

Mildura Rural City Council



# Mildura Social Indicators Report 2012

Prepared by AEC Group Pty Ltd

# **Document Control**

Job ID:	16627 BNE				
Job Name:	MILDURA RCC Social Indicators Report 2012				
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Document Name:	AECgroup Report - Mildura Social Indicators Report 2012 Final Report.docx				
Last Saved:	27/8/2014 10:33 AM				

Version	Date	Reviewed	Approved	
Draft Report	29/05/2014	SH	ARP	
Final Report	29/07/2014	SH	ARP	

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## Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Consultative Council on Obstetric & Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity (CCOPMM) and the Department of Health staff who provided advice and prepared the VPDC data for this report. The views and conclusions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of CCOPMM or the Department of Health.

### **Research Notes**

Following the release of the 2011 Census, the *Mildura Social Indicators Report* has been updated to include the most recent and relevant data available. To ensure the report's continued accuracy and effectiveness some additional measures have been included, while other indicators along with the communities reported have changed slightly. The major differences are listed below with other minor instances of change explained throughout the report in their relevant chapters.

#### Changes

"Same-sex couples" – the inclusion of this measure follows its inclusion into the 2011 Census and provides a useful indicator of local social diversity.

Chapter 4. Health – the inclusion of various health measures: "Childhood and Adolescent Mental Health", "Life Expectancy", "Low Birth Weight Babies" and "Children with a disability".

"Domestic Violence" – the inclusion of a domestic violence indicator measured by family incident report data from Victoria Police.

Business tax data - the inclusion of a "Business Tax measure".

"Playgroup participation" – the inclusion of a playgroup participation indicator to measure the number of children attending Mildura RCC operated playgroups.

#### Localities

The 2012 version of the *Mildura Social Indicators Report* has aimed to replicate the methodology and communities used in previous reports as closely as possible to enable comparisons between previous reports. Despite this, there have been some minor changes in the communities reported (generally due to the changes in the availability of data), these are noted throughout the report where applicable. This iteration of the report has included three additional communities, where applicable, to allow for greater comparison. These communities are:

- Nichols Point includes the small of Nichols Point Township in Victoria, approximately 4 kilometres East of Mildura.
- Koorlong / Cardross (Greater) includes the two small townships of Koorlong and Cardross in Victoria, approximately 15 kilometres South-East of Mildura.
- Robinvale is the large aggregation of localities approximately 90 kilometres South-East of Mildura, in the state electorate of Swan hill. The area reported is inclusive of the township of Robinvale and immediate surrounds as indicated on the map. Robinvale has been included in this report to reflect the work of the Northern Mallee Community Partnership.
- Other geographical categories, for special indicators such as Occupational Categories (Mildura – Central and Mildura – Rural) follow the pattern of the previous *Mildura Social Indicators Report* that set these localities to avoid unnecessarily complicated data. These areas are roughly divided between more rural (Mildura – Rural) and town areas (Mildura – Central).

# **Table of Contents**

DOC	UMENT CONTROLI
АСК	NOWLEDGEMENTS AND NOTES II
ТАВ	LE OF CONTENTSIII
LIST	OF FIGURESV
LIST	OF TABLES
1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY1
2.	OVERVIEW OF THE REGION 2
2.1	Age/Gender Profile 2
2.2	AN AGEING POPULATION
2.3	BACKGROUNDS OF ARRIVALS
	2.3.1 AGE
	2.3.2 INCOME
2.4	FAMILY STRUCTURES
2.5	COUNTRY OF BIRTH
2.6	STABILITY OF POPULATION
3.	SOCIAL DISTRESS 11
3.1	FAMILY INCOME
3.2	RENTAL STRESS
3.3	Home Purchase Stress14
3.4	LONE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS
4.	HEALTH
4.1	CHILDHOOD ACCIDENTS16
4.2	Immunisation Cover18
4.3	DISABILITY/SICKNESS PAYMENT19
4.4	Occupational Accidents
4.5	PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS
4.6	CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH
4.7	LIFE EXPECTANCY
4.8	Low Birth Weight Babies26
4.9	CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY
5.	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
5.1	INDIVIDUALS ISOLATED BY LANGUAGE
5.2	Profile of Group
5.3	SOCIAL COHESION
6.	COMMUNITY SAFETY
6.1	CHILD MALTREATMENT
6.2	CRIME AGAINST PROPERTY
6.3	CRIME AGAINST PERSONS
6.4	Domestic Violence

6.5	Road Trauma
7.	ECONOMIC
7.1	Occupational Categories
7.2	OCCUPATIONS
7.3	Types of Business
7.4	Employment Within Business Categories
7.5	UNEMPLOYMENT
7.6	TAXABLE INCOME
7.7	Tourism
7.8	INTERNET CONNECTIONS/ACCESS
8.	EDUCATION
8.1	PLAYGROUP PARTICIPATION
8.2	Attendance at Pre-School
8.3	Incomplete Education/Training55
8.4	OVERALL EDUCATION
8.5	Post-Schooling Qualifications
9.	CULTURAL INDICATORS
9.1	Art Gallery
9.2	LIBRARY VISITS AND MEMBERSHIP
10.	ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS
10.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT62
10.2	COMMUNITY WATER USAGE
10.3	COMMUNITY ENERGY USAGE
10.4	VEGETATION COVER
10.5	Land Management Practices70
REFE	RENCES

# List of Figures

Figure P. 1: Catchments Built from SA1 Dataxi
Figure P. 2: Catchments Built from SA2 Dataxii
Figure P. 3: Catchments Built from Postcode Data xiii
Figure 2.1: Age Distribution Across Mildura, 2011
Figure 2.2: Comparison of Rate of Increase between 2006 and 2011 Censuses
Figure 2.3: Family Structures, 2011
Figure 2.4: Same-Sex Couples, 2011
Figure 3.1: Family Incomes 201111
Figure 3.2: Lone Person Households 201115
Figure 4.1: Rate of Childhood Accidents (Per 1,000 Children), 2006 to 201116
Figure 4.2: Percentage of Children Immunised (%), 2011/1218
Figure 4.3: Distribution of Disability Pensions and Sickness Allowances Rates (Per 1,000 residents), 2011 and 201219
Figure 4.4: Rate of Farm Accidents, 2006-2011 (Per 1,000 Persons in the Farm Labour Force)20
Figure 4.5: Rate of Non-Farm Accidents between 2006-2011 (Per 1,000 Persons in the Non-Farm Labour Force)
Figure 4.6: Rate of Adult Psychiatric Admissions between 2006 and 2012 (Per 1,000 Adult Residents)22
Figure 4.7: Rate of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Admissions between 2006 and 2012 (Per 1,000 Residents Aged Under 19 Residents)
Figure 4.8: Mildura RCC Life Expectancy by Gender, Years, 2004 to 2007
Figure 4.9: Proportion of Children Aged 0-9 with a Disability, 201127
Figure 5.1: Individuals Isolated by Language (2011 Census) - English Not Spoken Very Well/At All as % of Persons Born Overseas
Figure 5.2: Volunteering 2011
Figure 5.3: Unpaid Assistance 2011
Figure 6.1: Crimes Against Property34
Figure 6.2: Crimes Against the Person
Figure 6.3: Rate of Family Incident Reports
Figure 6.4: Road Trauma as Injury/Fatality and No Injury
Figure 7.1: Skilled Workers, 2011
Figure 7.2: Comparative Rates of Unemployment, 201144
Figure 7.3: Taxable Income Distribution46
Figure 7.4: Domestic Overnight Visitors ('000)47
Figure 7.5: Domestic Day Visitors ('000)48
Figure 7.6: International Visitors (No.)49
Figure 7.7: Internet Access and Connections, 201150
Figure 8.1: Number of Children Attending Mildura RCC Playgroups, 2011-201252
Figure 8.2: Proportion of Pre-School Attendance, 201153

Figure 8.3: Proportion of 17-24 Year Olds Neither Completing VCE nor undertaking Further Education and Training, 2011
Figure 9.1: Proportion of visitors to Art Gallery from Sub-Regions and Proportions Expected on a Population Basis, 2009-2011 (Calendar Years)
Figure 9.2: Actual and Virtual Library Visits, 2006-07 and 2011-1260
Figure 9.3: Active Membership as a Percentage of Members61
Figure 10.1: Community Kerbside Recycling Service Participation Rate
Figure 10.2: Green Waste Diverted from Mildura Landfill, January 2012 to January 201363
Figure 10.3: Cost of Kerbside Recycling Service (\$), January 2012 to January 201364
Figure 10.4: Water use Per Assessment, Residential and Non-Residential, 2011-1266
Figure 10.5: Energy Use (Mwh) per Economic Activity (GVA)67
Figure 10.6: Domestic Energy Use (Mwh) per Capita68

# **List of Tables**

Table P. 1: Data Sourcesix
Table 2.1: Age Distribution across Mildura, 2011
Table 2.2: Gender Distribution Across Mildura, 2011
Table 2.3: Residents Aged 80+ and 85+ Years of Age     4
Table 2.4: Comparison of Rate of Increase between 2006 and 2011 Censuses       4
Table 2.5: Individual Weekly Incomes 2011, by Place of Residence in 2006
Table 2.6: Family Structures, 2011
Table 2.7. Same Sex Couples  7
Table 2.8: Country of Birth, 2011  9
Table 2.9: Population Stability, 201110
Table 3.1: Family Incomes 201111
Table 3.2: Home Rental Stress 201113
Table 3.3: Home Purchase Stress 2011       14
Table 3.4: Lone Person Households15
Table 4.1: Rate of Childhood Accidents (Per 1,000 Children), 2006 to 2011
Table 4.2: Percentage of Children Immunised (%), 2011/12       18
Table 4.3: Distribution of Disability Pensions and Sickness Allowances Rates (Per 1,000 residents),2011 and 201219
Table 4.4: Rate of Farm Accidents, 2006-2011 (Per 1,000 Persons in the Farm Labour Force)20
Table 4.5: Rate of Non-Farm Accidents between 2006 and 2011 (Per 1,000 Persons in the Non-Farm Labour Force)21
Table 4.6: Rate of Adult Psychiatric Admissions between 2006 and 2012 (Per 1,000 Adult Residents)
Table 4.7: Rate of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Admissions between 2006 and 2012 (Per 1,000       Residents Aged Under 19 Residents)23
Table 4.8: Mildura Life Expectancy by Gender, Years, 2004 to 2007
Table 4.9: Proportion of Children Aged 0-9 with a Disability 2011
Table 5.1: Individuals Isolated by Language (2011 Census) - English Not Spoken Very Well/At All as % of Persons Born Overseas29
Table 5.2: Characteristics of New Arrivals 201130
Table 5.3: Education of New Arrivals 2011       30
Table 5.4: Volunteering 201131
Table 5.5: Unpaid Assistance 2011  32
Table 6.1: Crimes Against Property34
Table 6.2: Crimes Against the Person     35
Table 6.3: Rate of Family Incident Reports     36
Table 6.4: Road Trauma as Injury/Fatality and No Injury37
Table 7.1: Proportion of Employees in Occupational Categories, 2011

Table 7.3: Proportion of Businesses by Industry by SA2, June 2011       41
Table 7.4: Employment by Industry by Place of Residence, 2011     43
Table 7.5: Comparative Rates of Unemployment, 201144
Table 7.6: Recipients of Newstart Allowance (2012)45
Table 7.7: Taxable Income
Table 7.8: Domestic Overnight Visitors ('000)47
Table 7.9: Domestic Day Visitors ('000)48
Table 7.10: International Visitors (No.)     49
Table 7.11: Internet Access and Connections, 201150
Table 8.1: Number of Children attending Mildura RCC playgroups, 2011-201252
Table 8.2: Proportion of Pre-School Attendance, 201153
Table 8.3: Proportion of 17-24 Year Olds Neither Completing VCE nor undertaking FurtherEducation and Training, 201155
Table 8.4: Level of Schooling Attained by Residents over the age of 15, 2011
Table 8.5: Post-Schooling Qualifications, 2011
Table 9.1: Proportion of visitors to Art Gallery from Sub-Regions and Proportions Expected on aPopulation Basis, 2009-2011 (Calendar Years)
Table 9.2: Actual and Virtual Library Visits, 2011-1260
Table 9.3: Active Membership as a Percentage of Members       61
Table 10.1: Environmental KPIs  62
Table 10.2: Community Kerbside Recycling Service Participation Rate, January 2012 to January2013
Table 10.3: Green Waste Diverted from Mildura Landfill, January 2012 to January 201364
Table 10.4: Cost of Kerbside Recycling Service (\$), January 2012 to January 2013
Table 10.5: Water Use (ML per assessment), Residential and Non-Residential
Table 10.6: Energy Use (Mwh) per Economic Activity (GVA)67
Table 10.7: Domestic Energy Use (Mwh) per Capita68
Table 10.8: Prominence of Irrigation Methods (by Area, ha)70
Table 10.9: Area of Agricultural Land with Environmental Management Plans

# **Data Sources**

### Table P. 1: Data Sources

Chapter/ Section/ Indicator	Source				
2 Overview of the Region					
2.1 Age/Gender Profile	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
2.2 An Ageing Population	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
2.3 Backgrounds of Arrivals	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
2.3.1 Age	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
2.3.2 Income	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
2.4 Family Structures	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
2.5 Country of Birth	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
2.6 Stability of Population	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
3 Social Distress					
3.1 Family Income	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
3.2 Rental Stress	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
3.3 Home Purchase Stress	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
3.4 Lone Person Households	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
4 Health					
4.1 Childhood Accidents	Monash University				
4.2 Immunisation Cover	NHPA (National Health Performance Authority)				
4.3 Disability/Sickness Payment	Centrelink				
4.4 Occupational Accidents	Monash University				
4.45 Psychiatric Hospital Admissions	Victorian Department of Human Services				
4.6 Child and Adolescent Mental Health	Victorian Department of Human Services				
4.7 Life Expectancy	Victorian Department of Health				
4.8 Low Birth Weight Babies	CCOPMM (Consultative Council on Obstetric & Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity)				
4.9 Children with A Disability	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
5 Community Engagement					
5.1 Individuals Isolated by Language	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
5.2 Profile of Group	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
5.3 Social Cohesion	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
6 Community Safety					
6.1 Child Maltreatment	DHS (Department of Human Services)				
6.2 Crime Against Property	Victoria Police				
6.3 Crime Against Persons	Victoria Police				
6.4 Domestic Violence	Victoria Police				
6.5 Road Trauma	VicRoads				
7 Economic					
7.1 Occupational Categories	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
7.2 Occupations	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
7.3 Types of Business	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
7.4 Employment Within Business Categories	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
7.5 Unemployment	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
7.6 Taxable Income	ATO (Australian Tax Office)				
7.7 Tourism	TRA (Tourism Research Australia)				
7.8 Internet Connections/Access	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
8 Education					
8.1 Playgroup Participation	MRCC (Mildura Rural City Council)				
8.2 Attendance at Pre-School	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				
8.3 Incomplete Education/Training	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)				

Chapter/ Section/ Indicator	Source			
8.4 Overall Education	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)			
8.5 Post-Schooling Qualifications	ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics)			
9 Cultural Indicators				
9.1 Art Gallery	MRCC (Mildura Rural City Council)			
9.2 Library Visits and Membership	MRCC (Mildura Rural City Council)			
10 Environmental Indicators				
10.1 Waste Management	MRCC (Mildura Rural City Council)			
10.2 Community Water Usage	Lower Murray Water			
10.3 Community Energy Usage	MRCC (Mildura Rural City Council) and AEC			
10.4 Vegetation Cover	MRCC (Mildura Rural City Council)			
10.5 Land Management Practices	Mallee Catchment Management Authority and MRCC			

### Geographies

In 2011, the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). Unlike previous statistical geographies, the ASGS is based on population sizes and aims to provide a more consistent form of data reporting. As such, the data contained in this report has been collected at different geographical levels than the previous *Mildura Social Indicators Reports*. This report includes data at the following geographical levels:

- Statistical Area 1 (SA1): Areas with populations of between 200 and 800 persons. In this report, several SA1s have been grouped together to form the reported catchments.
- Statistical Area 2 (SA2): Areas with populations of between 3,000 and 25,000 persons.
- Postcodes: Areas identified by a postcode.

