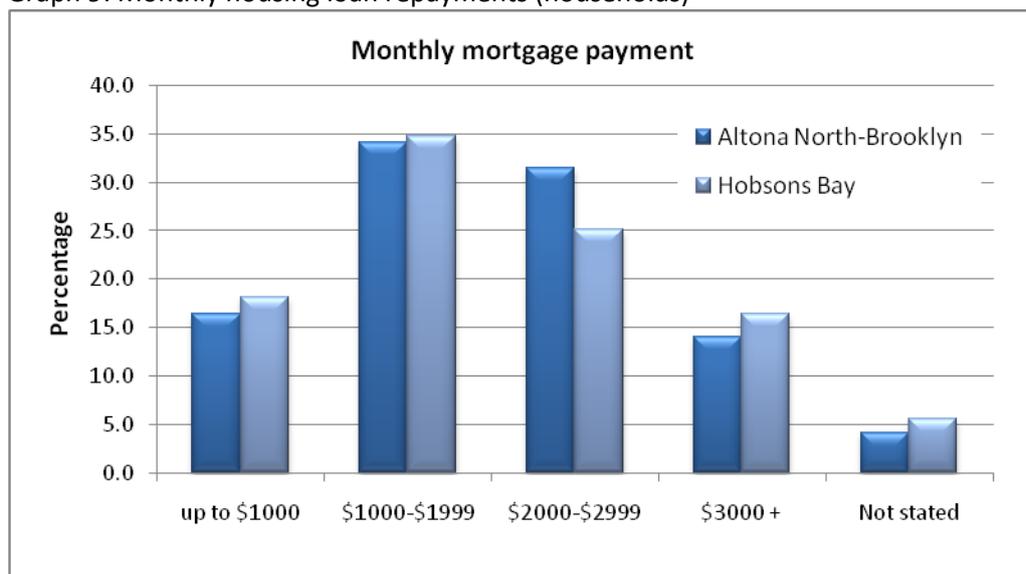
Comparing the median rent of houses and units, data from realestate.com.au shows that in Altona North house rents are between \$300 and \$430 per week, depending on the number of bedrooms; unit rents are between \$260 and \$450.

In Brooklyn, rents are comparable to those of Altona North. The median house rental is approximately \$350 per week, while units are between \$330 and \$405 per week, again subject to the number of bedrooms.

Housing mortgages

The monthly mortgage payments of the neighbourhood's households are somewhat comparable with those for those for Hobsons Bay. For example, the proportion of households with mortgages of \$0-\$999 and \$1,000-\$1,999 are reasonably similar. There is some difference between households paying mortgages between \$2,000 and \$2,999; with the neighbourhood having a higher proportion (six per cent) compared to the municipality. At the top end, Hobsons Bay has a higher proportion of households with mortgages of \$3,000 and over.

Graph 9: Monthly housing loan repayments (households)

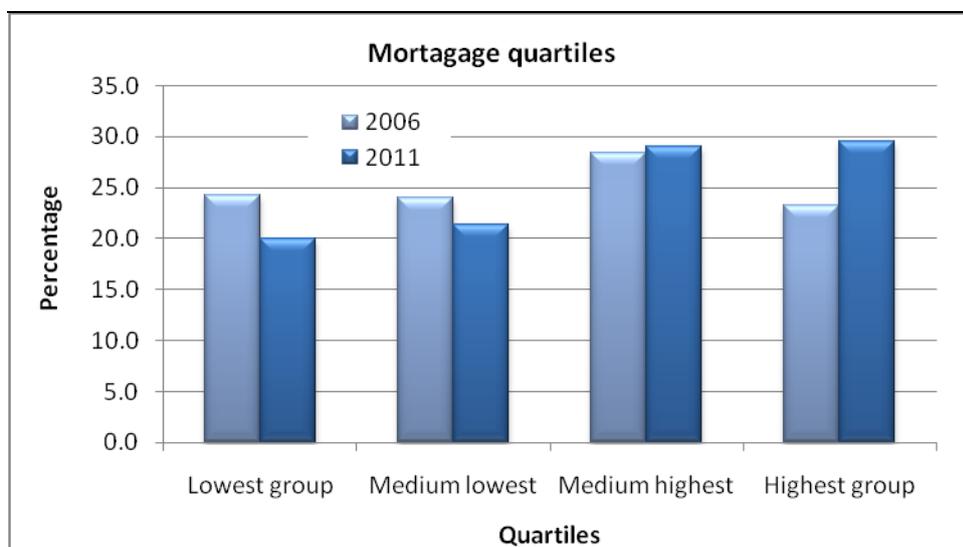


Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Like incomes, comparing changes to housing loan repayments over time is difficult due to the impact of economic changes such as inflation and interest rates. Using quartiles enables the data to be standardised, allowing comparisons to be made across timeframes.

Between 2006 and 2011, there was a shift in the size of mortgages of Altona North and Brooklyn households, pointing to rising house prices. The percentage of households with mortgages in the two lowest quartiles fell by between three and four per cent while there was a six per cent increase for those with mortgages in the highest quartile.

