Profile of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Western Australia

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Working paper
83

2011

Curtin University

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Profile of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Western Australia

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Desert Knowledge CRC Working Paper Number 83

ISBN: 978 1 74158 195 8 (Web copy)

ISSN: 1833-7309

Citation

Rola-Rubzen MF and Gabunada FM. 2011. *Profile of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Western Australia*. DKCRC Working Paper 83. Ninti One Limited, Alice Springs.

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Ninti One Limited
Publications Officer
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Acknowledgements

The work reported in this publication was supported by funding from the Australian Government Cooperative Research Centres Program through the Desert Knowledge CRC. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Desert Knowledge CRC or its Participants. The Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre (2003–2010) was an unincorporated joint venture with 28 partners whose mission was to develop and disseminate an understanding of sustainable living in remote desert environments, deliver enduring regional economies and livelihoods based on Desert Knowledge, and create the networks to market this knowledge in other desert lands.

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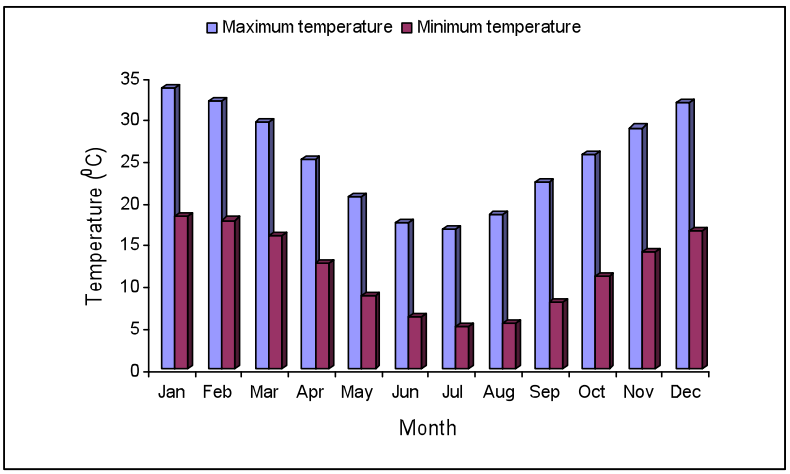
1. Introduction

Kalgoorlie-Boulder is located in the Goldfields-Esperance region of Western Australia approximately, 600 km east of Perth. It is Australia's largest outback city (City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder 2009) and occupies an area of 95 576 km^2 (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2009).

The name Kalgoorlie comes from the Aboriginal word 'kulgooluh' (or 'karlkurla'), meaning 'silky pear' (an edible fruit common to the region). Gold was discovered in the area by Paddy Hannan, Daniel Shea and Tom Flanagan in 1893, and today Kalgoorlie-Boulder is considered Australia's gold capital (City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder 2009).

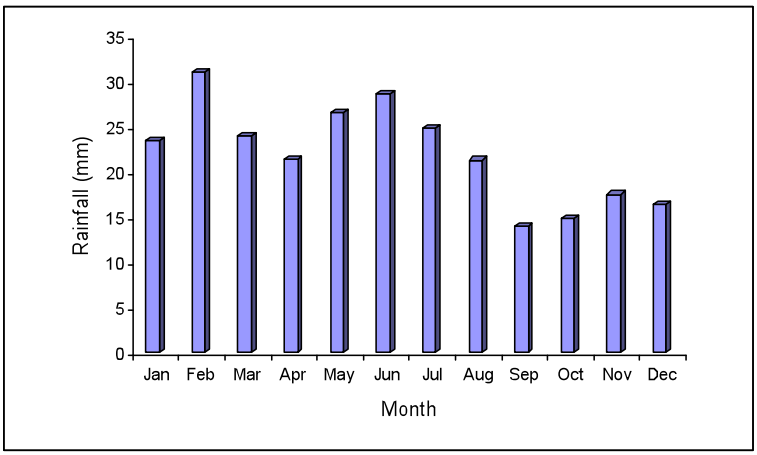
The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder local government area was created on 1 February 1989 with the amalgamation of the Shire of Boulder and the Town of Kalgoorlie (Wikipedia 2009). It covers two state government electorates: that of Eyre (including Boulder), and the seat of Kalgoorlie. The federal seat of Kalgoorlie is one of Australia's largest electorates (City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder 2009).

The monthly temperature for Kalgoorlie-Boulder ranges from 5^0 C to 33.6^0 C (Figure 1), with a mean annual maximum temperature of 25.2^0 C and mean annual minimum temperature of 11.6^0 C. Its mean monthly rainfall ranges from 14 mm to 31.2 mm (Figure 2), with annual rainfall of 265.2 mm (Bureau of Meteorology 2009).



Source: Bureau of Meteorology 2009

Figure 1: Mean monthly temperatures for Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport



Source: Bureau of Meteorology 2009

Figure 2: Mean monthly rainfall for Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport

2. Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics

This section describes the demographic characteristics of Kalgoorlie-Boulder in terms of:

- population
- age and gender
- origin and marital status
- religious affiliation
- education
- household and family composition
- home ownership
- access to information technology
- occupation
- income.

In some instances, information for Kalgoorlie-Boulder is discussed in comparison with information for the state of Western Australia. Sources of basic data included the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census Community Profile Series for the LGA of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and state of Western Australia (ABS 2006a, 2006b) and 2006 Census QuickStats for the LGA of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (ABS 2006c).

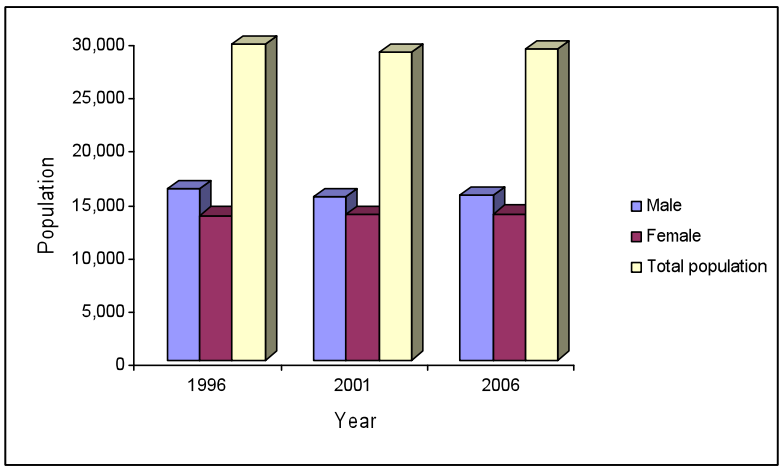
2.1 Population

The total population of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Western Australia for 1996, 2001 and 2006 is presented in Table 1. While the population in Western Australia increased over time during this period, the population in Kalgoorlie-Boulder fluctuated. Over a decade, the population in Western Australia increased by 15% while the population in Kalgoorlie-Boulder decreased by about 2%, from 29 518 in 1996 to 29 029 in 2006 (Table 1 and Figure 3). Between 1996 and 2006 there were more male residents compared to female residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder (Figure 4). As can be seen from Table 1, in 1996 about 54% of the population in Kalgoorlie-Boulder were males while about 46 per cent were females. This trend continued until 2006, although there is a small reduction in the gap.

Table 1: Population by gender in Western Australia and Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

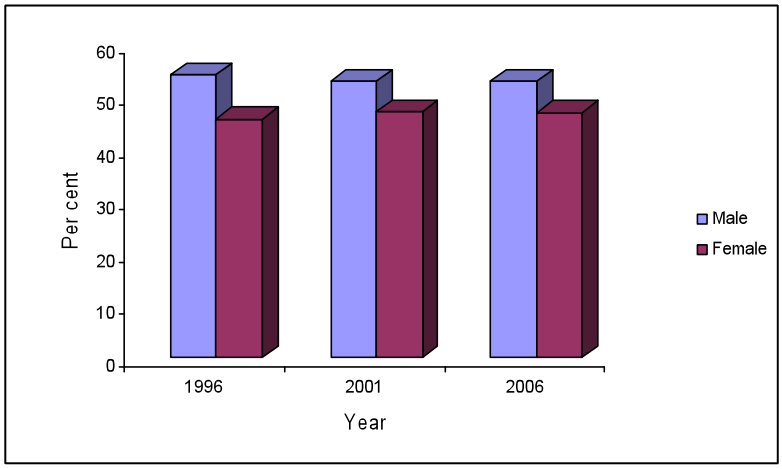
	Western Australia						Kalgoorlie-Boulder					
Gender	**1996**		**2001**		**2006**		**1996**		**2001**		**2006**	
	No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Males	856 464	50.0	913 287	49.9	980 170	49.9	16 025	54.3	15 213	52.9	15 392	53.0
Females	856 559	50.0	918 721	50.1	984 810	50.1	13 493	45.7	13 519	47.1	13 637	47.0
Persons	1 713 023	100.0	1 832 008	100.0	1 964 980	100.0	29 518	100.0	28 732	100.0	29 029	100.0

Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b.

Figure 3: Population by gender in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b

Figure 4: Gender distribution in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

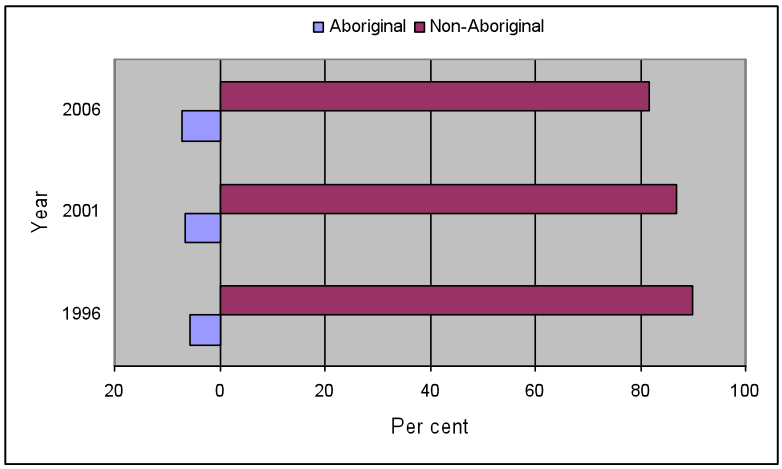
From 1996 to 2006 the majority of residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder were non-Aboriginal, with less than 10% of residents identifying themselves as of Aboriginal origin. In general, the percentage of non-Aboriginal people in Kalgoorlie-Boulder slightly decreased, while the percentage of Aboriginal people slightly increased during this time period. This is inconsistent with the trend in WA, where the percentage of Aboriginal residents remained around 3% in the same time period (Table 2).

