

How has Alstonville changed over the past 25 years...?

The following information is a snapshot about Alstonville and its demographic profile. It presents information from the past 5 national censuses, showing some trends in age groups and how people are living. There are many different types of information collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in the census and you can access most of it on Council's website under the Community and Lifestyle tab.

To get you started, here is a basic profile for the year 2016:

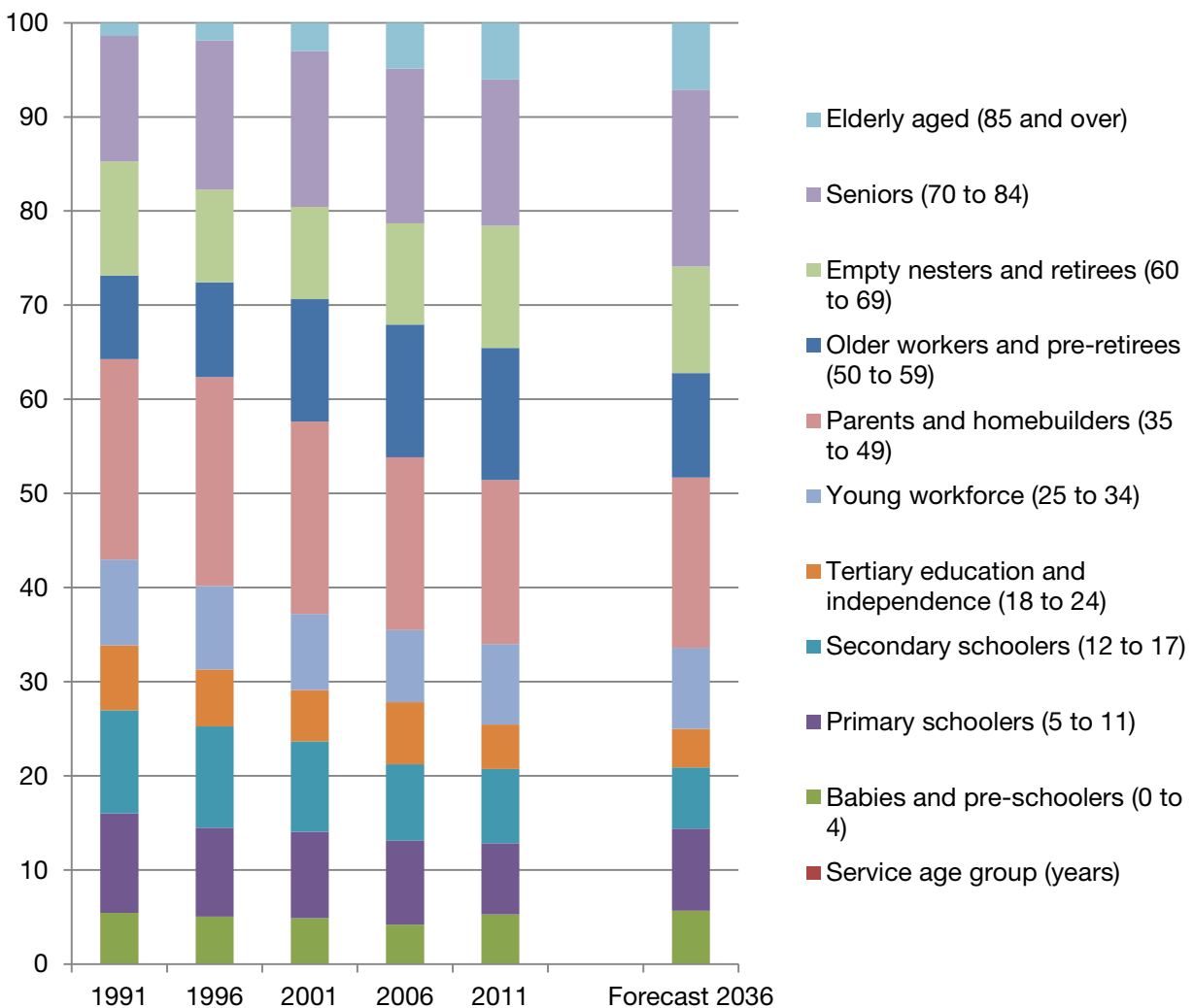
Median Age	48
Weekly Household Income	\$888
Weekly Family Income	\$1,121
Families with Children	34.5%
Older Couples (over 65) Without Children	16.5%
Medium and High Density Housing	27% (this is the figure for Ballina Shire as a whole and likely to be much lower for Alstonville)
Households with a Mortgage	27%
Median Weekly Rent	\$390 ¹
Households Renting	22%
Non-English Speaking Background	2%
University (attending)	3%
Bachelor or Higher Degree Qualification	17%
Vocational Qualification	22%
Unemployment	3.8%

¹ Obtained 6/6/16 from <https://www.propertyvalue.com.au/suburb/alstonville-2477-nsw>

Population – Who lives in Alstonville?