Graph 10: Mortgage quartiles



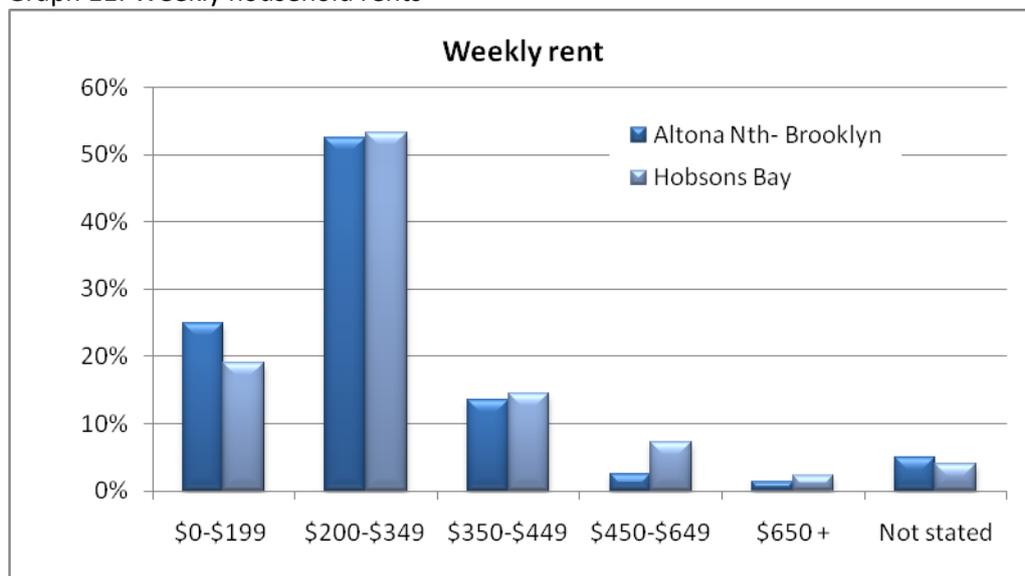
Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Rental payments

The data on weekly rental payments in the table below shows that the vast majority of Altona North and Brooklyn households are paying rents which are generally a little lower compared to those for Hobsons Bay.

For example, 78 per cent of households pay weekly rents below \$350 which is six per cent above the municipal rate. Approximately four eight per cent of households pay rents above \$450 per week, compared to 10 per cent of Hobsons Bay households with rents in the same range.

Graph 11: Weekly household rents

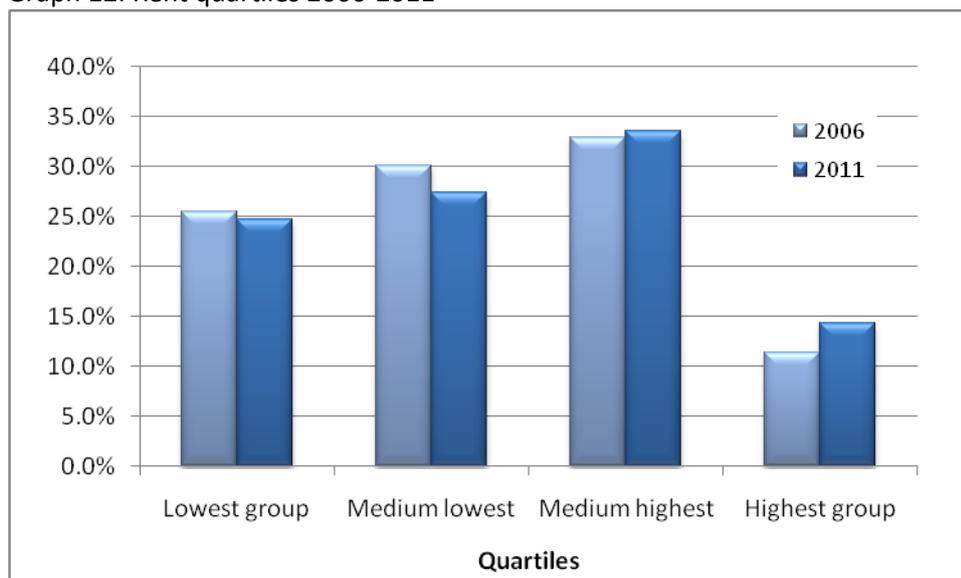


Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

As with mortgage payments, comparing rental payments over time requires a method to standardise the economic influences such as inflation etc. Using quartiles allows comparison to be made to gauge changes in rental costs (quartiles are calculated from the Melbourne Statistical Division rental payment data).

The data shows that between 2006 and 2011 there was some increase in rents with the percentage of households in the medium lowest two quartiles decreasing a little and a corresponding increase in the highest quartile.

Graph 12: Rent quartiles 2006-2011



Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Housing stress

Hobsons Bay City Council commissioned *id.consulting* to assess the extent of housing stress across the municipality and its neighbourhoods.

Housing stress refers to the percentage of a household's income that is required to cover rental or mortgage payments and applies to those earning in the bottom 40 per cent of incomes and spending 30 per cent or more on housing.

Households on middle incomes who earn between 40 and 60 per cent of the standard income and pay 30 per cent or more on housing are described as being in marginal stress.

id.consulting's analysis found that 11 per cent of Altona North households and 14 per cent of Brooklyn households are in housing stress and a much smaller proportion are in marginal stress (Altona North 2.7%; Brooklyn 3.3%). This compares to Hobsons Bay where housing stress is 9.5 per cent and marginal housing stress is 3.3 per cent.

Breaking this data down to compare housing stress impacts for renters and those with a mortgage reveals a much higher prevalence stress among renters. In Altona North, 24.3 per cent of renting households are in housing stress and the figure is slightly higher in Brooklyn (24.9%). The Hobsons Bay housing stress rate is 22.1 per cent.

The neighbourhood also has a high proportion of households in mortgage stress. Approximately 18 per cent are in mortgage stress compared to the marginal stress rate of 7 per cent. The mortgage stress rate is significantly higher than the Hobsons Bay rate of 10 per cent.