Table 2: Population by Aboriginal status in Western Australia and Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

Aboriginal status	Western Australia						Kalgoorlie-Boulder					
	1996		2001		2006		1996		2001		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Aboriginal	50 793	3.0	58 496	3.2	58 704	3.0	1 686	5.7	1 855	6.5	2 088	7.2
Non-Aboriginal	1 614 952	94.3	1 702 809	92.9	1 778 332	90.5	26 546	89.9	25 009	87.0	23 675	81.6
Status not stated	47 278	2.8	70 703	3.9	127 944	6.5	1 286	4.4	1 868	6.5	3 266	11.3
Total	1 713 023	100.0	1 832 008	100.0	1 964 980	100.0	29 518	100.0	28 732	100.0	29 029	100.0

Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b

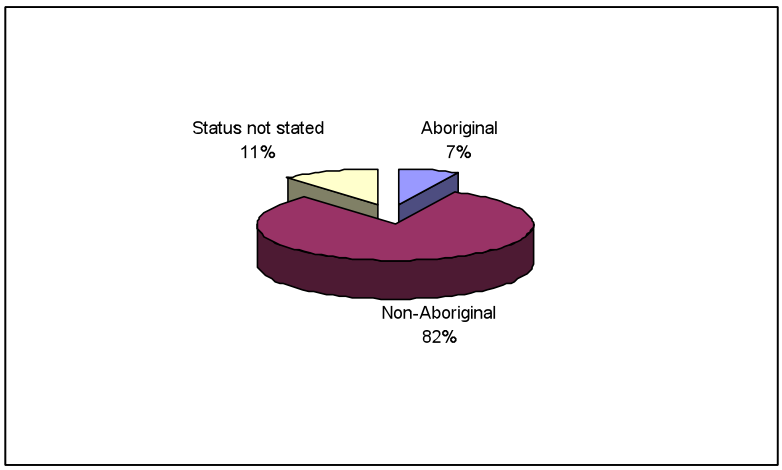
The percentage distribution of residents by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder from 1996 to 2006 is shown in Figure 5. The percentage of Aboriginal residents slightly increased over time (from 6% to 7%) while the percentage of non-Aboriginal residents decreased from 90% in 1996 to 82% in 2006.



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b

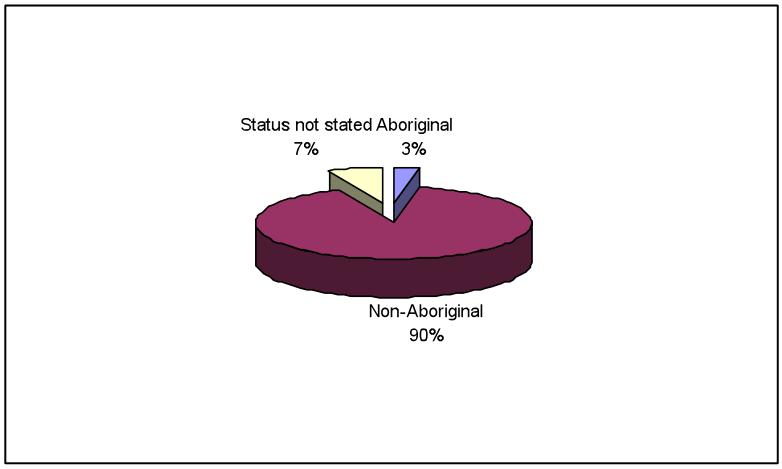
Figure 5: Distribution by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

In 2006, the proportion of Aboriginal residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder (82%) was lower than the percentage of Aboriginal residents in Western Australia (90%) (Figures 6 and 7).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b

Figure 6: Percentage of population by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006



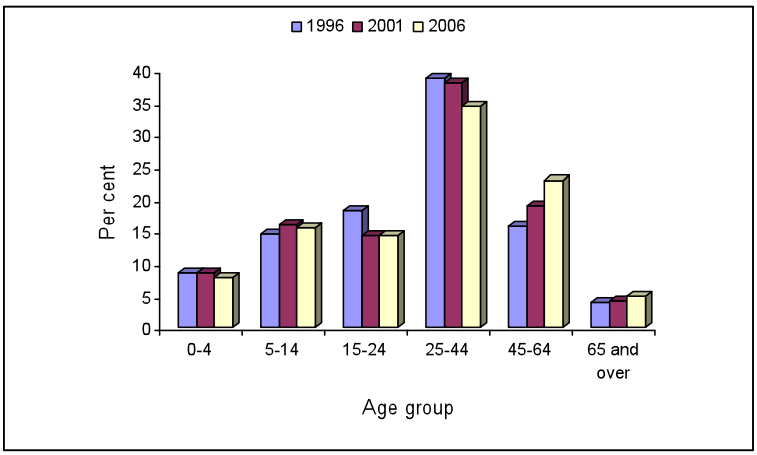
Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b.

Figure 7: Percentage of population by Aboriginal status in Western Australia, 2006

2.2 Age and gender

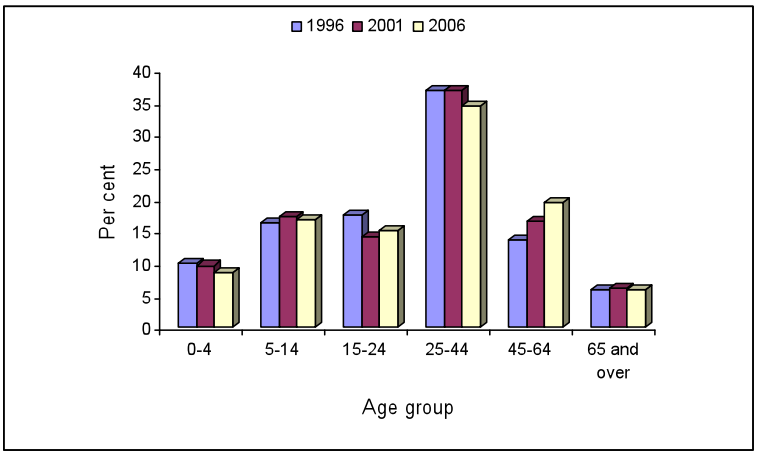
The age distribution by gender of residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder from 1996 to 2006 is shown in Table 3. As can be seen from the table, most of the residents in Kalgoorlie belonged to the labour force (15 years and over) in that period. This closely follows the trend in WA where majority of the population were 15 years and over during the same time period (Table 4). Between 1996 and 2006 the percentage of residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder aged 25–44 years was slightly higher (up to 38%) than in the state of Western Australia (up to 32%).

As with Western Australia as a whole, between 1996 and 2006 the majority of both male and female residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder belonged to the 25–44 and 45–64 age brackets (Figures 8 and 9).



Source: ABS 2006a

Figure 8: Age distribution of male residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 9: Age distribution of female residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

Table 3: Age distribution by gender in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

Age group	1996						2001						2006					
	Males		Females		Persons		Males		Females		Persons		Males		Females		Persons	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0–4	1 365	8.5	1 331	9.9	2 696	9.1	1 302	8.6	1 298	9.6	2 600	9.0	1 188	7.7	1 165	8.5	2 353	8.1
5–14	2 332	14.6	2 203	16.3	4 535	15.4	2 427	16.0	2 315	17.1	4 742	16.5	2 403	15.6	2 274	16.7	4 677	16.1
15–24	2 929	18.3	2 343	17.4	5 272	17.9	2 191	14.4	1 889	14.0	4 080	14.2	2 218	14.4	2 043	15.0	4 261	14.7
25–44	6 213	38.8	4 978	36.9	11 191	37.9	5 782	38.0	4 977	36.8	10 759	37.4	5 306	34.5	4 696	34.4	10 002	34.5
45–64	2 544	15.9	1 845	13.7	4 389	14.9	2 869	18.9	2 228	16.5	5 097	17.7	3 525	22.9	2 649	19.4	6 174	21.3
65 and over	642	4.0	793	5.9	1 435	4.9	642	4.2	812	6.0	1 454	5.1	752	4.9	810	5.9	1 562	5.4
Total	16 025	100.0	13 493	100.0	29 518	100.0	15 213	100.0	13 519	100.0	28 732	100.0	15 392	100.0	13 637	100.0	29 029	100.0

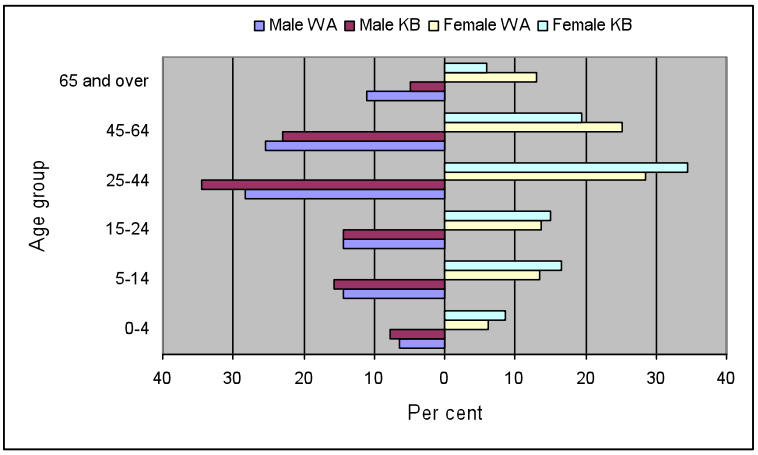
Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Table 4: Age distribution by gender in Western Australia, 1996–2006

Age group	1996						2001						2006					
	Males		Females		Persons		Males		Females		Persons		Males		Females		Persons	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0–4	63 256	7.4	60 034	7.0	123 290	7.2	63 076	6.9	59 633	6.5	122 709	6.7	63 770	6.5	60 894	6.2	124 664	6.3
5–14	134 186	15.7	127 527	14.9	261 713	15.3	138 970	15.2	130 997	14.3	269 967	14.7	139 796	14.3	131 838	13.4	271 634	13.8
15–24	130 887	15.3	124 839	14.6	255 726	14.9	133 123	14.6	127 149	13.8	260 272	14.2	141 628	14.4	134 261	13.6	275 889	14.0
25–44	269 290	31.4	270 912	31.6	540 202	31.5	272 741	29.9	277 237	30.2	549 978	30.0	277 715	28.3	280 678	28.5	558 393	28.4
45–64	179 695	21.0	172 644	20.2	352 339	20.6	213 959	23.4	210 447	22.9	424 406	23.2	249 064	25.4	247 745	25.2	496 809	25.3
65 and over	79 150	9.2	100 603	11.7	179 753	10.5	91 418	10.0	113 258	12.3	204 676	11.2	108 197	11.0	129 394	13.1	237 591	12.1
Total	856 464	100.0	856 559	100.0	1 713 023	100.0	913 287	100.0	918 721	100.0	1 832 008	100.0	980 170	100.0	984 810	100.0	1 964 980	100.0

Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

In 2006, both male and female residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder had a more or less a similar distribution across age groups with the general Western Australian population (Figure 10).

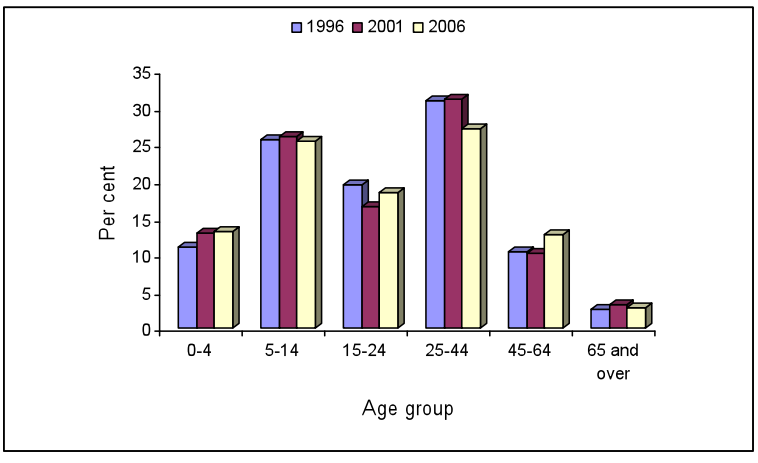


Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b

Figure 10: Age distribution by gender in Western Australia and Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

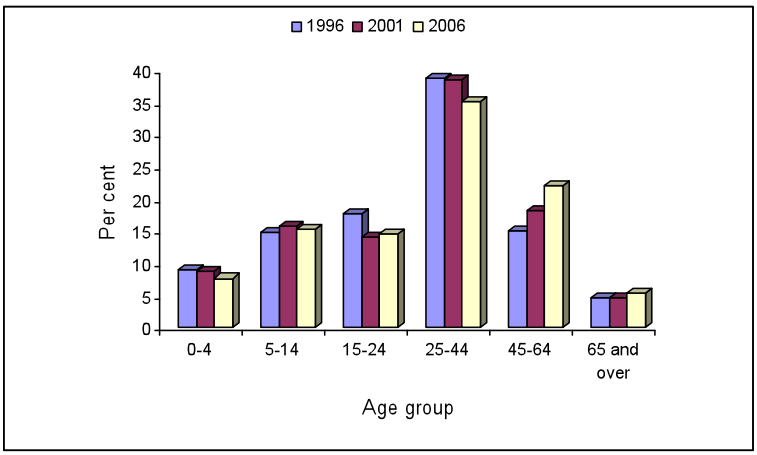
The Aboriginal residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder were generally younger than the non-Aboriginal residents. The majority of non-Aboriginal residents (up to 67%) over the period of 1996 to 2006 were aged 25 years and over while a minority (up to 44%) of Aboriginal residents were aged 25 years and over (Figures 11 and 12).