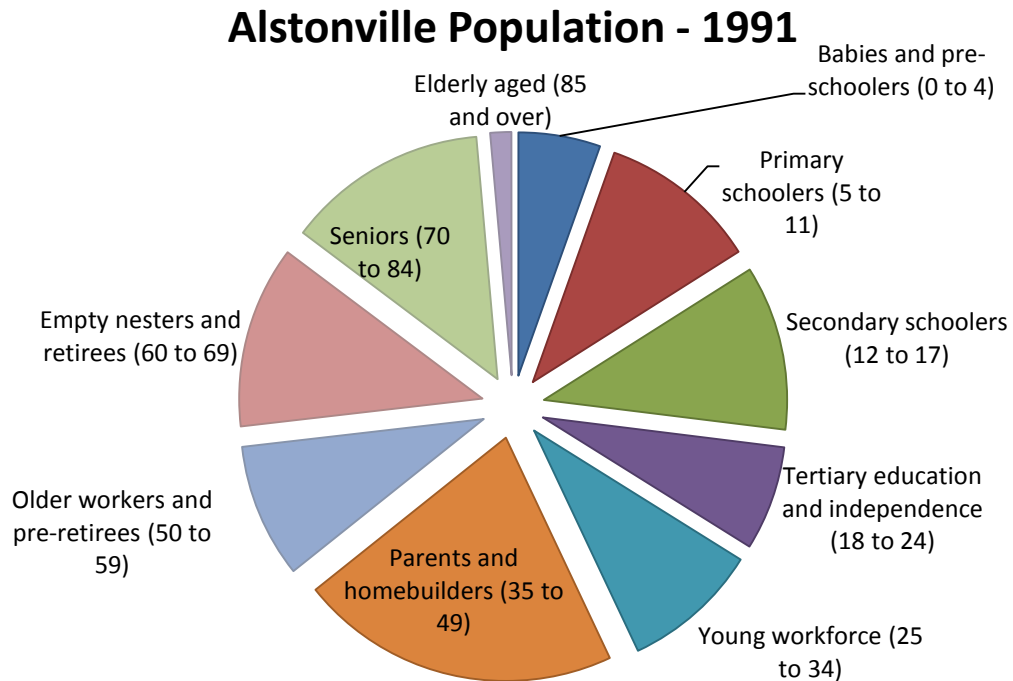
The population of Alstonville as a whole is quite steady in terms of overall numbers. It has fluctuated around 5600 people in the past few censuses. There is, however, change happening within the structure of the population. Kids are growing up and leaving home whilst their parents are staying. Older people are living much longer, and staying in their own homes. The following graph shows change over time since 1991 as well as a forecast to 2036.