E. Transport

Car ownership

Based on responses to the 2011 Census, approximately 80 per cent of households in Altona North and Brooklyn are car owners, which is below the municipal rate of 84 per cent.

Breaking this down to the number of cars that are owned, households in the neighbourhood are slightly less likely to own multiple cars. For example, 29.7 per cent have two cars, compared to the Hobsons Bay rate of 37.5 per cent. The rate of three car ownership in the neighbourhood is 11.6 per cent which is marginally lower than municipal rate. As a result, a higher proportion of Altona North and Brooklyn households don't own a car (11.8%; Hobsons Bay 9%).

Comparing 2011 and 2006 data, the proportion of local households without a car dropped marginally, as has households with one car, while there was a small rise in the proportion of two car households.

Table 27: Car ownership by household

Altona North-Brooklyn	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Change between 2006-2011
No motor vehicles	592	11.8	9.0	616	12.9	9.8	-24
1 motor vehicle	1,897	37.8	37.5	1,817	38.2	36.6	80
2 motor vehicles	1,487	29.7	34.2	1,345	28.3	34.1	142
3 or more motor vehicles	579	11.6	12.8	532	11.2	11.9	47
Not stated	456	9.1	6.5	448	9.4	7.6	8
Total households	5,012	100.0	100.0	4,758	100.0	100.0	254

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

Journey to work

The table below provides an overview of how people get to work and shows that the car is the dominant form of transport in Altona North and Brooklyn and across the municipality.

However, there are some differences in travel patterns when comparing the two areas. Sixty nine per cent of Altona North and Brooklyn households either drive to work or are car passengers, which is three per cent above the Hobsons Bay figure. A higher proportion of its residents catches the bus and a much lower proportion catches the train. While the neighbourhood is reasonably well serviced by buses, the nearest train stations are at Spotswood and Newport and neither is walkable distance for a large proportion of the local population so this probably contributes to lower train use.

The biggest increase in numbers between 2006 and 2011 was in the use of cars, although it is interesting to note while off a small base, train user numbers almost doubled in that period.

Table 28: Main method of travel (employed persons aged 15+)

Altona North-Brooklyn	2011			Change between 2006-2011
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Train	446	9.3	14.1	211
Bus	199	4.1	1.4	-6
Tram or Ferry	5	0.1	0.1	-2
Taxi	36	0.7	0.2	17
Car - as driver	3,056	63.5	61.2	353
Car - as passenger	263	5.5	4.6	-9
Truck	45	0.9	0.6	-32
Motorbike	27	0.6	0.5	15
Bicycle	61	1.3	1.3	25
Walked only	84	1.7	1.7	-14
Other	50	1.0	0.8	21
Worked at home	62	1.3	3.0	-38
Did not go to work	386	8.0	8.9	43
Not stated	88	1.8	1.7	6
Total	4,809	100.0	100.0	592

Source: ABS 2011 Census (Enumerated data) <http://profile.id.com.au/hobsons-bay/home>

F. Population Forecasts

Population forecasts for Hobsons Bay and its neighbourhoods are benchmarked on the results of the 2011 Census. These figures are then adjusted to incorporate information such as new residential development, together with population trends related to births, deaths and internal and external migration that has occurred since the last Census was taken. The forecasts are developed for Council by *id.consulting*.

Housing and household forecasts

The population forecasts indicate that approximately 950 new dwellings will be constructed in the neighbourhood over the next 10 years, resulting in around 880 new households.

In recent times, infill development of townhouses and units replacing single dwellings has been the key residential change in the area and this trend is likely to continue as house lots are relatively large and still reasonably affordable. There is also good access to a range of retail, community services and infrastructure.

While the average household size in Brooklyn is expected to remain stable over the next decade, Altona North's is forecast to increase from 2.63 people to 2.68, reflecting the emerging shift to a younger family profile and this figure is above the forecast household size of 2.53 for Hobsons Bay.

Table 29: Future housing and households

Altona North -Brooklyn	2015	2020	2025
Average household size			
Altona North	2.63	2.65	2.68
Brooklyn	2.26	2.25	2.26
Dwellings (total)	5689	6025	6635
Households (total)	5444	5764	6320

Source: <http://forecast.id.com.au/hobsons-bay?WebID=10>

Population numbers

As noted earlier, between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, the neighbourhood's population grew by around 620 residents (+4.7%). The table below provides forecast data for the coming decade and shows the population is expected to increase by almost 20 per cent in Altona North and eight per cent in Brooklyn, an overall increase of 2,600 residents. The largest part of that increase is expected after 2020. By 2025, the forecast indicates a population of just under 17,000 residents.

