



MID NORTH

Employment & Skills Network Region

REGIONAL PROFILE

2008



Government of South Australia
Department of Further Education,
Employment, Science and Technology

WorkforceInformationService
Supporting better workforce planning

The **Mid North region** encompasses the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Clare & Gilbert Valleys and Goyder. The major urban centre within the region is the town of Clare.

The Mid North area has a relatively middle-aged **population profile**, with above average proportions of children and people aged 45 years and older. The region has high proportions of couples without children. The population has fluctuated in recent years, and is projected to grow to 2011, and then begin to decline.

Key **labour force** indicators for the Mid North show above average labour force participation rates, and low levels of unemployment. Agriculture is by far the dominant industry in the region, accounting for more than one quarter of all jobs. The region experienced strong growth in employment in health & Community Services between 2001 and 2006.

The general level of **education and qualifications** in the Mid North region is below the State average, with low levels of school achievement and post-school qualifications.

With relatively low unemployment rates and high workforce participation, the population of Mid North is relatively secure in **economic** terms, although income levels are below average. The region records high proportions of houses owned outright. There are slightly above average levels of recipients of the Disability Support Pension.



1. Population and Social Characteristics

The Mid North area has above average proportions of children under 15 years and people aged 45 years and older. The population has fluctuated over recent years, with strong growth between 2005 and 2006. The population is projected to continue to grow until 2011, and then begin to decline.

Significant population characteristics include:

- Above average child (under 15 years) and mature age (45 years and older) populations
- A very small Aboriginal population
- High proportions of couples without children
- Fluctuating population in recent years, with strong growth between 2005 and 2006
- Projected continued increases in population until 2011, after which population is projected to decline.

Current Population

The Mid North region's population in 2006 was 12,852 people (0.8 per cent of the State's population). Two-thirds of the residents in the region live in the Clare & Gilbert Valleys LGA (8,525 people or 66.3 per cent of the total).

Table 1.1 Estimated Resident Population

Year	Population	Mid North		South Australia	
		Number	%	Number	%
June 2004	12,467	-24	-0.2%		0.5%
June 2005	12,401	-66	-0.5%		0.5%
June 2006	12,852	451	3.6%		1.7%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Estimated Resident Population

Current Estimated Resident Population figures released by ABS are based on adjustments to 2001 Census counts, to reflect anticipated changes in the population. In 2008 ABS will recalculate previous Estimated Resident Populations to reflect counts from the 2006 Census.

The population of the Mid North region has fluctuated over recent years, with an increase between 2005 and 2006. Between 2003 and 2006 the region experienced an annual average population increase of 1.0 per cent, marginally above the State average growth rate of 0.9 per cent for the same period. Growth within the region has been relatively evenly distributed across the component areas.

The Mid North region has a birth rate roughly equal to the State average, and the older age profile contributes to a higher than average death rate. Recent migration into the area made a large contribution to the population increase between 2005 and 2006.

Table 1.2 Demography

	Mid North			South Australia		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Natural Increase	39	35	24	5,529	5,841	6,339
Net Migration	-63	-101	427	1,573	1,942	19,832
Net Population Change	-24	-66	451	7,102	7,783	26,171
	Rates (no. / 1,000 people)					
Crude Birth Rate	11.5	12.0	11.4	11.2	11.5	11.6
Crude Death Rate	8.3	9.2	9.5	7.6	7.8	7.6

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Key Populations

As can be seen in the following summary of key populations, the Mid North region has a below average youth population and above average mature age population. The Aboriginal population in the Mid North is very small and represents a below average proportion of the total population

Table 1.3 Key Populations, 2006

Population	Mid North		South Australia	
	Population	%	Population	%
Youth (15-24)	1,309	10.6%		13.3%
Mature (45-64)	3,599	29.2%		26.1%
Aboriginal	110	0.9%		1.7%