Service Groups in the Alstonville Population 1991 - 2011

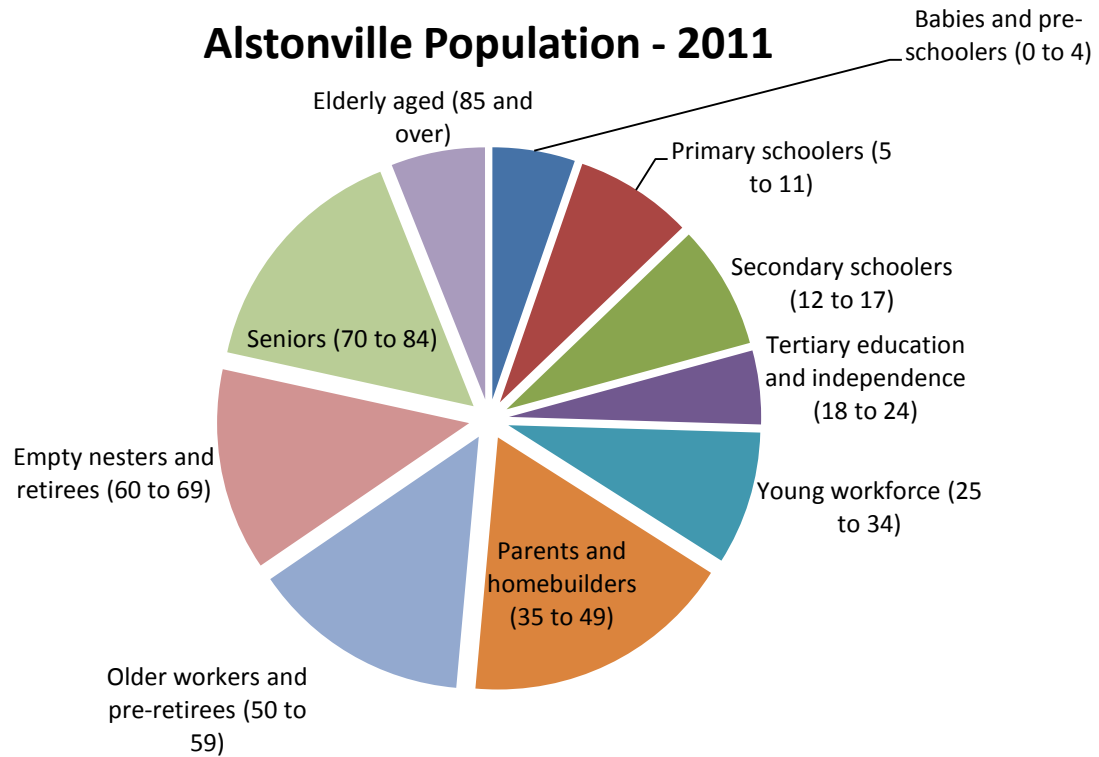


Another way to show the changes over time is to use pie graphs. They show the 1991 results compared with the 2011 population divided into 'service age groups'.

These pie graphs illustrate change over that time to almost 50% of the population being made up of people over 50.



Alstonville Population - 2011



Ancestry

When asked about their ancestral background, the three largest ancestries reported are English, Australian and Irish. There are many other ancestries reported in the census also, including Scottish, German, Dutch and Italian. There are 92 Aboriginal people counted in the 2011 census.

Although people report against their ancestry (and take great pride in it), 4828 (or 86%) of Alstonville's population are, in fact, Australian born.

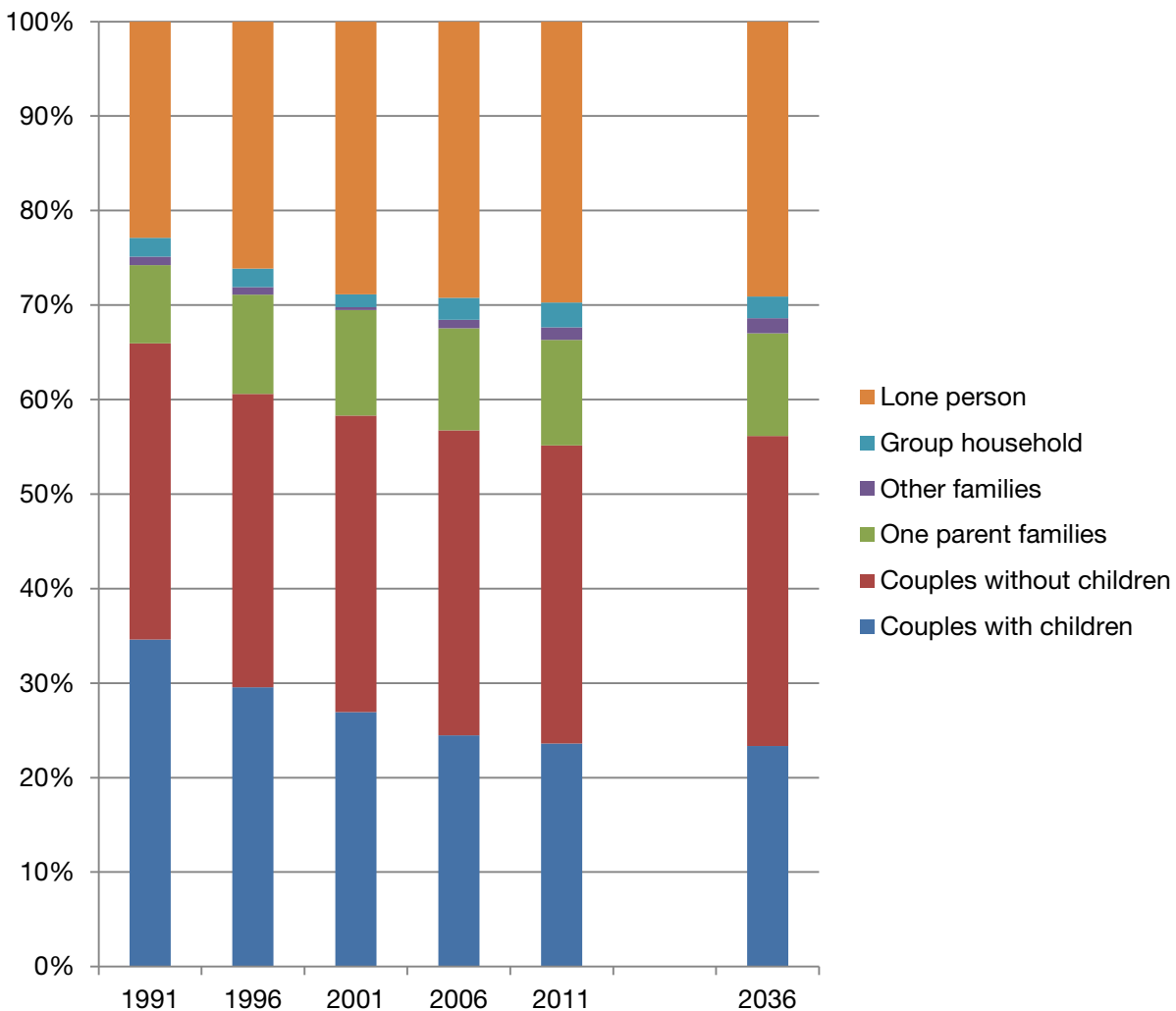
Households – how are people housed in Alstonville?

