



# 2022 Women's Report Card

An indicator report of Western Australian women's progress



## Priority area: Economic independence



**Goal:** Women can be financially independent across all life stages.

### Introduction and scope

This briefing note addresses women's economic independence in Western Australia, a key priority area identified in the Western Australian Government's 'Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality' report which is a coordinated approach to addressing gender inequality in WA over the long term.<sup>i</sup>

Economic independence is one of the most important steps towards, and indicator of, gender equality. It empowers women with the ability to make choices, enhancing their careers and overall wellbeing.

This briefing note explores the trajectory of women's educational opportunities, their labour market involvement and unpaid labour, and how WA compares nationally and over time.

This note should be read in conjunction with the WA Women's Data Insights Platform, which provides a detailed set of metrics for various indicators relating to safety and justice over time.

<sup>i</sup> Government of Western Australia, Department of Communities. (2021). *Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality*. Government of Western Australia. <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/stronger-together-was-plan-gender-equality>



## Outcomes

Desired outcomes in the area of economic independence include:

- WA women attain financial independence, including in retirement
- WA women have educational outcomes in a broad range of education and training fields that allow them to join the labour force
- WA women have access to secure and affordable housing
- WA women receive the same pay as men for doing the same work or work of comparable value
- The participation of WA women in the workforce is supported and expanded
- WA women and men are supported to share caring and unpaid work responsibilities.

## Indicators

The indicators in this chapter contribute to understanding how WA is progressing towards achieving these outcomes:

- Education and training
- Labour force participation
- Financial and non-financial assets, including income and housing
- Unpaid work and caring responsibilities
- Social norms, cultural perceptions and life satisfaction.

## Education and training

Key insight	Description	Change over time																																				
Retention rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for Year 7 to Year 10 in WA have improved since 2017, with men increasing by 4.8 percentage points to 54.6 per cent, and women by 5 percentage points to 58 per cent. <sup>ii</sup>	<p>The gap in retention rates for Year 7 to Year 10 between Aboriginal and Torres Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Islander students has closed by almost 4 percentage points between 2017 and 2021.</p> <p>Minor increases have been seen in overall retention rates for non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students since 2017, with WA women increasing by 1 percentage point to 88.8 per cent, and men by 0.8 percentage points to 82.2 per cent.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Retention rate (women) from 2011 to 2021</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Aboriginal (%)</th> <th>Non-Aboriginal (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2011</td><td>40</td><td>85</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>42</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>45</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>38</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>52</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>50</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>48</td><td>85</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>52</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>55</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>55</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>58</td><td>88.8</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Aboriginal (%)	Non-Aboriginal (%)	2011	40	85	2012	42	88	2013	45	88	2014	38	88	2015	52	90	2016	50	88	2017	48	85	2018	52	88	2019	55	88	2020	55	88	2021	58	88.8
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The share of women enrolled in vocational education and training (VET) courses has increased from 44.0 per cent in 2017 to 48.1 per cent in 2021. <sup>iii</sup>	<p>The total number of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women enrolled in VET courses increased from over 53,142 in 2011 to 57,359 in 2021, an 8 per cent increase.</p> <p>The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women enrolled in VET courses increased from 4,617 in 2011 to 5,717 in 2021, a 24 per cent increase across the ten years.</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women represent only 40 per cent of enrolments relative to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women (%) from 2011 to 2021</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Women (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2011</td><td>47</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>46</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>46</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>44</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>44</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr><td>2017</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>46</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>47</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>47</td></tr> <tr><td>2021</td><td>48.1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Women (%)	2011	47	2012	46	2013	46	2014	44	2015	44	2016	45	2017	45	2018	46	2019	47	2020	47	2021	48.1												
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ii Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Schools*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release#data-download>

iii Government of Western Australia, Department of Training and Workforce Development. (2022). Unpublished and Customized Data. Government of Western Australia.



## Education and training (continued)

Key insight	Description	Change over time																
As of 2019, almost 6 out of 10 domestic higher education enrolments in WA were by women. <sup>iv</sup>	This is in line with the shares reported nationally, and has not changed significantly over the last decade.	<table border="1"> <caption>Higher Education Enrolments by Women (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Enrolments (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2001</td><td>57</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>58</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>59</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>59.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2013</td><td>59.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>60</td></tr> <tr><td>2019</td><td>60</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Enrolments (%)	2001	57	2004	58	2007	59	2010	59.5	2013	59.5	2016	60	2019	60
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2019	60																	
In 2019, the lowest representation of women in higher education in WA were in the fields of engineering and related technologies (14.8%), information technology (22.1%) and architecture and building (38.2%). <sup>v</sup>	The largest increase in enrolment shares from 2016 to 2019 for women in WA was in information technology, increasing, by 2.2 percentage points while the largest decline was in agriculture, environmental and related studies, down by 6.1 percentage points followed by education, down by 3.0 percentage points.	<table border="1"> <caption>Higher Education Enrolments by Women (%) - 2019</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Field</th> <th>Enrolments (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Engineering</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>IT</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>Architecture</td><td>38</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Field	Enrolments (%)	Engineering	15	IT	22	Architecture	38								
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Notes: Based on most recent data available as of July 2022. Please refer to <http://www.womensreportcard.communities.wa.gov.au/> for the most current data available on various metrics relating to this indicator.  
 Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Based on various data sources.