At the broad geographic level, Mildura RCC refers to the Mildura Rural City Council Local Government Area (LGA) in North-West Victoria, covering 22,083 square kilometres and home to almost 60,000 people. Melbourne refers to the Greater Capital City Statistical Area of Melbourne (GCCSA) covering 9,991 square kilometres of the Melbourne's city and wider area inclusive of almost 4.0 million people. Finally, Regional Victoria refers to the remaining area within the State of Victoria which does not fall within the Melbourne Greater Capital City Statistical Area geography. Regional Victoria covers an area of approximately 217,505 square kilometres and over 1.3 million people.

The following maps provide guidance on the more detailed catchments reported in this document.





Source: AEC (unpublished)







Figure P. 3: Catchments Built from Postcode Data

# **1. Executive Summary**

This document forms the 2012 version of the *Mildura Social Indicators Report*, the third iteration of the report proceeding those previously published in 2006 and 2008.

Following the release of the 2011 Census, considerable data relevant to the report has been updated. This following provides a summary of several major findings, which have been observed since the previous report:

- An Aging Population: There was an increase in the proportion of Mildura RCC residents who are 80+ years (up 22.3%) and 85+ years (up 29.8%), between 2006 and 2011. Some communities within Mildura RCC have recorded very high average ages, including Ouyen/Walpeup (43.8 years) and Mallee Track (46.8 years). Health care and social assistance needs change throughout our lives. Ensuring appropriate aged care and health facilities are available in these communities will be important to supporting local residents.
- **Increase in Younger Families**: Though the overall population is ageing, a high proportion of new residents to the region between 2006 and 2011 were young families. Most of the sub-regions hold a higher proportion of persons aged 0-19 years than Melbourne (24.8%) and Regional Victoria (26.0%). The main exception is Mallee Track where just 20% of local residents are youths aged under 19 years. Providing access to education and youth activities/services will assist in retaining and attracting young families to the region into the future.
- Wealth: During the five years to 2011, the proportion of high income families in Mildura RCC increased 5.6 percentage points. In addition, the proportion of long-term residents earning over \$1,000 per week has increased significantly from 10% to 17%. However, overall wealth conditions remain weak with over 60% of long term residents earning less than \$600 per week. Housing stress is problematic in pockets of the region, particularly Nichols Point, where high rental stress was experienced by 61.2% of renting households in 2011 and high mortgage stress was experienced by 38.3% of households with a mortgage. Access to income assistance and other social assistance programs may be required to alleviate these stresses.
- **Improvement in Childhood Accidents**: There was a significant drop in the rate of childhood accidents between 2006 and 2011 in Mildura RCC. Despite this, the rate remains significantly higher than in Regional Victoria and Melbourne.
- **New Migrants**: New arrivals to Mildura RCC in the five years to 2011 tended to be from India, Afghanistan and England. A third spoke English as their major language. Most tended not to be university educated. Services to assist these new residents to participate in the local community may be required as well as English education to minimise social isolation related to language barriers.
- **Employment**: Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of local residents who are employed as managers and labourers declined, in keeping with state-wide trends. Unemployment rates in the region vary greatly. The Millewa and Mallee Track recorded the lowest unemployment rates for the region below 3% whilst Merbein and Mildura recorded unemployment rates above 7%. Assessing the distribution of employment opportunities in the region could assist in levelling out employment outcomes across the region.
- **Domestic Violence**: There was an overall increase of approximately 60% in the rate of domestic violence between 2007-08 and 2011-12. The proportion of family incident reports remains around twice as high as the state and has done so for several years.

# 2. Overview of the Region

# 2.1 Age/Gender Profile

The distribution of males and females across the region has remained largely unchanged since 2006. In 2011, the majority of residents in Mildura RCC were females by a small margin, at 51.0% of the total population. This is in line with data for Melbourne and Regional Victoria in the same year. The higher proportion of females in the region is mostly driven by the high proportion of females in Mildura (52.5%), where almost two thirds of the region's population reside. In most other, and less populated, communities examined males outnumber females.

In 2011 Mildura RCC residents were on average 1.4 years younger than Regional Victoria residents, reporting an average age of 38.7 years and 40.1 years respectively. While in comparison to Melbourne, Mildura RCC residents were 1.4 years older on average than those in Melbourne (37.3 years). Within Mildura RCC, the average age differs greatly between communities, from a maximum of 46.8 years in Mallee Track to a minimum of 36.1 years in Koorlong / Cardross (Greater).

Approximately 6.6% of Mildura RCC's population in 2011 were aged under 5 years. This proportion is in line with the population of Melbourne, while slightly higher than Regional Victoria. Within Mildura RCC, the proportion of children aged 0-4 differs greatly between communities, from 4.0% in Mallee Track to 8.5% in the Millewa. Consistent with data from 2006, communities with the lowest proportion of pre-school-aged children also tended to have, on average, a higher proportion of residents aged over 65 years (and vice-versa).

The working age population (15 to 64 years) as a proportion of the total population has fallen marginally (0.7 percentage points) between 2006 and 2011 in Mildura RCC. In 2011, the proportion of working age population to total population was 62.8%. The dependency ratio (ratio of non-working-aged persons to working-aged persons) in Mildura RCC has increased slightly to 59.2 in 2011 (from 57.5 in 2006). The local dependency ratio is markedly higher than that of Melbourne (46.2) and slightly above Regional Victoria (57.9). Mallee Track and Ouyen / Walpeup reported particularly high dependency ratios at 72.0 and 68.9, respectively. A higher dependency ratio generally reflects lower numbers of working residents to support the population.

The aging population trend observed in Regional Victoria 2006 has continued into 2011. The proportion of residents in Regional Victoria aged over 65 years increased between from 16.0% in 2006 to 17.5% in 2011.

Aroa	0 to 1	5 to 19	20 to 11	15 to 61	65+	Total	Average
Alea	0104	5 (0 19	20 10 44	45 10 04	UJT	TOLAT	Age
Millewa	8.5%	21.4%	25.2%	30.5%	14.5%	449	38.6
Merbein	6.5%	22.4%	25.7%	29.5%	15.9%	4,642	39.5
Mildura	7.1%	20.5%	31.6%	24.0%	17.0%	30,079	38.5
Nichols Point	6.1%	27.1%	25.9%	29.9%	11.0%	1,473	36.6
Irymple	6.0%	24.0%	26.8%	28.1%	15.2%	4,647	38.6
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	6.6%	24.3%	29.5%	30.2%	9.5%	2,193	36.1
Red Cliffs	6.1%	22.1%	27.4%	27.7%	16.7%	4,618	39.7
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	5.6%	21.4%	28.0%	37.2%	7.9%	646	38.2
Ouyen / Walpeup	5.4%	19.3%	21.8%	30.8%	22.7%	1,505	43.8
Mallee Track	4.0%	16.4%	19.9%	33.7%	26.0%	757	46.8
Robinvale	8.1%	19.5%	33.0%	26.8%	12.6%	3,763	37.2
NSW Towns	6.8%	20.2%	26.6%	30.5%	16.0%	6,613	39.8
Mildura RCC	6.6%	21.6%	29.5%	26.1%	16.2%	50,979	38.7
Regional Victoria	6.3%	19.7%	28.9%	27.6%	17.5%	1,354,058	40.1
Melbourne	6.5%	18.3%	38.0%	24.1%	13.1%	3,999,981	37.3

Table 2.1: Age Distribution across Mildura, 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level.

Source: ABS (2012a)



#### Figure 2.1: Age Distribution Across Mildura, 2011

Table 2.2: Genuer Distribution Across Mildura, 2013						
Area	Males	Females	Total			
Millewa	54.5%	45.5%	448			
Merbein	49.9%	50.1%	4,635			
Mildura	47.5%	52.5%	30,072			
Nichols Point	51.4%	48.6%	1,470			
Irymple	50.5%	49.5%	4,646			
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	53.1%	46.9%	2,192			
Red Cliffs	49.6%	50.4%	4,608			
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	54.4%	45.6%	651			
Ouyen / Walpeup	51.9%	48.1%	1,501			
Mallee Track	53.4%	46.6%	757			
Robinvale	51.6%	48.4%	3,757			
NSW Towns	52.0%	48.0%	6,614			
Mildura RCC	49.0%	51.0%	50,979			
Regional Victoria	49.2%	50.8%	1,354,057			
Melbourne	49.2%	50.8%	3,999,982			

### Table 2.2: Gender Distribution Across Mildura, 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

#### **An Ageing Population** 2.2

The number of Mildura RCC residents aged over 80 years has increased by 22.3% between 2006 and 2011. Similarly, the number of residents aged over 85 years has also increased, by 29.8%. The trend in Mildura RCC is slightly stronger than in Regional Victoria, which has also experienced considerable growth in these age cohorts.

		80+ Years		85+ Years			
	2006	2011	Increase	2006	2011	Increase	
Area	No.	No.	%	No.	No.	%	
Mildura RCC	1,972	2,411	22.3%	859	1,115	29.8%	
Regional Victoria	187,755	217,453	15.8%	83,311	104,203	25.1%	
Melbourne	n.a.	152,047	n.a.	n.a.	73,235	n.a.	

Table 2.3: Residents Aged 80+ and 85+ Years of Age

Note: Due to the change in ABS geography between 2006 and 2011, comparisons for Melbourne over time are not available. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the LGA and State level. Source: ABS (2012a)



#### Figure 2.2: Comparison of Rate of Increase between 2006 and 2011 Censuses

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the LGA and State level. Source: ABS (2012a)

Table 2.4: Comparisor	of Rate of	Increase between	2006 and	2011 Censuses
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	80+	85+	<b>Total Population</b>
Mildura RCC	22.3%	29.8%	2.3%
Regional Victoria	15.8%	25.1%	8.2%
Source: ABS (2012)			

Source: ABS (2012)

# 2.3 Backgrounds of Arrivals

### 2.3.1 Age

Between 2006 and 2011, approximately 10,000 new residents moved into Mildura RCC. Outside of Victoria, the key source of new residents (by State) was New South Wales (38.8% of new residents) followed by South Australia (20.8%). Key Local Government Areas from which new residents moved include Wentworth (6.1%), Swan Hill (2.8%) and Broken Hill (2.3%). A further 10.0% of new residents came from overseas.

New residents arriving during this time period tended to be young families, with over two thirds of new residents since 2006 aged between 5 and 45 in 2011. Compared to 2006, the proportion of new residents aged under 55 years had fallen from 84.4% to 78.2% in 2011, however, it remains well above the proportion of long-standing residents in the community (67.4%).

#### 2.3.2 Income

This section compares the incomes of long-standing Mildura RCC residents (who have lived in the area since at least 2006) and new residents to Mildura RCC. Since 2006, where a greater proportion of existing residents reported receiving an income of less than \$600 per week, there has been a shift in the income profile of residents. The income distribution in Mildura RCC has become increasingly similar to that of the new residents from other States and, to a much lesser degree, those from Melbourne. A significantly greater portion of existing Mildura residents have an income of over \$1,000 per week – up from 10.0% in 2006.

Location in 2006	Below \$600	\$600 to \$999	\$1,000 +
Mildura RCC	60.4%	22.3%	17.3%
Other States	60.6%	21.5%	17.9%
Melbourne	58.9%	18.5%	22.6%
Overseas	74.5%	17.0%	8.5%

#### 2.4 **Family Structures**

In 2006, the most prominent family structure in Mildura RCC was that of couple families, which made up over 40% of local families. In 2011, couple families remained the most prominent family structure at 40.4% of all families. Mildura RCC had a higher proportion of single-parent families than Regional Victoria and Melbourne. Mildura had the highest proportion of single parent families at 21.2%.

Couple families without children formed approximately 40.1% of all families in Mildura RCC. Aligning with the community's older average age, Mallee Track reported a significantly high proportion of couple families without children. Ouyen / Walpeup and the Millewa also had higher levels of couple families without children.