The size of the average households has fallen from 2.45 people per household in 1996 to 2.29 people per household for Alstonville in 2011.

For comparison, the median household size in Lennox Head in 1991 was 2.67 and in 2011 was 2.60. For Ballina Shire as a whole, the median household size in 1991 was 2.63 and its now 2.35. Alstonville has had, on average, a lower household size than the rest of the shire.

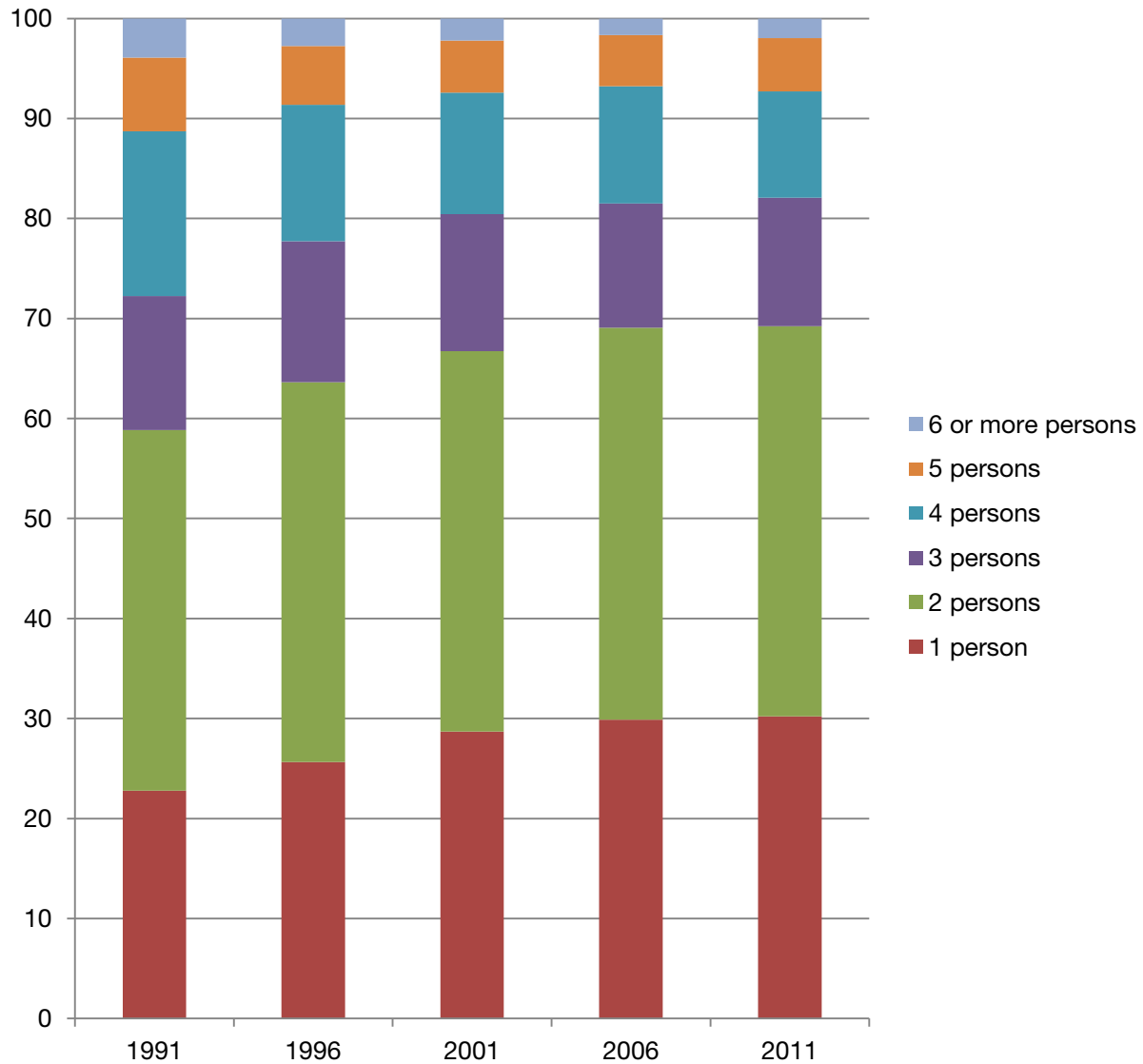
The big changes have been in the Couples with Children and Lone Person Household categories.