In 2006 the median age of Aboriginal residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder was 20, while the median age of non-Aboriginal residents was 31. The majority of non-Aboriginal residents (67%) were 25 years and over while more than half (56%) of the Aboriginal residents were below 25 years of age (Figure 13).



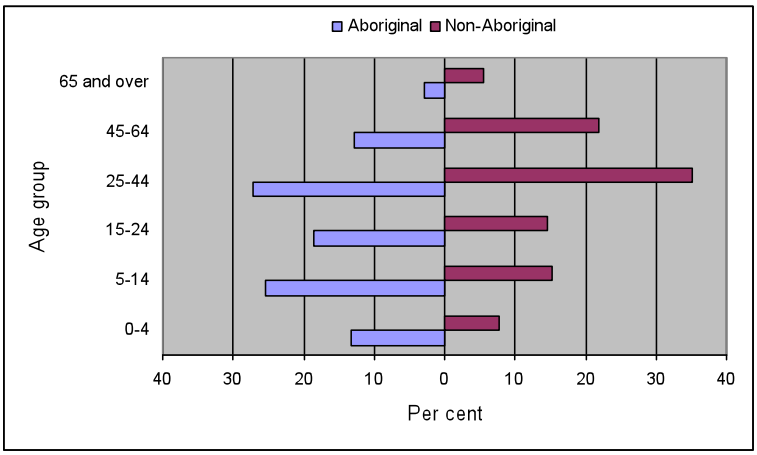
Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 11: Age distribution of Aboriginal residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 12: Age distribution of non-Aboriginal residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 13: Age distribution by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

2.3 Origin and marital status

In 2006 almost three-quarters (72%) of the residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder were of Australian origin. Others were born overseas (New Zealand, England, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Philippines). Forty-three per cent of residents aged 15 years and older were married and a similar percentage (42%) were never married (Table 5).

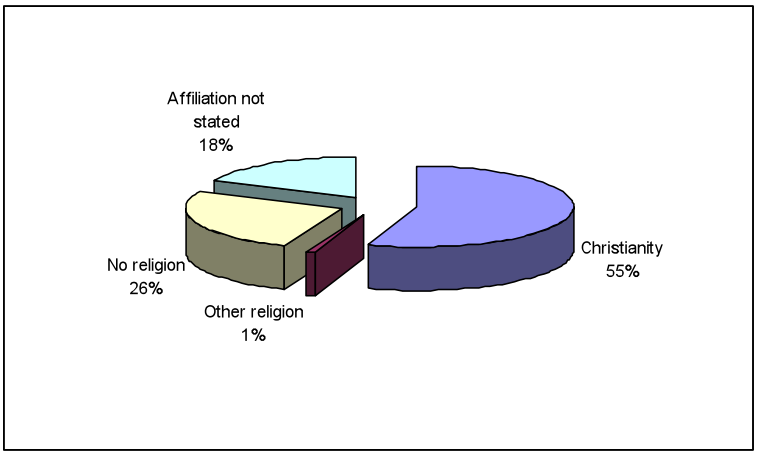
Table 5: Country of origin and marital status of residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

Variable	No.	%
Country of origin		
Australia	20,437	71.9
New Zealand	1,518	5.3
England	825	2.9
South Africa	405	1.4
Zimbabwe	195	0.7
Philippines	177	0.6
Marital status		
Married	9,229	43.2
Never married	9,020	42.3
Separated or divorced	2,406	11.3
Widowed	692	3.2

Source: ABS 2006c

2.4 Religious affiliation

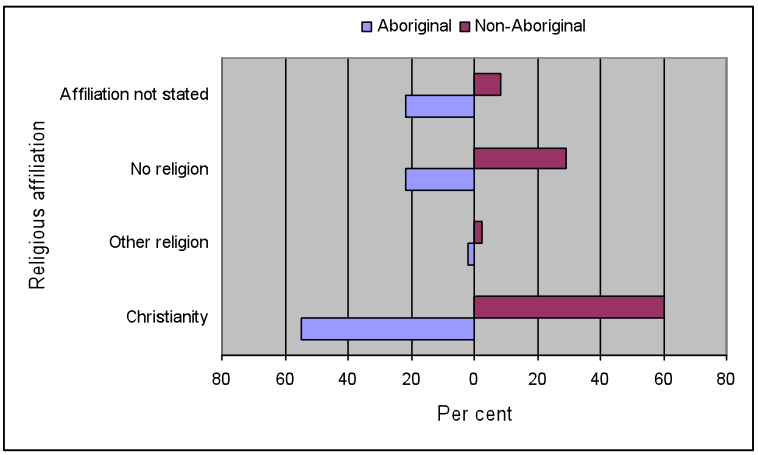
The religious affiliation of residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is shown in Figure 14. In 2006 the majority (55%) were Christian, and just over a quarter (26%) had no religion (Figure 14).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 14: Religious affiliation in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

While the majority of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents in the area were Christian there was a slightly higher proportion of non-Aboriginal Christians (60%) than Aboriginal Christians (55%) (Figure 15). Meanwhile, a higher percentage of non-Aboriginal residents (29%) had no religion compared to Aboriginal residents (22%).

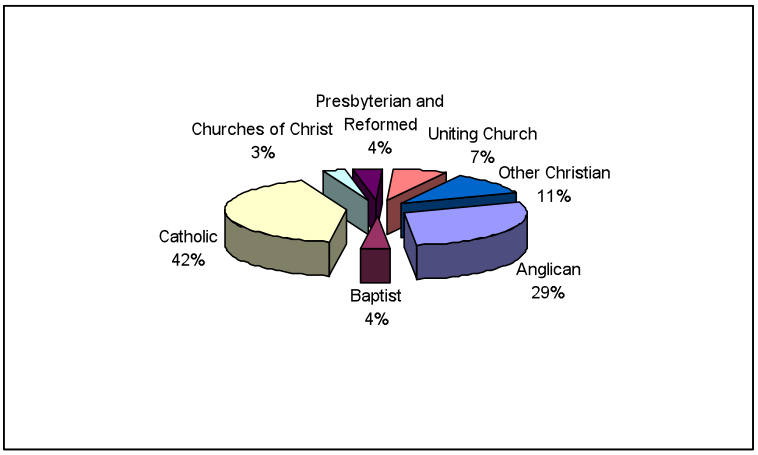


Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 15: Religious affiliation by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

The Christian denominations established in Kalgoorlie-Boulder were, amongst others, Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Uniting Church, Churches of Christ, Presbyterian Church and Reformed Church.

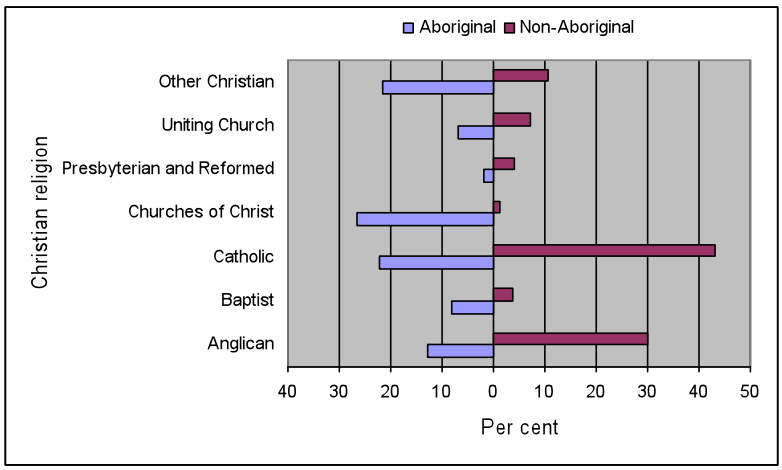
In 2006 a considerable proportion of Christian residents (42%) in Kalgoorlie-Boulder were Catholic. The second largest group was Anglican (29%), followed by those from other Christian religions (11%), and then members of the Uniting Church (7%) (Figure 16).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 16: Christian religion in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

In terms of Aboriginal status, almost twice the percentage of non-Aboriginal residents (43%) was Catholic compared to Aboriginal residents (22%). Likewise, more than twice as many non-Aboriginal residents (30%) than Aboriginal residents (13%) were Anglican. However, a considerable proportion of Aboriginal residents (27%) were affiliated with the Churches of Christ compared to non-Aboriginal residents (1%) (Figure 17).

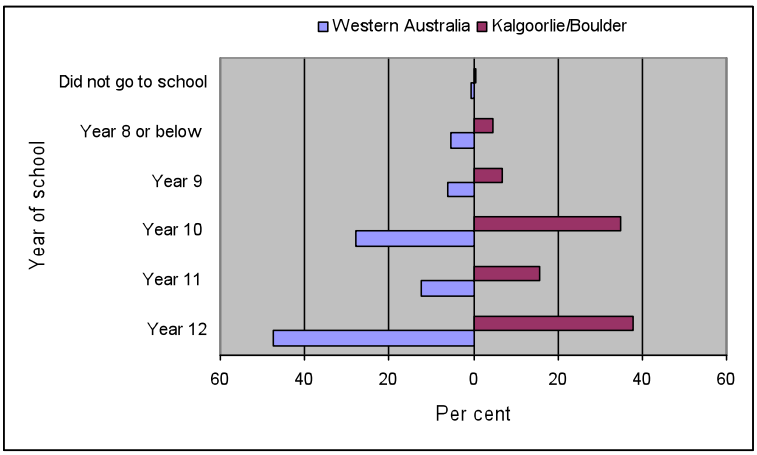


Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c.

