



Gender & Disaster Australia

# Yorke Peninsula

DISASTER CONTEXT

Socio-demographics from  
a gendered perspective





# Yorke Peninsula



Map of the Yorke Peninsula Local Government Area (LGA).

Source: <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA48830>





## INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Area (LGA) of Yorke Peninsula sits on a peninsula in South Australia, extending approximately 175 km from a point north-west of Adelaide. Surrounded on three sides by the sea, the Yorke Peninsula has 485 km of coastline.<sup>1</sup> This peninsula geography has implications for the area’s infrastructure and the ability to provide adequate services to the Yorke Peninsula.<sup>2</sup> For example, a major finding of the Government of South Australia’s Independent Review into South Australia’s 2019-20 Bushfire Season was that there was “insufficient preparation around evacuations” in South Australia, including on the Yorke Peninsula where “residents expressed confusion about where to go and how to get there”.<sup>3</sup>

Extreme storms are the most commonly observed hazard in the area, while flooding is the most costly.<sup>4</sup> Sea level rise, coastal storms, erosion, and inundation pose a risk to infrastructure along the peninsula’s coast.<sup>5</sup> Large areas of dry crops and grasses across the peninsula’s open landscape increase the harm of bushfires on the peninsula,

including those that take place in spring.<sup>6</sup> The risk of extreme heat is growing in South Australia; on one day during the heatwave of 2014, the World Meteorological Organisation declared Adelaide the planet’s hottest city that day.<sup>7</sup> Adelaide is also the most earthquake-prone capital city in Australia, but an earthquake has not impacted the Yorke and Mid North Zone since 1997.<sup>8</sup>

The social impacts of disaster to the Yorke Peninsula are heightened by its unique social risk factors. For example, the population of the Yorke Peninsula is ageing: in 2016, around 58% of the population was aged over 50. Elderly households are considered vulnerable in times of disaster, as are lone person households, which make up 38% of Yorke Peninsula households.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, the importance of tourism to the Yorke Peninsula’s economy results in increased population numbers during peak tourism periods. High numbers of tourists in the area can pose a risk during disasters, because they may not have local knowledge, be aware of the risk of the hazard, or be prepared to act in response to an emergency.<sup>10</sup>

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1 Yorke Peninsula Community Emergency Management Plan 2021 - 2025, available at: <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2021/01/20-89376-Yorke-Peninsula-Community-Emergency-Management-Plan-2021-2025.pdf>

2 Yorke Peninsula Community Emergency Management Plan 2021 - 2025, available at: <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2021/01/20-89376-Yorke-Peninsula-Community-Emergency-Management-Plan-2021-2025.pdf>

3 <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-07/FEC.360.001.0001.pdf>, pp, 66-67

4 Government of South Australia. (2018). Key Hazards and Risks Summary: Yorke and Mid North Zone. Available at: [https://safecom-files-v8.s3.amazonaws.com/current/docs/2018926127803/yorke\\_and\\_mid\\_north\\_zone\\_public\\_zemp.pdf](https://safecom-files-v8.s3.amazonaws.com/current/docs/2018926127803/yorke_and_mid_north_zone_public_zemp.pdf)

5 Yorke Peninsula Community Emergency Management Plan 2021 - 2025, available at: <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2021/01/20-89376-Yorke-Peninsula-Community-Emergency-Management-Plan-2021-2025.pdf>

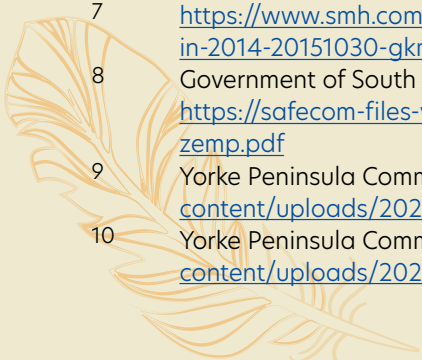
6 Yorke Peninsula Community Emergency Management Plan 2021 - 2025, available at: <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2021/01/20-89376-Yorke-Peninsula-Community-Emergency-Management-Plan-2021-2025.pdf>; <https://www.countrysaphn.com.au/new-program-building-yorke-peninsula-resilience-for-times-of-need/>