#### Figure 2.3: Family Structures, 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

#### Table 2.6: Family Structures, 2011

Area	Couple Families	Couple Families Without Children	One Parent Families	Other Families
Millewa	45.2%	44.4%	10.5%	0.0%
Merbein	40.3%	41.6%	18.1%	0.0%
Mildura	36.9%	40.4%	21.2%	1.5%
Nichols Point	50.5%	39.4%	10.1%	0.0%
Irymple	49.2%	37.4%	12.8%	0.6%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	55.4%	35.9%	8.6%	0.0%
Red Cliffs	41.6%	39.0%	18.1%	1.3%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	46.4%	41.7%	9.5%	2.4%
Ouyen / Walpeup	42.3%	46.4%	10.3%	1.0%
Mallee Track	34.7%	56.9%	6.5%	1.9%
Robinvale	40.0%	40.5%	17.1%	2.4%
NSW Towns	39.3%	45.8%	14.0%	0.8%
Mildura RCC	40.4%	40.1%	18.2%	1.2%
Regional Victoria	47.9%	34.8%	15.3%	2.0%

Area	Couple Families	Couple Families Without Children	One Parent Families	Other Families
Melbourne	40.4%	42.3%	16.1%	1.2%
Victoria	46.0%	36.7%	15.5%	1.8%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

For the first time, the 2011 census collected information on same-sex couples. This information is a useful indicator of local social diversity. Approximately 0.4% of all couples in Mildura RCC were same-sex couples. Mildura was the only catchment within Mildura RCC which reported same sex couples. In comparison with Regional Victoria, Mildura RCC has a slightly lower proportion of same sex couples. While data shows that the majority of Victorian same-sex couples are located in the Melbourne Greater Capital City Area.

#### Figure 2.4: Same-Sex Couples, 2011



Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level for Mildura RCC. While data for Melbourne has been collected at the Melbourne Greater Capital City Area. Source: ABS (2012a)

Table 2.7. Same Sex Couples

Area	Proportion of Couples who are same s				
Mildura RCC	0.4%				
Regional Victoria	0.4%				
Melbourne	0.9%				
Victoria	0.7%				

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level for Mildura RCC. While data for Melbourne has been collected at the Melbourne Greater Capital City Area.

Source: ABS (2012a)

# 2.5 Country of Birth

The country of birth of Mildura RCC residents has remained fairly constant from 2001 to 2006, and now to 2011. Approximately 84.2% of Mildura RCC's local residents in 2011 were Australian born. Key sources of immigrants include England, Italy, New Zealand and Turkey. Based on country of birth, Mildura RCC and Regional Victoria are less culturally diverse than Melbourne and Victoria. This can been seen with approximately 84% of Mildura RCC residents born in Australia (in line with regional Victoria), while approximately 63% of Melbourne residents are born in Australia (in line with Victoria). The most culturally diverse community within Mildura RCC is Mildura with 19.3% of its residents born overseas. While Robinvale is the most culturally diverse community in the broader region, with 36.6% of local residents born in Overseas. Robinvale has received high numbers of immigrants from Tonga, Vietnam, New Zealand and Thailand.

### Table 2.8: Country of Birth, 2011

Area	Australia	England	Italy	New Zealand	Turkey	India	Greece	Afghanistan	Tonga	Philippines	Other	Total	Indigenous	Indigenous %
Millewa	91.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	447	11	2.7%
Merbein	89.8%	2.1%	1.1%	0.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	5.0%	4,630	205	4.9%
Mildura	80.7%	1.5%	1.5%	0.9%	1.0%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	11.7%	30,109	1,389	5.7%
Nichols Point	87.9%	2.1%	2.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	1,471	13	1.0%
Irymple	87.8%	1.1%	2.5%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	7.1%	4,650	94	2.3%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	87.7%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	7.7%	2,195	24	1.2%
Red Cliffs	87.2%	1.5%	1.5%	1.2%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	7.5%	4,613	108	2.7%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	82.8%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.2%	645	21	3.9%
Ouyen / Walpeup	90.4%	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	6.9%	1,497	18	1.3%
Mallee Track	94.3%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%	753	4	0.6%
Robinvale	63.4%	0.8%	2.0%	2.1%	0.0%	1.2%	0.9%	0.3%	3.9%	0.8%	24.7%	3,772	306	12.8%
NSW Towns	88.9%	1.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	7.5%	6,601	683	11.6%
Mildura RCC	84.0%	1.5%	1.4%	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	9.7%	50,979	1,837	4.3%
Regional Victoria	84.2%	2.8%	0.6%	1.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	10.4%	1,354,058	19,965	1.8%
Melbourne	63.3%	3.4%	1.7%	1.7%	0.4%	2.7%	1.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.8%	24.6%	3,999,981	18,023	0.7%
Victoria	68.6%	3.2%	1.4%	1.5%	0.3%	2.1%	0.9%	0.2%	0.0%	0.7%	21.0%	5,354,039	37,988	1.0%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Note: Population totals re-based so as to align with total population of the area. Source: ABS (2012a)

# 2.6 Stability of Population

Population stability can positively influence social cohesion through improved community communication and connection (MRCC, 2008), but a level of movement and 'churn' is considered appropriate to 'breathe new life' into the local community. The following table shows the number of individuals in each community who have remained at the same address between 2006 and 2011 and the number of individuals who have moved. In 2006, the proportion of individuals who had moved address (whether it be within the region or from outside) since 2001 in Mildura RCC was 42.4%. In 2011, the proportion of individuals who have changed their address since 2006 was slightly lower at 38.8%. Mildura RCC has recorded moderately higher proportions of movements than Regional Victoria - continuing the trend seen in 2006.

The community which recorded the highest proportion of movements was Mildura at 45.5%, by comparison, Mallee Track recorded the lowest proportion of movements at just 19.9%.

Area	Same Address in 2006	Different Address in 2006
Millewa	267	123
Merbein	2,988	1,198
Mildura	14,179	11,814
Nichols Point	907	413
Irymple	2,945	1,266
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	1,416	503
Red Cliffs	2,789	1,345
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	362	208
Ouyen / Walpeup	1,016	343
Mallee Track	554	138
Robinvale	1,985	1,088
NSW Towns	3,814	1,990
Mildura RCC	27,424	17,350
Regional Victoria	741,290	459,438
Melbourne	2,143,505	1,393,810

#### Table 2.9: Population Stability, 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level.

Note: Excludes no response and not applicable responses as well as the population aged under 5. Source: ABS (2012a)  $\,$ 

# 3. Social Distress

## 3.1 Family Income

Linked with other forms of disadvantage, low income may be a product of various factors such as mental illness, crime and child maltreatment. As indicated in the 2008 report, there is recent evidence suggesting that relative income inequalities and comparative status perceptions are perhaps more important than the absolute income levels.

The low family income benchmark of below \$650 per week for 2006 (which was used in the 2008 *Mildura Social Indicators Report* for 2006 census data) has been adjusted for inflation (and rounded), resulting in the revised figure of below \$800 per week for the 2011 data. The higher income benchmark of \$1,400 or more per week was also increased to \$1,500.

Mildura RCC continues to record a relatively higher proportion of families within the low income bracket (29.6%) compared to both Regional Victoria (26.6%) and Melbourne (19.7%). During the five years to 2011, while the proportion of high income families in Mildura RCC has increased by 5.6 percentage points, the medium income family share dropped by more than 7 percentage points. These findings are in line with the patterns observed in both Regional Victoria and Melbourne.

Within Mildura RCC, the Millewa recorded the largest proportion of low income families (33.6%), while Koorlong / Cardross (Greater) recorded the lowest proportion of low income families (18.4%).



### Figure 3.1: Family Incomes 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a) and ABS (2012b)

Table 3.1: Family Incomes 2011

Area	Low Income	Medium Income	High Income	Not Stated	Total
Millewa	33.6%	23.2%	29.6%	13.6%	100.0%
Merbein	32.3%	29.3%	25.1%	13.3%	100.0%
Mildura	31.9%	27.9%	26.9%	13.3%	100.0%
Nichols Point	18.3%	30.8%	37.5%	13.5%	100.0%

Area	Low Income	Medium Income	High Income	Not Stated	Total
Irymple	27.6%	26.7%	32.8%	12.9%	100.0%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	18.4%	31.3%	33.9%	16.3%	100.0%
Red Cliffs	30.5%	31.4%	23.9%	14.1%	100.0%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	19.5%	39.6%	23.8%	17.1%	100.0%
Ouyen / Walpeup	25.9%	29.8%	30.9%	13.4%	100.0%
Mallee Track	20.2%	36.2%	28.9%	14.7%	100.0%
Robinvale	29.9%	29.9%	24.3%	15.8%	100.0%
NSW Towns	29.4%	27.3%	28.2%	15.1%	100.0%
Mildura RCC	29.6%	29.1%	28.3%	13.1%	100.0%
Regional Victoria	26.6%	28.0%	33.4%	12.0%	100.0%
Melbourne	19.7%	22.7%	46.3%	11.2%	100.0%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Note: Low Income bracket represents income below \$800 per week. Medium Income bracket represents income between \$800 and \$1,499 per week. High Income bracket represents income over \$1,500 per week. Source: ABS (2012a) and ABS (2012b)

# **3.2 Rental Stress**

The proportion of the total household income spent on housing reflects the level of housing stress experienced by households. Consistent with 2006 data, the 30% housing to income ratio benchmark has been used to develop the two key housing stress measures for renters and homeowners.

The renting stress patterns observed in Mildura RCC have been largely consistent with that of Regional Victoria and Melbourne, with more than 30% of local households experiencing high level rental stress. Rental stress continues to be more widespread than home purchase stress in both Mildura RCC and Regional Victoria, while in Melbourne home purchase stress is more prevalent. This likely reflects house prices in each area. Since 2006, the level of rental stress in Mildura RCC and Regional Victoria has declined moderately, with the proportion of households experiencing high levels of rental stress down by 1.2 and 1.6 percentage points, respectively. Melbourne, however, recorded a marginal increase of 0.5 percentage points in home rental stress.

Rental stress was most prevalent in Nichols Point, with almost twice the proportion of households experiencing high levels of rental stress than the Mildura regional average. Other communities exhibiting degrees of rental stress higher than the Mildura RCC average were Irymple and Mildura.

		Unable to Determine	Low –	Medium —	High —
Area	Households	Income	<25%	20-30%	>30%
Merbein	228	5.7%	57.0%	25.9%	28.9%
Mildura	4,752	11.7%	43.2%	21.8%	35.1%
Nichols Point	85	0.0%	28.2%	25.9%	61.2%
Irymple	231	17.7%	43.3%	9.5%	36.4%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	69	0.0%	39.1% 17.4%		30.4%
Red Cliffs	460	15.2%	41.7%	24.1%	27.0%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	170	8.8%	81.8%	0.0%	9.4%
Ouyen / Walpeup	134	12.7%	52.2%	7.5%	9.0%
Mallee Track	66	22.7%	63.6%	0.0%	13.6%
Robinvale	574	19.7%	52.4%	5.1%	18.3%
NSW Towns	571	6.0%	63.7%	20.3%	25.2%
Mildura RCC	5,928	10.2%	47.0%	19.9%	32.6%
Regional Victoria	129,565	9.0%	48.5%	20.4%	31.6%
Melbourne	396,046	9.5%	45.4%	24.0%	33.1%

#### Table 3.2: Home Rental Stress 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level.

Note: Note: Data for the Millewa is excluded for privacy reasons. Percentages do not sum to 100% due to crossovers in brackets reported and "not stated" outcomes.

Source: ABS (2012a)

#### 3.3 **Home Purchase Stress**

High level home purchase stress has increased in Mildura RCC (by 6.2 percentage points), Regional Victoria (by 8.4 percentage points), and Melbourne (by 10.9 percentage points) since 2006. However, the proportion of households experiencing high level rental stress continues to exceed the share of households recording high level home purchase stress in both Mildura RCC and Regional Victoria.

Nichols Point, Red Cliffs, Mildura and Koorlong / Cardross (Greater) recorded higher levels of home purchase stress compared to the Mildura RCC average.

Area	Households	Unable to Determine Income	Low – <25%	Medium – 20-30%	High — >30%
Merbein	749	16.3%	45.4%	23.6%	20.8%
Mildura	3,694	10.7%	51.6%	19.1%	28.0%
Nichols Point	240	2.9%	44.6%	20.0%	38.3%
Irymple	611	19.0%	44.8%	23.1%	22.3%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	402	13.9%	47.0%	17.9%	26.1%
Red Cliffs	644	10.1%	54.8%	14.0%	29.3%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	83	19.3%	44.6%	0.0%	7.2%
Robinvale	218	6.0%	58.3%	11.9%	24.8%
NSW Towns	650	15.2%	50.3%	22.3%	18.2%
Mildura RCC	6,421	12.3%	51.1%	18.9%	25.9%
Regional Victoria	172,366	11.0%	51.0%	18.4%	27.5%
Melbourne	528,218	9.9%	43.8%	19.1%	34.7%

#### Table 3.3: Home Purchase Stress 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Note: Data for the Millewa, Ouyen / Walpeup and Mallee Track are excluded for privacy reasons. Percentages do not sum to 100% due to crossovers in brackets reported and "not stated" outcomes.

Source: ABS (2012a)

#### 3.4 **Lone Person Households**

While the proportion of lone person households in Mildura RCC and Regional Victoria reported a moderate increase (approximately 2 percentage points) since 2006, the proportion of lone person households in Melbourne remained largely unchanged. Of particular interest is the high proportion of lone person households in Mallee Track (29.3%), higher than the Mildura RCC average (28.8%). Mildura and Ouyen / Walpeup also reported relatively high proportions of lone person households.



#### Figure 3.2: Lone Person Households 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

Table 3.4: Lone F	Person Hou	useholds
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Area	% of Population	% of HH
Millewa	8.2%	20.2%
Merbein	9.5%	23.5%
Mildura	12.1%	27.4%
Nichols Point	5.8%	15.9%
Irymple	7.6%	20.2%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	6.6%	18.1%
Red Cliffs	10.7%	26.2%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	10.8%	21.9%
Ouyen / Walpeup	12.4%	27.9%
Mallee Track	12.9%	29.3%
Robinvale	7.6%	19.0%
NSW Towns	9.3%	21.2%
Mildura RCC	11.5%	28.8%
Regional Victoria	11.3%	28.4%
Melbourne	8.9%	23.8%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

# 4. Health

## 4.1 Childhood Accidents

Unlike Regional Victoria and Melbourne, the rate of childhood accidents in Mildura RCC has dropped significantly (by 40 per 1,000) during the four years to 2011. This drop has been particularly noticeable in Mildura, Colignan and Nangiloc, and Merbein. However, Mildura RCC continues to record a high rate of childhood accidents, with rates nearly three times the Regional Victorian average and twice that of Melbourne.