Figure 17: Christian religion by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

2.5 Education

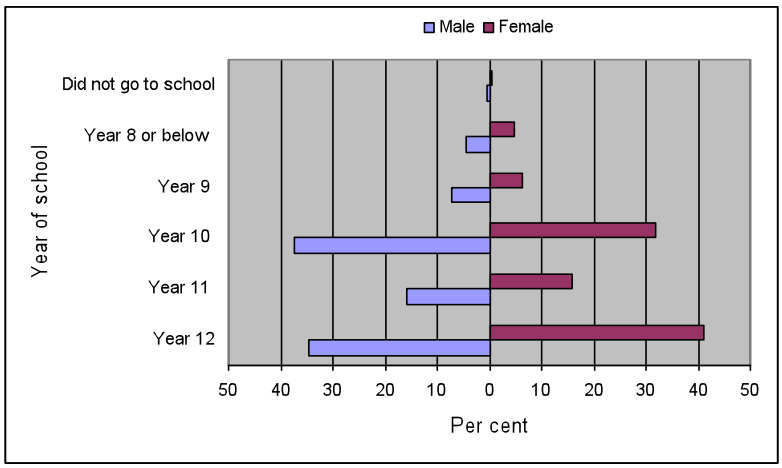
The educational attainment of residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder who were 15 years and older varied. In 2006 the highest year of school completed was Year 12. Compared to the state of Western Australia (48%), the proportion of residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder that completed Year 12 was lower (37%) (Figure 18).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b

Figure 18: Highest year of school completed in Western Australia and Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

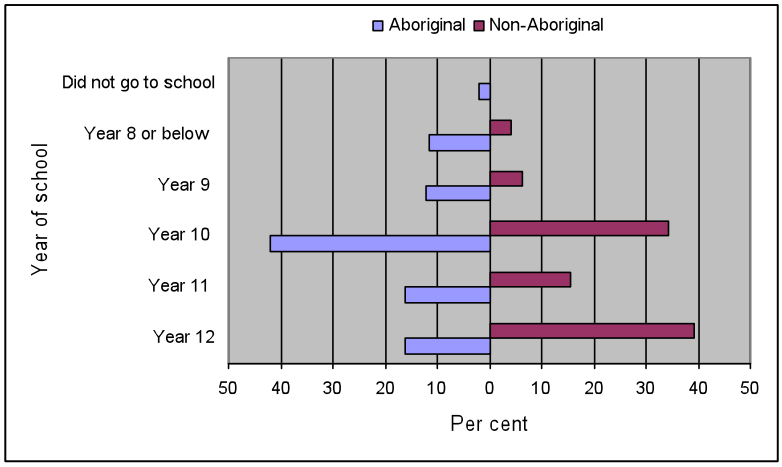
A higher proportion of female residents in Kalgoorlie-Boulder (40%) completed Year 12 compared to males (35%) (Figure 19). An equal proportion of males and females (16%) completed Year 11. However, a higher percentage of males (38%) than females (32%) completed Year 10.



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 19: Highest year of school completed by gender in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

In terms of Aboriginal status, more than twice the proportion of non-Aboriginal residents (39%) of Kalgoorlie-Boulder who were15 years and over had completed Year 12 compared to Aboriginal residents (16%). A similar percentage (16%) of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents had completed Year 11, while a larger percentage of Aboriginal residents (42%) than non-Aboriginal residents (34%) had completed Year 10 (Figure 20).



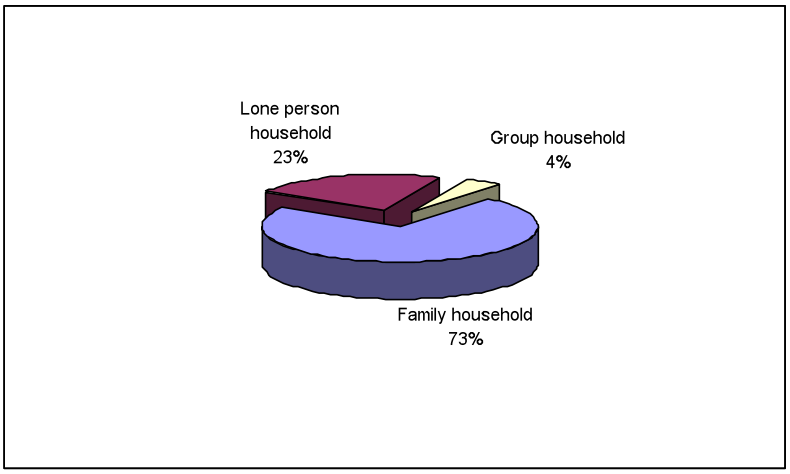
Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 20: Highest year of school completed by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

2.6 Household and family composition

There were 9132 households included in the 2006 Census in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Ninety three per cent of these households were non-Aboriginal and had, on average, 2.7 members. In terms of Aboriginal status, Aboriginal households were larger (with an average household size of 3.6) than non-Aboriginal households (average household size of 2.6).

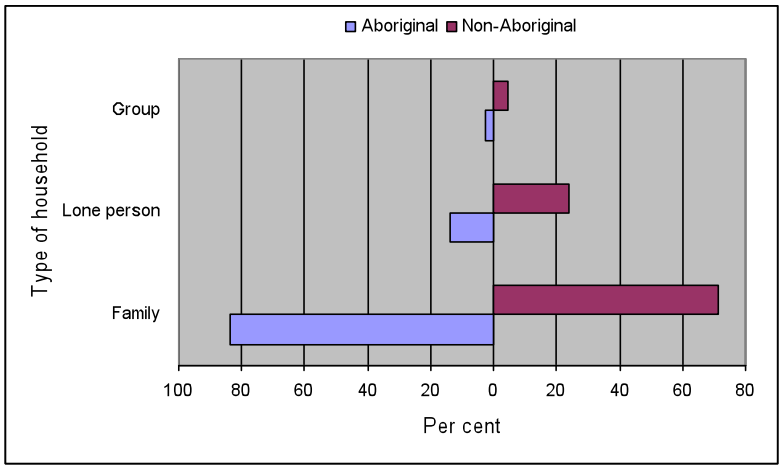
The households in the area were classified as 'family' (single and multiple family), 'lone person' and 'group household'. The majority (73%) were family households, while more than a fifth (23%) had a lone occupant (Figure 21).



Source: ABS 2006 a, 2006c

Figure 21: Types of household in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

While most Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal households were family households (Figure 22), the proportion of Aboriginal households identified as family households (84%) was higher than non-Aboriginal family households (72%). Meanwhile, a higher percentage of non-Aboriginal residents (24%) lived alone than Aboriginal residents (14%).



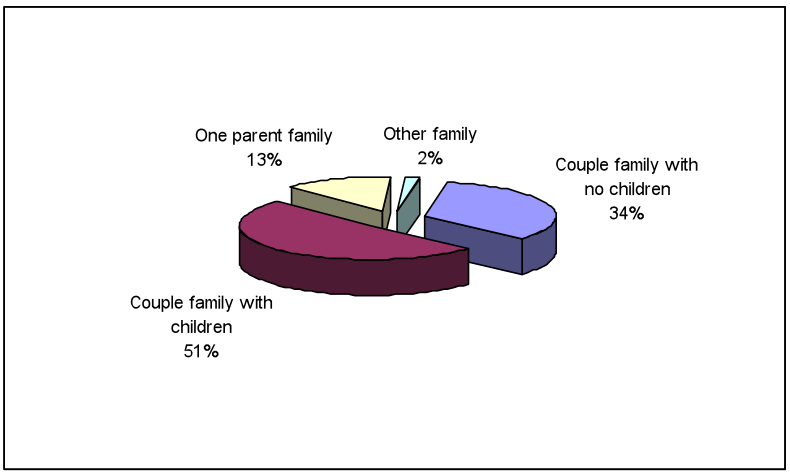
Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 22: Type of household by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

In 2006 there were 6497 one-family households in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, of which 92% were non-Aboriginal. These were composed of couple families with no children, couple families with children,

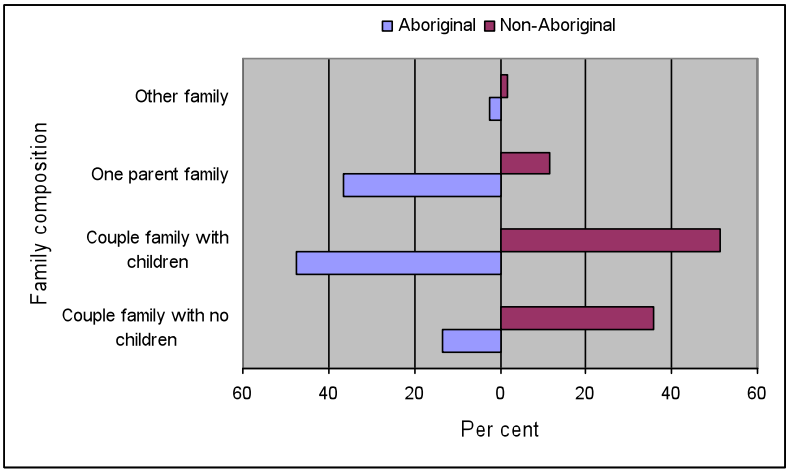
one-parent families and other families. A little more than half of these families (51%) were composed of couples with children, while just over a third (34%) had no children (Figure 23). Thirteen per cent of family households contained single parents.

In terms of Aboriginal status, a little more than half of non-Aboriginal couples (51%) in the area had children, compared with 48% of Aboriginal couples. In addition, more than twice the proportion of non-Aboriginal couples (36%) had no children compared to Aboriginal couples (14%). On the other hand, a considerable percentage of Aboriginal (36%) residents were single parents (Figure 24).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 23: Family composition in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

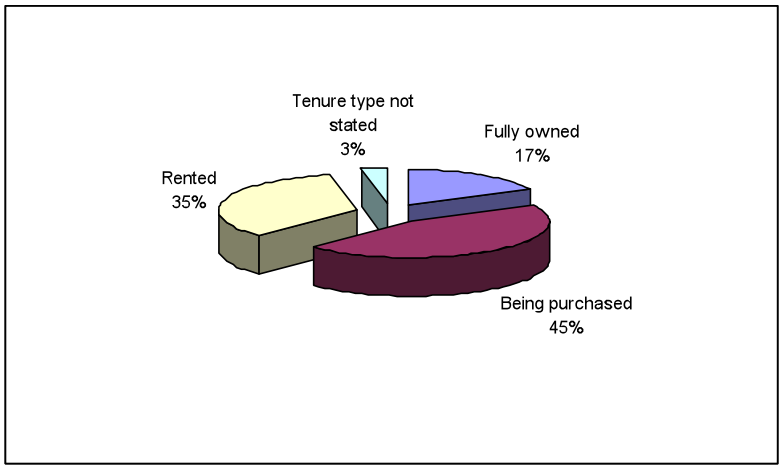


Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 24: Family composition by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

2.7 Home ownership

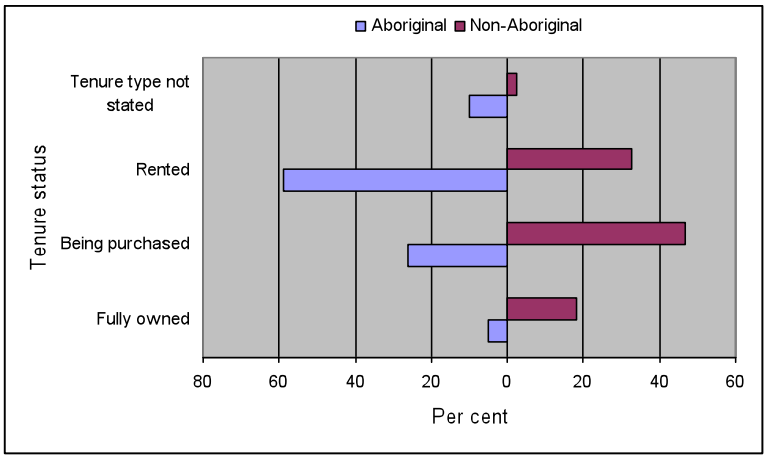
In 2006 the dwelling structures in Kalgoorlie-Boulder were either owned, rented or being purchased by the residents. A considerable proportion of these houses were being purchased (45%) while 35% were rented. Only 17% were fully owned by the residents (Figure 25).