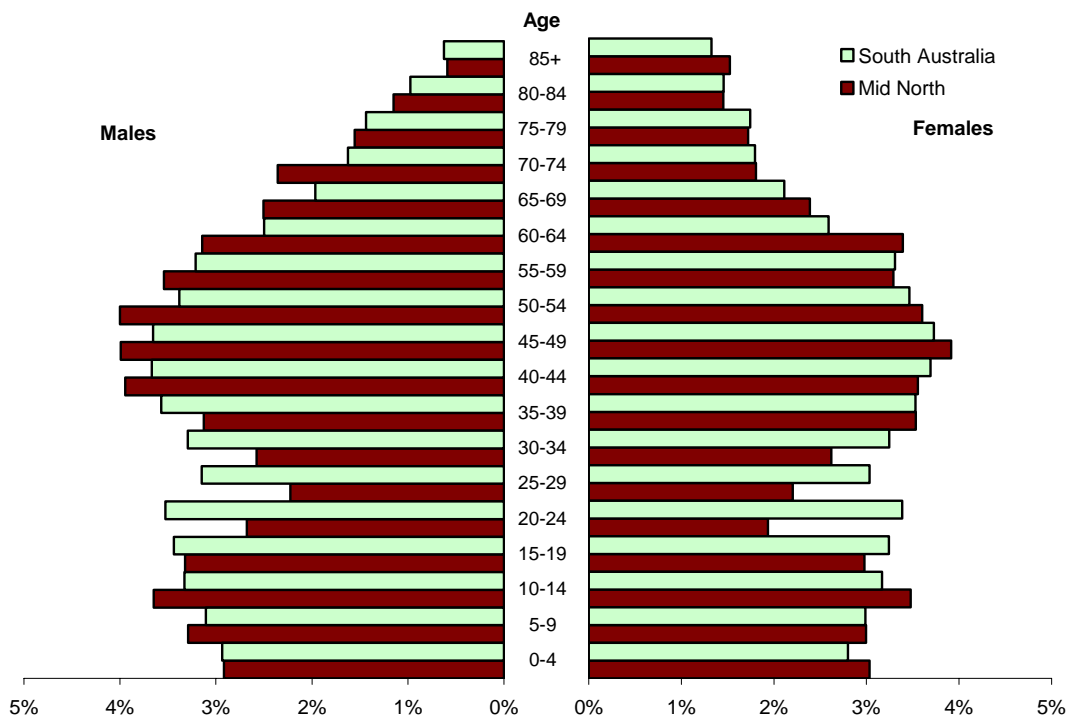
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

Age Groups

The Mid North region has above average proportions children under 15 years compared to the State average, but below average proportions of teenagers and adults under 40 years.

The average age within the region in 2006 was approximately two years older than the State average, (41 years, compared to 39 years).

Figure 1.1 Age and Sex, June 2006



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Estimated Resident Population 2006

Aboriginal Australians

The Mid North region has a very small Aboriginal population. At the time of the 2006 Census, 110 people or 0.9 per cent of the total population in the region were of Aboriginal origin, significantly below the State average of 1.7 per cent.

As can be seen in the following table, the Aboriginal population in the region has a much younger age profile than the non-Aboriginal population, with 30.0 per cent of Aboriginal people in the region being aged under 15 years (significantly higher than the proportion of the non-Aboriginal population). There are very small proportions of Aboriginal people aged 45 years or older in the region. The Aboriginal population in the Mid North remained relatively unchanged between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses.

Table 1.4 Aboriginal Population, 2006

	Mid North		
	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	
	Population	%	%
0-14	33	30.0%	19.1%
15-24	20	18.2%	10.5%
25-44	39	35.5%	23.3%
45-64	18	16.4%	29.8%
65 and older	0	0.0%	17.4%
Total	110	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

Cultural Diversity

Australian-born people comprise 85.7 per cent of the population of the Mid North, considerably higher than the State average of 74.0 per cent. The cultural diversity of the region is based primarily on migrants from the United Kingdom, with smaller populations of people born in Germany, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

Recently arrived migrants to Australia may require support in training and the workforce due to skills recognition, language and cultural barriers. In 2006, there were 56 residents of the Mid North region who had arrived in Australia in the previous five years. Of those new arrivals, almost 50 per cent were from the United Kingdom, with New Zealand being the second most common birthplace. There were also small numbers of people in the region who had recently arrived from Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Poland.