Change in Household Composition in Alstonville - 1991 to 2011



The following graph shows the change over time since 1991 for household size by number of persons. The growth in one and two person households is very clear, although they have been the majority since 1991.

Number of Persons Usually Resident in Alstonville

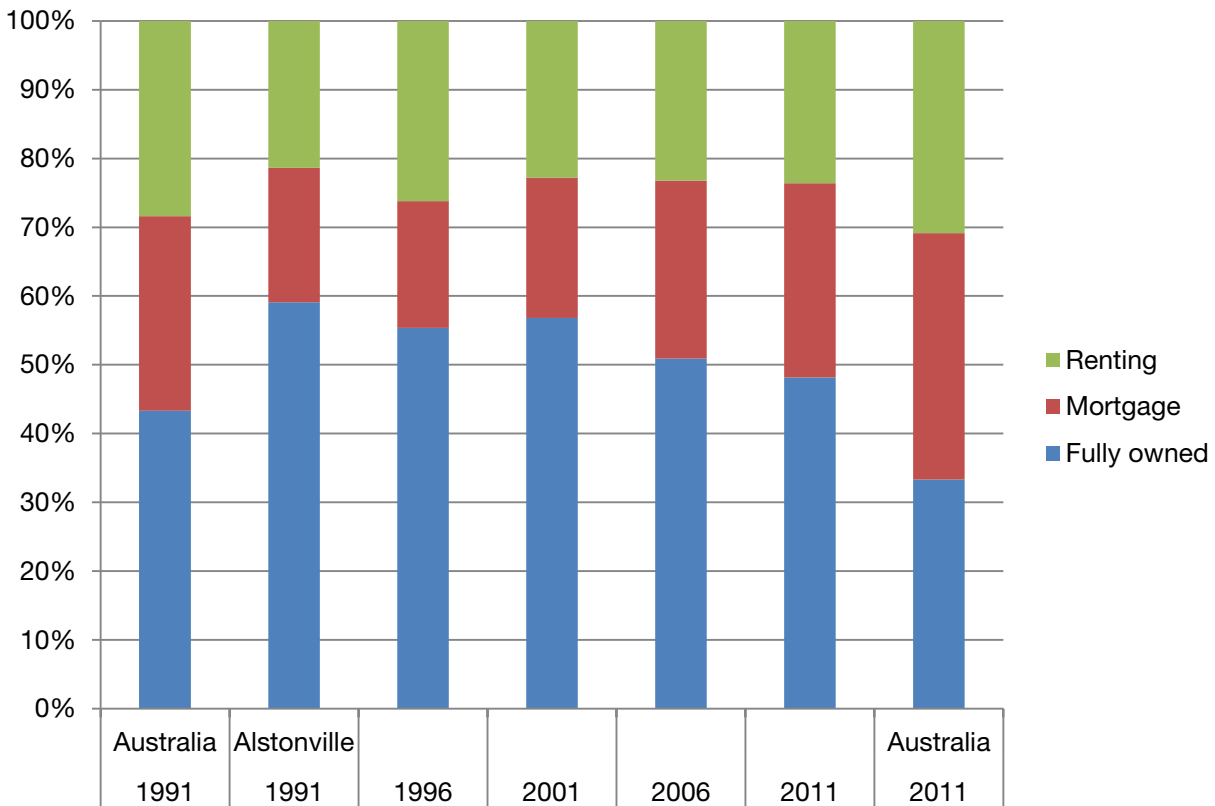


Rents and Mortgages (Housing Tenure)

In 2011, median rents ranged from \$210 per week in some parts of Alstonville up \$375 per week in others. The median rent is now reported at \$390 per week². Whilst there are lower rents and higher rents, this is the 'middle value' of all the rents paid in Alstonville. 22% of households are currently renting in Alstonville.

In 2001, 397 people had a mortgage and in 2011 this figure had risen to 592. Over that time, the number of people who fully owned their home dropped by just over 10%. The graph below shows this trend. The figures for Australia as a whole are also shown for 2001 and 2011 as a comparison. People in Alstonville are more likely to fully own their home than Australians as a whole, and a lower percentage rent.