Source: ABS 2006a

Figure 25: Tenure of dwelling structure in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

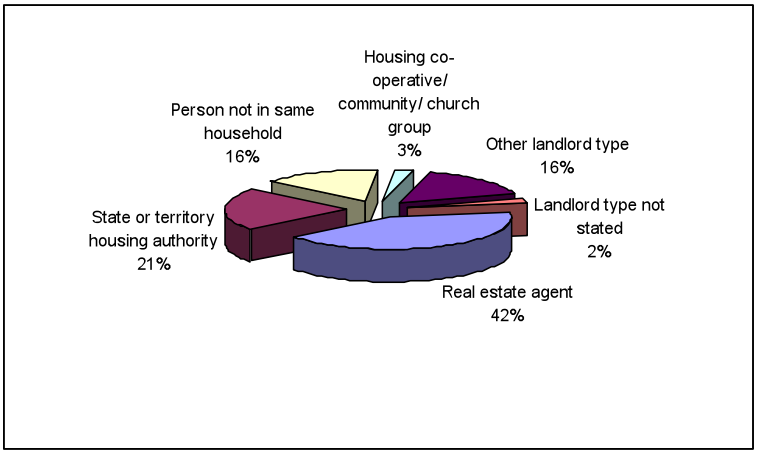
In Kalgoorlie-Boulder the majority of dwellings occupied by Aboriginal residents (59%) were rented, while 37% of the houses occupied by non-Aboriginal residents were rented (Figure 26). A higher proportion of non-Aboriginal residents (47%) were in the process of buying their dwelling structures when compared to Aboriginal residents (26%).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 26: Tenure of dwelling structure by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

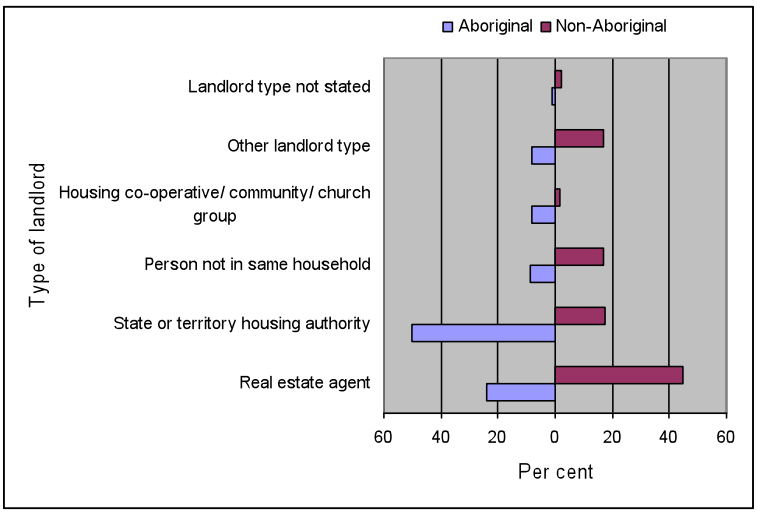
Dwelling structures in Kalgoorlie-Boulder were rented out by various landlords, classified as 'real estate agent', 'state or territory housing authority', 'person not in the same household' and 'other landlord type'. More than a third of residents (42%) rented through a real estate agent. This was followed by those who rented from a state or territory housing authority (21%) (Figure 27).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 27: Landlord of dwelling structures in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

In terms of Aboriginal status, a considerably higher proportion of non-Aboriginal households (45%) rented from real estate agents compared to Aboriginal households (24%). Meanwhile, almost three times more Aboriginal residents (50%) rented from the state or territory housing authority than non-Aboriginal residents (17%) (Figure 28).

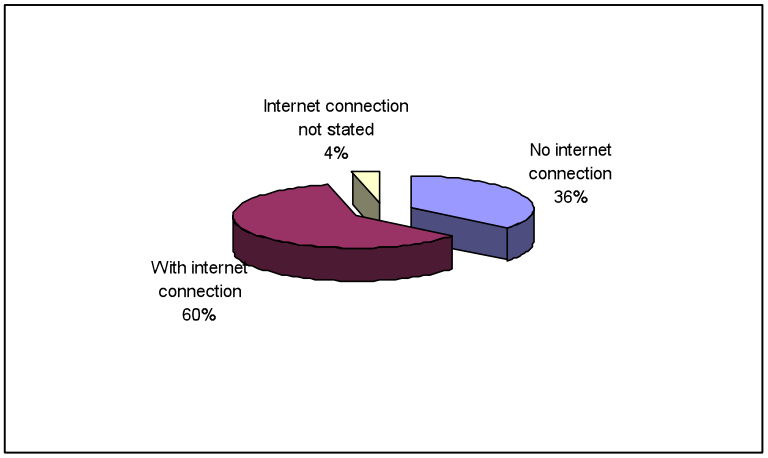


Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 28: Landlord of dwelling structures by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

2.8 Access to information technology

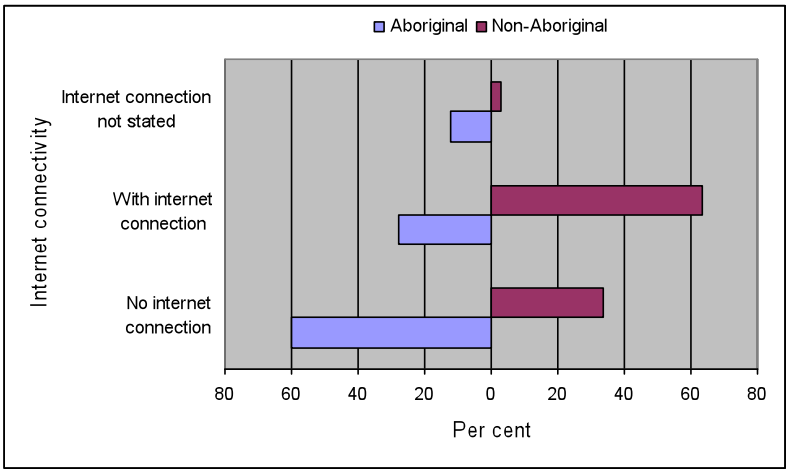
In 2006, information technology was available in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the majority of households (60%) had an internet connection (Figure 29).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 29: Internet connectivity in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

In terms of Aboriginal status, the non-Aboriginal households had better internet access than the Aboriginal households. Sixty three per cent of non-Aboriginal households had internet connection, compared with only 28% of Aboriginal households (Figure 30).

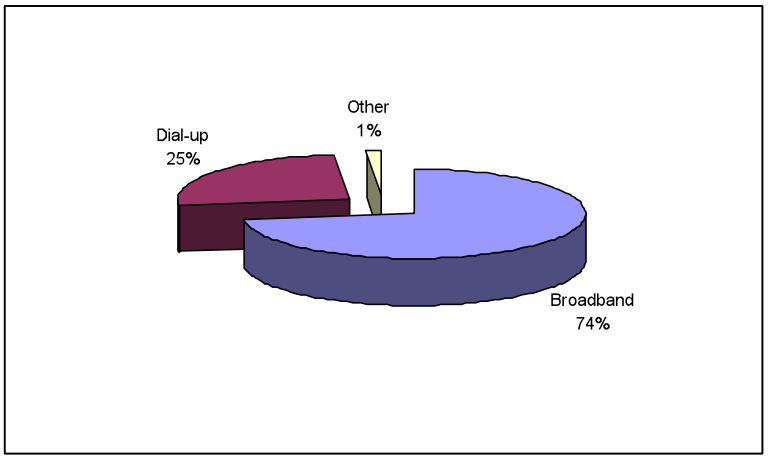


Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 30: Internet connectivity by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

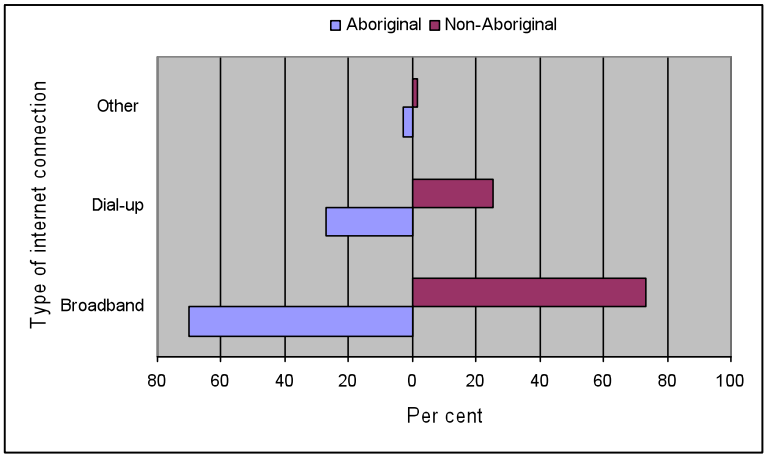
The households in Kalgoorlie-Boulder that had internet connection used broadband, dial-up or other types of internet connection. The majority of households with internet connection in the area (74%)

used broadband (Figure 31). Moreover, the majority of both Aboriginal (70%) and non-Aboriginal households (73%) with internet connection used broadband (Figure 32).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 31: Type of internet connection in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006



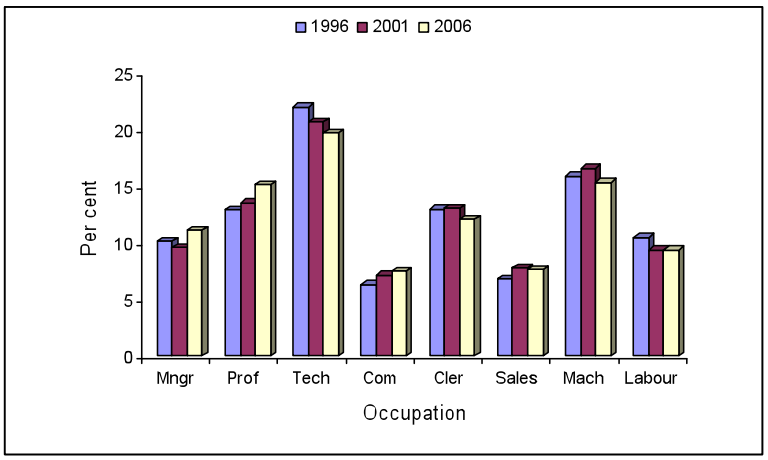
Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 32: Type of internet connection by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

2.9 Occupation

From 1996 to 2006 the members of the working population of Kalgoorlie-Boulder were engaged in various occupations. They worked as managers, professionals, technicians and trades workers, community and personal service workers, clerical and administrative workers, sales workers, machinery operators and drivers, and labourers.