Table 1.5 Recent Arrivals, 2002 to 2006

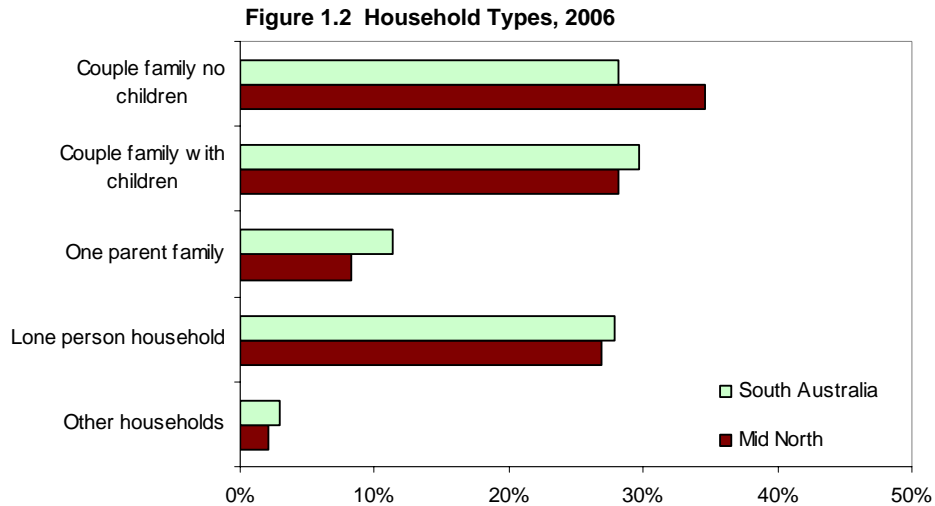
Birthplace	Mid North	
	No. of People	% of total new arrivals
New Zealand	7	12.5%
Papua New Guinea	4	7.1%
Philippines	4	7.1%
Poland	4	7.1%
United Kingdom	27	48.2%
Total (including all other countries)	56	100.0%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

Families and Households

Despite the high proportion of children in the region, at the time of the 2006 Census the Mid North region had below average proportions of families with children.

More than one-third of all households in the Mid North were couples without children; this family type accounted for 34.7 per cent of all households, compared with the State average share of 28.1 per cent. This is consistent with the higher proportion of older people within the region. The Mid North had correspondingly lower proportions of families with children.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

Projected Population

According to current figures, the population in the Mid North region is forecast to continue to grow over the next few years at a rate lower than the State average, and then begin to decline. It is estimated that in the year 2011 there will be 316 (or 2.5 per cent) more people residing in the region compared with the 2006 population of 12,427. As can be seen in Table 1.6, the region's population is expected to decline in the following years.

Table 1.6 Population Projections

Year	Population	Mid North			South Australia	
		Change from previous year			Number	%
		Number	%	%		
2006	12,427	-	-	-	-	
2011	12,743	316	2.5%	3.6%		
2016	12,793	50	0.4%	2.6%		
2021	12,812	19	0.1%	2.3%		

Source: Planning SA, Medium Projections Series

Table 1.7 Population Projections – Age 15 to 64

Year	Population	Mid North		South Australia	
		Change from previous year		Number	%
		Number	%		
2006	8,032	-	-	-	-
2011	8,215	183	2.3%	3.6%	
2016	7,980	-235	-2.9%	-0.1%	
2021	7,565	-415	-5.2%	-0.8%	

Source: Planning SA, Medium Projections Series

One of the major issues South Australian regions face in the future is the possibility of labour shortages due to an ageing population. Population projections based on the core working age population (15 to 64 years) show that the working age population in Mid North will peak in 2011 and sharply decline in the following years.

2. Labour Force

The level of total employment within the Mid North region has grown over the past few years. In addition, the region has continued to experience higher than State average labour force participation rates and lower than average unemployment rates.

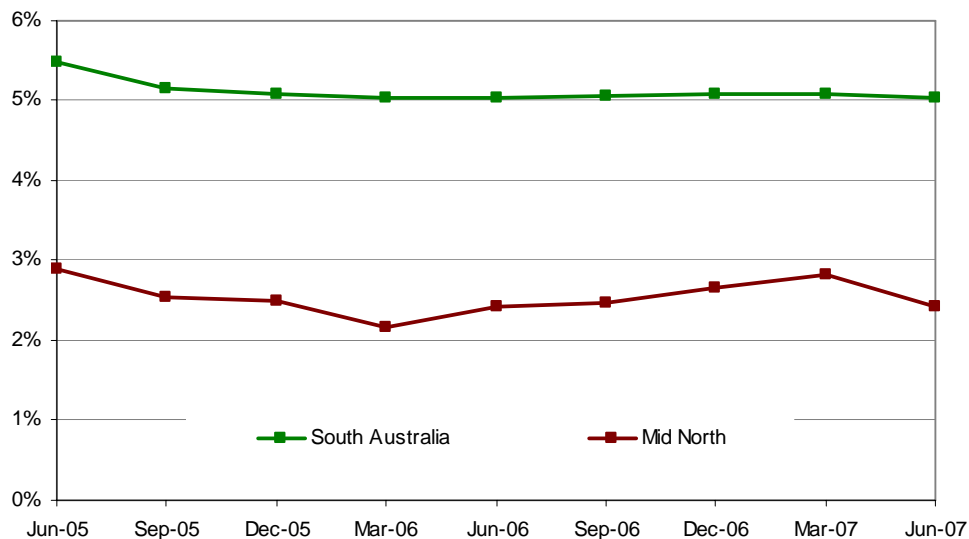
Significant labour force characteristics include:

- Continuing low levels of unemployment
- Above average participation rates for all key populations
- Domination of Agriculture as the major employer in the region

Employment and Unemployment

According to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), in the June quarter 2007, there were 175 unemployed persons in the region, with an estimated unemployment rate of 2.4 per cent (considerably below the State average of 5.0 per cent).

Figure 2.1 Unemployment Rate Estimates



Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Small Area Labour Market series

Figure 2.1 shows the unemployment rate in Mid North has generally followed movements in the State average, although at a much lower level.

Key Populations

Table 2.1 shows labour force participation rates for various key populations. As can be seen, the Mid North region records higher than average participation rates across the various populations. The mature age and Aboriginal participation rates are significantly higher than the State average (though it should be noted that the number of Aboriginal people in the Mid North workforce is very small).

In conjunction with high rates of labour force participation, the Mid North population also experiences comparatively low levels of unemployment. Unemployment rates in Mid North are lower than average for all the key population groups excepting the mature age population, which recorded an unemployment rate of 3.5 per cent, compared to the State average of 3.3 per cent.

Table 2.1 Labour Force Participation Rates, 2006

	Mid North	South Australia
	%	%
Males	67.2%	65.0%
Females	54.1%	53.3%
Mature (45-64)	71.3%	67.7%
Aboriginal	55.7%	48.1%
Total Participation Rate	60.6%	59.0%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

Table 2.2 Unemployment Rates, 2006

	Mid North	South Australia
	%	%
Males	3.2%	5.5%
Females	4.2%	4.9%
Youth (15-24) Full-time	6.9%	12.4%
Mature (45-64)	3.5%	3.3%
Aboriginal	13.6%	16.0%
Total Unemployment Rate	3.6%	5.2%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

Place of Work

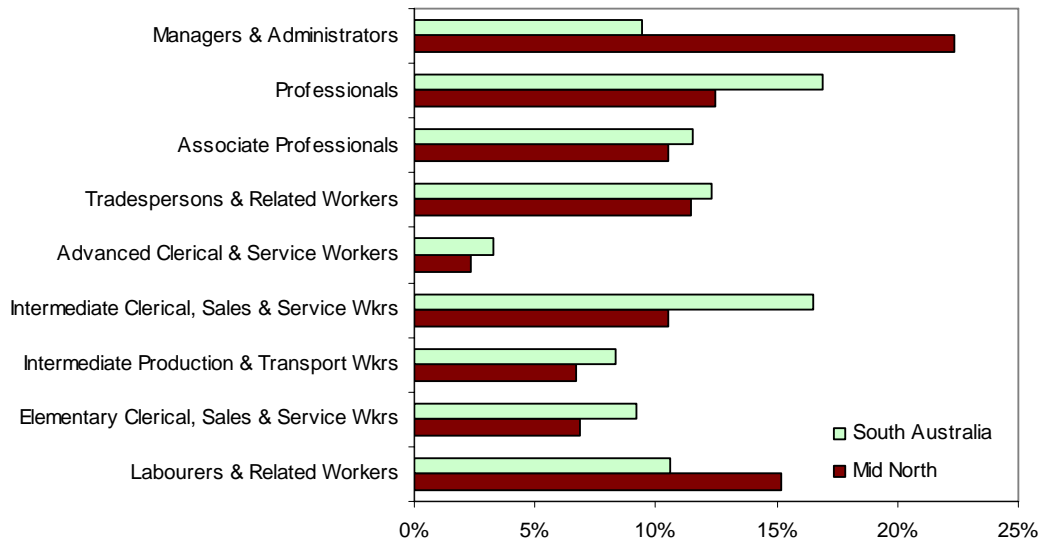
Journey to work information shows that 77 per cent of Mid North residents also work within the region, indicating the region is providing a solid employment base for its population. Of those Mid North residents who travel to other areas to work, the Barossa Light region and Northern Adelaide are the most common destinations.