iv Government of Australia, Department of Education, Skills, and Employment. (2022). *uCube Higher Education Statistics*. Government of Australia. <http://highereducationstatistics.education.gov.au/>

v Government of Australia, Department of Education, Skills, and Employment. (2022). *uCube Higher Education Statistics*. Government of Australia. <http://highereducationstatistics.education.gov.au/>

## Labour force participation

Key insight	Description	Change over time														
In WA, women's labour force participation rate sits at 64.5 per cent as of July 2022. <sup>vi</sup>	<p>This is the highest labour force participation rate reported for women in WA and suggests that for many women, the ability to access the labour market is improving.</p> <p>However, while the gap to male labour force participation rates is closing, it remains above 10 percentage points.</p> <p>Nationally, the gap in labour force participation between men and women is 8.7 percentage points, 1.2 percentage points lower than WA.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Participation gap (ppt) for women in WA</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Participation gap (ppt)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>10</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Participation gap (ppt)	2002	17	2006	16	2010	17	2014	15	2018	13	2022	10
Year	Participation gap (ppt)															
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2006	16															
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2014	15															
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2022	10															
In 2022, on average, the unemployment rates for women in WA (3.2%) and women in Australian (3.8%) are the lowest recorded. <sup>vii</sup>	<p>The unemployment rate for women has reduced by more than 2.7 percentage points in WA since 2018.</p> <p>In the two years before the COVID-19 pandemic, women consistently had lower unemployment rates than men. However, at the onset of the pandemic, unemployment rates for women increased twice as fast as that of men.</p> <p>After the initial shock, women's employment in WA grew at a fast rate between 2020 and 2022, and unemployment reduced by 3.5 percentage points for women compared to 3 percentage points for men.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Unemployment rate (%) for women in WA</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Unemployment rate (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>5.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>3.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>5.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>5.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>5.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>3.2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Unemployment rate (%)	2002	5.5	2006	3.5	2010	5.5	2014	5.5	2018	5.5	2022	3.2
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vi Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release#all-data-downloads>

vii Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Labour Force, Australia*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/may-2022#data-downloads>



## Labour force participation (continued)

Key insight	Description	Change over time																								
<p>As of June 2022, the proportion of employed women working full-time in WA sat at 52.2 per cent, compared to 56.1 per cent for women nationally and 82.6 per cent for employed men in WA.<sup>viii</sup></p>	<p>Over 91.3 per cent of men aged 30 to 54 in WA work full-time, compared to 55.5 per cent of women of a similar age.</p> <p>After the initial shock of the COVID-19 pandemic, women increased the number of working hours, and in 2022 there are more women working in full-time employment in Australia than ever before. Rates for women in WA were sitting at 52.6 per cent in June 2022, still off the record heights of January 2008 (56.3%).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women FTE (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Women FTE (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>51.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>53.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>53.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>56.3</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>53.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>54.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>54.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>50.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>50.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>52.0</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>52.2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Women FTE (%)	2002	51.5	2004	53.5	2006	53.5	2008	56.3	2010	53.5	2012	54.5	2014	54.5	2016	50.0	2018	50.0	2020	52.0	2022	52.2
Year	Women FTE (%)																									
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2022	52.2																									
<p>In 2020, 24.5 per cent of women (22.5% of men) declared being employed under a casual employment contract.<sup>ix</sup></p>	<p>This is slightly down on the rate reported in 2017 (25.3%).</p> <p>Just over 66 per cent of women in WA had permanent employment contracts in 2020, a 4.1 percentage point increase from 2017. Women are still less likely to be on a permanent contracts than men (69.6%).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women casuals (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Women casuals (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>24.5</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Women casuals (%)	2002	28	2004	35	2006	25	2008	25	2010	20	2012	22	2014	22	2016	25	2018	25	2020	24.5		
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2020	24.5																									
<p>For women in WA, the average underemployment ratio of 8.6 in 2022 is the lowest recorded since 2012.<sup>x</sup></p>	<p>The underemployment ratio for WA women has fallen from 12.1 in 2018 to 8.6 in 2022, whilst nationally, the underemployment ratio fell from 10.7 in 2018 to 7.8 in 2022.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Underemployment (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Underemployment (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>9.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>9.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>7.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>6.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>8.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>8.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>9.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>11.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>12.1</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>11.5</td></tr> <tr><td>2022</td><td>8.6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Underemployment (%)	2002	9.5	2004	9.5	2006	7.5	2008	6.5	2010	8.5	2012	8.5	2014	9.5	2016	11.5	2018	12.1	2020	11.5	2022	8.6
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viii Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release#all-data-downloads>  
ix Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. (2021). *Household, Income, and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey, Waves 1-20*. <https://dataverse.ada.edu.au/dataverse/hilda>  
x Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Labour Force, Australia*. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/may-2022#data-downloads>

