

# Australia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Trends & Patterns

ABS-ANU 2016 Census Data Symposium, 26 Jul 2017

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@DrDemography

@WhatAustThinks



# Seminar outline

- Data quality of Census 2016
- Key findings, trends
  - Households
  - Communities
- Policy implications
  - From the Census
  - For the Census

# Census 2016 data quality

# Census 2016 data quality: knowns

- “Fit-for-purpose and [the data] can be used with confidence”.
- Response rate similar to (but lower than) previous two censuses.
  - Disability accessible eCensus.
- Item response
  - Item non-response improved– eCensus.
  - Total item non-response up.
- Social licence is important to the success of data collections.
- There are improvements to be made.

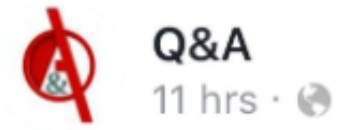
# Census 2016 data quality: unknowns

- Quality of sub-state level data.
  - How far can the data be pushed?
- Bias which was not / could not be examined.
  - Responses, not reported
  - Unintended bias?
  - Can we truly identify sabotage?
    - But how much was always there?
- Do the current questions pass the test of time?

# Census 2016 data quality: pitfalls

- Know the data
  - Beware the ‘not stated’
- Regaining / obtaining social licence.
- Comparison over time
  - Quality of trend data
- Will data (generally) ever be the same?

# Census 2016 data quality: potency



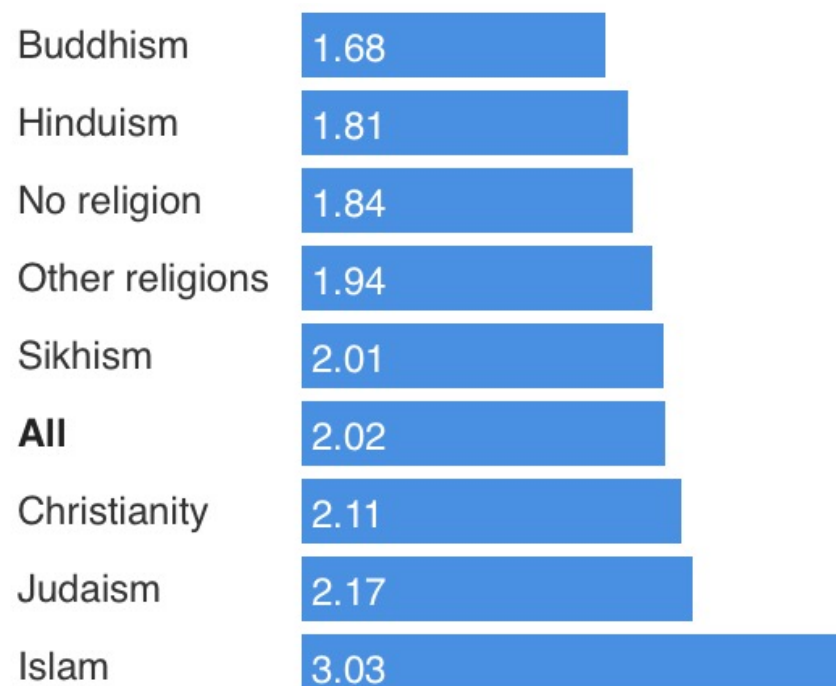
MUSLIMS OUTBREED "US"

# Census 2016 data quality: potency



MUSLIMS OUTBREED "US"

## Average number of children born, by religion, Australia 2016





# Census 2016 data quality: potency

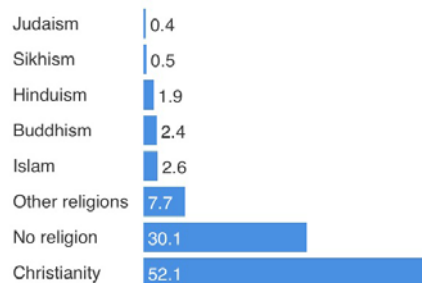


Q&A

11 hrs · 

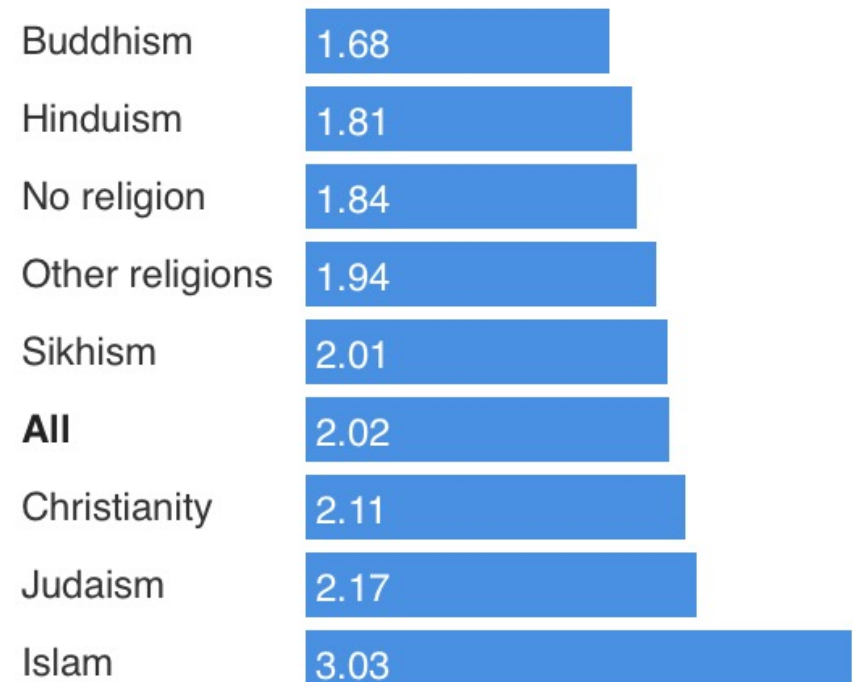
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## Australian population by religious affiliation, 2016