There is a wide variation in the rate of childhood accidents, across Mildura RCC communities and overtime. This may suggest a general shift in the trend of childhood accidents with majority of the communities within Mildura RCC reporting a slowing rate of childhood accidents between 2006 and 2011. In contrast to this trend, the rate of childhood accidents has doubled in Underbool since 2008 and increased by a slightly lesser extent in the Ouyen community since 2006.





Note: Data for this section has been collated at the postcode level. Note: Millewa and Red Cliffs includes Greater Koorlong / Cardross. Source: Monash University (Unpublished)

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ouyen	44.8	45.2	68.5	67.5	70.3	82.3
Colignan and Nangiloc	283.2	210.7	179.4	180.3	161.7	121.2
Millewa and Red Cliffs	174.6	175.5	185.0	179.8	169.4	158.2
Irymple	113.8	118.8	140.9	133.0	123.2	111.0
Mildura	177.6	188.2	185.4	177.7	158.8	152.0
Nichols Point	163.0	199.4	207.5	214.1	171.8	153.5
Merbein	154.7	179.3	170.1	165.8	149.8	129.3
Underbool	-	-	71.4	-	107.1	142.9
Robinvale	34.5	42.6	29.7	29.5	31.2	38.0
NSW Towns	137.9	163.7	153.9	159.7	146.7	126.2
Mildura RCC	187.8	201.1	200.0	193.2	173.4	160.9
Melbourne	65.3	65.4	64.9	69.3	71.0	72.6
Regional Victoria	86.3	89.8	93.6	98.3	100.5	101.5

### Table 4.1: Rate of Childhood Accidents (Per 1,000 Children), 2006 to 2011

Note: Data for this section has been collated at the postcode level. Note: Millewa and Red Cliffs includes Greater Koorlong / Cardross Source: Monash University (Unpublished)

## 4.2 Immunisation Cover

The immunisation of children within Mildura RCC (90.1%) is slightly lower than the state average (92.5%). Irymple reported the highest proportion of children immunised at (93.0%), which was higher than the state average. This is compared to the lowest reported proportion of immunised children, which were in the comparison area of NSW towns (75.4%).





Note: Data for this section has been collated at the postcode level. Note: Data was not provided for some geographical areas (including Ouyen and Regional Victoria). Source: National Health Performance Authority (2013)

Table 4.2: Per	centage of (	Children Im	munised (%)	), 2011/	12
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Area	Immunised 2011/12
Millewa and Red Cliffs	88.3%
Irymple	93.0%
Mildura	90.3%
Nichols Point	91.8%
Merbein	91.7%
Robinvale	85.5%
NSW Towns	75.4%
Mildura RCC	90.1%
Victoria	92.5%

Note: Data for this section has been collated at the postcode level.

Note: Data was not provided for some geographical areas (including Ouyen and Regional Victoria). Source: National Health Performance Authority (2013)

#### 4.3 **Disability/Sickness Payment**

Another key indicator which can be used to assess the individual health of local residents living in each region is the receipt of Disability Support Pension and Sickness Allowance.

Mildura recorded the highest proportion of residents receiving disability/sickness payments (at a rate of 66.7 persons per 1,000 residents), followed by Ouyen (64.5) and Millewa/Red Cliffs (63.4).





Note: Data for this section has been collated at the postcode level. Note: Data was unavailable for Regional Victoria, Victoria and Mildura RCC (in 2011). Source: Centrelink (Unpublished a) and Centrelink (Unpublished b)

Table 4.3:	Distribution	of Dis	ability	Pensions	and	Sickness	Allowances	Rates	(Per	1,000
residents)	, 2011 and 20	12.								

Area	2011	2012
Ouyen	61.8	64.5
Colignan and Nangiloc	47.1	50.3
Millewa and Red Cliffs	63.2	63.4
Irymple	34.7	33.3
Mildura	65.1	66.7
Nichols Point	58.0	54.4
Merbein	63.8	59.0
Walpeup	3.0	3.0
Underbool	6.1	6.1
Carina and Murrayville	2.2	2.2
Robinvale	47.4	46.4
NSW Towns	50.8	58.7
Mildura RCC	-	61.6

Note: Data for this section has been collated at the postcode level.

Note: Data was unavailable for Regional Victoria, Victoria and Mildura RCC (in 2011).

Source: Centrelink (Unpublished a) and Centrelink (Unpublished b)

### 4.4 Occupational Accidents

The occupational accidents section presents the number of accidents in both farm and non-farm related occupations in Mildura RCC over time.

While the region has recorded an overall decline in the rate of farm accidents since 2006, the six yearly average farm accident rate (2006-2011) of 13 per 1,000 persons in the farm labour force exceeds both the Regional Victoria (11) and the Melbourne (7) averages. This is likely influenced by the number of farm workers located within the region.

Figure 4.4: Rate of Farm Accidents, 2006-2011 (Per 1,000 Persons in the Farm Labour Force)



Note: 2006 data was available at the sub-LGA level. This data is no longer available and has been presented only for the areas of Mildura RCC, Melbourne and Regional Victoria Source: Monash University (Unpublished)

<b>Table 4.4:</b>	Rate	of	Farm	Accidents,	2006-2011	(Per	1,000	Persons	in	the	Farm	Labour
Force)				-		-	-					

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Average
Mildura RCC	17	17	9	14	12	11	13
Melbourne	9	8	7	7	6	6	7
Regional Victoria	10	11	11	11	11	11	11

Note: 2006 data was available at the sub-LGA level. This data is no longer available and has been presented only for the areas of Mildura RCC, Melbourne and Regional Victoria,

Source: Monash University (Unpublished)

Rates of non-farm accidents within Mildura RCC have also dropped since 2006, however, their rates remain twice as high as the region's farm-rate accidents during the same period. The average non-farm accident rate (between 2006 and 2011) within Mildura RCC was nearly three times the Melbourne outcome.



Figure 4.5: Rate of Non-Farm Accidents between 2006-2011 (Per 1,000 Persons in the Non-Farm Labour Force)

Note: 2006 data was available at the sub-LGA level. This data is no longer available and has been presented only for the areas of Mildura RCC, Melbourne and Regional Victoria, Source: Monash University (Unpublished)

Table 4.5: Rate of Non-Farm	Accidents between	2006 and 201	1 (Per 1,000	Persons in the
Non-Farm Labour Force)				

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Average
Mildura RCC	33	31	29	25	26	21	28
Melbourne	9	9	9	8	8	7	8
Regional Victoria	13	13	12	12	12	12	12

Note: 2006 data was available at the sub-LGA level. This data is no longer available and has been presented only for the areas of Mildura RCC, Melbourne and Regional Victoria,

Source: Monash University (Unpublished)

## 4.5 Psychiatric Hospital Admissions

The rate of psychiatric hospital admissions by Mildura RCC adult residents generally declined between 2006 and 2012, estimated to be around one person lower (per 1,000 adult residents) in 2012 compared to 2006. Residents from the Millewa, Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater), Ouyen / Walpeup, Mallee Track, Red Cliffs (the areas referred to as the Mildura RCC Regional Statistical Local Area (SLA)) have generally reported a lower rate of adult psychiatric hospital admissions per 1,000 residents than the central areas of Merbein, Mildura, Nichols Point, Irymple and Koorlong / Cardross (Greater) (referred to as the Mildura RCC Regional SLA). In 2012, an estimated 7.9 adult residents (per 1,000) from the Mildura RCC Central SLA were admitted to hospital for psychiatric reasons, compared to only 2.8 (per 1,000) from the Mildura RCC Regional SLA. Rates of psychiatric hospital admissions for Mildura RCC residents have generally remained in line with Regional Victoria over the period, while in comparison to Melbourne have remained traditionally around half the rate.



Figure 4.6: Rate of Adult Psychiatric Admissions between 2006 and 2012 (Per 1,000 Adult Residents)

Note: Department of Health data relating to psychiatric hospital admissions only available at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) for Mildura RCC. Mildura RCC Central SLA includes Merbein, Mildura, Nichols Point, Irymple and Koorlong / Cardross (Greater). Mildura RCC Regional SLA includes the Millewa, Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater), Ouyen / Walpeup, Mallee Track, Red Cliffs. Note: Data should be interpreted with caution as the Department of Health mask potentially confidential admissions data for small areas, thus affecting totals.

Source: Victorian Department of Health (2014), AEC (unpublished)

Table 4.6: Rate of Adult Psychiatric Admissions between 2006 and 2012 (Per 1,000 Adult Residents)

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mildura RCC Central SLA	8.6	10.7	10.5	9.4	7.1	7.5	7.9
Mildura RCC Regional SLA	5.9	4.8	6.3	5.2	7.1	2.4	2.8
Mildura RCC	8.4	10.3	10.2	9.2	7.1	7.1	7.5
Regional Victoria	7.5	7.8	7.9	9.2	8.4	7.0	7.6
Melbourne	16.3	16.7	17.7	18.8	18.5	13.2	13.5

Note: Department of Health data relating to psychiatric hospital admissions only available at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) for Mildura RCC. Mildura RCC Central SLA includes Merbein, Mildura, Nichols Point, Irymple and Koorlong / Cardross (Greater). Mildura RCC Regional SLA includes the Millewa, Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater), Ouyen / Walpeup, Mallee Track, Red Cliffs.
Note: Data should be interpreted with caution as the Department of Health mask potentially confidential admissions data for small areas, thus affecting totals. Source: Victorian Department of Health (2014), AEC (unpublished)

### 4.6 Child and Adolescent Mental Health

The rate of child and adolescent psychiatric hospital admissions for Mildura RCC residents trended upwards between 2006 and 2012. This is in contrast to Regional Victoria and Melbourne where, with the exception of 2012, rates of child and adolescent psychiatric hospital admissions trended downwards since 2006.

The rate of child and adolescent psychiatric hospital admissions for Mildura RCC residents was around twice as high in 2012 compared to 2006. In 2012, an estimated 1.4 child and adolescent residents (per 1,000) from Mildura RCC were admitted to hospital for psychiatric reasons, compared to 1.0 (per 1,000) from Regional Victoria.

Rates of child and adolescent psychiatric hospital admissions for Mildura RCC residents have generally been higher than Melbourne, with the exception of the 2006 and 2012. In 2012, Mildura RCC's rate of child and adolescent psychiatric hospital admissions was almost one person lower (per 1,000) than reported in Melbourne.

Figure 4.7: Rate of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Admissions between 2006 and 2012 (Per 1,000 Residents Aged Under 19 Residents)



Note: Department of Health data relating to psychiatric hospital admissions only available at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) for Mildura RCC. Mildura RCC Central SLA includes Merbein, Mildura, Nichols Point, Irymple and Koorlong / Cardross (Greater). No data reported for Mildura RCC Regional SLA

Note: Data should be interpreted with caution as the Department of Health mask potentially confidential admissions data for small areas, thus affecting totals.

Source: Victorian Department of Health (2014), AEC (unpublished)

## Table 4.7: Rate of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Admissions between 2006 and 2012 (Per 1,000 Residents Aged Under 19 Residents)

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mildura RCC Central SLA	0.7	1.6	1.9	2.9	1.6	1.4	1.5
Mildura RCC	0.7	1.5	1.7	2.7	1.5	1.3	1.4
Regional Victoria	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Melbourne	2.0	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.3	2.2

Note: Department of Health data relating to psychiatric hospital admissions only available at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) for Mildura RCC. Mildura RCC Central SLA includes Merbein, Mildura, Nichols Point, Irymple and Koorlong / Cardross (Greater). No data reported for Mildura RCC Regional SLA Note: Data should be interpreted with caution as the Department of Health mask potentially confidential admissions data for small areas, thus affecting totals. Source: Victorian Department of Health (2014), AEC (unpublished)

### 4.7 Life Expectancy

The life expectancy of a particular community provides an estimate of the average number of years its residents are expected to live if they were born in that year. The life expectancy of Mildura RCC males has increased marginally (by 0.7 years) since 2004, reaching 77.5 years in 2007. Although the region's female life expectancy rates have dropped by 0.5 years since 2005, females (on average) are expected to live longer than their male counterparts, with female life expectancy rates being approximately 83 years. Between 2004 and 2007, the life expectancy rates for both females and males within Mildura RCC have remained relatively lower than corresponding Victorian averages, with differences more pronounced in the case of males.





Note: Data for this section was reported at the LGA level. Source: Victorian Department of Health (2011)

Table 4.8: Mildura Life	Expectancy b	y Gender,	Years,	2004 to	2007
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Indicator	2004	2005	2006	2007
Mildura Males	76.8	77.0	77.0	77.5
Mildura Females	83.0	83.3	82.9	82.8
Victoria Males	79.4	79.8	80.0	80.3
Victoria Females	84.1	84.3	84.3	84.4

Note: Data for this section was reported at the LGA level.

Source: Victorian Department of Health (2011)

### 4.8 Low Birth Weight Babies

Between 2006 and 2009 in Mildura RCC, an average of 6.5% of babies born were low birth weight babies (weighing less than 2,500 grams) (CCOPMM, unpublished), this compares to approximately 6% of all babies at the national level in 2008 (ABS, 2009). Studies have shown low birth weight babies have a greater risk of childhood ill health and infant death.

The prevalence of low birth weight babies may be an indication of the health of mothers during pregnancy (and her nutritional status), socio-economic disadvantage, presence of multiple births and duration of pregnancy (Australian Government, unpublished)

### 4.9 Children with A Disability

Around 2.5% of Mildura RCC residents aged between 0-9 years were classified as having some of form of disability in 2011. Although in line with the Regional Victoria average (2.3%), the figure is relatively higher than that of Greater Melbourne (1.8%). The proportion of children with disability was highest in Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater) at 13.6% and Koorlong / Cardross (Greater) at 6.4%.