## Financial and non-financial assets, including income and housing

Key insight	Description	Change over time
<p>The gender pay gap in WA sits at 21.2 per cent, 7.5 percentage points higher than that reported nationally.<sup>xi</sup></p>	<p>The gender pay gap in WA was at a height of 28.2 per cent in 2011. In Australia, the gender wage gap peaked at 18.5 per cent in 2014.</p> <p>The difference in the gender pay between WA and Australia has remained reasonably consistent over time.</p>	
<p>Women aged 15 years and older in WA have 50 per cent less savings in superannuation accounts relative to men in WA.<sup>xii</sup></p>	<p>In Australia, 29 per cent of women aged 55 to 65 years do not have superannuation compared to 20 per cent of their male counterparts.</p> <p>This percentage share is lower for women in WA sitting at 22 per cent, with a lower rate also reported for men in WA (9%).</p> <p>The median superannuation of women 15 years and older in 2018 was just \$40,000 in WA, roughly half that of the median superannuation of their male counterparts in WA (\$80,000).</p> <p>The median superannuation gap between men and women close to retirement in WA shrank between 2014 and 2018, reducing from 31 per cent to 27 per cent. Women in WA aged 55 to 65 have an average of \$110,000 in their superannuation balance while men have on average \$40,000 more.</p>	

xi Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *Labour Force, Australia*.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/average-weekly-earnings-australia/latest-release#data-download>

xii Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. (2021). *Household, Income, and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey, Waves 1-20*. <https://dataverse.ada.edu.au/dataverse/hilda>. SIH data is only available every four years, HILDA data has been therefore used for these calculations. Observations for WA women should be taken with precaution as sample size is low.



## Financial and non-financial assets, including income and housing (continued)

Key insight	Description	Change over time												
<p>Relative to the 2018 data, the number of people on a low income card has been cut by half, which means that, as of 2021, 0.8 per cent of women and 0.5 per cent of men in WA have a low income card.<sup>xiii</sup></p>	<p>There has been a general uptick in the amount of pension concession cards and age pensions since 2018.</p> <p>The proportion of women holding a pension concession card now sits at 17.4 per cent (12.5% for men) while those receiving age pension sits at 9.9 per cent (8.1% for men).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women low-income card (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Percentage (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>1.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>1.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>0.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>0.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>0.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage (%)	2017	1.9	2018	1.7	2019	0.9	2020	0.7	2021	0.8
Year	Percentage (%)													
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2021	0.8													
<p>Over 57 per cent of women in WA either own their home outright (24.4%) or are an owner with a mortgage (32.8%).<sup>xiv</sup></p>	<p>There is not a large difference in overall homeownership rates between men and women in WA. However, the percentage of women with outright ownership (24.4%) is higher than that of men (20.8%).</p> <p>Almost 26 per cent of women in WA are living in rentals, up 1.4 percentage points from 2016. This compares to a share of 30.6 per cent of women renting nationally.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women (%) by housing tenure</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Housing Tenure</th> <th>Percentage (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Outright owner</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Owner with mortgage</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rent or rent free</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not owner</td> <td>17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Housing Tenure	Percentage (%)	Outright owner	24	Owner with mortgage	33	Rent or rent free	26	Not owner	17		
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Source: Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre | Based on various data sources.

xiii Government of Australia, Department of Social Services. (2021). *DSS Demographics – December 2021*. Government of Australia. [https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/dss-payment-demographic-data/resource/65515027-eb42-4257-9b32-6bfec21e00e8?inner\\_span=True](https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/dss-payment-demographic-data/resource/65515027-eb42-4257-9b32-6bfec21e00e8?inner_span=True)

xiv Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. (2021). *Household, Income, and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey, Waves 1-20*. <https://dataverse.ada.edu.au/dataverse/hilda>