Table 30: Forecast size of population

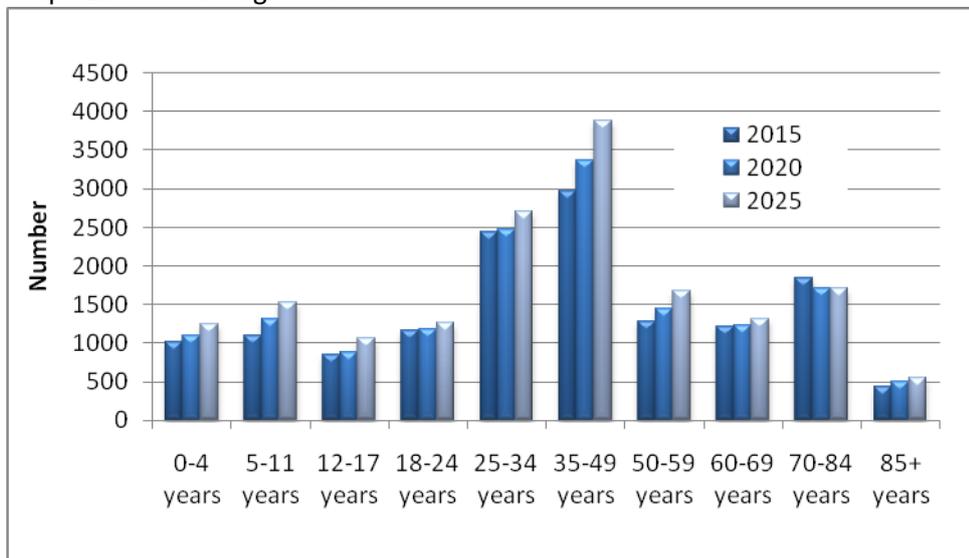
	2015	2020	2025	Change between 2015-2025	
Altona North	12,522	13,340	14,969	2,447	↗19.5
Brooklyn	1,804	1,883	1,956	152	↗8.4
Total Population	14,326	15,223	16,925	2,599	↗18.1

Source: <http://forecast.id.com.au/hobsons-bay?WebID=10>

Age structure

The population forecasts below highlight the likely changes to the neighbourhood's age structure. As the graph shows, these changes will see a continued increase in the number of families with young and school aged children (25-49 years and 0-11 years). While some increase in those aged 50-59 years is expected, limited change is forecast among the older age groups.

Graph 13: Forecast age structure



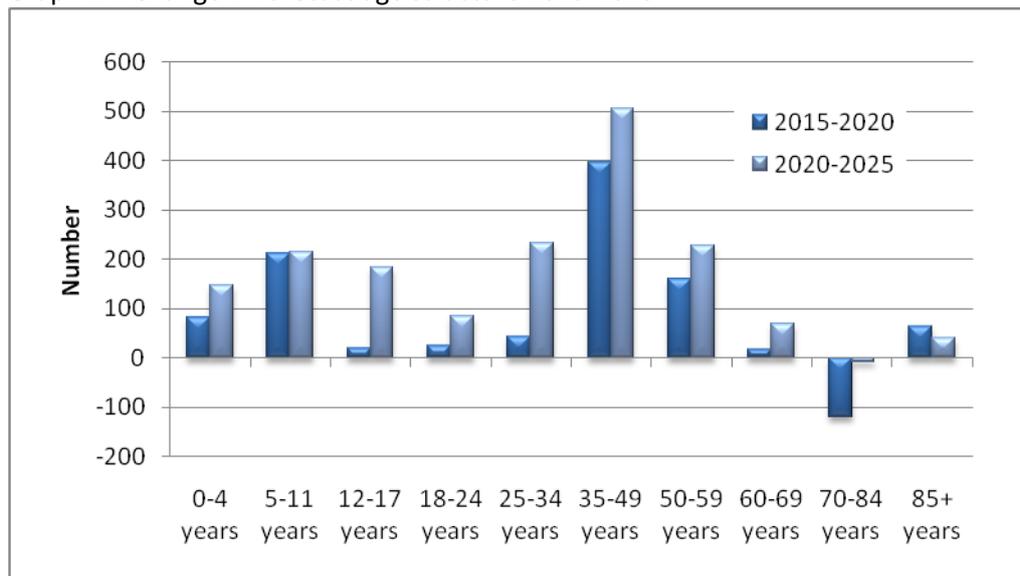
Source: <http://forecast.id.com.au/hobsons-bay?WebID=10>

The graph below shows the extent of the population gains and losses over the next decade and reinforces the regeneration of the population that is ahead, particularly between 2020 and 2025. Most noticeable is a sustained increase among those aged 35-49 years.

All age groups up to 59 years are forecast to increase particularly after 2020, although the increase in primary school aged children is likely to be consistent across the next decade.

At the older end of the age spectrum, some very small increases are forecast, although the number of 70-84 is likely to decrease.

Graph 14: Change in forecast age structure 2015-2025



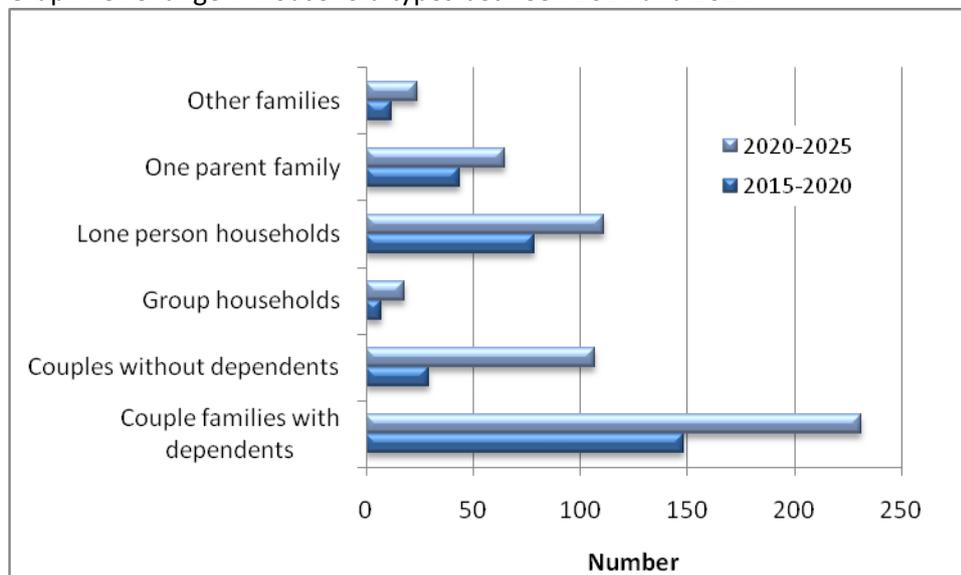
Source: <http://forecast.id.com.au/hobsons-bay?WebID=10>

The graph below highlights how the household types in Altona North and Brooklyn are forecast to change over the next 10 years and shows all categories are expected to increase, although the extent of growth is uneven.