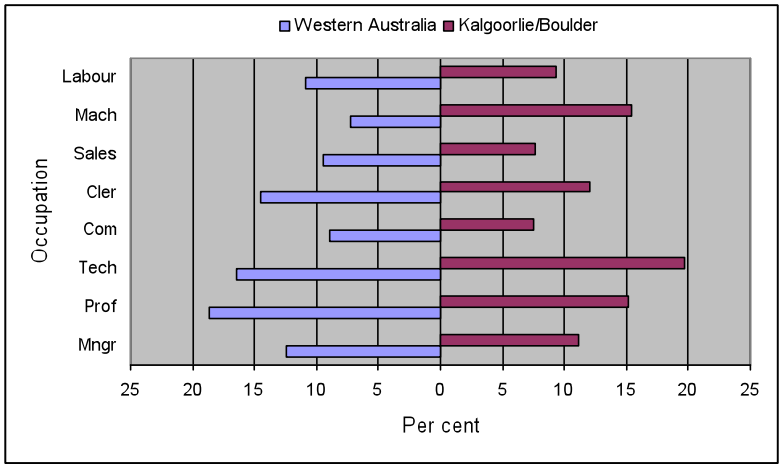
Within that period more (up to 22%) worked as technicians and trades workers than in any other occupation. They were followed by machinery operators and drivers (up to 17%), professionals (up to 15%) and clerical and administrative workers (up to 13%) (Figure 33).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 33: Occupation in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

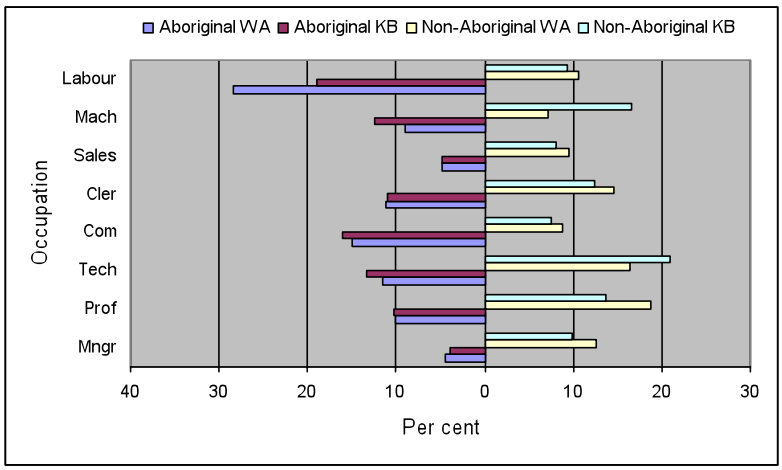
In 2006 the percentages of those employed as technicians and trades workers (20%), as well as machinery operators and drivers (15%), were higher in Kalgoorlie-Boulder than in the state of Western Australia (16% and 7%, respectively). However, the proportion of professionals in Kalgoorlie-Boulder (15%) was slightly lower than the percentage of professionals in Western Australia (Figure 34).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b

Figure 34: Occupation in Western Australia and Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

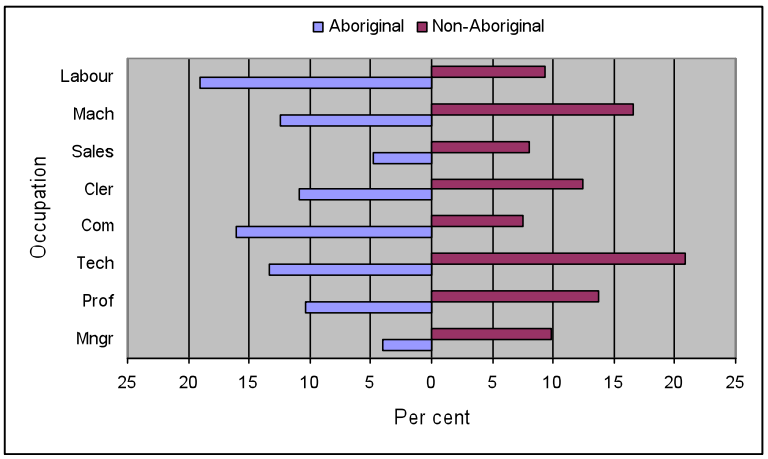
Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of the area had access to similar occupations. As in Western Australia as a whole, there were more Aboriginal labourers and more non-Aboriginal technicians and trades workers as well as professionals in Kalgoorlie-Boulder in 2006 (Figure 35).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b

Figure 35: Occupation by Aboriginal status in Western Australia and Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

In 2006 more than twice the proportion of Aboriginal residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder worked as labourers (19%) compared to non-Aboriginal residents (9%). Likewise, twice the percentage of Aboriginal residents (16%) was engaged as community and personal service workers than non-Aboriginal residents (8%). Meanwhile, a higher percentage of non-Aboriginal residents were employed as technicians and trades workers (21%) and machinery operators and drivers (17%) than Aboriginal residents (13%) (Figure 36).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 36: Occupation by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

2.10 Income

The median weekly individual, family and household incomes in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Western Australia from 1996 to 2006 appear in Table 6. While these incomes increased over time, the median weekly incomes in Kalgoorlie-Boulder were comparatively higher than those of the state of Western Australia. In 2006 the median weekly individual, family and household incomes in Kalgoorlie-Boulder

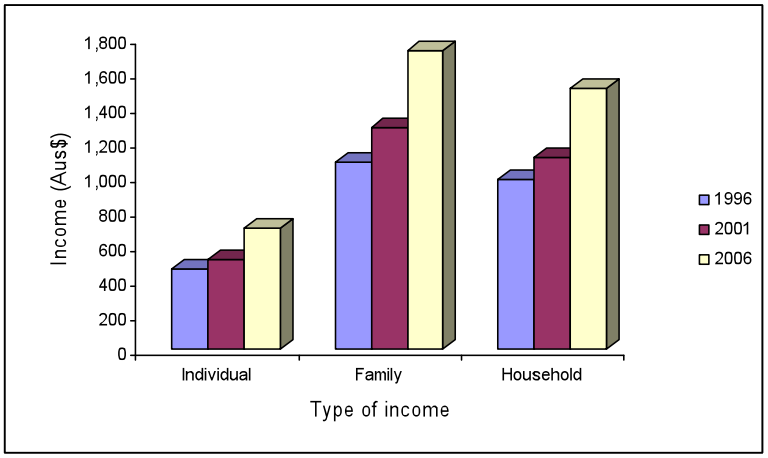
were $699, $1725 and $1507 respectively compared with $500, $1246 and $1063 respectively in Western Australia.

Table 6: Median weekly income (A$) in Western Australia and Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

Type of income	Western Australia			Kalgoorlie/Boulder		
	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006
Individual income	307	374	500	460	521	699
Family income	765	938	1 246	1 079	1 284	1 725
Household income	635	784	1 063	983	1 106	1 507

Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b.

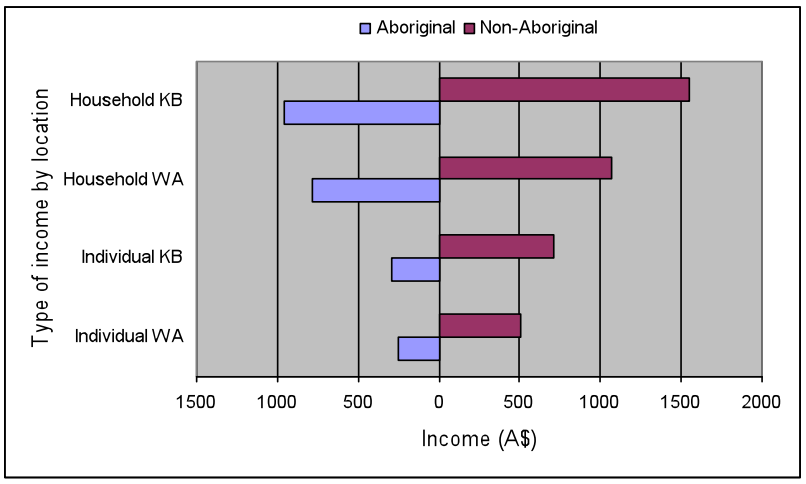
As shown in Figure 37, the median weekly individual, family and household incomes in Kalgoorlie-Boulder increased over time. The individual, family and household incomes increased by 27%, 60% and 53%, respectively from 1996 to 2006. The individual income increased from $460 to $699 from 1996 to 2006, while family and household incomes increased, respectively, from $1079 to $1725 and $983 to $1507 from 1996 to 2006.



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 37: Median weekly income in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

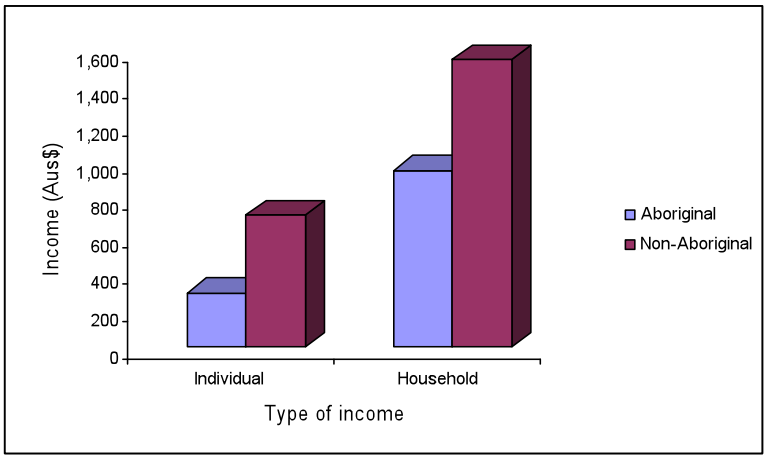
Differences existed between the incomes of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Western Australia. In general, non-Aboriginal residents earned more individual and household incomes than Aboriginal residents yet, when compared with the state of Western Australia, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents of Kalgoorlie-Boulder generated higher incomes (Figure 38).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006b

Figure 38: Median weekly income by Aboriginal status in Western Australia and Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

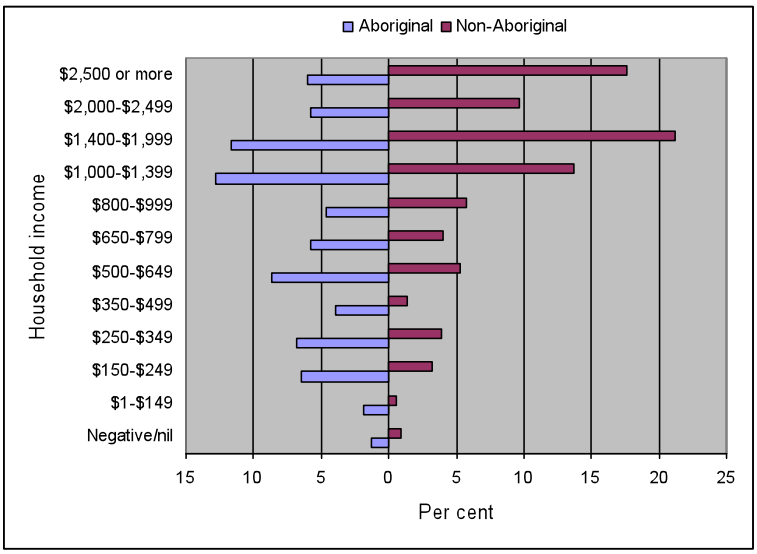
In 2006 the median weekly individual income of non-Aboriginal residents ($712) of Kalgoorlie-Boulder was well over twice that of Aboriginal residents ($294). Moreover, the median weekly household income of non-Aboriginal residents ($1550) was 62% higher than that of Aboriginal residents ($954) (Figure 39).



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 39: Median weekly income by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

The distribution of weekly gross household income by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder in 2006 is presented in Figure 40. As shown, the non-Aboriginal households earned higher incomes than the Aboriginal households. Three times more non-Aboriginal households (18%) than Aboriginal households (6%) earned at least $2500 per week. Moreover, 45% of non-Aboriginal households earned between $1000 and $2499, compared with only 30% of Aboriginal households.