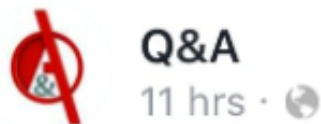


*'No religion' includes secular and other spiritual beliefs.  
As religion was an optional question, the total for  
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## Average number of children born, by religion, Australia 2016

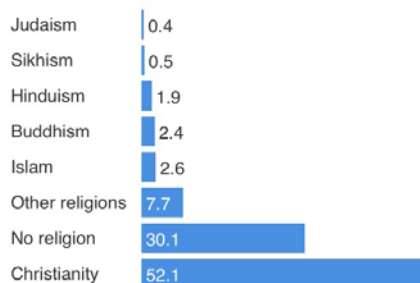


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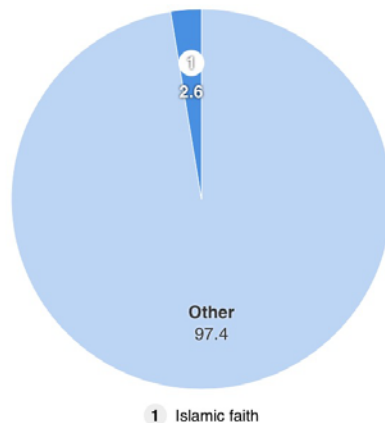
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## Australian population by religious affiliation, 2016

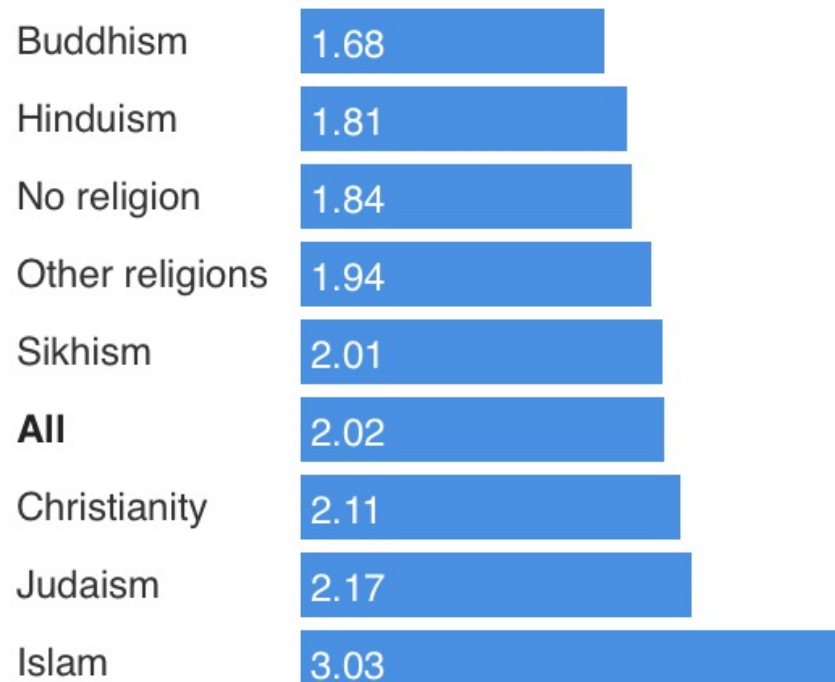


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## Percentage of people of Islamic faith in Australia, 2016



## Average number of children born, by religion, Australia 2016

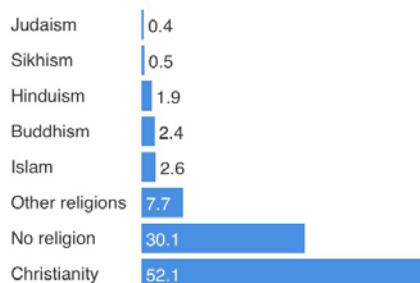


# Census 2016 data quality: potency

**“It’s not reasonable to say, based on current figures, that Muslims in Australia will outnumber non-Muslims in “a couple”, or even many more, generations.”**