In line with the forecast increase in younger residents mentioned above, the largest growth expected among households with dependants. This is particularly noticeable in the period after 2020 and to slightly lesser degree in the first five years.

All other types of households are forecast to increase to varying degrees and as mentioned the largest growth is expected after 2025.

Graph 15: Change in household types between 2014 and 2024



Source: <http://forecast.id.com.au/hobsons-bay?WebID=10>



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Altona North and Brooklyn Consultations

A. Introduction

The Altona North and Brooklyn Neighbourhood Profile is intended to provide an overview of the history and development of the area, some data about the characteristics of residents and information about the types of services and facilities that are available.

However, none of this information can describe how people feel about Altona North and Brooklyn as a place to live, visit or work. In order to gain a better understanding of these perspectives, a number of consultations took place in November and December of 2007.

At times, people who participated also shared memories of growing up in Altona North and Brooklyn. Others began their married life in the area and in some cases had lived in the area for up to 50 years. Some of these comments are included at the end of these consultation notes.

B. Methodology

Two consultation methods were used including focus groups and surveys.

A total of four focus group sessions, involving 28 participants, were held. These discussions included a range of age groups, parents and people from non-English speaking backgrounds, in order to ensure a variety of views were heard. Each focus group session lasted for approximately one hour.

The focus groups included:

- Participants in a seniors activity group
- Playgroup parents
- Secondary students from Bayside Secondary College
- English as a Second Language (ESL) students

A further group of nine ESL students provided written responses to questions used at the focus groups.

In addition, Council staff conducted short face to face survey with 25 shoppers at Altona Gate, as part of Hobsons Bay Council's mobile program. (Refer Appendix 1)

C. The Findings

The following notes, drawn from the focus groups, follow the format of the questions that were used to guide the discussion. (Refer Appendix 2)

How would you describe the Altona North and Brooklyn area?

People at the focus group sessions had a variety of views about how to describe Altona North and Brooklyn and while some spoke positively about the area and what it has to offer, others suggested it needs some attention.

Those who spoke positively about the place describe it is an affordable area to live and that it is close to the city. This view was partly supported by others who mentioned that while it was a good area to live, "it's an old area that needs a few touch ups".



On the other hand, one participant commented that “it is a poorer area” and that compared to some other areas in the municipality it is “shabby”.

Reflecting on how the area had changed since she arrived more than twenty years ago, a resident spoke about how “lots of people didn’t like it here; now it’s getting popular”. She also noted that there had been noticeable improvements to the standard of housing and the availability of shops, over that time. “The houses were old and now they’ve improved. At first, when I came here there was no shopping, no Altona Gate.”

These views were confirmed by another longer term resident who noted the following changes since coming to live in the area. “It’s changed a lot, there are a lot more houses now.”

What things make it a good place to live /work /visit?

Comments about the things that people like about Altona North and Brooklyn tended to be influenced by the age of the respondent. For example, those with younger families focussed on the affordability while younger people identified opportunities to do things they enjoyed.

Parents at a playgroup highlighted low housing costs as a major asset of the area. Most agreed that house prices are affordable, given the close proximity to the city. They also mentioned that “compared to other places on the other side of town, which are a similar distance to the city, Altona North and Brooklyn is still very affordable”.

There were, however, concerns that while housing is relatively affordable compared to other areas, the situation is changing. As one person put it “in the last 12 months, house prices have increased dramatically”. Another person who rents a house in the area confirmed these views, commenting that the rental payments have gone up, but that Altona North and Brooklyn is still much more affordable than other areas.

Apart from housing, people spoke positively about living in an area where they were close to the services they needed. This issue of accessibility was particularly important among older residents who use public transport or rely on others for car transport. Some of their comments included that it’s “very handy to all services” and “everything needed is close by”. The importance of accessibility was also important to another person who said “I can walk to all the services I need”.

For young people, accessibility was also important, although their focus was more on their social needs. Things they enjoy about living in Altona North and Brooklyn include the “places to hang out” and also living close to their friends. They also mentioned being close to the “shops and parks and the pool” as important places where they often meet up with their friends.

A number of people spoke about the availability of shopping facilities as a good feature in the area. Along with Altona Gate, smaller centres such as Borrhack Square and the Circle were specifically mentioned.

Proximity to the city was identified as a positive aspect of living in the area. People who work in the city, or who have family who do, felt that this proximity was a real asset. One new arrival to Australia, and recently settled in the area, said that “living here we are close to the city. I know many Africans who live far from the city, who have problems getting there.”



People also spoke about the friendliness of Altona North and Brooklyn and that it was a safe and quiet place to live. The friendliness of people was mentioned by both new arrivals to the area and those who are long-term residents.

“The neighbours are good –I’ve known some of them a long time. They moved in around the same time. They look after the house when I’m away.”

“I am friends with my neighbours. They come from Lebanon, Burma, England and Greece.”