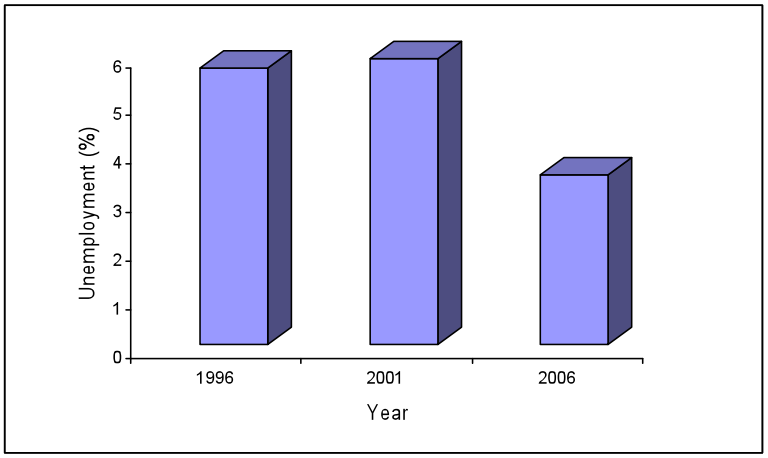
Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 40: Distribution of median weekly household income by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

3. Economy

This section provides information on the economy of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Data on unemployment, labour force status, wage and salary income, total income, taxable income and net tax, wage and salary earners, number of businesses, number of unincorporated businesses as well as income from own unincorporated businesses in the area were taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census Community Profile Series (ABS 2006a, 2006b) and the National Regional Profile of Kalgoorlie-Boulder LGA (ABS 2009).

The level of employment in Kalgoorlie-Boulder among people aged 15 years and over improved over time (Figure 41). The unemployment rate of 5.7% in 1996 was reduced to 3.5% by 2006, implying that employment opportunities in the area might had improved.



Source: ABS 2009

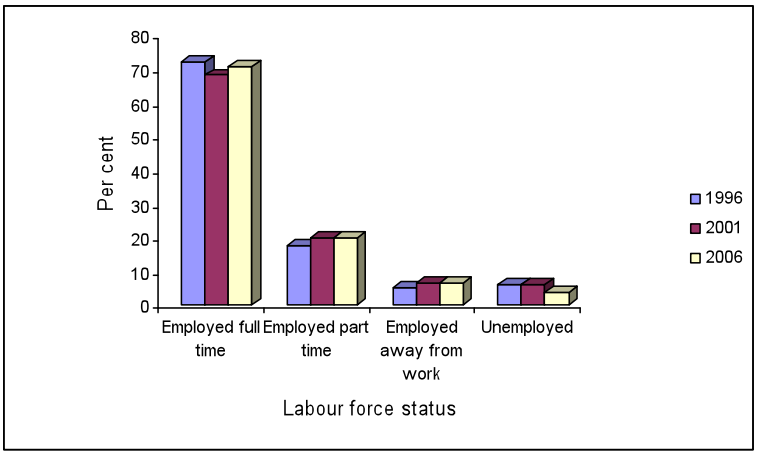
Figure 41: Percentage unemployment in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

In terms of gender, males experienced a slightly higher rate of unemployment (5.8%) in 1996 than did females (5.5%). In 2006, however, employment among males improved. Unemployment among males was reduced by 2.6%, taking the unemployment rate down to 3.2% (from 5.5% in 1996). Meanwhile, female unemployment was reduced by only 1.7% (from 5.5% in 1996 to 3.8% in 2006) (Figure 42).

Source: ABS 2009

Figure 42: Percentage unemployment by gender in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996-2006

Figure 43 shows the labour force status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder from 1996 to 2006, which, over time, was encouraging. The majority (up to 72%) of the labour force was employed full time. Others were either employed part time or employed away from work.



Source: ABS 2009

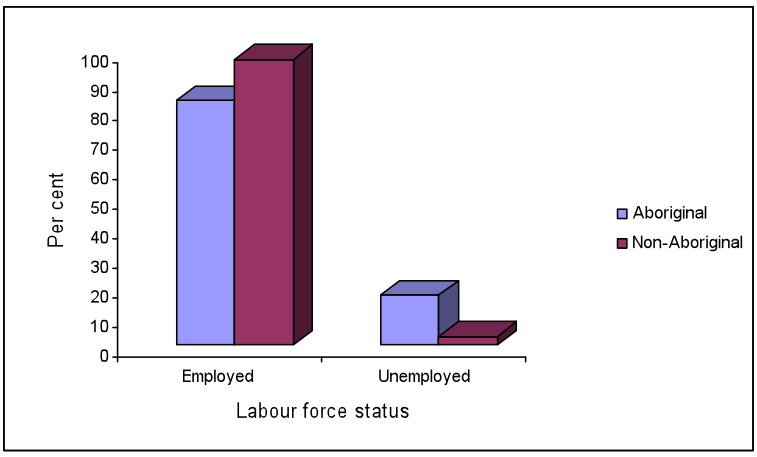
Figure 43: Labour force status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 1996–2006

Males in Kalgoorlie-Boulder had better employment status than females. In 2006 a considerably higher percentage of male workers (83%) were employed full time compared to female workers (53%) (Figure 44).

Source: ABS 2006a

Figure 44: Labour force status by gender in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

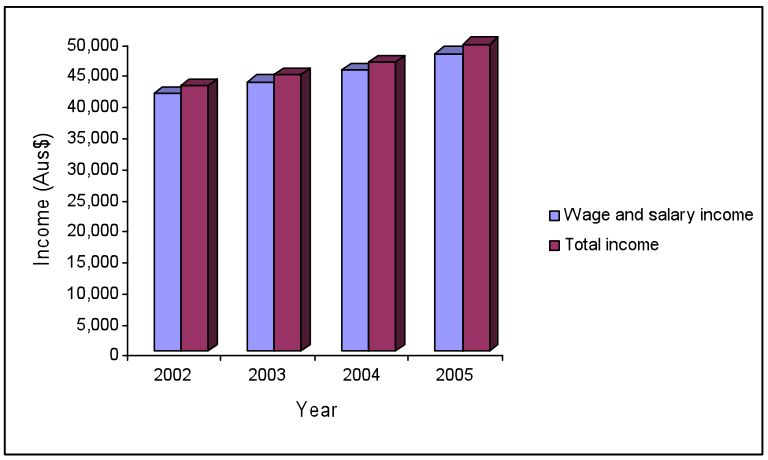
In terms of Aboriginal status, almost all of the non-Aboriginal residents (97%) in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder labour force were employed in 2006 compared with 83% of Aboriginal residents (Figure 45). This implies that non-Aboriginal residents have better access to employment opportunities than the Aboriginal residents of the area.



Source: ABS 2006a, 2006c

Figure 45: Labour force status by Aboriginal status in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2006

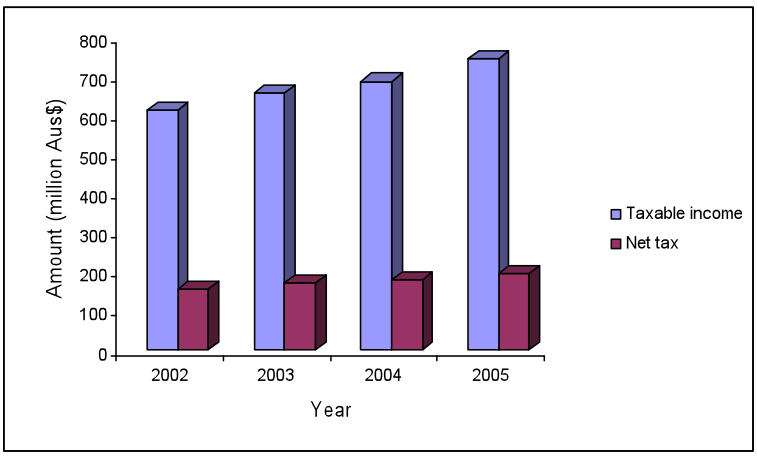
The average wage and salary income and total income in Kalgoorlie-Boulder for the period 2002–05 are presented in Figure 46. As shown, these incomes increased over time. The average wage and salary income increased from $41 418 to $47 914, while total income increased from $42 760 to $49 376 from 2002 to 2005.



Source: ABS 2009

Figure 46: Average wage and salary income and total income in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2002–05

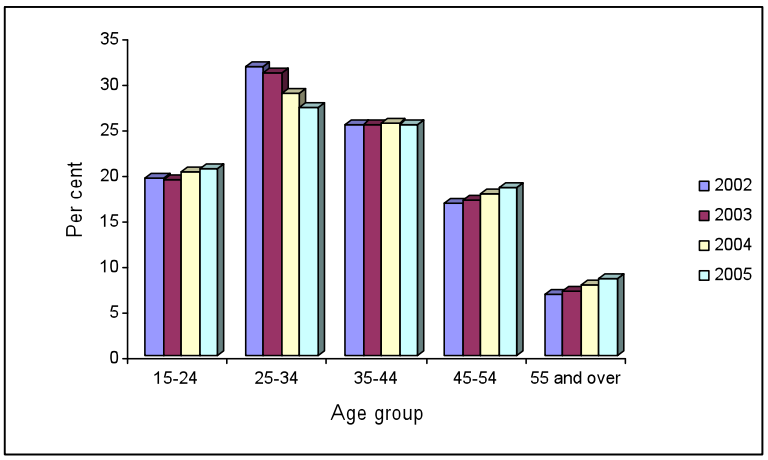
Likewise, taxable income and net tax in the area increased over time (Figure 47). The total taxable income increased from $615.4 million in 2002 to $744.7 million in 2005. This generated net tax amounting to $155.4 million in 2002 and $196 million in 2005.



Source: ABS 2009

Figure 47: Taxable income and net tax in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2002–05

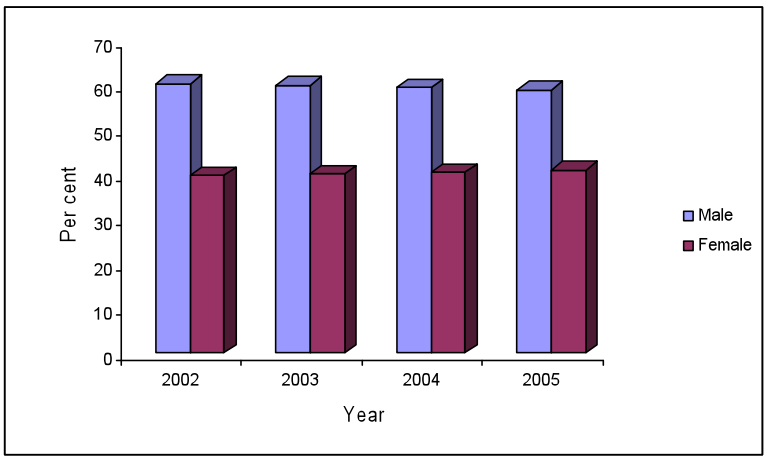
The wage and salary earners in Kalgoorlie-Boulder over time were distributed across age groups. Up to 57% were between 25–44 years of age, although the percentage over time slightly declined (Figure 48). One-fifth of these wage and salary earners was younger, belonging to the 15–24 age group, while the percentage of those between 45–54 years (as well as 55 years and older) slightly increased over time.



Source: ABS 2009

Figure 48: Wage and salary earners by age in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2002–05

The majority of wage and salary earners (60%) in the area over time were males (Figure 49).