Of those people whose work is physically located within the Mid North region, only 14.0 per cent live outside the region. Most of these people come from the adjoining Yorke and Barossa Light regions.

Occupations

As counted at the 2006 Population Census, the Mid North region had a higher concentration of residents employed as Managers & Administrators (almost all of whom were Farmers or Farm Managers) and Labourer occupations compared with the State. This is consistent with the industry structure of the region, which will be discussed later in this report.

Figure 2.2 Occupations, 2006



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

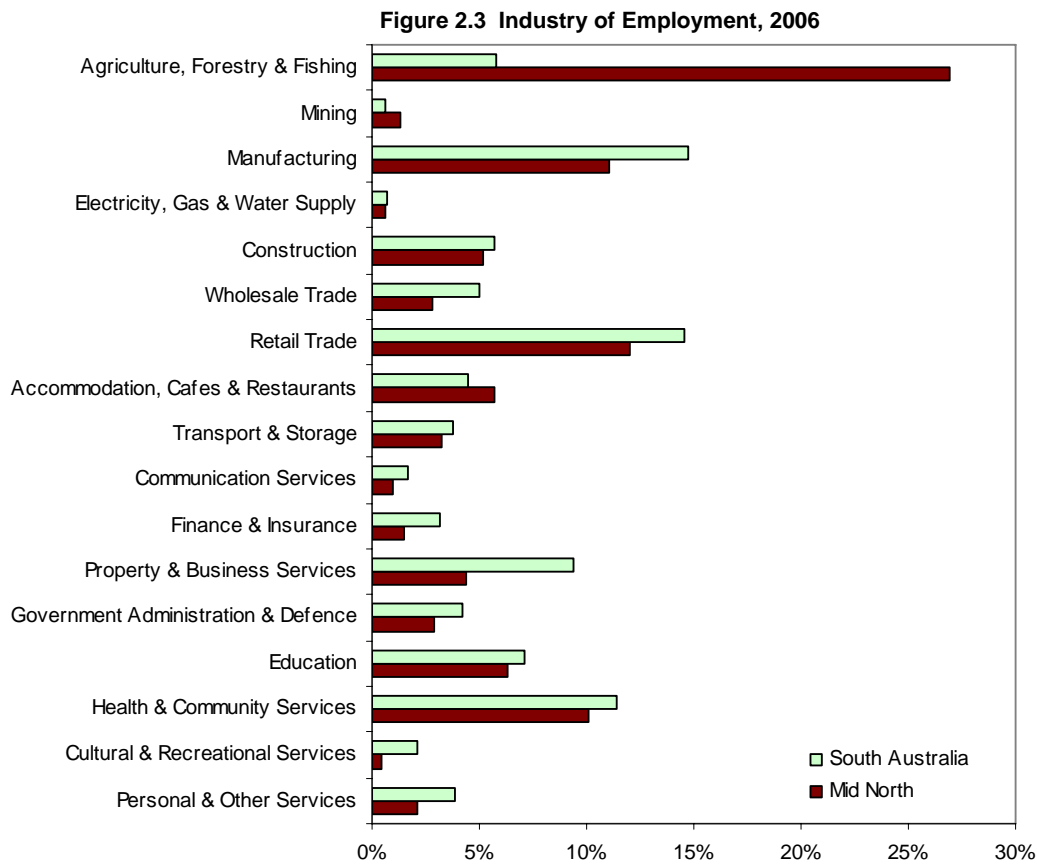
Industry of Employment

Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing is the key industry in the Mid North region, providing more than one quarter of all jobs.

At the time of the 2006 Census, the industries in which the largest proportion of residents were employed were:

- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (1,563 or 26.9 per cent)
- Retail Trade (695 or 12.0 per cent)
- Manufacturing (642 or 11.1 per cent).
- Health & Community Services (587 or 10.1 per cent)

The domination of Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing in the Mid North region is apparent in Figure 2.3. Because of this domination, employment in most other industries is below the State average share. Manufacturing in the region includes winemaking, adding value to the production of wine grapes, particularly from the renowned Clare Valley.