7 <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/how-did-climate-change-influence-australias-weather-in-2014-20151030-gkmww3.html>

8 Government of South Australia. (2018). Key Hazards and Risks Summary: Yorke and Mid North Zone. Available at: [https://safecom-files-v8.s3.amazonaws.com/current/docs/2018926127803/yorke\\_and\\_mid\\_north\\_zone\\_public\\_zemp.pdf](https://safecom-files-v8.s3.amazonaws.com/current/docs/2018926127803/yorke_and_mid_north_zone_public_zemp.pdf)

9 Yorke Peninsula Community Emergency Management Plan 2021 - 2025, available at: <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2021/01/20-89376-Yorke-Peninsula-Community-Emergency-Management-Plan-2021-2025.pdf>

10 Yorke Peninsula Community Emergency Management Plan 2021 - 2025, available at: <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2021/01/20-89376-Yorke-Peninsula-Community-Emergency-Management-Plan-2021-2025.pdf>





## DISASTER BACKGROUND

Kind of disasters affecting this region/town: Earthquake, bushfire, floods, storms, heatwaves<sup>11</sup>

Event name	Hazard type(s)
Statewide Storms, 2021 <sup>12</sup>	Storm
South Australian bushfires, 2019 <sup>13</sup>	Bushfire
Coastal storm, 2016 <sup>14</sup>	Storm
Extreme heat event, 2014 <sup>15</sup>	Heatwave

Recent major disaster: Yorke Peninsula Fires, part of the South Australian bushfire in 2019

- Fatalities
  - o 4 across South Australia, 0 in the Yorke Peninsula<sup>16</sup>
- People displaced:
  - o Entire town of Edithburgh evacuated<sup>17</sup>
  - o 33 people treated for fire-related injuries, including 4 taken by ambulance to hospital<sup>18</sup>
- Properties and infrastructure affected:
  - o 11 non-residential buildings destroyed or damaged; 8 homes destroyed; 9 homes suffered major/minor damage<sup>19</sup>
  - o More than 5,000 hectares of land burnt<sup>20</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Yorke Peninsula Community Emergency Management Plan 2021 - 2025, available at: <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2021/01/20-89376-Yorke-Peninsula-Community-Emergency-Management-Plan-2021-2025.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Pages/disasters/current-disasters/South-Australia/storms-28-29-october-2021.aspx>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Pages/disasters/current-disasters/South-Australia/Yorketown-bushfire-112019-onwards.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-29/adelaide-residents-warned-to-go-home-ahead-of-bad-weather/7888826>, see also <https://yorke.sa.gov.au/content/uploads/2021/01/20-89376-Yorke-Peninsula-Community-Emergency-Management-Plan-2021-2025.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Government of South Australia. (2018). Key Hazards and Risks Summary: Yorke and Mid North Zone. Available at: [https://safecom-files-v8.s3.amazonaws.com/current/docs/2018926127803/yorke\\_and\\_mid\\_north\\_zone\\_public\\_zemp.pdf](https://safecom-files-v8.s3.amazonaws.com/current/docs/2018926127803/yorke_and_mid_north_zone_public_zemp.pdf)

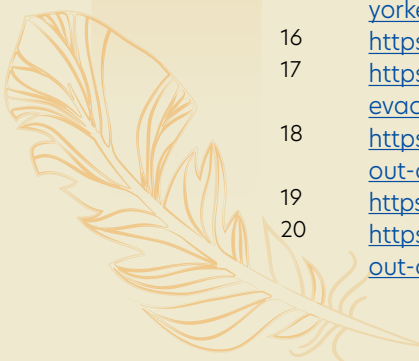
<sup>16</sup> <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/black-summer-bushfires-sa-2019-20/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.9news.com.au/national/sa-fires-yorke-peninsula-edithburgh-yorketown-cfs-evacuated-bushfire-updates/643c1477-18c9-4a0c-a3db-8d167f390db5>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-21/sa-bushfire-destroys-home-as-yorketown-fire-burns-out-control/11723302>

<sup>19</sup> <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-07/FEC.360.001.0001.pdf>, p. iii

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-21/sa-bushfire-destroys-home-as-yorketown-fire-burns-out-control/11723302>