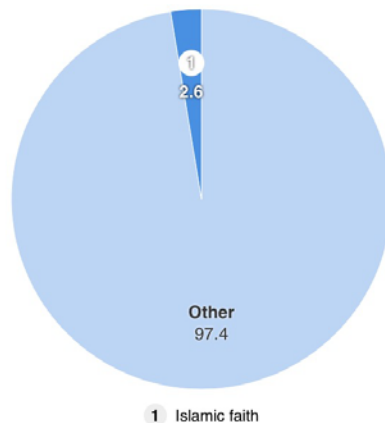
[Read more at The Conversation](#)

**Australian population by religious affiliation, 2016**

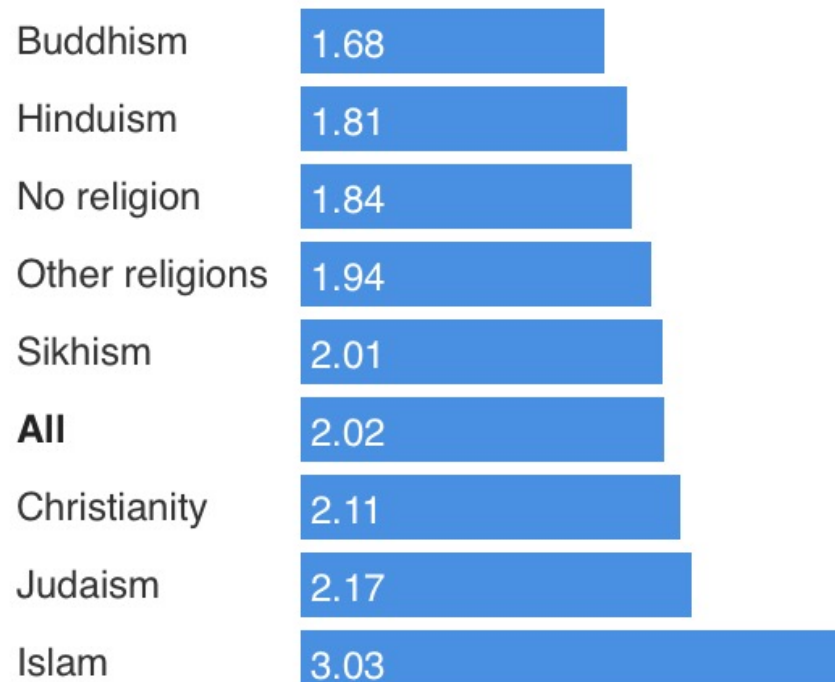


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**Percentage of people of Islamic faith in Australia, 2016**



## Average number of children born, by religion, Australia 2016



# Key findings, trends

# Households



## We're older, more diverse

- Census 2016 reveals as a nation we're ageing
  - Good news story
  - Challenges and opportunities
- Immigration intake is changing
  - Responding demographic needs
- Meanwhile, wider social changes occurring
  - Partnering, parenting, and participation

# Households: microcosm of change

- Examining household, family characteristics:
  - Opportunities to identify behaviours
  - Reflect impacts of sociological contexts
  - Leverages for intervention, change
  - Building block for future generations

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- Examining household, family characteristics:
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  - Leverages for intervention, change
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- So who cares?



# Caring for children

**50** In the *last two weeks* did the person spend time looking after a child, *without* pay?

- Only include children who were less than 15 years of age.
- Mark all applicable responses.

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, looked after own child
- ☐ Yes, looked after a child other than own child

# Caring for others

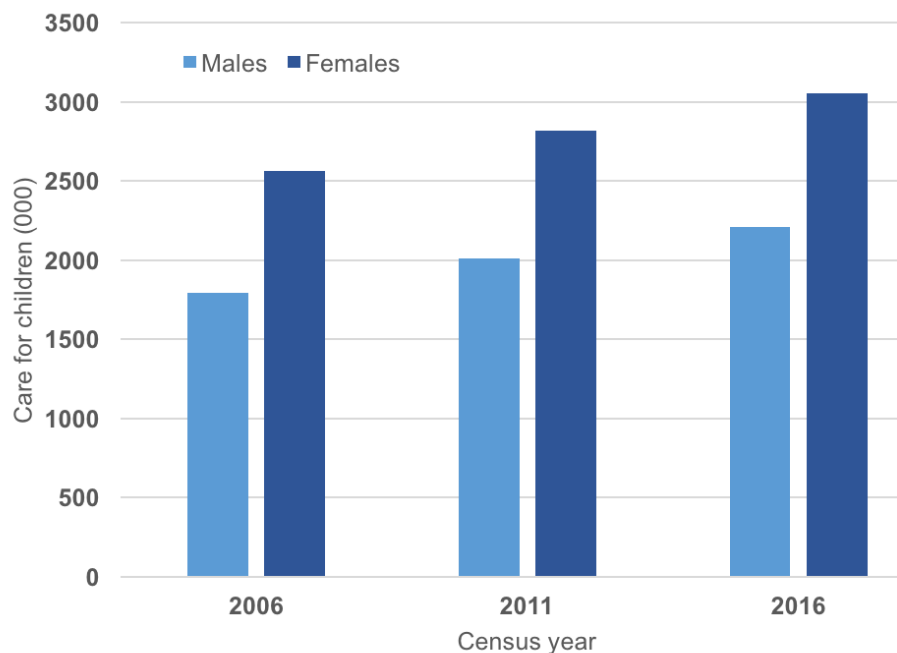
**49** In the *last two weeks* did the person spend time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, a long term health condition or problems related to old age?