Figure 4.9: Proportion of Children Aged 0-9 with a Disability, 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)  $% \left( 2012a\right) \left( 2012$ 

#### Table 4.9: Proportion of Children Aged 0-9 with a Disability 2011

Area	% of Children
Mildura	2.5%
Irymple	1.2%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	5.0%
Red Cliffs	2.6%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	13.6%
NSW Towns	2.1%
Mildura RCC	2.5%
Regional Victoria	2.3%
Melbourne	1.8%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

## 5. Community Engagement

### 5.1 Individuals Isolated by Language

The level of engagement within a community can be inferred, to some extent, by the proportion of its population born overseas who are isolated by language. In 2011, more than 15% of Mildura RCC residents experienced isolation due to English language barriers, up by 1.3 percentage points since 2006. This is in contrast to Regional Victoria which reported a 4.2 percentage point decline in the proportion of local residents isolated by language since 2006.

Only two communities within Mildura RCC recorded a reduction in the proportion of local residents isolated by language since 2006, Red Cliffs and Mallee Track (falling 6.1 and 8.8 percentage points respectively).

While most communities within Mildura RCC reported a lower average proportion of individuals isolated by language compared to the region, two communities had almost a third of local residents likely isolated due to language barriers (almost twice that of the Mildura RCC average). In Robinvale (with 28.2% of individuals isolated by language), this is likely explained by the high proportion of non-Australian born residents, particularly those from non-English speaking nations such as Afghanistan and Vietnam. While for the Millewa (with 28.0% of individuals isolated by language), data showing the high proportion of individuals isolated by language) the high proportion of individuals isolated by language), data showing the high proportion of individuals isolated by population must interpreted with caution given the community's relatively small local population.



Figure 5.1: Individuals Isolated by Language (2011 Census) - English Not Spoken Very Well/At All as % of Persons Born Overseas

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Note: To be isolated by language, it is presumed that an individual feels they do not speak English very well or at all. Source: ABS (2012a)

# Table 5.1: Individuals Isolated by Language (2011 Census) - English Not Spoken Very Well/At All as % of Persons Born Overseas

Area	Proportion of Individuals Isolated by Language (%)
Millewa	28.0%
Merbein	8.6%
Mildura	15.3%
Nichols Point	5.6%
Irymple	13.1%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	13.8%
Red Cliffs	4.3%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	16.5%
Ouyen / Walpeup	0.0%
Mallee Track	0.0%
Robinvale	28.2%
NSW Towns	2.0%
Mildura RCC	15.5%
Regional Victoria	1.3%
Melbourne	13.0%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

### 5.2 Profile of Group

The 2008 *Mildura Social Indicators Report* used the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) data on new arrivals to Mildura from overseas between January 1 2005 and January 1 2008. Following the release of the 2011 Census, this section has been updated using the latest ABS data. It captures the total number of new overseas arrivals to Mildura RCC over the five years to 2011, highlighting their country of birth, religion practiced as well as major language spoken.

Mildura RCC reported a total of approximately 1,000 overseas arrivals during the five years to 2011. Almost a third of these arrivals were from countries such as India, Afghanistan and England. Islam was observed to be the most widely practiced religion with nearly 20% of the new arrivals following this religion. This is potentially associated with the large arrivals of people who were born in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq. Over 30% of the new arrivals reported English as their major language.

Country of Birth	Religion		Major Language		
Country	%	Religion	%	Language	%
India	14.2%	No Religion	19.1%	English	31.3%
Afghanistan	11.1%	Islam	19.0%	Hazaraghi	5.1%
England	8.1%	Catholic	16.4%	Dari	4.6%
Australia	8.1%	Buddhism	7.6%	Punjabi	4.4%
New Zealand	5.7%	Hinduism	7.2%	Mandarin	4.2%
Philippines	5.5%	Anglican	5.5%	Arabic	4.0%
Iraq	3.2%	Sikhism	5.3%	Malayalam	3.0%
Sri Lanka	3.2%	Uniting Church	3.3%	Turkish	2.5%
South Africa	3.1%	Latter-day Saints	3.1%	Tongan	2.5%
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	2.5%	Christian, nfd	2.4%	Tagalog	2.3%
Other	35.2%	Other	11.3%	Other	36.0%

Table 5.2:	Characteristics	of New	<b>Arrivals</b>	2011
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Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

The table below provides a snapshot of the tertiary education qualifications of the recent arrivals to Mildura RCC. Over 20% of the new arrivals to Mildura had a bachelor degree or equivalent, with less than 5% having a postgraduate level degree in 2011. However, the majority of new arrivals did not hold a tertiary qualification.

#### Table 5.3: Education of New Arrivals 2011

Level of Qualifications Achieved	%		
Not applicable (No Qualification)			
Bachelor Degree Level	20.8%		
Certificate Level	11.1%		
Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level	9.6%		
Postgraduate Degree Level	4.0%		
Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level	1.3%		

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

### 5.3 Social Cohesion

This section provides an update on the two key measures of social cohesion - volunteering and unpaid assistance provided to people with disability. During the five years to 2011, the proportion of residents undertaking voluntary work has remained largely unchanged across each of the three areas of Mildura RCC, Regional Victoria and Melbourne. The proportion of Mildura RCC residents engaged in some form of voluntary work continues to exceed that reported by Melbourne.

Mallee Track had the highest proportion of residents undertaking voluntary work at 47.9%, more than twice the Mildura RCC average. This was followed by Ouyen / Walpeup (39.9%) and the Millewa (30.8%). These three communities also tended to have lower rates of population movement and relatively higher average ages than other communities assessed.





Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)  $% \left( 2012a\right) \left( 2012$ 

Table	5.4:	Volunteering	2011
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Area	Volunteer	Not a Volunteer	Voluntary Work Not Stated
Millewa	30.8%	59.6%	9.6%
Merbein	21.9%	71.2%	6.9%
Mildura	17.9%	71.7%	10.4%
Nichols Point	22.7%	70.4%	6.9%
Irymple	20.7%	71.9%	7.4%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	19.9%	72.6%	7.5%
Red Cliffs	20.2%	71.5%	8.2%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	24.2%	66.1%	9.6%
Ouyen / Walpeup	39.9%	52.1%	8.0%
Mallee Track	47.9%	46.5%	5.6%
Robinvale	19.6%	60.7%	19.7%
NSW Towns	23.2%	67.4%	9.4%
Mildura RCC	20.2%	70.6%	9.2%

Regional Victoria	23.4%	68.4%	8.2%
Melbourne	15.8%	76.4%	7.8%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

Between 2006 and 2011, there has been an approximate 1.0% increase in the level of unpaid assistance provided to people with a disability across each of the three areas including Mildura RCC, Regional Victoria and Melbourne. Unlike volunteering, the communities within Mildura RCC displayed relatively less variation in the level of unpaid assistance provided to residents with disability.

#### Figure 5.3: Unpaid Assistance 2011



Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)  $% \left( 2012a\right) \left( 2012$ 

#### Table 5.5: Unpaid Assistance 2011

Area	Provided Unpaid Assistance	No Unpaid Assistance	Unpaid Assistance Not Stated
Millewa	11.1%	80.4%	8.5%
Merbein	14.3%	78.4%	7.3%
Mildura	11.6%	77.6%	10.7%
Nichols Point	13.3%	78.8%	7.9%
Irymple	12.8%	79.5%	7.7%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	13.3%	78.5%	8.2%
Red Cliffs	12.1%	79.1%	8.7%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	9.8%	81.1%	9.1%
Ouyen / Walpeup	14.1%	77.8%	8.1%
Mallee Track	12.7%	79.2%	8.1%
Robinvale	11.1%	69.4%	19.5%
NSW Towns	12.8%	77.5%	9.7%
Mildura RCC	12.2%	78.2%	9.6%
Regional Victoria	12.3%	79.1%	8.6%
Melbourne	10.9%	81.1%	8.0%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level.

Source: ABS (2012a)

## 6.1 Child Maltreatment

Child maltreatment refers to all forms of abuse and neglect to children aged under 18 years. This *Mildura Social Indicators Report* uses data from the Victorian Department of Human Services (unpublished) to assess the comparative rate of substantiated cases of child maltreatment in Mildura RCC in comparison to Metropolitan Melbourne.

In line with 2007 data (MRCC, 2008), the 2011-12 rate of substantiated cases of child maltreatment in Mildura RCC (17.2 cases per 1,000 children) is more than three times higher than the rate reported for Metropolitan Melbourne (5.7 cases per 1,000 children). This area of community safety warrants closer attention from the Northern Mallee Community Partnership Executive Committee.

#### 6.2 **Crime Against Property**

Adjusting for the different sizes of local communities, crime against property rates are represented as a proportion each community's total population.

Over the five years to 2011/12, Mildura RCC recorded a relatively stable rate of crime against property averaging around 6.5%. Generally most communities recorded a stable or slightly increasing rate of crime over the five year period. The highest rate of crime against property in 2011/12 was reported in Mildura (7.1%), while Walpeup reported the lowest rate (0.7%).



#### Figure 6.1: Crimes Against Property

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the postcode level. Note: Data for Regional Victoria and Melbourne are unavailable in this report. Source: Victoria Police (2013a)

Area	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Ouyen	6.2%	7.5%	5.5%	8.0%	4.7%	3.7%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	2.2%	2.0%	2.8%	2.7%	3.0%	3.4%
Millewa and Red Cliffs	3.3%	5.0%	4.7%	4.6%	5.1%	4.5%
Irymple	1.7%	1.5%	2.0%	2.2%	2.4%	3.0%
Mildura	6.9%	7.9%	8.0%	8.8%	8.2%	7.1%
Nichols Point	0.8%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	1.1%	1.9%
Merbein	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%	4.1%	4.4%
Walpeup	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	1.2%	0.5%	0.7%
Underbool	1.5%	1.0%	3.0%	3.0%	1.5%	7.0%
Carina and Murrayville	0.2%	0.4%	0.9%	0.9%	1.1%	0.9%
Robinvale	8.7%	9.3%	8.2%	5.8%	4.9%	5.1%
Mildura RCC	6.1%	6.9%	6.9%	7.2%	6.8%	6.2%
Victoria	5.3%	5.3%	5.2%	4.9%	4.7%	5.0%

#### **Table 6.1: Crimes Against Property**

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the postcode level.

Note: Data for Regional Victoria and Melbourne are unavailable in this report.

Source: Victoria Police (2013a)

#### 6.3 Crime Against Persons

Again, adjusting for the different sizes of local communities, crime against the person rates are represented as a proportion each community's total population.

Over the five years to 2011/12, Mildura RCC recorded an increasing proportion of crimes against the person. Generally most communities recorded a stable or slightly increasing rate of crime over the five year period. The highest rates of crime against the person in 2011/12 were observed in both Mildura and Robinvale (2.2%).

#### Figure 6.2: Crimes Against the Person



Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the postcode level. Note: Data for Regional Victoria and Melbourne are unavailable in this report. Source: Victoria Police (2013a)

Area	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Ouyen	1.2%	0.8%	1.5%	1.6%	0.6%	0.5%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	1.1%	0.6%	0.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.4%
Millewa and Red Cliffs	0.6%	1.2%	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%	0.8%
Irymple	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	0.6%
Mildura	1.5%	1.3%	1.5%	1.9%	2.2%	2.2%
Nichols Point	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.9%	0.8%	0.4%
Merbein	1.2%	0.8%	1.2%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
Walpeup	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Underbool	0.0%	0.5%	2.5%	0.5%	1.0%	0.5%
Carina and Murrayville	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%
Robinvale	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%	2.2%	1.9%	2.2%
Mildura RCC	1.4%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%
Victoria	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%

#### **Table 6.2: Crimes Against the Person**

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the postcode level.

Note: Data for Regional Victoria and Melbourne are unavailable in this report.

Source: Victoria Police (2013a)

### 6.4 Domestic Violence

This iteration of the *Mildura Social Indicators Report* draws on family incident report data from Victoria Police (2013). This data, presented for Mildura RCC and Victoria, is used as an indicator of domestic violence which can ultimately help reflect overall community safety as well as any need for community education and counselling services.

The impacts of domestic violence are widespread, from its considerable links to homicide and homelessness to the severe effects it has on the physical and mental health of family members involved. While the economic costs of domestic violence are difficult to estimate, it is understood that children and adolescents living with domestic violence are far more at risk of experiencing emotional, physical and sexual abuse, further adding to the perpetual costs and consequences of domestic violence (Mitchell, 2011).

The rate of family incidents (per 100,000 residents) in Mildura RCC increased by approximately 60% from 2007-08 to 2011-12. This increase is generally consistent with the rest of the State, However the overall rate of family violence per 100,000 in Mildura is approximately twice the State average and has consistently been so for several years.





Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the Police Service Area (PSA) level. Source: Victoria Police (2013b)

Area	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Mildura RCC	1,205.3	1,260.4	1,560.3	1,793.0	1,990.4
Victoria	608.3	640.3	661.5	746.8	910.3

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the Police Service Area (PSA) level. Source: Victoria Police (2013b)

#### 6.5 Road Trauma

Road trauma continues to represent a significant cause of death and disability in Australia, a major factor influencing community safety. The annual economic cost of road crashes in Australia is large (estimated at \$27 billion per annum) and the social impacts for direct victims and whole communities are devastating (Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, 2011).

The rate of road trauma as a proportion of total population in Mildura RCC has generally remained stable over 2009-2011. Moreover, the rate is generally in line with the state with approximately 0.3% of residents reported to have been involved in a road accident.



#### Figure 6.4: Road Trauma as Injury/Fatality and No Injury

Note: Road trauma data in Werrimull, Underbool and Murrayville between 2009 and 2011 was unavailable. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the VicRoads Rural Town/City level. Source: VicRoads (2014)

	In	jury/Fa	tal	No Injury					
Area	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011			
Red Cliffs	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%			
Merbein	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%			
Ouyen	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%			
Mildura RCC	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%			
Melbourne LGA	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%			
Victoria	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%			

#### Table 6.4: Road Trauma as Injury/Fatality and No Injury

Note: Road trauma data in Werrimull, Underbool and Murrayville between 2009 and 2011 was unavailable. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the VicRoads Rural Town/City level. Source: VicRoads (2014)

## 7. Economic

### 7.1 Occupational Categories

The following section assesses occupational patterns across the aggregated regional localities of 'Mildura-Rural' and 'Mildura-Central' and compares them with findings for Victoria, Regional Victoria and Melbourne.

Mildura – Central and Regional Victoria recorded relatively similar proportions of workers in each of the occupational categories in 2011, with only the higher proportion of sales workers in Mildura – Central representing any significant difference. In comparison to averages for the state and Melbourne, Mildura – Central reported a lower proportion of white collar workers and a higher proportion of blue collar workers.