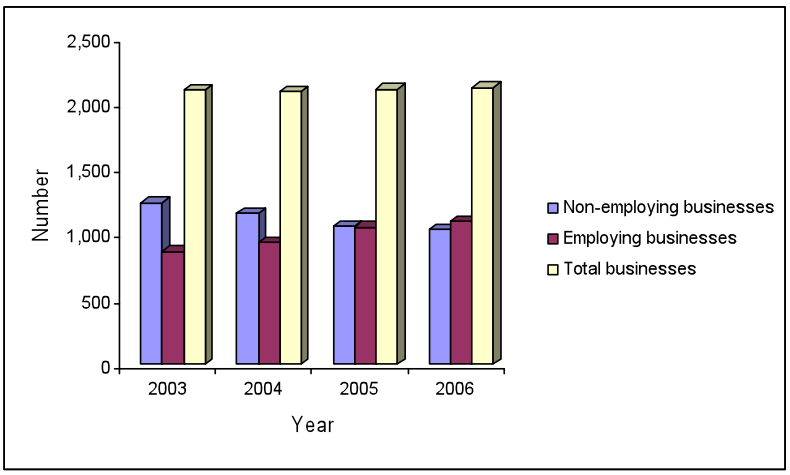


Source: ABS 2009

Figure 49: Wage and salary earners by gender in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2002–05

Figure 50 presents the number of businesses in Kalgoorlie-Boulder from 2003 to 2006; during that period there were more than 2000 businesses. The total number of businesses slightly fluctuated over time, from 2103 businesses in 2003 down to 2091 in 2004, and back up again to 2121 in 2006. In 2003–04 more than half were non-employing businesses while, in 2006, more than half were employing businesses.

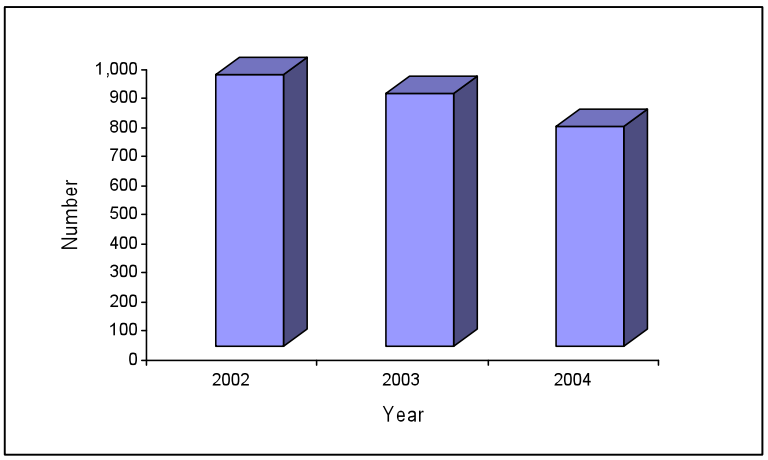
The number of non-employing businesses declined while the employing businesses increased over time, from 864 in 2003 to 1092 in 2006. These businesses could have contributed to employment in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Entrepreneurs in the area employed at least one other worker in their business.



Source: ABS 2009

Figure 50: Number of businesses in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2003–06

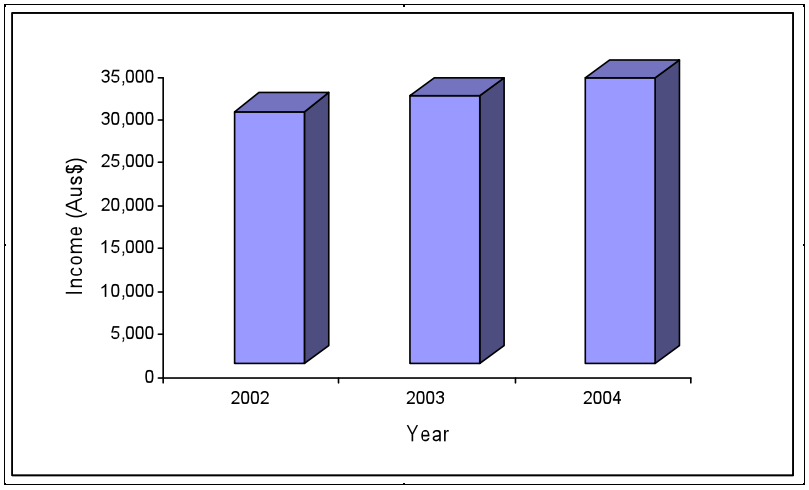
The number of persons with their own unincorporated businesses in Kalgoorlie-Boulder declined over time; from 934 in 2002, the number reduced to 758 in 2004 (Figure 51). This has implications for the sustainability of unincorporated businesses in the area.



Source: ABS 2009

Figure 51: Number of persons with own unincorporated business in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2002–04

Meanwhile, the average 'own unincorporated business' income in Kalgoorlie-Boulder increased over time (Figure 52). From $29 402 in 2002, unincorporated business income increased to $31 226 in 2003 and further to $33 298 in 2004.



Source: ABS 2009

Figure 52: Average 'own unincorporated business' income in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, 2002–04

Mining is the main industry in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the largest source of employment in the area. In 2003 the industry's estimated worth in Western Australia was $30 billion, and the Eastern Goldfields region has been a major contributor to that. The mining industry in the area has also created jobs in retailing and the service and hospitality industries (City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder 2009).

4. Services

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is the hub of the Western Australian Goldfields region. It provides various amenities, facilities and services, including the Goldfields Arts Centre, Goldfields Oasis Recreation Centre, Goldfields War Museum, a public library, childcare services, aged and disability services, education, public services and health, retail, sports, picnic areas and parks, tourism, public safety, youth employment and traineeships, air services, rangers, and waste management services. The city also provides grants and funding for community development projects and activities. Below is a summary description of these facilities and services (City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder 2009).

The Goldfields Arts Centre contains a 700-seat theatre, which stages a variety of local, state and national performances, and gallery spaces. The Goldfields Oasis Recreation Centre is a multi-purpose sports and aquatic complex which offers indoor and outdoor courts for various sports, a 50 m heated swimming pool, a children's pool, toddler's wading pool and playground, flow rider, water slider and river ride, a crèche and a kiosk.

The Goldfields War Museum houses a collection of Goldfields citizens' wartime artefacts and memorabilia from the Boer War, World Wars I and II, and the Vietnam War. On display are armoured vehicles, artillery, radio equipment, photographs and documents. The museum also offers educational tours and programs.

The local library for Kalgoorlie-Boulder, the William Grundt Memorial Library, has over 50 000 items in its collection, including books, DVDs, CDs and videos. Its facilities also include an open courtyard area, photocopier, broadband internet, children's area, young adult lounge area, daily newspapers, and reading areas. The library also offers programs for children, teenagers and young adults.

In terms of childcare, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder provides crèche facilities, home day-care and after-school care services. The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder also offers programs and services for aged residents and for people with disabilities, particularly through the Eastern Goldfields Community Centre.

Educational services in Kalgoorlie-Boulder are provided by nine primary and four high schools, as well as two annexes of Curtin University of Technology: the Western Australian School of Mines, and Curtin University Vocational Training and Education Centre (VTEC). Of the nine primary schools, six are public while three are private (two Catholic and one Baptist). Of the four high schools, one is a senior campus, one is a middle school and two are private senior high schools. The Western Australian School of Mines offers tertiary education and research on mining and mineral resources while Curtin University VTEC provides vocational training courses. These courses are industry endorsed and nationally accredited.

As the regional centre in the Goldfields-Esperance region, Kalgoorlie-Boulder has a large number of state and federal government agency regional offices that provide corporate, engineering, community and development services. The Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission serves as the representative body promoting economic and social activities in the region.

Health services in the Goldfields and surrounding areas are provided through the Kalgoorlie Hospital, Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), Goldfields Medical Centre, Bega Garnbirringu Health Services and Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre amongst others. The Kalgoorlie Hospital is the largest regional public hospital in Western Australia. It has a surgical ward, including operating theatres, a children's ward, day ward, special care unit, restorative care unit and maternity ward. There are also plans to add a new palliative care unit and refurbishments to the medical ward, emergency department and medical imaging unit to the hospital. The RFDS provides emergency services as well as patient transportation from Kalgoorlie to hospital facilities in Perth when necessary. The Goldfields Medical Centre provides residents with access to a range of medical practitioners, including GPs, orthopaedic surgeons, dentists, obstetricians, gynaecologists, physiotherapists and general surgeons. The

Goldfields Medical Centre also has x-ray facilities and a pathology department. Bega Garnbirringu Health Services provides services for Aboriginal people in the region. Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre provides health information and referrals for local women.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder is the retail hub of the region. Major supermarket and department stores are established in the area, as are specialty shops including hairdressers, newsagents, chemists, beauticians, bottle shops, clothing stores and eateries. Retail outlets include laundry services, mini-supermarkets and banking agencies. Numerous restaurants and hotels are also established in the area.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder caters for a range of sporting activities by providing infrastructure and programs. Popular sports in the area include football, cricket, basketball, soccer, netball, bowling, cycling, tennis and touch football. Picnic spots, parks and tourist destinations in Kalgoorlie-Boulder include Centennial Park, Hammond Park, Kingsbury Park, Goldfields Oasis as well as Boulder and Kalgoorlie town halls. Centennial Park is a large grassed area which provides visitors with toilets, play equipment and barbecues. Hammond Park is home to various animals such as kangaroos, emus, birds and fish. It has barbecue and picnic facilities, children's play equipment and wheelchair access, a drinking fountain and gazebo/shelter. It features a miniature Bavarian Castle made from local gemstones. Kingbury Park is ideal for young children and youth. It is equipped with a skate park, children's playground and play equipment, toilets, drinking fountain, basketball court and barbecue. Meanwhile, the Goldfields Oasis is a world-class aquatic facility. The Kalgoorlie Town Hall is one of the most impressive historic buildings in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The Boulder Town Hall contains the rare and world famous Philip Goatcher Stage Curtain.

The Kalgoorlie police force works to improve public safety in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The station provides 24-hour services that include traffic patrol, crime patrol and investigation, prosecution, proactive policing, an alcohol and drug advisory team, a school-based police officer, police and citizens' youth club, and crime prevention. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia and relevant volunteer groups also respond to emergency situations resulting from natural and other disasters in the area.

Daily air services between Perth and Kalgoorlie-Boulder are provided by Qantas, QantasLink and Skywest airlines. Air-freight operations involving the transportation of dry freight, animals and perishables are handled by Australian Air Express. Other freight operators in the area include Toll Priority, TNT Express and Courier Australia.

Ranger Services in Kalgoorlie-Boulder put into effect and enforce policies related to parliamentary Acts and local laws. This includes dealing with abandoned vehicles, parking, off-road vehicles, portable signs, verges and thoroughfares, litter, illegal camping, fire hazards, snake and reptile handling, dogs, animal welfare, feral cats and straying livestock.

Waste management in the area includes a waste water treatment plant, the repair and maintenance of sewer mains, providing technical information on sewerage infrastructure, refuse collection, recycling, bulk bins and Yarri Road Landfill.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder offers employment and vocational opportunities to youth and students in the form of structured workplace learning placements, traineeships, apprenticeships, cadetships, graduate opportunities and work experience placements. It also provides grants and funding through its Community Assistance Scheme (CAS), which aims to strengthen and enhance the social wellbeing, development and sustainability of the community. The three grant schemes available through CAS are the Annual Grant Program, Community Grant Program and Community Service Program.

The Annual Grant Program funds projects, events or activities of community groups that might benefit the community. The program offers one-off funding for one-off projects, three-year service agreements, and funding and/or in-kind support. Funding and/or in-kind support can be: less than $2000; more than $2000 but less than $15 000; or more than $15 000. The Community Grant Program

aims to fund small amounts for specific events and projects of not-for-profit community groups/organisations or outstanding individuals with community development principles. The program includes Outstanding Individual Grants up to $500, Minor Grants under $2,000 and Major Grants between $2000 and $5000. The Community Service Program offers funding as a donation, scholarship or sponsorship for a special community or emergency need of community groups or profit-making organisations, and covers funding requests that do not meet the guidelines of the abovementioned two programs.

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