- Recipients of Carer allowance or Carer payment should state that they provided unpaid care.
- Ad hoc help or assistance, such as shopping, should only be included if the person needs this sort of assistance because of his/her condition.
- Do not include work done through a voluntary organisation or group.

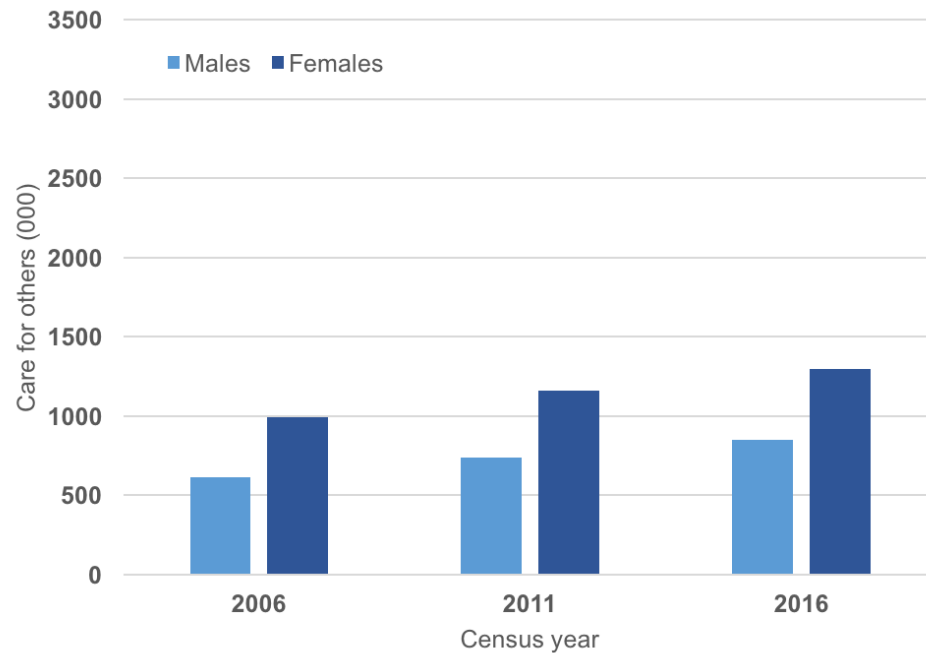
- ☐ No, did not provide unpaid care, help or assistance
- ☐ Yes, provided unpaid care, help or assistance