Mildura – Rural reported a higher proportion of managers (majority of which are farmers managing their own properties) and labourers and a significantly lower proportion of professionals than the other comparison regions reflecting the dominant industries in this region.

Since 2006, Mildura – Rural (and to a lesser extent Mildura – Central) has seen a significant decline in the proportion of residents holding managerial occupations, falling 21.2 and 3.4 percentage points respectively over the five years. The proportion of labourers has also fallen in both regions since 2006, by 4.1 and 3.4 percentage points respectively. While more extreme, these trends are generally in line with the state. In contrast to the state, Mildura – Rural has reported significant increases in the proportion of technicians and trade workers, clerical and administration workers and sales workers since 2006, all increasing as a proportion of total occupations by around 5.5 percentage points.

	Mildura -	Mildura -	1	Regional	
Occupation	Rural	Central	Victoria	Victoria	Melbourne
Managers	21.2%	11.5%	13.2%	15.1%	14.7%
Professionals	11.9%	17.6%	22.3%	16.8%	41.8%
Technicians and Trade workers	13.0%	13.9%	13.9%	15.4%	6.6%
Community and Personal Service Workers	8.7%	11.1%	9.3%	10.3%	9.4%
Clerical and Administration Workers	10.9%	12.4%	14.4%	11.7%	13.2%
Sales Workers	9.5%	12.6%	9.7%	9.7%	7.4%
Machine Operators and Drivers	8.0%	6.4%	6.1%	6.9%	1.3%
Labourers	14.9%	12.3%	9.0%	12.3%	3.4%
Inadequately described / not stated	1.9%	2.2%	2.2%	2.0%	2.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

#### Table 7.1: Proportion of Employees in Occupational Categories, 2011

Note: 'Mildura - Central' consists of all SA1 catchments within the urban centre of Mildura RCC,

'Mildura – Rural' consists of all the remaining SA1 catchments in Mildura RCC.

Note: White Collar occupations are defined by the ABS as Managers, Professionals, Community and personal service workers,

Clerical and administrative workers and Sales workers Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA1 level.

Source: ABS (2012a)

#### 7.2 **Occupations**

In 2011, the number of skilled workers (professionals, technicians and trade workers) as a proportion of all occupations was 23.3% lower in Mildura RCC compared to the state average.

While still slightly below the state average, the highest proportions of skilled workers within Mildura RCC were recorded in Nichols Point (32.7%) and Mildura (31.4%). The lowest proportion of skilled workers was recorded in Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater) (10.4%).



#### Figure 7.1: Skilled Workers, 2011

Note: Skilled workers include professionals, technicians and trades workers. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

<b>Table</b>	7.2:	Skilled	Workers,	2011
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Area	Skilled Workers 2011
Millewa	12.9%
Merbein	26.2%
Mildura	31.4%
Nichols Point	32.7%
Irymple	29.5%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	29.6%
Red Cliffs	25.6%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	10.4%
Ouyen / Walpeup	22.9%
Mallee Track	13.0%
Robinvale	18.1%
NSW Towns	26.9%
Mildura RCC	29.4%
Victoria	36.2%
Regional Victoria	32.1%
Melbourne	48.4%

Note: Skilled workers include professionals, technicians and trades workers.

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

### 7.3 Types of Business

Unlike the 2008 report, which looked at the business by industry structures by subregions, this section assess the business by industry data at the ABS defined Statistical Area 2 (SA2) level. This is in response to a change in the geographical boundaries reported by the ABS.

In 2011, Mildura Region, Red Cliffs and Merbein had a strong dominance of agriculturalbased businesses (accounting for more than 55% of their total businesses). In contrast, Irymple and Mildura recorded relatively diversified business activity base. The key sectors driving their economies included agriculture, construction, and rental and hiring services.

Industry	Irymple	Merbein	Mildura	Mildura Region	<b>Red Cliffs</b>
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	38%	56%	16%	66%	60%
Mining	n.a	0%	0%	n.a	1%
Manufacturing	3%	3%	4%	2%	4%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0%	n.a	0%	0%	1%
Construction	18%	11%	14%	5%	9%
Wholesale Trade	2%	1%	4%	1%	1%
Retail Trade	4%	3%	9%	5%	3%
Accommodation and Food Services	1%	3%	6%	3%	1%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	7%	8%	4%	4%	6%
Information Media and Telecommunications	n.a	n.a	1%	0%	1%
Financial and Insurance Services	3%	2%	6%	3%	3%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	9%	3%	12%	4%	3%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	4%	3%	7%	2%	2%
Administrative and Support Services	2%	3%	3%	0%	1%
Public Administration and Safety	0%	1%	0%	n.a	n.a
Education and Training	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1%	0%	5%	0%	1%
Arts and Recreation Services	1%	0%	1%	0%	n.a
Other Services	5%	2%	5%	2%	4%
Not Classified	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%

Table 7.3: Proportion of Businesses by Industry by SA2, June 2011

Note: Mildura Region refers to the vast area of MRCC outside of Irymple, Merbein, Mildura and Red Cliffs. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level.

Source: ABS (2012a)

## 7.4 Employment Within Business Categories

In 2011, the key employment sectors driving Mildura RCC's economy were agriculture (15.7%), construction (11.5%), manufacturing (11.4%) and retail trade (10.7%), jointly employing almost half of the resident workforce in Mildura RCC. In comparison to Regional Victoria, agriculture and, to a lesser extent, construction accounted for a higher proportion of local employment in Mildura RCC. Whereas the health care and social assistance and education and training sectors made up lower proportions of local employment in RCC than they did in Regional Victoria.

Agriculture is the main employing sector across much of Mildura RCC, particularly in the Millewa, Red Cliffs, Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater), Ouyen / Walpeup and Mallee Track. The other regions have a more diversified employment base, with retail trade and health care sectors tending to employ higher proportions of the local workforce.

The overall proportional pattern for employment within Mildura RCC has remained generally stable since 2006. The most significant change over the five years 2011 has been in the construction industry which has reported a 4.8 percentage point increase in the proportion of employed Mildura RCC residents employed in the industry. Agriculture, forestry and fishing and transport, postal and warehousing also reported increases in the proportion of residents working in these sectors. Industries in Mildura RCC's tertiary/service sector have generally seen reductions in the proportions of local residents employed. This decline has been most pronounced in education and training, health care and social assistance and retail trade.



#### Table 7.4: Employment by Industry by Place of Residence, 2011

Industry	Units	Millewa	Merbein	Mildura	Nichols Point	Irymple	Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	Red Cliffs	Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	Ouyen / Walpeup	Mallee Track	Robinvale	NSW Towns	Mildura RCC	Regional Victoria	Melbourne
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	%	61.9	14.6	5.3	8.2	10.8	15.6	17.2	54.6	27.9	57.0	37.4	20.2	15.7	3.4	0.6
Mining	%	0.0	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.1	0.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	3.9	2.0	0.4	0.3
Manufacturing	%	1.8	8.8	7.4	8.5	8.3	8.3	12.0	10.1	1.8	0.0	10.4	5.8	11.4	8.3	14.5
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	%	2.3	1.7	1.6	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.2	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.7	2.6	2.2	1.0	1.2
Construction	%	1.4	5.9	6.0	13.1	8.9	9.3	5.9	4.7	4.3	1.5	3.8	6.1	11.5	5.0	13.4
Wholesale Trade	%	2.3	2.6	3.1	3.5	4.1	4.7	3.0	2.4	4.2	0.7	2.1	3.2	4.4	3.6	5.9
Retail Trade	%	3.7	13.6	14.7	11.1	13.9	13.1	13.8	6.8	10.8	4.9	7.8	9.2	10.7	12.5	8.7
Accommodation and Food Services	%	6.4	6.4	8.9	5.3	6.6	3.9	6.0	2.7	4.0	4.0	4.2	7.6	5.4	6.8	5.2
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	%	5.0	5.7	4.3	5.3	5.3	6.6	4.6	0.0	7.9	5.2	3.2	3.8	7.5	3.2	6.8
Information Media and Telecommunications	%	0.0	0.2	1.1	1.5	1.4	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1	1.6	2.6
Financial and Insurance Services	%	0.0	2.2	1.7	2.2	1.6	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.4	2.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	3.9	4.6
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	%	0.0	0.3	1.0	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.4
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	%	0.0	2.5	3.9	5.1	2.9	3.3	1.8	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.4	2.2	3.1	6.7	9.4
Administrative and Support Services	%	0.0	3.1	3.7	2.6	2.7	3.1	4.2	4.7	0.6	0.0	1.8	3.8	3.1	3.3	3.3
Public Administration and Safety	%	1.4	5.4	6.3	4.6	5.0	4.8	4.1	1.5	4.6	2.5	1.8	5.7	5.2	5.8	4.8
Education and Training	%	3.2	8.6	9.0	8.2	7.5	6.1	7.6	4.5	7.0	9.1	6.3	7.4	4.6	10.5	4.6
Health Care and Social Assistance	%	5.0	11.4	13.5	10.9	10.2	7.8	8.7	1.8	14.8	6.4	10.3	9.9	4.2	16.8	4.4
Arts and Recreation Services	%	2.3	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.6	1.1	1.7	1.8
Other Services	%	1.4	3.3	4.0	4.1	3.3	4.2	3.5	1.2	2.4	1.2	2.4	3.1	4.4	3.6	3.7
Inadequately described / Not Stated	%	1.8	1.9	2.5	1.5	3.4	3.1	2.0	3.3	2.5	4.0	6.3	2.7	0.0	0.2	2.8
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA1 level.

Source: ABS (2012a)

#### 7.5 Unemployment

The Mildura RCC unemployment rate was 6.6% in 2011, an increase of 1.2 percentage points from 2006. This is in comparison to Regional Victoria at 5.2% and Melbourne at 5.5%, both of which have remained steady during the five year period.

Across Mildura RCC communities, the 2011 unemployment rates were highest in Merbein (7.8%) and Mildura (7.7%) both of which have increased since the 2008 report, while the lowest unemployment rate was recorded in the Millewa (2.6%).





Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

Area	Unemployment Rate (%)
Millewa	2.6%
Merbein	7.8%
Mildura	7.7%
Nichols Point	3.1%
Irymple	3.4%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	5.2%
Red Cliffs	7.0%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	6.2%
Ouyen / Walpeup	4.0%
Mallee Track	2.9%
Robinvale	7.5%
NSW Towns	6.4%
Mildura RCC	6.6%
Victoria	5.4%
Regional Victoria	5.2%
Melbourne	5.5%

Note: Data for new start recipients whom have been unemployed for 2+ years was unavailable. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

The Federal initiative known as Newstart provides financial assistance in the form of allowances to those eligible who are actively looking for work. The stated purpose of this allowance is to support individuals to undertake activities which may increase their chances of finding a job. This social indicators report measures the number of Newstart recipients in each community as a proportion of that community's labour force. The resulting findings can provide insight into the potential prevalence of discouraged job seekers or long term unemployment.

In 2012 Mildura central reported the highest proportion of its local labour force receiving Newstart allowance (10.6%), around two percentage points higher than the Mildura RCC average (8.8%). This is in line with 2006 data which was published in the 2008 *Mildura Social Indicators Report*. Irymple reported the lowest proportion of its labour force as recipients of Newstart allowance (5.2%), also in line with 2006 data. Between 2006 and 2012, an increasing trend in the proportion of individual engaged in the labour force and receiving new start allowance has been observed.

#### Table 7.6: Recipients of Newstart Allowance (2012)

Area	% of Labour Force
Colignan and Nangiloc	8.2%
Millewa and Red Cliffs	7.5%
Irymple	5.2%
Mildura	10.6%
Nichols Point	5.6%
Merbein	7.7%
Robinvale	8.1%
NSW Towns	8.4%
Mildura RCC	8.8%

Note: Data for Newstart recipients whom have been unemployed for 2+ years was unavailable. Note: Data for Newstart recipients in Victoria was not available.

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the postcode area.

Source: Centrelink (unpublished b)

### 7.6 Taxable Income

The average taxable income of Mildura RCC's residents reached \$46,279 in 2009-10, representing an average annual increase of 5.7% since 2007-08. While the region's growth was in line with the Regional Victoria and Melbourne trend, its taxable income continues to stay well below both the Melbourne and the Regional Victoria income levels.

The taxable incomes across the communities generally recorded an upward trend between 2007-08 and 2009-10. However, Underbool experienced an average annual drop of 6.4% in its resident's average taxable income during the same period.



#### Figure 7.3: Taxable Income Distribution

Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the postcode area. Source: Australian Taxation Office (2012)

Table 2	7.7:	Taxable	Income
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Area	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Ouyen	\$45,733	\$44,495	\$49,136
Colignan and Nangiloc	\$35,296	\$36,450	\$39,915
Millewa	\$39,256	\$40,685	\$43,479
Irymple	\$42,013	\$44,808	\$47,546
Mildura	\$41,456	\$44,582	\$46,635
Nichols Point	\$42,332	\$45,182	\$47,625
Merbein	\$39,992	\$42,220	\$45,145
Walpeup	\$47,208	\$48,695	\$50,684
Underbool	\$57,750	\$46,978	\$50,647
Carina and Murrayville	\$43,858	\$41,661	\$41,523
NSW Towns	\$40,437	\$43,121	\$46,681
Mildura RCC	\$41,391	\$43,870	\$46,279
Regional Victoria	\$45,562	\$48,869	\$51,248
Melbourne	\$55,408	\$59,060	\$61,615

Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the postcode area. Source: Australian Taxation Office (2012)

### 7.7 Tourism

In the following data the SA2 region named Mildura refers to Mildura central, while Mildura Region refers to the vast area of MRCC LGA outside of Irymple, Merbein, Mildura and Red Cliffs (refer to **Geographies** for further details).

The proceeding section provides readers with an in-depth look at tourist activity for SA2 areas within Mildura RCC and also activity across the broader region between 2006 and 2011. The three key measures of tourist activity reported in this section are domestic overnight visitors, domestic visitor nights and international visitors.