Between 2001 and 2006, residents of the Mid North region showed strong increases in employment in Health & Community Services and Construction, with employment in Health & Community Services increasing by 142 jobs (31.9 per cent). There were minor losses in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, Manufacturing and other industry sectors over the same period. Between 2001 and 2006, total employment in the region increased by 347 jobs (a 6.4 per cent rise).

Table 2.3 Industry of Employment, 2001 and 2006

Industry Sector	Mid North					
	Number		Change since 2001		Percentage 2006	
	2001	2006	o.	N	Mid North	South Australia
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	1,568	1,563	-5	-0.3%	26.9%	5.8%
Mining	30	74	44	146.7%	1.3%	0.6%
Manufacturing	648	642	-6	-0.9%	11.1%	14.7%
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	32	37	5	15.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Construction	239	299	60	25.1%	5.2%	5.7%
Wholesale Trade	189	165	-24	-12.7%	2.8%	5.0%
Retail Trade	667	695	28	4.2%	12.0%	14.6%
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	318	333	15	4.7%	5.7%	4.5%
Transport & Storage	148	188	40	27.0%	3.2%	3.8%
Communication Services	52	55	3	5.8%	0.9%	1.6%
Finance & Insurance	91	89	-2	-2.2%	1.5%	3.1%
Property & Business Services	255	257	2	0.8%	4.4%	9.3%
Government Administration & Defence	128	170	42	32.8%	2.9%	4.2%
Education	365	369	4	1.1%	6.4%	7.1%
Health & Community Services	445	587	142	31.9%	10.1%	11.4%
Cultural & Recreational Services	33	25	-8	-24.2%	0.4%	2.1%
Personal & Other Services	135	121	-14	-10.4%	2.1%	3.8%
Total	5,456	5,803	347	6.4%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2001 and 2006

Apprentices and Trainees

The Mid North region saw a small decline in the number of apprentices and trainees starting a contract of training in 2006. There were 131 apprentices and trainees in the region starting a contract of training in 2006. This was a decrease of 9 (6.4%) from the previous year.

Table 2.4 Commencing Apprentices and Trainees by Industry

Industry Sector	Mid North			
	Number		Change since 2005	
	2005	2006	o.	N
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	10	10	0	0.0%
Mining	7	0	-7	-100.0%
Manufacturing	20	15	-5	-25.0%
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	1	1	0	0.0%
Construction	14	13	-1	-7.1%
Wholesale Trade	0	2	2	n/a
Retail Trade	31	20	-11	-35.5%
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	12	12	0	0.0%
Transport & Storage	2	4	2	100.0%
Communication Services	0	1	1	n/a
Finance & Insurance	1	0	-1	-100.0%
Property & Business Services	22	26	4	18.2%
Government Administration & Defence	14	13	-1	-7.1%
Education	0	7	7	n/a
Health & Community Services	3	4	1	33.3%
Cultural & Recreational Services	0	0	0	0.0%
Personal & Other Services	3	3	0	0.0%
Total	140	131	-9	-6.4%

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

Property & Business Services was the largest employer of new apprentices and trainees in the region in 2006, accounting for almost 20 per cent of all new apprentices and trainees. A further 15.3 per cent were employed in Retail Trade, and 11.5 per cent in Manufacturing.

As is the case in most regions, the majority of apprentices and trainees beginning in 2006 were aged between 15 and 24 years. The Mid North region also saw reasonable numbers of new mature age trainees and apprentices, and small numbers of Aboriginal people and people with disabilities.

Table 2.5 Apprentice and Trainees, Key Populations

Population	Mid North	
	2005	2006
Indigenous	0	2
Disability	1	9
Youth (15-24 years)	92	96
Mature (45 years or older)	17	10

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)

3. Education and Qualifications

The general level of education and qualifications in the Mid North region is below the State average, particularly at the degree and diploma levels.