A person who recently arrived from overseas spoke about the benefits of living in a supportive community.

“People here are very sympathetic. Neighbours and people on the street are eager to invite you if there is a meeting somewhere. When I go to the park with my grandson, other kids become friends and they play together. We have no problems. People are approachable.”

He went on to talk about ways his family are contributing to the local community, with several of his children working as volunteers at an aged care facility.

Comments from people who participated in the surveys reiterated the friendliness of neighbourhood and the people who live there. Those who spoke about safety said they feel safe living and moving about the area. They also highlighted the affordability of housing as a positive but something they are concerned will change. As one person said “I bought my unit 10 years ago and a similar unit near me sold recently for almost three times that price”.

Other positives about the area mentioned through the surveys are the large house blocks in Altona North and Brooklyn, the easy access to the shops and services, to the beach and to the city.

What sort of things do you do locally and what are the facilities you use?

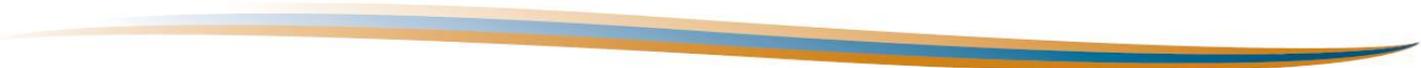
The main activity that people appear to do locally is shopping. This was common to all groups included in the consultation. As mentioned earlier, Altona Gate, Borrack Square and the Circle were commonly mentioned as places where people shop regularly. Reflecting positively on the availability of shopping and how it’s changed, one person said:

“There was nothing when I moved here, now there are 2 supermarkets, shopping is much better now.”

Other services that people use locally are health services, particularly doctors. However availability is an issue, as one person commented “there are too many people at the doctors” resulting in long waits before appointments and getting an appointment.

People at the consultations also spoke about using open space and leisure facilities in Altona North and Brooklyn. Those with small children use local playgrounds, while others mentioned using local parks to exercise or the Federation Trail for bike riding. Among young people, there was little mention of using local sports and leisure facilities, with the exception of bowling. While a number were involved in sport, all indicated participation occurs outside the area and in some cases, outside Hobsons Bay.

Activities offered by the Council were particularly important for older people in the focus groups. They enjoy the opportunity to participate in day trips and outings and also attending activity sessions, where they can socialise with other participants and staff. Older people also use services



such as meals on wheels and home help to support them to stay living in their own homes. As one woman commented, “I don’t have to bother my kids”.

Relationships with neighbours were regularly noted in the focus groups as something that connected them to their local area and which they really valued. Several women spoke about socialising with neighbours. Others, as mentioned earlier, highlighted that the relationship they have with long-term neighbours and that the history of that relationship is important to them.

One of the benefits of being connected into the local area was highlighted by a person who was recently arrived in Australia. An ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher where he is currently enrolled to learn English provided a lot of support to help him find a local school for his son so that he can access ESL classes.

People who participated in the survey conducted at the Altona Gate shopping centre mentioned they are generally able to buy what they need in Altona North and Brooklyn and that shopping locally is cheaper than in other nearby suburbs. Some also use the centre as a meeting place where people regularly catch up with friends

In common with participants in the focus groups, local services commonly used by survey respondents include doctors, clubs, parks and open space and leisure centres.

What things do you regularly do outside the area?

Activities that regularly took parents outside of Altona North and Brooklyn were often linked to the needs of their young children. Trips to places such as Cherry Lake or Williamstown were places they mentioned often in the search for good open space. They also visit play centres and kids gyms outside the area because they are not available locally.

Parents also spoke about the looming issue of finding an appropriate school, as some had children who were close to starting school. Although most admitted they hadn’t really looked into where their children would go, there is a perception among some that schools in the local area are not good. Some of their concerns included large class sizes and also low standards of sporting facilities.

Shopping in other locations was something that regularly cropped up in the focus group sessions. Footscray and Highpoint Shopping Centre in Maribyrnong are common places where people go to shop. This was particularly the case for young people, who mentioned that “other than food and necessities, I wouldn’t shop locally”.

Young people were very vocal about the lack of activities for them in the local area. Those who participated in sport tend to travel to other suburbs in the municipality to play in team sports. They also spoke about not having a cinema in Hobsons Bay and that the only options were to go to Highpoint or Werribee Plaza to see a film. Several young people also mentioned going to the city to pursue their interests in dancing and skateboarding, as the options locally were limited.

People also regularly travel to visit friends and family. Several older people mentioned that their children live some distance away or interstate. Several parents at the playgroup indicated they usually socialise outside the local area and don’t tend to have close relationships with anyone in their local community.



A number of people spoke about travelling to Footscray for medical and dental appointments. A common reason, particularly among people who were born overseas, was that they preferred a health provider who spoke the same language. In some cases, Footscray was the first place they lived on arriving in Australia and where they had established their medical supports. But as one person commented:

“It would be better if I could get the services I need here (rather than in Footscray). It would help me to meet people who are living here, in my area, rather than having to travel to Footscray. It would be more social.”

Williamstown was also mentioned by several older people for visits to podiatrists and optometrists.

The lack of a library in Altona North and Brooklyn was raised in the focus groups. People travel to libraries located in other suburbs in Hobsons Bay, to access library services.

How do you normally get about the area?