The domestic visitors market between 2006 and 2011 has generally seen a decline in activity for most SA2s within Mildura RCC. While Mildura central continues to attract the largest number of domestic overnight and day visitors, the number of visitors to the area declined by 16.7% and 17.4% respectively over the period. A similar pattern has been observed in the Mildura region. This declining trend is in line with the declining rate of domestic overnight and day visitors to Mildura RCC. Between 2006 and 2011 the number of domestic overnight visitors to Mildura RCC fell from 492,000 to 393,000 (20.1%), while the number of domestic day visitors fell 254,000 to 191,000 (24.8%).

The Mildura Region generally attracts a relatively high proportion of domestic day visitors, receiving over 100,000 for the year ended December 2010.



#### Figure 7.4: Domestic Overnight Visitors ('000)

Note: Figures are for YE December. Figures should be interpreted with caution due to sample size. Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2012)

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Irymple	-	2	1	-	1	4
Merbein	2	3	-	2	8	3
Mildura	425	389	348	341	326	354
Mildura Region	58	35	28	57	35	24
Red Cliffs	7	-	6	1	4	8
Robinvale	19	20	16	13	32	12

Table 7.8: Domestic Overnight Visitors ('000)

Note: Figures are for YE December. Figures should be interpreted with caution due to sample size.

Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2012)





Note: Figures are for YE December. Figures should be interpreted with caution due to sample size. Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2012)

Table 7.9: Domestic Day	Visitors ('000)
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Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Irymple	6	-	7	-	-	-
Merbein	167	202	150	165	157	138
Mildura	66	81	29	20	111	53
Mildura Region	15	-	5	-	27	-
Red Cliffs	8	43	9	-	38	-
Robinvale	6	-	7	-	-	-

Note: Figures are for YE December. Figures should be interpreted with caution due to sample size. Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2012)

In contrast to the domestic visitors market, the international visitor market has been relatively stable, even showing signs of potential growth over the period. The number of international visitors to Mildura's central area grew 27.2% to reach over 15,000 for the first time over the six years to December 2011.



Figure 7.6: International Visitors (No.)

Note: Figures are for YE December. Figures should be interpreted with caution due to sample size. Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2012)

Table 7.10: International Visitors (No.)

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Irymple	-	160	-	-	-	-
Merbein	-	60	216	16	-	-
Mildura	12,040	14,885	12,080	10,368	10,758	15,318
Mildura Region	957	998	431	1,087	608	492
Red Cliffs	107	-	380	398	63	323
Robinvale	1,498	730	610	556	1,796	2,596

Note: Figures are for YE December. Figures should be interpreted with caution due to sample size. Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level. Source: Tourism Research Australia (2012)

### 7.8 Internet Connections/Access

The level of internet access including the connection type used by households within a community is used as a measure to indicate the degree of connectivity in each community compared to the broader regions. Understanding a community's access to internet and its connection provides insight into each community's access to the range of socio-economic benefits of the internet.

The level of internet access across Mildura RCC has increased by almost 15 percentage points since the 2008 report, with nearly 70% of its households having access to some type of internet connection in 2011. This figure was significantly below the Melbourne average (82.0%) while only marginally below the state average (73.1%), in line with the differential patterns observed in the 2006 data.

At the catchment level, broadband continues to be the most popular form of internet connection used by households, with generally less than 10% of households using dial-up or other connections. This was in line with both regional and state internet usage patterns. In 2011, Nichols Point recorded the largest proportion of households (79.4%) having access to internet and Ouyen / Walpeup the lowest (63.8%).





Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)  $% \left( 2012a\right) \left( 2012$ 

Table 7.11: Internet Access and Conn	ections, 2011
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Area	Broadband	Dial- Up	Other Connection	No Connection	Total Connected
Millewa	64.3%	3.8%	4.5%	27.4%	72.6%
Merbein	61.9%	4.1%	3.7%	30.2%	69.8%
Mildura	60.0%	2.9%	5.0%	32.1%	67.9%
Nichols Point	71.8%	2.7%	4.8%	20.6%	79.4%
Irymple	66.2%	3.5%	4.5%	25.9%	74.1%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	67.4%	6.2%	4.2%	22.1%	77.9%
Red Cliffs	58.8%	4.3%	4.7%	32.2%	67.8%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	52.4%	1.8%	10.0%	35.8%	64.2%

Ouyen / Walpeup	56.1%	4.1%	3.6%	36.2%	63.8%
Mallee Track	59.6%	4.1%	4.1%	32.3%	67.7%
Robinvale	50.7%	4.6%	4.9%	39.8%	60.2%
NSW Towns	60.0%	3.9%	3.4%	32.8%	67.2%
Mildura RCC	61.5%	3.3%	4.5%	30.7%	69.3%
Victoria	65.0%	3.8%	4.4%	26.9%	73.1%
Melbourne	75.2%	2.9%	3.9%	18.0%	82.0%

Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)

## 8. Education

### 8.1 Playgroup Participation

Research shows that playgroups foster the development of children, encouraging their social, emotional, physical, cognitive and behavioural development (Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 2012). Between 2011 and 2012 there has been an overall rise in the number of children attending Mildura RCC organised playgroups.



Figure 8.1: Number of Children Attending Mildura RCC Playgroups, 2011-2012

Note: Due to availability, data only includes children attending Mildura RCC playgroups and a result likely underestimates the total number of local children attending playgroup. Source: MRCC (2013a)

 Table 8.1: Number of Children attending Mildura RCC playgroups, 2011-2012

	January -	July - December	January -	July - December
	June 2011	2011	June 2012	2012
Number of Children attending Mildura RCC playgroups	35	43	41	49

Note: Due to availability, data only includes children attending Mildura RCC playgroups and a result likely underestimates the total number of local children attending playgroup.

Source: MRCC (2013a)

### 8.2 Attendance at Pre-School

In line with the methodology applied in the previous report, this section uses 2011 Census data to estimate the proportion of all children attending pre-school based on the number of 0-4 year olds in each community.

Mildura RCC's 2011 pre-school attendance rate of 18.6% is in line with both Regional Victoria (17.6%) and Melbourne (19.0%). In comparison to the 2006 figures, each of these three regions recorded a considerable drop in their respective pre-school participation rates.

Pre-school attendance varied across communities within Mildura RCC. Pre-school attendance ranged between 8.3% (in Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)) and 40.0% (in Mallee Track). Overall, the proportion of children attending pre-school has declined across regions within Mildura RCC since 2006. Mildura recorded a drop in pre-school attendance of 9.8 percentage points since 2006, the second most significant drop of all communities since 2006.





Note: Calculated on basis number of 0-4 year olds. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Note: Pre-school attendance data includes all categories of pre-school. Source: ABS (2012a)

Table 8.2: Proportion	n of Pre-Scho	ool Attendance,	2011
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Area	Attending Pre-School	0-4 Year Olds	Proportion Attending
Millewa	11	38	28.9%
Merbein	69	300	23.0%
Mildura	328	2,121	15.5%
Nichols Point	16	90	17.8%
Irymple	63	277	22.7%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	41	144	28.5%
Red Cliffs	51	281	18.1%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	3	36	8.3%
Ouyen / Walpeup	12	82	14.6%
Mallee Track	12	30	40.0%
Robinvale	54	303	17.8%

Area	Attending Pre-School	0-4 Year Olds	Proportion Attending
NSW Towns	97	449	21.6%
Mildura RCC	631	3,387	18.6%
Regional Victoria	14,983	85,103	17.6%
Melbourne	49,435	259,630	19.0%

Note: Calculated on basis number of 0-4 year olds. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Note: Pre-school attendance data includes all categories of pre-school. Source: ABS (2012a)

### 8.3 Incomplete Education/Training

A minimum level of educational attainment is a key determinant for successful workforce engagement. This section examines the proportion of 17-24 aged persons who are neither in the process of completing Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) nor acquiring any additional education or training (for example attending any other educational institution such as University or TAFE).

The educational attainment pattern has remained largely unchanged within Mildura RCC over the five years to 2011, in line with the patterns observed in both Regional Victoria and Melbourne. In 2011, more than 30% of 17-24 year olds within Mildura RCC were not attending VCE and had not completed year 12. Consistent with the 2006 trend the Mildura RCC figure was more than twice that of Melbourne (12.4%).

The educational attainment pattern across communities within Mildura RCC was similar, with few displaying significant variation. The Millewa particularly stands out, given that each of its residents aged 17-24 years were not attending VCE and had not completed year 12 (however, this outcome should be interpreted with caution as the ABS introduces error to protect privacy in small areas). More than 40% of Red Cliffs residents aged 17-24 were not attending VCE and had not completed year 12. The findings across Mildura RCC are generally lower than those recorded in NSW towns, which reported a high proportion of 17-24 year old residents not attending / did not complete year 12.

# Figure 8.3: Proportion of 17-24 Year Olds Neither Completing VCE nor undertaking Further Education and Training, 2011



Note: Not attending/did not complete year 12: these people didn't complete their school studies and are not currently a student. Note: Not attending completed year 12: these people finished their schooling but are not currently a student. Note: Attending school or university: these people are currently students at an educational facility (includes all forms). Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level.

Note: Data for areas with small populations (such as the Millewa) need to be interpreted with caution as the ABS have introduced small random errors to avoid the release of confidential data. Source: ABS (2012a)

# Table 8.3: Proportion of 17-24 Year Olds Neither Completing VCE nor undertaking Further Education and Training, 2011

		Not Attending	Attending School,
	Not Attending/Did	Completed Year 12 or	University, TAFE,
Area	Not Complete Year 12	Equivalent	Other

Millewa	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Merbein	32.2%	31.6%	36.3%
Mildura	33.8%	28.1%	38.1%
Nichols Point	30.7%	16.5%	52.8%
Irymple	23.8%	28.4%	47.8%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	14.1%	47.4%	38.5%
Red Cliffs	40.5%	34.3%	25.2%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	30.6%	50.0%	19.4%
Ouyen / Walpeup	10.2%	30.6%	59.2%
Mallee Track	0.0%	53.8%	46.2%
Robinvale	26.3%	48.1%	25.6%
NSW Towns	41.7%	32.1%	26.2%
Mildura RCC	32.4%	29.8%	37.8%
Regional Victoria	25.6%	29.4%	45.0%
Melbourne	12.4%	29.1%	58.5%

Note: Not attending/did not complete year 12: these people didn't complete their school studies and are not currently a student. Note: Not attending school or university: these people finished their schooling but are not currently a student. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Note: Data for areas with small populations (such as the Millewa) need to be interpreted with caution as the ABS have introduced small random errors to avoid the release of confidential data. Source: ABS (2012a)

### 8.4 **Overall Education**

This section assesses the overall education levels across the various communities in Mildura RCC, drawing comparisons to Regional Victoria and Melbourne in 2011. Consistent with the approach in the 2008 report, the level of schooling figures in the table below exclude persons over 15 years of age who are still completing school.

The level of year 12 schooling attained by Mildura RCC residents (over the age of 15) has increased by 3.3 percentage points since 2006, with over a third of its population (above the age of 15) having completed year 12 or equivalent in 2011. Despite this increase, the rate of year 12 completion within the region remains considerably below the Melbourne average (59.3%).

The levels of schooling attainment across the comparison communities displayed considerable variation. While the Millewa and Ouyen / Walpeup recorded relatively low year 12 completion rates, Mildura's year 12 completion rate was 2.6 percentage points higher than the Mildura RCC average in 2011.

Levels of educational attainment reported for each community are influenced by its demographics. Accordingly, data must be considered against the demographics of each community as discussed in **Chapter 2 – Overview of the Region**.

Area	Year 12 or equivalent	Year 11 or equivalent	Year 10 or equivalent	Year 9 or equivalent	Year 8 or below	Did not go to school
Millewa	27.4%	23.4%	24.9%	10.8%	12.3%	1.2%
Merbein	28.8%	17.6%	27.5%	13.4%	12.1%	0.6%
Mildura	36.2%	16.3%	23.1%	11.5%	11.7%	1.3%
Nichols Point	36.2%	19.8%	23.1%	11.4%	8.2%	1.4%
Irymple	32.2%	18.2%	25.5%	11.6%	11.4%	1.1%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	31.1%	18.5%	28.0%	11.2%	10.5%	0.7%
Red Cliffs	28.2%	18.5%	26.2%	13.6%	12.1%	1.3%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	29.7%	20.5%	24.4%	13.7%	11.7%	0.0%
Ouyen / Walpeup	27.6%	22.0%	26.5%	11.6%	12.3%	0.0%
Mallee Track	28.2%	23.3%	23.4%	13.0%	12.0%	0.0%
Robinvale	35.0%	15.3%	22.1%	11.9%	12.9%	3.0%
NSW Towns	29.4%	17.1%	27.6%	13.5%	12.0%	0.4%
Mildura RCC	33.6%	17.4%	24.4%	11.9%	11.7%	1.0%
Regional Victoria	39.0%	18.4%	22.3%	10.5%	9.2%	0.6%
Melbourne	59.3%	12.5%	14.0%	5.9%	6.9%	1.3%

 Table 8.4: Level of Schooling Attained by Residents over the age of 15, 2011

Note: Excludes persons over 15 years of age who are still completing school. Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level.