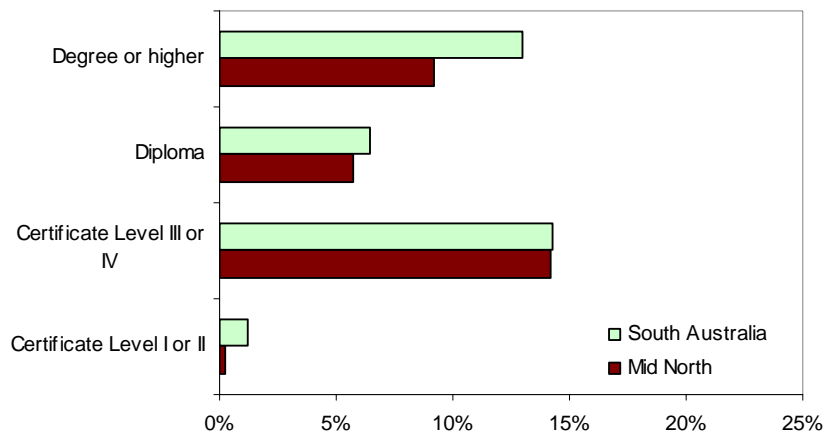
Significant characteristics include:

- Below average levels of school achievement and post-school qualifications

Mid North residents have below average levels of school achievement, with 30.2 per cent of the population aged 15 years and older having completed Year 12 or equivalent. This compares to 38.3 per cent of the State population.

At the time of the 2006 Census, the proportion of Mid North residents with tertiary or vocational qualifications was lower than for the State. The proportion of individuals with a Degree or higher was only 9.2 per cent compared with 13.0 per cent for the State (data here refers only to individuals who were aged 15 years or older). The proportion of people with Certificate Level III and IV qualifications in the region was closer to the State average, reflecting the major types of employment in the region.

Figure 3.1 Highest Non-school Qualification, 2006



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

4. Economic Conditions

With relatively low unemployment rates and high workforce participation, the population of Mid North is relatively secure in economic terms, although median incomes were below the State average.

Significant characteristics include:

- Below average income levels
- Above average levels of Disability Support Pension and Youth Allowance income support recipients
- Very high proportions of houses owned outright

Income

As can be seen in the following table, both individual and household median incomes are lower than the State average. Median household incomes from the 2006 Census were close to the State average in the Clare & Gilbert Valleys council area, and considerably lower in Goyder.

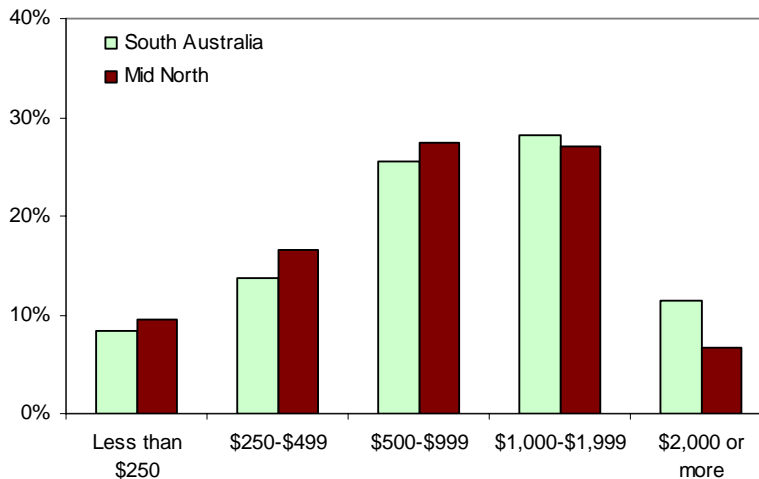
Table 4.1 Median Incomes, 2006

	Median Individual Income	Median Household Income
Clare & Gilbert Valleys (DC)	\$432	\$827
Goyder (DC)	\$336	\$617
South Australia	\$433	\$887

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

The following chart illustrates the relatively high proportions of households in the Mid North region with low to medium incomes.

Figure 4.1 Household Incomes, 2006



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

Income Support

As can be seen in the following table, the Mid North region has a slightly higher proportion of income support recipients of the Disability Support Pension than the State average, likely to be indicative of the older age profile of the region. The proportion of recipients of other major benefits is below average. (The population measured are those people aged 15 years or older).

Table 4.2 Income Support Recipients, June 2006

Income Support Type	Mid North		South Australia
	Number	% of population	
Disability Support Pension	563	5.4%	5.3%
New Start Allowance	229	2.2%	3.0%
Youth Allowance	45	0.4%	0.5%
Parenting Payment Single	238	2.3%	2.7%

Source: Centrelink

Housing

Outright home ownership is prevalent in the housing market in Mid North, with homes with mortgages being lower than the State average. The South Australian Housing Trust maintains a small share of the rental market in the region, primarily in the Clare & Gilbert Valleys council area.