- o 11 vehicles lost or damaged<sup>21</sup>
- o Hundreds of thousands of dollars' (at least) worth of farming machinery and crops destroyed,<sup>22</sup> 680 livestock lost<sup>23</sup>
- Insurance statistics:
  - o \$186 million in insurance costs across South Australia<sup>24</sup>



### ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

- Yorke Peninsula LGA is ranked:<sup>25</sup>
  - o 183 out of 544 LGAs in Australia (where 544 is most advantaged)
  - o in the 4th decile (out of 10, where 10 is most advantaged)
  - o In the 34th percentile (out of 100, where 100 is most advantaged)



### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND HOMELESSNESS

- Housing affordability in the Yorke Peninsula:
  - o Median rent: \$200/week (SA: \$300/week | Aus: \$375)<sup>26</sup>
  - o Renter households where rent payments are greater than 30% of household income: 28% (SA: 30.5% | Aus: 32.3%)<sup>27</sup>
  - o According to the Rental Affordability Index, for households on the median income in Wyndham-East Kimberley (approx. \$48,000), rental affordability in postcodes 5573 and 5575 is deemed 'Moderately unaffordable'. Data were not available for other postcodes in the LGA.<sup>28</sup>
- Homelessness<sup>29</sup>
  - o In 2021-22, 36 people accessed Specialist Homelessness Services in the LGA of Yorke Peninsula, equating to 0.3% of the population, or 31 per 10,000
  - o 16 of these were men (26.8 per 10,000) and 20 were women (35.5 per 10,000)

<sup>21</sup> <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-07/FEC.360.001.0001.pdf>, p. iii

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/residents-return-to-their-homes-after-monster-bushfire-in-edithburgh-and-yorkes/news-story/edc1698d3e6a7db1ab6f20fb26ac2620>

<sup>23</sup> <https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-07/FEC.360.001.0001.pdf>, p. iii

<sup>24</sup> <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/black-summer-bushfires-sa-2019-20/>

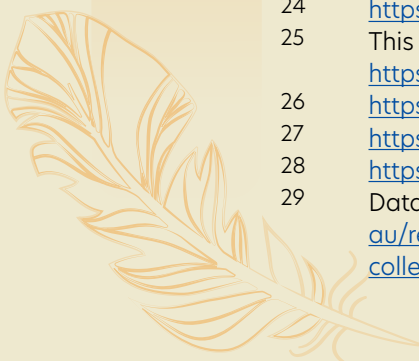
<sup>25</sup> This ranking comes from the ABS Local Government Area Indexes, available here: <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/2033.0.55.0012016?OpenDocument>, <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA48830>

<sup>26</sup> <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA48830>

<sup>27</sup> <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA48830>

<sup>28</sup> <https://sgsep.com.au/projects/rental-affordability-index>

<sup>29</sup> Data cube: SHSC geographical location of client—LGA. Available here: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/shsc-data-cubes/contents/specialist-homelessness-services-collection-shsc-data-cubes>





## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health conditions (any): Yorke Peninsula LGA: 9.1% | SA: 9.8% | Aus: 8.8%<sup>30</sup>

Suicide rates in Statistical Area 4 (SA4) Barossa - Yorke - Mid North, in which the Yorke Peninsula LGA sits (2017-2021):<sup>31</sup>

Area	SA4 Barossa - Yorke - Mid North	South Australia	Australia
Age-standardised suicide rate per 100,000 population	14.4	12.7	12.6
Rate for males	23	19.6	19.2
Rate for females	not published	6.1	6.1



## GENDER EQUALITY

- Lone parent status
  - 9.6% one-parent families (SA: 16.6%), of which 69.5% are female-led (SA: 79%)<sup>32</sup>
- Mothers' Index<sup>33</sup>
  - Yorke Peninsula LGA ranked 61 out of 69 LGAs, where 1 is the best place in South Australia for a mother to live
- Unpaid work<sup>34</sup>
  - Unpaid domestic work: 3,130 women did more than 5 hours of unpaid domestic work per week, compared to 2,277 men
  - Unpaid care: 825 women provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, health condition, or due to old age, compared to 621 men
  - Unpaid childcare: 1,082 women provided unpaid childcare, compared to 833 men