Source: ABS (2012a)

## 8.5 Post-Schooling Qualifications

Post-school education provides residents with higher earning and employment potential. The tertiary qualification pattern observed in Mildura RCC between 2006 and 2011 were largely in line with Regional Victoria and Melbourne trends. While the share of resident certificate holders increased across each of these three communities by 1-4 percentage points, their respective graduate diploma/ graduate certificate proportions have remained steady during the five year period. Although the share of Mildura RCC residents holding a bachelor's degree has gone up by 1.2% since 2006 reaching 6.2% in 2011, the figure continues to stay well below the Melbourne average of 14.8%.

l	Postgraduate Degree	Graduate Diploma/ Graduate Certificate	Bachelor Degree	Advanced Diploma and Diploma	Certificate	Not Applicable
Millewa	0.0%	1.0%	4.9%	6.1%	14.8%	73.3%
Merbein	0.3%	0.6%	4.5%	5.0%	17.6%	71.9%
Mildura	0.8%	1.1%	6.9%	5.5%	16.1%	69.6%
Nichols Point	0.6%	1.6%	7.1%	5.2%	18.0%	67.4%
Irymple	0.4%	1.0%	6.5%	5.0%	17.1%	69.9%
Koorlong / Cardross (Greater)	0.6%	0.9%	4.6%	4.1%	19.6%	70.2%
Red Cliffs	0.2%	1.3%	4.3%	4.6%	17.6%	72.0%
Nangiloc / Colignan (Greater)	1.2%	0.0%	3.8%	5.2%	14.7%	75.1%
Ouyen / Walpeup	0.8%	0.9%	5.4%	5.2%	16.6%	71.2%
Mallee Track	0.7%	1.4%	5.0%	4.0%	14.9%	73.9%
Robinvale	0.3%	0.8%	5.1%	4.2%	10.4%	79.2%
NSW Towns	0.4%	0.7%	5.8%	5.0%	17.4%	70.6%
Mildura RCC	0.7%	1.1%	6.2%	5.2%	16.6%	70.2%
Regional Victoria	1.4%	1.6%	8.1%	6.4%	18.4%	64.1%
Melbourne	4.2%	2.1%	14.8%	7.8%	13.3%	57.9%

#### Table 8.5: Post-Schooling Qualifications, 2011

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the SA1 level. Source: ABS (2012a)
### 9. Cultural Indicators

#### 9.1 Art Gallery

Residents from Mildura and Ouyen continued to account for the vast majority (80%) of visitors to the city's Art Gallery between 2009 and 2011. These numbers are considerably higher than the expected number based on those communities' overall population. The observed increasing trend in the proportion of Mildura and Ouyen residents visiting the gallery is in contrast to decreasing trend between 2005 and 2008.

Residents visiting the gallery from all other communities declined or remained stable over the time period with each community falling below pre-existing population benchmarks for the region. The visitor patterns observed may indicate access issues, which residents outside Mildura face given the large geographic size of Mildura RCC.

Note: The Mildura Arts Centre Gallery was closed between August 2010 and November 2012 due to major redevelopment works. Only limited exhibitions were on show at Rio Vista Historic House during this time. This had an effect on visitors to the Centre during this time.



## Figure 9.1: Proportion of visitors to Art Gallery from Sub-Regions and Proportions Expected on a Population Basis, 2009-2011 (Calendar Years).

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the postcode level. Note: Red Cliffs includes the catchments of: Millewa, Merbein, and Nangiloc/Colignan Source: MRCC (2013b)

Table	9.1:	Proportion	of	visitors	to	Art	Gallery	from	Sub-Regions	and	Proportions
Expect	ed or	n a Populatio	on B	asis, 200	)9-2	2011	(Calenda	ar Yeai	rs).		

Year	Mildura and Ouyen	Red Cliffs	Irymple	Mallee Track	Wentworth	Buronga, Gol Gol, Dareton
2009	80.0%	11.4%	4.1%	0.2%	1.2%	3.2%
2010	79.3%	10.2%	5.3%	0.2%	1.1%	3.9%
2011	83.7%	7.1%	4.8%	0.0%	0.9%	3.5%
Expected on Population Basis	56.6%	21.2%	8.7%	2.0%	4.3%	7.1%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected and grouped at the postcode level.

Note: Red Cliffs includes the catchments of: Millewa, Merbein, and Nangiloc/Colignan Source: MRCC (2013b)

#### 9.2 Library Visits and Membership

Mildura RCC's libraries offer its communities a range of diverse services, covering a distance of over 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> – one of the largest in the state (MRCC, 2008).

Mildura's five libraries received over 270,000 actual visits between 2011 and 2012, an increase of 1.6% from the level in 2006-07. The level of visitation was highest for Mildura's City Library in Deakin Avenue, which received almost 80% (or 214,873) of total library visits in Mildura RCC. Red Cliffs was the second most highly frequented library with just over 25,000 visits. Both of these libraries recorded an increase in actual visits between 2006-07 and 2011-12, while Merebin, Irymple and Mildura RCC Mobile library recorded slight decreases in the number of actual visits.

Since 2006-07, the number of virtual library visits across Mildura RCC has more than doubled to 82,463. This suggests a positive uptake of the Council's virtual library services such as eBooks, AudioBooks and Magazines. Total library visits in 2011-12 (virtual and actual) summed to 355,874.

Membership numbers were generally in line with the total number of library visits. Mildura's city library recorded 82.1% (or 17,902) of all library memberships in Mildura RCC.

Library visits and membership in Mildura RCC account for around 1% of the total at the state level.



Figure 9.2: Actual and Virtual Library Visits, 2006-07 and 2011-12

Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level. Source: MRCC (2012)  $% \left( 2012\right) \left( 2$ 

Table 9.2: Actual and Virtual Library Visits, 2011-1
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Visits	Red Cliffs	Mildura	Merbein	Irymple	MRCC Mobile Library	Mildura RCC	Victoria
Actual Number of visits	26,439	214,873	13,659	12,568	5,899	273,438	27,627,855
Virtual Number of visits	-	-	-	-	-	82,436	10,667,424
Total number of visits	-	-	-	-	-	355,874	38,295,279

Notes: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level.

#### Source: MRCC (2012)

In terms of active library members (defined as members who borrowed an item over the 12 months to the reporting date), Mildura RCC reported a 2 percentage point increase from 44.4% in 2006-07 to 46.4% in 2011-12. This is in contrast to figures for Victoria, which reported a decline over the same period. The most significant increases in the proportion of active members for each community were recorded for the libraries of Irymple and the Mildura RCC Mobile Library, indicating the more positive utilisation of library services in communities outside central Mildura.





Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level. Source: MRCC (2012)

Table 9.3: Active Membership as a Percentage of Members

Indicator	Red Cliffs	Mildura	Merbein	Irymple	MRCC Mobile Library	Mildura RCC	Victoria
% of Active Membership 2006-07	44.9%	46.3%	48.5%	37.8%	36.6%	44.4%	52.1%
% of Active Membership 2011-12	54.3%	45.2%	47.8%	46.7%	53.4%	46.4%	43.5%

Note: Data for this indicator has been collected at the SA2 level. Source: MRCC (2012)

# **10. Environmental Indicators**

Key environmental indicators for Mildura are presented in this chapter. The following table provides an overview of the best practice KPIs for the region.

Indicator	КРІ
Total tonnes of waste deposited to Mildura Landfill	< 30,000 tonnes per annum
Tonnes of domestic waste collected from Kerbside Service	< 11,000 tonnes per annum
Tonnes of contaminated waste from the Kerbside Recycling Service deposited to Mildura Landfill	< 15% of total collected
Tonnes of domestic material collected from Kerbside Recycling Service	4,200 tonnes per annum
Cost of Kerbside Recycling	\$50.00 per tenement per annum
Service Eco-Recycle Best Practice Target	\$200 per tonne collected
Community Kerbside Recycling Service participation rate	90%
Tonnes of steel recycled from Mildura Landfill	300 tonnes per annum
Number of chemical containers diverted from all waste facilities	14,000 drums per annum
Litres of oil diverted from Mildura Landfill	3,000 litres of Oil per annum
Tonnes of green waste diverted from Mildura Landfill	7,000 tonnes per annum
Number of car tyres diverted from Mildura Landfill	1,200 tonnes per annum
Tonnes of concrete diverted from Mildura Landfill	2,000 tonnes per annum
Number of schools participating in School Recycling Program	25 schools in total (10 participating)
Total tonnes of waste deposited to Mildura Landfill	< 30,000 tonnes per annum

Table 10.1: Environmental KPIs

Source: MRCC (unpublished a).

#### 10.1 Waste Management

The Community Kerbside Recycling Service participation rate increased by 15 percentage points between January 2012 and January 2013, to reach above the participation rate KPI of 90% in January 2013. However, on average, over the 12-month period, the participation rate for recycling was 81%. The increasing trend in recycling participation has been evident since 2006 and likely reflects increasing acceptance and focus on environmental practices locally and nationally.

Figure 10.1: Community Kerbside Recycling Service Participation Rate



Participation Rate

Source: MRCC (unpublished b)

Table 10.2: Community Kerbside Recycling Service Participation Rate, January 2012 to January 2013.

Month	Participation Rate (%)
Jan-12	80%
Feb-12	80%
Mar-12	81%
Apr-12	79%
May-12	77%
Jun-12	77%
Jul-12	80%
Aug-12	81%
Sep-12	82%
Oct-12	82%
Nov-12	85%
Dec-12	85%
Jan-13	95%

Source: MRCC (unpublished b)

The amount of green waste fell from 776.5 tonnes in January 2012 to 680.2 tonnes in January 2013. This is a significant increase in green waste from 2006, when below 600 tonnes of green waste was diverted. Over the course of 2012 (January to December) a total of 5,746 tonnes of green waste was diverted, significantly short (approximately 18% below) the 7,000 tonne target.

Figure 10.2: Green Waste Diverted from Mildura Landfill, January 2012 to January 2013



Source: MRCC (unpublished b)

Table 10.3: Green Waste Diverted from Mildura Landfill, January 2012 to January 2013

Month	Greenwaste Diverted/Tonnages
Jan-12	776.5
Feb-12	568.2
Mar-12	549.9
Apr-12	415.6
May-12	521.4
Jun-12	365.4
Jul-12	397.4
Aug-12	422.3
Sep-12	383.9
Oct-12	349.5
Nov-12	445.9
Dec-12	550.0
Jan-13	680.2

Source: MRCC (unpublished b)

The best practice target for Service Eco-Recycling is \$200 per tonne collected. The average for the 2012 year was \$261.9. This was 21% higher than the average for the year to January 2007 and is 30% higher than the KPI of \$200.

Figure 10.3: Cost of Kerbside Recycling Service (\$), January 2012 to January 2013



Source: MRCC (unpublished b)

 Table 10.4: Cost of Kerbside Recycling Service (\$), January 2012 to January 2013

Month	Cost of Service (\$)
Jan-12	\$239.74
Feb-12	\$244.81
Mar-12	\$262.36
Apr-12	\$264.65
May-12	\$266.33
Jun-12	\$271.52
Jul-12	\$271.64
Aug-12	\$273.74
Sep-12	\$267.47
Oct-12	\$263.35
Nov-12	\$261.87
Dec-12	\$255.83
Jan-13	\$256.17

Source: MRCC (unpublished b)

#### **10.2** Community Water Usage

Residential water use is fairly consistent across communities covered by the Urban and Wastewater Statistics. However, residential water use per assessment is somewhat higher in Mildura than in the rest of the region.

Non-residential water use varies considerably across the region, and is particularly high in Red Cliffs. This likely reflects the prominence of the agriculture sector in Red Cliffs, which tends to use a relatively high amount of water in comparison to other sectors. Mildura's service economy uses an understandably lower volume of water per assessment.

3.00 Residential Non-Residential 2.00 1.50 1.00 0.50 Mildura Red Cliffs Robinvale MRCC

Figure 10.4: Water use Per Assessment, Residential and Non-Residential, 2011-12

Note: Mildura includes Merbein and Irymple. Robinvale not included in MRCC total. Source: Lower Murray Water (2012)

Table	10.5:	Water	Use	(ML)	per	assessment)	. Residential	and	Non-Resid	ential
labic	TO:O:	<b>T</b> utci	030			ussessment,	, itcolacitual	unu	HOIL ICOIG	Circiai

			Water Use Per Assessment			
Area	Units	Residential	Non-Residential			
Mildura	ML per assessment	0.41	0.98			
Red Cliffs	ML per assessment	0.35	2.68			
Robinvale	ML per assessment	0.40	0.60			
MRCC	ML per assessment	0.40	0.94			

Note: Mildura includes Merbein and Irymple. Robinvale not included in MRCC total. Source: Lower Murray Water (2012)

#### **10.3 Community Energy Usage**

As is the case with water use, community energy use will differ depending on the types of economic activities undertaken within the region. The following graph shows an overview of the level of energy use required (in Megawatt hours) for each dollar of economic activity (gross value add) in the Mildura economy in each year.

The graph shows some considerable efficiency gains in the agricultural and commercial sectors over the last three years, with the trend in energy use per economic activity decreasing markedly. Industrial sectors energy use has remained largely unchanged over this period.





Table 10.6: Ener	gy Use (Mwh)	) per Economic	Activity (GVA)
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	Sector		
<b>Financial Year</b>	Industrial	Commercial	Agricultural
2006-07	12.6	62.2	70.1
2007-08	12.5	64.0	76.0
2008-09	14.3	71.4	78.2
2009-10	11.6	56.5	69.3
2010-11	10.9	46.0	64.9

Source: CitiPower Pty & Powercor Australia Ltd (2013), AEC (unpublished)

Energy use per capita has also been on a declining trend over the past three years, easing from a peak of 8.4 Mwh per person to 6.6 Mwh per person. Increasing national focus on energy use and preservation could be influencing this trend.



Figure 10.6: Domestic Energy Use (Mwh) per Capita

Table 10.7:	Domestic	Energy	Use	(Mwh)	per Ca	pita
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<b>Financial Year</b>	Mwh
2006-07	6.9
2007-08	7.4
2008-09	8.4
2009-10	7.2
2010-11	6.6

Source: CitiPower Pty & Powercor Australia Ltd (2013), AEC (unpublished)

#### **10.4 Vegetation Cover**

Pre-European Settlement, it is estimated that 99.7% of the land now governed by the Mildura Regional Council was covered in vegetation. In 2005, it was estimated that vegetation covered 52.5% of the land area. Information for 2011 was unavailable.

### **10.5 Land Management Practices**

Environmental land management practices are becoming more commonplace within the region. This is evidenced by the increasing use of drip irrigation methods as well as the significant increase in the area of local agricultural land, which is covered by an Environmental Management Plan.

Table	10.8:	Prominence	of	Irrigation	Methods	(by	Area.	ha	)
Tubic	<b>TO:O</b> :	1 Ionnichee	<b>U</b>	Theater	Fictious	( • )	/ nicu/		/

Year	Drip	Low Level	Overhead	Furrow
1997	4,550	6,030	13,445	15,605
2006	21,230	9,870	13,765	6,865
2012	39,525	9,090	7,575	3,400
2006 2012	21,230 39,525	9,870 9,090	13,765 7,575	6, 3,

Source: Mallee Catchment Management Authority (2012)

#### Table 10.9: Area of Agricultural Land with Environmental Management Plans

Year	Area (ha)	% of LGA
2006	4426.62	0.2
2012	583147.1	26.4

Source: MRCC (unpublished a)

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