Table 4.3 Housing Tenure, 2006

Tenure type	Mid North		South Australia
	Number	%	%
Fully owned	2,210	43.7%	33.7%
Being purchased	1,525	30.1%	33.5%
Rented - SA Housing Trust	149	2.9%	6.6%
Rented - total	1,062	21.0%	25.6%
Total	5,059	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Population Census 2006

Appendix 1: Summary Statistics

Summary Statistics - Mid North ESF Region

Population

Estimated Resident Population (ERP): June 2006	12,852
Share of State's Total Population	0.8%
Net Change in ERP since June 2005	451
Rate of Population Change (%)	3.6%

Age Groups: June 2006 (ERP)

		<i>% of Total</i>
0-14	2,489	19.4%
15-24	1,403	10.9%
25-44	3,057	23.8%
45-64	3,711	28.9%
65+	2,192	17.1%
Total All Ages	12,852	100.0%

Indigenous Status: 2006 Census

		<i>% of Total</i>
Indigenous	110	0.9%

Age (Years)

Mean (Average) Age: 2001 Census	39
Mean (Average) Age: 2006 Census	41

Labour Force

2006 Census

Total Employed	5,803
Total Unemployed	217
Labour Force Participation Rate	60.6%

Unemployment Rates

Total Rate	3.6%
Youth (15 - 24 yr olds), Full Time Rate	6.9%
Mature Age (45 - 64 yrs +) Rate	3.5%
Indigenous Rate	13.6%
Non-Indigenous Rate	3.6%

Dept of Employment and Workplace Relations: June 2007

Total Employed	7,026
Total Unemployed	175
Unemployment Rate	2.4%

Income and Economic Activity

Incomes 2006 Census

Median Individual Income	n/a
Median Household Income	n/a

Summary Statistics - Clare & Gilbert Valleys (DC) Local Government Area

Population

Estimated Resident Population (ERP): June 2006	8,525
Share of State's Total Population	0.5%
Net Change in ERP since June 2005	250
Rate of Population Change (%)	3.0%

Age Groups: June 2006 (ERP)

		<i>% of Total</i>
0-14	1,643	19.3%
15-24	972	11.4%
25-44	2,032	23.8%
45-64	2,455	28.8%
65+	1,423	16.7%
Total All Ages	8,525	100.0%

Indigenous Status: 2006 Census

		<i>% of Total</i>
Indigenous	69	0.8%

Age (Years)

Mean (Average) Age: 2001 Census	39
Mean (Average) Age: 2006 Census	40

Labour Force**2006 Census**

Total Employed	3,975
Total Unemployed	131
Labour Force Participation Rate	62.5%

Unemployment Rates

Total Rate	3.2%
Youth (15 - 24 yr olds), Full Time Rate	6.5%
Mature Age (45 - 64 yrs +) Rate	3.0%
Indigenous Rate	0.0%
Non-Indigenous Rate	3.3%

Dept of Employment and Workplace Relations: June 2007

Total Employed	4,798
Total Unemployed	103
Unemployment Rate	2.1%

Income and Economic Activity**Incomes 2006 Census**

Median Individual Income	\$432
Median Household Income	\$827

Summary Statistics - Goyder (DC) Local Government Area

Population

Estimated Resident Population (ERP): June 2006	4,327
Share of State's Total Population	0.3%
Net Change in ERP since June 2005	201
Rate of Population Change (%)	4.9%

Age Groups: June 2006 (ERP)

		<i>% of Total</i>
0-14	846	19.6%
15-24	431	10.0%
25-44	1,025	23.7%
45-64	1,256	29.0%
65+	769	17.8%
Total All Ages	4,327	100.0%

Indigenous Status: 2006 Census

		<i>% of Total</i>
Indigenous	41	1.0%

Age (Years)

Mean (Average) Age: 2001 Census	39
Mean (Average) Age: 2006 Census	41

Labour Force**2006 Census**

Total Employed	1,828
Total Unemployed	86
Labour Force Participation Rate	56.8%

Unemployment Rates

Total Rate	4.5%
Youth (15 - 24 yr olds), Full Time Rate	7.9%
Mature Age (45 - 64 yrs +) Rate	4.4%
Indigenous Rate	31.6%
Non-Indigenous Rate	4.3%

Dept of Employment and Workplace Relations: June 2007

Total Employed	2,228
Total Unemployed	72
Unemployment Rate	3.1%

Income and Economic Activity**Incomes 2006 Census**

Median Individual Income	\$336
Median Household Income	\$617