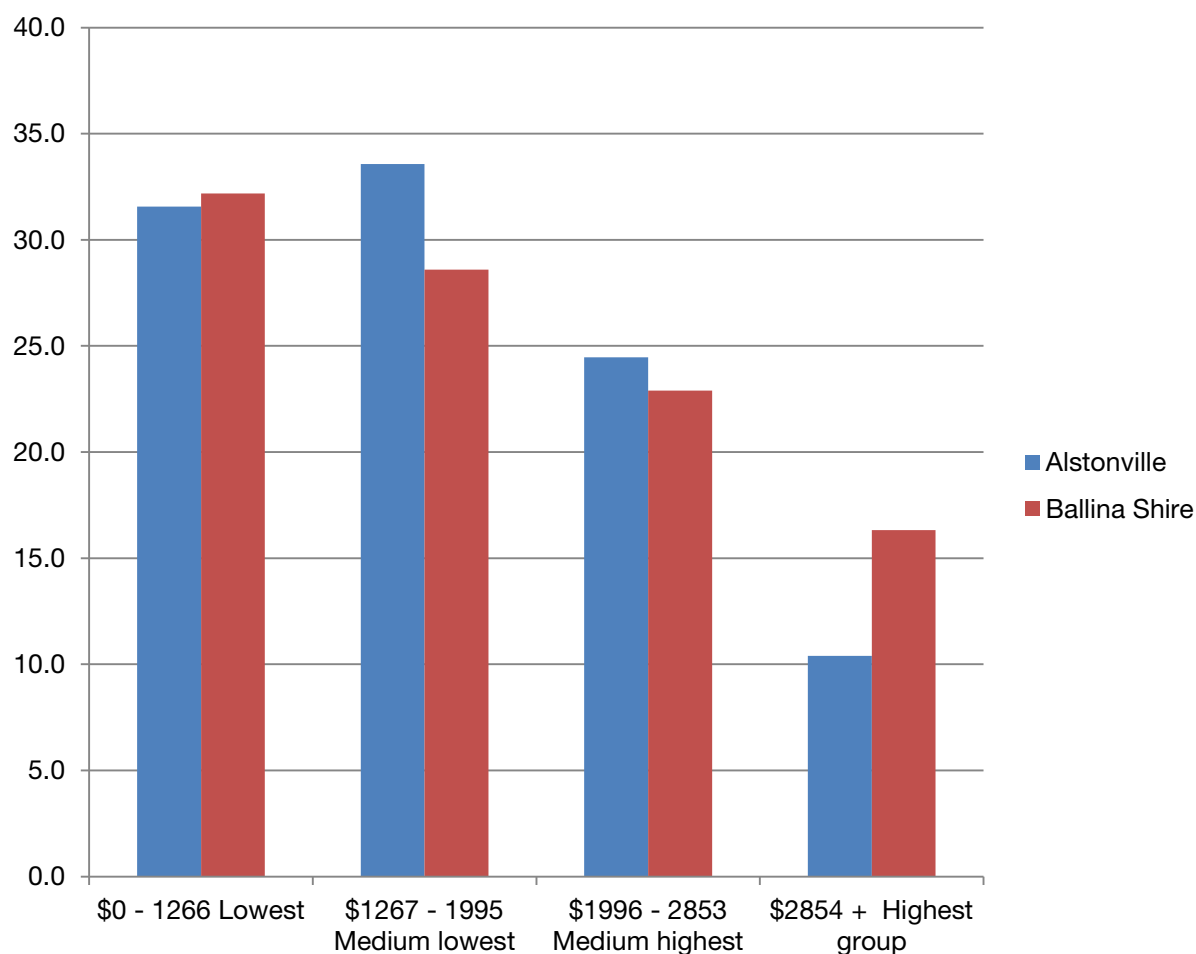
Housing tenure over time



² Obtained 6/6/16 from <https://www.propertyvalue.com.au/suburb/alstonville-2477-nsw>