# Caring on the rise, gendered

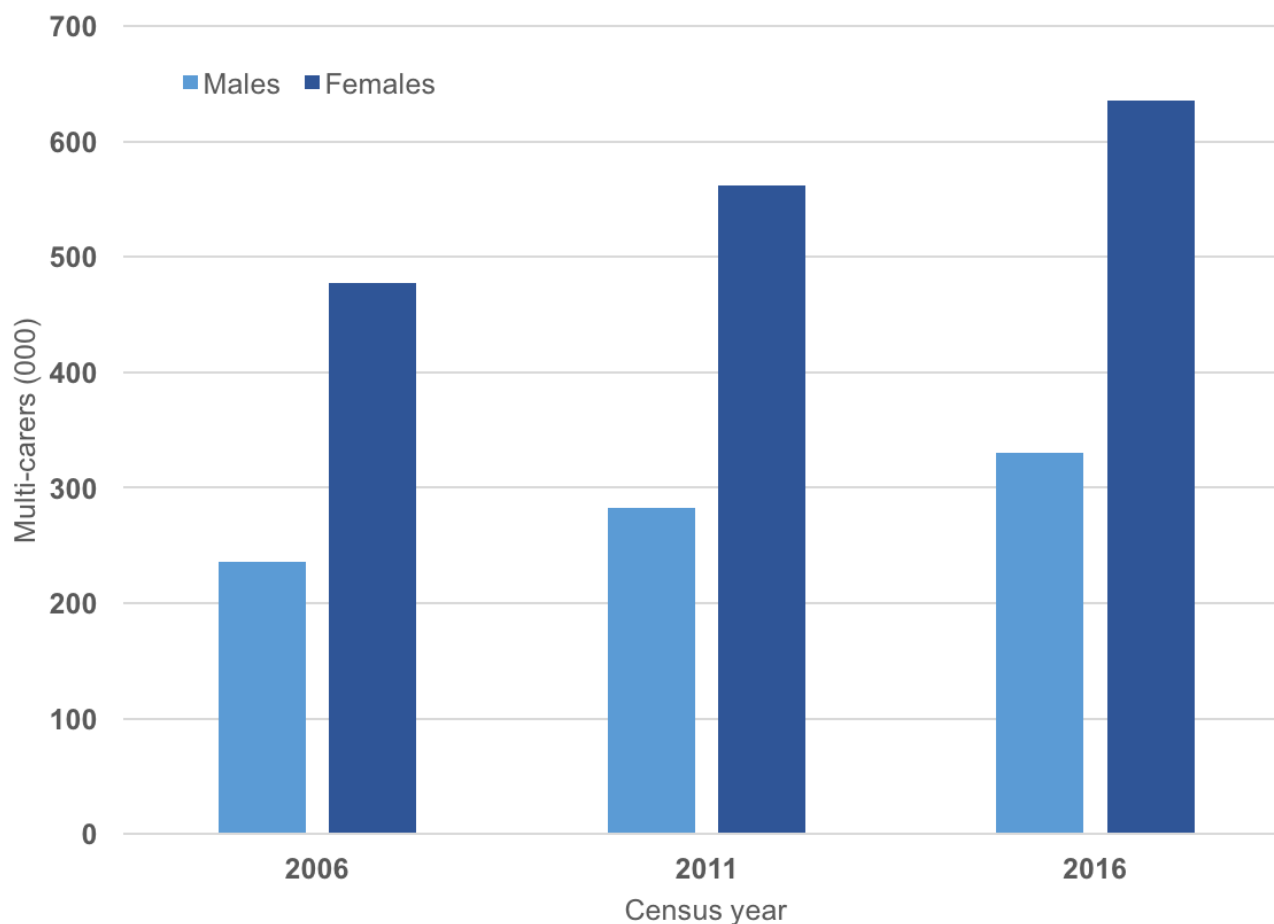
## Care for children



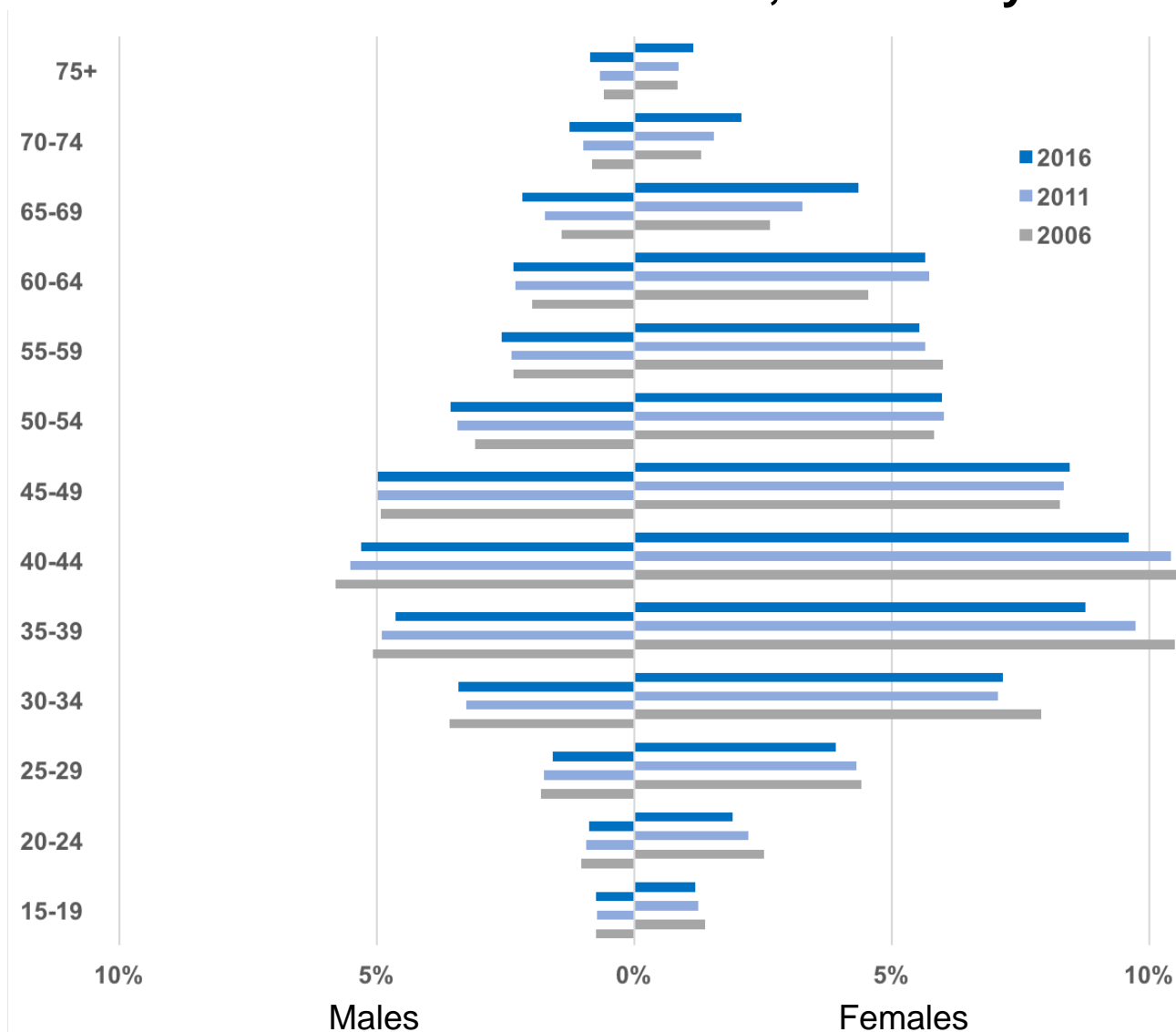
## Care for others



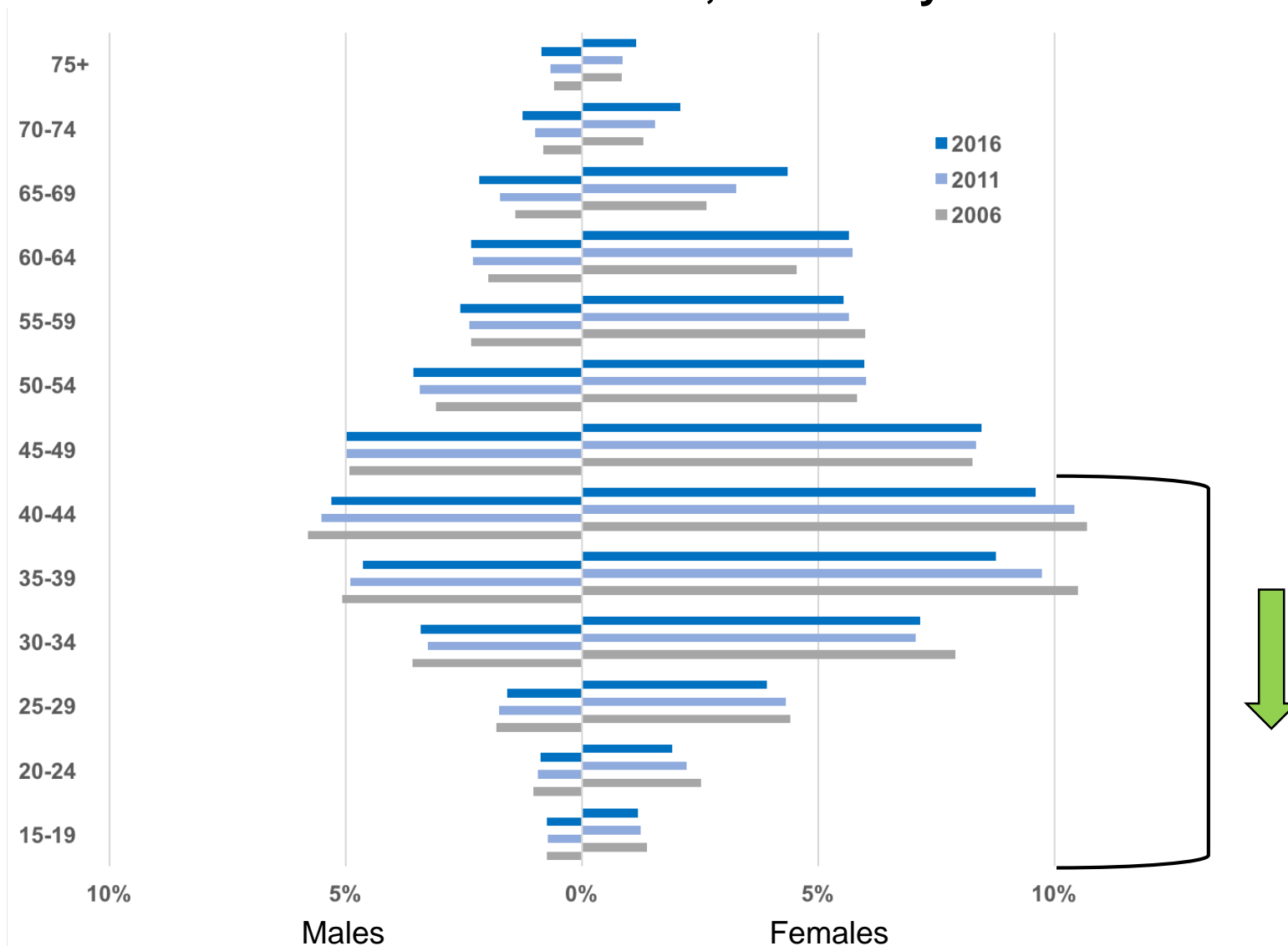
# Multi-carers on the rise, gendered



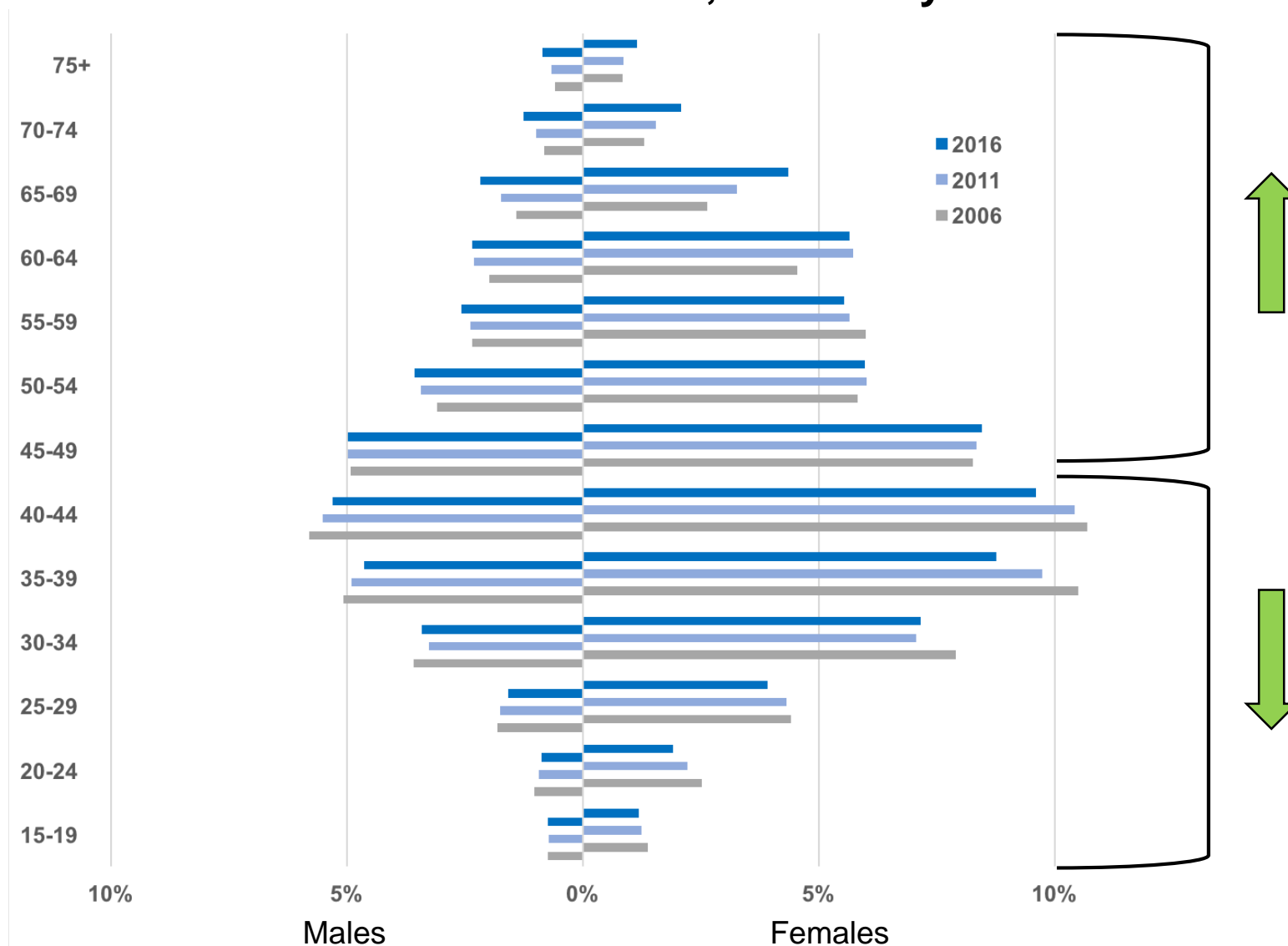
## Multi-carers – Australia, selected years



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## Multi-carers – Australia, selected years



## What does this mean?

- Consequences for individuals, families, communities.
- What about paid work?
- Are there leverage points to intervene?
- Census provides invaluable opportunity to highlight the nature of households, families and nature of care, carers.





# Describing Australian communities

# Income in the ACT

Region	Proportion with low income (<\$400 per week)	Proportion with high income (>\$1,500 per week)	80/20 ratio
Belconnen	0.083	0.353	2.981
Gungahlin	0.051	0.416	2.615
North Canberra	0.097	0.460	3.551
South Canberra	0.057	0.597	2.983
Tuggeranong	0.066	0.365	2.894
Weston Creek	0.064	0.408	3.124
Woden Valley	0.068	0.431	3.146
Molonglo	0.024	0.526	2.168
Australia	0.135	0.221	3.457