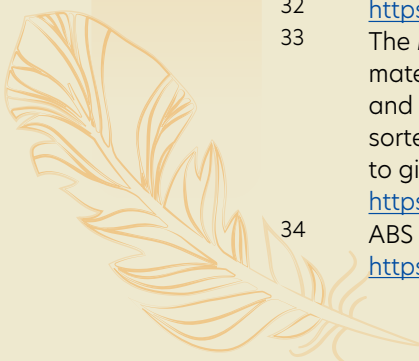
<sup>30</sup> <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA48830>

<sup>31</sup> All suicide rate stats come from Data table: 2021 National Mortality Database - Suicide, Table NMD S10, available at: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/suicide-self-harm-monitoring/data/data-downloads>

<sup>32</sup> <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA48830>

<sup>33</sup> The Mothers' Index consists of composite scores from five different indicators relating to maternal wellbeing (maternal health, children's wellbeing, educational status, economic status and socio-economic disadvantage), with each indicator given equal weighting. Scores were sorted from low to high and ranked from 1 to 69 (1 being the best place for a mother to live) to give the overall Mothers Index rank for each LGA in South Australia. Full table available at <https://apo.org.au/node/63692>, p. 33.

<sup>34</sup> ABS General Community Profile for LGA Yorke Peninsula, Tables G24-G26, available here: <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/community-profiles/2021/LGA48830>





- Violence against women
  - o South Australia does not release crime statistics disaggregated by gender. South Australia Police also does not gender its offence descriptions; i.e., there is no specific offence for sexual assault, for family violence, or for breaching an intervention order.<sup>35</sup> This makes it very difficult to establish the extent to which crime is committed against women in particular areas of South Australia.
  - o However, it does publish a list of family and domestic abuse related offences on an annual basis, which is organised by postcode.<sup>36</sup>
  - o In 2021-22, there were 8 family and domestic abuse related offences in postcodes within the Yorke Peninsula LGA. This included 1 murder, 3 serious assaults resulting in injury, 3 serious assaults not resulting in injury, and 1 count of abduction/harassment/other offences.



## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

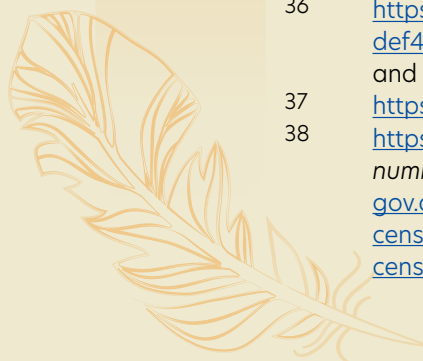
	LGA Yorke Peninsula <sup>37</sup>	South Australia	Australia
Median age	57	41	38
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	3.9%	2.4%	3.2%
Both parents born in Australia	72.9%	51%	45.9%
Non-English language used in household	2.6%	19%	24.8%
With university education	8.1%	22.7%	26.3%
Year 10 as highest qualification	13.6%	9.4%	10.0%
Labour force participation	43.5%	60%	61.1%
Working part-time	37.8%	35%	31.2%
Unemployment	4.8%	5.4%	5.1%
Median weekly personal income	\$544	\$734	\$805
Median weekly household income	\$960	\$1455	\$1746
Rate of people on Disability Support Pension per 10,000 population (measured at LGA and state level) <sup>38</sup>	494	368	296

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.police.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/39688/GENERAL-OFFENCE-DESCRIPTIONS-2021.pdf](https://www.police.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/39688/GENERAL-OFFENCE-DESCRIPTIONS-2021.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/crime-statistics/resource/5f4ffc63-7002-4f46-9b1d-def426a5c2ec> filtered by postcodes 5570, 5572, 5573, 5571, 5580, 5575, 5581, 5577, 5576, 5583 and 5582.

<sup>37</sup> <https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA48830>

<sup>38</sup> <https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/dss-payment-demographic-data>; calculated by dividing number of DSP recipients listed in March 2021 spreadsheet by population of LGA (<https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA48830>) and state (<https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/4>), and country (<https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/AUS>) in 2021, multiplied by 10,000





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