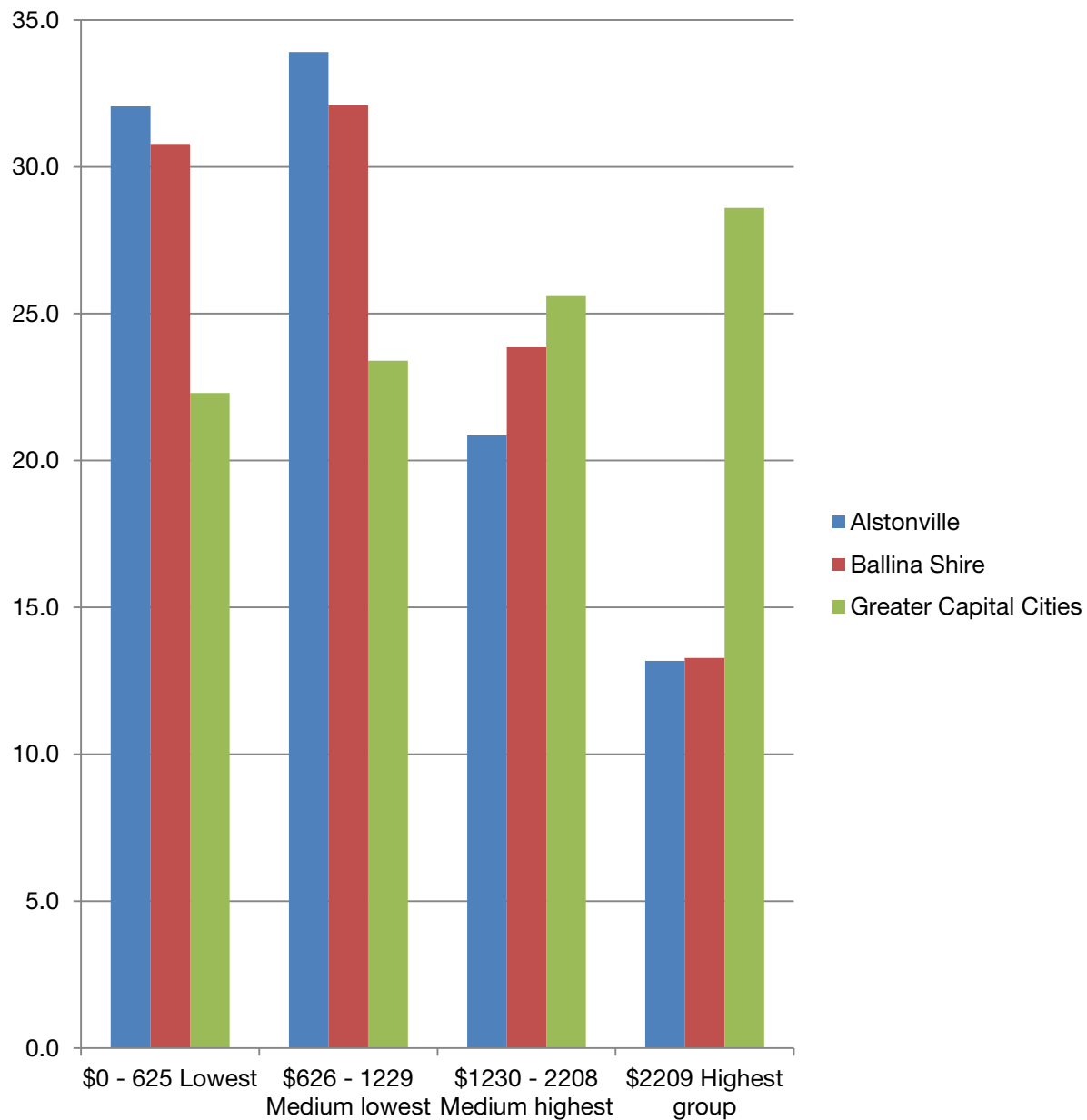
Mortgage repayments have also increased over time. The following graph shows how many loans fall into each category. Mortgage repayments for people in Alstonville are generally in the lower ranges compared to mortgage repayments in Ballina Shire as a whole. The monetary categories chosen are based on the value of mortgage repayments across Australia as a whole, that is – 25% of people are paying up to \$1266 per month, 25% are paying \$1267 – \$1995 and so on. For both Ballina Shire and Alstonville, mortgage repayments are overrepresented in the lower quartiles.

Monthly Housing loan repayments - 2011



This is somewhat influenced by lower wages available as well as being a regional location. The following graph shows household income expressed in quartiles. The quartiles are worked out on a NSW basis, so that the amounts expressed contain 25% of the households who have filled out the census. To compare our regional household incomes, the Greater Capital Cities results are also provided.

Household Income 2011



Those living in Alstonville are much more likely to be over represented in the lower income groups. This is very similar in profile for Ballina Shire as a whole. It is possible that the higher numbers of older residents on retirement incomes may account for this.

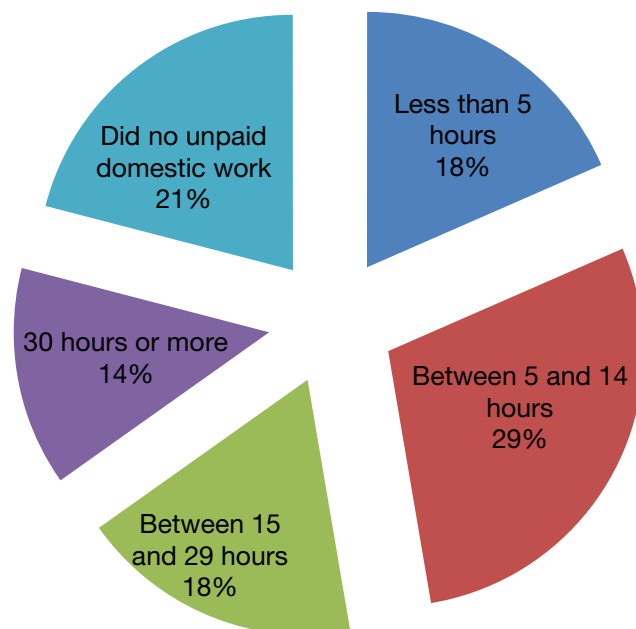
Residents of working age in Alstonville are less likely to be unemployed. Only 3.8% of Alstonville's workers are unemployed, with 53.4% in full time employment and 42% in part-time employment. This compares with the overall Ballina Shire unemployment rate of 6.3% and an unemployment rate for NSW of 5.9%. Whilst these are 2011 figures, and are likely to have changed since that time, they still provide some indication of the working population of Alstonville.