## Unpaid work and caring responsibilities

Key insight	Description	Change over time																						
As of 2020, almost 26% of women in WA provide unpaid childcare work, compared to 15.4 per cent of men. <sup>xv</sup>	<p>In 2020, 12.6 per cent of women in WA provided unpaid disability care work, compared to 6.5 per cent of men.</p> <p>In 2020, the share of women performing any type of housework in WA was 96.6 per cent, compared to 94.6 per cent of women nationally, and 90.7 per cent of men in WA (85.6% of men nationally).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Unpaid childcare (%)</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Year</th><th>Percentage (%)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>38</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>26</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage (%)	2002	40	2004	38	2006	35	2008	32	2010	30	2012	32	2014	30	2016	28	2018	26	2020	26
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2020	26																							
In WA, 37.6 per cent of women spent 20 or more hours taking active care of children per week in 2020, compared to only 8.8 per cent of men. <sup>xvi</sup>	<p>In WA, 58.4 per cent of women (57.5% of women nationally) spend 11 or more hours per week taking active care of children, compared to 25.7% of men (32.5% of men nationally).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women &gt;20hrs (%)</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Year</th><th>Percentage (%)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>38</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>36</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>35</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>48</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>42</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>40</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>38</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>42</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>37.6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage (%)	2002	35	2004	38	2006	36	2008	35	2010	48	2012	42	2014	40	2016	38	2018	42	2020	37.6
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More than half of employed parents with dependent children use childcare whilst undertaking paid work. <sup>xvii</sup>	<p>Over 71 per cent of working women with children used childcare in 2020. This is up from 59 per cent in 2019.</p> <p>In WA, women with children are more likely to work part time (47.7%) relative to men (7.8%) in order to provide childcare responsibilities.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women using childcare (%)</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Year</th><th>Percentage (%)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>58</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>58</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>58</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>71</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage (%)	2002	65	2004	58	2006	55	2008	58	2010	55	2012	52	2014	62	2016	58	2018	62	2020	71
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In 2020, 34.0 per cent of women and 39.7 per cent of men had the ability to work from home. <sup>xviii</sup>	<p>This is up from 2016, when 25.5 per cent of women, and 35.5 per cent of men, had the ability to work from home.</p> <p>However, WA's average is well below the national trends, where a larger share of women (42.2%) are likely to work from home compared to men (40.9%).</p> <p>Women in WA are also less likely to have flexible working hours than the national average (51.9% in WA vs 56.3% nationally).</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Women WFH (%)</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Year</th><th>Percentage (%)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2002</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>34</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>31</td></tr> <tr><td>2018</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>2020</td><td>34</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Percentage (%)	2002	28	2004	32	2006	25	2008	34	2010	28	2012	29	2014	20	2016	31	2018	26	2020	34
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xv Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. (2021). *Household, Income, and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey, Waves 1-20*. <https://dataverse.ada.edu.au/dataverse/hilda>

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## Social norms, cultural perceptions and life satisfaction

Key insight	Description	Change over time																		
<p><b>Both women and men in WA and Australia have become more progressive with their opinion of gender roles over the last 15 years.</b><sup>xix</sup></p>	<p>The share of men in WA who agreed with the statement that “mothers who do not really need the money should not work” fell from 49.1 per cent in 2005 to 27 per cent in 2019.</p> <p>The proportion of women in WA who disagreed with the statement that “children do just as well if the mother earns the money and the father stays at home” fell from 14.8 per cent in 2005 to 9.0 per cent in 2019.</p> <p>There has been a significant decline in the share of the population that agrees with the statement that “it is better for everyone if the man earns the money and the women stays at home” since 2005. In particular, the share of men in WA agreeing with the statement fell from 49 per cent in 2005 to 27 per cent in 2019.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the share of women in WA that agree with the statement “it is not good for the relationship if the women earns more money than the man” fell from 17.9 per cent in 2005 to 8.2 per cent in 2019.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Progressivity points over time</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>WA Women</th> <th>WA Men</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>72</td> <td>68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>73</td> <td>69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>75</td> <td>71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>80</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>85</td> <td>81</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	WA Women	WA Men	2005	72	68	2008	73	69	2011	75	71	2015	80	75	2019	85	81
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August 2022  
ISBN: 978-1-925757-21-7

**This report was written by:** Alan Duncan, Daniel Kiely and Silvia Salazar from the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre at Curtin Business School.

**It can be cited as:** Duncan, A., Kiely, D., and Salazar, S., (2022), *2022 Women's Report Card: An indicator report of Western Australian women's progress*, Summary Briefing Note - Health and Wellbeing; Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre, August 2022. A report prepared by the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre for the Department of Communities, Government of Western Australia, 2022.

**Acknowledgements**

The authors would like to thank Dr Elaine Dowd, Senior Strategy Officer, Department of Communities, for her ongoing advice, and assistance with data collection and stakeholder engagement. Special thanks to Alex Buckland and Austen Peters for their research assistance.

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