While all focus group participants indicated that they use a range of transport options, walking is a common method for people to get about in Altona North and Brooklyn. Parents of young children said they regularly walk, although there was mention that the footpaths in the area could be better maintained. They indicated that they prefer to stay away from main roads and intersections due to the large amount of traffic and the fumes from trucks. According to one person, the intersection at Millers Road and Blackshaws Road is “scary” and expressed concern about the lack of protective barriers at the pedestrian crossings.

Some people, particularly those without a car, said they combined walking and public transport to get about. One person walks for health reasons. “I want very much to walk. I am more than 60 years and everyday I want to exercise.” An older man who has lost his sight still walks everywhere, accompanied by his wife. Reinforcing the benefits of being close to services, another older person said “the Circle (shopping centre) has everything I need and I can walk there.”

Apart from walking, buses are also a common method for getting around, particularly for young people. But the service does not always meet their needs. As one person commented “the bus doesn’t always leave you where you want to go, you often had to walk a bit to get there.” Another problem with the bus service is that the service doesn’t operate in the evenings, so alternative transport options must be found. According to one man, “(During the day) I walk to Melbourne Road to catch the bus and at night I catch the train. We have no train close to home so my son picks me up from Newport (station).”

The benefits of using public transport were mentioned by one person with a concession card. “You can use it to catch the bus, train and tram. In Sydney, this is not the case. We are very lucky.”

People spoke about preferring to catch public transport to travel beyond Altona North and Brooklyn, especially when travelling to the city. According to one person “parking in the city is very expensive so using public transport is better. The bus over Westgate is very good.”

However in order to catch the train, people need to get to either Newport or Altona which are the closest stations. Young people are regular train users but they mentioned the distance to the station was a problem.



Among the elderly, public transport, walking and taxis are common ways to get about. For those who were still physically able, public transport and walking are often the main transport options. All spoke positively about the bus service and the walkability of the area. However some had difficulties catching buses, due to their frailty. They mentioned that using a walking aid, such as frames or walking sticks, made getting on and off buses very difficult. For the frail or infirm, taxis are often the only option for them to move about independently. Several women spoke about the difficulties of getting about following the death of their husbands, as neither had a driver's licence they had relied on their husbands to drive them around.

Several other transport methods are used by young people. Apart from having parents ferry them about, they also mentioned using skateboards and riding a bike.

Asked if they felt safe moving around the area, the responses of people varied. In general, young people felt safe walking and getting about. However one person commented "I feel safe on the bus and train, but it would be better if the bus ran at night". Several other people said they don't feel safe, particularly at night and some would like a greater police presence in the area.

What would make the area a better place to live/work/visit?

The things that would make Altona North and Brooklyn a better place again tended to vary according to age. For example, older people are generally happy about the state of the area and could not suggest anything they would like to change or improve. However, people who participated in other focus sessions mentioned a number of areas that could be better.

Both younger people and parents of young children felt that the bus service could be improved by extending the service to operate at night and ensuring buses run to the timetable. In addition, the lack of a train station in the area was an issue. One parent at the focus session proposed that the now closed train station (formerly used by Mobil) located on Ross Road, south of the Millers Road overpass, could be reinstated for the use of residents.

A number of environmental issues were raised as needing attention. While one long term resident said that the closure of the Carbon Black factory had improved the pollution situation, the smells from the petrochemical refinery are sometimes still a problem. Others mentioned the smells around Brooklyn as being bad, particularly in the mornings and at night and that they tend to be worse in summer. Several people also noted problems with smells from Kororoit Creek and suggested this may be due to the stagnant water in parts of the creek which have worsened because of drought.

Problems with health services centred on shortages of health professionals. Issues raised included that "there are not enough doctors in the area and waiting lists are very long" and "you can't get appointments with the doctor you want, so you usually have to go to doctors outside the local area". Also mentioned was the lack of dentists and access to bulk billing. People spoke about having to wait for three hours at Williamstown Hospital to receive attention, although others indicated the wait times at other hospitals at Sunshine and Footscray were even longer.

Parents of young children highlighted issues around childcare, suggesting the operating hours are often too restrictive for people who work. "Childcare opens at 7am and that is not early enough. Some jobs in the area require you to start at 7am and you can't if you can't get childcare." Another common issue raised is the long waiting lists at Council run childcare centres.



Other child-related issues included the lack of play centres and activities that cater for children and families. Play ground fencing was also identified as something that is needed especially when playgrounds are near water and busy roads. One person suggested that fencing was particularly important in relation to children with additional needs.

Other issues related to children and adults with additional needs was the shortage of local supports, particularly respite care and a lack of any special schools close by. Mention was also made about the need for more information about services for people with additional needs and their carers.

As mentioned earlier, people spoke about having to travel to get to a library and felt that a library would benefit the area. Other facilities that young people cited as lacking included a cinema, skate park and spaces that they could use for activities such as dancing.

There was general agreement at the playgroup session that other areas of the municipality seem to have more money spent on them and as a result, the general appearance of those areas is better than in Altona North and Brooklyn. People felt that general maintenance, such as road sweeping, has declined. This was particularly a concern for people living near the freeway.

An increase in the amount of traffic was an issue, with people believing the traffic has gotten worse over the past couple of years. Traffic on Millers Road was mentioned in the focus groups and surveys. One woman commented that “traffic on Millers Road is terrible. It’s difficult for older people because the lights change too quickly and cars ignore the pedestrian lights.”

There were also concerns that there are too many trucks using Millers and Blackshaws Roads, with one person suggesting that trucks are deviating off the main heavy vehicle routes to stop at the fast food outlets that are concentrated in the vicinity.