Unpaid domestic work

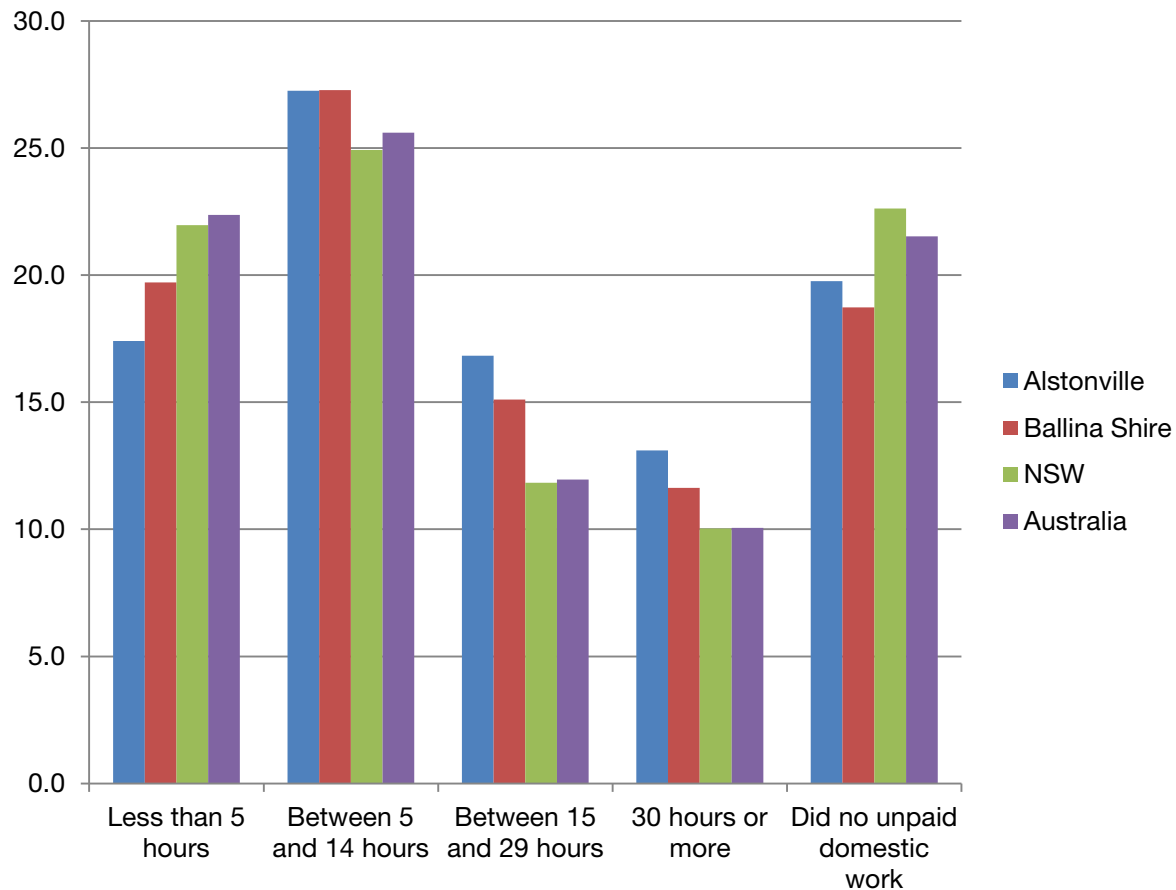
Almost equal numbers of men and women aged 15 years and over did no unpaid domestic work, and this is equal to 916 people.

In other categories, women were the 'winners' with some doing more than 30 hours domestic work per week.

Who's Also Working at Home in Alstonville...?



And How Do We Compare With Other Places...(Unpaid Domestic Work)



Other information

For more information provided by the census, you can either visit the Ballina Shire website under Community and Lifestyle/Community Profile and Atlas for census information put together in a variety of tables and graphs.

Or the Australian Bureau of Statistics will provide you access to very detailed census information, and can graph it back for a number of years.

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