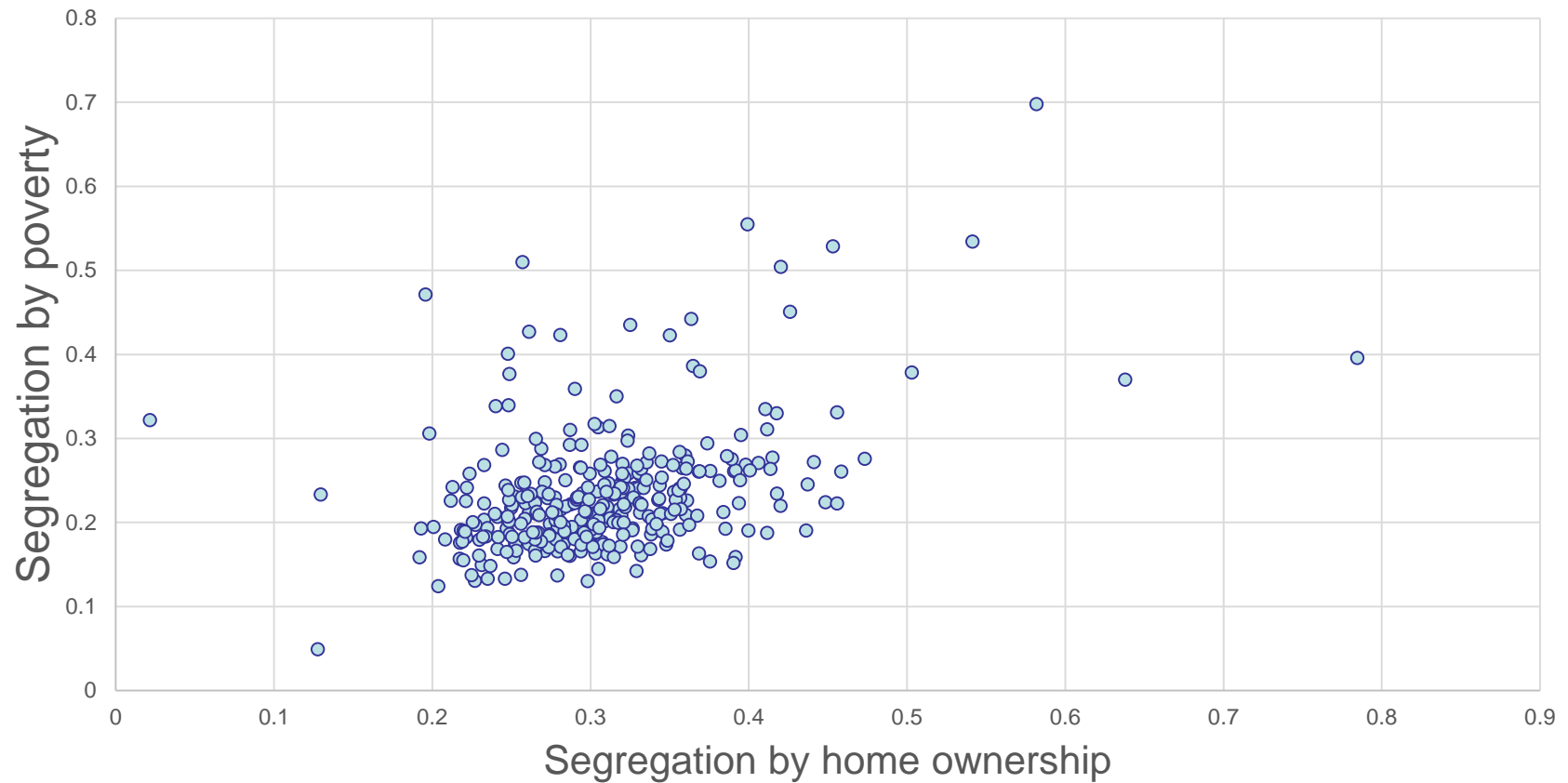
# Residential segregation and socio-economic concentration

- Concentration of people from certain backgrounds has in relatively poor/rich neighbourhoods may entrench disadvantage:
  - Impacts on social cohesion
  - Concentration of economic disadvantage through underdeveloped networks
  - Development of adverse norms and values
  - Lack of interaction at the school level
  - Poor access to amenities and political power
  - Development of negative stereotypes
- Measure – Dissimilarity index
  - Proportion of people who would have to move neighbourhoods to result in a completely even distribution
  - Calculated for Australia, and for Statistical Local Area 3

# National level segregation

Group of interest	Comparison	Segregation
Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	0.527
Born overseas	Born in Australia	0.290
Recent migrants (2006-2016)	Born in Australia	0.456
Previous migrant cohort (1996-2005)	Born in Australia	0.408
Low income	Rest of population	0.262
High income	Rest of population	0.274
Home owners	Renters	0.361
Public housing	Private housing (own or rent)	0.695

# Poverty and home ownership segregation



# Policy implications

# What did the Census tell us about policy?

- The numbers reporting a disability increased substantially – How will that affect NDIS funding?
- The numbers attending a private school stable or falling (for primary schools) – How will that affect Gonski 2.0 (or 3.0)?
- Home ownership is declining, but unevenly across Australia – How can we build more houses where people want to live?
- More people appear to be comfortable identifying as Indigenous – Does that require an increase, targeting or rationing of Indigenous-specific programs?
- Sorting by neighbourhoods in one domain are highly correlated with other domains – Does housing and ethnicity affect income?

- Good data collection requires adequate resources
  - Includes resources post-Census
- People are still committed to the Census
- People care and are worried about how their data is used