As mentioned earlier, those who walk around the area said they try to avoid the major roads because of the trucks and the fumes and also because of the risk of being hit by flying debris from passing trucks.

In relation to shopping, a number of people who participated in both the focus groups and survey mentioned the lack of clothing outlets in the area. Older people felt the range for their age group is limited. People indicated they travel to places such as Highpoint to buy clothing.

Do you expect to live here in the next 5 years, how do you think your needs will change?

On the whole, most people who participated in the focus groups said they intend to continue living in Altona North and Brooklyn. This was especially the case among older people, some of whom have lived in the area all their adult lives. Not surprisingly, young people were less certain about their future plans and where they will be living.

For some people, Altona North and Brooklyn suits both their needs and their means and so they would like to stay in the area. Others have strong connections and as one woman said “I grew up here, and there are too many memories here. I would like to stay and watch my children grow up in the same area I grew up in.” People spoke optimistically about the future of the area and feel “it’s going to keep improving.”



The sense of connection with the area was reiterated in the words of several other residents who have no plans to move. “Yes, I think we’ll stay here. My kids went to school locally and now they are at work.”

One person who was newly arrived from overseas said his family had settled well in the area and intended staying and access to education was high on the agenda. “I have a grandson who is starting school locally, so education will become important. One of my children is at Victoria University.”

For some, health issues influenced their future plans. One man spoke about having moved from the country to live with his daughter, due to his ill health. Despite having to move away from familiar surroundings and friends, he is generally happy to stay living in the area as he has access to the services and supports he requires.

Some of the reasons for people considering leaving the area were based on a lack of appropriate services. One person, who was generally dissatisfied with her standard of living and the availability of services, said “that if things don’t improve I will move away”. A mother of a child with a disability spoke about her concerns regarding the unmet needs of her child. “I won’t be able to stay in the area if I can’t get an integration aide for my child at a local school.”

One survey participant was also concerned about the rising cost of housing because people have been attracted by the area’s affordable prices. She spoke about the pressure this placed on young people trying to get into the housing market. “My daughter wants to buy here but all the cheaper houses are further out like Melton”.

Young people who participated in a focus session had no clear plans about their future, especially where they would be living. A number of them indicated that their families have plans to move to establishing areas such as Sanctuary Lakes and Point Cook. Others with families who are fairly mobile spoke about having shifted house a number of times and were not sure about their family’s plans.

In relation to their future plans, the focus for young people tended to be either on leaving school soon and getting a job or finishing Year 12. In most instances, young people in the focus groups said they had no plans to study beyond Year 12.

Memories of life in Altona North and Brooklyn

Older people who participated in a focus group spoke about how much the area had changed since they first arrived. One woman remembered a quarry that was operating where the Altona Gate shopping centre is now located. She also talked about her early transport methods prior to owning a car - of cycling down Millers Road to go to the beach and of riding with her husband in the side car of their motorcycle.

One woman had lived in Altona North for more than 50 years. After migrating from Germany, she lived in a migrant hostel with her family. She spoke about difficulties she faced trying to find housing which was in short supply and real estate agents not wanting to rent housing to families with young children.

D: Consultation Questions

Appendix 1

Street Survey

<p>What's your connection with the area?</p> <p>Local resident <input type="checkbox"/> HB resident <input type="checkbox"/> Work here <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other _____</p> <p>Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><20 years <input type="checkbox"/> 20-35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36-55 <input type="checkbox"/> >55 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>What are the things that make it a good place to live / work / visit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The facilities (eg parks, open space, leisure facilities)▪ Access to shops; shops have what you need▪ Access to services (doctors dentists etc, childcare/MCH, schools)▪ Affordable housing▪ Close to work▪ Safe environment (walking about, after dark, in home)
<p>What are some of the facilities you use in the local area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Childcare/MCH/preschool/schools▪ Sports/ recreation▪ Neighbourhood▪ Community centre/halls▪ Seniors centres
<p>What would make it a better place to live / work / visit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ sport/leisure▪ meeting /socialising opportunities▪ transport▪ shops▪ services▪ safety▪ work

Focus Group Questions**What's your connection with the area?**Local resident HB resident Work here Visitor

Other _____

Male Female <20 years 20-35 36-55 >55

1. If you were describing Brooklyn/Altona North what are some of the area's distinctive features? (what makes it different to other places)

2. What are the things that make it a good place to live / work / visit?

Prompts

- The facilities (eg parks, open space, leisure facilities)
- Access to shops; shops have what you need
- Access to services (doctors dentists etc, childcare/MCH, schools)
- Affordable housing
- Close to work
- Safe environment (walking about, after dark, in home)

3. What sort of activities do you do locally?

Prompts

- Member of club / group
- Play sport
- Socialise / meet with friends
- Volunteer
- Shop
- Work

4. What are some of the facilities you use in the local area?

Prompts

- Childcare/MCH/preschool/schools
- Sports/ recreation
- Neighbourhood
- Community centre/halls
- Seniors centre

5. What things do you regularly do outside the area eg in other parts of Hobsons Bay or beyond?

Prompts

- library
- shop

- 
- go to school
 - access services health
 - Sport/leisure activities
 - Catch up with friends / socialise

6. How do you normally get about the area?

Prompts

- public transport
- drive
- walk
- ride a bike)

Is it easy / safe to get about?

7. What would make it a better place to live / work / visit?

Prompts

- sport/leisure places
- meeting /socialising opportunities
- transport
- shops
- services
- safety
- work

8. Do you expect to still be living here in the next 5 years – if yes – how do you think your needs will change

- facilities
- services